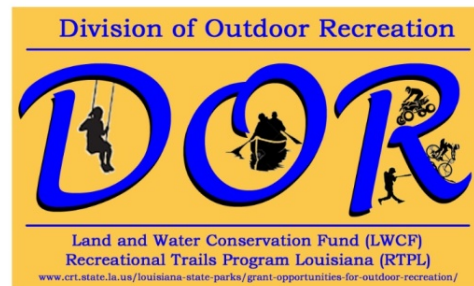


LOUISIANA LWCF PROGRAM

Administered at the Federal level by the National Park Service

Open Project Selection Process

2020 - 2027



Administered at the State level by the

Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism (DCRT)

Louisiana Office of State Parks (LOSP)

Division of Outdoor Recreation (DOR)

Open Project Selection Process

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Background:

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was established by Congress in 1964 to safeguard America's natural areas, water resources, cultural heritage and to provide recreation opportunities to all Americans. The fund invests earnings from offshore oil and gas leasing to fulfill this bipartisan commitment to conservation and recreation. The LWCF program can be viewed as divided into the Federal Side and State Side. One portion of the State Side is the LWCF State Assistance Program, a Federal program of the National Park Service (NPS). The LWCF State Assistance Program governs the state and local grants for public outdoor recreation acquisition and development, the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and this Open Project Selection Process (OPSP) document. Additional information about the LWCF is also available through the National Park Service website (www.nps.gov/lwcf/index.htm) with detailed information available in the LWCF Manual (www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/lwcf/manual/lwcf.pdf).

Overview:

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State Assistance Program is administered in Louisiana by the Office of State Parks Division of Outdoor Recreation. The LWCF provides matching fund assistance through reimbursement to approved projects for the acquisition of and/or development of outdoor recreation. State agencies and political subdivisions are eligible to apply. The LWCF State Assistance Program is not available to Federal agencies, non-profits or individuals. Planning grants and technical assistance are available through the LWCF State Assistance Program to help the States develop and update their SCORP planning process.

The Open Project Selection Process (OPSP) provides objective criteria and standards for grant selection that are explicitly based on the State's priority needs for the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation resources as identified in the SCORP. The OPSP is the connection between the SCORP and the use of LWCF State Assistance Program grants to assist state efforts in meeting high priority outdoor recreation resource needs. This OPSP will discuss use of program funding or apportionment, program and application opportunity promotion, project rating, ranking, and selection.

Annual Apportionment:

LWCF State Assistance Program funding is apportioned to the state by the Secretary of the Department of Interior each fiscal year in accordance with the apportionment formula contained in the LWCF Act. The Office of State Parks Division of Outdoor Recreation makes every effort to fully obligate each year's apportionment in the LWCF window of opportunity grant round immediately following our application deadline. Occasionally this is unachievable when the total value of approved applications is less than the available federal funds. Unobligated apportionment funds remain available to award in subsequent LWCF window of opportunity grant rounds to projects on the state's Alternate Project List and for active grant Amendments.

Sometimes total project expenditures are less than the obligated amounts or a project is withdrawn before any draws have been made. These previously obligated, but unexpended balances revert to a Special Reapportionment Account (SRA), which must be requested from the NPS to be reapportioned back to the state. SRA funds, like un-obligated annual apportionments funds, may be applied in LWCF window of opportunity grant rounds to projects on the state's Alternate Project List or to cost change amendments on active grants.

The state's Alternate Project List is intended to address a couple conditions. Condition one, insufficient apportionment funds to award all qualified applications in the first grant round following the state application deadline. Condition two, un-obligated apportionment and/or SRA funds remain available after the first grant round following the state application deadline. For condition one, the list could include applications that have completed the application and rating process and applications that have advanced

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from reserve status to the Alternate list, explained in the “[Application Review and Project Selection](#)”. The top ranked Alternate applications will be submitted to NPS in subsequent grant windows if funding becomes available through a project withdrawal, project underruns or other means. For condition two, the list will include only applications that have advanced from reserve status to the Alternate list. No additional priority ranking is required if the alternate list only contains applications previously rated and ranked. All alternate projects will be re-ranked if any reserve status projects have advanced to the alternate list and been rated. The highest-ranking alternate projects will be submitted to NPS in a quantity not to exceed available un-obligated and/or SRA funds in a subsequent grant window of opportunity.

Grant Amendment Guidelines:

Time Amendments to increase or decrease time may be approved at any time, up to 30 days prior to the grant’s expiration date, without further competition through the Open Project Selection Process.

Cost Amendments to increase or decrease federal assistance funds may be approved at any time without further competition through the Open Project Selection Process, when funding is available.

Scope Amendments to adjust (add or remove) work/grant elements may be approved at any time without further competition through the Open Project Selection Process, when:

1. Adjustments or small changes having minimal effect to the grant’s intended public outdoor recreation outcome or the original grant score. Examples: increasing or decreasing item counts; and/or switching facility types of equal priority.
2. Adjustments related to outdoor recreation support elements having minimal effect on the supported outdoor recreation or the original grant score.
3. Adding an equal or higher priority rated SCORP element, facility, use that would have not changed or would have increased the original grant score.

The following conditions may require an Amendment to undergo further competition through the Open Project Selection Process. Except, amendments occurring at a time when there are no other amendments or new applications will be re-rated, but will not be required to wait for additional projects to compete against before submitting for federal approval:

Cost Amendments when:

1. The State is in possession and processing viable new application(s) with a combined total cost that equals or exceeds the state’s available federal funds. Only an amendment increasing federal assistance would need to compete with the pending new applications. Once the amendment(s) and application(s) have been rated and ranked, the amendment(s) may be approved at any time thereafter.
2. The State determines fair distribution of federal funds can only be accomplished through further competition.

Scope Amendments when:

1. Adjustments that remove a SCORP priority element without replacing the element or when replacing SCORP’s higher priority element with a SCORP’s lower priority element. These type changes would have resulted in a lower original OPSP rating.
2. Adjustments that would result in a change in the grant’s intended public outdoor recreation outcome.

The amendment types above may be requested and approved independently or in any combination. A non- competition type combined with a competition type would require the combination amendment to compete in the Open Project Selection Process. The State may invoke further competition for amendments at its discretion for unforeseen conditions, to improve fairness, and/or for equal distribution of funds.

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Cycle Promotion and Assistance:

Louisiana follows a consistent funding cycle schedule each year including application notices, prequalification/eligibility review, application rating, application ranking and submission to NPS for award. The sequence of the schedule does not change, but the Division of Outdoor Recreation reserves the right to adjust specific dates if required for improved administration of the program. Adjustments are not anticipated, but may be initiated in response to outside forces such as occurred with the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. The schedule is posted on our website (<https://www.lastateparks.com/grant-opportunities-for-outdoor-recreation/land-water-conservation>).

Promotion of the LWCF program and ensuring potential applicants are aware of the grant program, application process and application deadlines is accomplished in the following ways. General LWCF program information, application process, deadlines and other information are available on the Louisiana Office of State Parks website (<https://www.lastateparks.com/grant-opportunities-for-outdoor-recreation/land-water-conservation>) with other supporting information at (<https://playoutdoorsla.com>). Also, throughout the year social media post direct potential applicants to our website and encourage beginning the application process at any time. Press releases, social media notices and certain state association notices are issued approximately six months prior to the application deadline as a call for applications. Potential applicants are made aware of the April 1st annual deadline for submission of all application documents. A full schedule of the annual call for applications cycle is in **Appendix I**.

Assistance is provided in part through information hosted on the website including a description of the LWCF grant program, eligibility requirements, the process for submitting a project application, forms, the current OPSP, a link to the SCORP and other reference aids. These reference aids include such items as examples of outdoor recreation plans and tutorials on public engagement. In addition, the Division of Outdoor Recreation staff provide ongoing technical assistance related to planning, public engagement, applications, grant management and project stewardship.

Application Review and Project Selection:

From the time of initial contact with a potential applicant, the Division of Outdoor Recreation staff begin evaluating the project for eligibility and whenever possible assist the applicant in correcting disqualifying conditions. Through this initial eligibility review, potential applications are prequalified and only then proceed to the application process. Sponsors are assisted with completing applications from the time of prequalification to the April 1 annual application deadline. Beginning April 2nd, staff focus on application review and assist sponsors with correcting small errors or inconsistencies with application documents.

Submittals that pass the Initial Eligibility Review and include all required documents are placed on the Complete list and proceed to the Priority Rating System. (Some applications that are substantially complete, but not complete, may proceed to the Priority Rating System. These are applications that contain enough information to be rated/scored and will be on the Alternate list until complete.) Once rated the Complete submittals and Alternate submittals are then ranked in a high to low score order and matched to available federal funding. Should any of the Complete submittals' scores place them below the line of available federal funding, they will be placed on an Alternate list. Alternate list submittals may be processed for funding approval, in ranked order, anytime within the state's grant cycle if funding becomes available. Submittals that are substantially complete, but are missing some portion of required document information that prevents accurate rating are placed on a Reserve list. Applicants with submittals on the reserve list are provided guidance by DOR staff in the necessary document remediation actions required for federal submission. Once remediation is achieved the reserve application is rated and advances to the Alternate list, inserted in their ranked order. Applicants with submittals that are LWCF program eligible, but are significantly incomplete are rejected for current state grant cycle and encouraged to resubmit the following year.

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Initial Eligibility Review:

Criteria in this section must be addressed satisfactorily. Any component of this section that is not fully met will exclude the application from progressing through the application process. The project application must be set aside and cannot be considered for funding until/unless corrective action results in the criteria being fully met: The initial eligibility review form is located in **Appendix II**.

- Project sponsor in good standing (no unresolved compliance or administrative issues).
- Project sponsor will have full control over the entire site within the project boundary and can ensure compliance in perpetuity.
- Project sponsor has no current active grants with compliance or administrative issues.
- The application submitted is complete with all required documentation and was received within the state's application deadline.

Priority Rating System:

Addressing SCORP State Priorities: (20 points maximum)

(LWCF Manual v71- Ch2, B.1.b, B.2.c, B.3.a.1) (F10-904A- 1.0B)

Projects receiving LWCF assistance must strive to meet priorities identified in the latest SCORP. These priorities were identified through significant research and reflect the most important outdoor recreation development needed to meet the needs of the citizens of our state. These priorities are included on page 8 and in more detail starting on page 61 of the SCORP 2020. A copy of the statewide priority list for facility types is located in **Appendix IV**.

Scoring in this section is for the highest level achieved and each application can only receive points from one of the following criteria categories:

- Project addresses the highest SCORP state priority –terrestrial trails (walking, hiking, cycling, exercise, trail support facility, circulation paths, etc. (not paddling trails)). (20 points)
- Project addresses the 2nd ranked SCORP state priority – nature experience (observation station, overlook, nature play, access to wilderness/open land, etc.). (18 points)
- Project addresses the 3rd ranked SCORP state priority – water access/fishing (bank improvement, pier, dock, boat launch, swimming beach, etc.). (16 points)
- Project addresses the 4th ranked SCORP state priority – paddle facilities (paddle craft launch, launching dock or pier, paddle trails, paddle sport support facilities, etc.). (14 points)
- Project addresses the 5th ranked SCORP state priority – gathering/picnic facilities (picnic area, picnic pavilion, group pavilion, picnic support, etc.) (12 points)
- Project addresses the SCORP state identified priority not among the top 5, but identified as a recreational need within top 10 of the SCORP. (10 points)
- The project does not address one of the top 10 SCORP state priorities. See Regional Priorities below for possible alternate scoring. (0 points)

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Addressing SCORP Regional Priorities: (15 points maximum)

(LWCF Manual v71- Ch2, B.1.b, B.2.c, B.3.a.1) (F10-904A- 1.0B)

The state has eight (8) recreational planning regions, each is unique in one way or another. One of the latest SCORP's identified priorities is to embrace regional distinctions. The SCORP identifies priorities that reflect the distinct needs of the citizens of each region. As parts of the whole state, most regional priorities align with statewide priorities. However, there are regional priorities that did not make the top ten statewide priority list. This section strives to acknowledge the value of local community needs by awarding points for a local need not captured in statewide priorities. These regional priorities are included in SCORP 2020 starting on page 38. The regional priority lists are located in **Appendix V**.

Scoring in this section is for the highest level achieved and each application can only receive points from one of the following criteria categories:

- Project addresses a top five (5) ranked regional SCORP priority that is not in statewide priorities. (15 points) [R1 Botanical Gardens; R3 Motor Boating]
- Project addresses a sixth (6th) to tenth (10th) ranked regional SCORP priority that is not in statewide priorities. (10 points) [R3 Crabbing; R4 Motor Boating; R6 Motor Boating, Spectator Sports; R7 Spectator Sports, Nature Photography; R8 RV/Trailer Camping]
- Project demonstrates strong justification through local planning and public support for a local priority need not identified in SCORP statewide or regional priorities. (8 points)

Planning: (20 points maximum)

(LWCF Manual v71- Ch1, A.1.c, A.5 & Ch2, B.3.a.1, B.3.a.2) (F10-904A- 2.0B) (Narrative- Sec.2.A.k)

Quality planning for development of appropriate outdoor recreation is essential. Quality planning includes extensive public participation and can identify distinct local need not possible in the broad stroke of SCORP development. The application should specifically include documentation pertaining to recreational planning for the entire area served by the sponsor and how the proposed project responds to this planning. Provide information on how the planning relates to the SCORP.

Scoring in this section is cumulative, which means that points are awarded for each component met by the application:

- Project sponsor has provided a regional plan for the entire region that is under the control of the sponsor. (5 points)
- The application demonstrates the project is identified in or is otherwise supported by the regional plan. (5 points)
- An additional sub-regional plan is provided that relates to the regional plan or documents public support for any deviations that exist. (5 points)
- Information was provided showing regional plan relates with statewide outdoor recreation priorities identified in the Statewide Comprehensive Recreation Plan (SCORP). (5 points)
- Application project is not supported by any type of existing area plan or any other planning beyond the project park. (minus 10 points)

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Public Involvement: (10 points maximum)

(LWCF Manual v71- Ch2, B.3.a.2) (F10-904A- 2.0B) (Narrative- Sec. 2.A.I)

Quality LWCF applications reflect the involvement of the general public rather than just individual views. To ensure this, points are awarded to applications that provide full documentation of public engagement in the development of the recreation plans reflected in the application.

Scoring in this section is cumulative, which means that points are awarded for each component met by the project application:

- The application includes documentation of public meetings, forums and/or surveys reflecting input and support for the proposed project. (7 points)
- The application identifies public fundraising efforts to provide financial input toward realization of the proposed project. (3 points)

Special Needs: (10 points maximum)

(LWCF Manual v71- Ch2, B.3.a.3) (F10-904A- 2.2B) (Narrative- Sec. 2.A.g; Sec. 2.E.g)

Recreational infrastructure developed to provide facilities that support individuals with special needs is a program requirement. The state strives to reward applications that go beyond meeting the required standards identified through the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Scoring in this section is for the highest level achieved and each application can only receive points from one of the following criteria categories:

- All recreation facilities identified in this application are specifically designed to provide for individuals with special needs and/or disabilities exceeding code requirements. (10 points)
- Some recreation facilities identified in this application are specifically designed to provide for individuals with special needs and/or disabilities exceeding code requirements. (5 points)
- The project does not specifically identify facilities that are designed for individuals with special needs and/or disabilities beyond minimum ADA, ABA code requirements. (0 points)

Stewardship: (15 points maximum)

(LWCF Manual v71- Ch2, B.3.a.4) (F10-904A- 3.0B)

Project sponsors who have previously received assistance through the LWCF must demonstrate responsible stewardship of existing sites. Good stewardship includes maintenance of the existing facilities, fulfilling compliance standards, maintaining administrative relationships in good standing with state offices and positive promotion of the LWCF program.

Scoring in this section is cumulative, which means that points are awarded for each component met by the project sponsor:

- The site identified in this application has previously received LWCF assistance and is in full compliance of LWCF requirements. (5 points)
- The project sponsor has no prior history of LWCF compliance problems. (5 points)
- The project sponsor has previously received LWCF assistance and has adequately provided administrative documents without issues. (5 points)

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Maintenance Capacity: (5 points maximum)

(Narrative- Sec. 2.A.o, p, q & r)

Project sponsors must fully identify the means by which they have the capacity to provide ongoing maintenance of the project site.

Scoring in this section is cumulative, which means that points are awarded for each component met by the project application:

- The sponsor has a dedicated recreation maintenance department, which has been fully identified in the application. (2 points)
- The sponsor has a public works department which has been identified in the application as responsible for ongoing site maintenance. (2 points)
- The sponsor has identified another resource with responsibility for ongoing maintenance of the site. (1 point)

Fairness: (10 points maximum)

LWCF assistance is limited and subject to the Federal budget cycle and apportionment to the State. All efforts must be made to fairly distribute assistance to provide quality outdoor recreation to all citizens of the State. Per capita funding levels are determined by dividing the amount of funding provided to locally sponsored projects in a given parish by the parish population based on the latest available census figures. (Ex: East Baton Rouge has received \$3,865,659.97 in LWCF assistance divided by the 2020 census of 456,781 equals \$8.46 in LWCF assistance per capita). The Louisiana average is \$20.80 per capita.

Scoring in this section is for the highest level achieved and each application can only receive points from one of the following criteria categories:

- The Parish in which the project is proposed has received less than \$5 per capita in LWCF assistance through the history of the program through locally sponsored projects. (10 points)
- The Parish in which the project is proposed has received \$5 - \$15 per capita in LWCF assistance through the history of the program through locally sponsored projects. (5 points)
- The Parish in which the project is proposed has received \$15 - \$25 per capita in LWCF assistance through the history of the program through locally sponsored projects. (1 points)
- The Parish in which the project is proposed has received \$25 - \$35 per capita in LWCF assistance through the history of the program through locally sponsored projects. (minus 3 point)
- The Parish in which the project is proposed has received more than \$35 per capita in LWCF assistance through the history of the program through locally sponsored projects. (minus 5 points)

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Low-Income Areas: (10 points maximum)

(LWCF Manual v71- Ch2, B.3.a.3, B.3.g) (Narrative- Sec. 2.A.e, f & g)

Special emphasis is placed on providing facilities to areas that support recreation for low-income groups.

Scoring in this section is for the highest level achieved and each application can only receive points from one of the following criteria categories:

- The application specifically identifies how the project will provide recreation for low-income groups by being located in low-income community. (10 points)
- The application specifically identifies how the project will provide recreation for low-income groups by discussing safe pedestrian access from low-income areas and community walkability when site is not located in a low-income community. (5 points)
- The application specifically identifies recreation facilities that require little or no user personal equipment investment for use (e.g. playground, walking trail, multi-use/free-play fields, etc.), but shows no other low-income incentives. (1 point)

BONUS SECTION:

Land Acquisition: (5 points)

(LWCF Manual v71- Ch2, B.3.a.1) (F10-904A- 2.1A or 3.0A) (Narrative- Sec. 1)

Expanding land holdings dedicated to public outdoor recreation is a main tenant of the LWCF program. While SCORP 2020 did not identify land acquisition as a high priority for recreation users, recreation providers did have acquisition in their top 5 priorities. For these reasons, points are awarded for projects that include land acquisition.

Scoring in this section is for the highest level achieved and each application can only receive points from one of the following criteria categories:

- The project seeks to acquire property through purchase or an act of donation that has not previously been dedicated or operated for outdoor recreation purposes. (5 points)
- The project encumbers existing recreation site that has not previously received LWCF assistance. Therefore, a grant award would increase the total acres dedicated and protected for public outdoor recreation. (3 points)

Natural Disasters: (5 points)

Recovery of recreational facilities and/or development of new recreational facilities in the aftermath of a natural disaster are essential in overcoming the impact of such a catastrophe.

Scoring in this section is for the highest level achieved and each application can only receive points from one of the following criteria categories:

- The application is for a project in a Parish that has been declared a Federal natural disaster area within the last two years. (5 points)
- The application is for a project in a Parish that has been declared a Federal natural disaster area three years ago. (4 points)
- The application is for a project in a Parish that has been declared a Federal natural disaster area four or five years ago. (2 points)

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Prior Eligibility: (5 points) (preceding funding year submission not awarded)

Each funding cycle may include projects that offer great recreational quality for the LWCF program, but are not funded or are withdrawn solely due to the lack of available monies through the budget cycle.

Scoring in this section is for the highest level achieved and each application can only receive points from one of the following criteria categories:

- The project was submitted in the preceding funding year, but was not approved only due to the lack of available LWCF monies. (5 points)
- The project was withdrawn either during the application process or after federal approval due to sponsor's matching funds being re-assigned to other urgent community need (natural disaster recovery, public health emergency, etc.) (4 points)

Innovation: (5 points)

Encouraging innovation in outdoor recreational development is important for the future of the LWCF. Innovation may present itself in different ways. Forward recreational thinking embracing new technologies and trends. Exceptional or superior land utilization, recognizing existing site assets and constraints and matching the development to the site requiring minimal site work for the proposed development. Combining facilities in unusual/atypical ways making them multi-use and maximizing funding. Utilization of advanced sustainability implementation such as concrete boardwalk units rather than wood.

- The project proposal is innovative in design and development potential. (5 points)

A copy of the priority rating system tally sheet form is located in **Appendix III**.

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Appendix I: Annual Call Schedule:

Year round	The application deadline, eligibility requirements, application forms and other resources are posted on our website. Periodic social media posts are published highlighting successful projects and providing LWCF program information. Assistance is provided to potential applicants on public engagement, planning and application process. Assistance is provided to sponsors to complete applications on the reserve list.
October	Represents our call for project proposals. Notices are distributed in a variety of formats to local political subdivisions and Parish leadership associations. Social media posts, newspaper announcements, and public service announcements are promoted. Important upcoming dates are posted on the website, as well as the application, application support information and other reference materials.
Oct. – Mar.	Really year-round, but intensifies in this period. Staff provide technical assistance to potential applicants. Walking applicants through application and program requirements, assisting public outreach, educating on planning and local support requirements and assisting with environmental screening. If the number of potential applicants appears low, a second call for applications is made in January following the same October method.
April 1	All application documents are due. Within first two weeks of April, applications are given a courtesy review and applicants are notified their application status, substantially complete moving to evaluation, substantially complete, but lacking something so moving to reserve list or are incomplete. Any applicants with an application considered substantially complete, but lacking are encouraged to continue working with Division of Outdoor Recreation (DOR) staff to progress the application from the reserve list to the alternate list. Incomplete application are rejected and applicants are encouraged to continue working with DOR staff for re-submission in the following year's state grant cycle.
April-May	All substantially complete applications are fully evaluated. Staff work with applicants to resolve small abnormalities with applications then they proceed and each is ranked according the OPSP criteria and given a score. The scores are then ranked highest to lowest. Any application determined to be substantially complete, but possessing numerous inconsistencies between documents or lacking small but critical data is placed on the reserve project list and are not ranked.
May-June	DOR begins submitting applications to the National Parks Service for pre-application review in May and continue into June. Any applications previously considered substantially complete, but are unable to correct all requested remedial document changes by June 1 are moved to the reserve list. Edits required by the NPS are made. DOR staff conducts pre-award site inspections to confirm field conditions and eligibility.
July	Final application packets are submitted through the federal Grants.gov system.

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- September Once the NPS has approved and issued the federal agreement(s), all applicants will be notified of the results of the application review process, and sponsors of approved projects will receive a notice of award and state required documents. Sponsors are then required to attend a mandatory Kick-off meeting. At this meeting all post award information is covered such as requirement for plan and specification approval prior to bidding, details about general grant administration and pay request submission requirements.
- Varies Actions identified starting May through September of the schedule above are repeated and followed for application already on the Alternate project list or applications that have moved from Reserve status to Alternate project list for subsequent federal grant windows of opportunities.

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Appendix II: Initial Eligibility Review Form:

Project Name: _____

Project Sponsor: _____

DOR Application No.: _____

The Initial Eligibility Review begins with the receipt of the Initial Interest form and continues through application deadline.

Criteria in this section must be addressed satisfactorily. Any component of this section that is not fully met will exclude the application from progressing through the application process. The project application must be set aside and cannot be rated or considered for funding until/unless correction action results in the criteria being fully met:

Base Eligibility:

Yes No

___ ___ Applicant/Co-Applicant is eligible, is a state or municipal entity

___ ___ Subject project property is government owned or leased from a qualifying owner
(25 year minimum term on lease; qualifier does not apply to acquisition grants)

Assigned Agency Application No., **inserted at top of form**. {Example: A-21-001 or D-21-001}
(Type **A**=Acquisition; **C**=Combination; **D**=Development, Redevelopment – Year (2021) – Receipt Order by type (**001**))

Initial Eligibility:

Yes No

___ ___ Project sponsor in good standing (no unresolved compliance or administrative issues).

___ ___ Project sponsor will have full control over the entire site within the project boundary and can ensure compliance in perpetuity.

___ ___ Project sponsor has no current active grants with compliance or administrative issues.

Final Eligibility:

Yes No

___ ___ The application submitted is complete with all required documentation

___ ___ Application documents were received by annual application deadline

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Appendix III: Priority Rating System (PRS) Tally Sheet:

Priority Rating System Tally Sheet (SCORP 2020)

Project Name: _____

Project Sponsor: _____

DOR Application No.: _____

Total Score: _____

SCORP Statewide Priorities (20 points maximum – scoring for highest level achieved from one category)
(F10-904A- 1.0B)

- Addresses terrestrial trails (not paddling) (20)
- Addresses nature experience (observation station, nature play, etc.) (18)
- Addresses public water access/fishing (bank improvement, dock, swim beach, etc.) (16)
- Addresses paddling (paddle launch, paddle dock, paddle trail, etc.) (14)
- Addresses gathering/picnicking (picnic area, pavilions, etc.) (12)
- Addresses SCORP priority not among top 5, but identified in SCORP (10)
- Project does not address one of the top 10 SCORP statewide priorities (0)

SCORP Regional Priorities (15 points maximum – scoring for highest level achieved from one category)
(F10-904A- 1.0B)

- Addresses a top five (5) regional priority, not a statewide priority. (R1- botanical garden; R3- motor boating) (15)
- Addresses a 6th – 10th regional priority, not a statewide priority. (R3- crabbing; R4-motor boating; R6- motor boating, spectator sports; R7- spectator sports, nature photography; R8- RV/trailer camping) (10)
- Project demonstrates justification for a local need not identified in SCORP statewide or regional priorities. (8)

Planning (20 points maximum – scoring is cumulative)
(F10-904A- 2.0B) (Narrative- Sec.2.A.k)

- Regional plan for entire region within sponsor's control. (5)
- Application demonstrates the project is identified in or is otherwise supported by the regional plan. (5)
- An additional sub-regional plan is provided that relates to the regional plan or documents public support for deviations. (5 points)
- Information was provided showing regional plan relates to SCORP's outdoor recreation priorities. (5)
- Application project is not supported by any type of existing area plan or any other planning beyond the project park. (minus 10)

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Public Involvement (10 points maximum – scoring is cumulative)
(F10-904A- 2.0B) (Narrative- Sec. 2.A.I)

- Application includes documentation of public meetings/forums/surveys reflecting support (7)
- Application identifies public fundraising efforts (3)

Special Needs (10 points maximum - scoring is for highest level achieved from one category)
(F10-904A- 2.2B) (Narrative- Sec. 2.A.g; Sec. 2.E.g)

- All elements designed beyond code requirements for individuals with special needs (10)
- Some elements designed beyond code requirements for individuals with special needs (5)
- Project element only meet code requirements for special needs or disabilities (0)

Stewardship (15 points maximum – scoring is cumulative)
(F10-904A- 3.0B)

- Proposed site has received previous LWCF assistance and is in full compliance (5)
- Project sponsor has no prior history of LWCF compliance problems (5)
- Project sponsor has adequately provided administrative documents without issues (5)

Maintenance Capacity (5 points maximum – scoring is cumulative)
(Narrative- Sec. 2.A.o, p, q & r)

- Sponsor has dedicated recreation maintenance department identified in application (2)
- Sponsor has public works department identified in application for maintenance (2)
- Sponsor has identified another resource for maintenance responsibility (1)

Fairness (10 points maximum – scoring is for highest level achieved from one category)

- Parish has received less than \$5 per capita in LWCF assistance (10)
- Parish has received between \$5-\$15 per capita in LWCF assistance (5)
- Parish has received between \$15-\$25 per capita in LWCF assistance (1)
- Parish has received between \$25-\$35 per capita in LWCF assistance (minus 3)
- Parish has received more than \$35 per capita in LWCF assistance (minus 5)

Low-Income Areas (10 points maximum – scoring for highest level achieved from one category)
(Narrative- Sec. 2.A.e, f & g)

- Project site located in a low-income community (10)
- Application specifically identifies safe access to project site from low-income community (5)
- Application identifies facilities requiring little personal user equipment investment for use (playground, free-play field, etc.) (1)

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BONUS SECTION:

Land Acquisition (5 points maximum – scoring for highest level achieved from one category)
(F10-904A- 2.1A or 3.0A) (Narrative- Sec. 1)

- Project acquires land not previously dedicated or operated for outdoor recreation (5)
- Project encumbers an existing outdoor recreation site that has not previously received LWCF assistance. (3)

Natural Disasters (5 points maximum – scoring for highest level achieved from one category)

- Application is for project within a Parish declared a natural disaster area within last 2 years (5)
- Application is for project within a Parish declared a natural disaster area within last 3 years (4)
- Application is for project within a Parish declared a natural disaster area within last 4 or 5 years (2)

Prior Eligibility (5 points maximum – scoring for highest level achieved from one category)

- Project submitted in previous year but not approved due to lack of available LWCF funding (5)
- Project application withdrawn in previous year for local match reassigned for natural disaster or public health emergency (4)

Innovation (5 points)

- Project is innovative in design and development (5)

Scored By: _____

Date: _____

Checked By: _____

Date: _____

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Appendix IV: SCORP 2020 Statewide Priority List:

The SCORP 2020 Top Priorities identified as Outdoor Connectivity; Engage with Nature; Fishing and Water Access; Picnicking, Gathering, and Creating Memories; and Embrace Regional Distinctions present some overlap and lack clarity in terms of facility types once one starts considering the activities that make up each priority. Because of this it was important to extensively review all the SCORP 2020 priority and activity lists along with the raw data in order to define the top ten (10) facilities types or actions in their appropriate order for use in scoring applications. The resulting top ten (10) outdoor recreation facility priorities are presented in the list below. An additional tool was developed, the Facility Matrix, which relates activities to facilities. The Facility Matrix is located in **Appendix VI** and may be consulted to confirm the appropriate priority for any facility not specifically listed as examples in the top ten (10) facility types below.

Louisiana's SCORP 2020 based Top 10 facility types or actions:

- 1. Terrestrial trails and trail support:** (walking, hiking, cycling, exercise, equestrian, motorized and circulation paths; trail support facility including trailheads, restrooms, etc.)
- 2. Nature experience facilities:** (observation station, overlook, nature play, hunting support, natural sites (wilderness/open land), etc.)
- 3. Water access/fishing:** (bank improvement, pier, dock, boat launch, Swimming beach, etc.)
- 4. Paddle facilities:** (paddle craft launch, launch (craft entry) docks or piers, improved natural launch including beaches not designate for swimming, paddle trail and paddling support trailhead, restroom and parking.)
- 5. Gathering/Picnicking facilities:** (picnic area, picnic pavilion, group pavilion, and picnic and pavilion support, etc.).
- 6. Team Sport facilities:** (team sport courts, team sport fields (diamond and rectangle) and spectator support, etc.)
- 7. Playgrounds:** (playground, tot-lots, open play space, designated play court/field [not typically team sport play] like horseshoe, badminton, etc. and support facilities.)
- 8. Swimming and water play:** (swimming pool, play pools, splash pad or park, swim support facilities, etc.)
- 9. Camping:** (primitive, dispersed, improved with amenities, recreational vehicle, etc. and camping support facilities.)
- 10 Acquisition of new park or open land:** (use for park development, open land/green space, preservation or conservation.)

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Appendix V: SCORP 2020 Regional Priority Lists:

Region 1: New Orleans Area

Top 10:

1. Walking/Nature Walks
2. Visiting Nature
3. Picnicking
4. Nature Programs/Self- Guided Tours
5. Botanic Gardens*
6. Bird Watching
7. Paddling
8. Fishing
9. Playgrounds
10. Swimming

(BOTANIC GARDENS: Visiting Botanic Gardens is generally understood to mean visiting a specific facility with the intent of observing planted materials.)

Region 2: Baton Rouge Area

Top 10:

1. Walking/Nature Walks
2. Visiting Nature
3. Fishing
4. Picnicking
5. Hiking
6. Swimming
7. Paddling
8. Nature Programs/Self- Guided Tours
9. Bird Watching
10. Playgrounds

Region 3: Houma-Thibodaux Area

Top 10:

1. Fishing
2. Walking/Nature Walks
3. Motor Boating*
4. Visiting Nature
5. Playgrounds
6. Picnicking
7. Swimming
8. Crabbing*
9. Bird Watching
10. Paddling

(MOTOR BOATING: Motorized boating could include travel activities relating to fishing or hunting trips or could involve taking the boat out to the lake just to enjoy the weather. It does not include sailing, water skiing, wakeboarding, or jet skiing, as those were mentioned and tallied separately.)

(CRABBING: Crabbing is considered the act of setting a baited crab trap, net, or line, or casting a net to catch blue crabs or stone crabs. It may be done solely or in conjunction with a day out fishing. Crabbing is generally a very passive and laid-back activity.)

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Region 4: Lafayette Area

Top 10:

1. Walking/Nature Walks
2. Visiting Nature
3. Fishing
4. Swimming
5. Nature Programs/Self-Guided Tours
6. Picnicking
7. Paddling
8. Bird Watching
9. Motor Boating*
10. Playgrounds

(MOTOR BOATING: Motorized boating could include travel activities relating to fishing or hunting trips or could involve taking the boat out to the lake just to enjoy the weather. It does not include sailing, water skiing, wakeboarding, or jet skiing, as those were mentioned and tallied separately.)

Region 5: Lake Charles Area

Top 10:

1. Visiting Nature
2. Walking/Nature Walks
3. Fishing
4. Nature Programs/Self-Guided Tours
5. Bird Watching
6. Picnicking
7. Playgrounds
8. Swimming
9. Hiking
10. Paddling

Region 6: Alexandria Area

Top 10:

1. Walking/Nature Walks
2. Visiting Nature
3. Fishing
4. Picnicking
5. Swimming
6. Playgrounds
7. Hiking
8. Motor Boating*
9. Spectator Sports*
10. Bird Watching

(MOTOR BOATING: Motorized boating could include travel activities relating to fishing or hunting trips or could involve taking the boat out to the lake just to enjoy the weather. It does not include sailing, water skiing, wakeboarding, or jet skiing, as those were mentioned and tallied separately.)

(SPECTATOR SPORTS: Spectator activities are understood to be the act of watching an organized team sport or an open play individual sport. These users may include the family of someone playing in a Rec League or an organized weekend tournament. They may also be more casual observers watching their neighbors play a pick-up game of basketball. Generally, these users are looking for more park features, like clean bathrooms, good lighting, and even concession stands or vending machines.)

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Region 7: Shreveport Area

Top 10:

1. Visiting Nature
2. Walking/Nature Walks
3. Fishing
4. Picnicking
5. Paddling
6. Swimming
7. Bird Watching
8. Nature Programs/Self-Guided Tours
9. Spectator Sports*
10. Nature Photography*

(SPECTATOR SPORTS: Spectator activities are understood to be the act of watching an organized team sport or an open play individual sport. These users may include the family of someone playing in a Rec League or an organized weekend tournament. They may also be more casual observers watching their neighbors play a pick-up game of basketball. Generally, these users are looking for more park features, like clean bathrooms, good lighting, and even concession stands or vending machines.)

(NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY: Nature photography is understood to be the action of going to a natural, usually undeveloped, or “wild” area to photograph or documenting the landscape. Many people obtain beautiful photos with just their camera phone.)

Region 8: Monroe Area

Top 10:

1. Visiting Nature
2. Walking/Nature Walks
3. Fishing
4. Swimming
5. Picnicking
6. Paddling
7. Nature Programs/Self-Guided Tours
8. Hiking
9. Bird Watching
10. RV/Trailer Camping*

(RV/TRAILER CAMPING: As described in the survey question, RV/Trailer Camping is camping in a motorhome, van, recreational vehicle, 5th wheel, trailer, pop-up camper, or other portable structure at a facility that includes electric and water hookups for users. While not the intention of this question, the responses may also include a small number of users that tent camp at facilities with electric and water hookups, or RV/Trailer camp at sites without utilities. These two similar options were left in the comments section for this question and may have had some overlap with this response.)

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Appendix VI: Facility Matrix:

The Facility Matrix is a Microsoft Excel file attached as a separate document.