Mayor Tom Butt Joins the Mayors for Parks Coalition
Supports the Land and Water Conservation Association

Richmond, CA -- Mayor Tom Butt announced that he has become the 52nd mayor to join the Mayors for Parks Coalition. Co-chaired by Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock (D) and Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price (R), the bipartisan coalition seeks permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and full annual funding of $900 million. The coalition was formed in 2013 and is managed by City Parks Alliance.

“LWCF has been important to the development of vibrant, healthy and smart cities” stated Mayor Butt. “We owe it to future generations to ensure that LWCF is both permanently reauthorized and fully funded, so that it can live up to its true potential and serve our communities for decades to come.”

Created in 1965, LWCF has funded the creation of 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.

Mayor Butt added, “Aside from the many health and environmental benefits of green spaces, community parks are an important economic engine: they help create jobs, increase property values, and attract and retain businesses that complement the quality of life benefits to the community.”

Grant funding from state and federal sources has been instrumental in enabling the development of parks and open space that are known as valuable assets in the community. In California, the LWCF has funded projects with $2.34 billion statewide and over $600,000 in Richmond, including for the Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historical Park. Other major projects in the area include the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the Bay Area Ridge Trail, Muir Woods, and the Point Reyes National Seashore.

“Mayors nation-wide understand that providing kids and families with city green spaces can also have wide ranging ecosystem benefits. We are committed to keeping our waterways clean, removing air pollution, and increasing our urban canopy to improve the climate.”
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](http://www.cityparksalliance.org). CPA created and manages the Mayors for Parks Coalition.