



# Maricopa County

## Parks & Recreation Department

41835 N Castle Hot Springs Rd  
Attn: Unit Operations Building  
Morristown, AZ 85342  
Phone: (928) 501-9200  
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The Honorable Andy Biggs  
1626 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Lesko  
2435 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Gosar  
2057 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Schweikert  
2059 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Biggs, Congressman Gosar, Congresswoman Lesko, and Congressman Schweikert:

I am writing to ask for your support of legislation to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and provide for a greater share of the funding being dedicated to the "Stateside" of the program, which has the greatest impact on local communities and counties. As you may know, LWCF funding is distributed through grants to all 50 states and 98% of counties all without using taxpayer dollars. These grants are used primarily in the construction of parks and outdoor recreation opportunities. Since its creation in 1965, the program has only allocated 13% of the monies for these grants and still the program has had a profound impact on Arizona.

The Stateside of the program in Arizona has funded 730 park projects throughout the state. LWCF funding for these projects totaled more than \$63 million. The Stateside grants require a 50/50 match and, in a vast majority of the cases, local and county governments provide significantly more than 50% toward projects. These grants are a catalyst in providing immediate construction jobs, adding to the quality of life for residents and bolstering long-term economic benefits by increasing tourism opportunities.

During its long and effective history, the Stateside of the program has received and continues to garner strong bipartisan support along with support of key stakeholders, such as the National Association of Counties (NACo) which recently stated:

*NACo supports annual allocation of adequate "stateside" funding in the federal LWCF to provide matching grants to counties, special park, forest preserve and conservation districts, and other local governments for purchase of park lands and other open space, and development of trails and other outdoor recreation amenities.*

The National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO) has also voiced strong support:

*NACPRO supports a permanently authorized and fully funded Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) with a minimum of 40% of the annual LWCF appropriations allocated to the State Assistance Program, assuring that these funds are fairly distributed in all local level of governments (State, County and City).*

Over 52 years, the LWCF has helped to preserve some of the most iconic and important parks and provided opportunities to create new recreational sites for future generations to enjoy. However, without action by Congress, the LWCF will expire on September 30, 2018. Maricopa County asks that you support efforts to reauthorize this crucial program and pay special attention to the fair and equitable distribution of the Stateside of this program that improves the lives of Arizonan's through outdoor recreation.

If I can be of further assistance regarding this matter please let me know.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R.J. Cardin".

R.J. Cardin  
Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department