

CONTINUING THE TRADITION: MINNESOTA'S ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

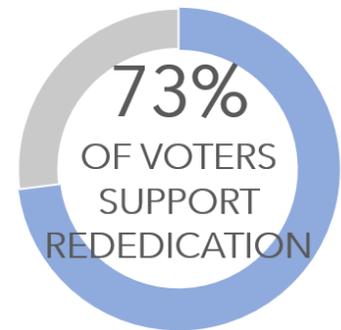
Reauthorizing the constitutional amendment dedicating lottery funds for Minnesota's outdoors



Mark Godfrey/TNC

Minnesotans are proud of their traditions supporting land, air, water, and wildlife conservation. In 1988, the Minnesota Legislature passed constitutional amendment legislation to create a state lottery to fund initiatives to protect and restore our outdoors. Approved overwhelmingly by Minnesotans in 1990, then again in 1998 with **77% of the vote**, the ENRTF has been a publicly popular and significant dedicated fund for the environment for over 30 years. **It expires in 2024.**

In September 2021, a survey of Minnesota voters found that **73% of Minnesota voters support** continuing to dedicate 40% of lottery profits to dedicated environmental funds or increase that amount. This sizable majority support was found among independent, Republican, and DFL respondents.



WE NEED TO ACT NOW...

We need to ensure this funding source remains constitutionally dedicated toward environmental projects. Environmental spending in the state has been inconsistent. These funds provide a reliable source of revenue for Minnesota's outdoors in good times and bad times.

...AND IMPROVE THE PROCESS

Minnesota's outdoor recreation, heritage, clean waters, and habitats are popular and supported across the political spectrum. Despite this popularity, projects to maintain these resources and opportunities have been held up due to recent challenges passing appropriations recommendations through the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) process. Small changes now can have a big impact toward ensuring these dollars can be accessed across the state for years to come, such as:

- Ensuring the LCCMR of the future has diverse representation
- Restoring lottery proceeds dedicated toward the environment from 40% to 50% as historically intended and including unclaimed lottery prizes to ENRTF revenues
- Creating more access for smaller projects and emerging issues so the funds can be more responsive to current challenges

