



# SF 527 & HF 873 CREATES MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION & CONNECTIONS IN GREATER MINNESOTA

## THE BASICS

### GMRPTC: Who We Are

The Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission (GMRPTC) consists of 13 Commissioners appointed by the Governor, with two members in each of six districts and one at-large member.

The Commission's goal is to reach out to parks and trails users and stakeholders about district needs, opportunities and Commission activities when and how it works best at the regional and local level. This requires engaging with existing groups, organizations and leaders where they are as much as possible.

Prior to the establishment of the GMRPTC in 2013, Greater Minnesota did not have an established history of comprehensive planning for regional parks and trails. Since then, a robust network of local and regional engagement has been developed.



### SF 527/HF 873

**S.F.527/H.F.873** would appropriate \$1 million in general funds to the GMRPTC, allowing the Commission to further assist in the development of valuable outdoor recreation facilities. By appropriating from the general fund, these bills would free up Legacy dollars and strengthen the capability of local parks and trails professionals to invest in their communities.

### Regionally Designated Facilities

Greater Minnesota's Regional system of parks and trails lists 74 facilities across 80-counties outside the seven-county metropolitan area.

- 24 Regional Trails
- 35 Natural Resource-Based Parks
- 15 Special Features

## Greater MN System Development



#### Designation Application

Determines Eligibility for Regional System Designation



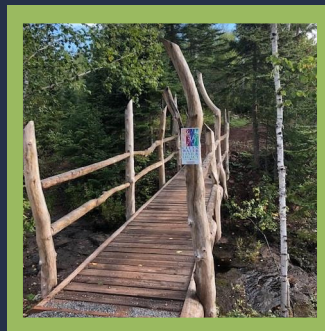
#### Master Plan

Complete Concept Evaluation  
Determinating Designation Status



#### Funding Application

Designated Facilities Apply for Annual Legacy Funding





# SF 527 & HF 873 WILL CREATE MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION & CONNECTIONS IN GREATER MINNESOTA

## THE NEED

### How GMRPTC is funded

Granting funds and the operating budget of the GMRPTC come from the 20% of Legacy funds for Parks and Trails allocated for Greater Minnesota. With administration expenses taken from the pool for grants, less money is available for parks, trails and connecting people with the outdoors projects.

The GMRPTC is asking the legislature to rectify this issue and pass [S.F.527](#) and [H.F.873](#) which would take the administrative costs from the General Fund, leaving the entirety of the Legacy dollars for grants to be used for the 74 designated facilities in Greater Minnesota.



### LEGACY FUND

The state's Legacy Fund was created to protect drinking water sources; to protect, enhance, and restore wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat; to preserve arts and cultural heritage; to support parks and trails; and to protect, enhance, and restore lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater. In budget terms, these are **dedicated funds**.

Greater MN parks & trails projects are funded through the Legacy Fund.

The more Legacy funds available means the more beautiful parks & trails!

