



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 23, 2017

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City Parks Alliance and Mayors for Parks Coalition Disappointed by Gutting of LWCF Funding in President's FY 18 Budget

Washington, DC - Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price and Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock, co-chairs of the Mayors for Parks Coalition, joined Catherine Nagel, Executive Director of City Parks Alliance, to express disappointment today in the President's budget to drastically reduce funds for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

"While we understand cuts must be made, we will look forward to the LWCF remaining as a vital tool that helps cities encourage healthier lifestyles for families and communities in cities across the U.S." said Mayor Betsy Price. "Mayors will continue to work with the administration and Congress to advocate for a strong LWCF so more communities can realize the benefits of this critical program that supports urban parks and allows green spaces to flourish."

Added Mayor Hancock, "A strong LWCF helps ensure that cities remain competitive and continue to thrive for generations to come. It is disappointing to see such a successful program lose its funding. Mayors will continue to work with the administration and Congress to advocate for a strong LWCF so more communities can realize the benefits of this critical program that supports urban parks and allows green spaces to flourish."

"The Land and Water Conservation Fund has been one of our nation's most successful conservation programs, creating vibrant parks while strengthening local economies. We are extremely disappointed to see this reduction in funds in the President's budget. We will continue to work with Congress to secure full funding for LWCF and will work with the administration to seek out additional urban park funding through the President's infrastructure package and other vehicles," said City Parks Alliance's Executive Director Catherine Nagel.

Since its launch in December 2013, the bipartisan Mayors for Parks Coalition, a project of City Parks Alliance, has encouraged Congress and the White House to help create and maintain parks in urban areas. Specifically, the coalition is pushing for permanent reauthorization and full funding of LWCF.

Created in 1965, LWCF has funded more than 42,000 state and local parks, playgrounds, urban wildlife refuges, greenways, trails and open spaces. The LWCF is also critical in protecting and improving recreational access to America's national parks, forests and wildlife refuges. The fund is paid for by royalties from offshore oil and gas development, but Congress has continually diverted funding from LWCF, which leaves it underfunded by millions of dollars each year.

About City Parks Alliance

City Parks Alliance is the only independent, nationwide membership organization solely dedicated to urban parks. It leads and serves a community of diverse organizations, championing high quality urban parks throughout the nation. CPA's vision is that everyone in urban America will have access to parks and green spaces that are clean, safe and vibrant. www.cityparksalliance.org. CPA created and manages the Mayors for Parks Coalition.