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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**New Mexico State Parks announces \$3 million available to local, state, and tribal governments for parks and outdoor recreation areas**  
*Funding is provided through the 2022 Land and Water Conservation Fund*

**Santa Fe** – The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) State Parks Division will hold an open grant round for \$3 million in federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State and Local Assistance grants from September 1 to October 15, 2022.

[The Land and Water Conservation Fund \(LWCF\) Act of 1965](#) established a federal reimbursement program for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas. Eligible applicants include state agencies, cities, counties, villages, and federally recognized Indian Tribes. In New Mexico, the program is administered by the EMNRD State Parks Division on behalf of the National Park Service (NPS).

Priority projects for the LWCF grant program include:

- Assistance for projects that increase access for minority, elderly, disabled and other disadvantaged or underserved populations.
- Outdoor recreation projects of Federally recognized Tribes and other Indigenous communities.
- Conservation projects that benefit fish and wildlife.
- Projects that enhance habitat connectivity to improve climate change resilience as well as outdoor recreation.
- Recreational trails, supporting existing national historic trails, national scenic trails, and national wild and scenic rivers projects.

During the last grant cycle, the EMNRD – State Parks Division and NPS funded \$2.5 million in projects in 13 New Mexico communities. The next grant cycle will be open grant round for \$3 million dollars grants effective September 1, 2022 to October 15, 2022.

An updated program manual, application materials, application deadline, and applicant resources will be posted to the [State Parks Division LWCF](#) section of the [Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources website](#) once the application period opens on September 1, 2022.  
**Applications will be due no later than 4pm on October 15, 2022.**

For more information, contact Robert Blankenship, LWCF Program Coordinator at [robertf.blankenship@state.nm.us](mailto:robertf.blankenship@state.nm.us).

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*The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.*

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