

Parks and Trails Legacy Partner Agency Update

Senate Environment, Climate and Legacy Committee • March 17, 2023



**Greater Minnesota Regional Parks
and Trails Commission**



**Metropolitan Council
Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trails**



**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Parks and Trails Division**

Parks and Trails Legacy Fund... one of 4 Legacy Funds



Minnesota voters passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution in 2008. The Legacy Amendment is funded from a three-eighths of one percent increase to the state sales tax with revenue dedicated to:

1. protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams, groundwater from degradation, and to protect drinking water sources;
2. restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forest and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife;
3. support arts, arts education and arts access, and to preserve Minnesota's history and cultural heritage;
- 4. support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance.**

Minnesota 25-Year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan

This plan guides the overall priorities for the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund. It is based on extensive public engagement including 17 listening sessions around the state, with thousands of youth and diverse participants. It provides a consistent vision and guidance for the three partner agencies.



VISION: In 2035, our world-class parks and trails connect everyone to the outdoors.

Minnesota 25-Year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan

***PILLARS:** Strategic Priorities for the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund...*



Metropolitan Council

Metropolitan Regional Park System

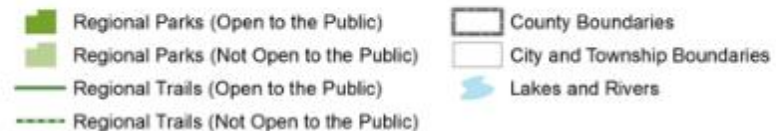
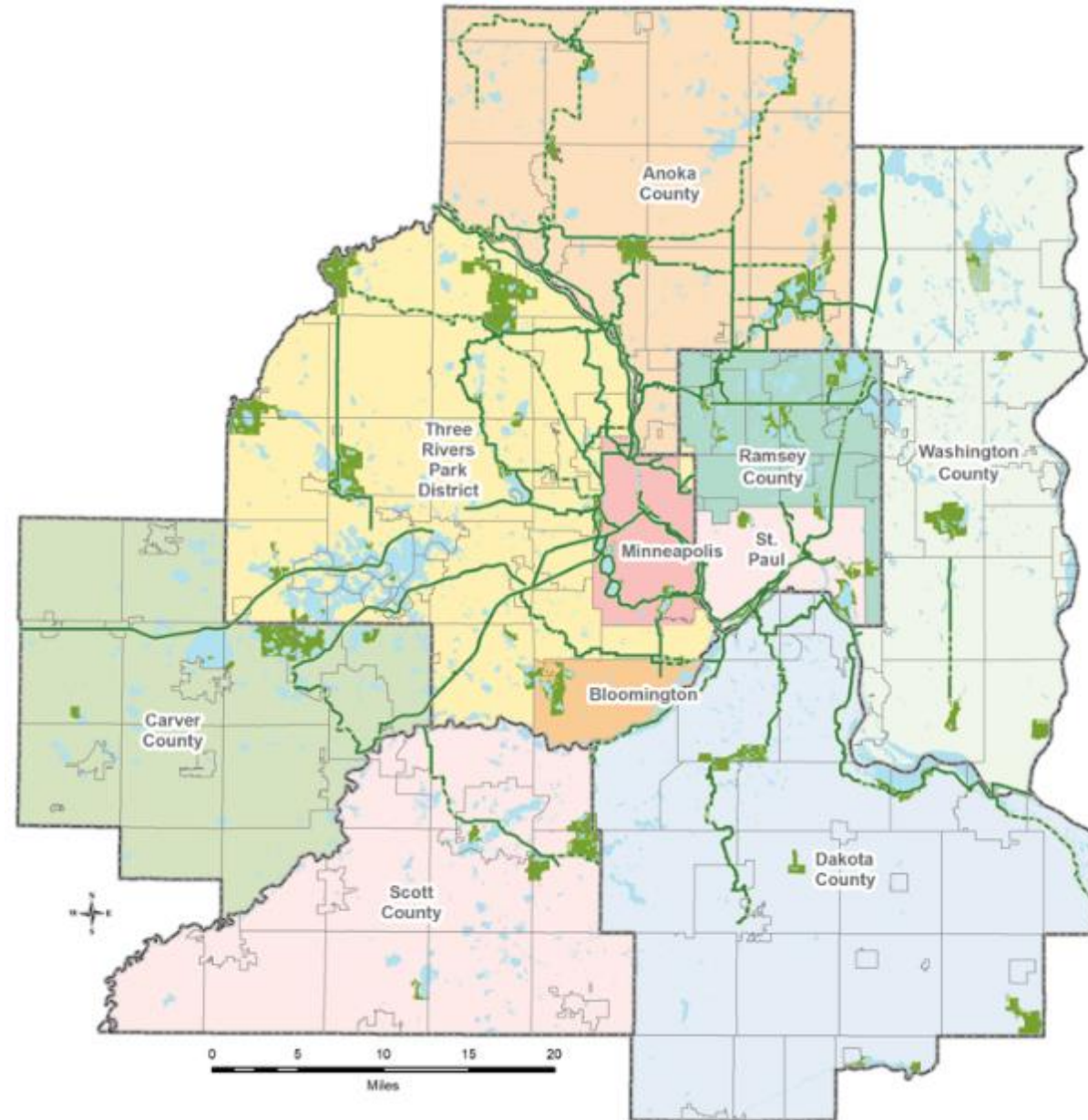
LisaBeth Barajas
Executive Director
Community Development



Collaboration and cooperation

10 Regional Parks Implementing Agencies

- Anoka County
- Carver County
- Dakota County
- Ramsey County
- Scott County
- Washington County
- Bloomington
- Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board
- Saint Paul
- Three Rivers Park District



Parks & Trails Fund – Minnesota's Legacy



Como Regional Park, Saint Paul

Distribution

State statute allocates funding for metropolitan regional parks into two areas for the 10 implementing agencies

- 90% distributed non-competitively by legislative formula
- 10% dedicated for land acquisition, distributed on a first-come-first-served basis.
 - Metropolitan Council matches acquisition funds \$2 for every \$3

Selection process

- Selected by each of the 10 locally elected boards or commissions
- Projects reviewed by Met Council
 - Consistency with park and trail plans
 - Proposed projects meet all state guidelines and requirements.

Parks and Trails Legacy Allocations

FY2022 – 2025

| Agency | FY22/23 | FY24/25 | Total |
|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Anoka | \$ 3,627,217 | \$ 4,473,797 | \$ 8,101,014 |
| Bloomington | \$ 698,738 | \$ 861,820 | \$ 1,560,558 |
| Carver | \$ 869,179 | \$ 1,072,042 | \$ 1,941,221 |
| Dakota | \$ 3,175,532 | \$ 3,916,690 | \$ 7,092,222 |
| MPRB | \$ 9,416,222 | \$ 11,613,935 | \$ 21,030,157 |
| Ramsey | \$ 3,430,503 | \$ 4,231,171 | \$ 7,661,674 |
| Saint Paul | \$ 5,073,556 | \$ 6,257,706 | \$ 11,331,262 |
| Scott | \$ 1,490,521 | \$ 1,838,403 | \$ 3,328,924 |
| Three Rivers | \$ 9,606,859 | \$ 11,849,065 | \$ 21,455,924 |
| Washington | \$ 2,086,573 | \$ 2,573,571 | \$ 4,660,144 |
| PAOF Program 10% | \$ 4,386,100 | \$ 5,409,800 | \$ 9,795,900 |
| Total | \$ 43,861,000 | \$ 54,098,000 | \$ 97,959,000 |

FY24/25 agency shares are estimated and subject to change based on updated inputs



mi MINNESOTA
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

Parks and Trails Legacy Fund: DNR Overview

Andrew Korsberg | Division of Parks and Trails

Minnesota State Parks and Trails System

State Parks and Recreation Areas

- 75 State Parks and Recreation Areas
- Nearly 5,000 camping and lodging units
- 240,000 acres of land managed, including critical habitat for the state's threatened/endangered species and cultural resources of statewide significance.

State and Grant-in-Aid (GIA) Trails

- 25 state trails
- 1,500 miles of developed state trails
2,700 are designated
- 24,600 miles of Grant-in-aid trails

State Forest Recreation Areas

- 43 state forest campgrounds
- 12 state forest horse campgrounds
- 29 forest day-use areas

Water Recreation

- 35 state water trails
- 1,700 public water accesses
- 360 fishing piers



Minnesota State Parks and Trails

Connect People and the Outdoors

Library Pass Program



Multi-Cultural Marketing

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Tailfeet

I want all my senses engaged. Let me absorb the world's variety and uniqueness. —Wayo Angelos

Black History Makers

We are celebrating Black History Month by looking at past Black trailblazers and those making history now. Join us!

From wilderness trailblazers like Ojibwa-Goodwin-Goodwin-Goodwin-Goodwin and the Black Bear Conservationist in Winona County to artists and leaders working on education, we share the stories of some of those leaving their marks in the outdoor recreation world.

Let's keep studying, learning and listening about Black history makers, beyond the books!

Harriet Tubman, the Ultimate Outdoors Woman

Did you know that Harriet Tubman was not only a woman of the environment and able to swim, hunt, and fish? An early trailblazer, Tubman relied on her knowledge of astronomy to assist herself while traveling, used owl calls as a signal and

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Tailfeet

"Our relationship with land cannot heal until we hear its stories." —John Smith, author of *Land's End*

Aanii, Targyaq Yahipi

November is National Native American Heritage Month. To celebrate, we give center stage to indigenous people to share their stories in their own voices. With these stories, we are planting seeds so that you learn more about the land you play in. It's a month and the rest of the year.

OUT & ABOUT

Bradley Harrington, Angler and Leader Who Accepts Manitowag Gifts

Ni'i a'aw ena'inaabe aakajitood i'iw gaa pi-mi'ingoo'waad i'iw-ko'na'awad.

After asking for his favorite fish as a child, Harrington ends up becoming the Chief of the Department of Fisheries, Invertebrates and Commissioner of Natural Resources for the North and Central Regions.

I Can!... Programs



Minnesota State Parks and Trails

Take Care of What We Have



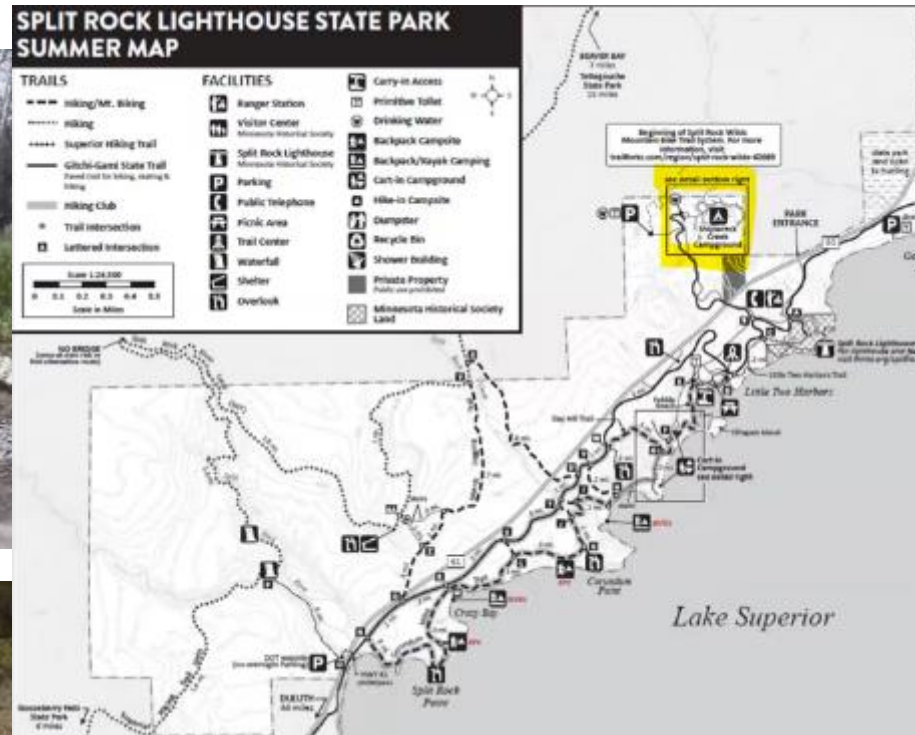
Temperance River State Park – New Shower Building
Park users expect clean, modern, accessible, family-friendly and climate-friendly facilities.



Glendalough State Park's 700 acres of restored prairie
bloom with a multitude of colors from late July until the final blush of the prairie grasses in September.

Minnesota State Parks and Trails

Create Opportunities



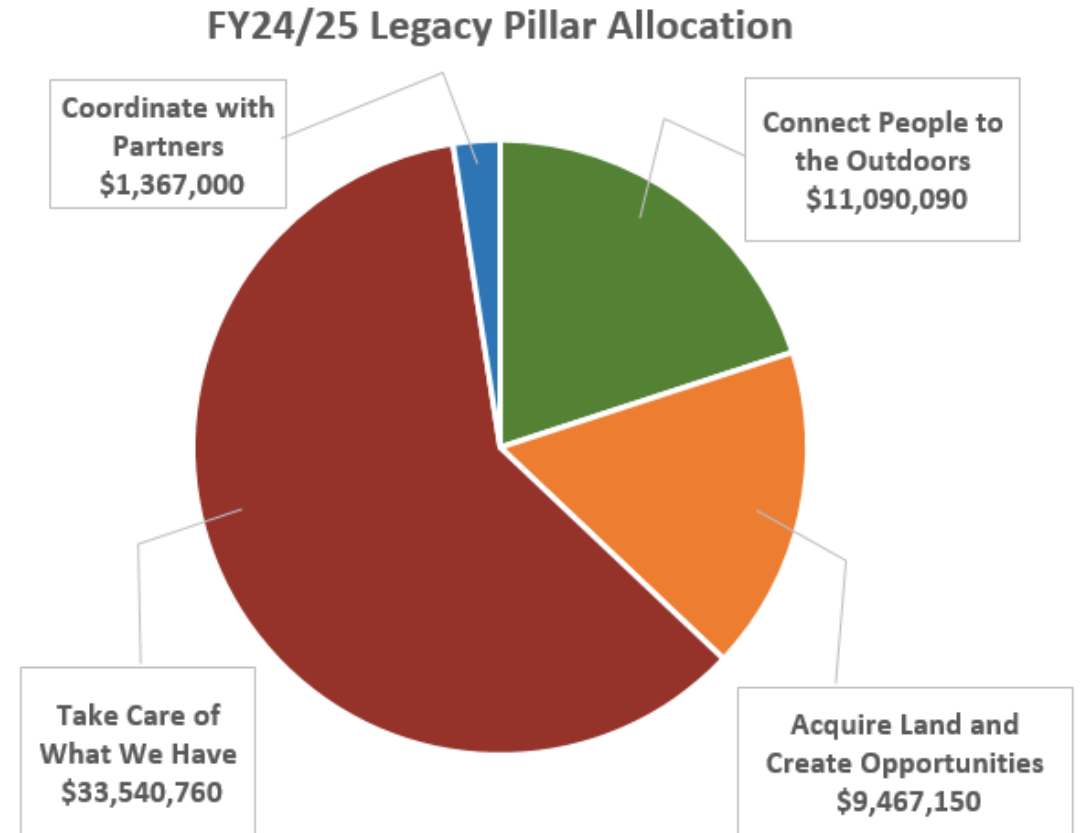
Shipwreck Creek Campground at Split Rock Light House State Park
Opened June 1, 2022 - Visitors from all over the state enjoy the north shore

FY24/25 DNR Parks and Trails Legacy Allocation



| Legacy Pillar | FY24/25 Dollars | FY24/25 Percent | FY22/23 Dollars | FY22/23 Percent |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Connect People to the Outdoors | \$11,090,090 | 20.50% | \$7,894,980 | 20.00% |
| Acquire Land and Create Opportunities | \$9,467,150 | 17.50% | \$7,894,980 | 20.00% |
| Take Care of What We Have | \$33,540,760 | 62.00% | \$23,684,940 | 60.00% |
| Total DNR Parks and Trails | \$54,098,000 | 100% | \$39,474,900 | 100% |
| Coordinate with Partners * | \$1,367,000 | N/A | \$1,024,000 | N/A |

* Funding for the **Coordinate with Partners** pillar is appropriated separately from the DNR Legacy budget.





Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

Renee Mattson
Executive Director



About the Commission

6 Districts across 80-Counties

13 Commissioners Appointed by the Governor
2 in each District and 1 At-Large

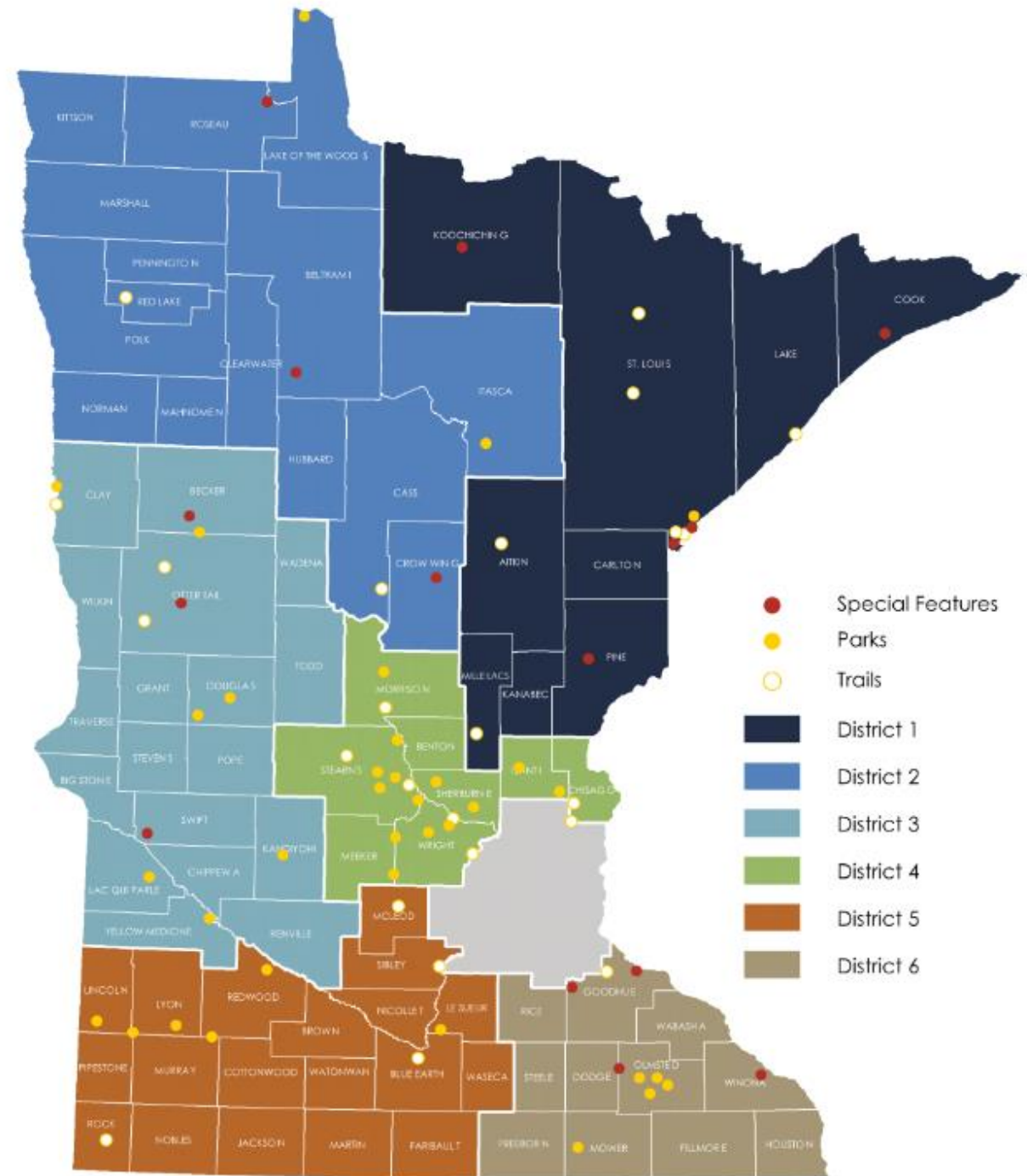
74 Facilities

35 Natural Resource Based Parks

24 Regional Trails

15 Special Features

20 Designation Eligible Facilities



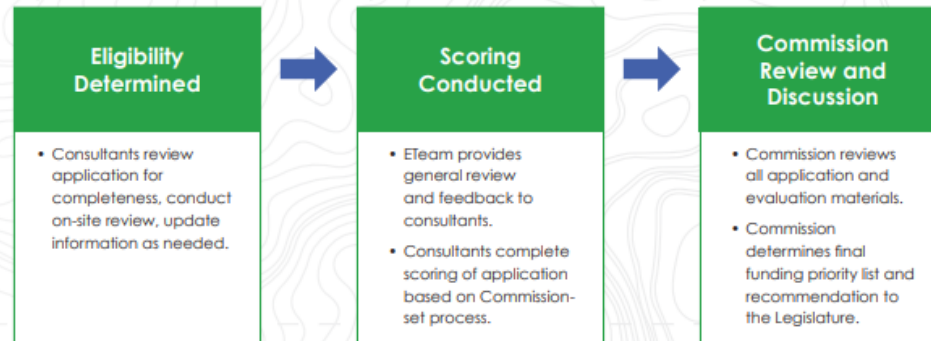
How to Achieve Regionally Significant Designation



- Application reviewed by 5-member Evaluation Team and ranked High, Medium or Low. High ranked applications are invited to submit a qualified Master Plan
- Staff review plan for completeness and eligibility and conduct a site visit of the facility. Evaluation Team review of the Master Plan and criteria scoring. Commissioners review and deliberation for regional designation.
- Annual funding applications are submitted for regionally impactful components as described in the Master Plan. Staff conduct site visits and score applications based on established criteria. Commissioners review, comment and determine priority list.

Grant Funding Selection Process

FUNDING RECOMMENDATION SELECTION PROCESS



SCORING CRITERIA

| Park Criteria | Trail Criteria | Connecting People to the Outdoors Criteria |
|--|---|--|
| Completes a regionally substantial component in the applicants Master Plan. | Completes a regionally substantial component in the applicants Master Plan. | Supports the programming and marketing components in the applicants Master Plan. |
| Fills a gap and provides an outdoor recreation benefit of regional significance for that district. | Fills a gap and provides connectivity to users. Could also provide connectivity to a larger trail system to create a recreation benefit for the district. | Fills a gap and provides a proven outdoor recreation benefit of regional significance for that district. |
| Is significantly linked to one or more of the four pillars in the 25-Year Legacy Plan. | Is significantly linked to one or more of the four pillars in the 25-Year Legacy Plan. | Is significantly linked to the Connecting People to the Outdoors pillar objectives as well as additional pillars in the 25-Year Legacy Plan. |
| Project is a critical acquisition or critical rehabilitation and repair of a park facility or feature. | Project is a critical acquisition or critical rehabilitation and repair of a trail, trailhead facility or trail feature. | Provides significant and locally sustainable recruitment, retention or reactivation of outdoor recreation participation. |
| Provides access to quality natural and cultural resources within the district. | Provides access to quality natural and cultural resources within the district. | Provides access for underserved populations to quality natural and cultural resources within the district. |
| Has a financial match. A higher match will receive greater point awards. | Has a financial match. A higher match will receive greater point awards. | Has a financial match. A higher match will receive greater point awards. |
| Includes a fully detailed budget and implementation plan. | Includes a fully detailed budget and implementation plan. | Includes a fully detailed budget and implementation plan. |



FY24 LEGACY FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

| PROJECT | AWARD | DIST. |
|--|---------------------|-------|
| Duluth Waabizheshikana/The Marten Trail A ten mile trail tracing the shoreline of the St. Louis River Estuary, recently restored from a highly degraded state. | \$1,493,434 | 1 |
| Cook County Mountain Bike Trail System Development of a bicycle skills park at the Cook County Community Center and the rehabilitation of 4.9 miles of the High Climber mountain bike trail. | \$400,000 | 1 |
| Mesabi Trail Construction of the FINAL 2.4 miles of trail from the West Two River to connect to the existing Mesabi Trail in Tower. | \$750,000 | 1 |
| Northerly Park - Northwest Angle Master Plan Update | \$70,000 | 2 |
| Detroit Mountain Recreation Area Land acquisition for an accessible trail loop, sculptures, additional single track biking trail and a natural play area Tree House element. | \$1,325,941 | 3 |
| Otter Tail County Phelps Mill County Park 1,400 feet of wetland boardwalks and viewing platforms within a restored wetlands area. | \$366,000 | 3 |
| Benton County Great River Park Complex Large picnic shelter and overflow parking, canoe landing improvements, nature play area relocation, additional natural surface trails, wayfinding and interpretive signage. | \$797,555 | 4 |
| Isanti County Springvale Park Accessible nature play area, a three mile single track mountain bike expansion, repaving and enlarging the main parking area, a vault toilet and trailhead and wayfinding signage throughout the park. | \$336,800 | 4 |
| Stearns County Kraemer Lake - Wildwood County Park Enhanced park entry road, parking lot, picnic areas and picnic shelters, restrooms, fishing pier, nature based playground, non-motorized boat launch and paved trail access to amenities. | \$1,175,846 | 4 |
| Stearns County Quarry Park & Nature Preserve Brosion control at Quarry 2. | \$170,250 | 4 |
| Redwood County Plum Creek Park Improved parking lot, beach enhancement through new retaining walls and natural playground near the beach. Also included is a new bathroom and changing room and a new ADA sidewalk. | \$818,539 | 5 |
| Sibley County Henderson Scenic Byway Regional Trail Hummingbird Regional Trail construction done concurrently with the reconstruction of CSAH 6 between Henderson and Blakeley. | \$1,394,400 | 5 |
| Austin Jay C. Hormel Nature Center Replacement bridges identified as Bridge 9 and Bridge 6. | \$250,000 | 6 |
| Olmsted County Oxbow Park and Zollman Zoo Moving the existing campground from a flood zone to a safer location on higher ground. The project will increase the capacity from 30 to 42 sites, including three ADA accessible sites. Additionally four fully equipped camper cabins will be added along with upgraded electric and water hook ups. | \$2,050,000 | 6 |
| TOTAL | \$11,398,765 | |



Thank You



**CLEAN
WATER
LAND &
LEGACY
AMENDMENT**