



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

June 27, 2016

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**\*\*MEDIA RELEASE\*\***

**City Parks Alliance Praises U.S. Conference of Mayors for Adoption of Land and Water Conservation Fund and Urban Park Funding Resolution**

*Co-Sponsored by Mayors for Parks members, resolution outlines need for urban park funding*

**WASHINGTON** –The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) today approved a new resolution that supports reauthorization and full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The resolution passed unanimously at the USCM annual meeting in Indianapolis and was cosponsored by 25 mayors from across the country. Jim Brainard, mayor of Carmel, Ind., a member of the bipartisan [Mayors for Parks Coalition](#) – a project of [City Parks Alliance](#) – was the lead sponsor of the resolution.

Catherine Nagel, City Parks Alliance’s executive director, praised the mayors for their full support of the resolution, saying, “The overwhelming bipartisan approval of the resolution by the mayors demonstrates the broad support that the Land and Water Conservation Fund enjoys across the country. Mayors know the critical role that parks play in improving the health and vitality of their cities and surrounding regions, and understand that LWCF is an important source of funding that protects and enhances our urban green spaces, and keeps our cities economically strong.”

Created in 1964 with strong bipartisan support, LWCF has supported more than 42,000 projects in almost every county in the country. The fund is paid for by offshore oil and gas royalties, not taxpayer dollars, making it one of the United States’ most effective federal programs.

The resolution highlights the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant Program Act of 2015, which would codify the existing National Park Service program established by Congress that gives grants to disadvantaged urban communities. The resolution also calls on Congress to resurrect the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program, which provides resources directly to cities for urban parks but had not been funded since 2002.

With 80 percent of Americans living in cities, preserving parks and continuing to provide access to outdoor recreation is critical to the livelihoods for communities across the United States.

The resolution reads: “The nation’s mayors stand ready to work in partnership with the president, all members of the administration, and Congress, to create healthy and vibrant urban parks and open spaces, and will work to engage the public and private leaders in this effort.”

The full text of the Conference of Mayors resolution can be found [here](#) or on the Mayors for Parks website.

**Catherine Nagel is available for interview. Interested media should contact Heather Cabral at West End Strategy Team at (202) 550-6880 or via email at [Heather@westendstrategy.com](mailto:Heather@westendstrategy.com).**

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*[City Parks Alliance](#) is the only independent, nationwide membership organization solely dedicated to urban parks. Its mission is to engage, educate and nurture a broad based constituency to support the creation, revitalization and sustainability of parks and green spaces that contribute to dynamic cities. City Parks Alliance unites and serves a growing network of hundreds of civic and community leaders, government agencies, parks and recreation authorities, funders and others.*