



The Garden Club of America is committed to addressing the devastating impacts of climate change on our economies, communities, national security, human health and the native vegetation that sustains biodiversity and supports life on earth. We also strongly oppose regulatory rollbacks at EPA and the Department of Interior that threaten our air, water, climate, and endanger species, including plants.

Land and Water Conservation Fund S. 1081 /H.R. 3195

We ask you to support efforts to protect, enhance and expand public lands for the benefit of all citizens. We are seeking permanent and full funding of the LWCF at \$900M per year.

- Thank you for your support of S.47 last year which permanently authorized the Land and Water Conservation Fund and protected vitally important lands for posterity.
- Please support S. 1081 in the Senate or H.R. 3195 in the House to permanently and fully funds LWCF at \$900M per year.
- We thank you for the \$495 million LWCF received in FY2020, but this is far short of the \$900 million promised when LWCF was established in 1965.

Parks, Public Lands and Native Plants S. 500, H.R. 1225, S. 3150

For more than a century GCA has supported the protection, repair and enhancement of our national parks and public lands. These bills have strong bi-partisan support, and will direct \$6.5 million annually towards critical maintenance of roads, trails, visitor centers, etc. This is only a portion of the more than \$11 billion backlog of repairs needed.

- We ask you to support S. 500 and H.R. 1225 to address the devastating backlog of maintenance in our National Parks.

Priorities for Congress

- S. 500 is led by Senators Rob Portman (R-OH), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Mark Warner (D-VA), and Angus King (I-ME) and cosponsored by half the US Senate.
- H.R. 1225 is led by Rob Bishop (R-UT) and Derek Kilmer (D-WA) and cosponsored by 329 House Members.
- We strongly encourage you to support the Native Plant Species Pilot Program Act of 2020 - S. 3150, a bipartisan bill led by Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA), creating a pilot program to integrate native plant material into park restoration projects wherever possible.
- Rep. Matt Cartwright (D-PA) will be introducing a near identical companion bill S. 3150 in the House. Become an original cosponsor of this bill by contacting Ben Donovan (ben.donovan@mail.house.gov, 202-225-5546) in Congressman Cartwright's office.

Oceans

The Garden Club of America believes we should protect our coastal areas and oceans from all types of pollution and environmental degradation, including plastic and marine debris.

- Thank you for the unanimous support and passage in the Senate of S.1982, the Save Our Seas 2.0, led by Senators Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), and Bob Menendez (D-NJ).
- We request support for the companion bill in the House, HR 3969, introduced by Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR).
- The bill proposes a variety of new measures to bolster international engagement and cooperation to research and address the marine debris crisis.

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The Garden Club of America strongly supports provisions in the American Transportation and Infrastructure Act ("ATIA") - S. 2302, that address climate change and require transportation projects to use native plants and natural infrastructure.

- We ask you to support the Monarch and Pollinator Highway Act of 2019 – S. 2918, introduced by Senators Merkley (D-OR), Alexander (R-TN), Carper (D-DE) and Rounds (R-SD).
- This bipartisan bill would establish a grant program to benefit pollinators along highways.
- We ask you to cosponsor this bill and assure that any transportation bill passing the Senate include this language.
- Similarly we ask Representatives to support the inclusion of provisions similar to S. 2918 in any transportation bill passing the House.

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