

National Recreation and Preservation/Recreation Programs

JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE

Activity: Recreation Programs

Program Components	2001 Estimate	Uncontr/ Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	2002 Budget Request	Change From 2001 (+/-)
Recreation Programs	541	+10	-2	549	+8
Total Requirements \$(000)	541	+10	-2	549	+8

AUTHORIZATION

16 U.S.C. 4601 - 4601-3 The Outdoor Recreation Organic Act
16 U.S.C. 4601-6a (h) The Land and Water Conservation Act, as amended
40 U.S.C. 484 (o) The Federal Property and Administrative Services Act, as amended

OVERVIEW

Recreation Programs cover a range of planning, Federal coordination, and technical assistance activities. The principal activities are the Federal Lands to Parks Program, which assists State and local governments in acquiring surplus Federal real property for public parks and recreation areas, and nationwide recreation information, statistics, and coordination.

APPLICABLE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MISSION GOALS

- IIIb Through partnerships with other Federal, State, and local agencies and nonprofit organizations, a nationwide system of parks, open space, rivers, and trails provides educational, recreational, and conservation benefits for the American people.
- IIIc Assisted through Federal funds and programs, the protection of recreational opportunities is achieved through formal mechanisms to ensure continued access for public recreation use.

Recreation Programs
FY 2001 Estimated Program and Anticipated Accomplishments

Enacted: \$541,000

The Federal Lands to Parks program (FLP) places a priority on helping communities obtain Federal properties which have been declared surplus (that is, no longer needed by the Federal Government) for public parks and recreation use. In partnership with State and local agencies, the FLP results in new and expanded State and community parks, increased close-to-home recreation, and protected open space and important natural and cultural resources. A great variety of land may be available from any agency of the Federal Government, including military bases, U.S. Coast Guard stations, and Army Corps of Engineers water control projects. The land may be located in rural or urban areas, consist of open space, forests, wetlands, lakes, or shorelines; the land may contain existing historic and recreation facilities. In addition, communities may convert and restore seemingly nonrecreational property to meet community open space or recreational needs.

The Federal Lands to Parks Program is the only means for a State or local agency to acquire surplus land for dedicated public recreation at no cost instead of paying fair market value. Once transferred, the land is protected for public park and recreational use in perpetuity for current and future generations without Federal ownership. As a result, the program

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helps create new State and local parks, provide public recreation services, conserve natural and historic resources, and contribute to community revitalization. In addition to benefiting communities, the Federal Lands to Parks Program helps the Federal Government reduce its unneeded inventory of Federal land and facilities and management costs by transferring property out of Federal ownership.



Metropolitan Charleston, South Carolina gets access to Cooper River for public boating and a waterfront park through Federal Lands to Parks Program.



Rapidly developing Jacksonville, Florida will acquire more than 2000 acres for hiking, active use sports, natural areas and an equestrian center from Naval Air Station-Cecil Field.

The Park Service works with numerous partners and agencies to help convert Federal land and establish public parks and recreation areas; communicates with relevant State and local agencies that may be interested in available surplus property for park and recreation acquisition and use; assists interested communities to develop their applications; acts as broker between the applicant and the Federal disposing agency (typically the General Services Administration, or military departments); approves the community's application and recommends the property transfer, and prepares the deed and conveys the property to a community with deed restrictions. The NPS recommendations and land transfers are based on an assessment of the community's need for the property, capability of the applicant, suitability of the property for the intended use, and a plan for the proposed park use and/or development. Because recreational use does not have priority in Federal property disposal, the Service's role is important to help States and communities communicate their needs and compete among other potential interests for acquisition and ensure long-term protection of and public access to resources.

After transferring the property, the Park Service helps ensure continued public access to the properties for recreational use and protection of the properties' natural and cultural resources through site visits, followup contacts, technical assistance to communities, and deed and/or use agreement revisions as needed or requested.

Federal Lands to Parks Program Projects/Accomplishments:

(Federal Lands to Parks' acres are counted as preserved when property deeds are signed.)

* **Deeded since 1949** (inception of program): More than 1,350 properties (> 148,000 acres)

* **Deeded in FY 2000:** 24 properties (2,207 acres) in 15 States and Guam

* **Estimated FY 2001 backlog:** More than 75 ongoing project requests (>18,000 acres)

* **Anticipated FY 2002 projects:** Assistance on up to 370 U.S. Coast Guard historic light stations including new functions under Public Law 4613 (signed Oct. 24, 2000); continued backlog of assistance and land transfer for closed military bases and other surplus Federal property (>50 properties); ongoing assistance and oversight on more than 1,000 previously transferred properties in 50 States, Guam, Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

In addition to the Federal Lands to Parks Program, the NPS works collaboratively with other Federal agencies, national nonprofit organizations and the private sector in identifying recreational needs and developing strategies to address them. This collaboration includes interagency and cooperative agreements, research, and studies. Specific examples are providing information on Department of Transportation trail and recreation funding, working collaboratively with

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United States Forest Service on the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment, and monitoring recreation trends.

Performance Goals

Long-term Goal IIIb1	By September 30, 2005, conserve with NPS partnership assistance 6,800 additional miles of trails, 6,600 additional miles of protected river corridors, and 1,368,900 additional acres of parks and open space, from 1997 totals.
Annual Goal IIIb1	By September 30, 2002, conserve with NPS partnership assistance an additional 5,200 miles of trails, an additional 3,700 miles of protected river corridor, and an additional 860,800 acres of park and open space, from 1997 totals.
Long-term Goal IIIb2	By September 30, 2005, 94% of communities served are satisfied with NPS partnership assistance in providing recreational and conservation benefits on lands and waters.
Annual Goal IIIb2	By September 30, 2002, 93.8% of States, communities, and nonprofit organizations served are satisfied with NPS partnership assistance in providing recreational and conservation benefits on lands and waters.
Long-term Goal IIIc1	By September 30, 2005, 100% of the 41,165 recreational properties (estimated for September 30, 2005), assisted by the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program, and the Federal Lands to Parks Program are protected and remain available for public recreation.
Annual Goal IIIc1	By September 30, 2002, 100% of the 34,088 recreational properties (as of 2001, assisted by the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program, and the Federal Lands to Parks Program are protected and remain available for public recreation.

Federal Lands to Parks Workload Factors	FY 2000 Actual	FY 2001 Estimate	FY 2002 Estimate
Percent of communities served satisfied with Federal Lands to Parks assistance (IIb2)	90.3%	>90%	>92%
Number of acres (number of properties) transferred for state and local parks and recreation (IIb1)	2,207 (24 properties)	500**	500**
Number of ongoing recreation properties protected through Federal Lands to Parks assistance (IIIc1)	921***	928	935
** Subject to disposal schedule, approval and environmental clearance of other Federal land disposing agencies. *** Includes the number of local park units (sites), rather than the number of properties/parcels transferred. One park may include multiple transfers; one transfer may contribute to more than one park.			

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JUSTIFICATION OF FY 2002 BUDGET REQUEST FOR RECREATION PROGRAMS

	2002 Budget Request	Program Changes (+/-)
Recreation Programs \$(000)	549	-2

The FY 2002 request for Recreation Programs is \$0.549 million and 5 FTE, which represents an increase of \$8,000 above the FY 2001 enacted level. The net programmatic decrease of \$2,000 for the Recreation Programs is justified by the proposed change that follows:

- **Streamlining (-\$2,000):** The NPS proposes to effect savings of \$2,000 in this program by reducing travel and other administrative overhead cost; procurement efficiencies; and making use of technological advances (such as, but not limited to, teleconferencing). Redundant administrative positions will not be filled when vacancies arise. The NPS expects to create more efficient systems and processes without affecting program delivery.