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Introduction

The University of Minnesota's Center for Changing Landscapes (CCL) was directed by the Minnesota Legislature to "create a long-range framework for an integrated statewide parks and trails system that provides information on the natural resource-based recreational opportunities available throughout the state" (Laws of Minnesota, 2009).

CCL and partners conducted an inventory of existing, planned, and proposed regionally significant, state and federal natural resource-based recreation areas in Minnesota; and of recreation social science research and monitoring efforts conducted in Minnesota and published since 2000.

The inventory is a snapshot of the status of natural resource-based parks and trails in Minnesota, intended to be a useful tool to help citizens, local, regional, and state officials make decisions about establishing and developing parks and trails.

Five region-specific profile reports, a series of thematic maps, and a contextual profile of each region were generated based on data from the inventory.

The inventory was the baseline for an in-depth assessment of recreation opportunity supply and demand that considers:

- // Existing geographic distribution of recreation resources and settings across the state.*
- // Current population estimates and recreation participation trends.*
- // Future population projections and recreation participation trends.*
- // Proposed or planned enhancements to recreation resources across the state.*



Image 1-4

Methodology

- // *Two inventories were conducted: one assessing the physical settings for outdoor recreation and one assessing recreation experiences.*
- // *The physical setting inventory is ongoing, using the best data available obtained by both CCL and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.*
- // *The data gathered for the physical settings inventory included existing printed and electronic information, augmented where necessary with other kinds of data, including oral descriptions.*
- // *The data for the recreation experience inventory were compiled from a review of literature and reports, with input from various stakeholders.*

Physical Setting Inventory

Data collection for the inventory of the physical setting began in September 2009 and will continue through spring 2011. This summary report includes all information gathered by October 2010.

The inventory is based upon the best information available. Significant efforts were made to create accurate data from data sources that were incomplete, and/or inconsistent. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recreation acreages and American Indian Tribal lands are not included in the inventory at this time.

Responsibility for gathering data was divided between CCL and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The DNR Division of Parks and Trails was responsible for gathering current federal and state data while CCL was responsible for gathering current regionally significant, regional, county, and local data. Material gathered included maps, planning documents, park studies, guidebooks, databases, facility inventories, promotional materials, web postings, and oral descriptions from local officials when printed or electronic information was not available. CCL, Explore Minnesota Tourism, Metropolitan Council, and the DNR worked together to develop a data schema that provided a uniform repository for point, line, polygon, and non-spatial information. Attributes and attribute definitions included in the database were agreed upon by project partners and reviewed by the 10/25 Parks and Trails Legacy Planning Committee (see Appendix A for attribute information). The geodatabase consists of maps of parks and trails and other recreational environments and tables that document park and trail acreages, mileages, alignments, and attributes. In order to reflect current activity associated with park and trail development, items mapped include existing, planned, and proposed parks and trails. Existing parks and trails are those that are built; planned are those that have an official status such as an authorized state trail or a park that is part of a comprehensive plan; and proposed are those that are in the works, but have no official status.

With the inventoried information, CCL created county-scale maps and made them available for review and comment at the 17 public meetings hosted by the DNR and the Citizens League and facilitated by the Citizens League during the spring of 2010. The maps were also posted on CCL's website (<http://ccl.design.umn.edu/mnpat.html>) in May 2010 for review and comment. Recreation providers, citizens, and project partners provided additions, corrections, and feedback.

In addition to an inventory of natural resource-based recreation opportunities, CCL staff conducted literature searches; conducted field observations and documented sites at state, federal, and regionally significant parks and trails; conducted an extensive review of park and trail planning documents; and conducted informal interviews with a number of providers to understand the various systems and their facilities.

Participation in 10/25 Parks and Trails Legacy Planning Committee meetings, 10/25 Legacy Plan work groups, community input sessions, as well as public events and meetings, provided opportunities for CCL to discuss the status of current recreation opportunities with citizens, providers, public officials, and advocacy groups. This form of stakeholder engagement also allowed for feedback on the inventory project.

Recreation Experience Inventory

The recreation experience inventory was conducted systematically, following a specific protocol to ensure consistency in data compilation, analysis, and reporting. The inventory was conducted on existing data. No new data were collected for the inventory.

The recreation experience inventory protocol was developed based on a review of relevant recreation literature and planning documents and responds to the framework objectives outlined by the Minnesota Legislature. An intensive literature review of recent recreation social science research, monitoring reports, Minnesota State Demographic Center reports, and U.S. Census reports was conducted. Also, input was obtained from the Department of Natural Resources, the Office of Explore Minnesota Tourism, the Metropolitan Council, local units of government, park and trail groups, the public, and other stakeholder groups through public review of the document; reports were posted online May 2010 for feedback and shared in public meetings and participation at select 10/25 Parks and Trails Legacy Planning Committee meetings.

The resulting data were compiled and synthesized to identify reported frequencies of select activities, experiences, and/or physical attributes. Data are presented in the five regions used in the DNR's social science research and monitoring program: Northwest, Northeast, Central, South, and Metro (See Appendix B for map of regions).

Statewide Socio-Demographic Characteristics

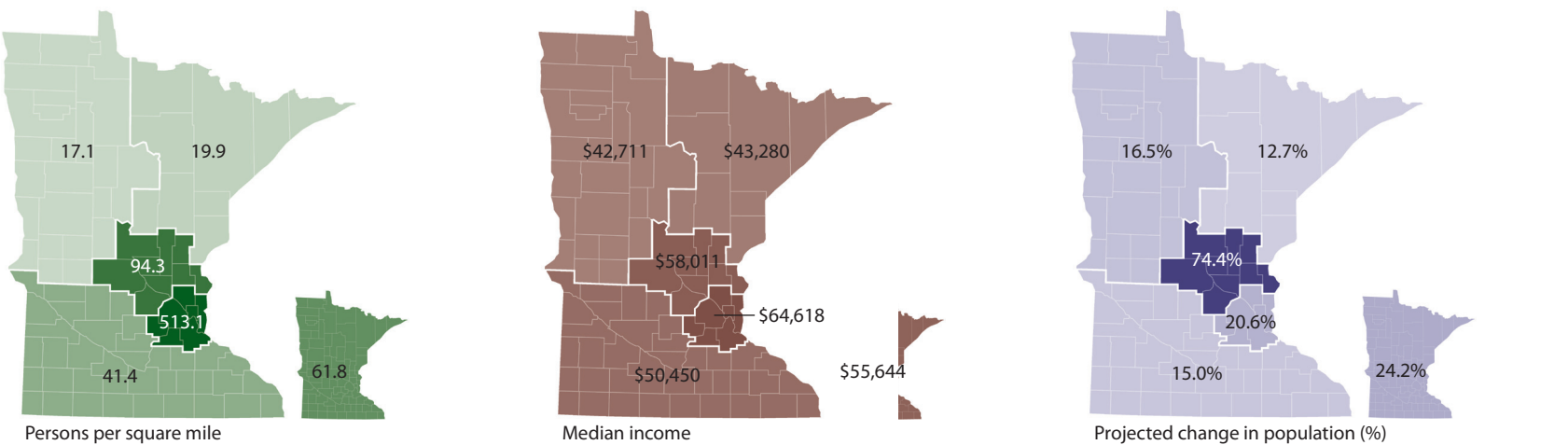
Authors: Mae Davenport, Ingrid Schneider, Andrew Oftedal, & Cindy Zerger

Statewide Socio-Demographic Characteristics

- // More than half of the state's population is in the Metro Area.
- // The Central and Metro Regions have a larger percentage of young people (younger than 18) than other parts of the state and a smaller percentage of older (65 or older) people.
- // The Metro Area has the highest proportion of non-white residents—although most American Indians live in the northern part of the state.
- // The Central region will see the most significant population change by 2035, followed distantly by the Metro region.

While Minnesota has primarily a rural landscape, 54% of residents live in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area (Minnesota State Demographic Center 2009 estimate). Not surprisingly, the Metro Region's population density is higher than other regions in the state, and almost 30 times that of the Northwest Region (Figure 1). Residents of the South, Central, and Metro Regions have a higher median income than those in the Northwest and Northeast. The Central and Metro Regions are anticipated to have the greatest population growth between 2005 and 2035 (Figure 1).

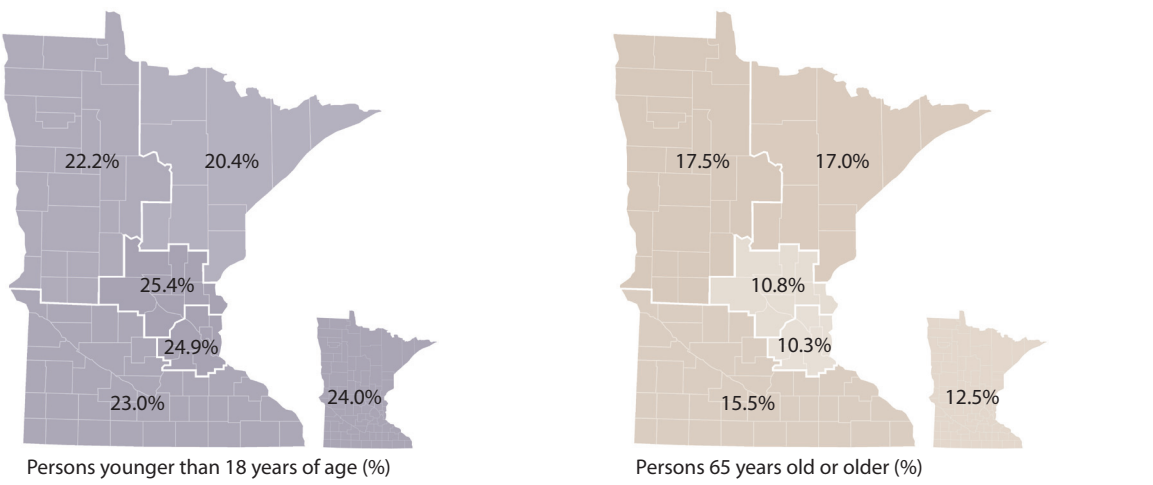
Figure 1 // Population density, median income, and change in population regionally and statewide



Note: U.S. Census Data (population density (2000), median income (2008), change in population (2009))

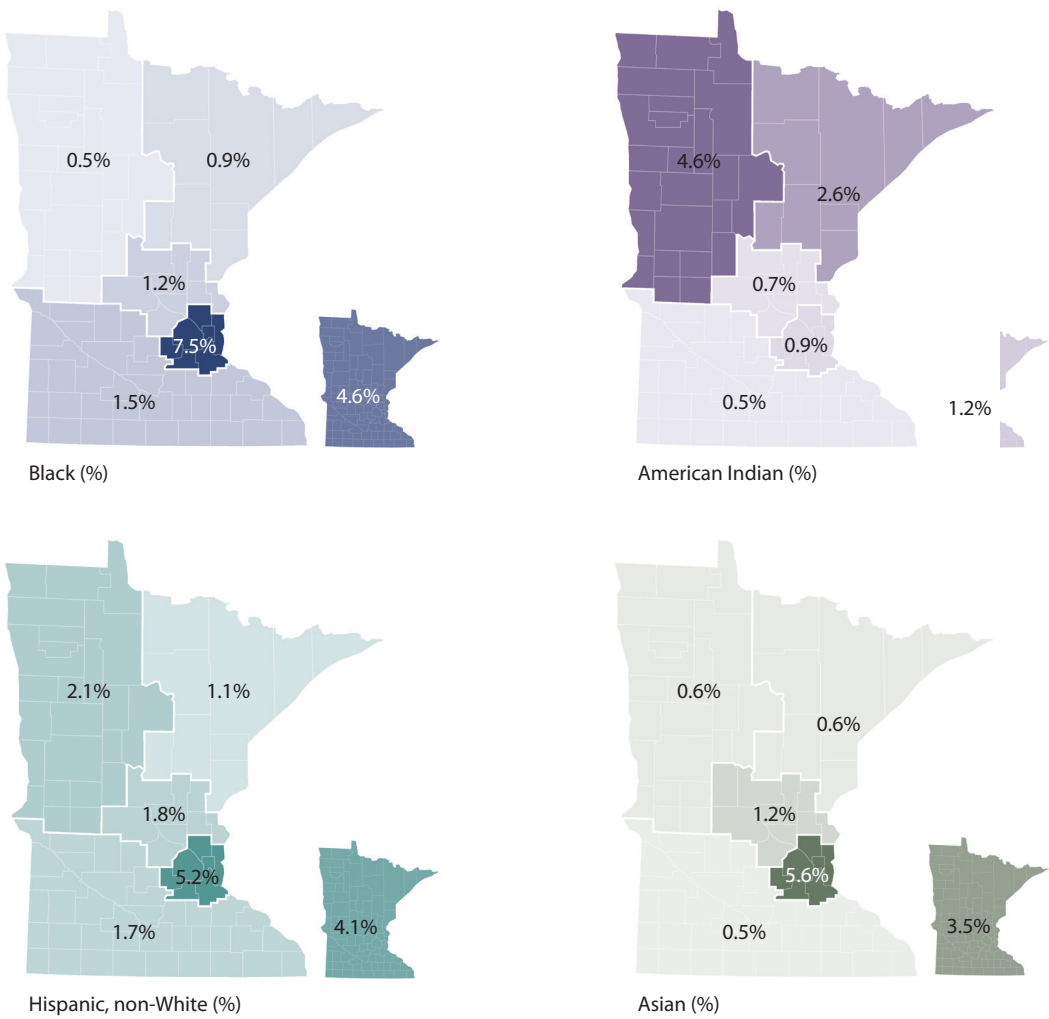
The more densely populated Central and Metro Regions have a slightly higher proportion of residents under the age of 18 (Figure 2). The regional differences in age composition are more striking when comparing residents 65 years of age or older. About one-tenth of those living in the Central and Metro Regions are age 65 or older; but 15-17% of those in the northern and southern areas of the state are in that age bracket.

Figure 2 // Percent of population by age group, regional and statewide



The Metro Region is home to the majority of Minnesota’s racial and ethnic minorities (Figure 3). Overall, Minnesota’s Black residents, Hispanic non-white residents, and Asian residents reside primarily in the Metro region. In contrast, the two northern regions of the state are home to the majority of American Indian residents.

Figure 3 // Percentage of population of select race and ethnic groups, regionally and statewide



Note: U.S. Census Data (2008)

Landscape Characteristics of Study Regions

Authors: Center for Changing Landscapes Staff

// Central
// Metro
// Northeast
// Northwest
// South

The Central Region

Overview

Located in the heart of the State, the Central Region borders each of the other four regions and Wisconsin. It is positioned between the expanding Twin Cities Metropolitan Area on its southeastern edge, the Glacial Lakes area to the southwest and northwest, and the Central Lakes to the north. The Mississippi River runs through its center, and Saint Cloud is its dominant

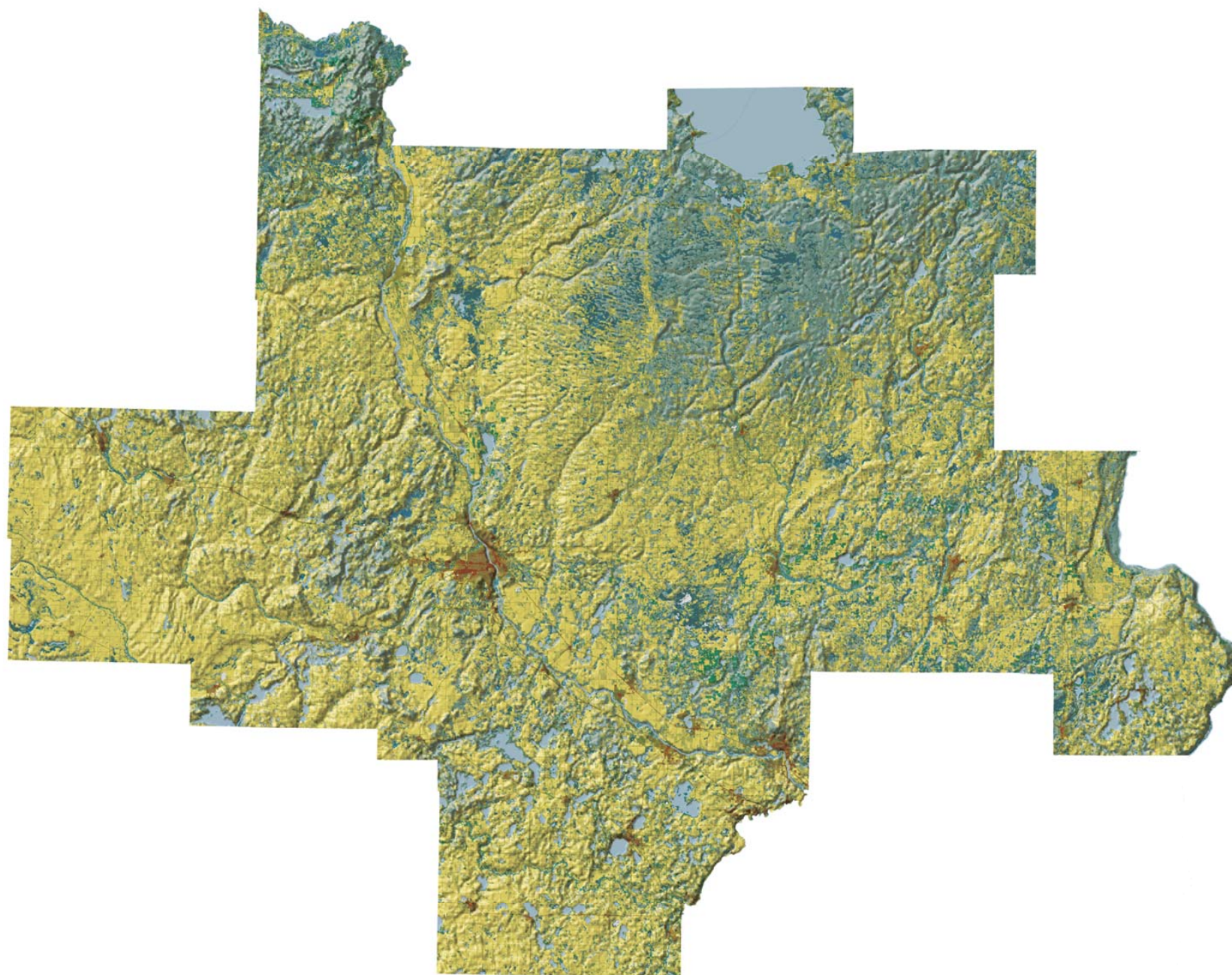
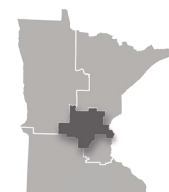
commercial center. West of the Mississippi River a moraine of rolling hills, hardwood forest, and lakes formed by glaciers characterizes the landscape. East of the Mississippi the land is flat sand plain, peat land, and/or hardwood forest.

// The Mississippi River is central to both the topography and growth of the Central Region.

// The Central Region is expected to see the fastest growth of any area in the state in the next 25 years.

// The Region's outdoor resources include a number of lakes and rivers, including the bottom half of Lake Mille Lacs and the Mississippi, Rum, and St. Croix Rivers.

// The Region's land cover is mostly pasture, grassland and crop lands.



The Central Region

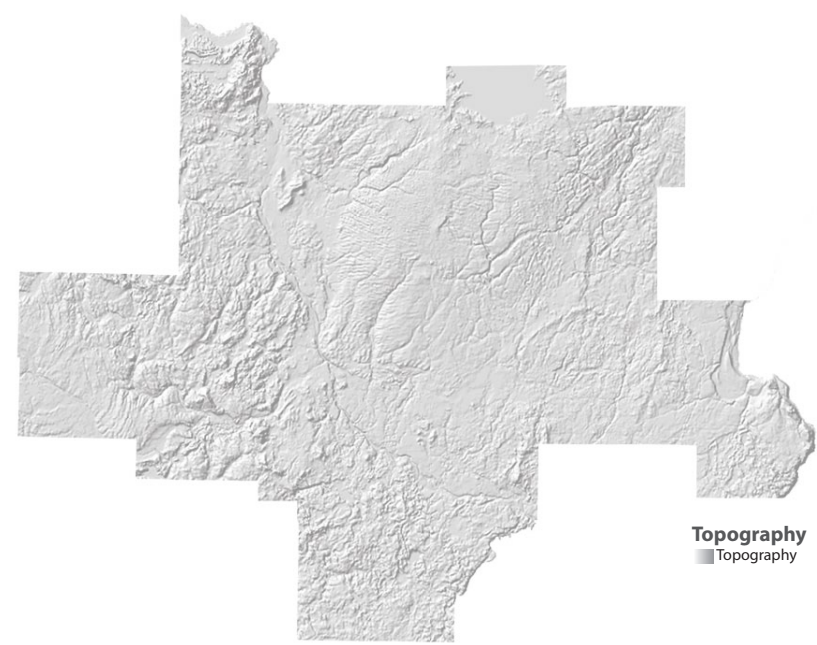


Figure 4 // Topography

Topography

The Mississippi River and the rivers that flow to it are central to the Region. Receding glaciers formed the rolling moraine landscape of hills and glacial lakes west and south of the River. The Region's flat central portion is a vestige of deposits from the large Glacial Lake Duluth.

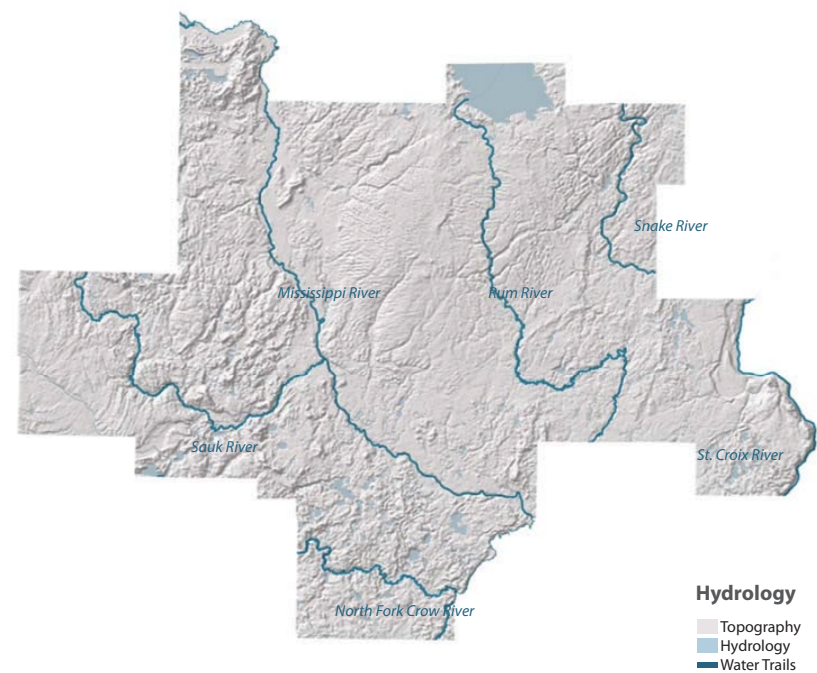


Figure 5 // Lakes, rivers, & water trails

Lakes, Rivers, & Water Trails

The Region has many lakes, rivers, and wetlands. Even though the southern half of Mille Lacs Lake, one of Minnesota's largest and most popular fishing lakes, is in the Region, most of its many lakes are much smaller. Many are concentrated south and west of Saint Cloud. The Mississippi River flows from the north to arc to the southeast through its center. The Rum River starts at Lake Mille Lacs and winds its way circuitously through Milaca, Princeton, and Cambridge before going south and leaving the Region. The Saint Croix forms the Minnesota-Wisconsin border on its eastern edge. In the west the Sauk River flows through Sauk Center, winds through Cold Spring, Rockville, and Waite Park before joining the Mississippi at Sauk Rapids. The North Fork of the Crow River starts in Lake Koronis in Stearns County and winds west to east across Wright County before joining the South Fork at Rockford and flowing northeast to the Mississippi.

Ecological Subsections

Of Minnesota’s 26 ecological subsections, the Central Region has six. They range from prairie and peatlands to morainal and sand plains. The Land Study (DNR 2000) identifies the Hardwood Hills and the Anoka Sand Plain Subsections as subsections with the most biological themes that are underrepresented in state parks and recreation areas.

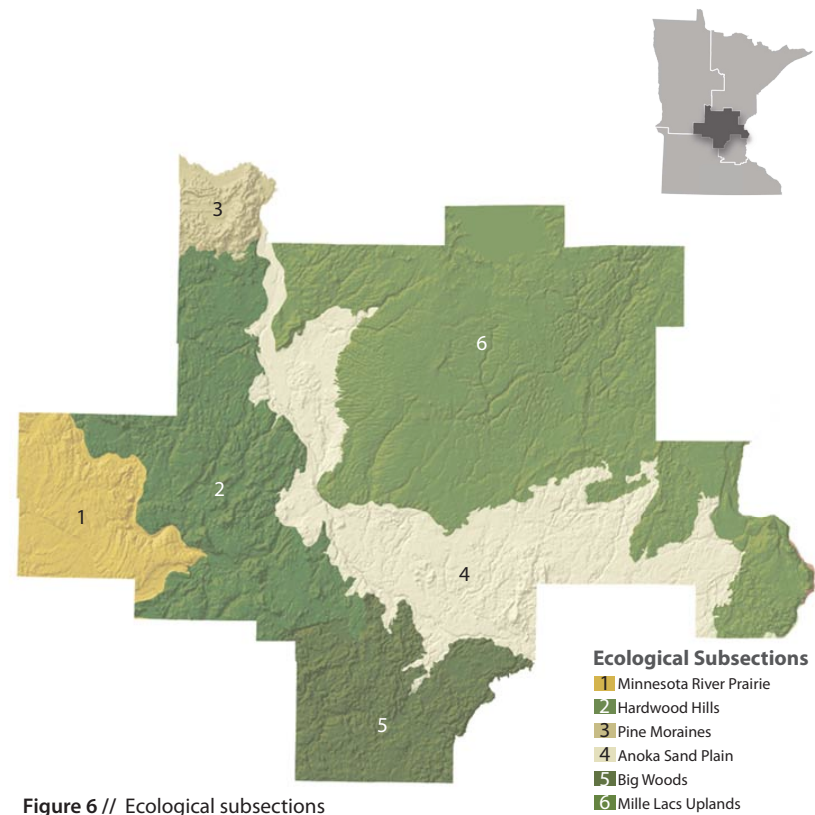


Figure 6 // Ecological subsections

Land Cover

Although there are areas of forest in the north and around the lakes, and large areas of shrubs in and woody wetlands in areas through the rest of the Region, the Region’s predominant land cover is pasture, grassland, and croplands. Development is concentrated in the Saint Cloud Area and in smaller communities along the Mississippi and in the Region’s eastern half.

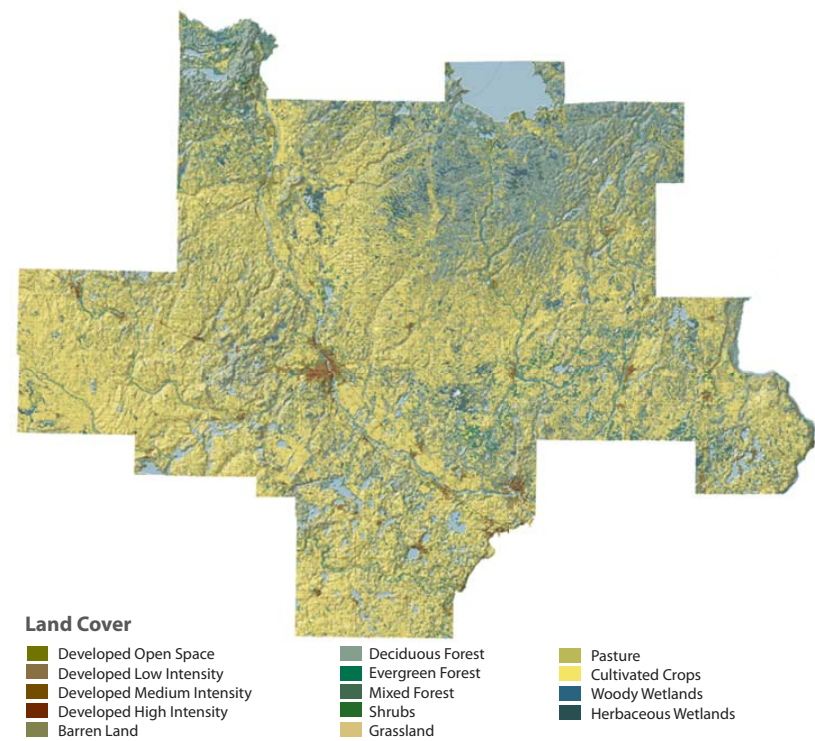


Figure 7 // Land cover

The Central Region

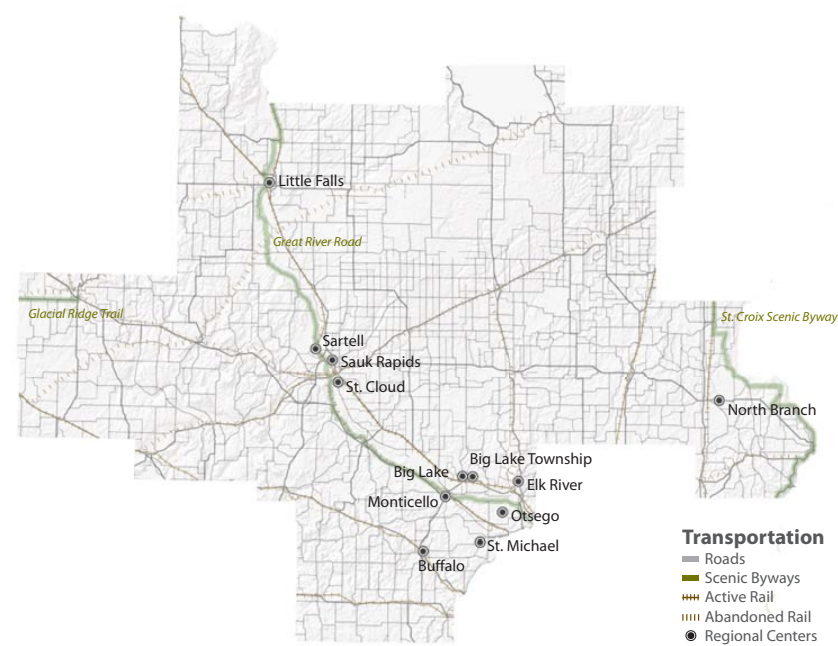


Figure 8 // Transportation and communities

Communities & Transportation System

The Region’s communities are associated with the Mississippi River and the crescent of exurban growth that surrounds the seven-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Saint Cloud and its surrounding cities dominate the Region’s center. The Saint Cloud-Big Lake-Monticello-Elk River-Anoka-Minneapolis Corridor is part of the Saint Cloud to Chicago growth corridor. Passenger rail service is operating from Minneapolis to Big Lake, and there are future plans to extend the service to Saint Cloud. Because of its central position, many of the highways from the Twin Cities run through the Region to other parts of the State. Interstate Highway 94 and Federal Highway 10 run northwest. State Highways 169 and 65 and Interstate 35 go north. Two scenic byways follow the Region’s major rivers; a third meanders through the Glacial Lakes Area.

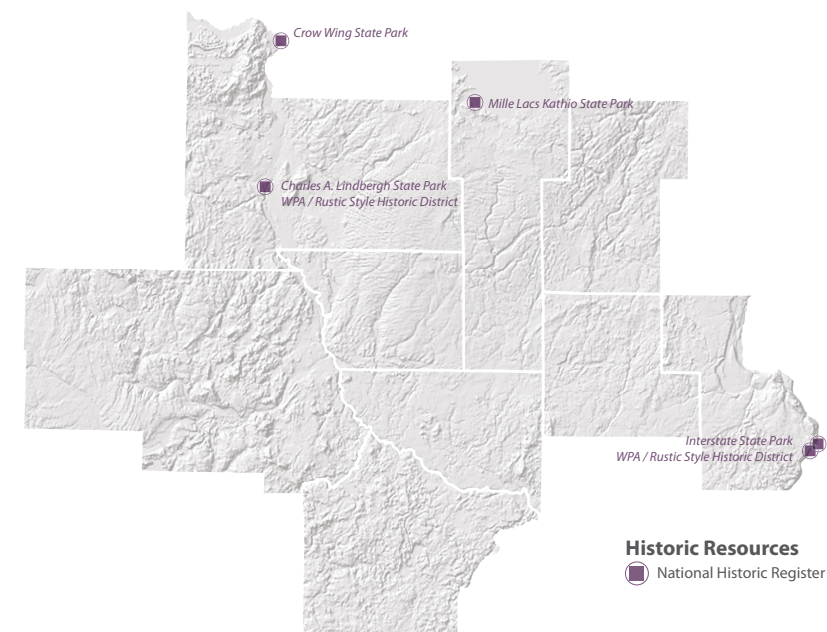


Figure 9 // Historic resources

Historic Resources

There are a number of historic places associated with parks and trails in the Region. The Mille Lacs Kathio Historic District, a National Historic Landmark, is a pre-contact village site with a 9,000 years plus history. The portion of the Crow Wing State Park that is in the Region is an important historic American Indian site and an early settlers’ trading and logging village. Interstate State Park has Works Progress Administration (WPA) structures and is the site of the world’s largest log jam. Charles A. Lindbergh State Park has the Lindbergh house and WPA structures.

Population Distribution

The population is clustered in the Saint Cloud Area and in communities just north of the Metropolitan Area. Population is thinnest in Morrison, Kanabec, and Mille Lacs Counties.

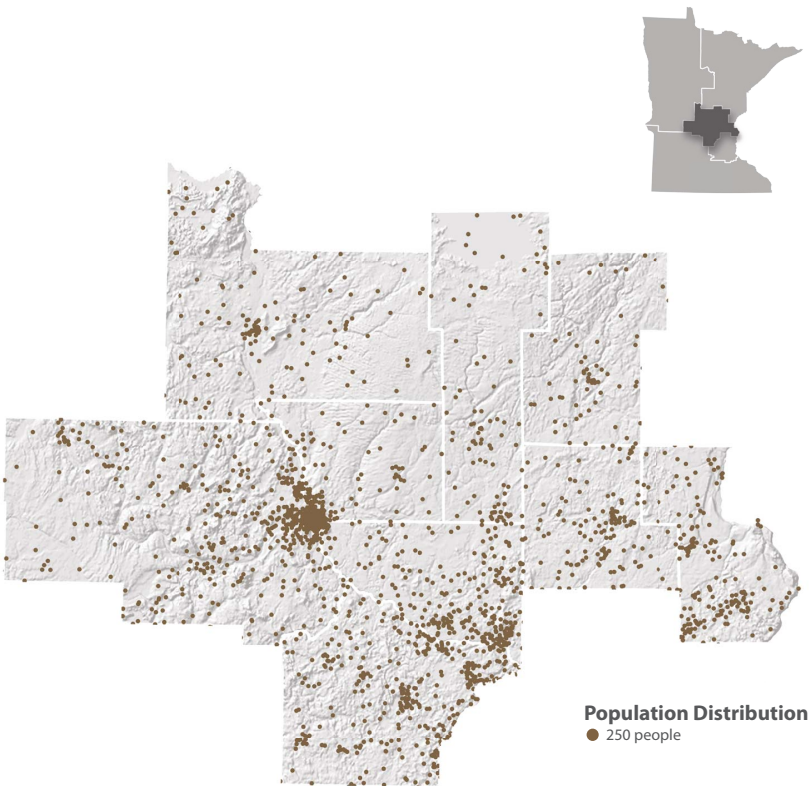


Figure 10 // Population distribution

Population Shift

Between 2005 and 2035, Wright (115.6%), Sherburne (111.8%), Isanti (94.8%), and Chisago (92.1%), the counties closest to the Metro Region, are to predicted to experience the greatest population growth. The Region's predicted growth average is 74.4%, substantially higher than the statewide average of 24.2% growth. It is projected the Region will account for 15% of the States' population in 2035, up from 10% in 2005.

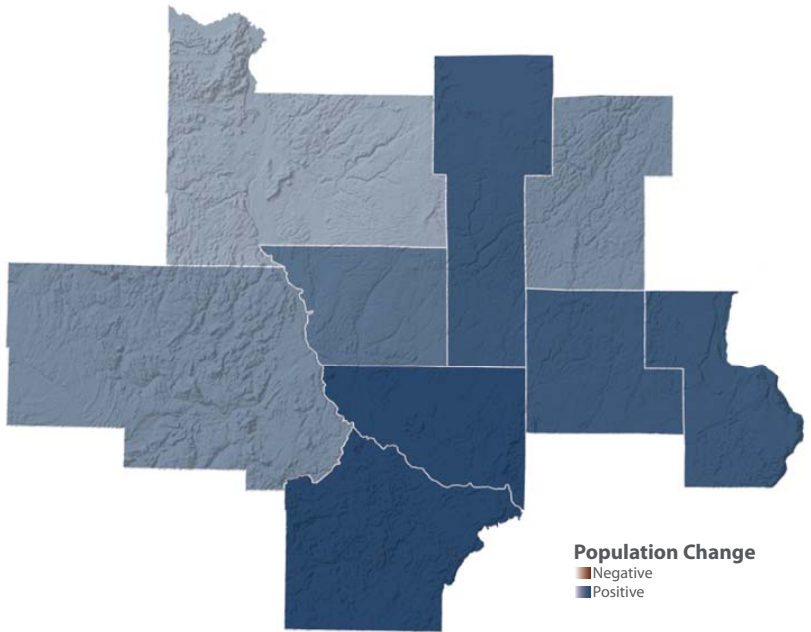


Figure 11 // Population change 2005-2035

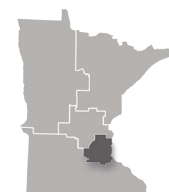
The Metro Region

Overview

The seven-county Metropolitan Region borders the Central and the South Regions and Wisconsin and is the economic, cultural, educational, political, transportation, and commercial center of the State. The Region's cities, rivers and valleys, many lakes and wetlands are its dominant landscape features. Many city and county governments develop, own, and operate local parks

and trails in the Region. In coordination with the 10 implementing agencies, the Metropolitan Council's Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission develops a long-range plan and an acquisition and development program that identifies funding priorities for regional parks and park reserves.

- // More than half of the state's population lives in the Metro Region, which has a population density eight times that of the state.*
- // The Region includes the Mississippi, Minnesota, Rum, Cannon, and St. Croix rivers.*
- // Most of the Region is greatly altered morainal landscape.*
- // Half of the land in the Region is developed or developing.*



The Metro Region

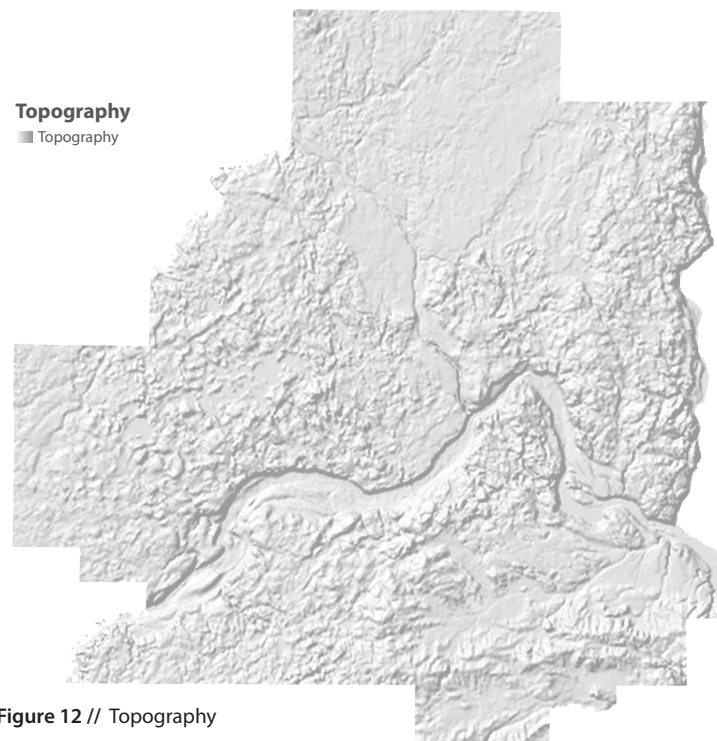


Figure 12 // Topography

Topography

The Region’s rivers slice through the morainal landscape. The Mississippi River cut a deep gorge as over time its falls moved up stream to its present location at Saint Anthony Falls in Minneapolis. The glacial melt waters of the mighty Glacial River Warren cut a wide valley through which the relatively diminutive Minnesota River now flows. Glacial melt waters also formed the Saint Croix Valley on the Region’s eastern edge. The flat Anoka Sand Plain spreads across the Region in the north.

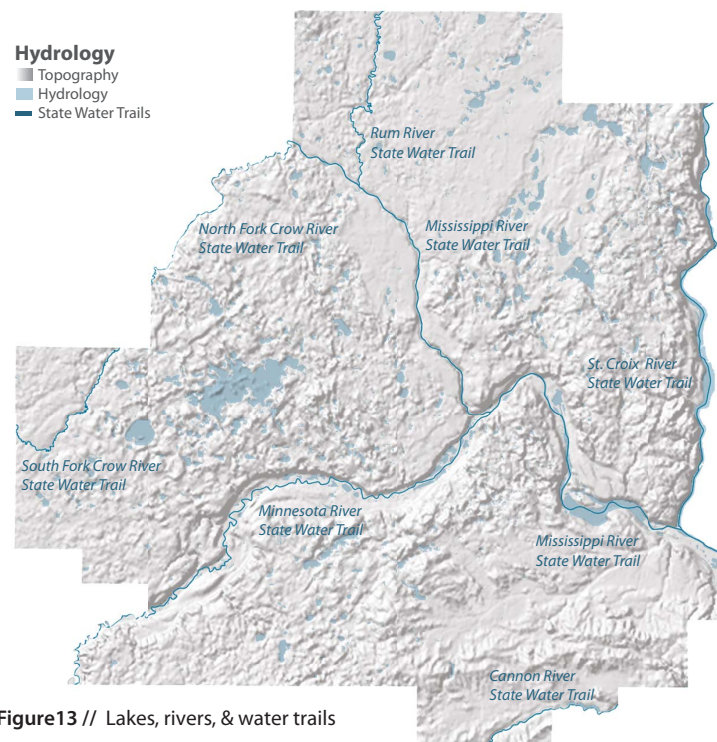


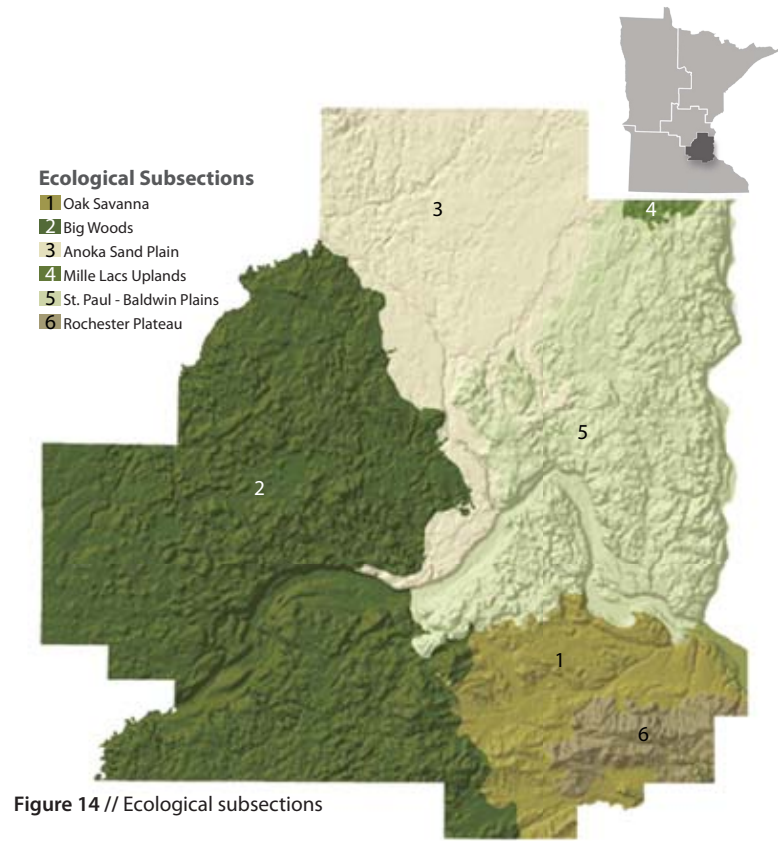
Figure13 // Lakes, rivers, & water trails

Lakes, Rivers, & Water Trails

Like many areas in Minnesota, the Region’s many lakes and rivers are vestiges of its glacial history. A series of glaciers created depressions that became lakebeds and torrents of glacial melt waters sculpted riverbeds. Although most counties have many lakes and wetlands, Dakota County has few. Many lakes are located in the Region’s parks of regional significance. The Region is located at the confluence of three of the State’s largest and most important rivers: The Mississippi, the Minnesota, and the Saint Croix. Its state water trails include North Fork, Rum, Minnesota, Mississippi, Cannon, and Saint Croix. The Region’s three state parks and many of its parks of regional significance are located along these water trails.

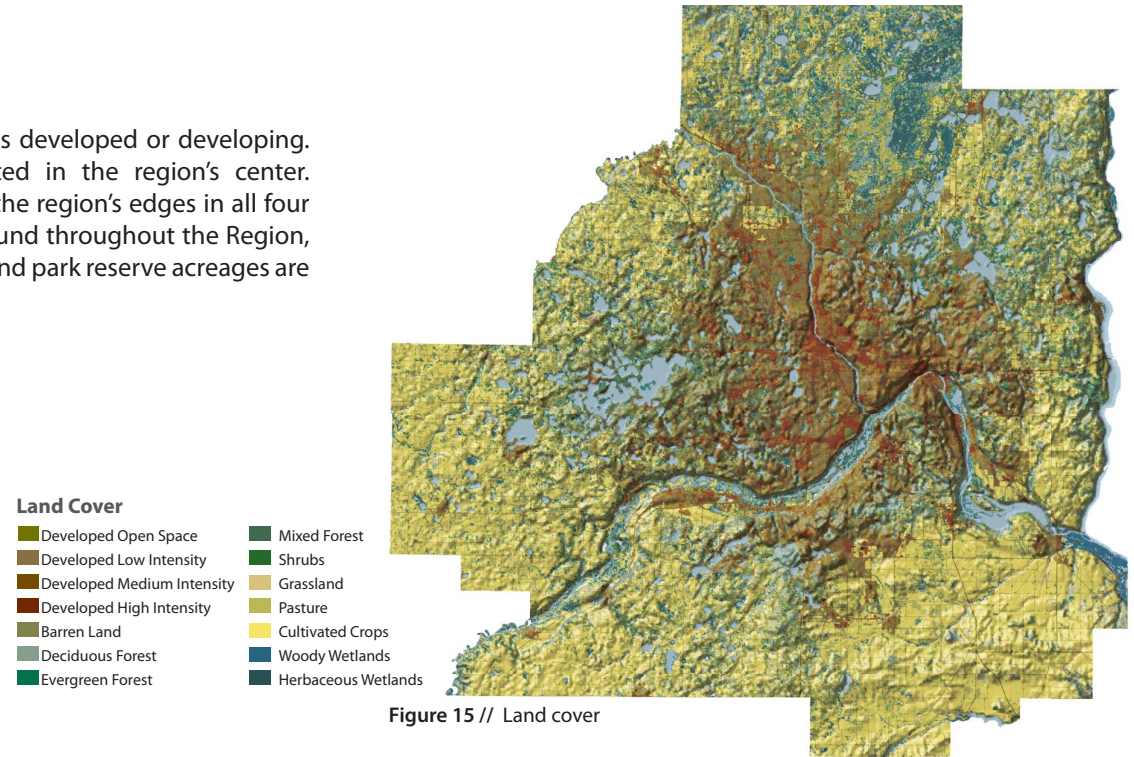
Ecological Subsections

The entire Region is located in only one highly altered ecological section, the Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal. Although the ecological section representation is low, five ecological subsections are represented within it. The Land Study (DNR 2000) identifies the Hardwood Hills and the Anoka Sand Plain Subsections as subsections with the most biological themes that need to be represented in state parks and recreation areas.



Land Cover

About half of the Metro's 3,000 square miles is developed or developing. This highly altered landscape is concentrated in the region's center. Development thins as it spreads out towards the region's edges in all four directions. Pockets of park and reserves are found throughout the Region, but most of the largest parcels and most park and park reserve acreages are located beyond the first-ring suburbs.



The Metro Region

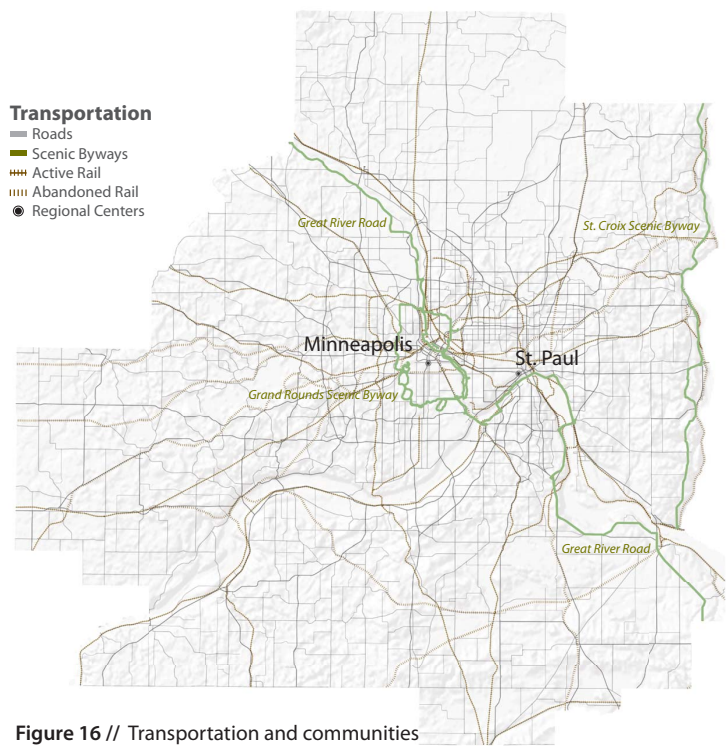


Figure 16 // Transportation and communities

Communities & Transportation System

Half of the State’s population lives within the Region. Located at the Region’s center, Minneapolis and Saint Paul are its most densely populated areas. Suburban communities radiate out from this urban core while growing exurban communities are located on the Region’s edges. The post World War II growth that the Region has experienced is expected to continue, and the Region’s population is projected to grow by 1 million in the next two decades. The Region is bifurcated north and south by I-94/I-394, east and west by I-35, and encircled by I-494/I-694. Major national railroads pass through the center. The Twin Cities have been identified as a destination for future high-speed passenger rail service from Chicago. The Minnesota Comprehensive Statewide Freight and Passenger Rail Plan identifies future increased passenger rail service as originating in the Region and radiating out to communities in Greater Minnesota. The Region has one light rail transit line, another is under construction, and several more are being planned. The region has four scenic byways. The Saint Croix, Great River Road, and Minnesota River Valley all connect the Region to regions beyond the Metro area. The Grand Rounds encircles Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park.

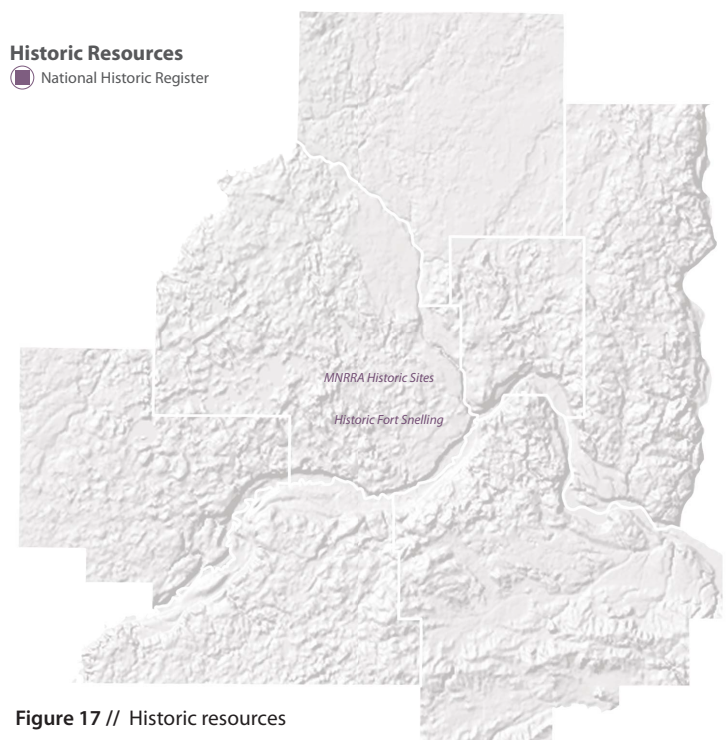


Figure 17 // Historic resources

Historic Resources

The Region’s many historic sources include Fort Snelling, an area sacred to American Indians and important in the State’s European settlement history, and many other sites within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

Population Distribution

The Metro Region has over eight times the density of the State. The population is the densest at the center and thins towards the Region's edges. Ramsey, Hennepin, and Anoka Counties are the densest counties.

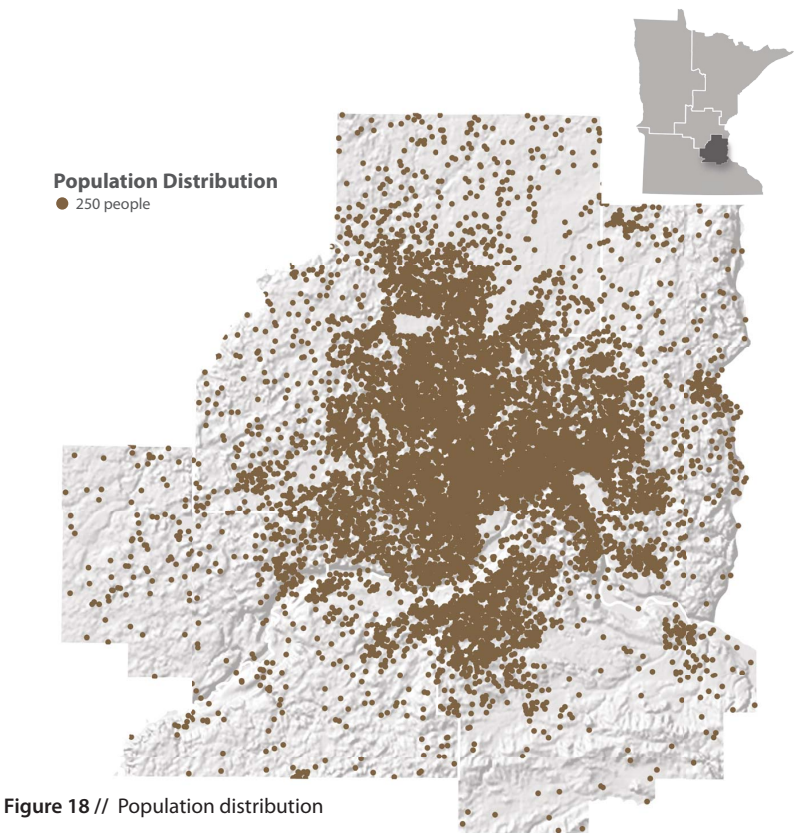


Figure 18 // Population distribution

Population Shift

Between 2005 and 2035, Scott (146.7%), Carver (86.6.1%), and Washington (38.2%) counties on the Region's edges are predicted to grow the fastest. The Metro Region's predicted growth of 20.6% is below the State's predicted growth of 24.2 %. In 2005 the Region had 53.6% of the State's population. In 2035 it is predicted to have 52.0% of the population.

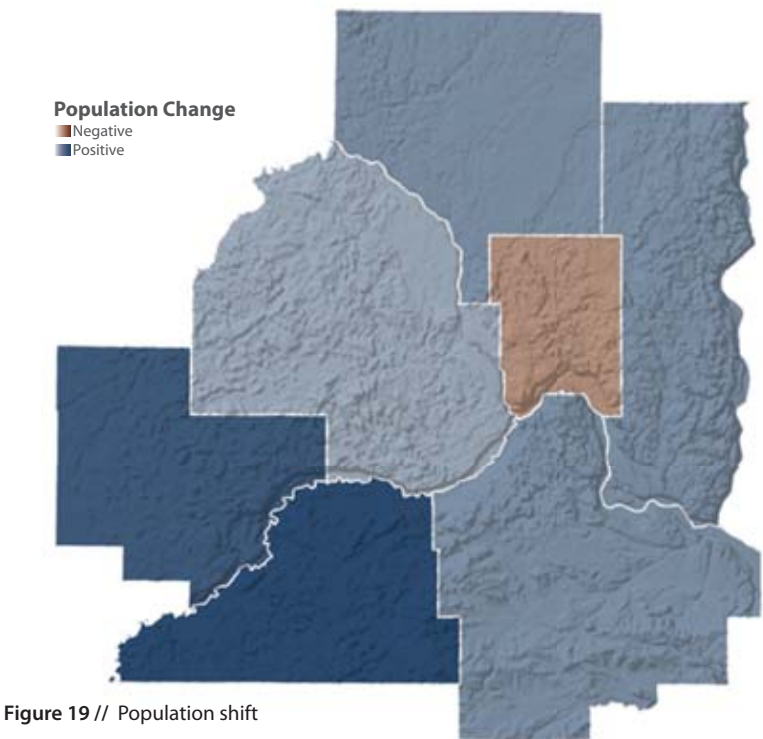


Figure 19 // Population shift

The Northeast Region

Overview

An area of boreal forests, Northeastern Minnesota is not only home to Minnesotans who value the outdoors and outdoor activities; it is also a popular place for second homes and outdoor oriented vacations. Home to many indigenous people prior to European settlement, tribal lands are owned today by the Grand Portage, Bois Forte/Nett Lake, and Fond de Lac Bands of Ojibwe. Although historically dominated by the extraction of fur, lumber, and iron ore, its economy is increasingly dependent on outdoor recreation-based tourism. The Northeast is one of Minnesota's prime areas for tourism. It has iconic landscapes and large amounts of federal, state, and tribal lands.

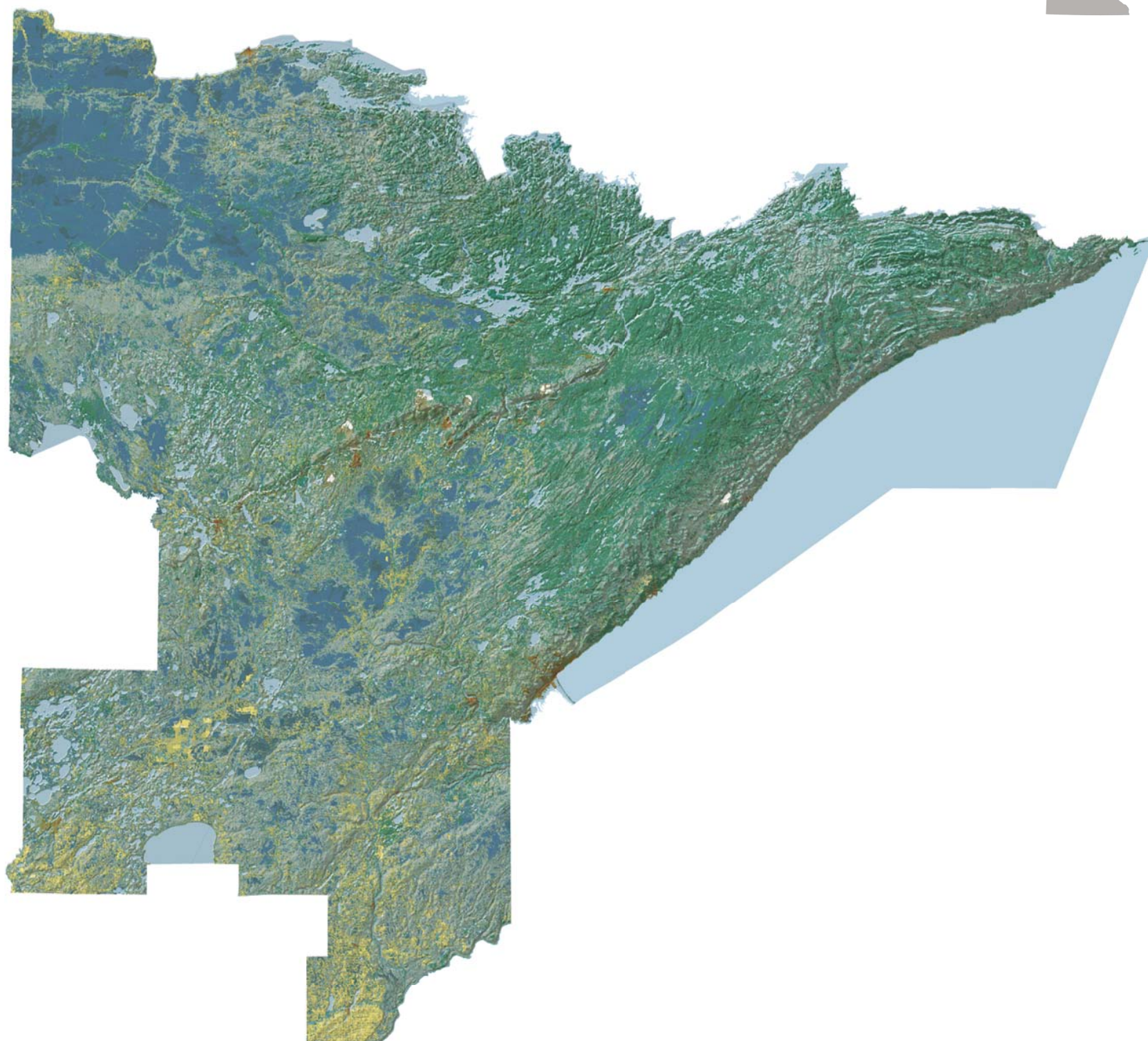
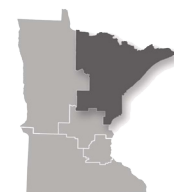
Amenity-rich aquatic and terrestrial recreational environments characterize the Region. The landforms, vegetation patterns, and water features of the Region's iconic landscapes inform the location and types of its parks and trails. The North Shore of Lake Superior, one of Minnesota's best loved and

most widely known iconic landscapes, is valued for its majestic beauty and recreation assets. Although many resorts and private second homes line its shores, state and local parks, waysides, historic sites, a national monument, and a variety of trails strung along the shore provide public access to the lake. Along the Region's northern border, the lakes and rivers of Voyageurs National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness offer wilderness experiences. The Mississippi Headwaters Area, with its many lakes, provides swimming, boating, and some of the best fishing in Minnesota. The many acres of state and federally managed forests, with their trails and campsites, provide both timber and outdoor recreational experiences. Current and planned terrestrial trails provide hiking, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, and cycling experiences. Ten scenic byways wind through beautiful landscapes of northern forests, lakes, ridges, and wetlands. The Iron Range Off Highway Vehicle Park at Gilbert and numerous trails provide motorized recreational opportunities.

// The Northeast Region is exceptionally rich in natural areas and water resources.

// All or part of half the state's ecological subsections are in the Region.

// The predominant land cover is wet and dry forests and vegetation.



The Northeast Region

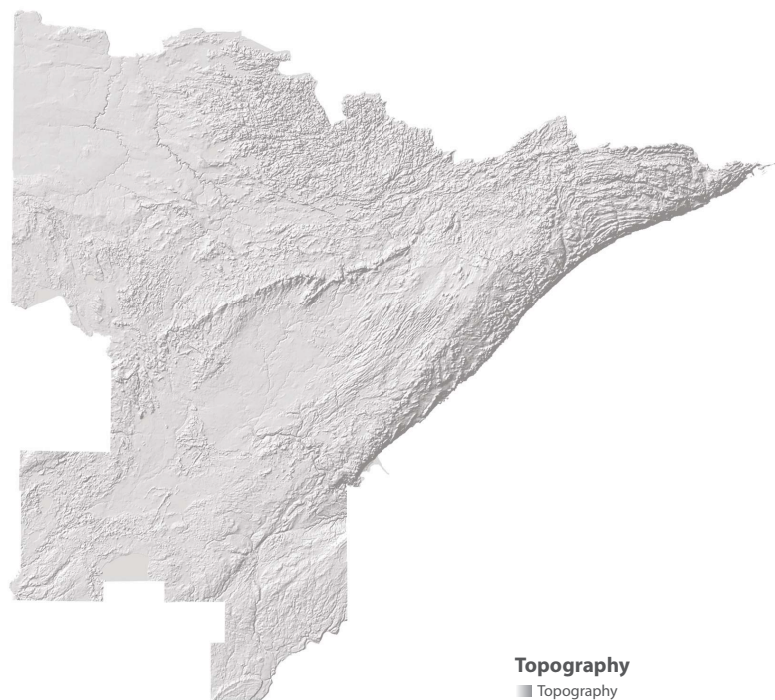


Figure 20 // Topography

Topography

The Region’s topography varies widely, the result of the interplay of glacial, hydrologic, and geologic activity. The historic center of the Region’s mining industry, the Laurentian Divide, rises to form the Region’s backbone running southwest to northeast for almost 180 miles. A series of stream-cut ravines characterize the rocky shore of the Lake Superior. Scoured by glaciers that also formed a series of drumlins, uplands rise from the coast of the Lake. Glacial scouring also created the exposed ridges and outcroppings found in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. West and south of the Divide the flat areas are glacial lake bottoms. Glaciers deposited the rolling moraines in the Region’s southern portion. South of Lake Superior, rivers and streams cut the glacial deposits to reveal rocks and make steep ravines.



Figure 21 // Lakes, rivers, & water trails

Lakes, Rivers and Water Trails

Water is an important Northeastern Minnesota landscape feature. Its many rivers and streams are part of three of North America’s most prominent watersheds. The Saint Croix is a tributary of the Mississippi, the largest river system on the continent. The Mississippi River makes a large easterly arc before heading south to Gulf of Mexico. The waters from the Saint Louis, Cloquet, Pigeon Rivers, Nemadji, and rivers and streams along the North Shore flow east to the Saint Lawrence River and the Atlantic Ocean. The Rainy, the Big Fork, and the Little Fork Rivers flow north and west to Hudson Bay. Eleven rivers are designated state water trails. Some of the best fishing in Minnesota is found on the Region’s many lakes. Although there are lakes throughout the Region, many are concentrated north of the Laurentian Divide, along the border, in the Mississippi headwaters area, and on both sides of the Mississippi northwest of Lake Mille Lacs. Some lakes were created by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers’ impoundments of the Mississippi and its tributaries, and others were created by iron ore mining.

Ecological Subsections

Of Minnesota’s 26 ecological subsections, the Northeastern Region has all or parts of half of them, reflecting the Region’s complexity. Three of the ecological subsections, the Toimi Uplands, the Little Fork-Vermillion Uplands and the Laurentian Uplands, have been identified as underrepresented in state parks and recreation areas in the 2000 Land Study.

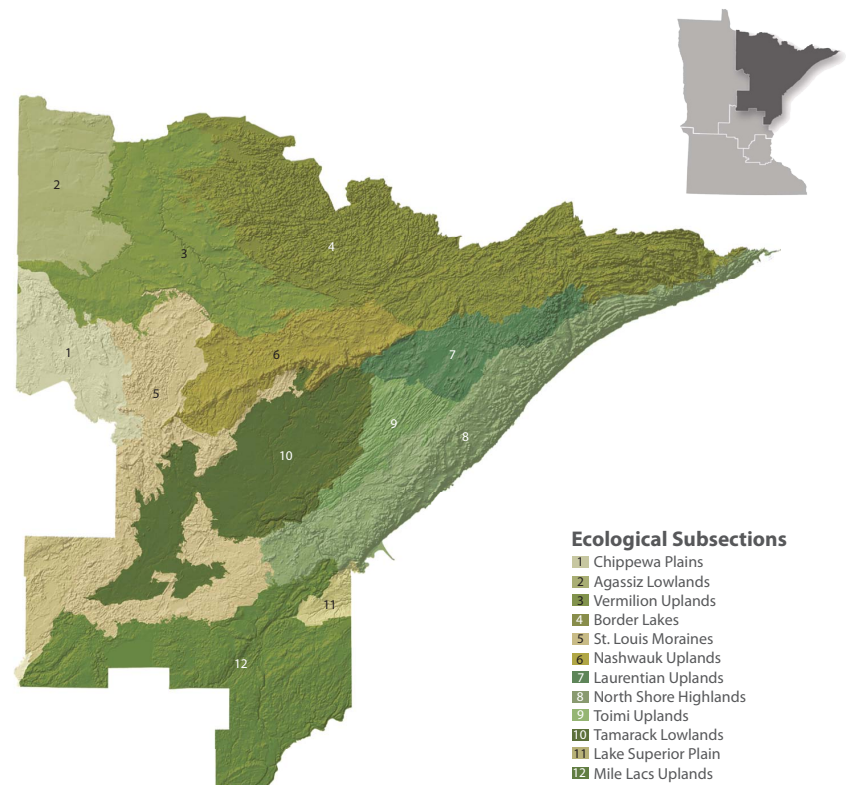


Figure 22 // Ecological subsections

Land Cover

Wet and dry forests and vegetation cover much of the region. These vary from areas of sugar maple, basswood, and paper birch upland forests, and wetlands of tamarack forests, sedge meadows, and fens in the west; fire-dependent woodlands of pine, oak, and aspen by the Saint Croix; sugar maple, white pine, yellow birch, and paper birch in the highlands along Lake Superior; and white cedar, alder, and willow along the Mississippi. In part, because of the logging practices used in the 19th and early 20th centuries, the formerly red and white pine dominant forest in the Superior Uplands is now dominated by aspen and birch. Along the Laurentian Ridge there are large mining pits, piles of mining debris covered with vegetation, and pit lakes.

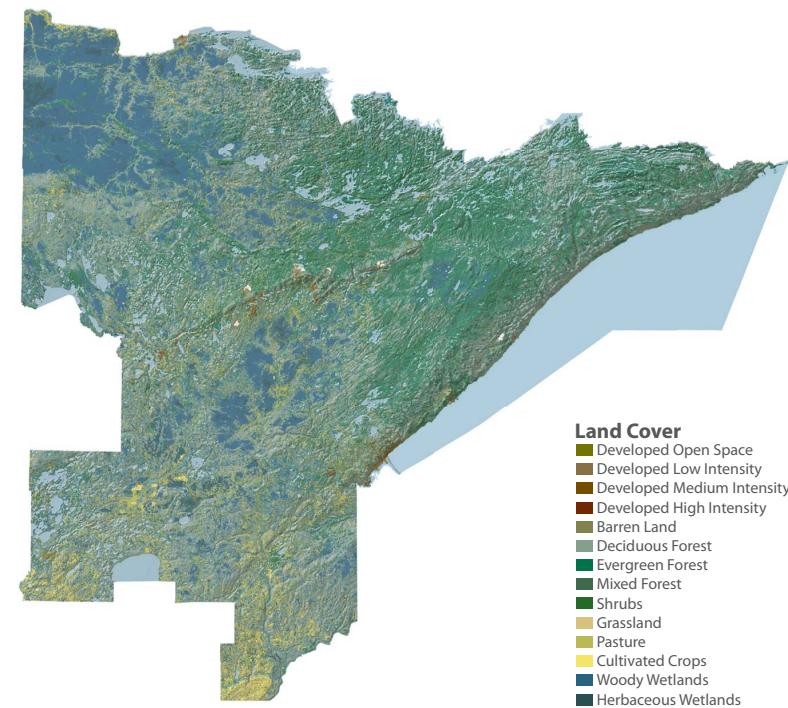


Figure 23 // Land cover

The Northeast Region

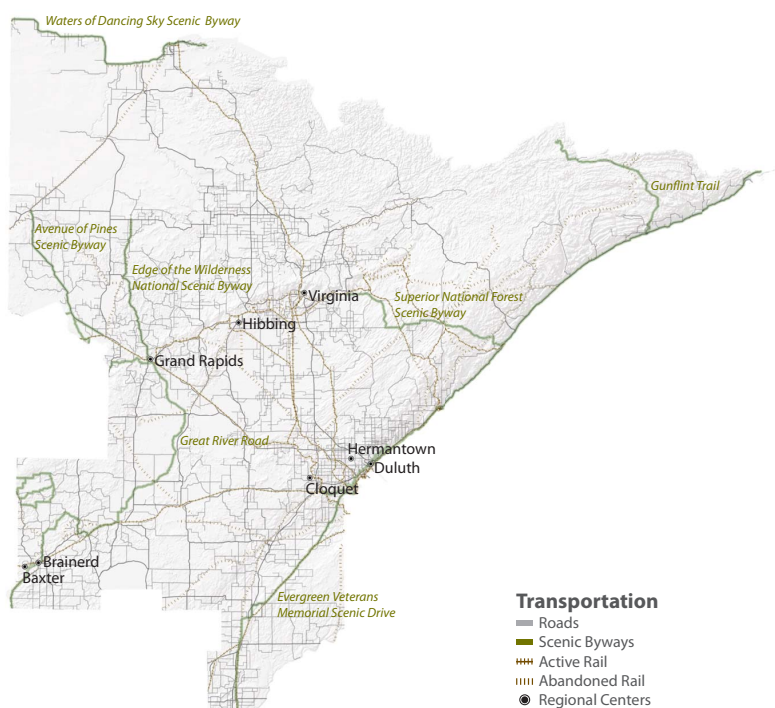


Figure 24 // Transportation and communities

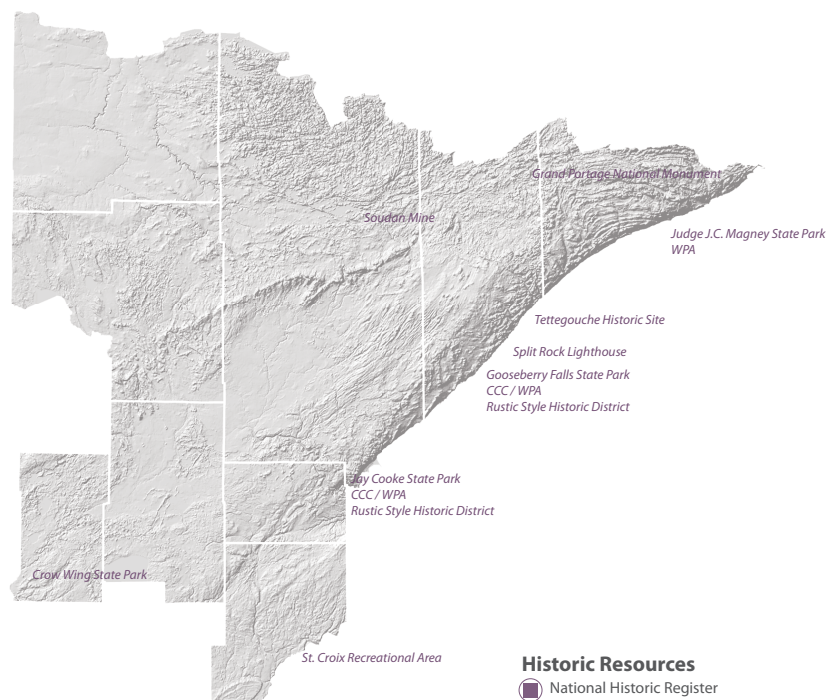


Figure 25 // Historic resources

Communities & Transportation System

Northeastern Minnesota communities are concentrated in four areas. Duluth / Cloquet area communities have the largest population concentration. Founded as part of the mining industry, the Mesabi Iron Range cities stretch in a line along the Laurentian Divide from Grand Rapids to Ely. A second line of communities stretches from Two Harbors to Grand Marais along the North Shore. The Brainerd / Baxter Central Lakes Area in the Region’s southwest corner is a popular tourist destination and has many resorts, second homes, and retirement homes.

The Region’s transportation system reflects historic development patterns, community locations, interregional and national connections, and the needs of the Region’s mining, logging, and tourism industries. Brainerd / Baxter is reached by MN-371 via US-10. I-35 connects Duluth/Cloquet Area to the Twin Cities. State and federal highways connect the Iron Range Cities to each other and to Duluth / Cloquet. North Shore communities are connected to each other, Duluth, and Canada by a state highway. Although most federal and state roads radiate out from the Duluth / Cloquet area, not all do. MN-1 connects the North Shore with Ely; MN-201 connects Crosby to Carleton. The Region has many scenic byways that wind along and through its beautiful landscapes of forest, rivers, and lakes.

Although active rail lines connect Duluth to the Twin Cities, Grand Rapids, and beyond, most of the Region’s railroads have regional destinations that serve the mining industry. Active lines connect the Iron Range with Two Harbors, Silver Bay, and Duluth. Trains, including a tourist train, also run from Duluth to Two Harbors. The region has many abandoned rail corridors because rail service has been consolidated as needs for service declined with the shrinking of the mining industry. The abandoned corridors that eminent from Brainerd and its Northern Pacific Railroad Shops Historic District reflect the City’s status as an historic rail center.

Historic Resources

The Region’s history is reflected in its many sites on the National Register of Historic Places in Minnesota. The Soudan Underground Mine and St. Croix Recreational Demonstration Area and National Historic Landmarks and Grand Portage is a National Monument. Many historic sites are in state parks or along trails. Of the 22 state parks with historically recognized Works Progress Administration / Civilian Conservation Corps structures, five are in the Region. Crow Wing State Park has an American Indian site, an early settlers’ community important for fur trading and logging, and a segment of the Red River Oxcart Trail. Gooseberry Falls State Park is a Native American site and has many WPA structures. Hill Annex Mine State Park is an historic mine site. Jay Cooke State Park has a WPA / CCC Historic District and the Grand Portage of the Saint Louis River. Saint Croix has WPA structures. Savanna Portage State Park was a key site of the transportation route between the Upper Mississippi and Great Lakes used by Indians, fur traders, missionaries, and travelers. Tettegouche State Park has an historic businessmen’s camp. The Minnesota Historical Society operates Split Rock Lighthouse. Judge C.R. Magney State Park was a WPA campsite.

Population Distribution

The Region's population is concentrated in the Greater Duluth Area, in the Brainerd / Baxter Area, and on the Iron Range in a line along the Laurentian Divide. Smaller communities are strung along the North Shore.

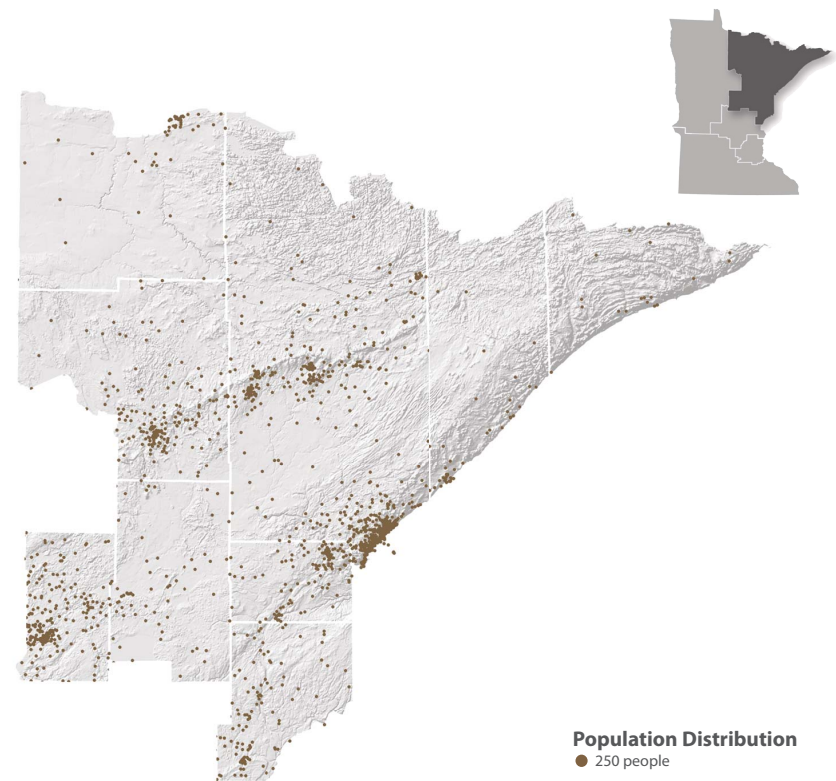


Figure 26 // Population distribution

Population Shift

Between 2005 and 2035, Carlton (35.4%), Crow Wing (34.8%), and Pine (28.6%), all counties in the south, are predicted to grow. Koochiching (-7.6%), the Region's most northwestern county, is predicted to lose population. The Region's predicted growth average of 12.7% is below the predicted State average of 24.2%. In 2005, the Region had 8% of the State's population; it is predicted that it will have 7% in 2030.

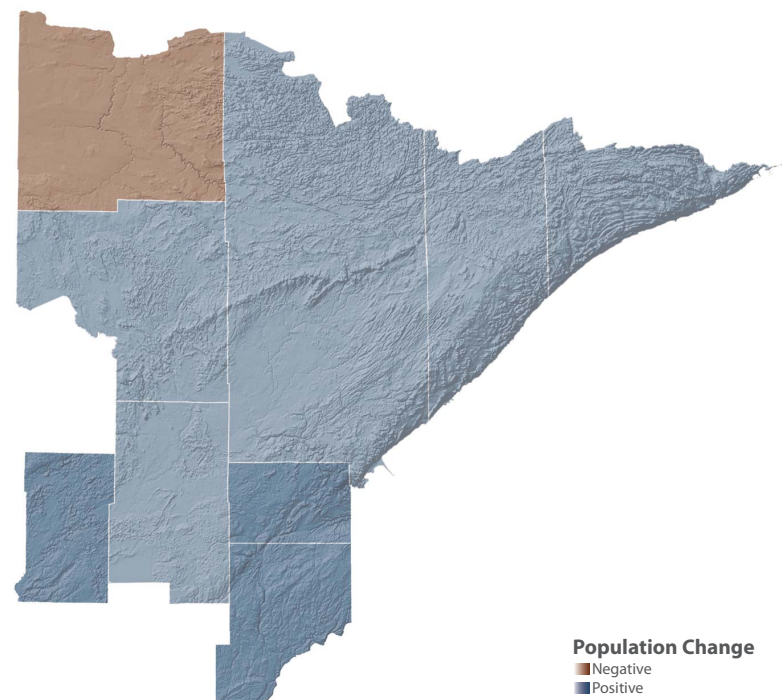


Figure 27// Population shift

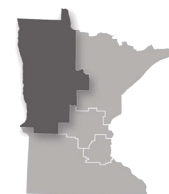
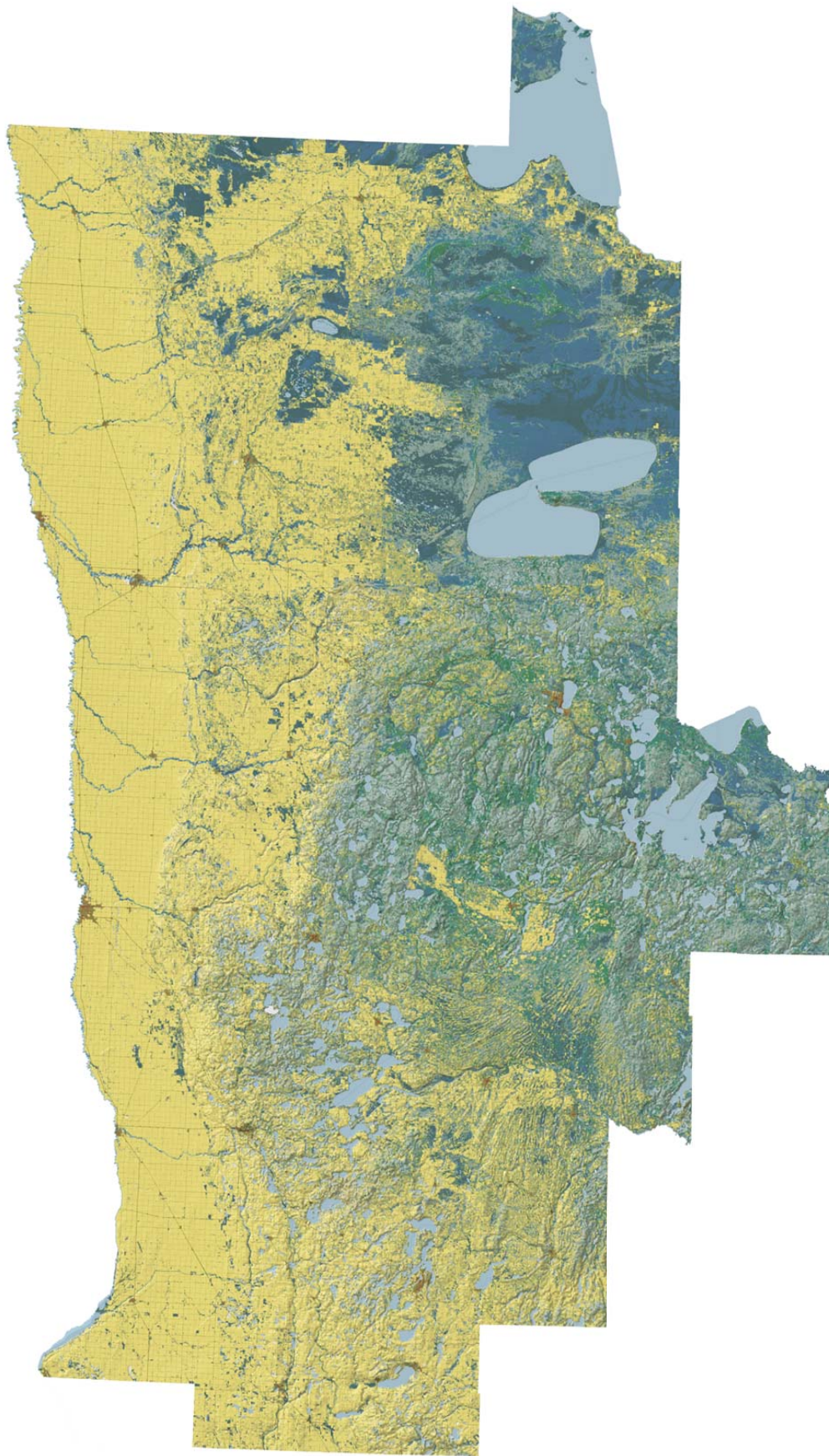
The Northwest Region

Overview

Coniferous Forest, Deciduous Forest, Tallgrass Aspen Parkland, and Prairie Grassland, all of the State's four biomes, are found in Northwestern Minnesota, making the landscape of the Northwest the most varied and complex region. The Coniferous Forest Biome on the Region's eastern edge has state forests and large, superb fishing lakes created by impounding the Mississippi River. All three million acres of Tallgrass Aspen Parkland Biome in Minnesota are in the Region. This biome is a transitional zone between the northern forest and the prairie. A few remnant areas of native grasses of the Prairie Grassland Biome are found among its flat and slightly rolling farmlands. Running diagonally from northwest to southeast across the Region, the Deciduous Forest's landscape of hardwoods, moraines, and

many glacial lakes make it popular place for outdoor recreation. Leech Lake, Red Lake, and White Earth Bands of Ojibwe own large tracts of land in the Region. Long and narrow, it varies from north to south. In the north the Region is more sparsely populated and although the economy has become more diverse, agriculture is dominant. Itasca State Park, Minnesota's oldest state park and the source of the Mississippi River, is in the Region's center. The lakes and the forests of the Central Lakes and Mississippi Headwaters areas are attractive for second homes, retirement living, and vacations. The south has a very well developed biking and hiking trail system, while the north does not.

- // *The southern part of the Region is more developed and populated than the rest of the Region.*
- // *Some of the largest lakes and most frequently used fishing lakes in Minnesota are in this Region.*
- // *Land cover in the Region's west is mostly cropland; in the east it's forests, wetlands, and shrubs.*
- // *The Region has large Indian reservations.*



The Northeast Region

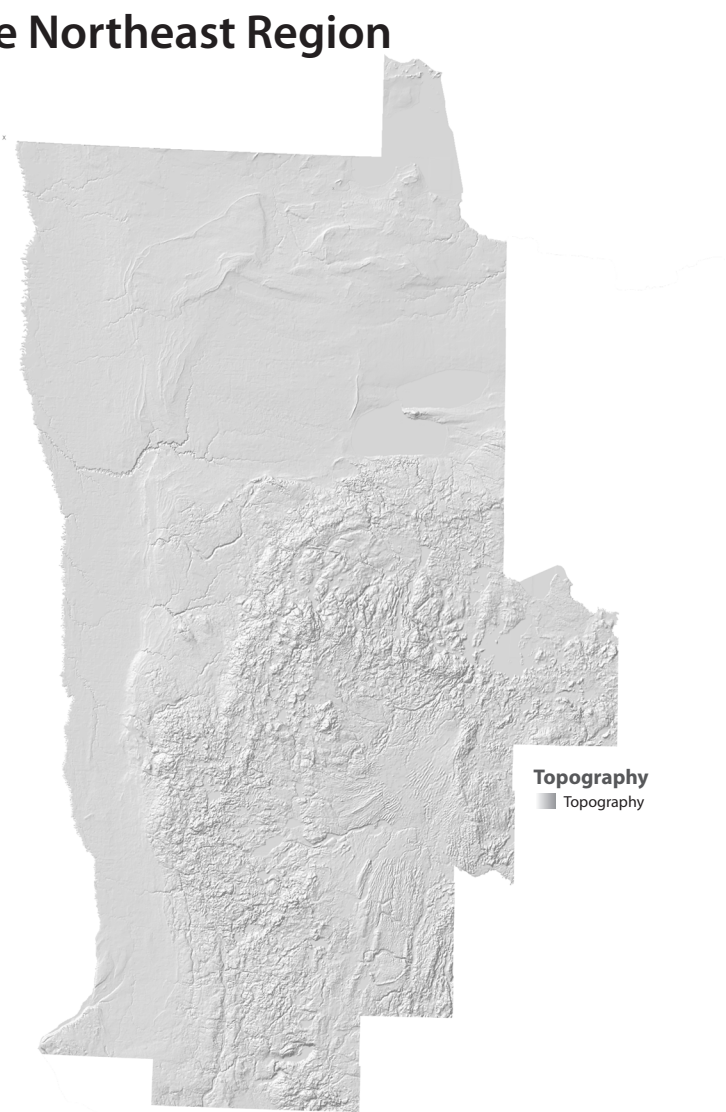


Figure 28 // Topography

Topography

The Region’s glacial history is reflected in its current topography. The flat prairie in the west and north are part of the vast Glacial Lake Agassiz lakebed. The beach ridges immediately to the east were left as the lake diminished in size. The uplands, moraine, and outwash plains were created as the glaciers receded. The varied topography supports a variety of recreational experiences that tend to be concentrated in areas of higher relief.

Lakes, Rivers, & Water Trails

The Northwest Region has some of the largest lakes and most popular fishing lakes in the State. The Region’s myriad glacier-formed lakes provide the setting for the robust recreation economy of resorts, cabins, and second homes in the glacial lakes and headwaters areas. In its most northwestern area with few lakes, rivers have been impounded to make lakes.

The Region is also an area where rivers begin and flow north to Hudson Bay and south to the Gulf of Mexico. The Mississippi flows from Lake Itasca, the Red Lake

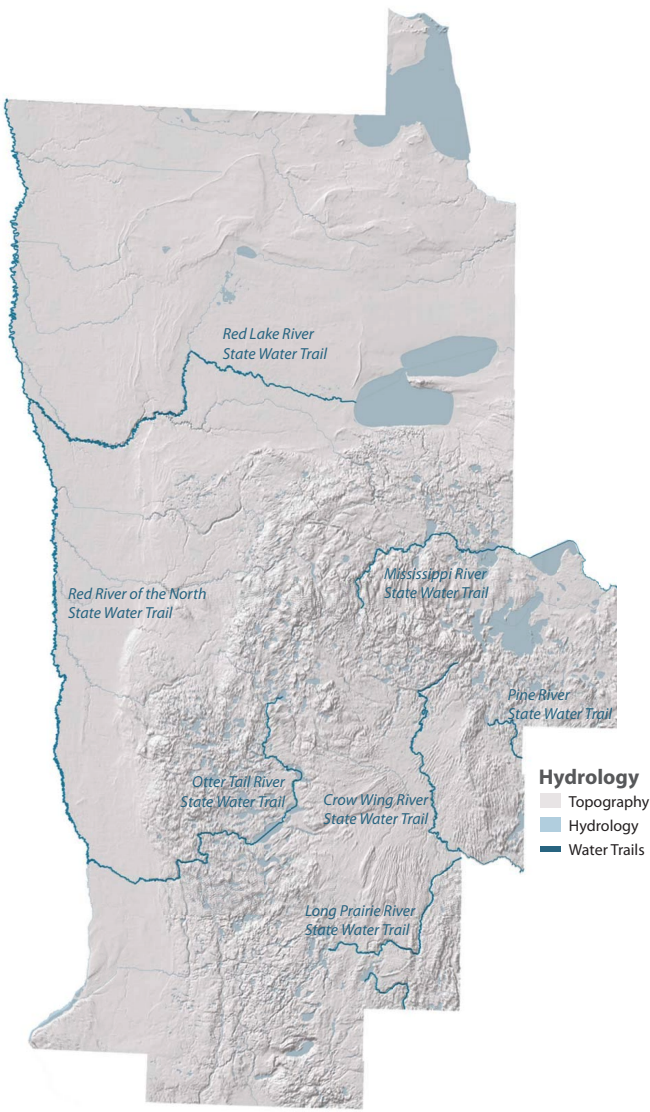


Figure 29 // Lakes, rivers, & water trails

from Lower Red Lake, and the Red from Lake Traverse. The Crow Wing, Otter Tail, and Pine rivers all start their winding journeys from lakes in the Region’s rolling moraine. The Region’s six water trails offer a variety of recreational experiences, and many communities are along their banks. The Mississippi Headwaters Segment starts at Itasca State Park and travels 50 miles before going through Lake Bemidji and Cass Lake. Bemidji State Park and the communities of Bemidji and Cass Lass are along it. Red Lake is main canoeing river in the northern part of Region. Thief River Falls, St Hilaire, Red Lake Falls, Crookston, Fisher, East Grand Fork, and an historic treaty site are along it. The 157-mile long Otter Tail River goes through three biomes. It changes from a clear, Northwoods River to a silted Prairie River, goes through a chain of lakes, has 30 water control structures and a mill on National Register, and passes through Detroit Lakes, Rochet, Frazee, Perham, Fergus Falls and Breckenridge. The 90-mile, shallow Crow Wing is a slow, family-oriented river that ends at Crow Wing State Park. It offers a “wilderness experience” and flows by Akeley, Nevis, Motley, Pillager, and county parks. The Pine starts at Backus; the City of Pine River and the Paul Bunyan Trail are along it. Offering both non-motorized and motorized boating, the Red flows past the Moorhead, East Grand Forks, and a number of smaller communities.

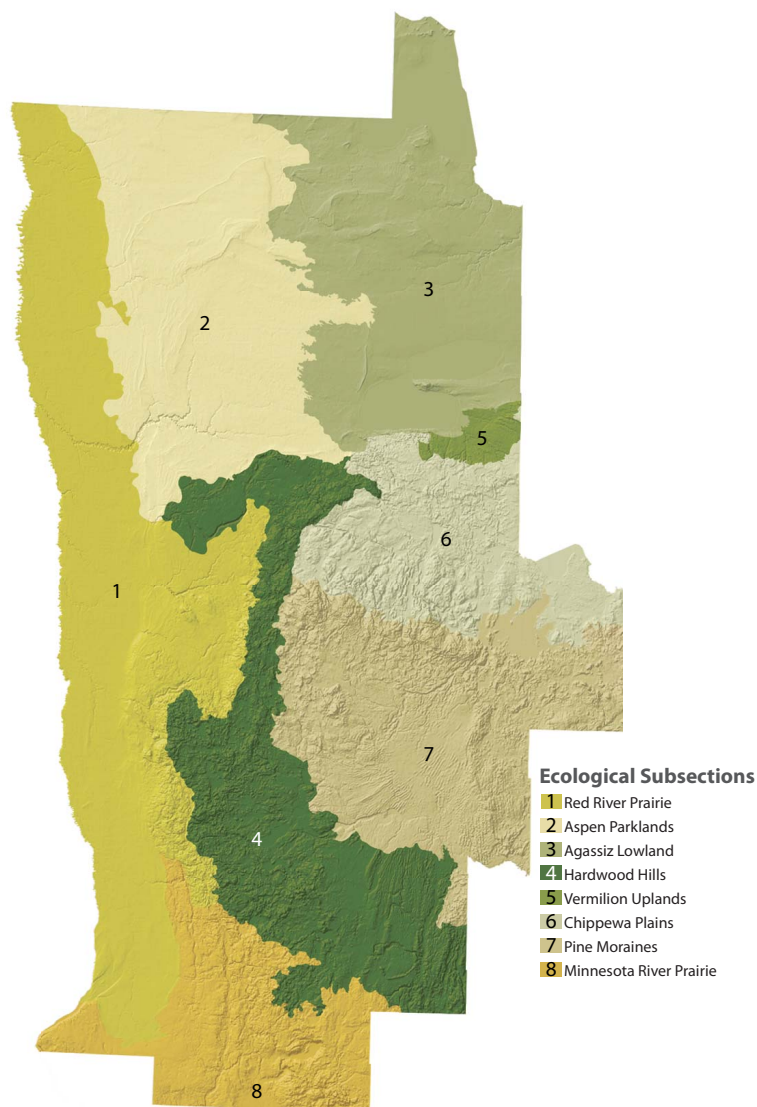


Figure 30 // Ecological subsections

Ecological Subsections

The Northwest Region has eight of Minnesota's 26 ecological subsections, reflecting the Region's character as an area of morainal, prairie, and lowland landscapes.

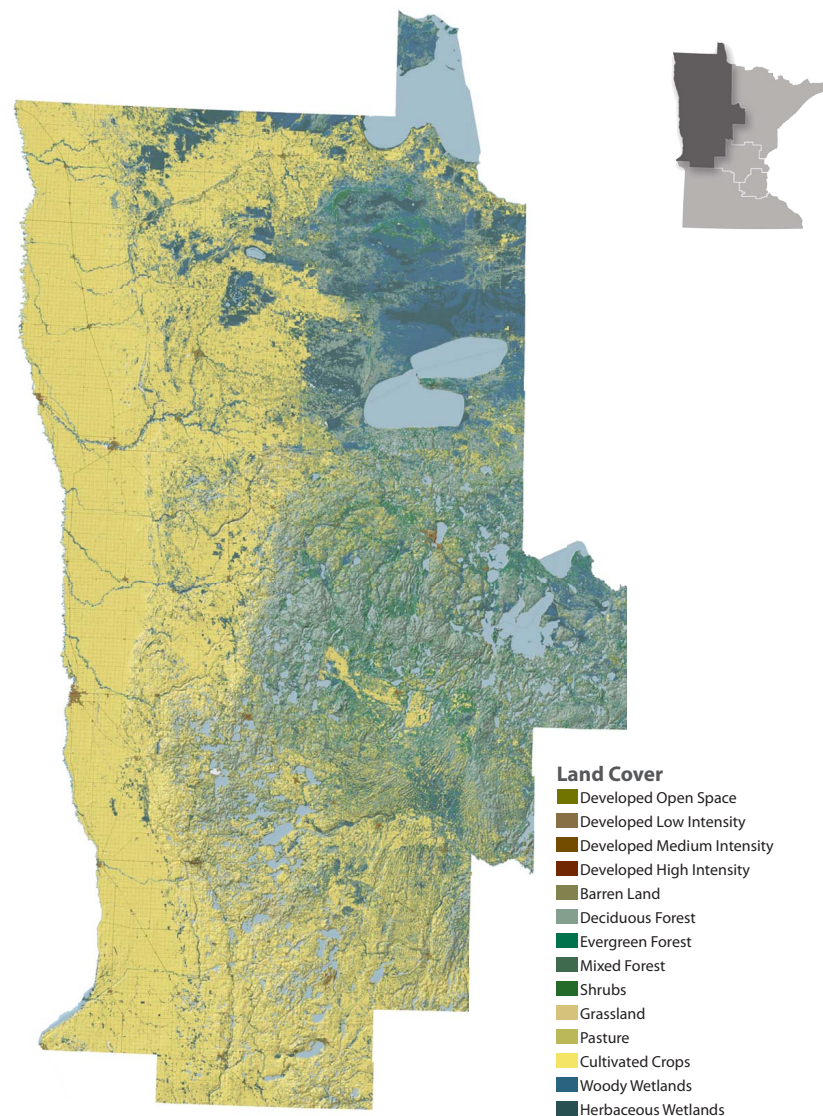


Figure 31 // Land cover

Land Cover

The Region is characterized by cropland in the west and forests, wetlands, and shrubs in the east, with small areas of developed land scattered throughout.

The Northeast Region

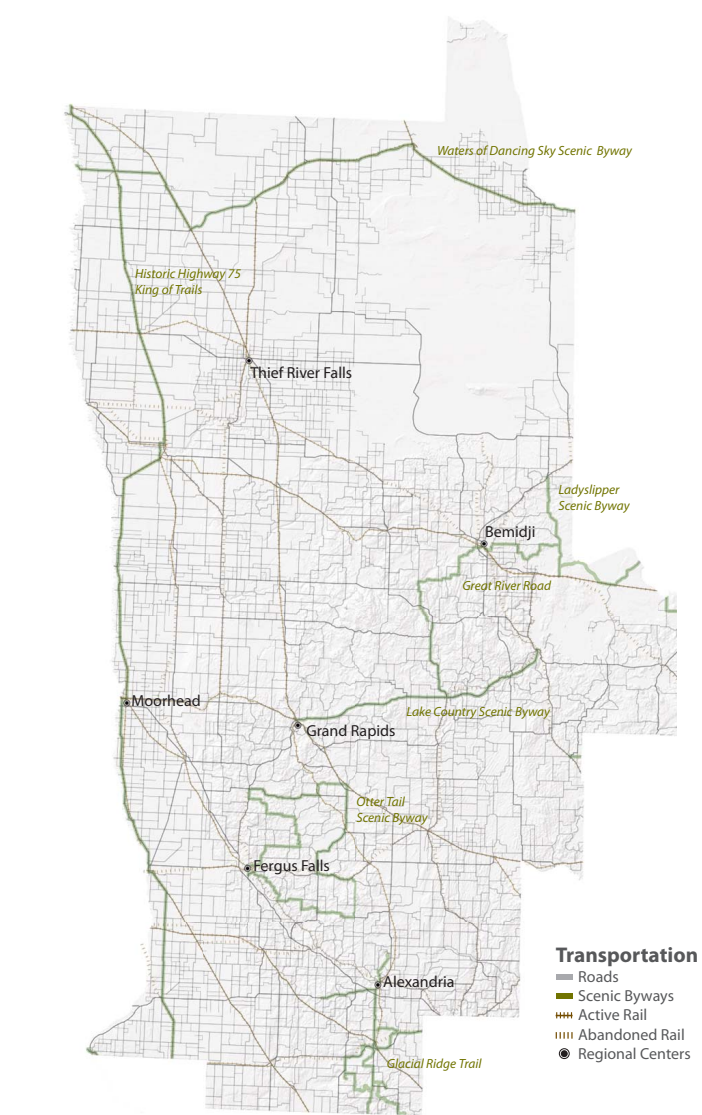


Figure 32 // Communities & transportation

Communities & Transportation

Most towns of 8,000 or larger are concentrated in the Glacial Lakes/Headwaters areas where recreational opportunities make retirement and second homes popular. Main rail lines to the West Coast run through the Region. Because like much of Greater Minnesota, many of the Region's communities were developed on rail lines in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, most communities are located along active or abandoned rail corridors.

A web of state and federal highways run from southeast to northwest and north and south. Most of the scenic byways are concentrated in the Central Lakes and Headwaters areas, but one runs along the State's western border and another along the Canadian border.

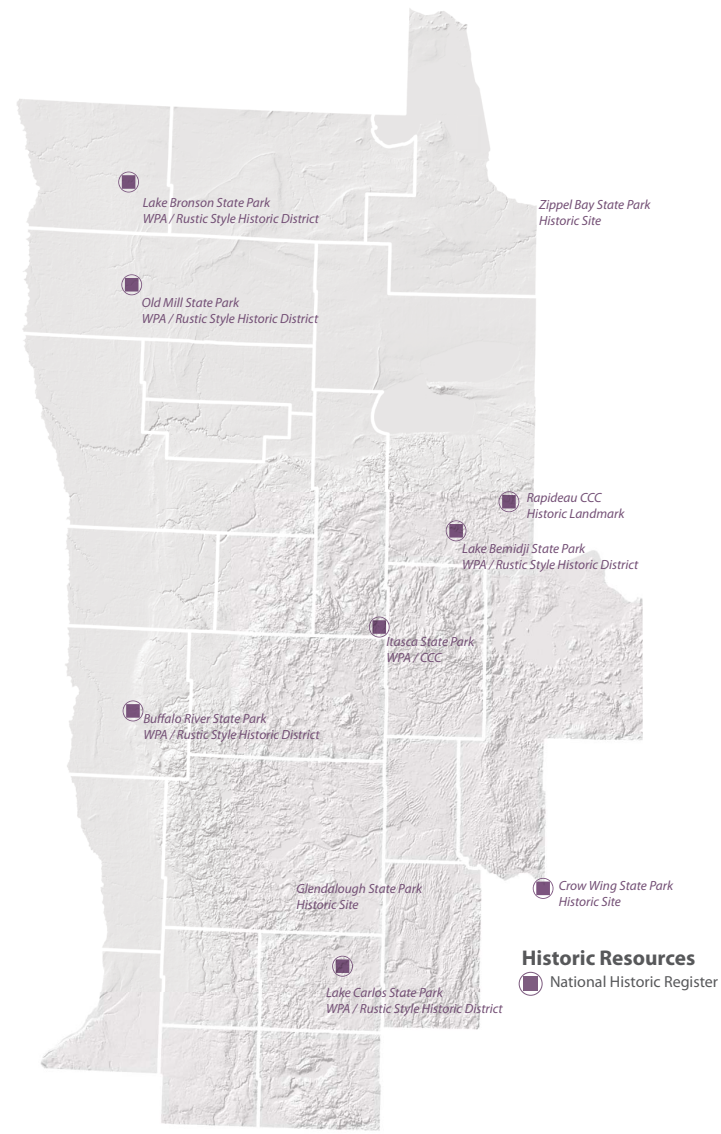


Figure 33 // Historic resources

Historic Resources

The Region has one National Historic Landmark: the Rabideau CCC Camp. Of the 22 state parks with historically recognized Rustic Style WPA/CCC structures, six are in the Region. They are Buffalo River, Itasca, Lake Bemidji, Lake Bronson, Lake Carlos, and Old Mill State Parks. Old Mill also has an historic mill that is operated once a year. Itasca has a historic district with many elements. Crow Wing, Glendalough, and Zippel Bay State Parks also have historic sites.

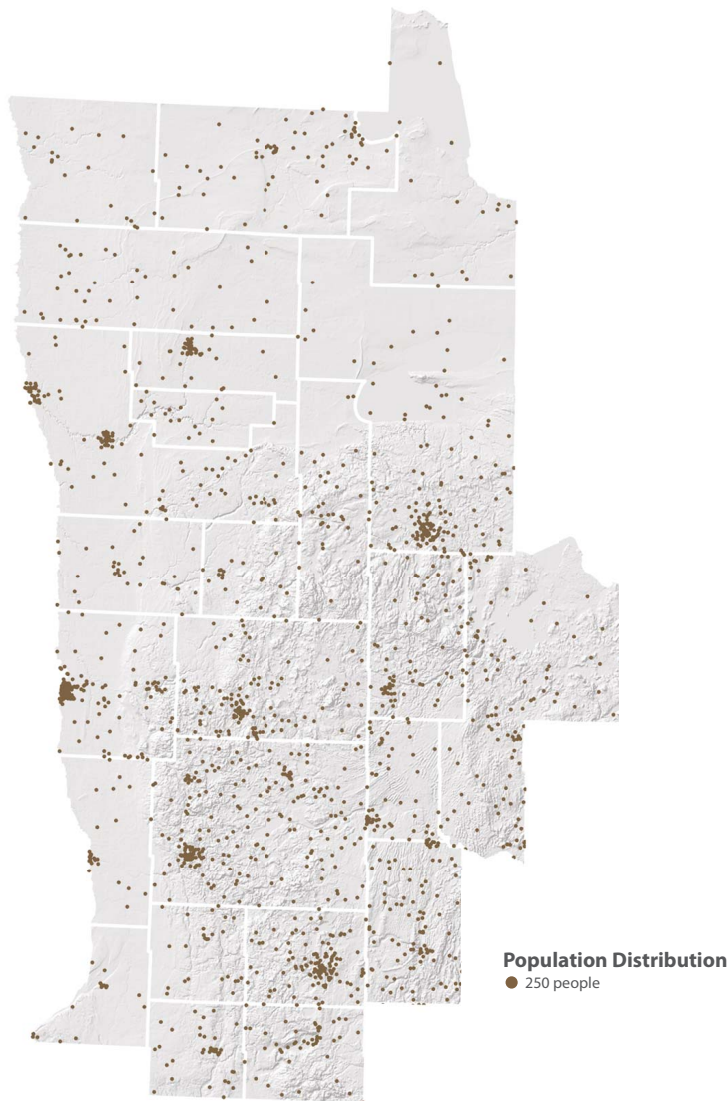


Figure 34 // Population distribution

Population Distribution

The Region's population is concentrated in the southern half, in the Bemidji Area, and in a few communities in the northwest. Three of the northern counties have the lowest densities.

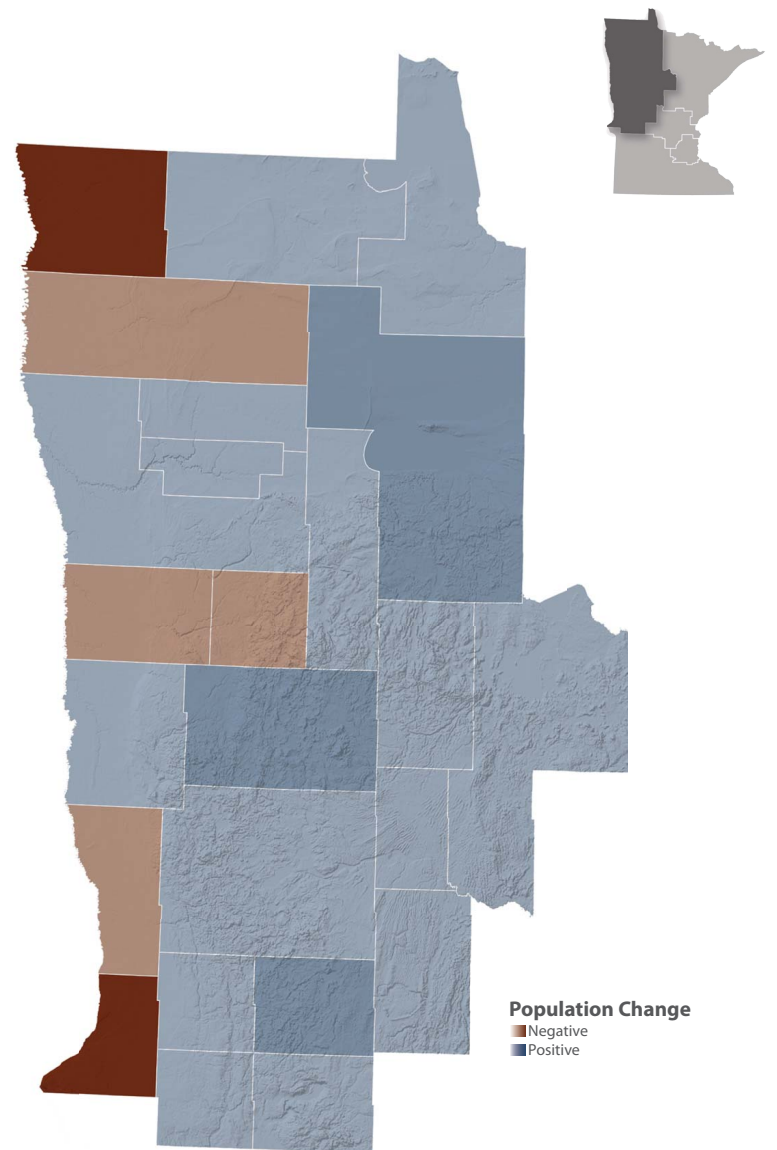


Figure 35 // Population shift

Population Shift

Populations in the Northwest Region's 24 counties are predicted to show both growth and decline. Beltrami (33.6%), Douglas (32.3%), Becker (26.7%), Cass (25.4%), and Clay (25.3%) are predicted to grow while Kittson (-25.1%), Traverse (-24.0%) and Wilkin (-6.0%) are predicted to lose population. The Region is predicted to grow by 16.5%, which is below the State's 24.2% predicted growth rate, and its share of the State's population is predicted to decline from 9% to 8%.

The South Region

Overview

The large Southern Region stretches across the bottom one third of the State and has two different biomes. The eastern half is Deciduous Forest; western is Prairie Grassland. A series of glaciers and glacial melt waters shaped most of the Region, but the southeastern corner was not glaciated. The Region's western portion is dominated by the presence of a flat landscape, the Minnesota River, prairie rivers, tributary streams, and many of the State's largest, most valuable, and productive farms. The State plays important roles in landscape preservation and natural resource-based recreation in the west because state managed lands preserve remnant landscapes in this highly altered and intensely farmed landscape. Many of the few remaining

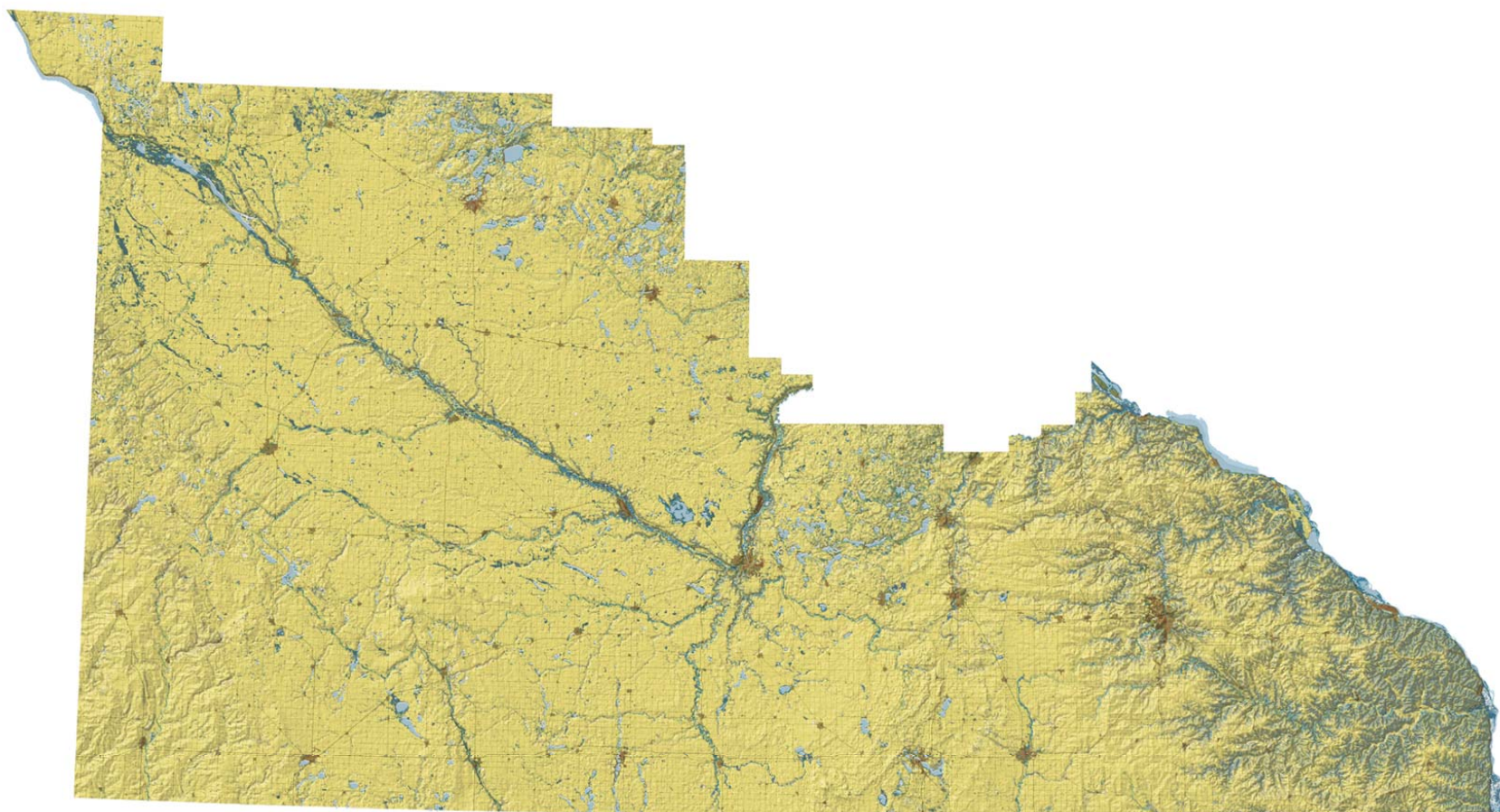
wetlands and riparian areas are wildlife management areas, scientific and natural areas, aquatic management areas, or parks.

Bounded by the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers, Southeastern Minnesota has a plateau of rolling farmland, remnants of the Big Woods, a driftless area of eroded limestone hills, and a number of small rivers that flow east to the Mississippi. In areas of the Southern Region with few lakes, impounded rivers and streams create recreational lakes and swimming pools. State and local parks provide camping, picnicking, fishing, and hiking experiences amid a predominantly agricultural landscape.

// Most of the population of the Region is in the east, which is expected to grow significantly.

// The Region consists of deciduous forest in the east and prairie grassland in the west.

// The Minnesota River valley cuts through the Region.



The South Region

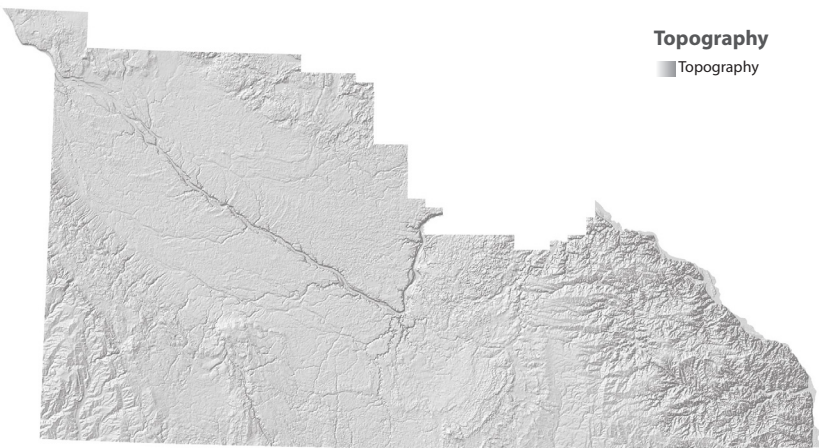


Figure 36 // Topography

Topography

In the western half of the Region the flat prairie is cut by the deep, wide Minnesota River Valley and is bracketed by the Buffalo Ridge that rises from the prairie in the Southwest corner and the moraine that rises to the north. Kilen Woods, Split Rock Creek, Camden, Minneopa, and Flandrau State Parks are located in picturesque ravines cut by prairie rivers and streams. The eastern half has a plateau of plains, a moraine of rolling hills, high bluffs along the Mississippi, and a landscape of eroded limestone hills, ravines, and small rivers in the driftless area. Both Whitewater and Beaver Valley State Parks are in beautiful limestone ravines.

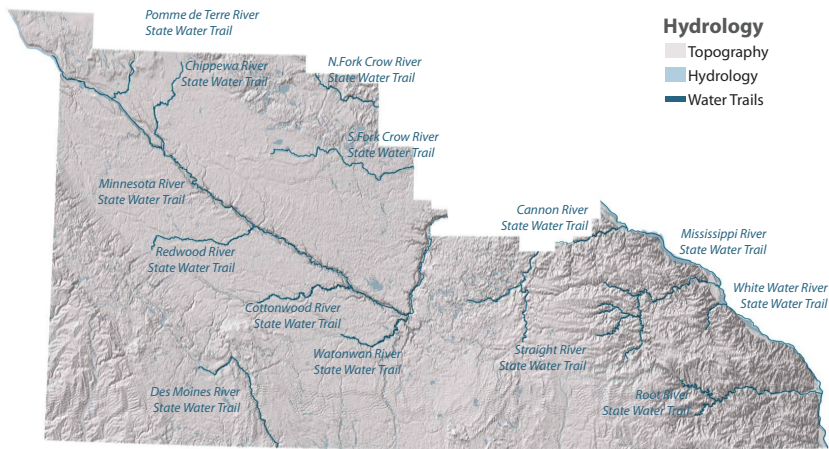


Figure 37 // Lakes, rivers, & water trails

Lakes, Rivers, & Water Trails

Flowing waters have played and continue to play important regional roles. The ancient glacial River Warren shaped the Minnesota River Valley, the Minnesota River flows through the Region's heart, and the Mississippi River forms its eastern edge. Smaller rivers and streams are found throughout. Many of the smaller rivers are very popular trout streams. The driftless or non-glaciated area of Southern Minnesota has a series of small rivers with tributary streams that flow into the Mississippi River. Although rich in rivers and streams, some parts of the Region have few lakes. Impoundments in parks have created lakes in Lake Louise, Lake Shetek, and Lake Lac Qui Parle State Parks. Glaciers formed most of the region's lakes. They are concentrated east and west of Saint Peter and in the diagonal band of moraine that stretches from north of Willmar to south of Hutchinson. In the west a series of glaciers made many prairie pothole lakes and wetlands. Before it was drained for farming, Southwestern Minnesota was known as "the duck factory" by hunters because this prairie pothole region teemed with waterfowl and aquatic animals, native prairie grasses and forbs, and some bison. Today, this flat land is dominated by a geometric pattern of large farms made possible by an extensive drainage network of drain tiles and drainage ditches. Many streams have been converted into drainage ditches as part of the drainage system. The Region's larger rivers are all designated state water trails. Although seasonal flow variances limit their use at times, they are significant recreational resources for canoeing, kayaking, and in the case of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers, motorized boating. There are many state and local parks along the water trails.



Ecological Subsections

Of Minnesota's 26 ecological subsections, eight are in the South. They form a series of diagonal stripes across the Region from the Blufflands in the east to the Big Woods in the center to the prairie and the high moraine in the west. The Land Study (DNR 2000) identified the Rochester Plateau Subsection as one of the few subsections that has no state parks. It, along with the Hardwood Hills Subsection, were identified as subsections with the most biological themes that still need to be preserved in state parks or recreation areas. The Minnesota River Prairie and the Inner Coteau Subsections were identified as two subsections with the most geologic features that still need to be preserved in state parks or recreation areas.

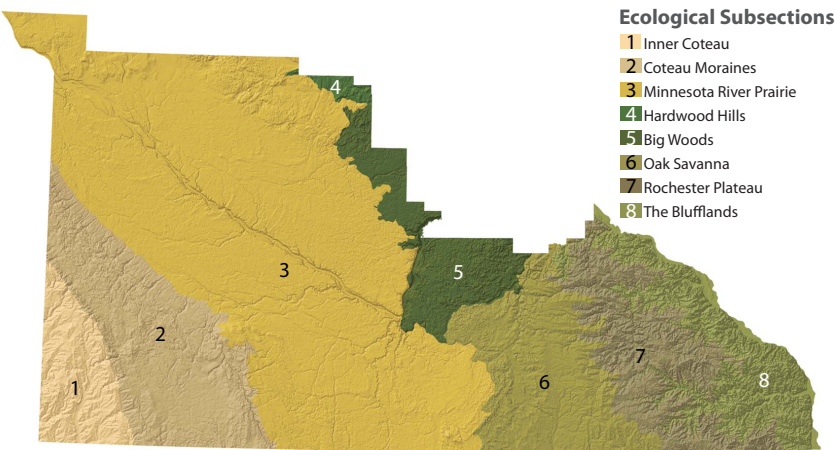


Figure 38 // Ecological subsections

Land Cover

Historically, the Region was prairie in the west and an eastern hardwood forest in the east that included the Big Woods. Most of the prairie has been converted into large, industrialized farms that spread like a green patchwork quilt across the landscape. The ravines, protected wetlands, and riparian lands have green fingers and patches of native vegetation. Some of the eastern forest remains, but much of the land is farmed.

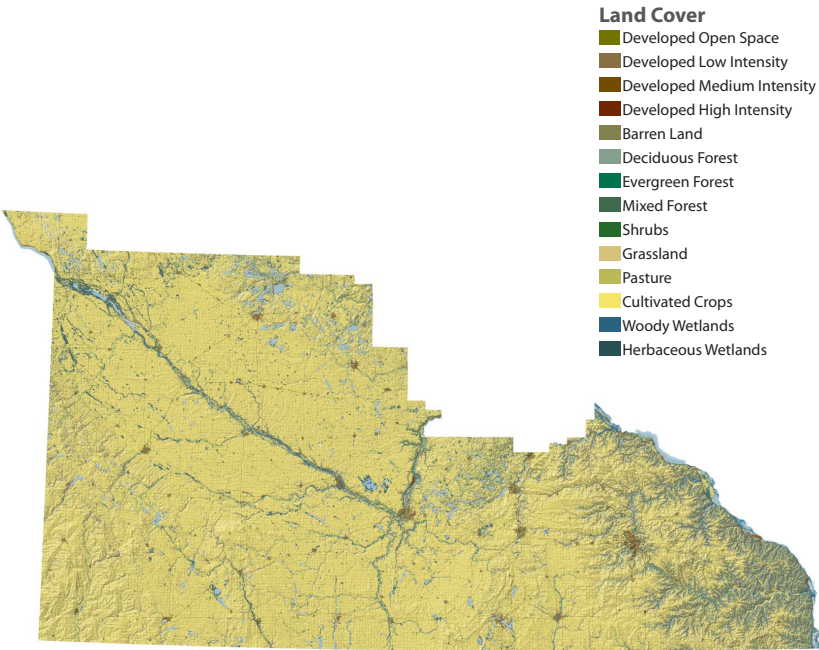


Figure 39 // Land cover

The South Region

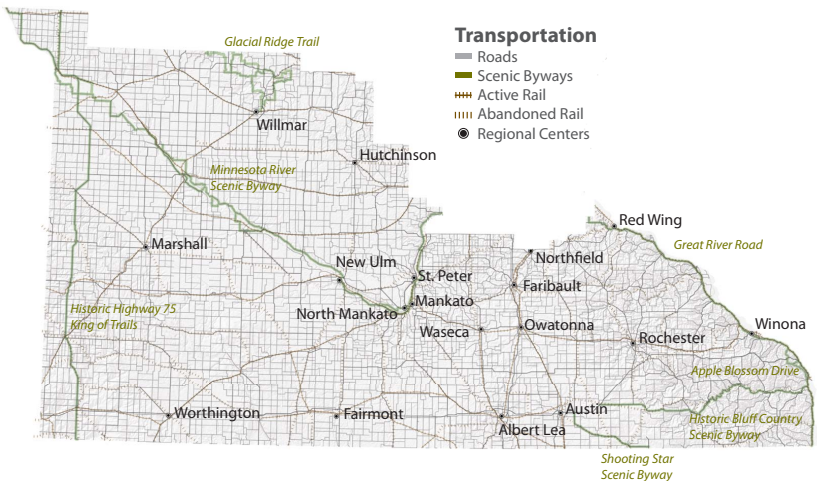


Figure 40 // Transportation and communities

Communities & Transportation

In the east, the Region is populous and is expected to continue to grow as part of the growth corridor from Chicago to the Twin Cities. It has Rochester, the State’s third largest city, and nine micropolitan centers that are close to each other. It is home to the Prairie Island Indian Community and several Amish communities. In the west the Region has two regional centers, Mankato and Willmar, and six micropolitan centers that are farther apart. Two Dakota tribes, The Upper Sioux Community and the Lower Sioux Community, live and own land in the Minnesota Valley.

Because many of the Region’s cities were service centers for the developing agriculture economy in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many abandoned rail right-of-ways crisscross the region and many of its larger cities are on active rail lines. Although there are a number of abandoned rail corridors that have been converted into trail corridors, most remaining abandoned rail corridors are private agricultural lands and not currently available for trails. The Region is well served by federal and state highways. The Region’s five scenic byways follow the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers, wind around the lakes by Willmar, and parallel the State’s western and southern borders. Many parks are on or within two miles of the byways.

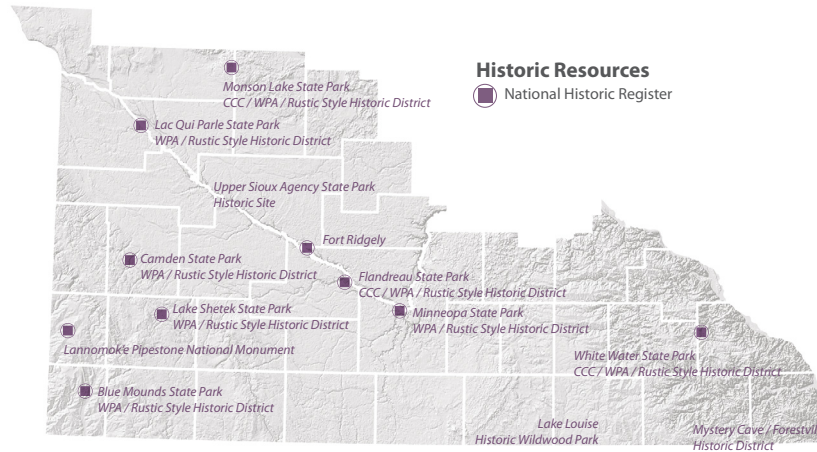
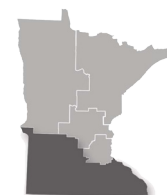


Figure 41 // Historic resources

Historic Resources

The Region’s parks also play an important role in preserving and interpreting the area’s historic sites in the Region. Cannomk’e, the Pipestone National Monument, is a sacred Native American quarry managed by the National Park Service. Indians occupied most of the park sites for thousands of years prior to European contact. Sites in Upper Sioux and Fort Ridgely State Parks played key roles in European settlement and Indian removal. Flaudrau, Camden, and Fort Ridgely State Parks were sites of WPA camps. Flaudrau was used as a German prisoner-of-war camp during World War II. The historic Forestville Town site is in Mystery Cave/ Forestville State Park. Blue Mounds, Camden, Flandrau, Fort Ridgely, Lac Qui Parle, Lake Shetek, Minneopa, Monson Lake, Sibley, and Whitewater State Parks have many Rustic Style WPA/CCC structures on the National Register. Camden and Lake Louise have historic mill sites, and Lake Louise has the site of the historic Wildwood Park.



Population Distribution

The Region's population is concentrated in Rochester, Mankato, and Willmar areas and in county seats. Its eastern half is more populous than its western half.

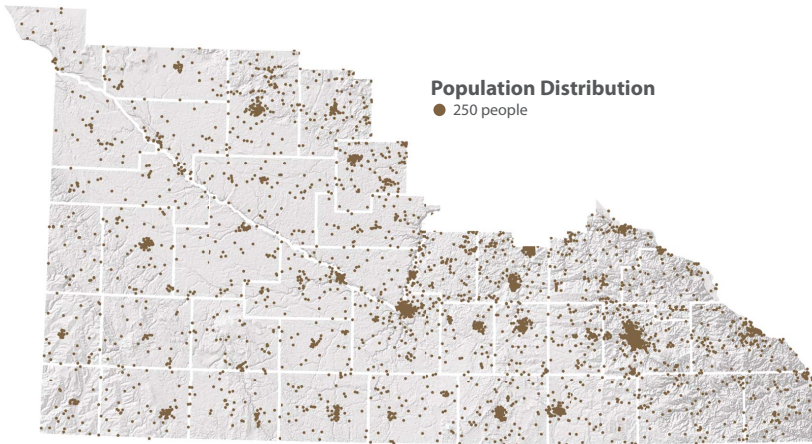


Figure 42 // Population distribution

Population Shift

Counties in the South Region show both growth and decline. Dodge (45.2%), Olmsted (38.2%), Rice (37.4%), Le Sueur (37.2%), Steele (30.5%), McLeod (23.1%), and Goodhue (22.0%) Counties, which are either adjacent to the Rochester Area or adjacent to the Metropolitan Area, are experiencing growth. The many counties in the south and west that are predicted to lose the highest percentage of their population are Lac qui Parle (-15.0%), Swift (-14.4%), and Watonwan (-11.7%). The Region is predicted to grow by 15.0%, which is below the State's 24.2% predicted growth rate. In 2005 the Region had 19.3% of the State's population, it is predicted to have 18% in 2035.

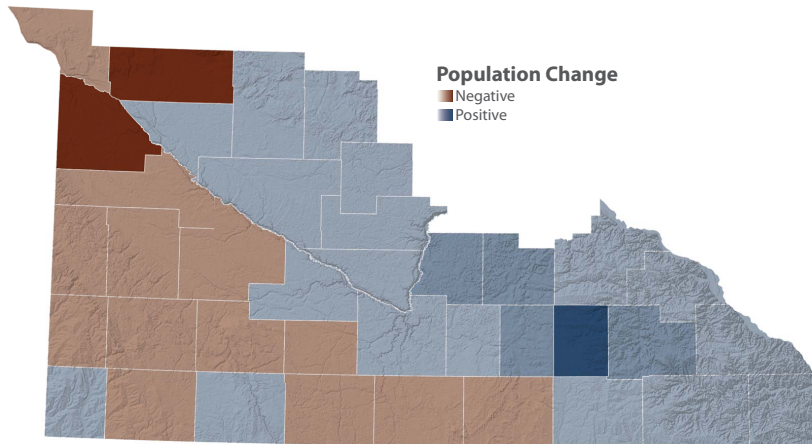


Figure 43 // Population shift

Study Regions Physical Setting Inventory

Authors: Center for Changing Landscapes Staff

// Central
// Metro
// Northeast
// Northwest
// South

The Central Region

Combined Network Overview

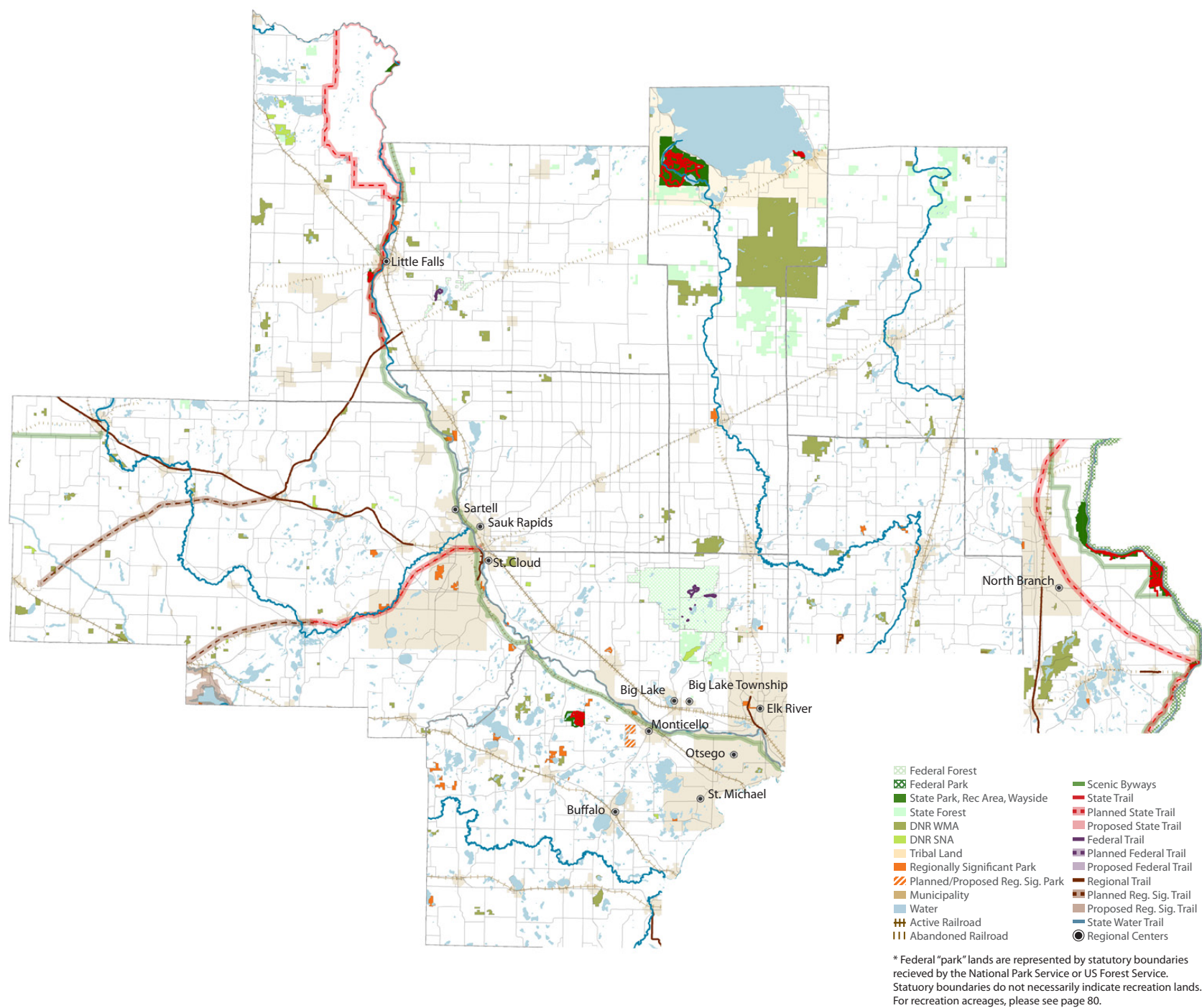
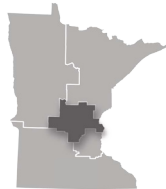


Figure 44 // Central region combined federal, state, & regionally significant network of parks & trails

The Central Region

Federal, State, & Regionally Significant Areas & Trails

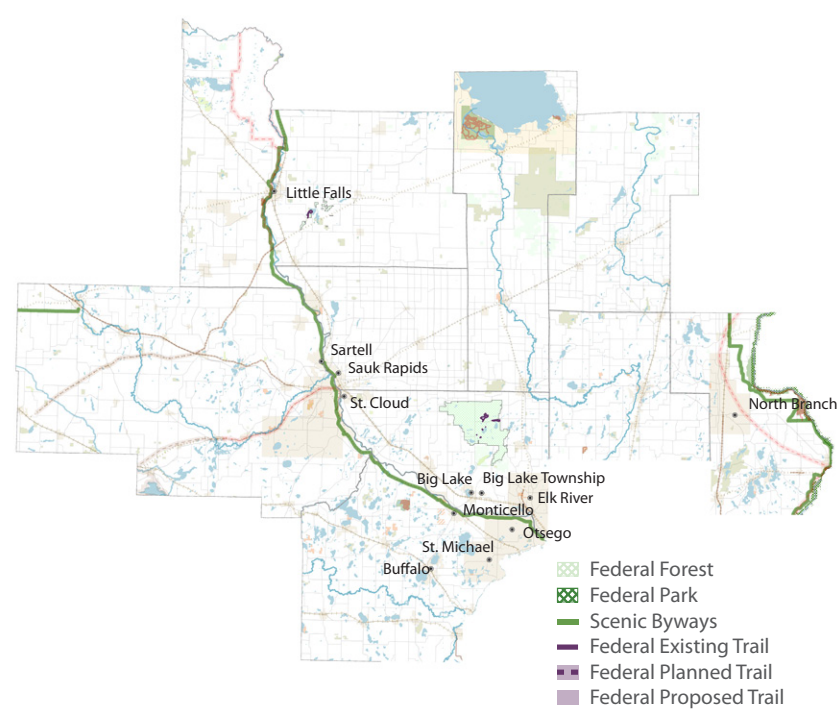


Figure 45 // Central region federal areas and trails

Table 1// Federal areas* & trails

AREA TYPE	STATUS	COUNT
NWR ¹	Existing	13
Recreation Area	Existing	2
Scenic Riverway	Existing	1
Totals		16

TRAIL TYPE	STATUS	MILES
Federal Trails	Existing	13

*See pages 78-85 for acreage totals
¹ National Wildlife Refuge

Table 2 // State areas* & trails

AREA TYPE	STATUS	COUNT
Forest	Existing	17
Park	Existing	8
SNA ¹	Existing	17
WMA ²	Existing	137
Totals		179

TRAIL TYPE	STATUS	MILES
State Trails	Existing	115
State Trails	Planned	109
State Water Trails	Existing	542
Total		766

*See page 78-85 for acreage totals
¹Scientific and Natural Area, ² Wildlife Management Area

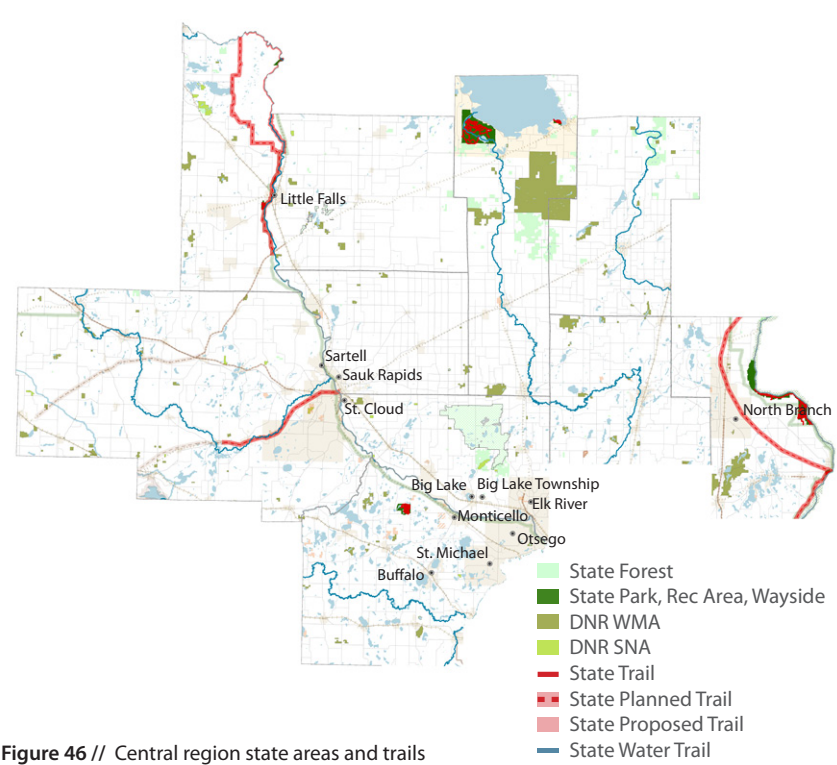


Figure 46 // Central region state areas and trails

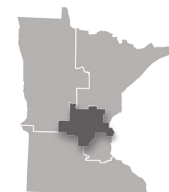


Table 3 // Regionally significant areas* & trails

AREA TYPE	STATUS	COUNT
Reg. Sig. Park	Existing	32
Reg. Sig. Park	Planned	2
	Total	34

TRAIL TYPE	STATUS	MILES
Reg. Sig. Trails	Existing	107
Reg. Sig. Trails	Planned	40
Reg. Sig. Trails	Proposed	13
	Total	160

*See page 78-85 for acreage totals

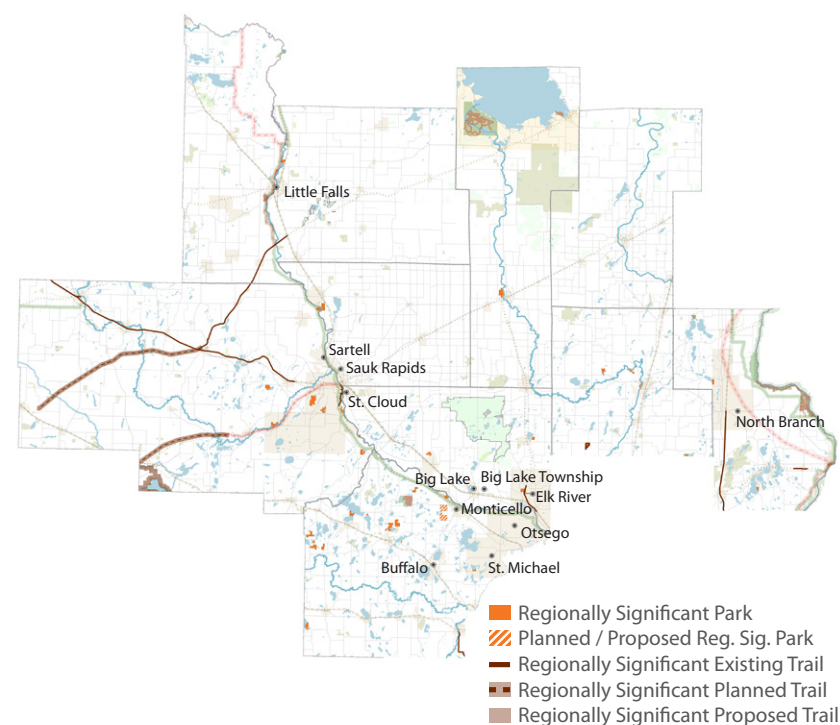


Figure 47 // Central region regionally significant areas and trails

The Central Region

State Parks & Federal, & State Regionally Significant Trails

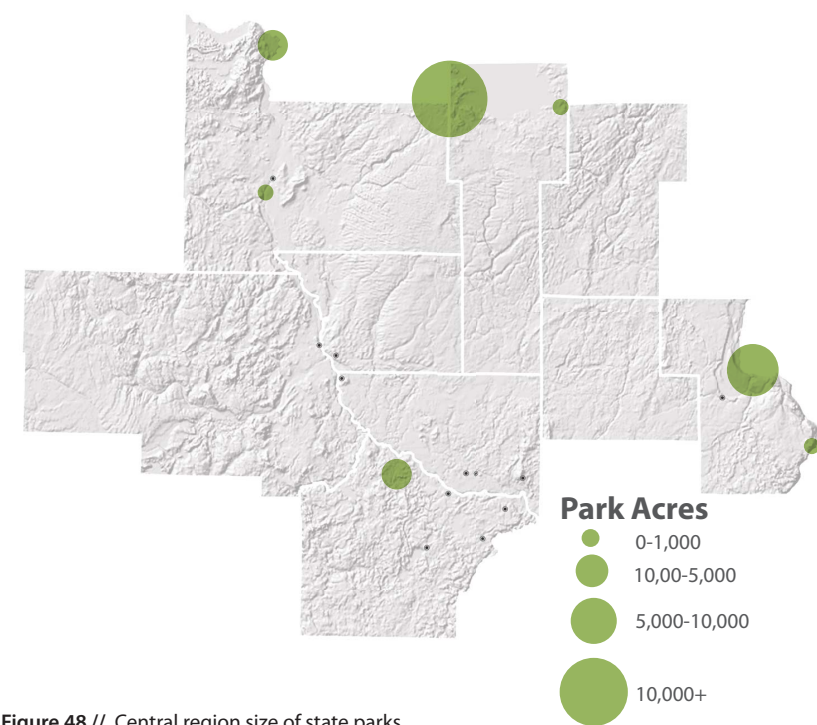


Figure 48 // Central region size of state parks

Table 4 // Size of state parks

PARK NAME	ACRES
Charles A. Lindberg State Park	433
Crow Wing State Park	377
Father Hennepin State Park	284
Interstate State Park	267
Lake Maria State Park	1,524
Mille Lacs Kathio State Park	9,665
Wild River State Park	6,562

Table 5 // Annual visits to state parks

PARK NAME	ANNUAL VISITS
Charles A. Lindberg State Park	48,325
Crow Wing State Park	48,289
Father Hennepin State Park	130,086
Interstate State Park	372,780
Lake Maria State Park	73,202
Mille Lacs Kathio State Park	133,127
Wild River State Park	182,545
Total	988,354

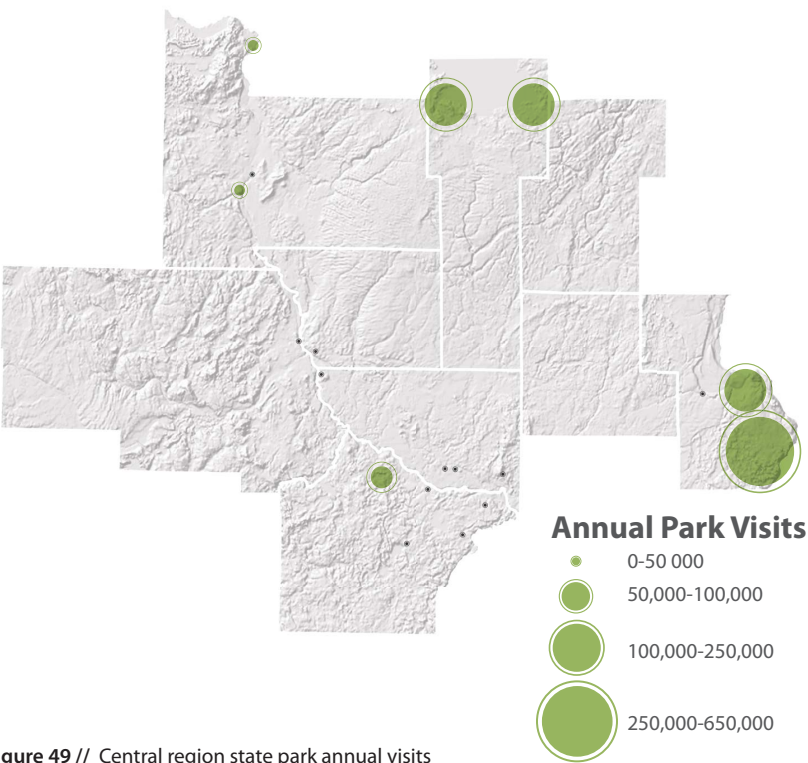


Figure 49 // Central region state park annual visits

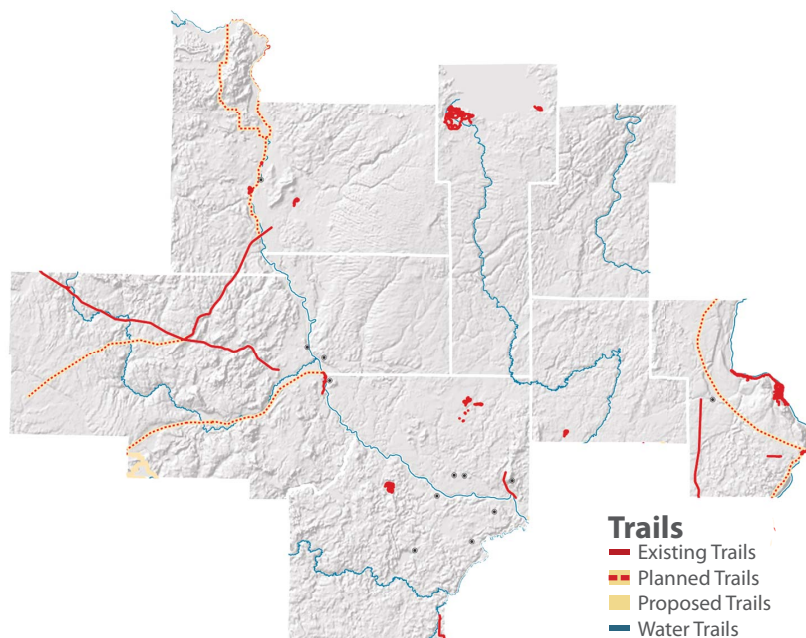
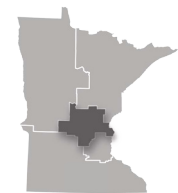


Table 6 // Hike, bike, & water trails

TRAIL TYPE	STATUS	MILES
Federal Trails	Existing	13
Regionally Significant Trails	Existing	107
Regionally Significant Trails	Planned	40
Regionally Significant Trails	Proposed	13
State Trails	Existing	115
State Trails	Planned	109
	Total	397
State Water Trails	Existing	542

Figure 50 // Central region hike, bike, & water trails

Table 7 // Snowmobile & OHV trails

TRAIL TYPE	MILES
OHV	64
Snowmobile	2260

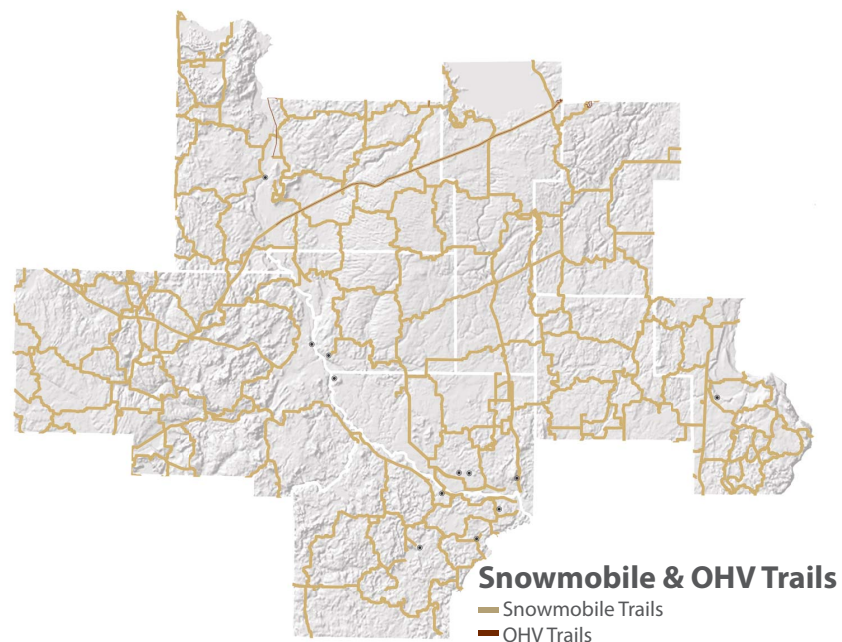


Figure 51 // Central region snowmobile and off-highway vehicle trails

The Metro Region

Combined Network Overview

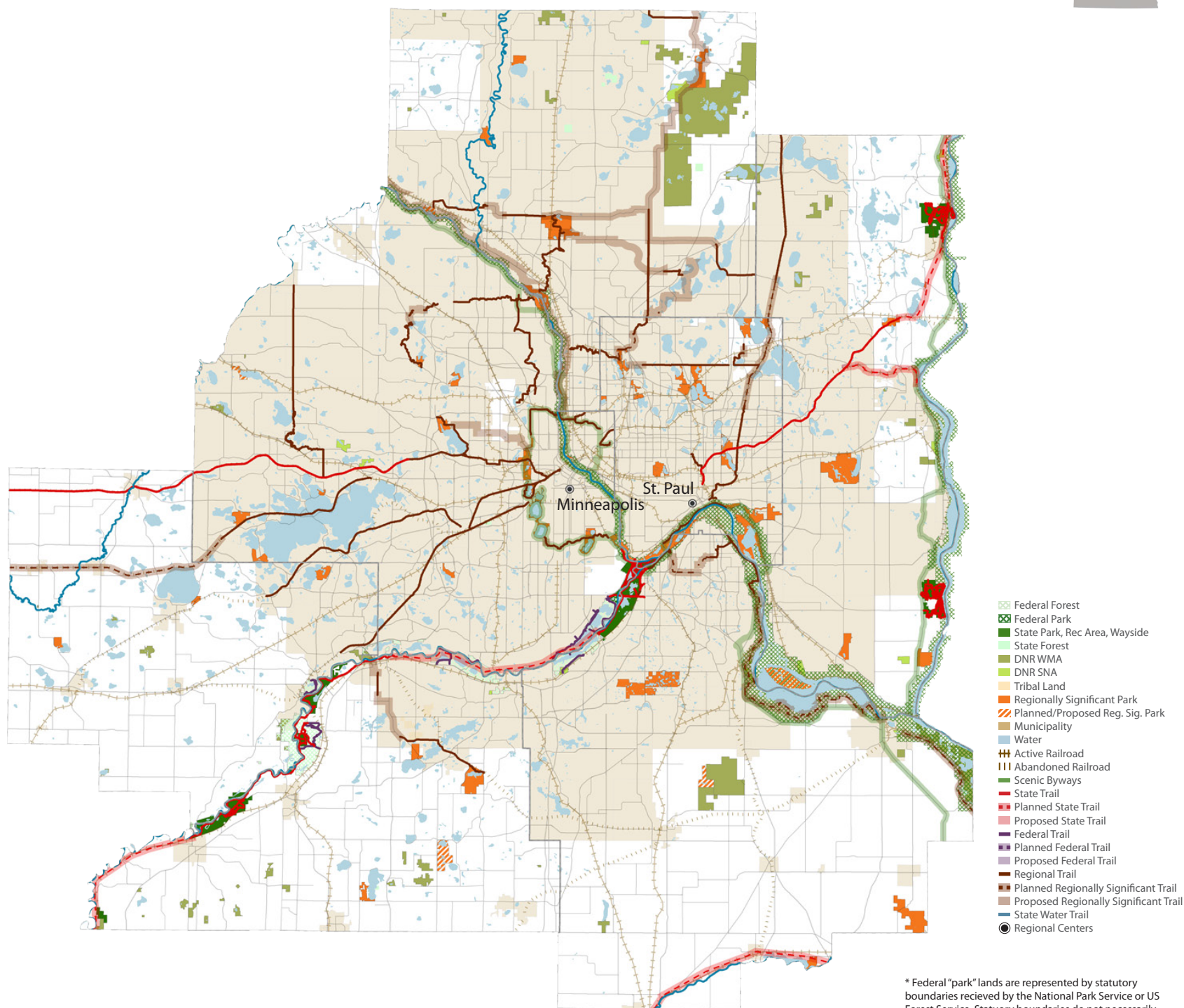
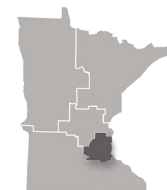


Figure 52 // Metro region combined federal, state, & regionally significant network of parks & trails

The Metro Region

Federal, State, & Regionally Significant Areas & Trails

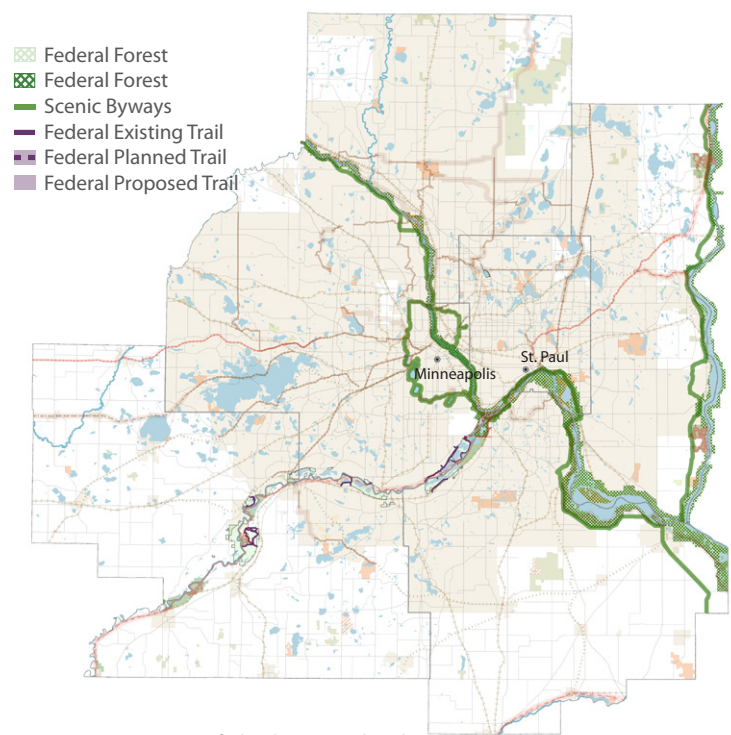


Figure 53 // Metro region federal areas and trails

Table 8// Federal areas* & trails

AREA FEATURE	STATUS	COUNT
NWR, ¹	Existing	67
Recreation Area	Existing	5
Scenic Riverway	Existing	1
ACE Recreation Area, ²	Existing	3
Totals		76

TRAIL TYPE	STATUS	MILES
Federal Trails	Existing	28

*See pages 78-85 for acreage totals
¹ National Wildlife Refuge, ² U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

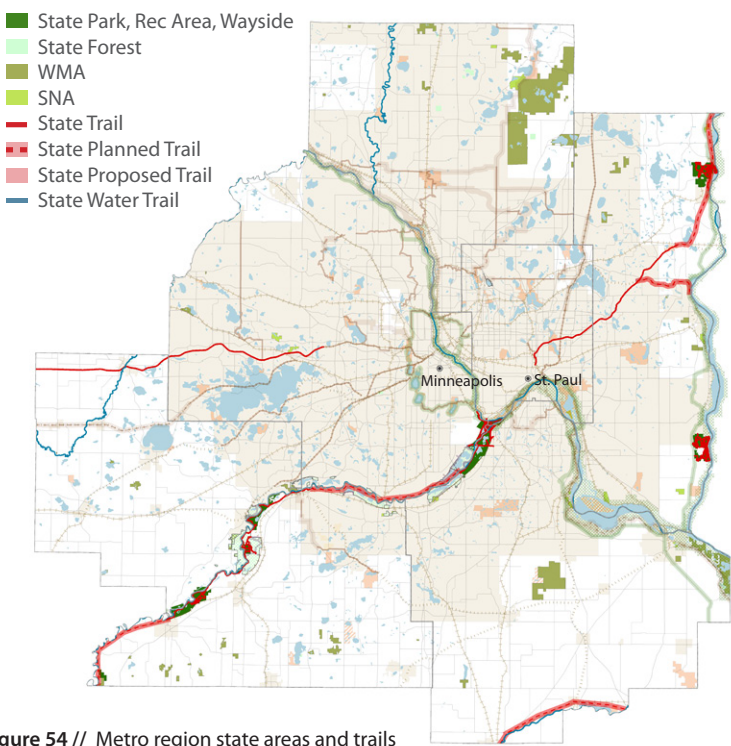


Figure 54 // Metro region state areas and trails

Table 9// State areas* & trails

AREA TYPE	STATUS	COUNT
Forest	Existing	2
Park	Existing	5
Recreation Area	Existing	8
SNA ¹	Existing	14
WMA ²	Existing	49
Totals		78

TRAIL TYPE	STATUS	MILES
State Trails	Existing	148
State Trails	Planned	56
State Water Trails	Existing	270
Total		474

*See page 78-85 for acreage totals
¹Scientific and Natural Area, ² Wildlife Management Area

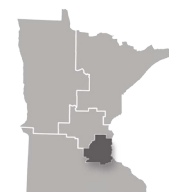


Table 10 // Regionally significant areas* & trails

AREA TYPE	STATUS	COUNT
Reg. Sig. Park Reserve	Existing	13
Reg. Sig. Park Reserve	Proposed	1
Reg. Sig. Park	Existing	65
Reg. Sig. Park	Planned	5
Total		84

TRAIL TYPE	STATUS	MILES
Reg. Sig. Trails	Existing	224
Reg. Sig. Trails	Planned	45
Reg. Sig. Trails	Proposed	113
Total		382

*See page 78-85 for acreage totals

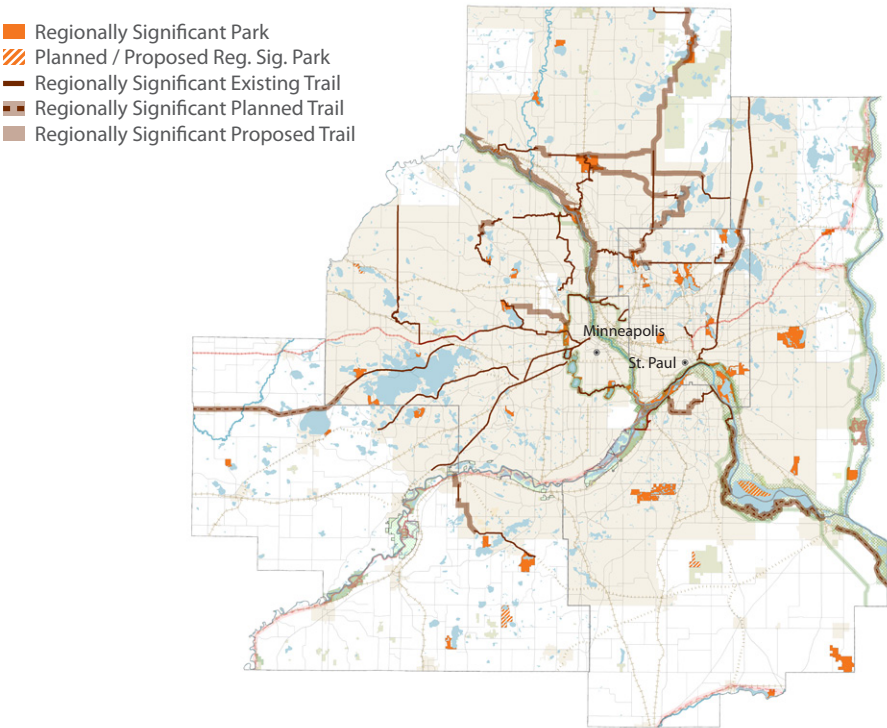


Figure 55 // Metro region regionally significant areas and trails

The Metro Region

State Parks & Federal, & State Regionally Significant Trails

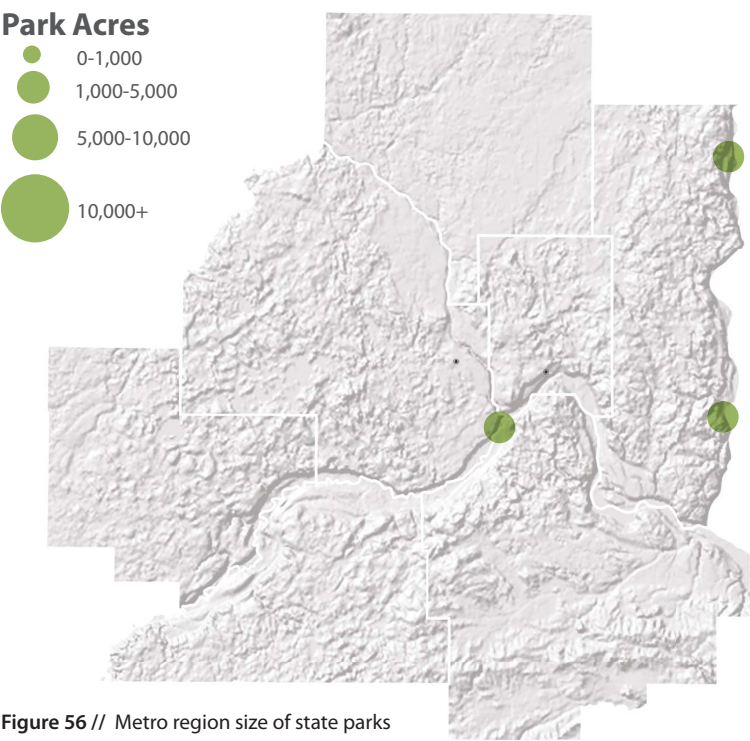


Figure 56 // Metro region size of state parks

Table 11 // Size of state parks

PARK NAME	ACRES
Afton State Park	1,597
Fort Snelling State Park	2,578
William O'Brien State Park	1,661
Total	5,835

Table 12 // Annual state park visits

PARK NAME	ANNUAL VISITS
Afton State Park	148,909
Fort Snelling State Park	644,889
William O'Brien State Park	221,614
Total	1,015,412

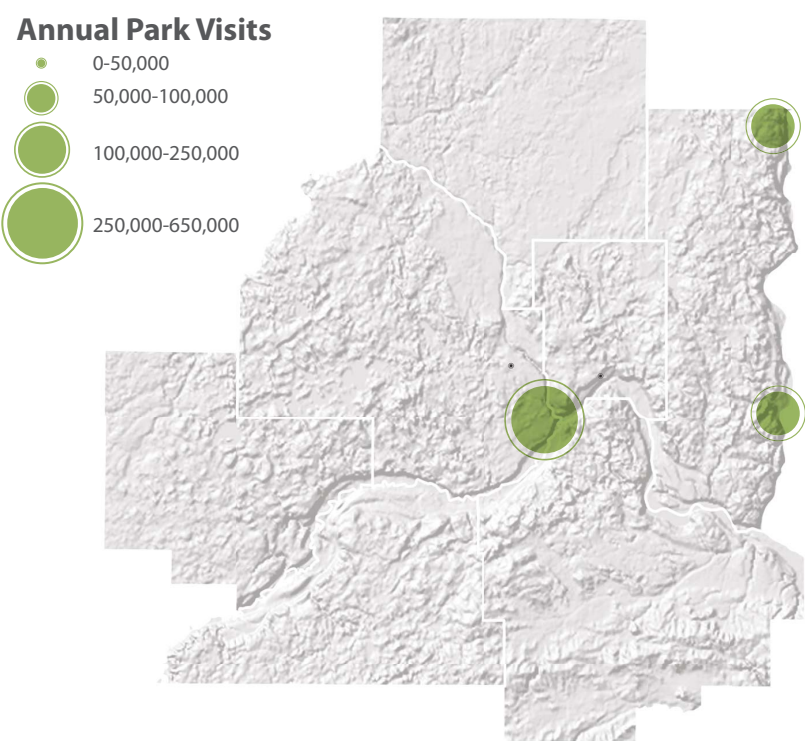
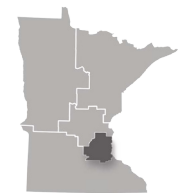


Figure 57 // Metro region state park annual visits



Trails

- Existing Trails
- Planned Trails
- Proposed Trails
- Water Trails

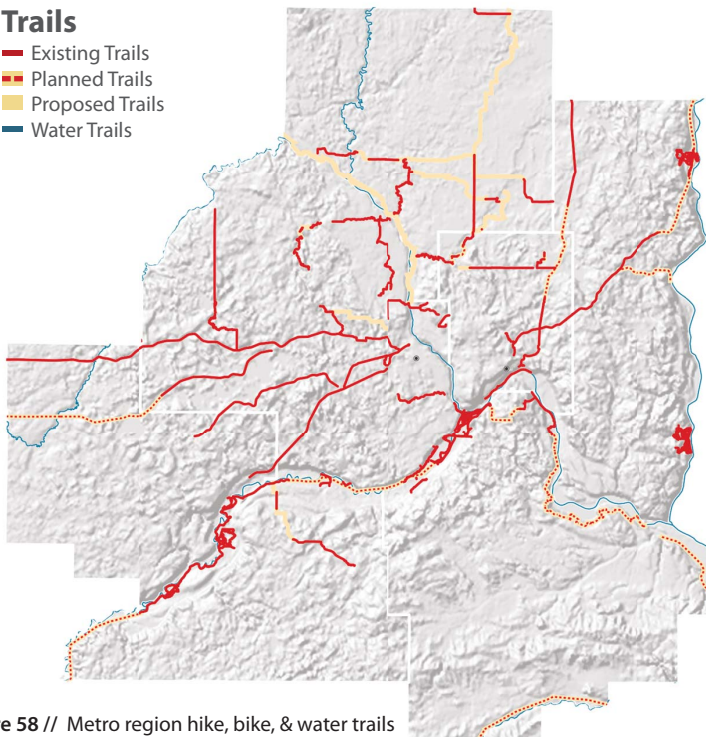


Figure 58 // Metro region hike, bike, & water trails

Table 13 // Hike, bike, & water trails

TRAIL TYPE	STATUS	MILES
Federal Trails	Existing	28
Regionally Significant Trails	Existing	224
Regionally Significant Trails	Planned	45
Regionally Significant Trails	Proposed	113
State Trails	Existing	148
State Trails	Planned	56
	Total	614
State Water Trails	Existing	270

Snowmobile & OHV Trails

- Snowmobile Trails
- OHV Trails

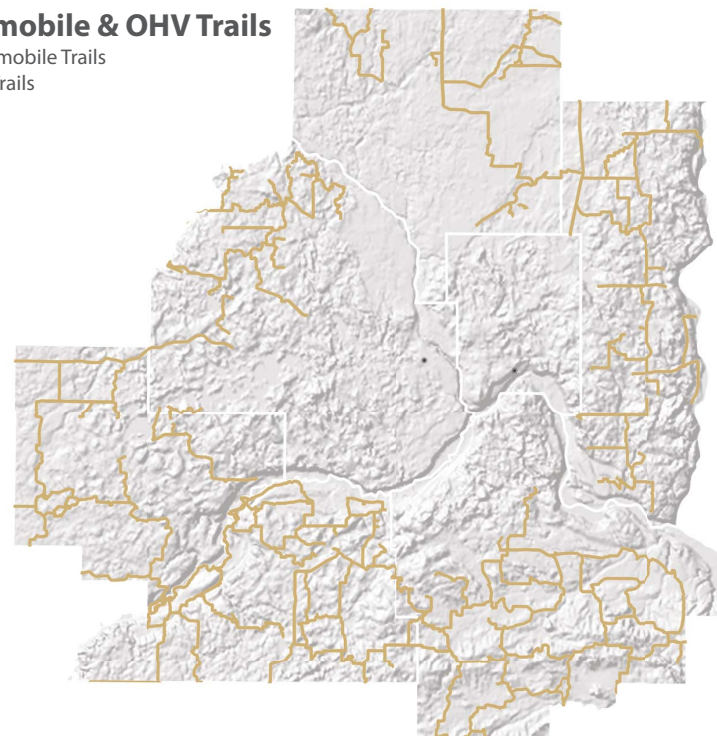


Table 14 // Snowmobile & OHV trails

TRAIL TYPE	MILES
Snowmobile	990

Figure 59 // Metro region snowmobile and off-highway vehicle trails

The Northeast Region

Combined Network Overview

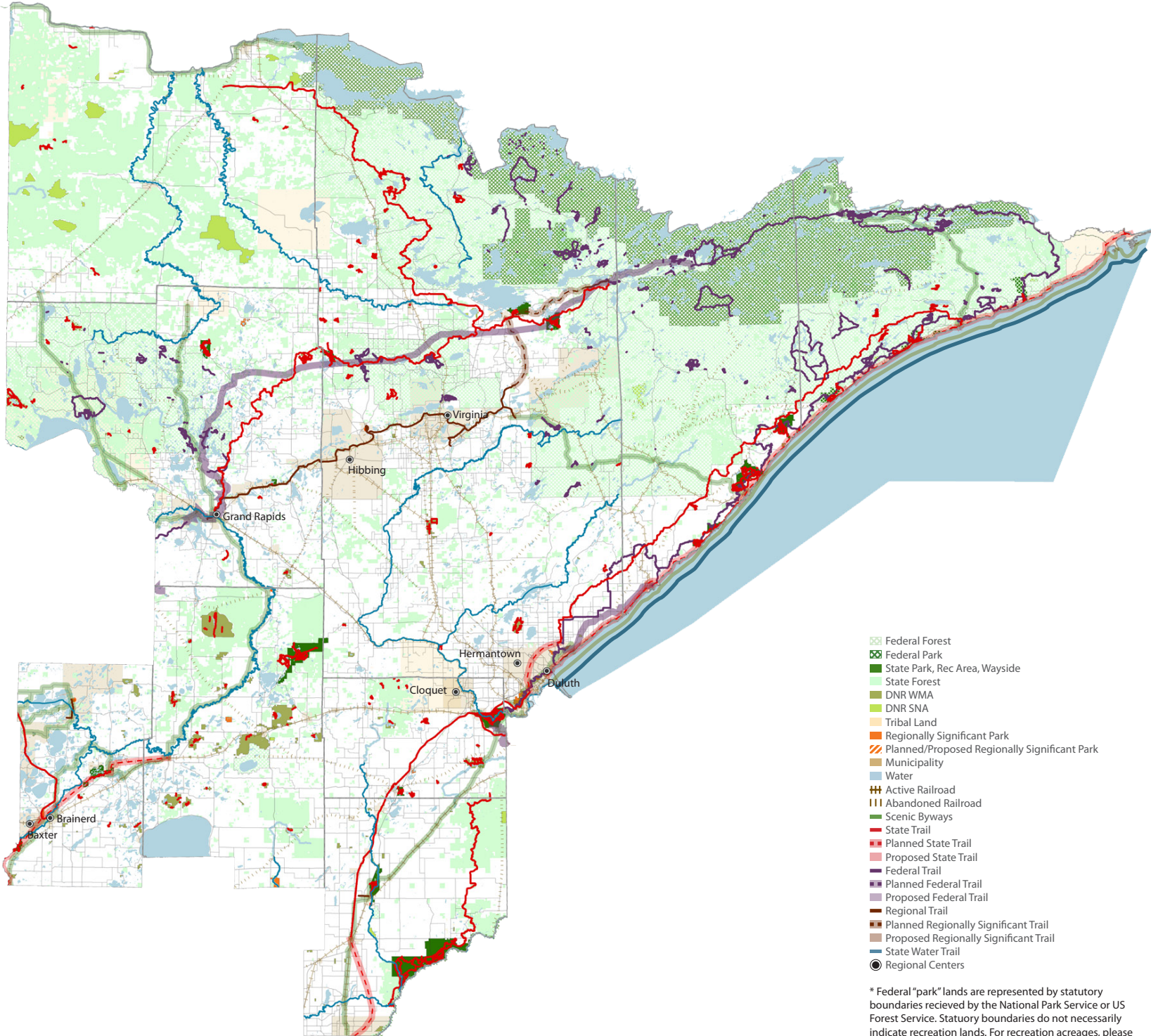
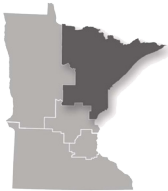


Figure 60 // Northeast region combined federal, state, & regionally significant network of parks & trails

The Northeast Region

Federal, State, & Regionally Significant Areas & Trails

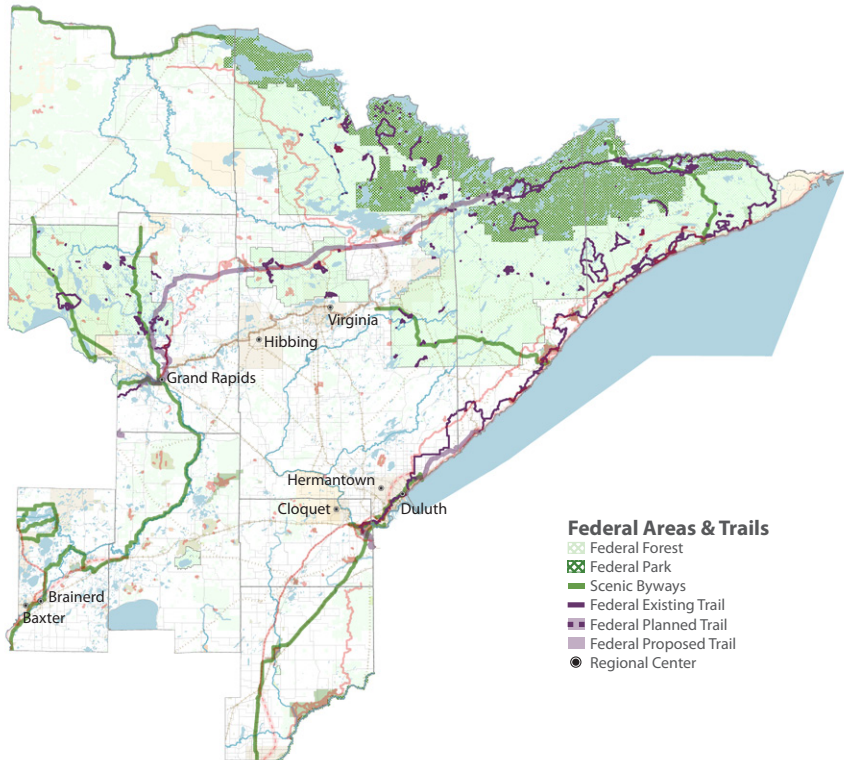


Figure 61 // Northeast region federal areas and trails

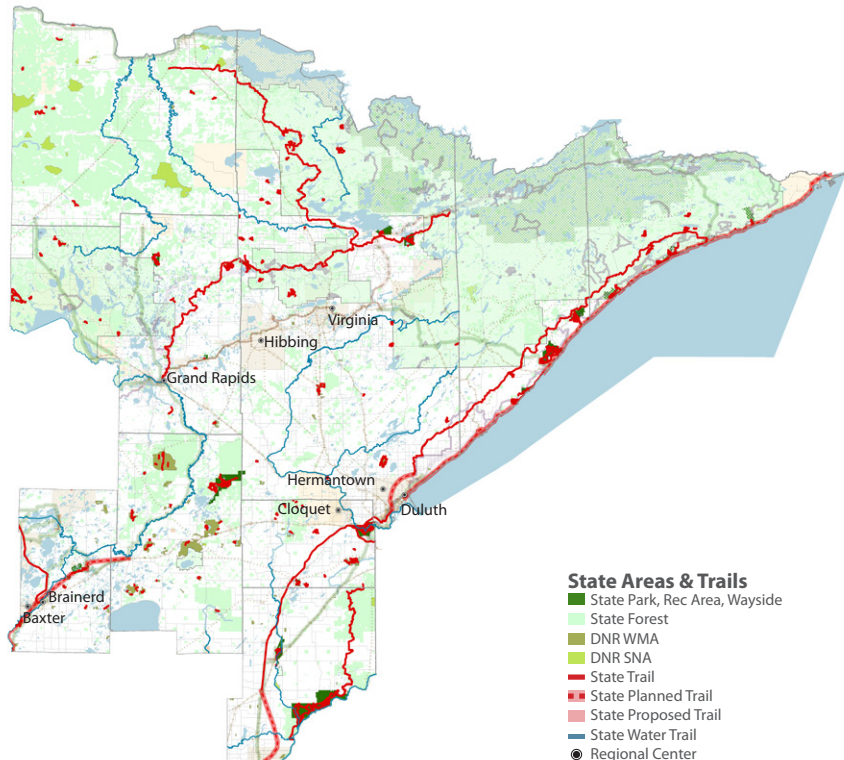


Figure 62 // Northeast region state areas and trails

Table 15// Federal areas* & trails

AREA TYPE	STATUS	COUNT
Forest	Existing	10
Monument	Existing	1
NWR ¹	Existing	2
Park	Existing	3
Scenic Riverway	Existing	1
ACE Recreation Area ²	Existing	5
Totals		22

TRAIL TYPE	STATUS	MILES
Federal Trails	Existing	1,427

* See pages 78-85 for acreage totals
¹ National Wildlife Refuge, ² U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Table 16// State areas* & trails

AREA TYPE	STATUS	COUNT
Forest	Existing	145
Park	Existing	34
Park	Planned	1
Recreation Area	Existing	4
SNA	Existing	44
Wayside ²	Existing	11
WMA	Existing	132
Totals		371

TRAIL TYPE	STATUS	MILES
State Trails	Existing	1,303
State Trails	Planned	210
State Water Trails	Existing	1,282

* See page 78-85 for acreage totals
¹ Scientific and Natural Area, ² Wildlife Management Area

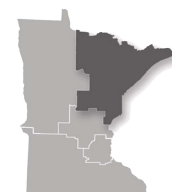


Table 17// Regionally significant areas* & trails

AREA TYPE	STATUS	COUNT
Reg. Sig. Park	Existing	22

TRAIL TYPE	STATUS	MILES
Reg. Sig. Trails	Existing	117
Reg. Sig. Trails	Planned	32
	Total	149

*See page 78-85 for acreage totals

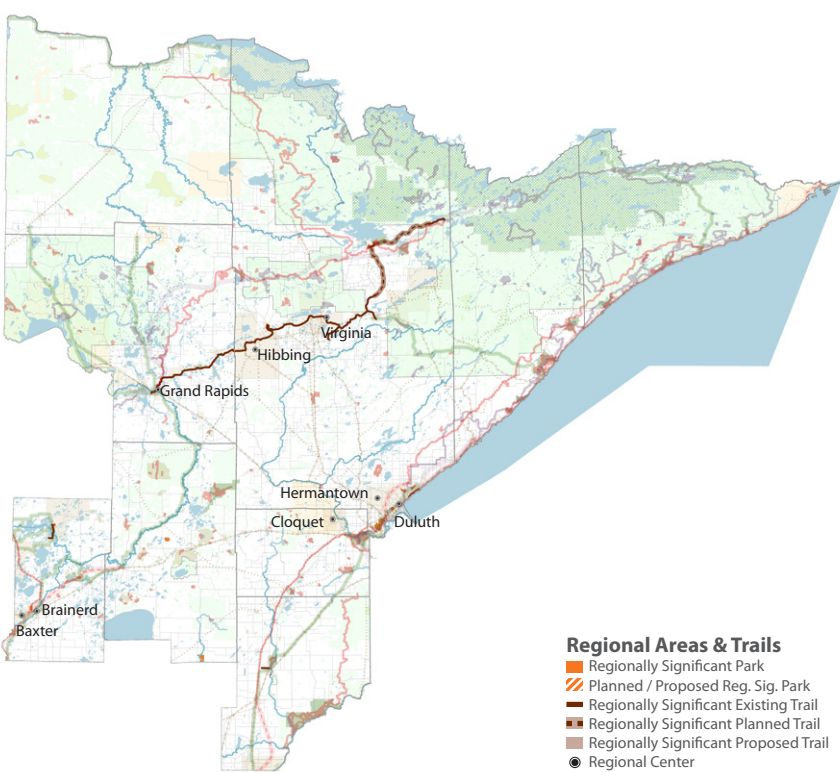


Figure 63 // Northeast region regionally significant areas and trails

The Northeast Region

State Parks & Federal, & State Regionally Significant Trails

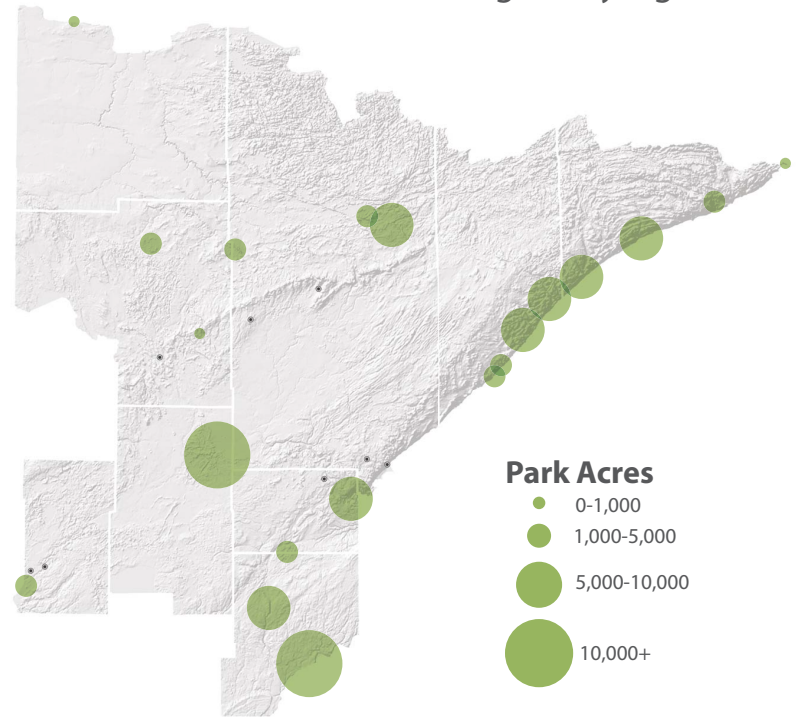


Figure 64 // Northeast region size of state parks

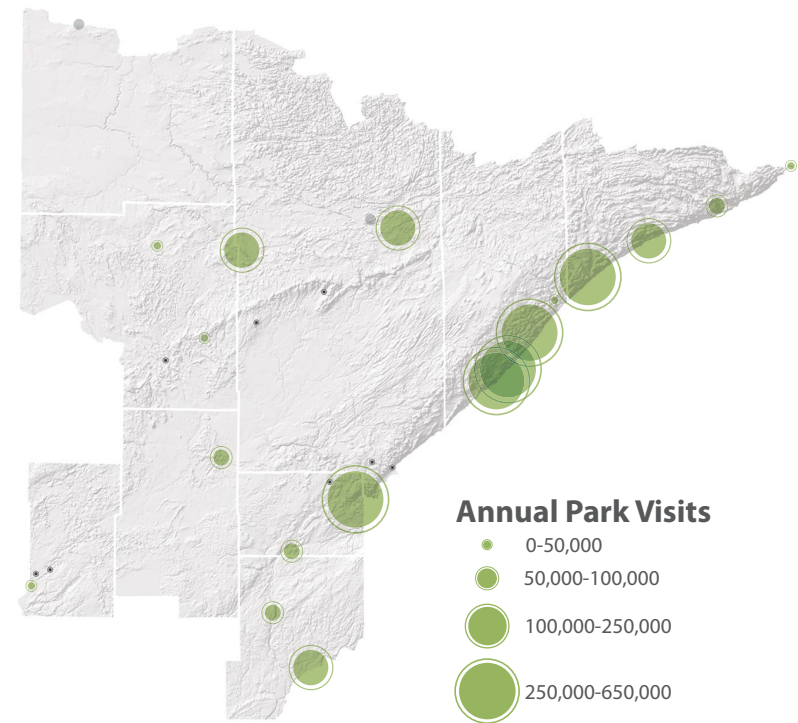


Figure 65 // Northeast region state park annual visits

Table 18 // Size of state parks & annual state park visits

PARK NAME	ACRES	ANNUAL VISITS
Banning State Park	5,081	75,579
Bear Head Lake State Park	4,217	101,568
Cascade River State Park	2,577	139,724
Crow Wing State Park	1,992	48,289
Franz Jevne State Park	85	N/A
George H. Crosby State Park	6,114	26,463
Gooseberry Falls State Park	1,654	590,031
Grand Portage State Park	249	30,073
Hill Annex Mine State Park	614	10,098
Jay Cooke State Park	7,883	253,825
Judge C.R. Magney State Park	4,242	66,334
McCarthy Beach State Park	1,905	149,725
Moose Lake State Park	814	63,910
Savanna Portage State Park	15,164	54,875
Scenic State Park	2,322	48,774
Soudan Underground Mine State Park	1,116	33,410
Split Rock Lighthouse State Park	1,897	343,107
St. Croix State Park	31,767	185,351
Temperance River State Park	1,108	284,201
Tettegouche State Park	8,864	400,355
Vermillion State Park	2,959	N/A
Total	102,623	Total 2,905,692

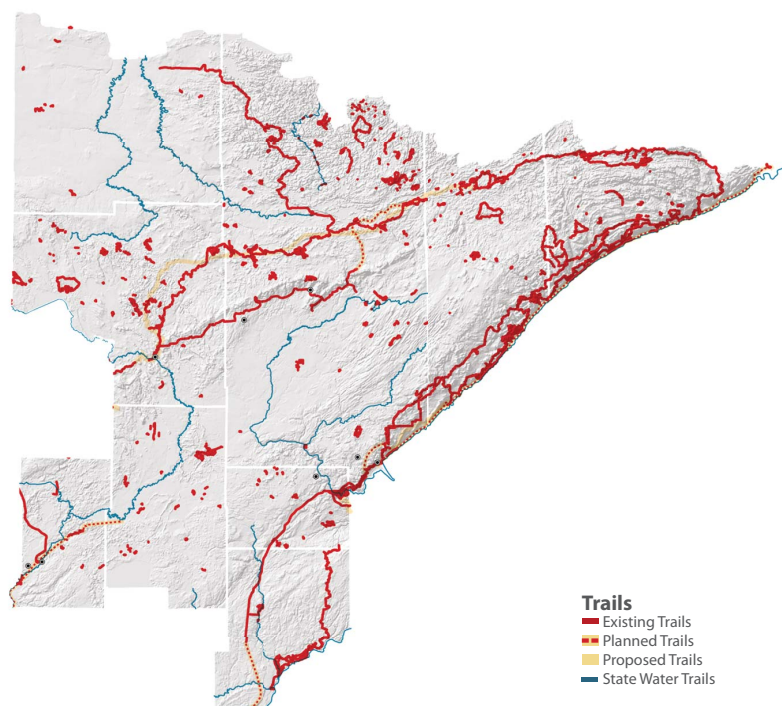
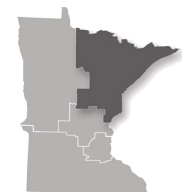


Figure 66 // Northeast region hike, bike, & water trails

Table 19 // Hike, bike, & water trails

TRAIL TYPE	STATUS	MILES
Federal Trails	Existing	1,427
Federal Trails	Proposed	179
Regionally Significant Trails	Existing	117
Regionally Significant Trails	Planned	32
State Trails	Existing	1,303
State Trails	Planned	210
Total		3,268
State Water Trails	Existing	1,282

Table 20 // Snowmobile & OHV trails

TRAIL TYPE	MILES
OHV	957
Snowmobile	5017

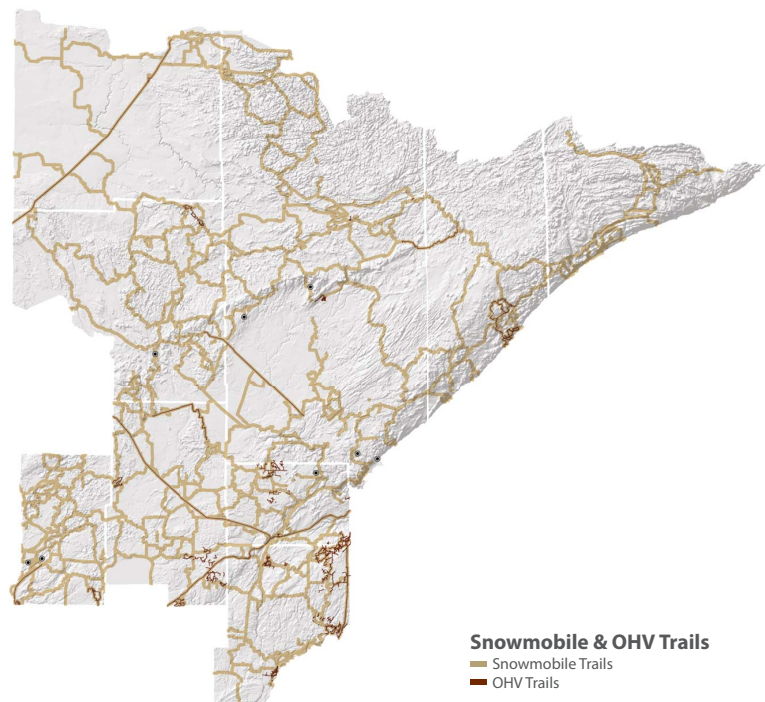


Figure 67 // Northeast region snowmobile and off-highway vehicle trails

The Northwest Region

Combined Network Overview

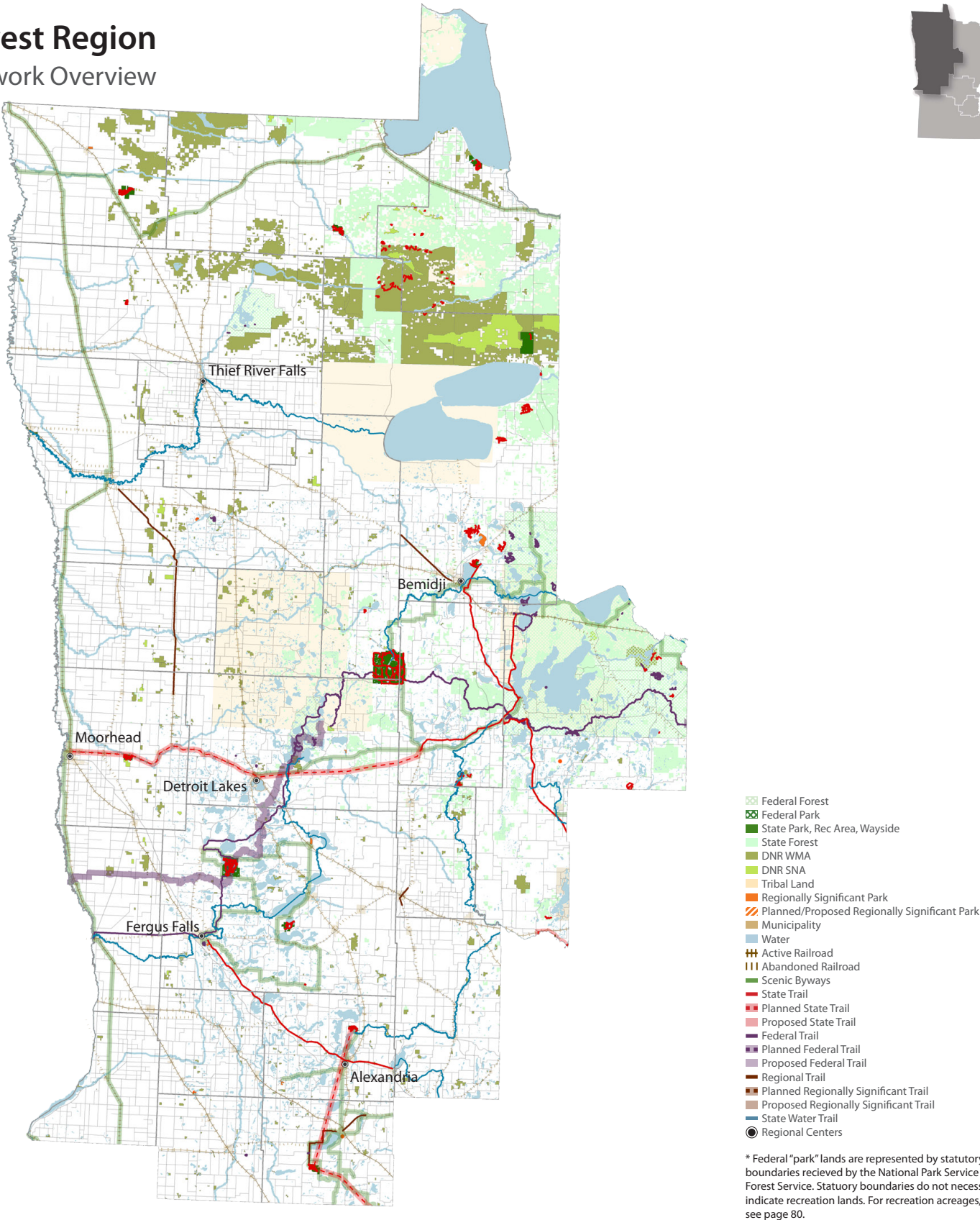
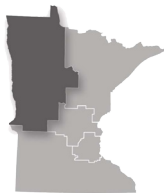


Figure 68 // Northwest region combined federal, state, & regionally significant network of parks & trails

The Northwest Region

Federal, State, & Regionally Significant Areas & Trails

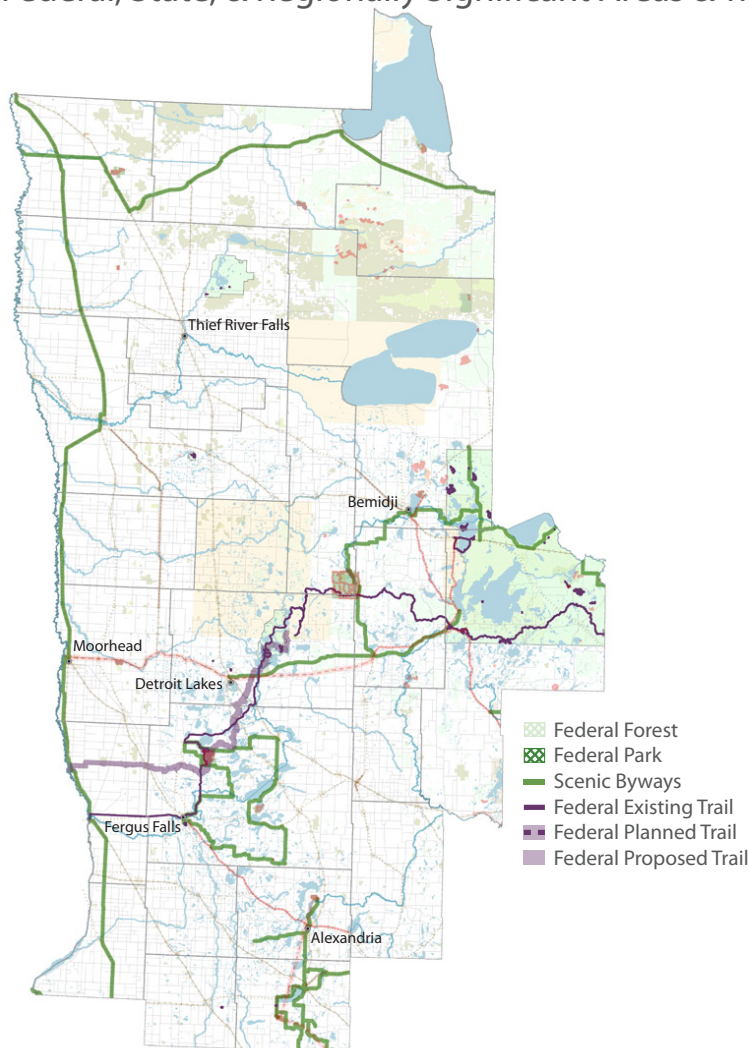


Figure 69 // Northwest region federal areas and trails

Table 21// Federal areas* & trails

AREA TYPE	STATUS	COUNT
Forest	Existing	3
NWR ¹	Existing	5
ACE Recreation Area ²	Existing	4
	Totals	12
TRAIL TYPE	STATUS	MILES
Federal Trails	Existing	568
Federal Trails	Proposed	116
	Total	684

*See pages 78-85 for acreage totals
¹ National Wildlife Refuge, ² U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

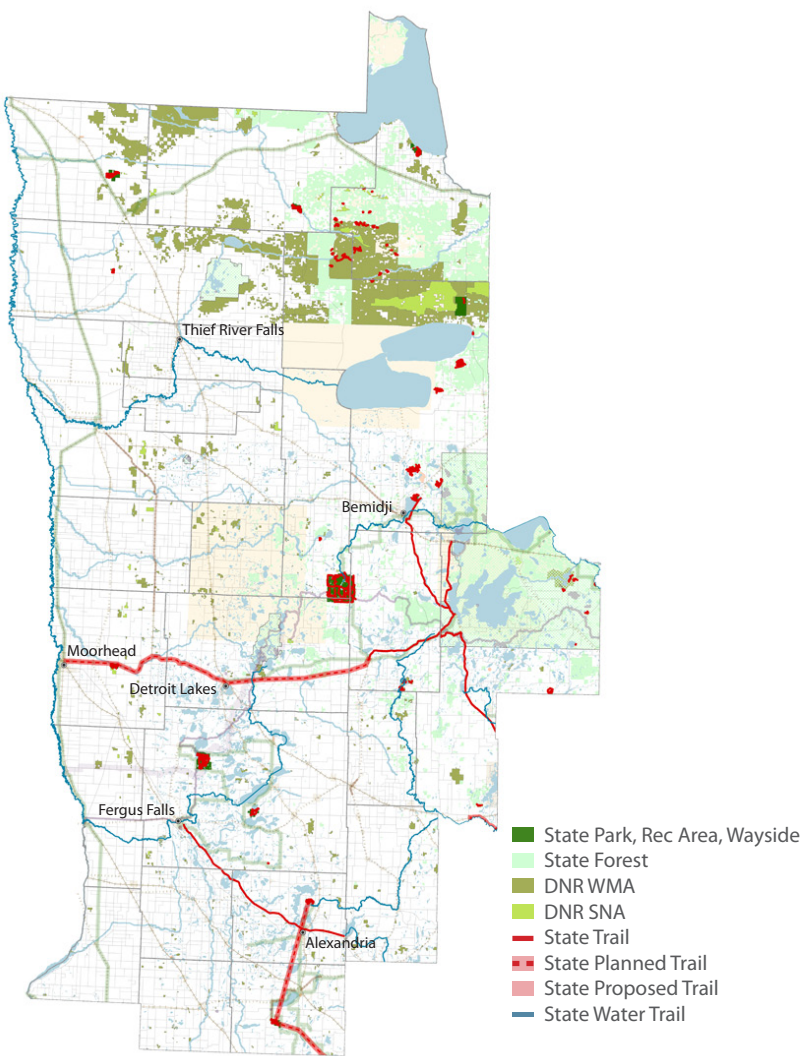


Figure 70 // Northwest region state areas and trails

Table 22// State areas* & trails

AREA TYPE	STATUS	COUNT
Forest	Existing	130
Park	Existing	20
Recreation Area	Existing	11
SNA ¹	Existing	61
Wayside	Existing	3
WMA ²	Existing	584
	Totals	809
TRAIL TYPE	STATUS	MILES
State Trails	Existing	563
State Trails	Planned	142
State Water Trails	Existing	1,175
	Total	1,880

*See page 78-85 for acreage totals
¹Scientific and Natural Area,
² Wildlife Management Area

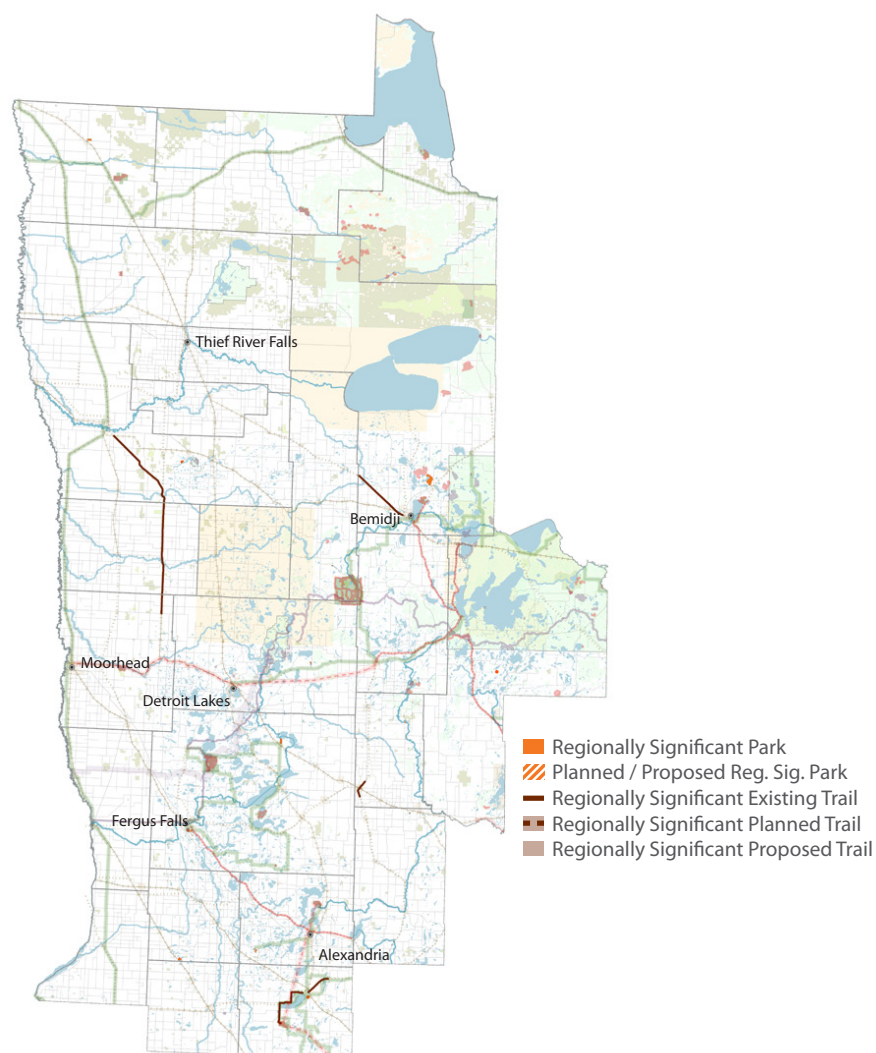
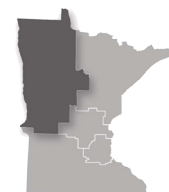


Figure 71 // Northwest region regionally significant areas and trails

Table 23// Regionally significant areas* & trails

AREA TYPE	STATUS	COUNT
Reg. Sig. Park	Existing	22

TRAIL TYPE	STATUS	MILES
Reg. Sig. Trails	Existing	94

*See page 78-85 for acreage totals

The Northwest Region

State Parks & Federal & State Regionally Significant Trails

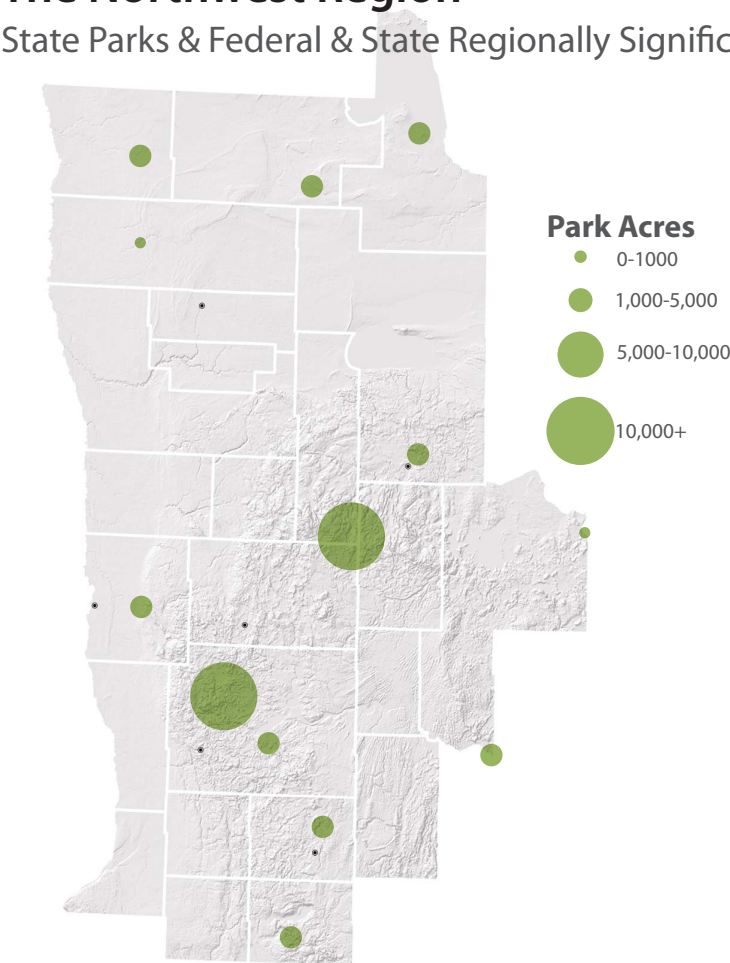


Figure 72 // Northwest region size of state parks

Table 24 // Size of state parks

PARK NAME	ACRES
Buffalo River State Park	1,337
Crow Wing State Park	247
Glacial Lakes State Park	1,910
Glendalough State Park	1,904
Hayes Lake State Park	2,709
Itasca State Park	29,179
Lake Bemidji State Park	1,605
Lake Bronson State Park	2,848
Lake Carlos State Park	1,133
Maplewood State Park	8,055
Old Mill State Park	286
Schoolcraft State Park	124
Zippel Bay State Park	2,695
Total	54,032

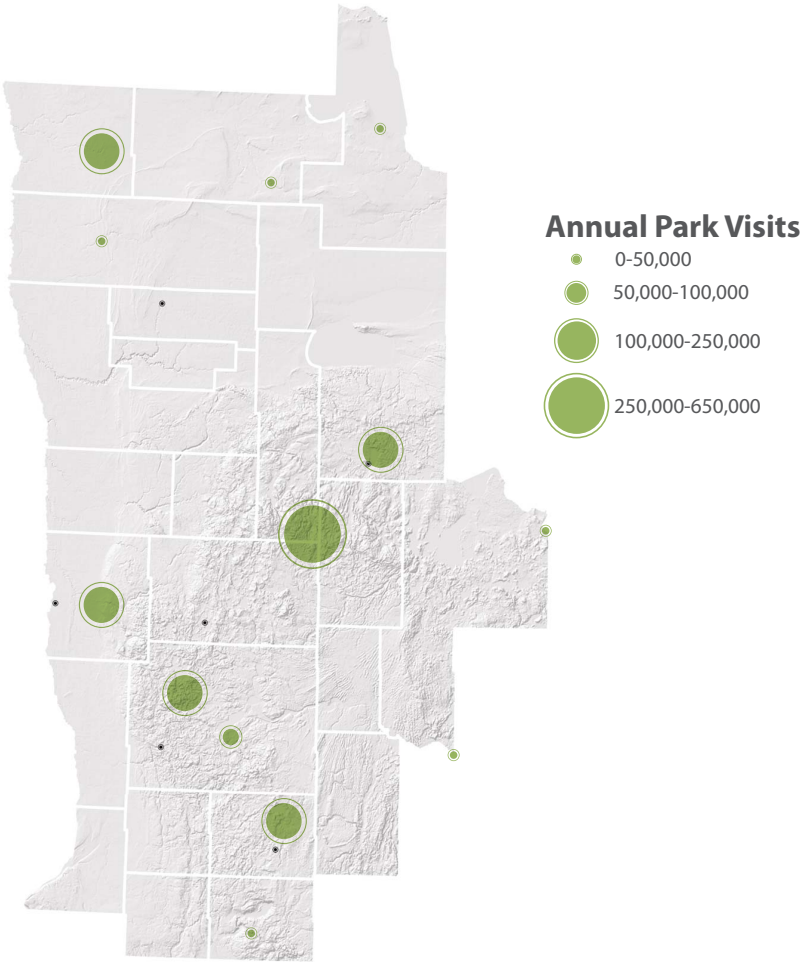


Figure 73 // Northwest region state park annual visits

Table 25 // Annual state park visits

PARK NAME	ANNUAL VISITS
Buffalo River State Park	103,843
Crow Wing State Park	48,289
Glacial Lakes State Park	45,365
Glendalough State Park	51,320
Hayes Lake State Park	28,047
Itasca State Park	496,651
Lake Bemidji State Park	135,902
Lake Bronson State Park	110,975
Lake Carlos State Park	169,169
Maplewood State Park	104,133
Old Mill State Park	14,465
Schoolcraft State Park	5,593
Zippel Bay State Park	23,109
Total	1,336,861

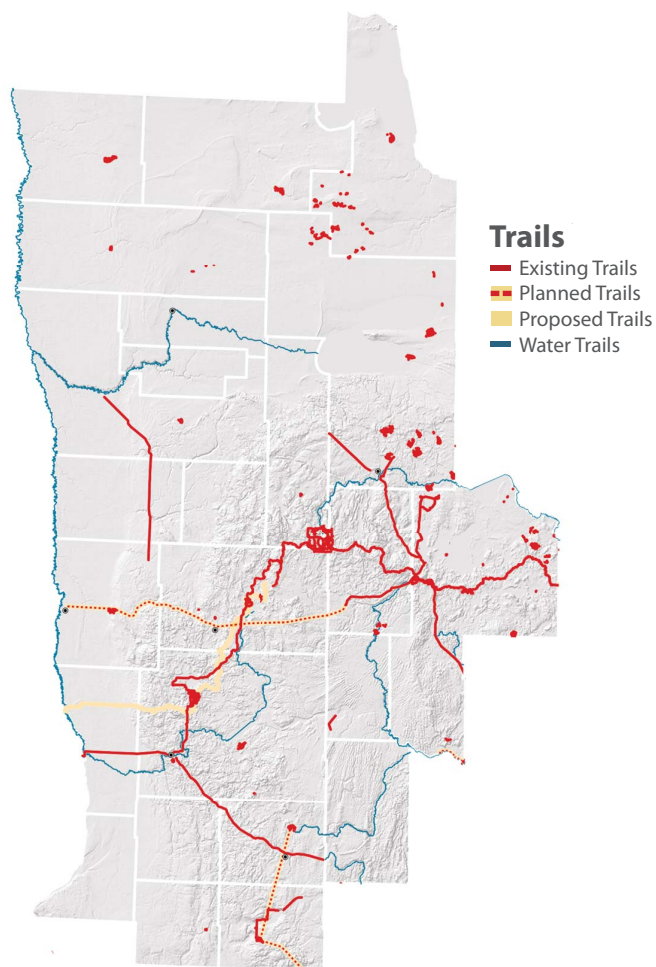


Figure 74 // Northwest region hike, bike, & water trails

Table 26 // Hike, bike, & water trails

TRAIL TYPE	STATUS	MILES
Federal Trails	Existing	568
Federal Trails	Proposed	116
Regionally Significant Trails	Existing	94
State Trails	Existing	563
State Trails	Planned	142
	Total	1,483
State Water Trails	Existing	1,175

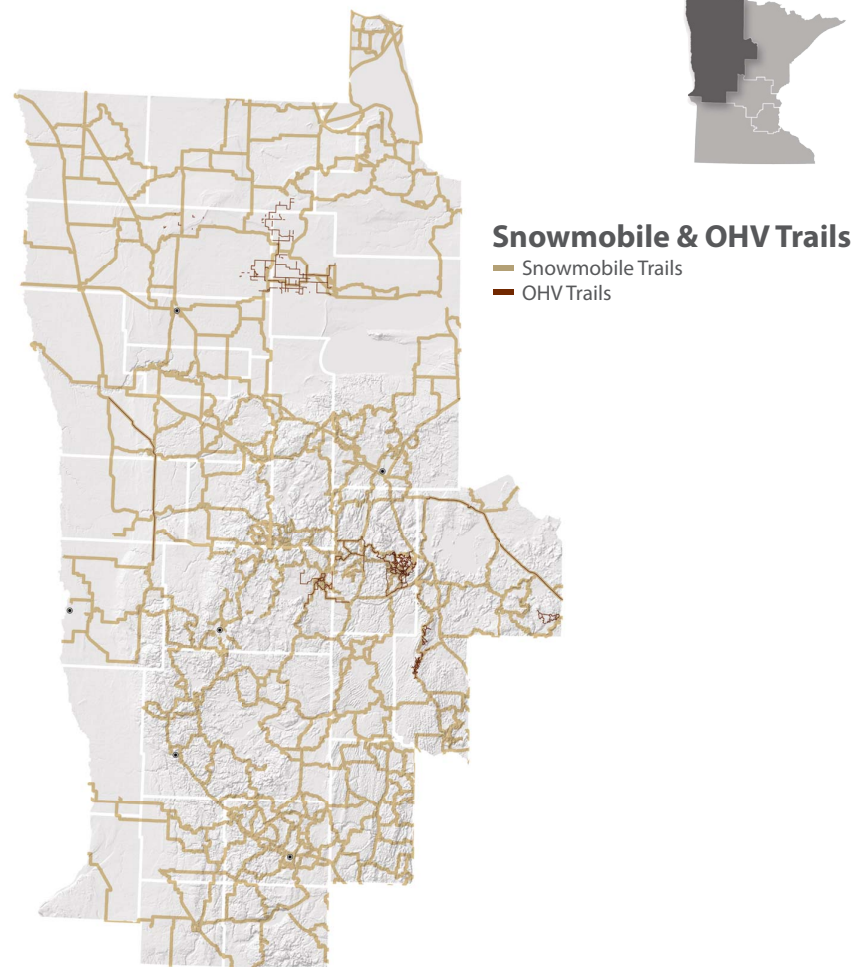


Figure 75 // Northwest region snowmobile and off-highway vehicle trails

Table 27 // Snowmobile & OHV trails

TRAIL TYPE	MILES
OHV	724
Snowmobile	6777

The South Region

Combined Network Overview

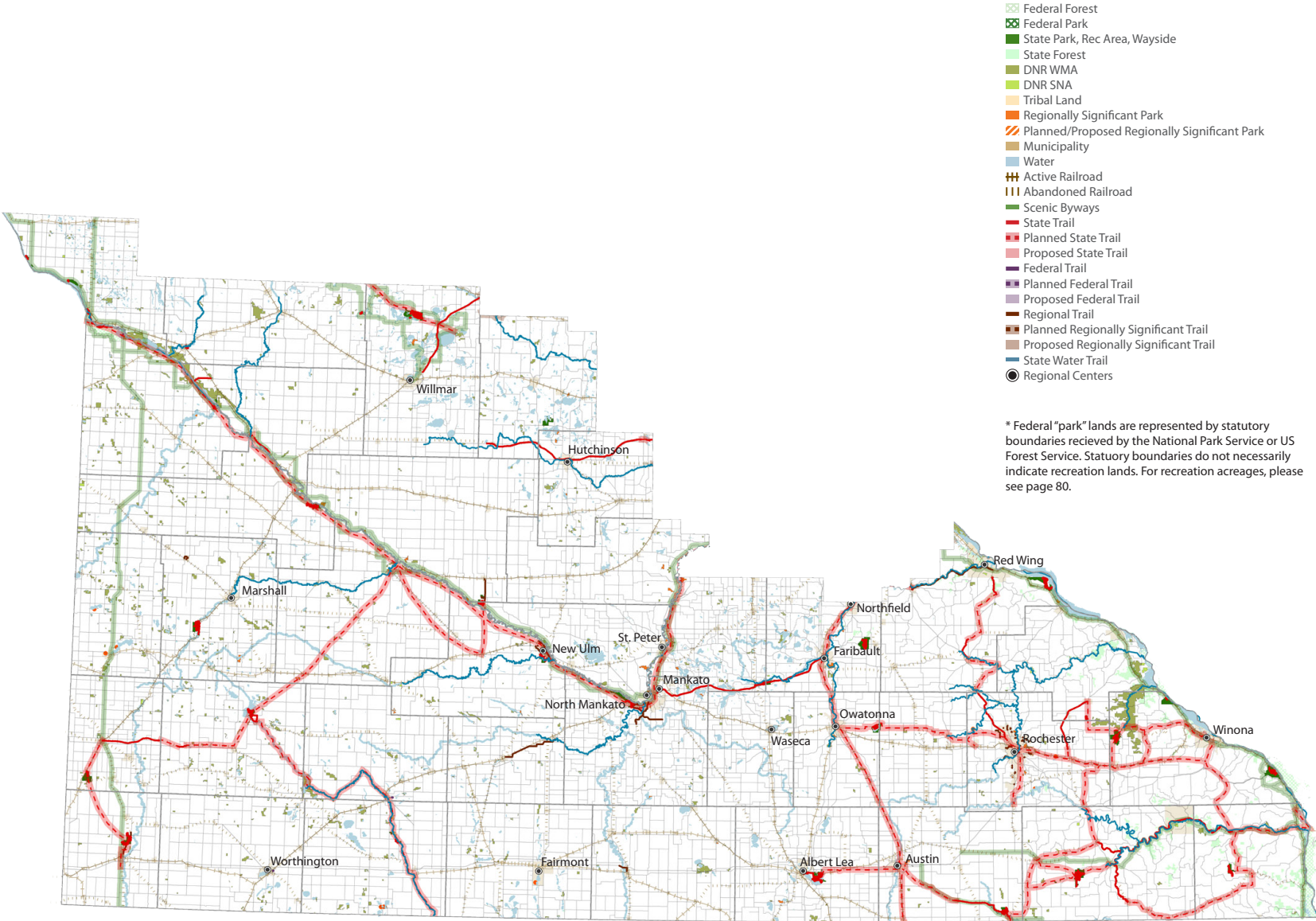
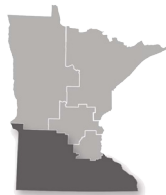


Figure 76 // South region combined federal, state, & regionally significant network of parks & trails

The South Region

Federal, State, & Regionally Significant Areas & Trails

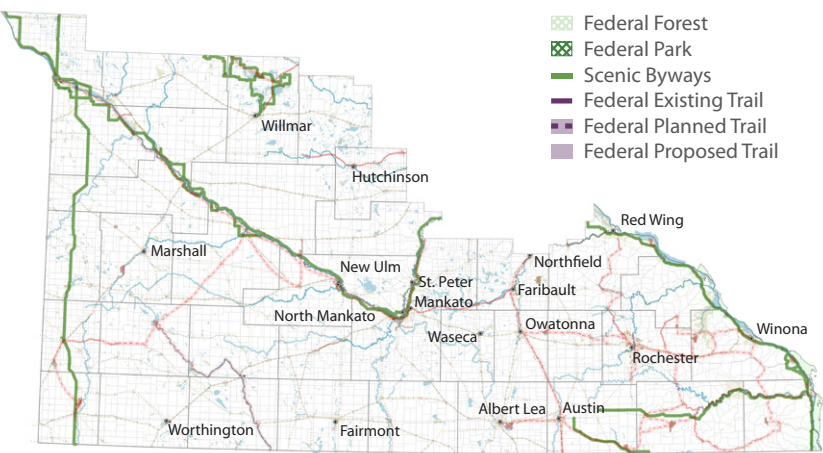


Figure 77 // South region federal areas and trails

Table 28 // Federal areas* & trails

AREA TYPE	STATUS	COUNT
Monument	Existing	1
NWR ¹	Existing	35
ACE Recreation Area ²	Existing	7
	Totals	43

TRAIL TYPE	STATUS	MILES
Federal Trails	Existing	2

* See pages 78-85 for acreage totals
¹ National Wildlife Refuge, ² U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Table 29 // State areas* & trails

AREA TYPE	STATUS	COUNT
Forest	Existing	42
Park	Existing	41
Recreation Area	Proposed	2
SNA ¹	Existing	57
Wayside	Existing	1
WMA ²	Existing	884
	Totals	1027

TRAIL TYPE	STATUS	MILES
State Trails	Existing	511
State Trails	Planned	838
State Water Trails	Existing	1,263
	Total	2,612

* See page 78-85 for acreage totals
¹ Scientific and Natural Area, ² Wildlife Management Area



Figure 78 // South region state areas and trails



Table 30 // Regionally significant areas* & trails

AREA TYPE	STATUS	COUNT
Reg. Sig. Park	Existing	52
Reg. Sig. Park	Planned	1
	Total	53

TRAIL TYPE	STATUS	MILES
Reg. Sig. Trails	Existing	84
Reg. Sig. Trails	Proposed	2
	Total	86

*See page 78-85 for acreage totals

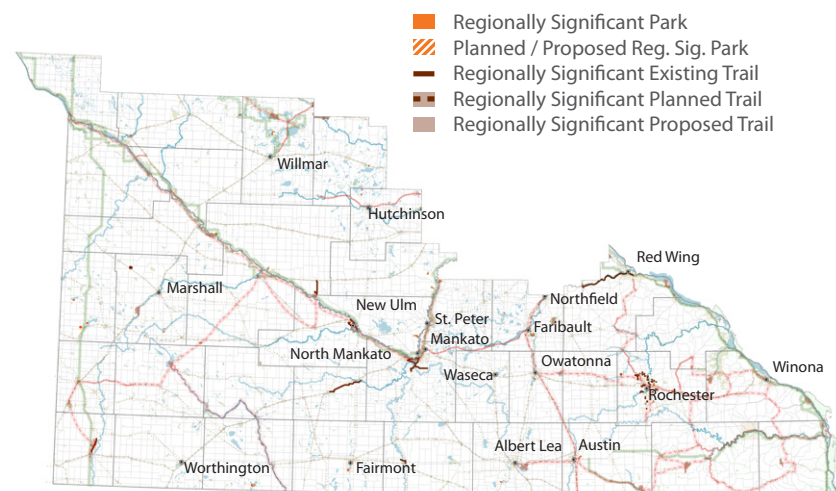


Figure 79 // South region regionally significant areas and trails

The South Region

State Parks & Federal, & State Regionally Significant Trails

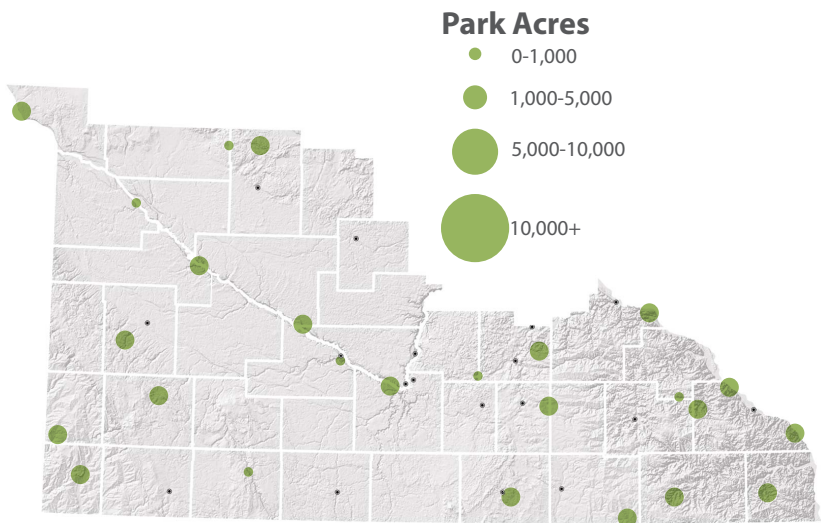


Figure 80 // South region size of state parks

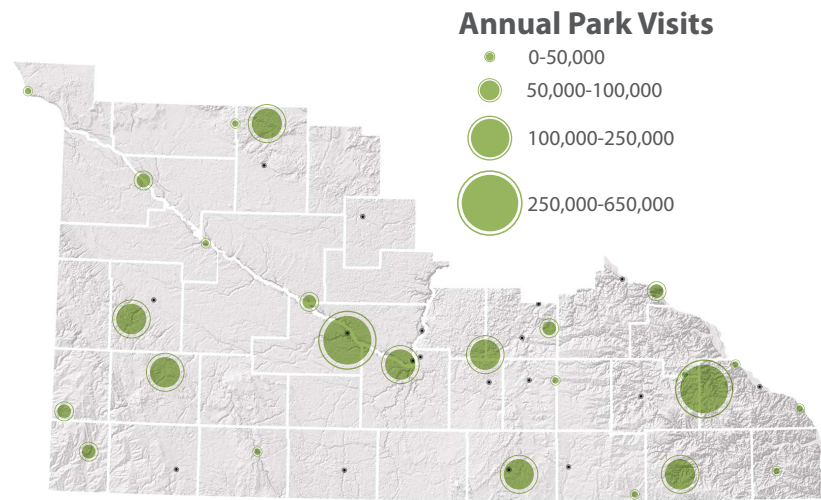


Figure 81 // South region state park annual visits

Table 31 // Size of state parks & annual state park visits

PARK NAME	ACRES	ANNUAL VISITS
Beaver Creek Valley State Park	726	45,474
Big Stone Lake State Park	1,009	46,000
Blue Mounds State Park	1,586	80,603
Camden State Park	1,788	102,674
Carley State Park	207	17,595
Flandrau State Park	808	254,650
Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park	2,856	133,756
Fort Ridgely State Park	550	59,449
Frontenac State Park	2,314	97,642
Great River Bluffs State Park	2,126	44,671
John A. Latsch State Park	376	15,503
Kilen Woods State Park	215	13,349
Lac qui Parle State Park	780	71,396
Lake Louise State Park	846	38,596
Lake Shetek State Park	816	120,000
Minneopa State Park	1,524	106,800
Monson Lake State Park	175	15,503
Myre-Big Island State Park	1,614	130,083
Nerstrand Big Woods State Park	1,614	75,594
Rice Lake State Park	779	47,558
Sakatah Lake State Park	730	104,732
Sibley State Park	2,580	2,509
Split Rock Creek State Park	952	57,260
Upper Sioux Agency State Park	1,075	42,459
Whitewater State Park	1,946	292,413
Total	29,990	Total 2,016,269

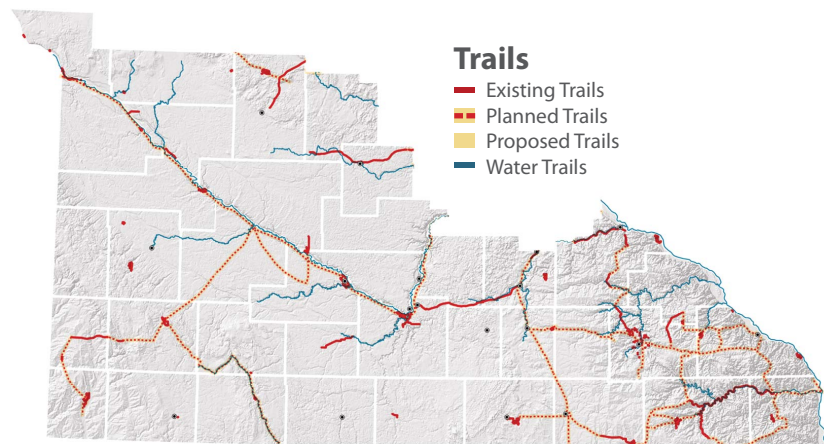
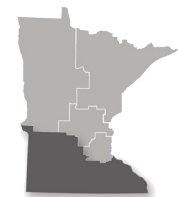


Figure 82 // South region hike, bike, & water trails

Table 32 // Hike, bike, & water trails

TRAIL TYPE	STATUS	MILES
Federal Trails	Existing	2
Regionally Significant Trails	Existing	84
Regionally Significant Trails	Proposed	2
State Trails	Existing	511
State Trails	Planned	838
	Total	1,437
State Water Trails	Existing	1,263

Table 33 // Snowmobile & OHV trails

TRAIL TYPE	MILES
OHV	73
Snowmobile	6761



Figure 83 // South region snowmobile and off-highway vehicle trails

Statewide Physical Setting Inventory

Authors: Center for Changing Landscapes Staff & Andrew Oftedal

// Federal, State and Regionally Significant Outdoor Recreational Resources

Statewide Physical Setting Inventory

- // *The state natural resource-based recreation areas include state parks, recreation areas, waysides, scientific and natural areas, wildlife management areas, and state forests.*
- // *The federal government manages national parks, national scenic rivers, national wildlife refuges, national monuments, national recreation areas and national forests in Minnesota.*
- // *More land and developed facilities for outdoor recreation are available in the northern regions of the state than in other regions.*
- // *Trails accomodate a variety of uses.*

Overview

Minnesota offers recreation opportunities in many types of settings (e.g., parks, trails, forests and other recreation areas) administered at multiple government levels including city, county, state and federal. The inventory encompassed regionally significant parks and trails (as determined by the 10/25 Parks and Trails Legacy Plan Steering Committee, January 2010, see Appendix C for more information), as well as state and federally protected areas that offer recreation opportunities (Table 34).

Table 34 // Regional acreage of natural resource-based recreational land as of 2010, by management type

REGION	REGIONAL ¹	STATE	FEDERAL	TOTAL
Central	7,741	172,061	34,557	214,359
Metro	50,121	49,612	12,735	112,468
Northeast	12,714	5,115,058	2,686,049	7,813,821
Northwest	6,166	2,894,114	461,627	3,361,907
South	10,861	283,006	49,739	343,606
State	87,603	8,513,851	3,244,707	11,846,161

Note: Regional¹ = “regionally significant” as defined by the DNR 10/25 Steering Committee and identified in the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources Greater Minnesota Park Inventory Regional Park Criteria Final Report (January 2005), Metropolitan Council 2010 Regional Parks list, and DNR Grant Recipient list (see appendix C)

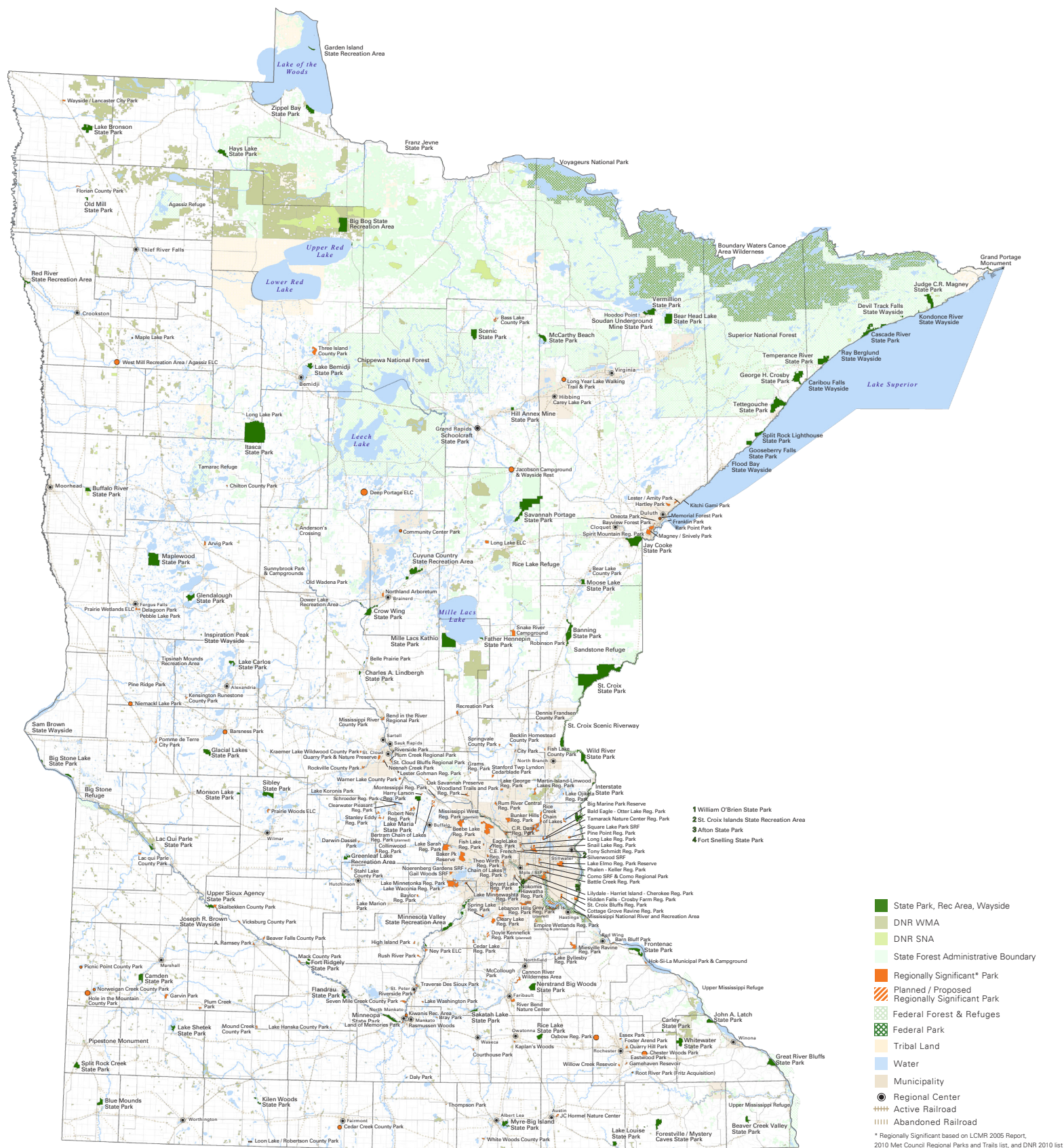


Figure 84 // Federal, state, & regionally significant areas

Statewide Physical Setting Inventory

State Lands

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages 8,513,851 acres of a variety of park types providing different forms of natural resource-based recreation (Table 35). Minnesota’s state parks, recreation areas, and waysides, accounting for 231,204 acres, preserve Minnesota’s natural and cultural resources, present educational opportunities for visitors, and provide a range of recreational opportunities. Scientific and Natural Areas, which account for 184,410 acres, preserve natural features and rare resources

of value and provide opportunities for observation and environmental education. Wildlife Management Areas, which account for 1,284,421 acres, protect key habitat for Minnesota’s wildlife, and provide opportunities for wildlife viewing and upland, waterfowl, and deer hunting. State Forests, which account for 6,813,816 acres, preserve Minnesota’s forested lands and provide a large and diverse range of recreational activities.

Table 35 // Regional acreage of state-managed land as of 2010

REGION	STATE FOREST ¹	SCIENTIFIC & NATURAL AREA	STATE PARK	RECREATION AREA	STATE WAYSIDE	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA	TOTAL
Central	65,145	4,528	19,112	-	-	83,276	172,061
Metro	7,095	2,574	5,835	4,465	-	29,643	49,612
Northeast	4,847,680	69,014	101,507	4,626	533	91,698	5,115,058
Northwest	1,848,644	100,647	54,032	11,017	84	879,690	2,894,114
South	45,252	7,647	29,990	-	3	200,114	283,006
State	6,813,816	184,410	210,476	20,108	620	1,284,421	8,513,851

Note: 1 = Includes approximately 2.9 million acres of county administered forest lands

Figure 84 // State recreation areas

Statewide Physical Setting Inventory

Federal Lands

The Federal Government manages 3,244,707 acres of lands and waters in Minnesota that offer recreational opportunities (Table 36). The U.S. Department of the Interior manages National Monuments, National Parks, National Recreation Areas, National Scenic Rivers, and National Wildlife Refuges. National Monuments, which account for 998 of the acres, are landmarks, structures, or other objects of historic or scientific interest open to recreation and educational opportunities. National Parks, which account for 204,587 acres, are generally large areas with a variety of natural, historical, and recreational attributes. Hunting and mining activities are prohibited in National Parks. National Recreation Areas, which account for 62 acres, generally emphasize water-based recreation and preserve significant historic and natural resources. The Mississippi National River and

Recreation Area is managed in partnership multiple local governments, state agencies, and organizations. National Scenic Rivers (NSR) preserve rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreation values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of the public. Minnesota’s sole NSR, the Saint Croix, encompasses 5,472 acres. National Wildlife Refuges, which account for 221,688 acres, are lands designed to conserve, manage, and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitat, and provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, observation, photography, education, and interpretation. In addition to the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Department of Agriculture manages 2,811,900 acres of National Forests in Minnesota, which provide a wide range of recreation opportunities.

Table 36 // Regional acreage of federally-managed land as of 2010

REGION	NATIONAL FOREST	NATIONAL MONUMENT	NATIONAL PARK	NATIONAL RECREATION AREA	NATIONAL SCENIC RIVER	NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE	TOTAL
Central	-	-	-	-	2,472	32,085	34,557
Metro	-	-	-	62	947	11,726	12,735
Northeast	2,458,500	714	204,587	-	2,053	20,195	2,686,049
Northwest	353,400	-	-	-	-	108,227	461,627
South	-	284	-	-	-	49,455	49,739
State	2,811,900	998	204,587	62	5,472	221,688	3,244,707

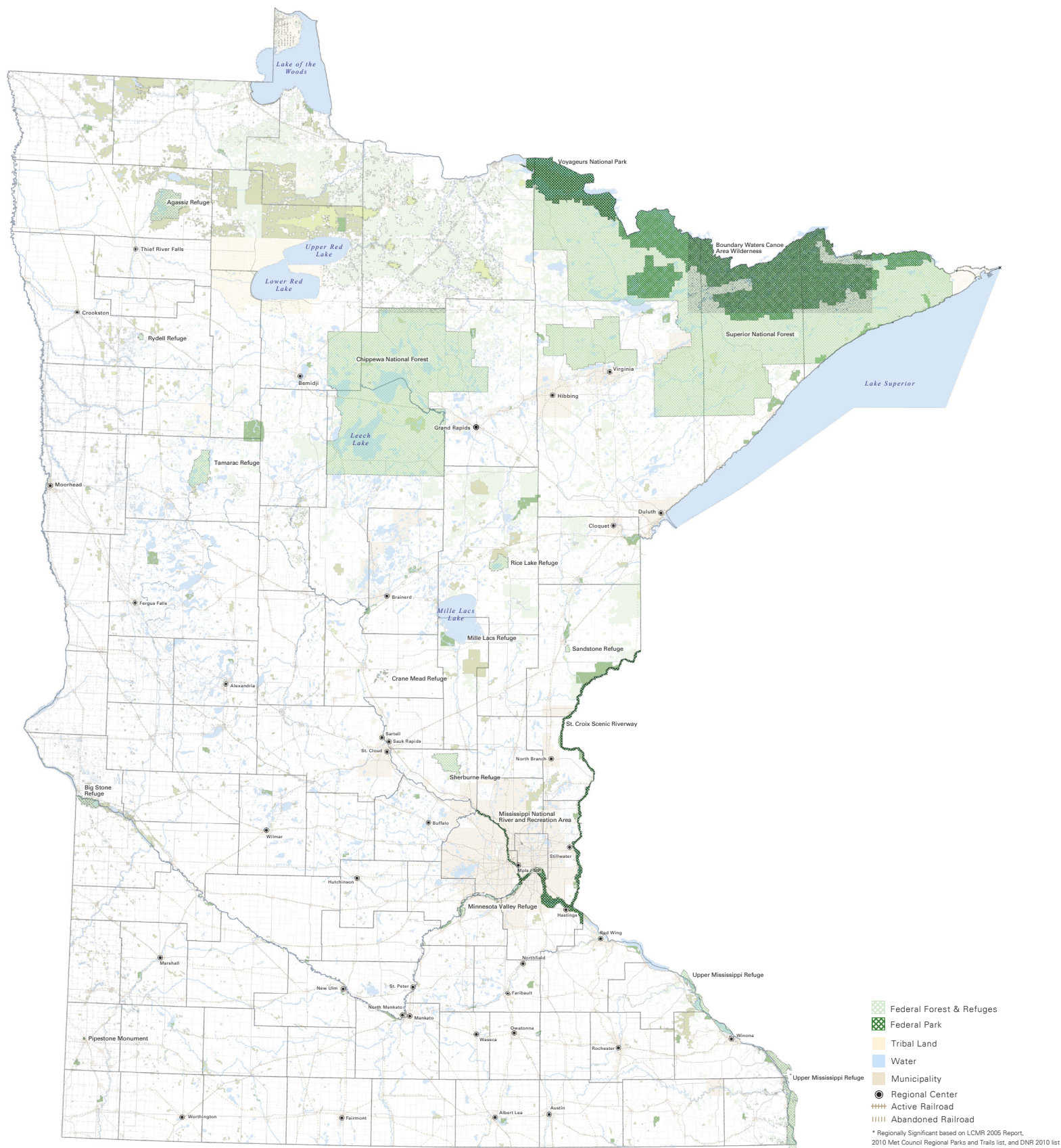


Figure 84 // Federal recreation areas

Statewide Physical Setting Inventory

Statewide Trails

Minnesota is home to 11,198 total miles of summer trails for recreationists to experience (Table 37). While the majority of trails are land-based and provide opportunities for hiking, jogging, biking, and inline skating, 4,392 miles of trails offer access to the supply of water resources across the state. Additionally, 23,100 miles of trails, mainly snowmobile trails, exist for winter use.

Table 37 // Regional mileage of trails as of 2010, by type

REGION	SUMMER NON-MOTORIZED	RECREATION MOTOR VEHICLES	STATE WATER TRAILS	SUMMER OVERALL	WINTER NON-MOTORIZED	SNOWMOBILE	WINTER OVERALL
Central	225	64	542	832	82	2,260	2,342
Metro	399	-	270	680	103	990	1,093
Northeast	2,695	957	1,282	4,934	696	5,017	5,713
Northwest	1,071	724	1,175	2,970	106	6,777	6,883
South	597	73	1,263	1,933	308	6,761	7,069
State	4,988	1,818	4,392	11,198	1,295	21,805	23,100

Note: Includes Federal, state, and regionally significant trails.

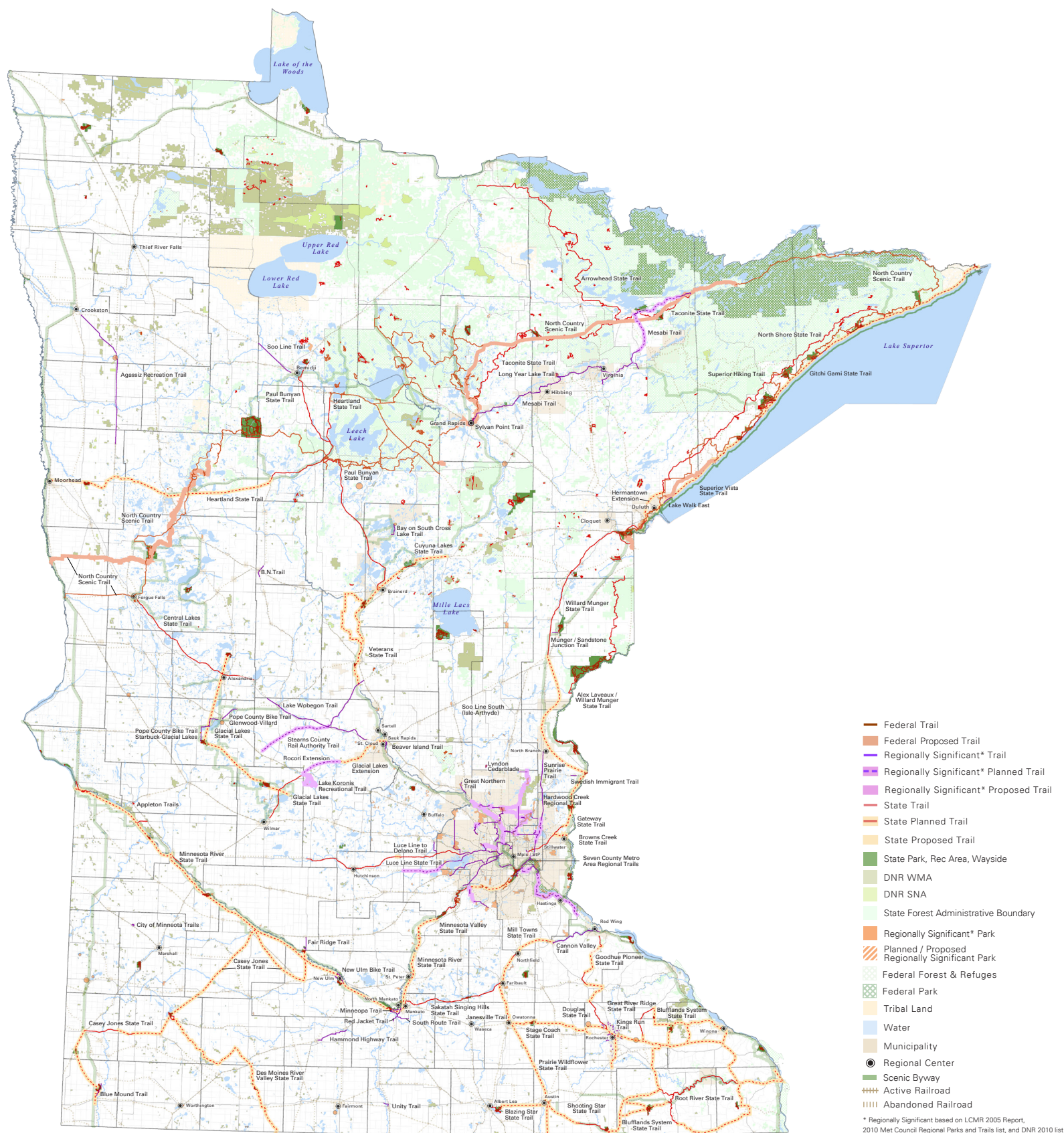


Figure 84 // Federal, state, and regionally significant trails (see appendix d, pg 117 for snowmobile and ohv trails)

Statewide Physical Setting Inventory

Select Amenities

Developed infrastructure facilitates environmental education, picnicking, camping, fishing, and other activities in Minnesota. As with the acreage totals, the northern regions of the state have the greatest number of these attributes (Table 38). Notably, the number of camping, fishing, and learning facilities in the South Region is similar to the Northwest and Northeast Regions. For additional statewide physical inventory setting maps, refer to Appendix D.

Table 38 // Number of sites with select attributes as of 2010, by region

REGION	CAMPING FACILITIES, ANY TYPE	DEVELOPED CAMPING, ANY TYPE	DEVELOPED CAMPING, RV/CAMPER	DEVELOPED CAMPING, ACCESSIBLE CAMPSITES	GROUP CAMPING	PRIMITIVE CAMPING
Central	20	14	10	3	10	11
Metro	18	17	11	8	12	7
Northeast	69	36	26	15	17	57
Northwest	54	32	22	10	18	36
South	55	51	42	16	21	22
State	201	145	108	51	75	121

Table 38, continued // Number of sites with select attributes as of 2010, by region

REGION	PICNIC AREA	FISHING PIER	PLAY GROUND	VISITOR CENTER	EQUIPMENT RENTAL
Central	32	8	15	12	12
Metro	68	27	41	17	12
Northeast	50	15	14	56	51
Northwest	51	19	22	34	34
South	65	11	35	21	22
State	256	79	127	126	117



Recreation Experience Inventory

Authors: Mae Davenport, Ingrid Schneider, Andrew Oftedal, and Cindy Zerger

// Activity Participation
// Experiences Sought
// Recreation Conflicts Encountered
// Response to Conflict

Recreation Experience Inventory

- // Most Minnesotans report that outdoor recreation is important to them.
- // People participate in outdoor recreation for a number of reasons, including experiencing nature, being with friends and family, and being active.
- // Trail use, swimming and cultural site visits are more frequent among Metro Region residents
- // Hunting, fishing, camping, and off-road driving are more frequent among northern Minnesotans
- // The few who experience recreation conflict generally manage it themselves.

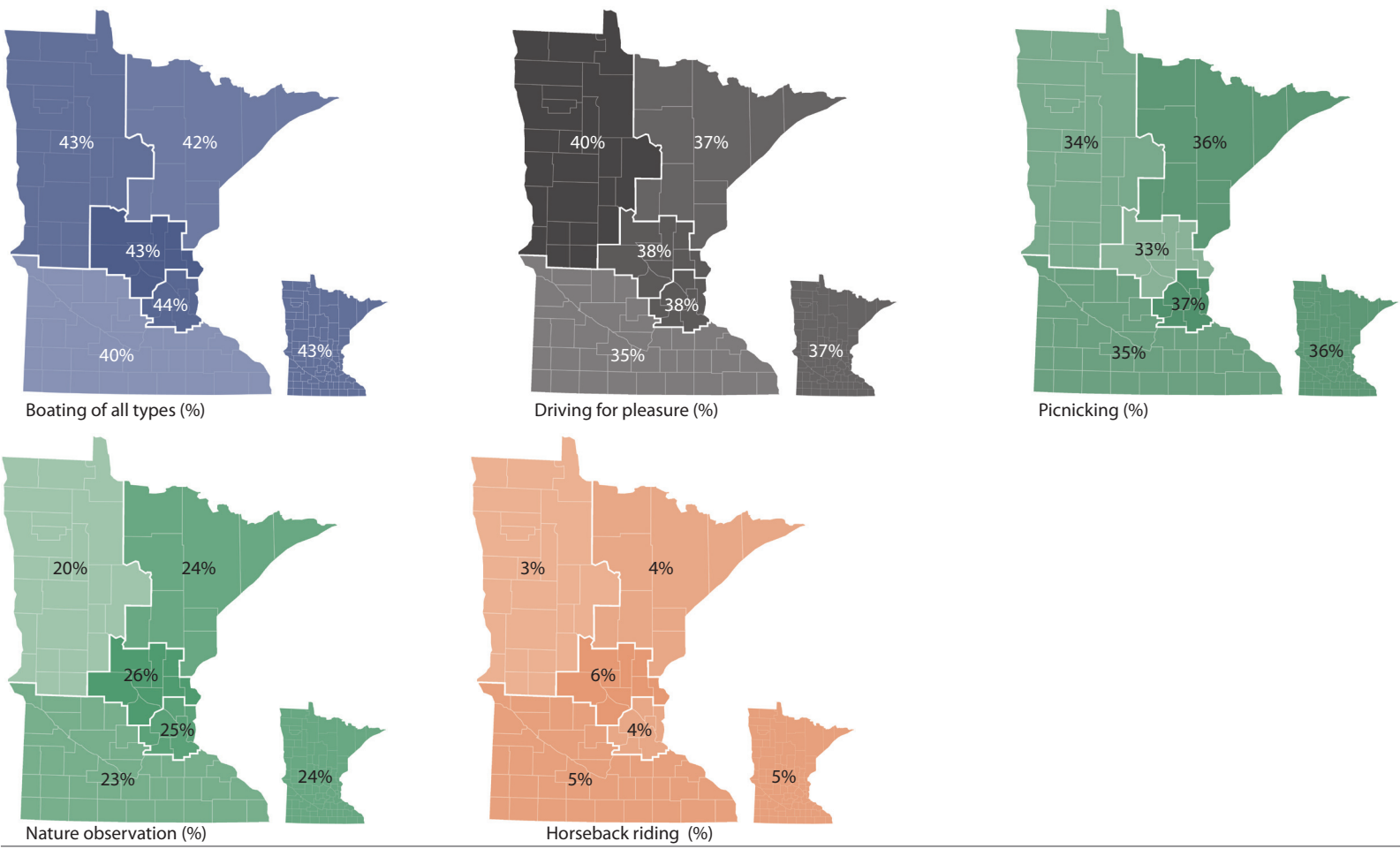
Activity Participation

Outdoor recreation is an important part of life for Minnesotans. A recent statewide outdoor recreation study found that 80% of Minnesota residents claim outdoor recreation is at least “moderately important” in their life (Kelly, 2005). The study found that although participation rates vary by activity and location, overall a wide variety of activities are participated in across

the state. Participation rates for boating, driving for pleasure, picnicking, nature observation, and horseback riding are similar in each region.

Participation rates in other activities seem to depend on the specific biophysical, socio-demographic, and/or infrastructure characteristics of

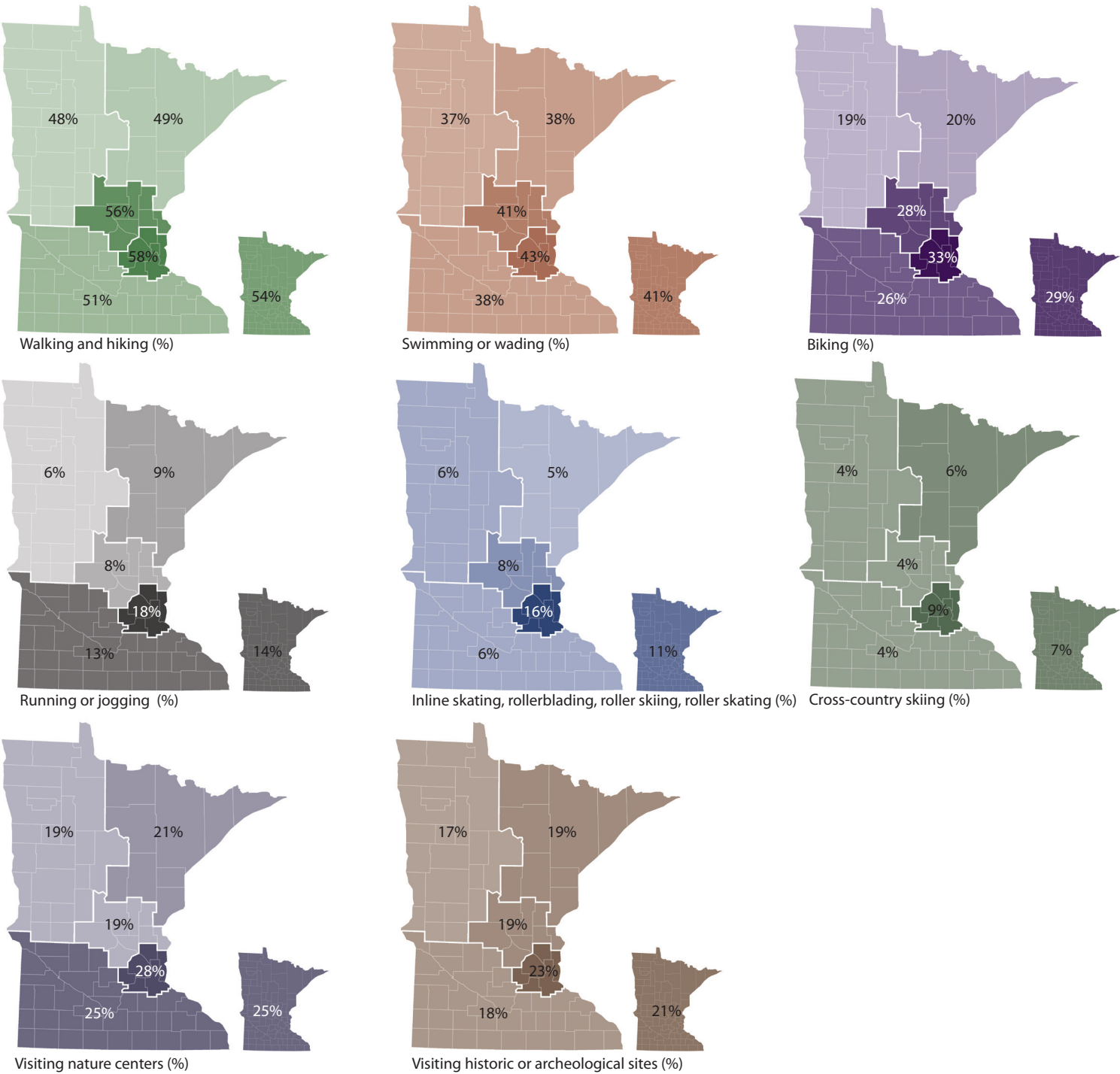
Figure 85 // Regional and statewide participation of select activities with similar participation rates across Minnesota



Note: Data based on sample of population 20 years of age and older. From 2004 Outdoor Recreation Participation Survey of Minnesotans: Report on Findings. By T. Kelly, 2005, Saint Paul, MN: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Office of Management and Budget Services.

each. Activities that have developed infrastructure (e.g., trail systems, water parks, cultural attractions) are more frequently reported by residents in urban areas. Trail activities such as walking, jogging, biking, inline skating, and cross-country skiing have higher participation rates in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area than in rural Minnesota (Figure 85). Likewise, participation in swimming (likely dependent upon proximity to beaches and built water environments) and visiting developed cultural sites (e.g., nature centers, historic sites) is higher among residents in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area (Figure 86).

Figure 86 // Regional and statewide participation of select activities with greater participation rates in Metro Region



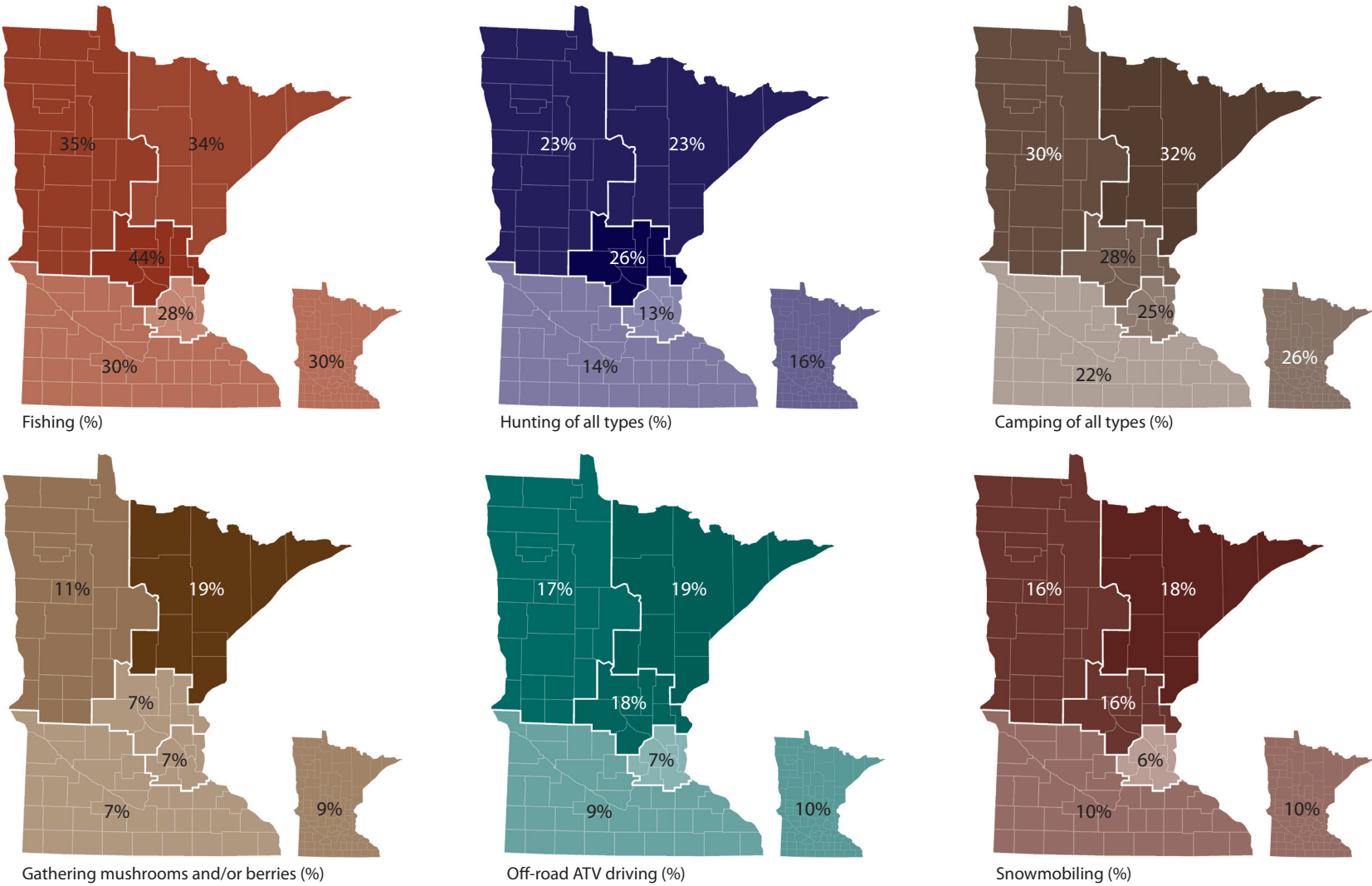
Note: Data based on sample of population 20 years of age and older. From 2004 Outdoor Recreation Participation Survey of Minnesotans: Report on Findings. By T. Kelly, 2005, Saint Paul, MN: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Office of Management and Budget Services.

Recreation Experience Inventory

Activity Participation

Inversely, some activities are dependent upon remoteness, climate, and/or populations of flora and fauna. Such activities have higher participation rates in northern Minnesota, where low population densities, numerous lakes, and acres of federally- and state-protected land provides opportunity (Figure 87). Participation rates in hunting, fishing, and mushroom/berry gathering activities are all higher in northern Minnesota than other regions. Camping and off-road all-terrain vehicle driving are activities more frequently reported by residents of northern Minnesota than those living in southern Minnesota, as are winter activities of snowmobiling and snowshoeing.

Figure 87 // Regional and statewide participation of select activities with greater participation rates in Northwest and Northeast Regions

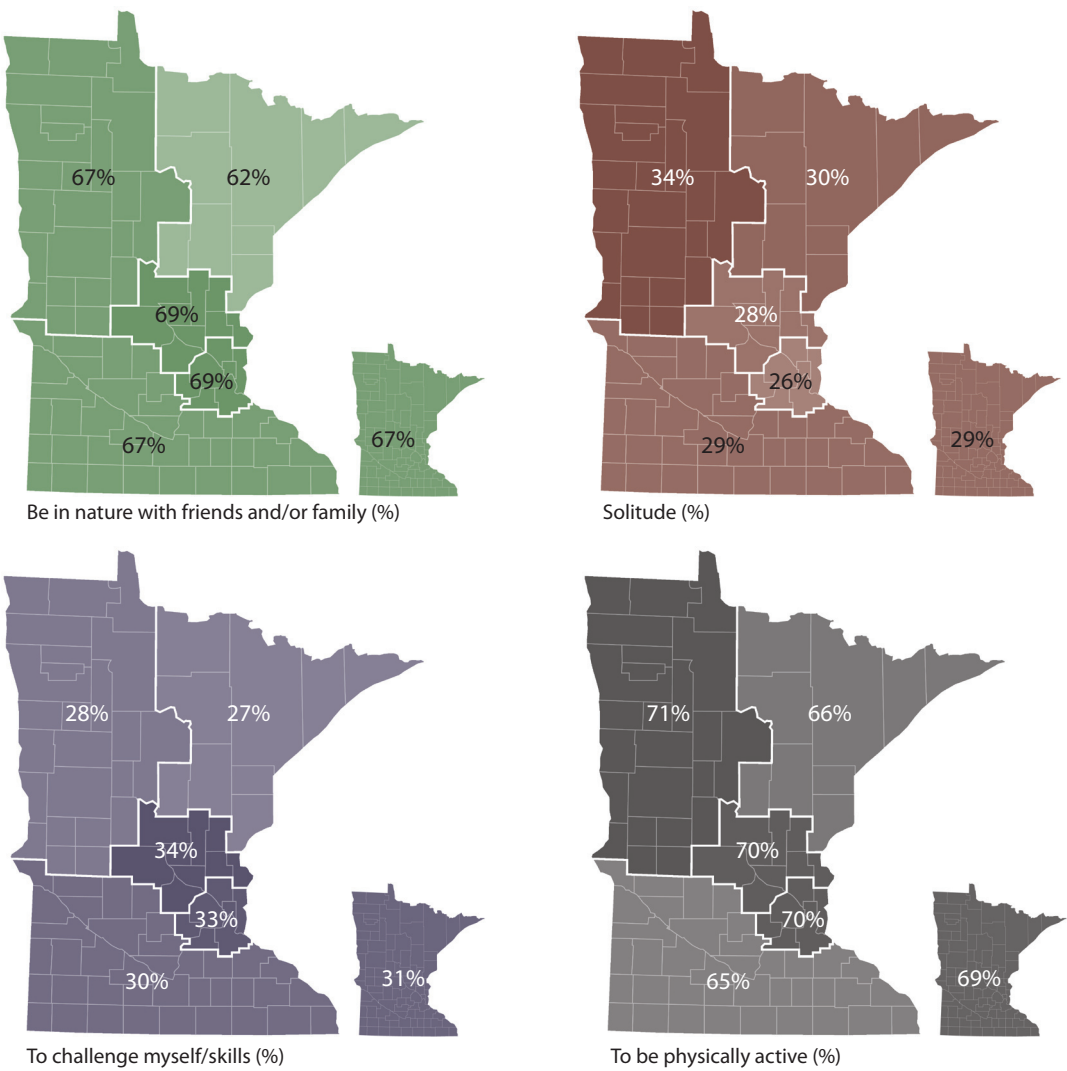


Note: Data based on sample of population 20 years of age and older. From 2004 Outdoor Recreation Participation Survey of Minnesotans: Report on Findings. By T. Kelly, 2005, Saint Paul, MN: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Office of Management and Budget Services.

Experiences Sought

The reasons people engage in outdoor recreation are well documented: they want to experience nature, be with friends and family, escape typical daily demands, and be physically active (Driver, 2008). A statewide trail study (Schneider, Schuweiler, & Bipes, 2009) found similar motivations. The reasons people take part in outdoor recreation tend to be similar across the state (Figure 88).

Figure 88 // Regional and statewide experiences sought



Note: From Profile of 2008 Recreation Trail Users. By I.E. Schneider, Schuweiler, A. & Bipes, T. (2009). Saint Paul, MN: University of Minnesota, Department of Forest Resources.

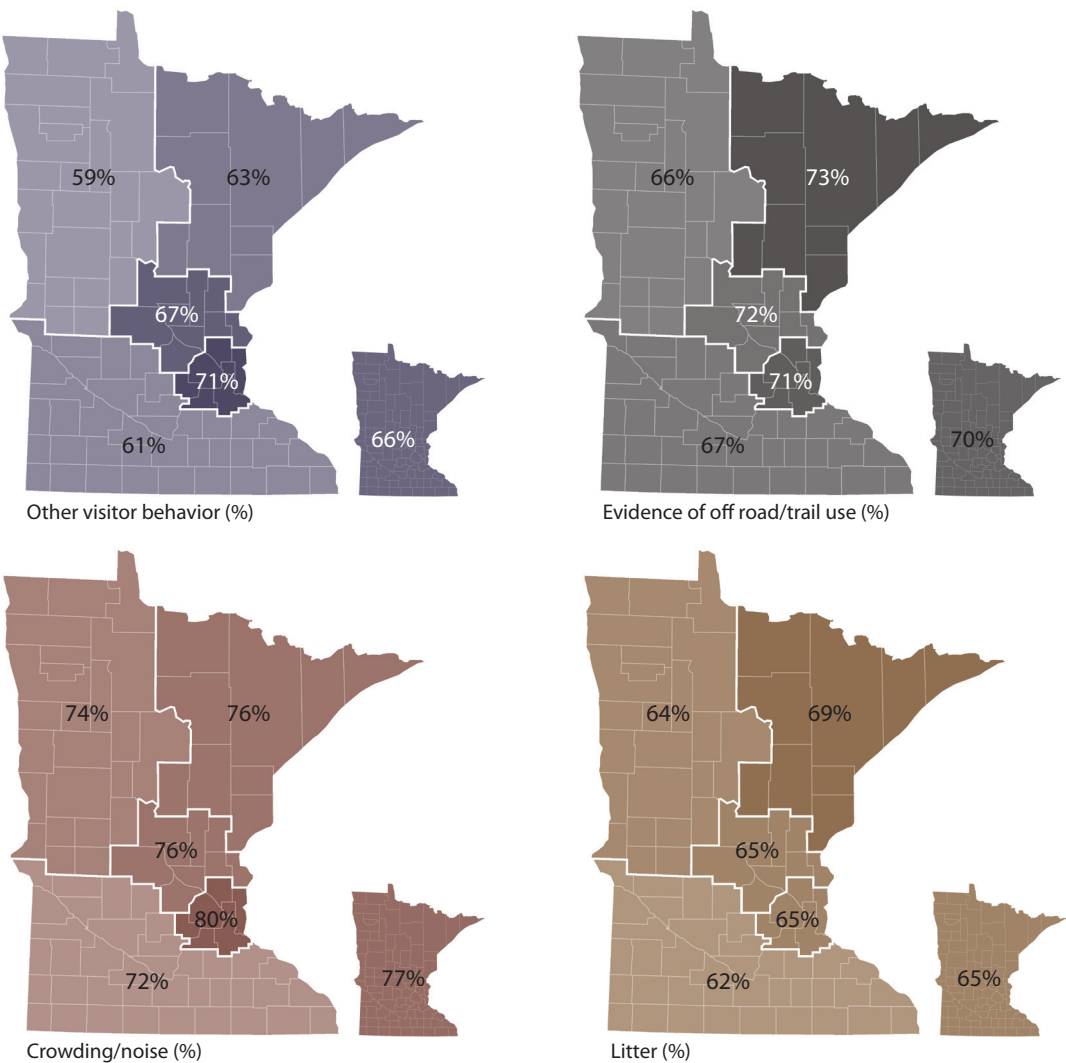
Recreation Experience Inventory

Recreation Conflicts Encountered

Among Minnesota recreation trail users, conflicts happen, but fewer than 10% report them. When conflicts do occur, they usually result from the signs or sounds of other visitors (Schneider, Schuweiler, & Bipes, 2009) (Figure 89). According to recent recreation research “following established trail

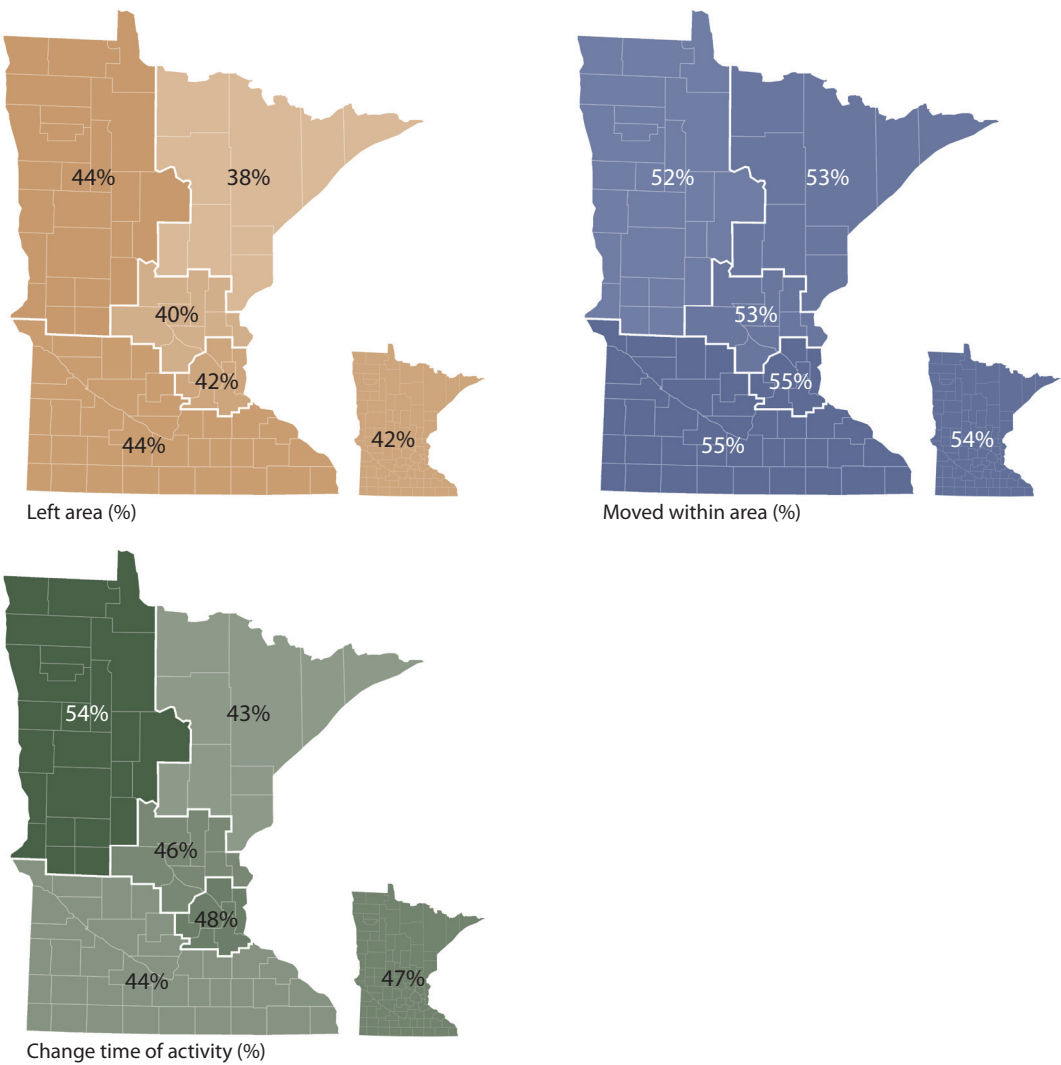
etiquette,” “talking to other group members about the incident,” and “refusing to get too serious about it” are frequent responses to trail conflict (Schneider, Schuweiler, & Bipes, 2009). When people change their activity time or location in response to conflict, there are only slight variations across the state (Figure 90).

Figure 89 // Regional and statewide conflicts reported among visitors experiencing conflict



Note: From Profile of 2008 Recreation Trail Users. By I.E. Schneider, Schuweiler, A. & Bipes, T. (2009). Saint Paul, MN: University of Minnesota, Department of Forest Resources.

Figure 90 // Regional and statewide response to conflicts encountered



Note: From Profile of 2008 Recreation Trail Users. By I.E. Schneider, Schuweiler, A. & Bipes, T. (2009). Saint Paul, MN: University of Minnesota, Department of Forest Resources.

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Image References

1-4: Center for Changing Landscapes staff. 2010.

5-11: Center for Changing Landscapes staff. 2010.

Appendices

- // Appendix A: Geodatabase Attributes
- // Appendix B: Study Regions
- // Appendix C: Regionally Significant Parks & Trails
- // Appendix D: Additional Inventory Maps
- // Appendix E: Authorizing Legislation

appendices // 97

Appendix A : Geodatabase Attributes

MNPaT Park & Point Attributes

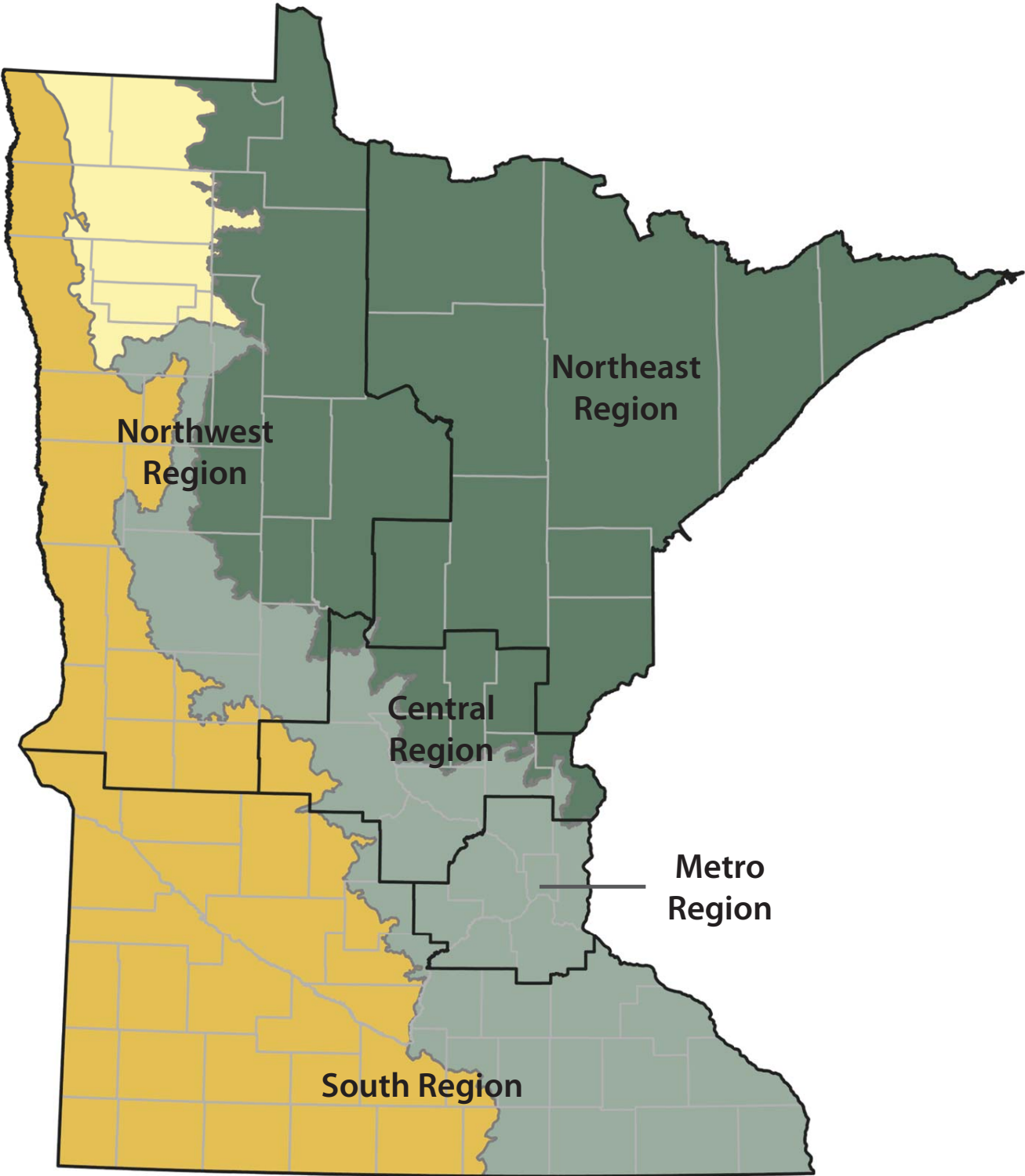
FIELD NAME	DESCRIPTION
PARK_NAME	Park name
PARK_TYPE	type of park
RECREATIONPT	Point information of referenced recreation sources or supporting aspects of that recreation source ie.
PTNAME	Name of the point ie. Trailhead name Paul Bunyan State Trail, Carson Regional Park
OWNER_TYPE	Federal, State, County, City, Township, Park District, Park Board, Joint, Private
OWNER	who owns the land
MAINT_BY	who maintains the facilities
ACRESOWNED	total ACRES owned by this stated park, this is required because of the private land in-holdings within state parks
ACRESTOTAL	total ACRES based on the legal boundary
FEE	is there a fee to use the trail, one time day use
Permit	is there a permit needed for a certain use on this trail xski, snowmobile
ActivityFee	is there an activity fee - bike rallys, horse and other organized events
ADJOINSTR	does the trail adjoin other trails, or recreation opportunities
TRLS	Total miles of trails within the park
TRLSPAVED	Total miles of trails paved within the park
CMP_DrvIn	drive in camping
CMP_BP	backpack camping > 1/4 mile
CMP_WalkIn	walk in camping < 1/4 mile
CMP_BikeIn	camping accessable by bike
CMP_WatAcc	water accessable camping only
CMP_CartIn	camping accessable by cart
CMP_Horse	camping designed for horse trail use
CMP_Elec	camping with available electricity
CMP_PuThru	camping that allows for camper pull thru
CMP_Season	seasonal camping only
CMP_ADA	ADA available camping
CMP_RV	RV camping available
CMP_GRP	group coming available
CMP_CBNS	seasonal camper cabins available
CMP_CBN	camper cabins available
Picnic	picnic tables available
PicSheltOp	picnic shelter open available
PicSheltEn	picnic Shelter enclosed available
SWIM	my thinking is that man-made lakes are beach environments
FishShore	what if more than one
FishPier	accessable is deemed yes
WatAccTIn	trailer-in boating access
WatAccCIn	carry-in boating access
PlayGrnd	accessable is deemed yes
PARKING	is there parking
TOILET	is there a toilet
VISITORCEN	is there a visitor center
EQUIPRENTAL	is there equipment rental
Comment	catch all

MNPaT Line Attributes

FIELD NAME	DESCRIPTION
TRAIL_NAME	trail name
OWNER_TYPE	Federal, State, County, City, Township, Park District, Park Board, Joint, Private
OWNER	who owns the land
MAINT_BY	who maintains the facilities
MilesTotal	total miles of this stated trail
FEE	is there a fee to use the trail, one time day use
Permit	is there a permit needed for a certain use on this trail xski, snowmobile
ActivityFee	is there an activity fee - bike rallies, horse and other organized events
ADJOINSTR	does the trail adjoin other trails, or recreation opportunities
TRLS	Total miles of trails within the park
TRLSPAVED	Total miles of trails paved within the park
Surface_type	surface of the trail
USE_HIKE	can you hike on the trail
USE_HWT	designated a hunter walking trail
USE_BIKE	bicycling trail
USE_MNTBIKE	mountain biking trail
USE_INLINESKATE	inline skates can be used on this trail
USE_HORSE	designated horse trail
USE_XSKI	trail for cross country skiing
USE_SKTSKI	trail for skate skiing
USE_JRGSKI	trail for ski-jouring(dog led xsking)
USE_SNOWMOBILE	designated snowmobile trail
USE_ATV1	Class I ATV use
USE_ATV2	Class II ATV use(side by side ATV)
USE_OHM	Off Highway Motorcycle
USE_ORV	Off Road Vehicle
USE_WATCFTMOT	designated use for Water Craft Motorized
USE_WATCFTNONMOT	designated use for Water Craft Non-Motorized
Status	Status of the trail - 3 states of trail
PARKING	is there parking
TOILET	is there a toilet
VISITORCEN	is there a visitor center
EQUIPRENTAL	is there equipment rental
Comment	catch all

Appendix B: Study Regions

The five regions used by the DNR for its social science research and monitoring program were used to define the regions in the inventory and the framework.



Appendix C: Regionally Significant Parks & Trails

Definition of Regional Significance (Steering Committee Definition January 2010)

Park of Regional Significance

1. *Natural Resource Based Settings and Range of Activities Offered: The park should provide settings with high quality natural resources and offer outdoor recreation facilities and activities that are primarily natural resource based. Examples include camping, picnicking, hiking, swimming, boating, canoeing, fishing, and nature study. A related measure is the range of these activities accommodated within the park (e.g., a park with a beach, campground and boat launch facilities is more likely to attract a regional clientele than a park with only one of these facilities).*
2. *Use: Evidence that the park serves at least a regional clientele (multiple communities). Other related factors may include evidence that the facility currently or potentially may draw tourists and generate economic impact from outside the local area.*
3. *Size: 100+ acres, with exceptions based on use characteristics, special features, etc.*
4. *Special Features: Unique or unusual landscape features, historically significant sites, or parks containing characteristics of regional or statewide significance.*
5. *Scarcity of Recreational Resources: The park provides public natural resource based recreational opportunities that are not otherwise available within a reasonable distance. Examples include water-based activities, such as swimming, fishing and boating; interpretive nature trails; public campgrounds; etc.*
6. *Consistency: In the Seven County Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, the proposed park must be consistent with the Metropolitan Council's Regional Parks Policy Plan or go through the proscribed amendment process. If the managing entity is applying for a Legacy Parks grant, the proposed park project must be part of a site plan, as required in the grant application, in addition to having formal approval of the relevant governing body.*

Trail of Regional Significance (Defining Regional Trails)

1. *Regionally desirable setting: The trail is located in a regionally desirable setting. Criteria include attractive, unusual, and/or representative landscapes, important destinations, or high quality natural areas.*
2. *High quality opportunity and use: The trail serves as a destination, providing high quality recreational opportunities, attracts a regional clientele (multiple communities), potentially may draw tourists, and generates an economic impact from outside the local area. The trail should be developed and maintained to include easy access, secure parking, access to drinking water and other necessary services, and is wide enough or designed in such a way to avoid user conflict and provide a safe experience.*
3. *Adequate length: The trail provides at least an hour of outdoor recreation opportunity, or connects to other facilities that can provide at least an hour of recreation in total.*
4. *Connections: The trail currently or potentially will link to an existing trail of regional or statewide significance. This includes providing connections between significant trails, or connecting communities/ community facilities to these trails. The regional trail cannot be entirely contained within a regional park unit.*
5. *Consistency: For the Seven County Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, the proposed trail must be consistent with the Metropolitan Council's Regional Parks Policy Plan or must go through the proscribed amendment process. If the managing entity is applying for a Legacy Trails grant, the proposed trail project must be part of a site plan, as required in the grant application, in addition to having formal approval of the relevant governing body.*

Trails of Regional Significance

TRAIL NAME	COUNTY	STATUS	MILES
Agassiz Recreation Trail	Clay	Existing	5.0
Agassiz Recreation Trail	Norman	Existing	24.2
Agassiz Recreation Trail	Polk	Existing	23.2
B.N. Trail	Wadena	Existing	4.7
Bassett Creek Regional Trail	Hennepin	Existing	2.2
Bassett Creek Regional Trail	Hennepin	Proposed	5.9
Bay on S Cross Lake	Crow Wing	Existing	5.0
Beaver Island Trail	Stearns	Existing	4.3
Big Rivers Regional Trail	Dakota	Existing	5.9
Birch Lake Regional Trail	Ramsey	Existing	1.7
Birch Lake Regional Trail	Ramsey	Proposed	0.2
Blue Mound Trail	Rock	Existing	4.8
Bruce Vento Regional Trail	Ramsey	Existing	7.8
Bruce Vento Regional Trail	Ramsey	Planned	6.1
Bruce Vento Regional Trail	Washington	Planned	2.5
Bunker Hills/Chain of Lakes Regional Trail	Anoka	Existing	4.1
Bunker Hills/Chain of Lakes Regional Trail	Anoka	Proposed	8.7
Cannon Valley trail	Goodhue	Existing	20.6
Cedar Lake LRT Regional Trail	Hennepin	Existing	4.6
Cedar Lake Regional Trail	Hennepin	Existing	3.8
Central Anoka County Regional Trail	Anoka	Existing	15.1
Central Anoka County Regional Trail	Anoka	Proposed	12.8
City of Minneota Trails	Lyon	Existing	1.7
Columbia Parkway Regional Trail	Hennepin	Existing	0.9
Coon Creek Regional Trail	Anoka	Existing	7.1
Dakota Rail Regional Trail	Carver	Planned	12.6
Dakota Rail Regional Trail	Hennepin	Existing	11.4
Dakota Rail Regional Trail	Hennepin	Planned	2.0
Dakota Rail Regional Trail	McLeod	Planned	0.1
East Anoka County Regional Trail	Anoka	Existing	11.8
East Anoka County Regional Trail	Anoka	Proposed	18.2
Fair Ridge Trail	Renville	Existing	6.0
Great Northern Trail	Sherburne	Existing	4.5
Hammand Highway Trail	Watonwan	Existing	12.2
Hardwood Creek Regional Trail	Washington	Existing	9.5
Hastings	Dakota	Planned	7.5
Highway 96 Regional Trail	Ramsey	Existing	7.1
Highway 96 Regional Trail	Ramsey	Proposed	0.8
Kenilworth Regional Trail	Hennepin	Existing	1.3
Koronis	Kandiyohi	Proposed	0.1
Koronis	Meeker	Proposed	2.0
Koronis	Stearns	Proposed	13.1
Lake Independence Regional Trail	Hennepin	Existing	18.6
Lake Minnetonka Regional Trail	Carver	Existing	3.4
Lake Minnetonka Regional Trail	Hennepin	Existing	12.5
Lake Wobegon	Morrison	Existing	9.1
Lake Wobegon Trail	Stearns	Existing	55.0
Lakewalk East	St. Louis	Existing	3.7
Long Year Lake Walking Trail	St. Louis	Existing	2.7
Luce Line Regional Trail	Hennepin	Existing	14.2
Luce Line to Delano Trail	Wright	Existing	4.5
Lyndon Cedarblade	Isanti	Existing	2.4
Medicine Lake Regional Trail	Hennepin	Existing	11.0
Medicine Lake Regional Trail	Hennepin	Proposed	1.4
Mesabi Trail	Itasca	Existing	27.2
Mesabi Trail	St. Louis	Existing	72.8

TRAIL NAME	COUNTY	STATUS	MILES
Mesabi Trail	St. Louis	Planned	32.5
Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail	Hennepin	Existing	5.5
Minneopa Trail	Blue Earth	Existing	3.1
Mississippi River Reg Trail - Anoka County	Anoka	Proposed	26.5
Mississippi River Reg Trail - Anoka County	Hennepin	Proposed	0.5
Mississippi River Reg Trail - Dakota County	Dakota	Existing	5.3
Mississippi River Reg Trail - Dakota County	Dakota	Planned	22.7
MN River Bluffs LRT Regional Trail	Carver	Existing	3.0
MN River Bluffs LRT Regional Trail	Hennepin	Existing	9.0
Munger/Sandstone Junction Trail	Pine	Existing	2.0
New Ulm Bike Trail	Brown	Existing	6.0
North Cedar Lake Regional Trail	Hennepin	Existing	5.4
North Urban Regional Trail	Dakota	Existing	2.4
North Urban Regional Trail	Dakota	Planned	3.9
Northeast Diagonal Regional Trail	Hennepin	Existing	1.3
Pope County Bike Trail	Pope	Existing	8.8
Pope Cnty Bike Trl - Glenwood to Villard	Pope	Existing	6.5
Pope Cnty Bike Trl - Starbuck to Glacial Lakes	Pope	Existing	5.7
Red Jacket Trail	Blue Earth	Existing	6.9
Rice Creek North Regional Trail	Anoka	Proposed	7.6
Rice Creek North Regional Trail	Ramsey	Existing	2.4
Rice Creek North Regional Trail	Ramsey	Planned	2.0
Rice Creek West Regional Trail	Anoka	Existing	4.2
Rice Creek West Regional Trail	Ramsey	Existing	1.5
Ridgway Parkway Regional Trail	Hennepin	Existing	0.8
Rochester Trails/Kings Run/North Zumbro	Olmsted	Existing	12.3
Rocori Extension	Stearns	Planned	14.0
Rush Creek Regional Trail	Hennepin	Existing	6.5
Samuel Morgan Regional Trail	Ramsey	Existing	6.2
Scott County Regional Trail	Scott	Existing	8.0
Scott County Regional Trail	Scott	Proposed	4.8
Shingle Creek Regional Trail	Hennepin	Existing	8.7
Soo Line S. (Isle-Arthyde)	Mille Lacs	Existing	10.4
SOO Line Trail	Beltrami	Existing	15.7
South Route Trail	Blue Earth	Existing	7.8
St. Anthony Parkway Regional Trail	Hennepin	Existing	2.0
Stearns County Rail Authority Corridor	Stearns	Planned	26.5
Sunrise Prairie Trail	Chisago	Existing	15.0
Swedish Immigrant Trail	Chisago	Existing	2.1
Sylvan Point Trail	Itasca	Existing	3.6
Trout Brook Regional Trail	Ramsey	Existing	1.4
Twin Lakes Regional Trail	Hennepin	Existing	2.3
Unity Trail	Faribault	Existing	2.5
Victory Memorial Parkway Regional Trail	Hennepin	Existing	5.6

Note: The Parks and Trails of Regional Significance List is based on the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources Greater Minnesota Park Inventory Regional Park Criteria Final Report (January 2005), Metropolitan Council 2010 Regional Parks & Trails list, and DNR Grant Recipient list. Acreages / mileage is approximate in some cases. There may be additional parks that meet the criteria listed above.

Parks of Regional Significance

PARK NAME	COUNTY	STATUE	ACRES
Anderson's Crossing	Wadena	Existing	113
Anoka Riverfront	Anoka	Existing	139
Arvig Park	Otter Tail	Existing	160
Baker Park Reserve	Hennepin	Existing	2,679
Bald Eagle - Otter Lakes	Ramsey	Existing	880
Barn Bluff Park	Goodhue	Existing	43
Barsness Park	Pope	Existing	350
Bass Lake County Park	Itasca	Existing	720
Battle Creek	Ramsey	Existing	1,415
Battle Creek - Indian Mounds	Ramsey	Existing	1,329
Battle Creek - Pig's Eye Lake	Ramsey	Existing	1,277
Baylor	Carver	Existing	202
Bayview Forest Park	St. Louis	Existing	353
Bear lake County Park	Carlton	Existing	169
Beaver Falls Co Park	Renville	Existing	302
Becklin Homestead County Park	Isanti	Existing	140
Beebe Lake Regional Park	Wright	Existing	67
Belle Prairie Park	Morrison	Existing	132
Bend in the River Regional Park	Benton	Existing	289
Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park	Wright	Planned	319
Big Island	Hennepin	Existing	66
Big Marine Park Reserve	Washington	Existing	669
Big Marine Park Reserve (Future)	Washington	Proposed	2,144
Bray	Blue Earth	Existing	114
Bryant Lake Regional Park	Hennepin	Existing	170
Bunker Hills	Anoka	Existing	1,554
Cannon River Wilderness Area	Rice	Existing	850
Carey Lake Park	St. Louis	Existing	1,140
Carver Park Reserve	Carver	Existing	3,203
Carver Park Reserve	Hennepin	Existing	100
Cedar Creek Park	Martin	Existing	260
Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park	Scott	Existing	238
Central Miss Riverfront - BF Nelson Park	Hennepin	Existing	12
Central Miss Riverfront - Boom Island Park	Hennepin	Existing	22
Central Miss Riverfront - Father Henn. Bluffs	Hennepin	Existing	8
Central Miss Riverfront - Main Street Park	Hennepin	Existing	7
Central Miss Riverfront - Mill Ruins Park	Hennepin	Existing	9
Central Miss Riverfront - Nicollet Island Park	Hennepin	Existing	17
Central Miss Riverfront - West River Parkway	Hennepin	Existing	25
Chester Woods Park	Olmsted	Existing	1,380
Chilton Park	Becker	Existing	209
City Park/Spirit River Nature Area	Isanti	Existing	165
Clearwater Pleasant Regional Park	Wright	Existing	210
Cleary Lake Regional Park	Scott	Existing	1,046
Clifton E. French Regional Park	Hennepin	Existing	310
Collinwood Regional Park	Wright	Existing	308
Community Center Park	Crow Wing	Existing	152
Como	Ramsey	Existing	338
Como Zoo and Conservatory SRF	Ramsey	Existing	40
Coon Rapids Dam	Anoka	Existing	394
Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park	Anoka	Existing	220
Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park	Washington	Existing	522
Courthouse Park	Waseca	Existing	160
Crow-Hassan Park Reserve	Hennepin	Existing	2,587
Daly	Blue Earth	Existing	126
Darwin-Dassel Park	Meeker	Existing	160

PARK NAME	COUNTY	STATUE	ACRES
Deep Portage ELC	Cass	Existing	6,307
Delagoon Park	Otter Tail	Existing	192
Dennis Frandsen County Park	Chisago	Existing	111
Dower Lake Park	Todd	Existing	302
Doyle Kennefick Regional Park	Scott	Planned	490
Eagle Lake Regional Park	Hennepin	Existing	231
Eastwood	Olmsted	Existing	188
Elm Creek Park Reserve	Hennepin	Existing	4,845
Empire Wetlands	Dakota	Planned	456
Essex	Olmsted	Existing	160
Fish Lake County Park	Chisago	Existing	130
Fish Lake Regional Park	Hennepin	Existing	158
Florian County Park	Marshall	Existing	180
Franklin Park	St. Louis	Existing	196
Gale Woods SRF	Hennepin	Existing	410
Gamehaven Reservoir	Olmsted	Existing	230
Garvin Park	Lyon	Existing	700
Grams Regional Park	Sherburne	Existing	108
Grey Cloud Island (Planned)	Washington	Planned	127
Harry Larson Regional Park	Wright	Existing	170
Hartley Park	St. Louis	Existing	628
Hawk Ridge Park	St. Louis	Existing	975
Hidden Falls-Crosby Farm	Ramsey	Existing	628
High Island Park	Sibley	Existing	220
Hok-Si-La Municipal Park & Campground	Goodhue	Existing	252
Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park	Lincoln	Existing	800
Hoodoo Point	St. Louis	Existing	114
Hyland Lake Park Reserve	Hennepin	Existing	1,376
Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve	Hennepin	Existing	515
Jacobson Campground & Wayside Rest	Aitkin	Existing	762
Jay C Hormel Nature Center	Mower	Existing	507
Kaplan's Woods	Steele	Existing	167
Kensington Runne Stone County Park	Douglas	Existing	193
Kitchi Gammi Park	St. Louis	Existing	153
Kiwanis Recreation Area	Nicollet	Existing	107
Kraemer Lake Wildwood County Park	Stearns	Existing	262
Lac qui Parle County Park	Lac Qui Parle	Existing	226
Lake Byllesby	Dakota	Existing	436
Lake Elmo Regional Park Reserve	Washington	Existing	1,995
Lake George	Anoka	Existing	268
Lake Hanska County Park	Brown	Existing	140
Lake Koronis Regional Park	Meeker	Existing	62
Lake Koronis Regional Park	Stearns	Existing	46
Lake Marion	McLeod	Existing	86
Lake Minnetonka Regional Park	Hennepin	Existing	292
Lake Minnewashta	Carver	Existing	341
Lake Ojiketa Regional Park	Chisago	Existing	106
Lake Rebecca Park Reserve	Hennepin	Existing	2,244
Lake Sarah Regional Park	Hennepin	Planned	174
Lake Waconia	Carver	Existing	110
Lake Washington Park	Le Sueur	Existing	162
Land of Memories	Blue Earth	Existing	125
Lebanon Hills	Dakota	Existing	1,906
Lester Gohman Regional Park	Sherburne	Planned	64
Lester/Amity Park	St. Louis	Existing	306
Lilydale-Harriet Island and Cherokee Heights	Dakota	Existing	264

PARK NAME	COUNTY	STATUE	ACRES
Lilydale-Harriet Island and Cherokee Heights	Ramsey	Existing	270
Long Lake	Ramsey	Existing	202
Long Lake Conservation Center ELC	Aitkin	Existing	767
Long Lake Park	Clearwater	Existing	53
Long Year Lake Walking Trail & Park	St. Louis	Existing	450
Loon Lake Parks - Anderson County Park	Jackson	Existing	26
Loon Lake Parks - Brown County Park	Jackson	Existing	27
Loon Lake Parks - Robertson County Park	Jackson	Existing	33
Mack County Park	Renville	Existing	372
Magney/Snively Park	St. Louis	Existing	2,775
Maple Lake	Polk	Existing	90
Martin-Island-Linwood Lakes	Anoka	Existing	737
McCullough	Rice	Existing	104
Memorial Forest Park	St. Louis	Existing	163
Miesville Ravine	Dakota	Existing	1,494
Mpls Chain-of-Lakes - Brownie Lake	Hennepin	Existing	16
Mpls Chain-of-Lakes - Cedar Lake Park	Hennepin	Existing	110
Mpls Chain-of-Lakes - Dean Parkway	Hennepin	Existing	14
Mpls Chain-of-Lakes - Lake Calhoun Park	Hennepin	Existing	95
Mpls Chain-of-Lakes - Lake Harriet Park	Hennepin	Existing	118
Mpls Chain-of-Lakes - Lake Of The Isles Park	Hennepin	Existing	94
Mpls Chain-of-Lakes - William Berry Park	Hennepin	Existing	28
Minnehaha Park	Hennepin	Existing	181
Mississippi Gorge	Ramsey	Existing	318
Mississippi River County Park	Stearns	Existing	205
Mississippi West (Planned)	Anoka	Planned	273
Montissippi Regional Park	Wright	Existing	170
Mound Creek County Park	Brown	Existing	318
Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve	Dakota	Existing	165
Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve	Scott	Existing	2,272
Neenah Creek Park	Stearns	Existing	241
NEY Park ELC	Le Sueur	Existing	409
Niemackl Lake	Grant	Existing	270
Noerenberg Memorial Gardens SRF	Hennepin	Existing	74
Nokomis-Hiawatha RP - Lake Hiawatha Park	Hennepin	Existing	194
Nokomis-Hiawatha RP - Lake Nokomis Park	Hennepin	Existing	190
North Mississippi Regional Park	Hennepin	Existing	27
Northland Arboetum	Crow Wing	Existing	200
Norwegian Creek County Park	Lincoln	Existing	145
Oak Savanna Land Preserve	Sherburne	Existing	140
Old Wadena	Wadena	Existing	229
Oneota Park	St. Louis	Existing	966
Oxbow Park	Olmsted	Existing	624
Park Point Hiking Trail Park	St. Louis	Existing	342
Pebble Lake	Otter Tail	Existing	152
Phalen-Keller RP (Keller Lake)	Ramsey	Existing	248
Phalen-Keller RP (Phalen)	Ramsey	Existing	278
Picnic Point County Park	Lincoln	Existing	140
Pine Point Park	Washington	Existing	296
Pine Ridge Park	Grant	Existing	196
Pioepenbergl County Park	McLeod	Existing	156
Plum Creek Park	Redwood	Existing	280
Plum Creek Regional Park	Stearns	Existing	4
Pomme de Terre City Park	Stevens	Existing	225
Prairie Wetlands ELC	Otter Tail	Existing	325
Prairie Woods ELC	Kandiyohi	Existing	400
Quarry Hill	Olmsted	Existing	302
Quarry Park and Nature Preserve	Stearns	Existing	644

PARK NAME	COUNTY	STATUE	ACRES
Ramsey	Redwood	Existing	227
Rasmussen Woods	Blue Earth	Existing	152
Recreation Park	Mille Lacs	Existing	370
Rice Creek Chain of Lakes	Anoka	Existing	4,473
River Bend Nature Center	Rice	Existing	661
Riverside Park	Nicollet	Existing	295
Riverside Park	Sherburne	Existing	33
Robert Ney Regional Park	Wright	Existing	826
Robinson Park	Pine	Existing	57
Rockville County Park	Stearns	Existing	286
Root River Park (Fritz Acquisition)	Olmsted	Planned	90
Rum River Central	Anoka	Existing	167
Rush River Park	Sibley	Existing	285
Schroeder County Park	Wright	Existing	30
Seven Mile Creek County Park	Nicollet	Existing	628
Silverwood SRF	Ramsey	Existing	69
Skalbekken Co Park	Renville	Existing	403
Snail Lake (Grass-Vadnais-Snail) RP	Ramsey	Existing	1,019
Snake River Campground	Aitkin	Existing	1,753
Spirit Mountain	St. Louis	Existing	1,099
Spring Lake P.R.	Dakota	Existing	964
Spring Lake R.P.	Scott	Existing	374
Springvale County Park	Isanti	Existing	205
Square Lake Park SRF	Washington	Existing	27
St. Cloud River Bluffs Regional Park	Stearns	Existing	143
St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park	Washington	Existing	579
Stahl Lake County Park	McLeod	Existing	127
Stanford Twsp Lyndon Cedarblade Park	Isanti	Existing	440
Stanley Eddy Regional Park-North	Wright	Existing	658
Stanley Eddy Regional Park-South	Wright	Existing	658
Sunnybrook Park & Campgrounds	Wadena	Existing	78
Theodore Wirth Park / Parkway	Hennepin	Existing	598
Thompson Park	Faribault	Existing	100
Three Island County Park	Beltrami	Existing	3,000
Tipsinah Mounds Recreation Area	Grant	Existing	257
Tony Schmidt	Ramsey	Existing	211
Traverse Des Sioux Park	Nicollet	Existing	417
Vicksburg Co Park	Renville	Existing	241
Warner Lake County Park	Stearns	Existing	280
Wayside Park - Lancaster City Park	Kittson	Existing	302
West Mill Recreation Area/ Agassiz ELC	Polk	Existing	640
White Woods County Park	Freeborn	Existing	176
Willow Creek Reservoir	Olmsted	Existing	195
Woodland Trails and Park	Sherburne	Existing	164

Note: The Parks and Trails of Regional Significance List is based on the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources Greater Minnesota Park Inventory Regional Park Criteria Final Report (January 2005), Metropolitan Council 2010 Regional Parks & Trails list, and DNR Grant Recipient list. Acreages / mileage is approximate in some cases. There may be additional parks that meet the criteria listed above.

Appendix D: Additional Statewide Inventory Maps

Federal Trails, State Trails, Regional Trails, & Trails of Regional Significance*: Existing, Planned, & Proposed

Some areas of the State have few or no trails.

Trail status varies widely across the Minnesota. Many trails are incomplete, a few segments of some have been built, and others have been authorized but not built at all.

Some trails are connected, but there are many great distances between trails.

Even if all the proposed, planned, and existing state and regionally significant trails on the map were to be fully built, they would not make a connected system.

The long distances between trails and lack of connections make creating a connected system very challenging.

Many trails are located in close proximity to state and regionally significant parks.

Trail configurations reflect both their natural and cultural landscapes.

Trails are concentrated in areas of trail advocacy and in places with a tourist economy.

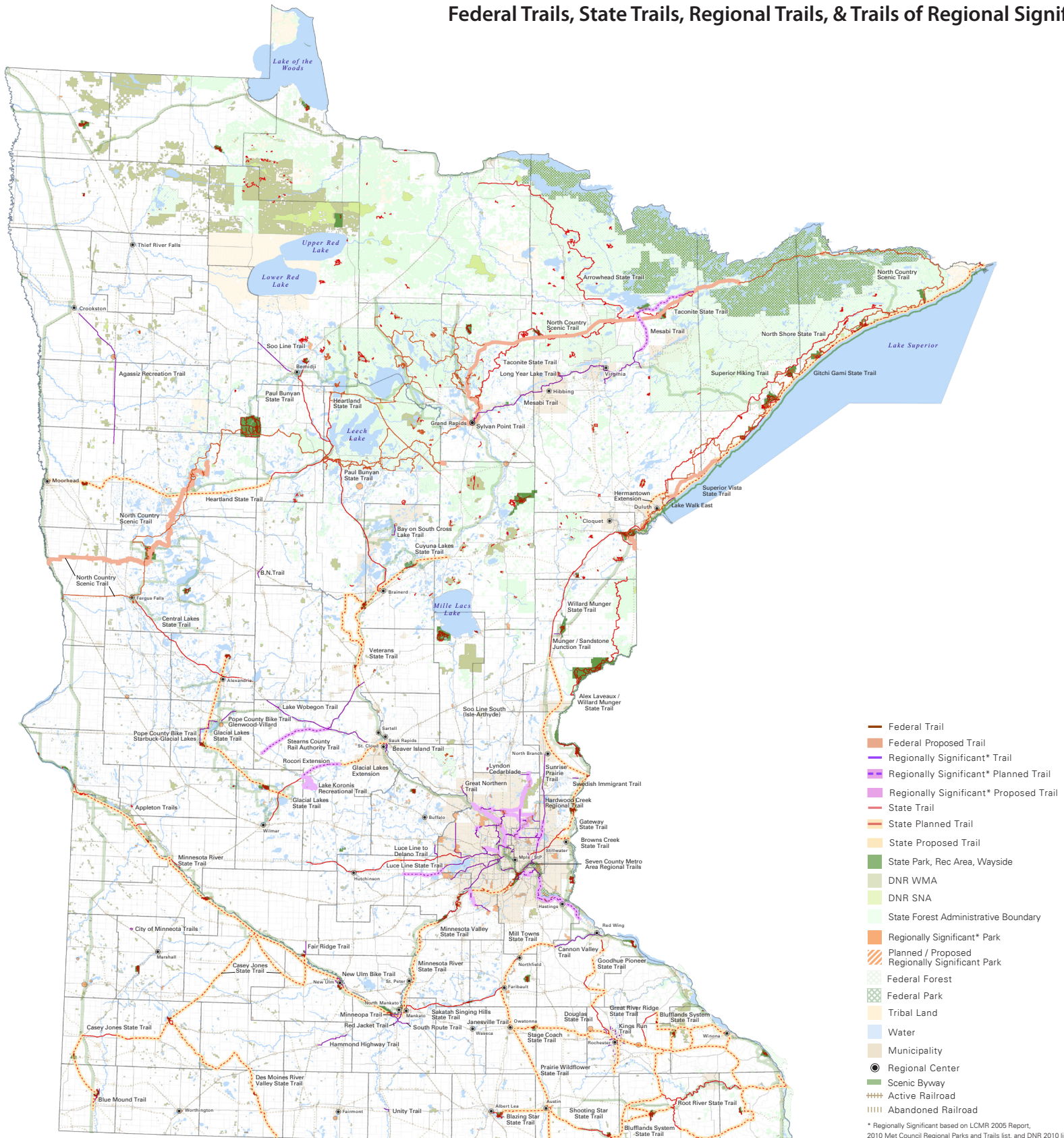
Some trails parallel scenic byways and state water trails.

The Metro Region unlike the rest of the State has benefited from almost four decades of regional planning for trails.

Note:

*All the trails of regional significance may not be on this map. Only those identified as regionally significant or regional by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources Greater Minnesota Park Inventory Regional Park Criteria Final Report (January 2005), Metropolitan Council 2010 Regional Trails list, and DNR Grant Recipient list are included.

Federal Trails, State Trails, Regional Trails, & Trails of Regional Significance*



* Regionally Significant based on LCMR 2005 Report, 2010 Met Council Regional Parks and Trails list, and DNR 2010 list

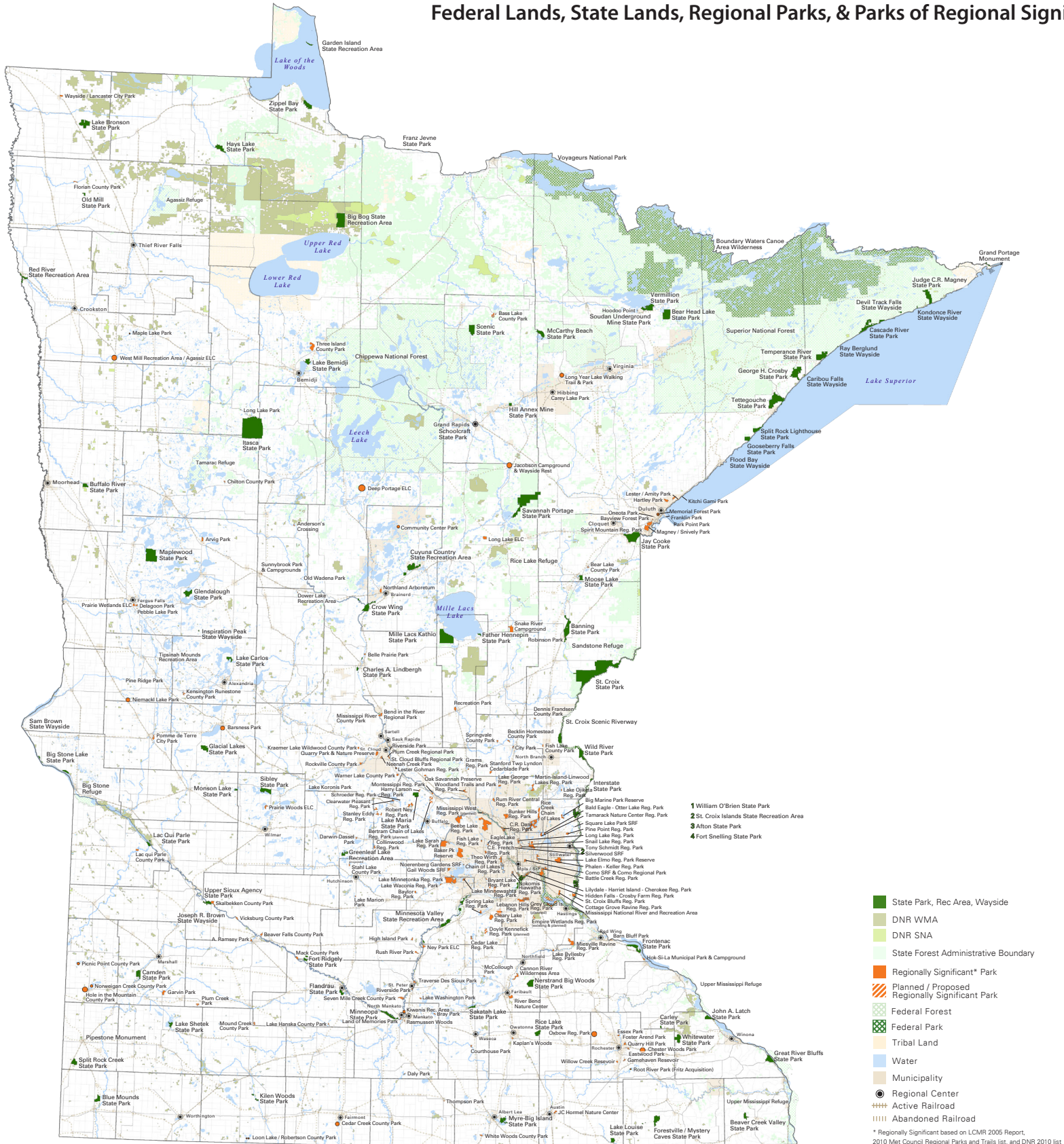
Appendix D: Additional Statewide Inventory Maps

Federal Areas, State Areas, Regional Parks, and Parks of Regional Significance*: Existing, Planned, and Proposed

- Although state parks are distributed around the State, there are areas that do not have state parks.
- Although regional parks and parks of regional significance are found throughout the State, many are clustered in the Metro Region and in the collar counties surrounding the Metro Region.
- The Metro Region unlike the rest of the State has benefited from almost four decades of regional planning for trails.

Note: *All the parks of regional significance may not be on this map. Only those identified as regionally significant or regional by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources Greater Minnesota Park Inventory Regional Park Criteria Final Report (January 2005), Metropolitan Council 2010 Regional Parks list, and DNR Grant Recipient list are included.

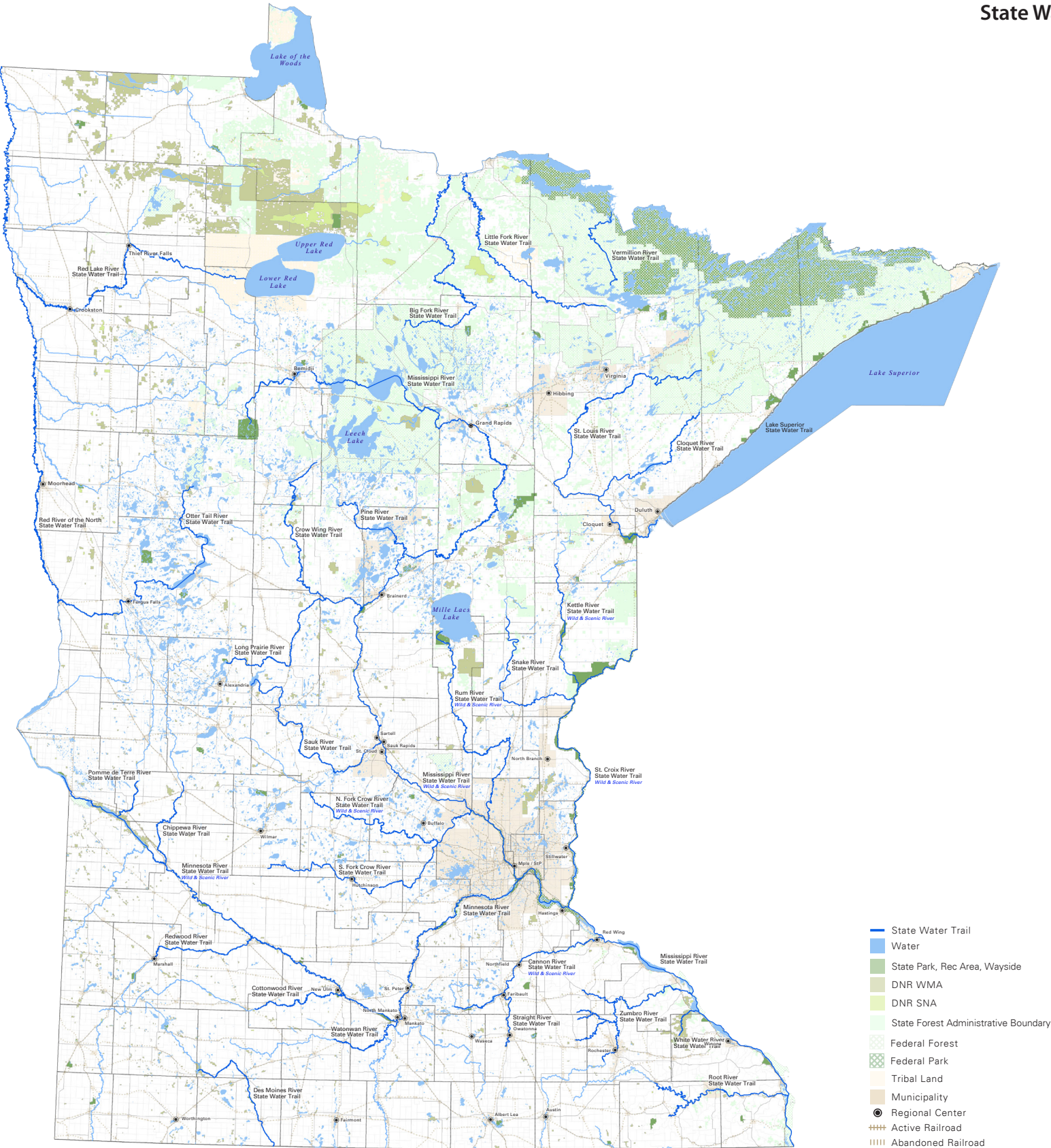
Federal Lands, State Lands, Regional Parks, & Parks of Regional Significance*



Appendix D: Additional Statewide Inventory Maps

State Water Trails

- The 4,392 miles of water trails are dispersed throughout the State on thirty rivers and the North Shore of Lake Superior.
- The DNR manages the water trails.
- Water trails vary from trails on kayak and canoe rivers that have very low water at times to a trail on the Mississippi that has a nine-foot commercial navigation channel.
- The character of the water trail's landscape varies from wilderness to prairie to highly urbanized.
- Seven trails are on Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Water trails in areas of few lakes like southern and northwestern Minnesota may be more important regional recreational assets than those in areas of many lakes.
- Water trail facilities face challenges from flooding, changes in water levels, and varying current speeds.
- Some trails parallel state and regionally significant terrestrial trails and scenic byways.
- Many communities and some state, regionally significant, and local parks are located on state water trails.
- Many bridges span water trails.

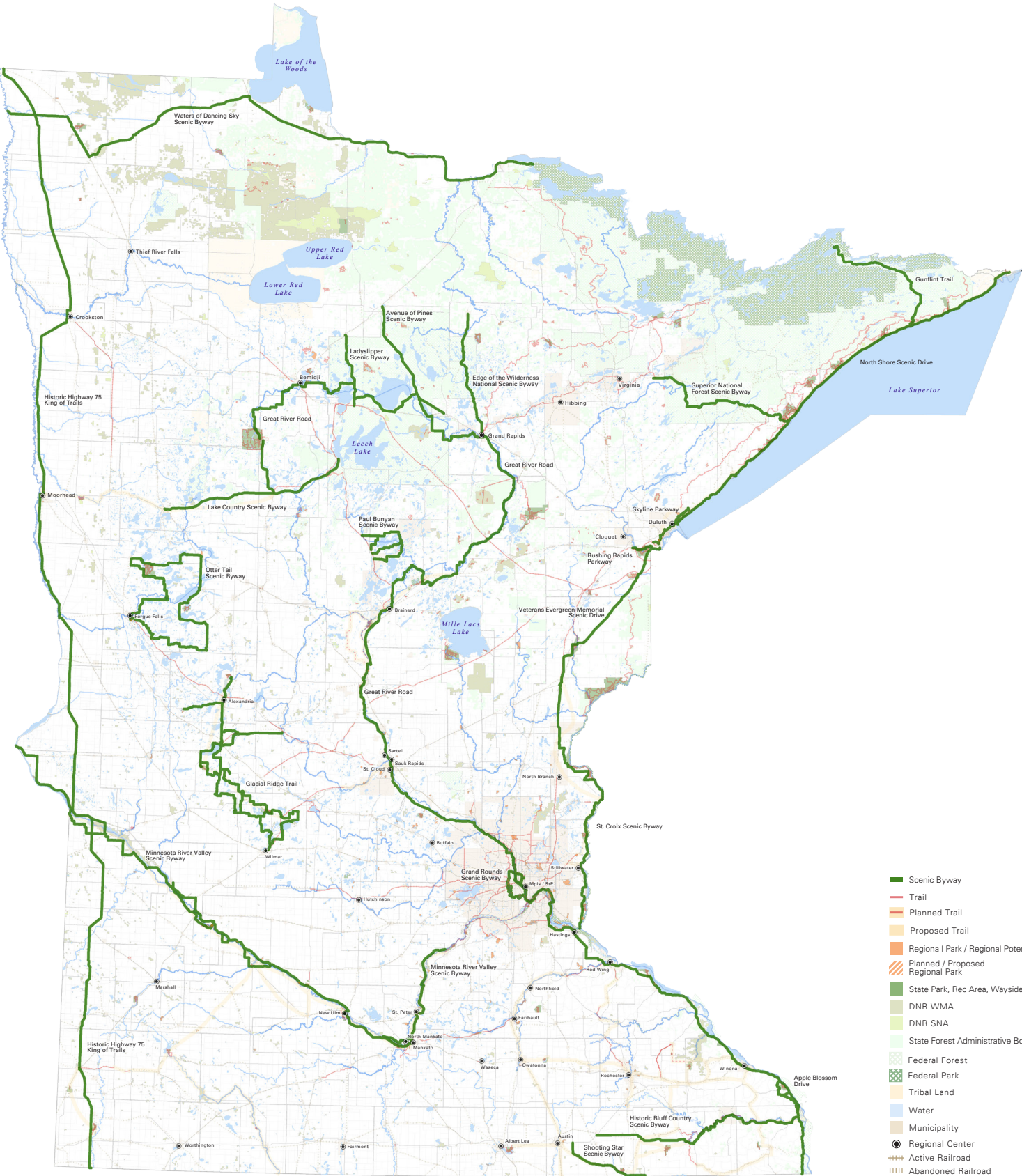


- State Water Trail
- Water
- State Park, Rec Area, Wayside
- DNR WMA
- DNR SNA
- State Forest Administrative Boundary
- Federal Forest
- Federal Park
- Tribal Land
- Municipality
- Regional Center
- Active Railroad
- Abandoned Railroad

Appendix D: Additional Statewide Inventory Maps

Scenic Byways

- Minnesota's 22 scenic byways cover most parts of the State.
- Most scenic byways are connected to each other, and relatively short segments could connect the ones that are not connected.
- Scenic byways parallel many terrestrial and water trails.
- Scenic byways are in close proximity to many regionally significant and state parks.
- Trails have been incorporated into scenic byway construction projects.
- Scenic byways have brochures, websites, kiosks, and rest stops that promote area recreational opportunities.
- Scenic byways are created and promoted through local citizen byway groups and tourism groups.
- The State has a committee that awards federal scenic byway greats.
- The MnDOT staff assigned to scenic byways is retiring and the byway program may be reconfigured.



Appendix D: Additional Statewide Inventory Maps

Snowmobile & OHV Trails

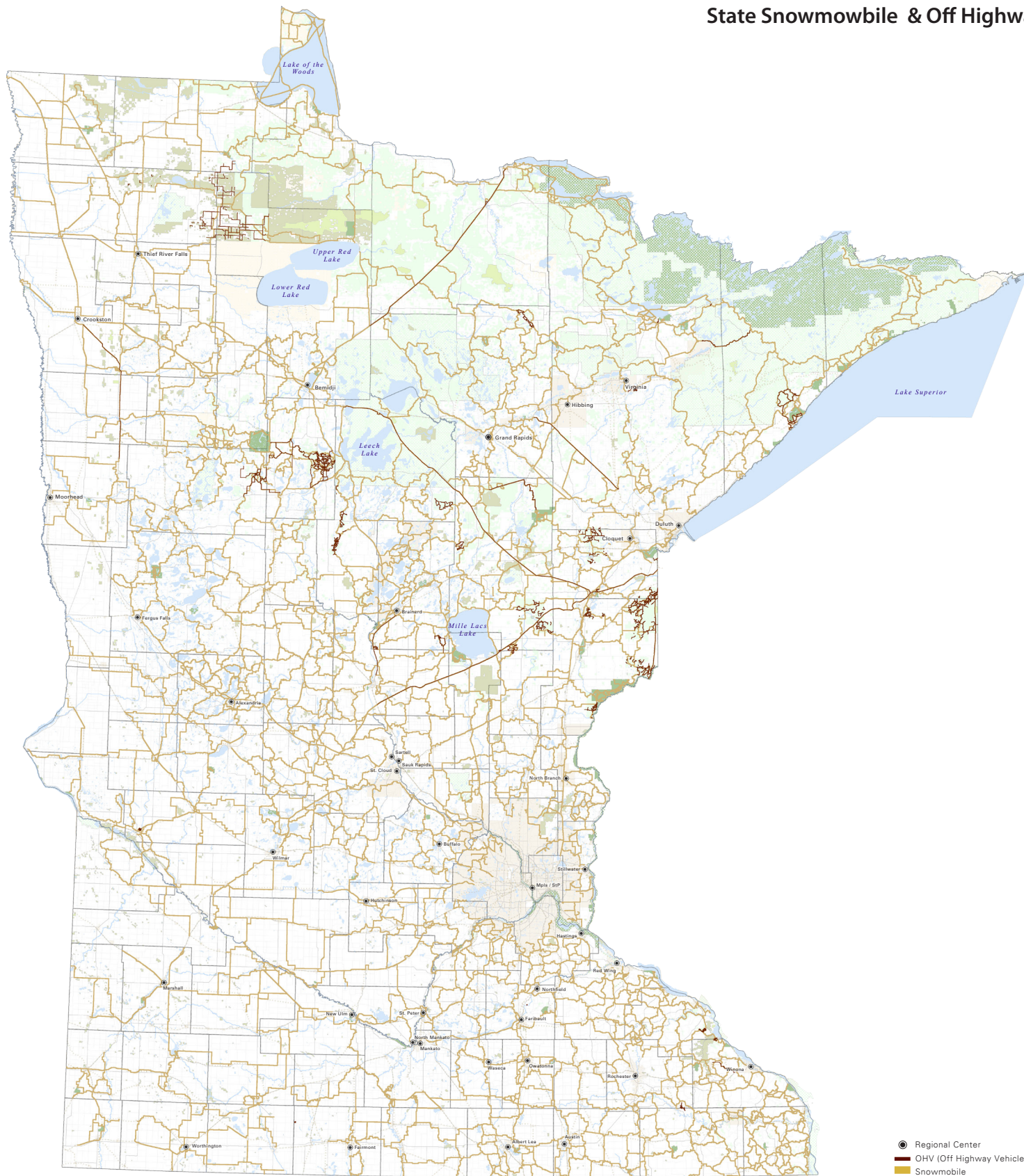
Snowmobiles

- Over 21,000 miles of trails (derived from DNR data).
- Snowmobile trails are found all over the State.
- Extensive, connected network
- Many trails are on private lands through a short term permitting system.
- Trails are created through local initiatives through state assistance.
- Trails are funded through a grant-in-aid program to local governments from license fees and gas tax revenues and administered by the DNR. Minnesota Snowmobile Trails Assistance Program grants include Maintenance and Grooming Grants and Capitol Improvements Grants (up to 65% cost sharing)
- Development puts pressure in the system in areas of high growth. There is a need to maintain trail continuity that is threatened when permits are not renewed due to development. The Metro Area, the Collar Counties, and the Rochester Area are particularly vulnerable to these changes.
- Change in bridge construction standards on public land mandated after the I-35 W bridge collapse has increased the cost of snowmobile bridges substantially creating funding challenges.

Off Highway Vehicles (OHV): All Terrain Vehicles (ATV), Off Highway Motorcycle (OHM), and Off-Road Vehicles (ORV)

- 1818 miles in the State (derived from DNR data).
- Not as connected as the snowmobile system.
- Trails are created through local initiatives through state assistance.
- Trails are created through a grant-in-aid program to local governments from license fees and gas tax revenues and administered by the DNR.
- All Terrain Vehicle Grants-in-Aid: project administration, maintenance, trail and facility development and acquisition, map publication, and limited winter grooming.
- Off-Highway Motorcycle Grants-in Aid: project administration; trail development, maintenance, improvements, and acquisition.
- Four-Wheel Drive Vehicle Grants-in-Aid: project administration, trail development, maintenance, improvements, and acquisition.
- Longest trails are on former rail corridors.
- More trails in state forests, county, and federal managed lands in Northern Minnesota.
- Trails created in partnerships with county land departments in Northern Minnesota.
- Fewer trails and some on private land in the Southern Minnesota.
- Limited use in three sites in Richard J. Dore State Forest in Southern Minnesota.
- Some trails segments share use with horses and snowmobiles.
- Trails can be closed temporarily due to wet conditions.
- Use in some state forests have been limited to forest trails and forest roads due to environmental damage to forests done by non-trail and non-road OHV use.
- Some trails are open all year, others closed during the winter. There is not a consistent schedule across the state. Closing and opening schedules vary: some close November 1st, others November 30th and some open May 15th others April 1st.
- There are three OHV parks in the state, all of which are on former mining sites:
- Appleton Area Recreation Off-Highway Vehicle Park: ATV and OHM in Southwestern Minnesota
- Iron Range Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area-Gilbert in Northeastern Minnesota
- Tri-County ATV Park in Rice County in Southeastern Minnesota
- Most trails are for ATV only, several ATV and OHM, fewer for ATV, OHM, and ORV
- 58 state forests allow ATV, OHM, and ORV use.
- There are not many campsites that offer access to OHV trails

State Snowmobile & Off Highway Vehicle Trails

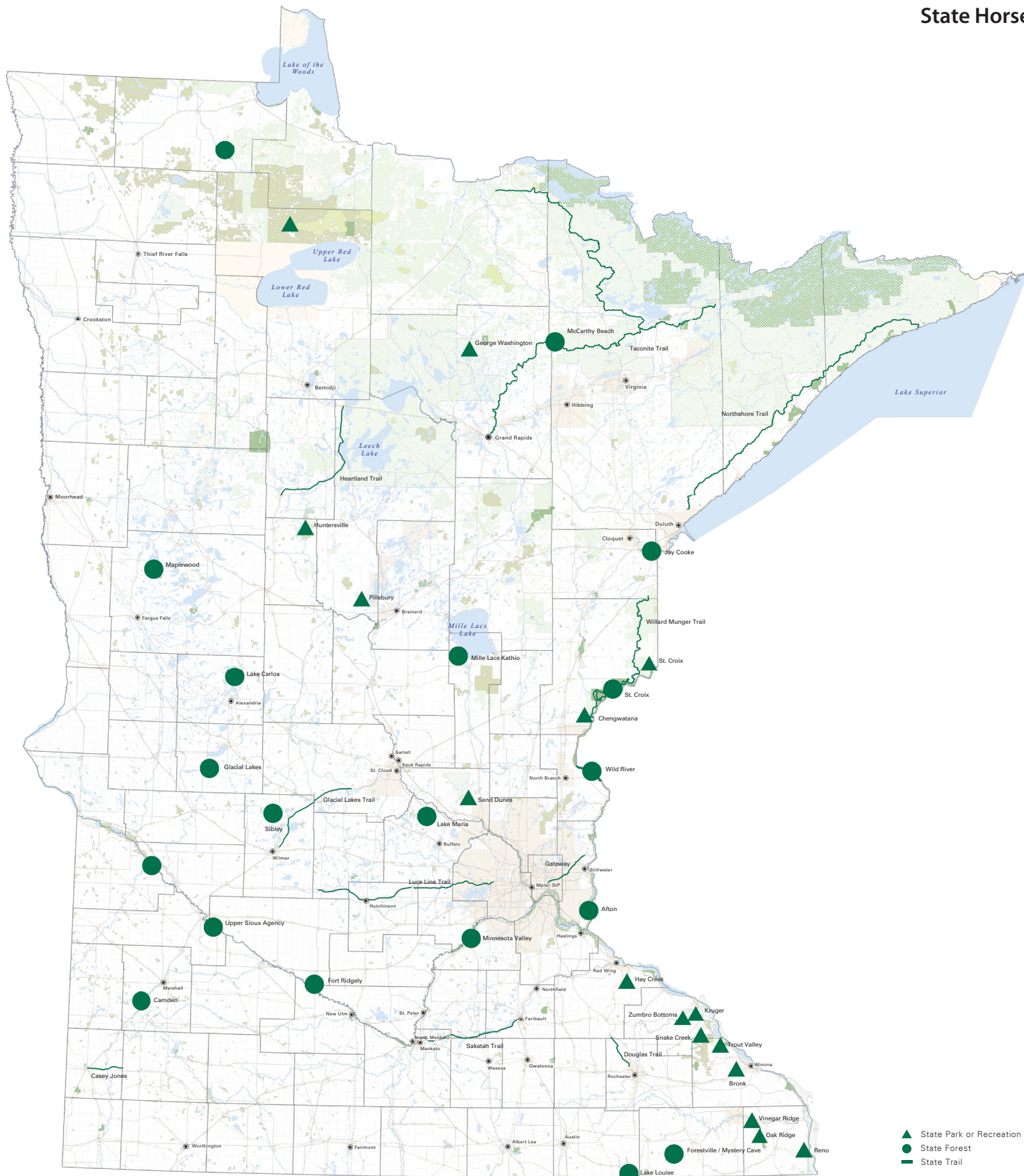


Appendix D: Additional Statewide Inventory Maps

Horse Trails

- Nineteen state parks have horse trails and fourteen state parks have horse camps.
- Thirteen state forests have horse camps and trails.

State Horse Trail Locations



Appendix D: Additional Statewide Inventory Maps

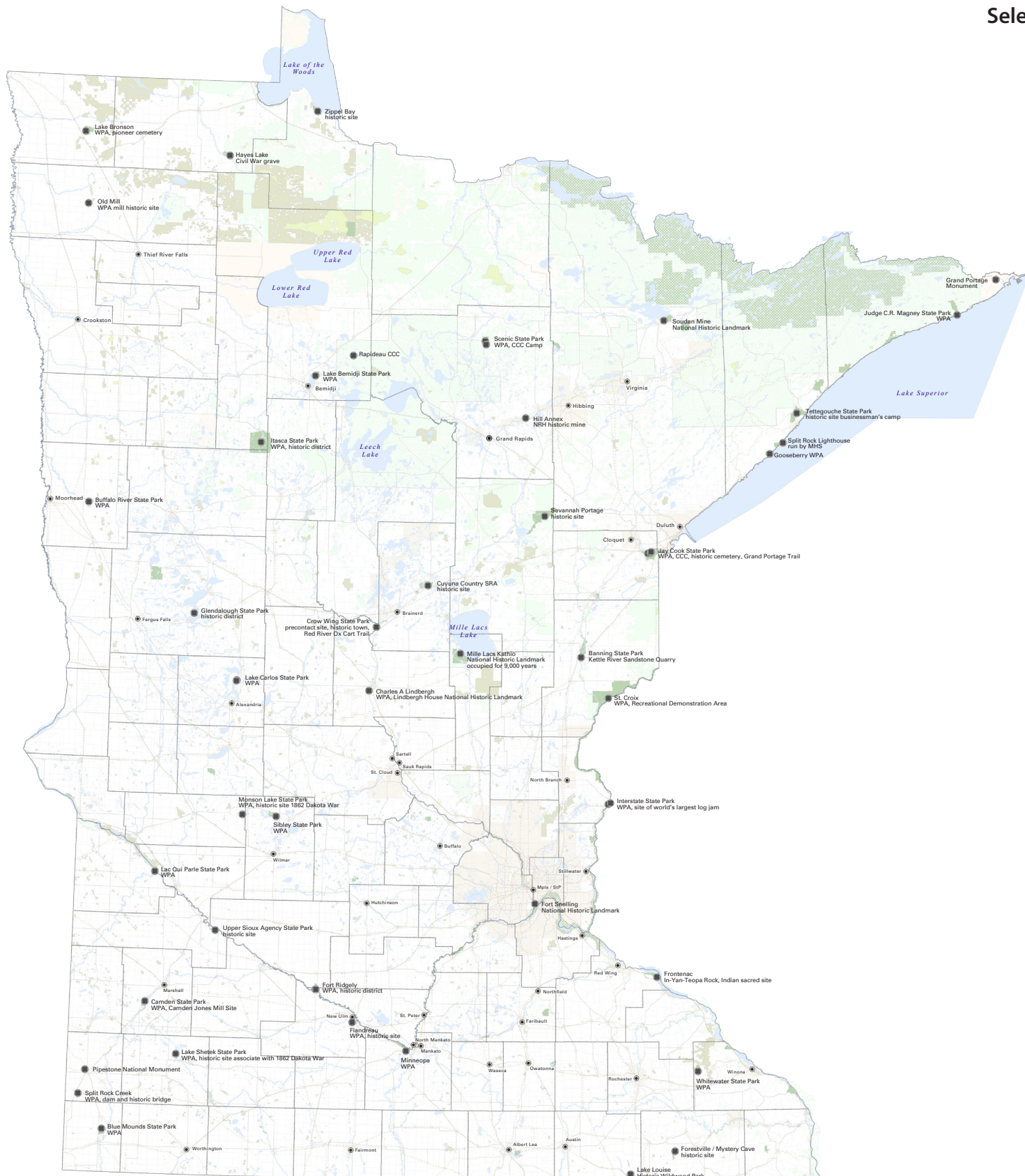
Historic Sites

- One of the mission’s of state parks is to preserve cultural resources.
- The variety of historic sites found within state parks include places occupied by American Indians before contact, sites associated with European settlement, and Works Progress Administration projects built in the 1930s and 40s.
- Of the twenty-three National Historic Landmarks in Minnesota four are in state parks.
- Twenty-two state parks have WPA rustic style structures.

Historic resources in forty state parks include:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Banning quarry• Blue Mounds WPA• Buffalo River WPA• Camden WPA, Camden Jones Mill site• Charles Lindbergh WPA, Lindbergh House National Historic Landmark• Crow Wing precontact site, historic town, Red River Ox Cart Trail• Cuyuna Country SRA historic site• Flandreau, WPA and historic site• Forestville/Mystery Cave historic site• Fort Ridgely WPA, Historic District• Fort Snelling National Historic Landmark• Frontenac In-Yan-Teopa Rock, Indian sacred site• Glendalough historic site• Gooseberry WPA,• Hayes Lake civil war grave• Hill Annex NRH historic mine• Interstate WPA, site of world’s largest log jam• Itasca WPA, Historic District• Jay Cook WPA, CCC, historic cemetery, Grand Portage Trail• Judge C.R. Magney WPA• Lac Qui Parle WPA historic mission next to park MHS operated• Lake Bemidji WPA | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lake Bronson WPA, pioneer cemetery• Lake Carlos WPA• Lake Louise Historic Wildwood Park• Lake Shetek, WPA, historic site associated with 1862 Dakota War• Mille Lacs Kathio National Historic Landmark occupied for 9,000 years• Minneopa WPA• Monson Lake WPA, historic site 1862 Dakota War• Old Mill WPA mill historic site• Pipestone National Monument• Rapideau CCC• St Croix WPA Saint Croix Recreational Demonstration Area• Savannah Portage historic site• Scenic WPA: CCC camp• Sibley WPA (CCC buildings)• Soudan Mine National Historic Landmark• Split Rock Creek WPA dam and historic bridge• Split Rock Lighthouse run by MHS• Tettegouche historic site businessman’s camp• Upper Sioux historic site• Whitewater WPA• Zippel Bay historic site |
|---|--|

Select Historic Sites



Appendix D: Additional Statewide Inventory Maps

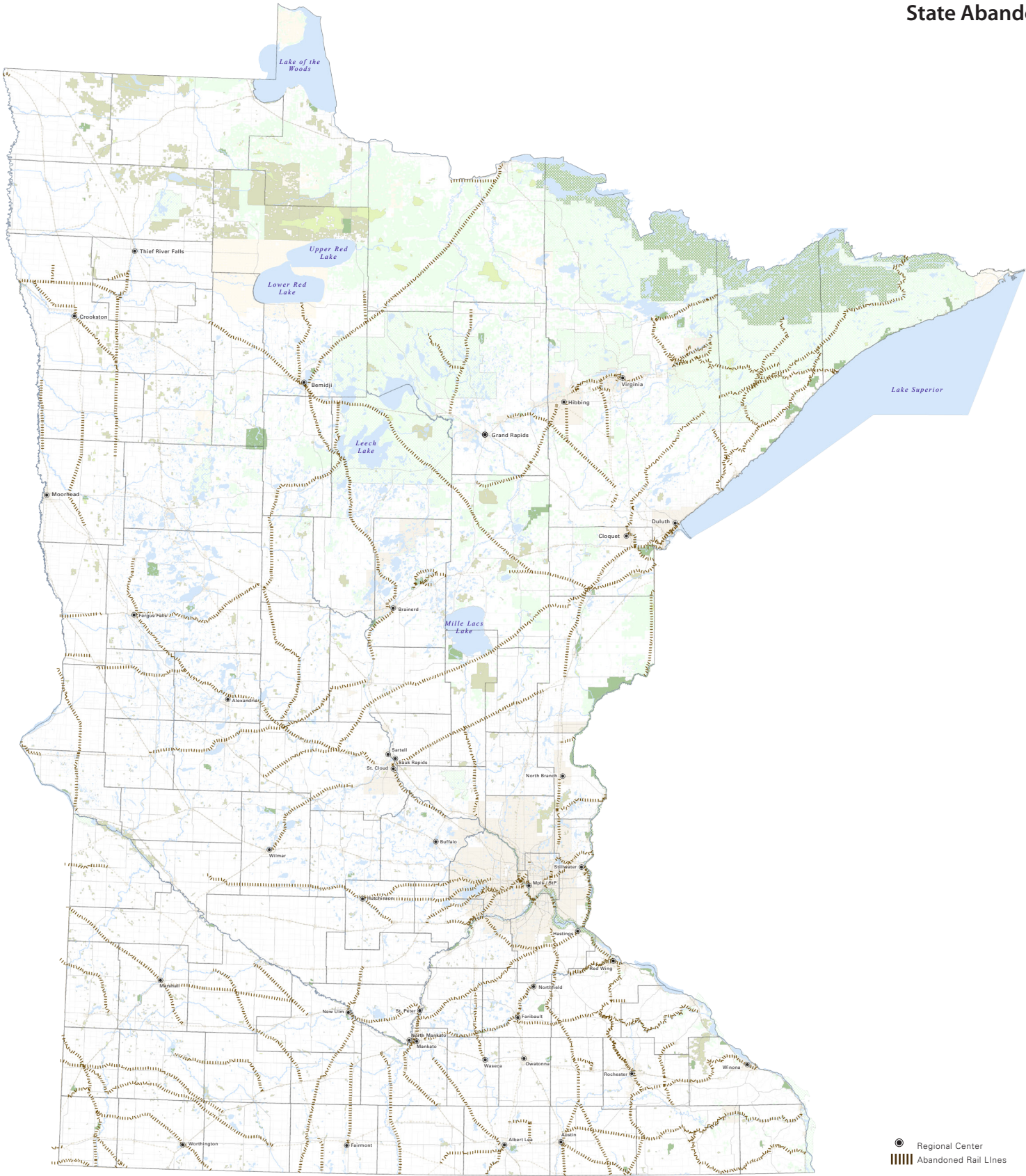
Abandoned Rail Corridors

The downsizing of the rail network in the State due to changing market conditions, railroad deregulation, and consolidation of railroad companies provided opportunities to convert abandoned rail corridors into trails. Trail corridors were acquired and many of the State's first trails were built upon them. Example of these include:

- The Agassiz Recreational Trails
- The Paul Bunyan Trail,
- The network of state trails in Southeastern Minnesota,
- The Rabey Line ATV Trail, and
- The Soo Line North and the Soo Line South AVT Trails

Currently there are fewer opportunities to acquire abandoned rail corridor because most are in private ownership, and the landowners are not willing to sell it. However there are some opportunities; an example of one is the Corridor from Redwood Falls to Sleepy Eye.

State Abandoned Rail Lines



● Regional Center
--- Abandoned Rail Lines

Appendix D: Additional Statewide Inventory Maps

Heavy Rail Access to Recreational Opportunities

Although the Minnesota Comprehensive Freight and Passenger Rail Plan will take years to implement, the study looked at it for the potential impact of passenger rail service on both non-car access to current park and trail recreational opportunities and its impact on future settlement patterns and recreational needs.

Phase I routes include:

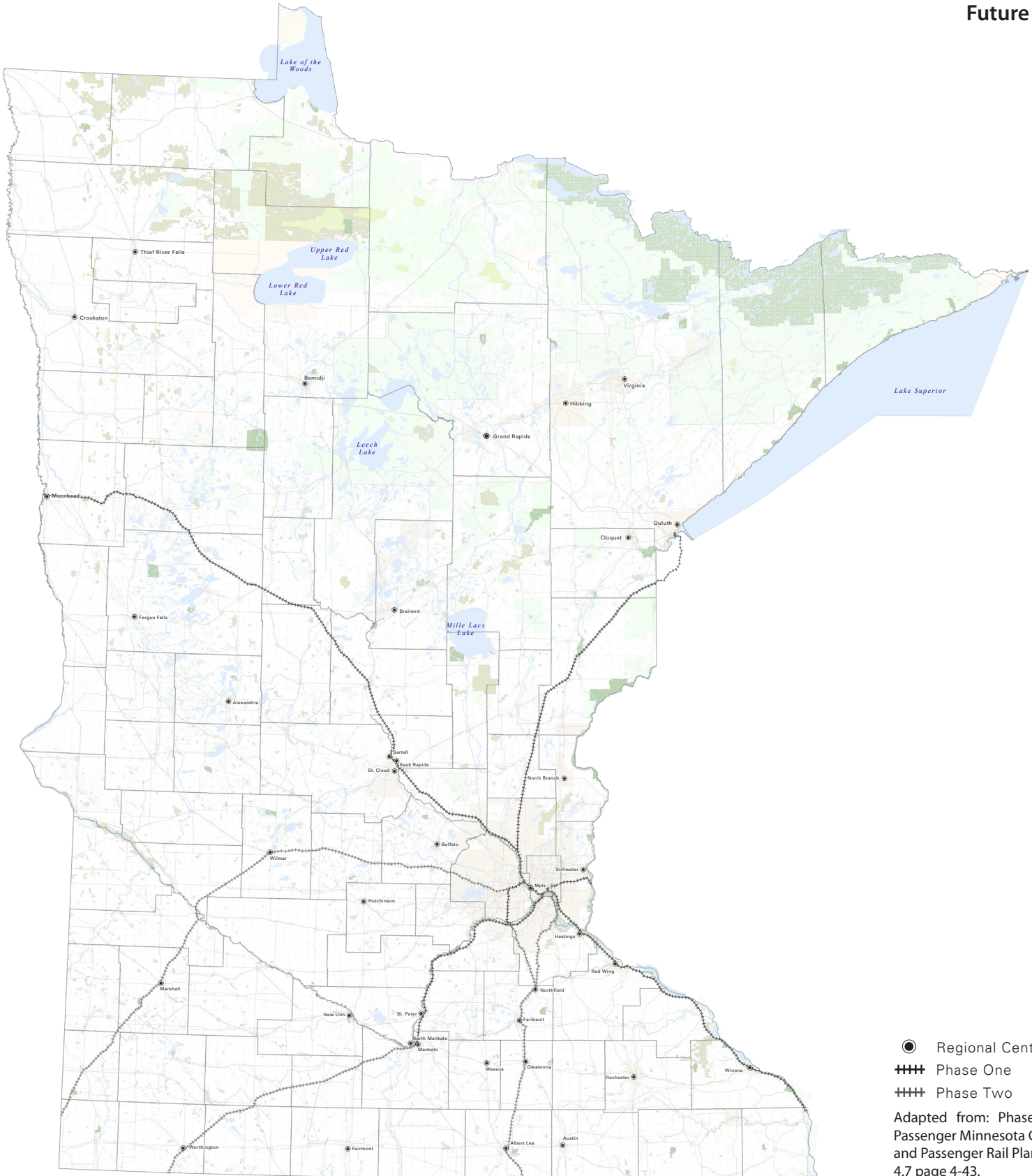
- A North Star route extension past Big Lake to Saint Cloud and beyond to Moorhead;
- The Northern Lights Express from Minneapolis to Duluth is planned to stop at Cambridge, Hinckley, and Duluth with another potential stop in Sandstone;
- The Twin City to Chicago River Route with stops in Red Wing and Winona;
- A route to Rochester; and
- A route to Mankato.

Phase II includes:

- A route to Sioux Falls via Willmar and Marshall;
- An extension of the Mankato route to Worthington and beyond; and
- A route to Albert Lea.

Currently the only state facilities to potentially served are Banning State Park in Sandstone, Blazing Star Island/ Myre/Big Island Park in Albert Lea, and Willard Munger Trail in Duluth.

Local trails from the railroad stations could serve both as commuting routes to the station and access trails to parks in the area to other facilities such as a trail from the Mankato station to Minneopa State Park.



- Regional Center
- ++++ Phase One
- ++++ Phase Two

Adapted from: Phase I & Phase II Map
Passenger Minnesota Comprehensive Freight
and Passenger Rail Plan February 2010 figure
4.7 page 4-43.

Appendix D: Additional Statewide Inventory Maps

Transit Access Opportunities in the Twin Cities Metro Region

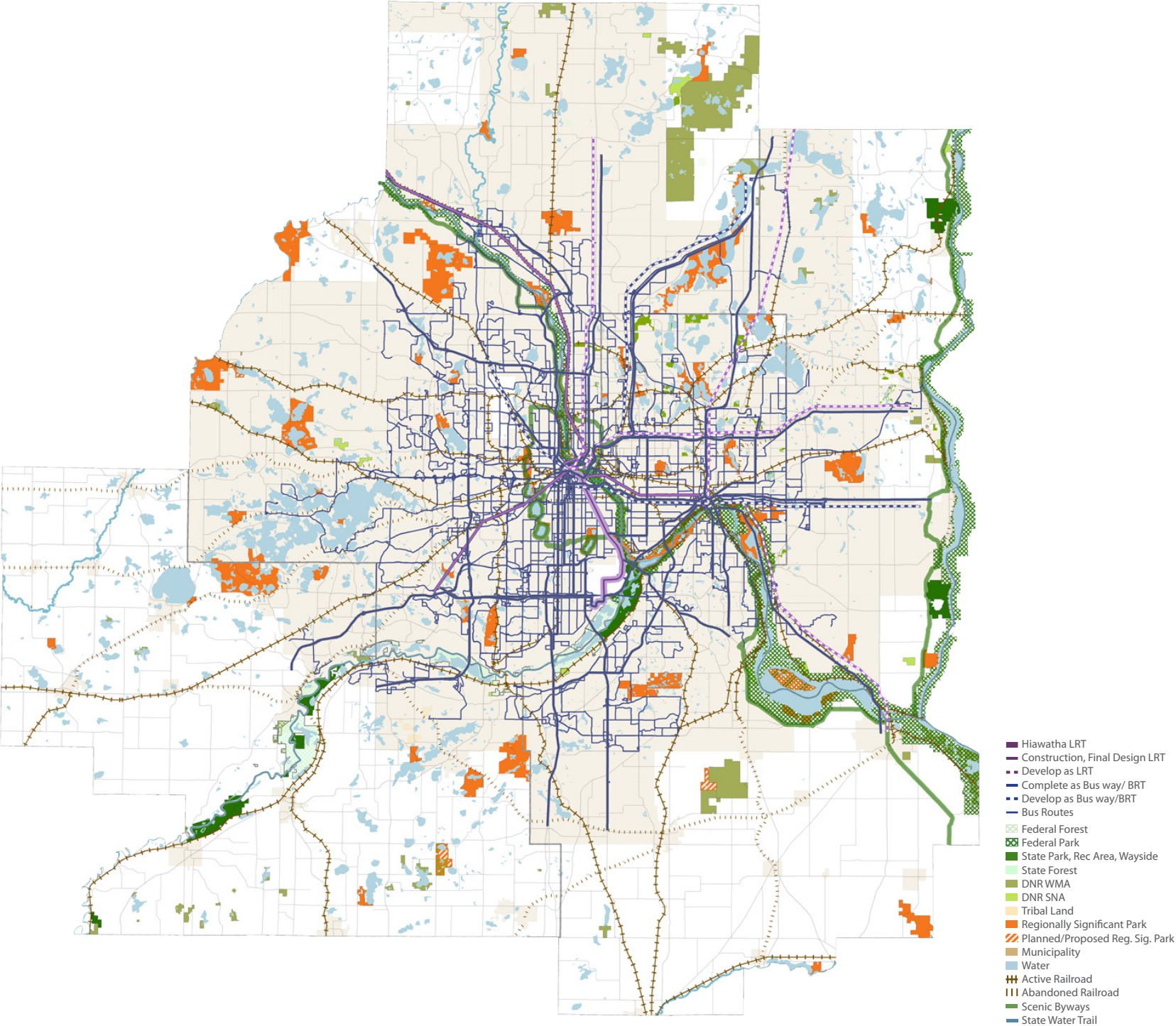
Transit Access Opportunities in the Twin Cities Metro Region

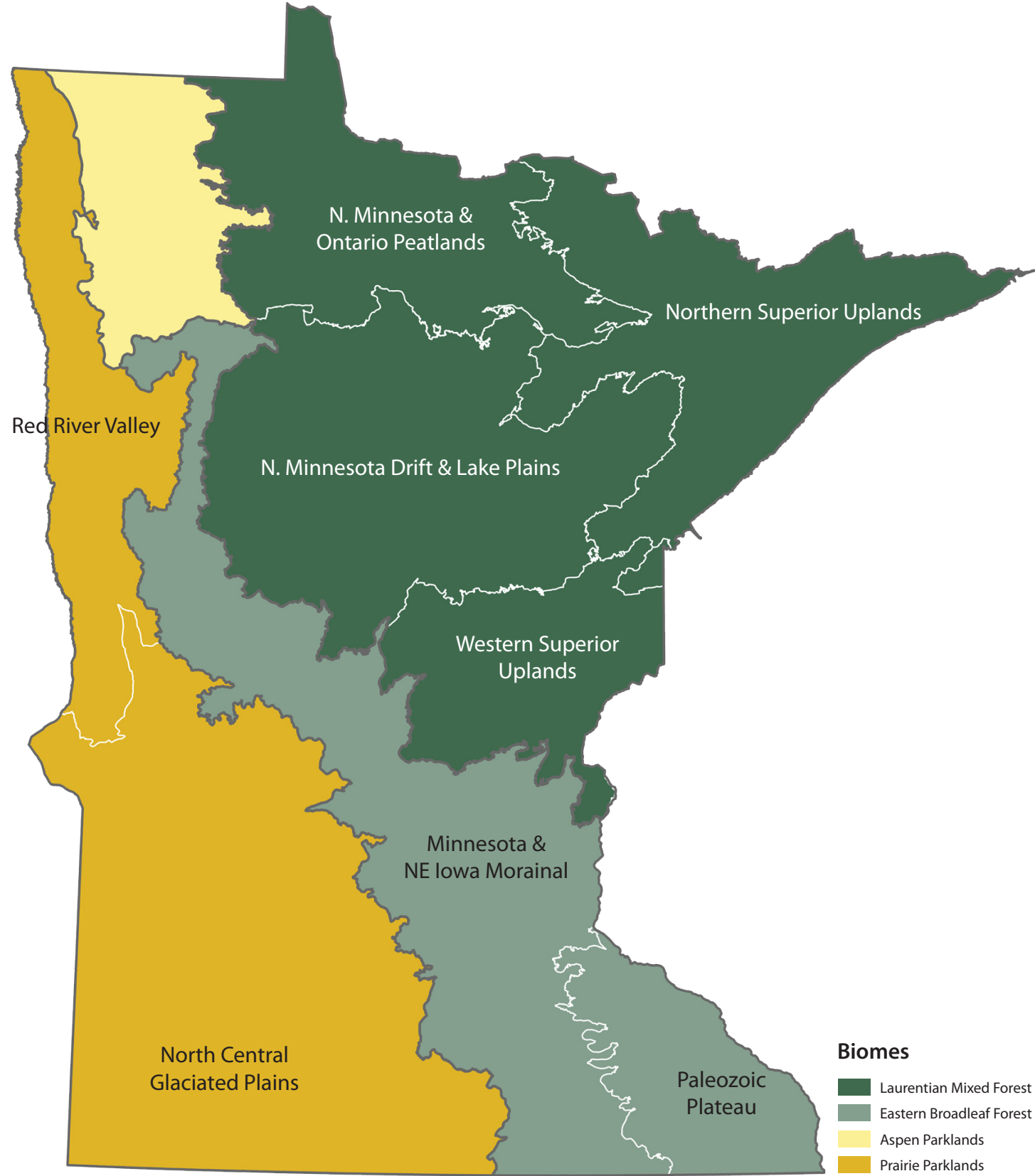
2030 Transitway Plans and Regional Park System

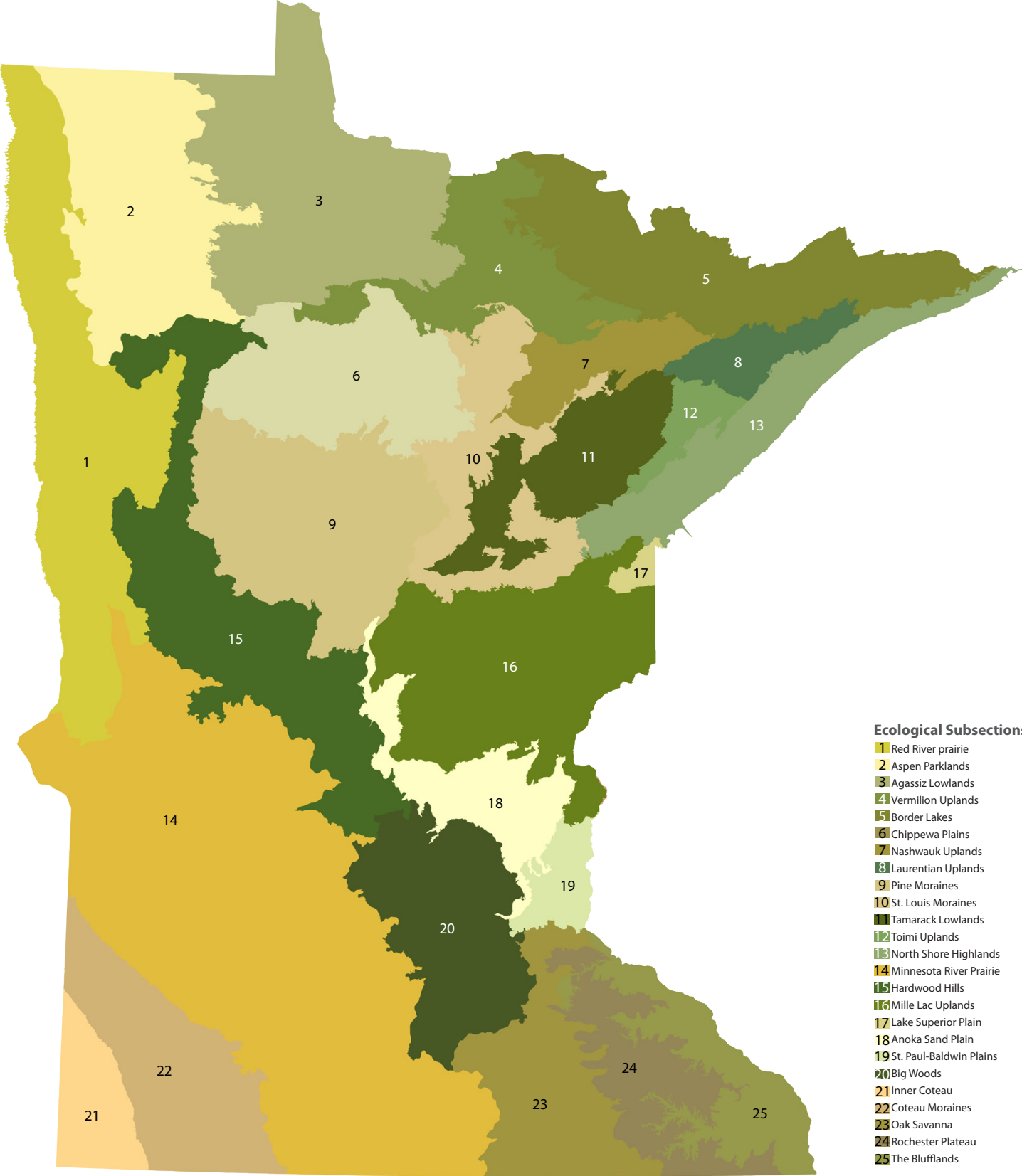
- Transitways are designed to serve the Minneapolis and Saint Paul cores of the Metro Areas
- Park, trail, and transit plans not coordinated for transit/park/trail access.
- Currently access to Minnehaha Regional Park and Fort Snelling State Park are provided by the Hiawatha Light Rail Service.

Transit Routes and Regional Parks System

- Bus routes are configured to serve Minneapolis and Saint Paul cores.
- Very few routes serve regional parks
- Route schedules reflect employment schedules, not recreational needs.







Ecological Subsections

- 1 Red River prairie
- 2 Aspen Parklands
- 3 Agassiz Lowlands
- 4 Vermilion Uplands
- 5 Border Lakes
- 6 Chippewa Plains
- 7 Nashwauk Uplands
- 8 Laurentian Uplands
- 9 Pine Moraines
- 10 St. Louis Moraines
- 11 Tamarack Lowlands
- 12 Toimi Uplands
- 13 North Shore Highlands
- 14 Minnesota River Prairie
- 15 Hardwood Hills
- 16 Mille Lac Uplands
- 17 Lake Superior Plain
- 18 Anoka Sand Plain
- 19 St. Paul-Baldwin Plains
- 20 Big Woods
- 21 Inner Coteau
- 22 Coteau Moraines
- 23 Oak Savanna
- 24 Rochester Plateau
- 25 The Blufflands

Appendix E: Authorizing Legislation

State Statute Authorization of Inventory and Framework

Legislation (64.8 § 6) CREATION OF A PARKS AND TRAILS INVENTORY, FRAMEWORK, AND PLAN. Subdivision 1. Inventory and framework development. (a) The University of Minnesota Center for Changing Landscapes is directed to create a long-range framework for an integrated statewide parks and trails system that provides information on the natural resource-based recreational opportunities available throughout the state. The detailed framework must include an inventory of existing regionally and statewide significant parks and trails, respond to recreational trends and demographic changes, and identify underserved areas, overused facilities, and gaps in the current parks and trails system. The framework must identify opportunities for enhancing existing assets, developing new assets, and linking those assets together effectively within realistic financial resources. (b) As part of the inventory, the Center for Changing Landscapes shall develop a user-friendly Web-based guide for information on state and regional parks in the state. The Department of Natural Resources, the Office of Explore Minnesota Tourism, and the Metropolitan Council shall work with the Center for Changing Landscapes to ensure that all the information currently available on their Web sites is incorporated into the newly developed statewide Web system. The statewide parks and trails Web guide shall be incorporated into the Department of Natural Resources Web site. (c) In developing the framework and inventory, the Center for Changing Landscapes shall consult with the Department of Natural Resources, the Office of Explore Minnesota Tourism, the Metropolitan Council, local units of government, park and trail groups, the public, and other stakeholder groups. The Center for Changing Landscapes shall participate and be actively involved in the collaborative under subdivision 2. (d) The Center for Changing Landscapes shall submit the framework and a summary of the inventory in a report to the commissioner of natural resources and to the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate and house of representatives committees and divisions having jurisdiction over natural resources policy and finance by January 15, 2011.

State Statute Parks and Trails

State Park & Trails Authorizing Legislation

85.32 STATE WATER TRAILS.

Subdivision 1. **Areas marked.** The commissioner of natural resources is authorized in cooperation with local units of government and private individuals and groups when feasible to mark state water trails on the Little Fork, Big Fork, Minnesota, St. Croix, Snake, Mississippi, Red Lake, Cannon, Straight, Des Moines, Crow Wing, St. Louis, Pine, Rum, Kettle, Cloquet, Root, Zumbro, Pomme de Terre within Swift County, Watonwan, Cottonwood, Whitewater, Chippewa from Benson in Swift County to Montevideo in Chippewa County, Long Prairie, Red River of the North, Sauk, Otter Tail, Redwood, Blue Earth, and Crow Rivers which have historic and scenic values and to mark appropriately points of interest, portages, camp sites, and all dams, rapids, waterfalls, whirlpools, and other serious hazards which are dangerous to canoe, kayak, and watercraft travelers. Subd. 2. **Camp sites, rest areas, river accesses and portages, land acquisition.** The commissioner may, in cooperation with local units of government as provided in subdivision 1, acquire land by purchase, grant, gift, devise, exchange, lease or easement for camp sites, rest areas, river accesses and portages. The acquisition of any parcel of land pursuant to this subdivision shall not exceed 20 acres, unless it will or should require a land survey or a larger parcel will be in the best interest of the state, in which case the commissioner may acquire land not to exceed 40 acres or unless specifically authorized by the executive council. The commissioner may also develop and be responsible for the maintenance of campsites, rest areas, river accesses, and portages on the areas acquired, or in cooperation with local units of government, organizations, or individuals, along those rivers designated in subdivision 1. Subd. 3. **Dedication, application of statute.** Areas acquired by easement or lease or areas designated and marked under this section shall not be subject to the provisions of section 160.06

86A.05 [STATE PARKS, TRAILS, ETC] CLASSIFICATION AND PURPOSES. Subdivision 1. **Classification.** The outdoor recreation system shall be comprised of units classified as follows, and each unit shall be authorized, established, and administered to accomplish the purpose and objectives of its classification. Subd. 2. **State park; purpose; resource and site qualifications; administration.** (a) A state park shall be established to protect and perpetuate extensive areas of the state possessing those resources which illustrate and exemplify Minnesota's natural phenomena and to provide for the use, enjoyment, and understanding of such resources without impairment for the enjoyment and recreation of future generations. (b) No unit shall be authorized as a state park unless its proposed location substantially

satisfies the following criteria: (1) exemplifies the natural characteristics of the major landscape regions of the state, as shown by accepted classifications, in an essentially unspoiled or restored condition or in a condition that will permit restoration in the foreseeable future; or contains essentially unspoiled natural resources of sufficient extent and importance to meaningfully contribute to the broad illustration of the state's natural phenomena; and (2) contains natural resources, sufficiently diverse and interesting to attract people from throughout the state; and (3) is sufficiently large to permit protection of the plant and animal life and other natural resources which give the park its qualities and provide for a broad range of opportunities for human enjoyment of these qualities. (c) State parks shall be administered by the commissioner of natural resources in a manner which is consistent with the purposes of this subdivision to preserve, perpetuate, and interpret natural features that existed in the area of the park prior to settlement and other significant natural, scenic, scientific, or historic features that are present. Management shall seek to maintain a balance among the plant and animal life of the park and to reestablish desirable plants and animals that were formerly indigenous to the park area but are now missing. Programs to interpret the natural features of the park shall be provided. Outdoor recreation activities to utilize the natural features of the park that can be accommodated without material disturbance of the natural features of the park or the introduction of undue artificiality into the natural scene may be permitted. Park use shall be primarily for aesthetic, cultural, and educational purposes, and shall not be designed to accommodate all forms or unlimited volumes of recreational use. Physical development shall be limited to those facilities necessary to complement the natural features and the values being preserved. **Subd. 3.State recreation area; purpose; resource and site**

qualifications; administration. (a) A state recreation area shall be established to provide a broad selection of outdoor recreation opportunities in a natural setting which may be used by large numbers of people. (b) No unit shall be authorized as a state recreation area unless its proposed location substantially satisfies the following criteria: (1) contains natural or artificial resources which provide outstanding outdoor recreational opportunities that will attract visitors from beyond the local area; (2) contains resources which permit intensive recreational use by large numbers of people; and (3) may be located in areas which have serious deficiencies in public outdoor recreation facilities, provided that state recreation areas should not be provided in lieu of municipal, county, or regional facilities. (c) State recreation areas shall be administered by the commissioner of natural resources in a manner which is consistent with the purposes of this subdivision primarily to provide as broad a selection of opportunities for outdoor recreation as is consistent with maintaining a pleasing natural environment. Scenic, historic, scientific, scarce, or disappearing resources within state recreation areas shall be recommended for authorization as historic sites or designated scientific and natural areas pursuant to section 86A.08 to preserve and protect them. Physical development shall enhance and promote the use and enjoyment of the natural recreational resources of the area. **Subd. 4.State trail; purpose; resource**

and site qualifications; administration; designation. (a) A state trail shall be established to provide a recreational travel route which connects units of the outdoor recreation system or the national trail system, provides access to or passage through other areas which have significant scenic, historic, scientific, or recreational qualities or reestablishes or permits travel along an historically prominent travel route or which provides commuter transportation. (b) No unit shall be authorized as a state trail unless its proposed location substantially satisfies the following criteria: (1) permits travel in an appropriate manner along a route which provides at least one of the following recreational opportunities: (i) travel along a route which connects areas or points of natural, scientific, cultural, and historic interest; (ii) travel through an area which possesses outstanding scenic beauty; (iii) travel over a route designed to enhance and utilize the unique qualities of a particular manner of travel in harmony with the natural environment; (iv) travel along a route which is historically significant as a route of migration, commerce, or communication; (v) travel between units of the state outdoor recreation system or the national trail system; and (2) utilizes, to the greatest extent possible consistent with the purposes of this subdivision, public lands, rights-of-way, and the like; and (3) provides maximum potential for the appreciation, conservation, and enjoyment of significant scenic, historical, natural, or

Appendix E: Authorizing Legislation

cultural qualities of the areas through which the trail may pass; and (4) takes into consideration predicted public demand and future use. (c) State trails shall be administered by the commissioners of transportation or natural resources as specified by law in a manner which is consistent with the purposes of this subdivision. State trails established by the commissioner of natural resources shall be managed to provide a travel route through an area with a minimum disturbance of the natural environment and recognizing other multiple land use activities. Trail markers shall be limited to those providing safety information and interpretation. (d) Facilities for the rest and comfort of trail users shall be provided primarily within units of the outdoor recreation system through which the trail passes. When additional facilities are required to insure the rest and comfort of the traveler, the managing agency may develop such facilities along the trail and shall designate the facilities as trail waysides. In addition to the foregoing purpose, trail waysides shall be developed for the preservation and interpretation of the trail's natural, historic, or scenic values, and may include facilities for primitive camping, picnicking, sanitation, and parking for access to the trail. **Subd. 5.State scientific and natural areas; purpose; resource and site qualifications; administration; designation.** (a) A state scientific and natural area shall be established to protect and perpetuate in an undisturbed natural state those natural features which possess exceptional scientific or educational value. (b) No unit shall be authorized as a scientific and natural area unless its proposed location substantially satisfies the following criteria: (1) embraces natural features of exceptional scientific and educational value, including but not limited to any of the following: (i) natural formations or features which significantly illustrate geological processes; (ii) significant fossil evidence of the development of life on earth; (iii) an undisturbed plant community maintaining itself under prevailing natural conditions typical of Minnesota; (iv) an ecological community significantly illustrating the process of succession and restoration to natural condition following disruptive change; (v) a habitat supporting a vanishing, rare, endangered, or restricted species of plant or animal; (vi) a relict flora or fauna persisting from an earlier period; or (vii) a seasonal haven for concentrations of birds and animals, or a vantage point for observing concentrated populations, such as a constricted migration route; and (2) embraces an area large enough to permit effective research or educational functions and to preserve the inherent natural values of the area. (c) State scientific and natural areas shall be administered by the commissioner of natural resources, in consultation with qualified persons, in a manner which is consistent with the purposes of this subdivision to preserve, perpetuate and protect from unnatural influences the scientific and educational resources within them. Interpretive studies may be provided for the general public. Physical development shall be limited to the facilities absolutely necessary for protection, research, and educational projects, and, where appropriate, for interpretive services. (d) An area designated as a state scientific and natural area shall not be altered in designation or use without holding a public hearing on the matter at a time and place designated in the notice of the hearing, which shall be published once in a legal newspaper in each county in which the lands are situated at least seven days in advance of the hearing. At the hearing the commissioner shall provide an opportunity for any person to be heard. The commissioner may designate these areas by written order published in the State Register. Designations are not subject to the rulemaking provisions of chapter 14 and section 14.386 does not apply. (e) At the discretion of the managing agency, each scientific and natural area shall be designated as one of the following types: (i) Research unit. Use is limited to programs conducted by qualified scientists and college graduate and postgraduate students. (ii) Educational unit. Permitted uses include all activities specified in paragraph (i) above and primary, secondary, and college undergraduate programs. (iii) Public use unit. Permitted uses include all uses permitted in paragraphs (i) and (ii) above and interpretive programs for the benefit of the general public. **Subd. 6.State wilderness area; purpose; resource and site qualifications; administration.** (a) A state wilderness area shall be established to preserve, in a natural wild and undeveloped condition, areas which offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive types of outdoor recreation. (b) No unit shall be authorized as a state wilderness area unless its proposed location substantially satisfies the following criteria: appears to have been primarily affected by the forces of nature, with the evidence of humanity being substantially unnoticeable or where the evidence

of humanity may be eliminated by restoration. (c) State wilderness areas shall be administered by the commissioner of natural resources in a manner which is consistent with the purposes of this subdivision, and shall be managed only to the extent necessary to control fire, insects, and disease, and to preserve existing wilderness or reestablish wilderness conditions. There shall be no development of public roads, permanent dwellings, or recreational facilities except trails for nonmotorized traffic. Motorized traffic shall not be allowed. No commercial utilization of timber or minerals shall be allowed. Facilities existing at the time of establishment shall be removed. **Subd. 7.State forests and state forest subareas; purpose; resource and site qualifications; administration.** (a) A state forest, as established by section 89.021, shall be administered to accomplish the purposes set forth in that section, and a state forest subarea shall be established to permit development and management of specialized outdoor recreation at locations and in a manner consistent with the primary purpose of the forest. (b) No unit shall be authorized as a state forest subarea unless it is located within a state forest and contains suitable natural resources to accommodate any of the following uses: (1) Day use areas. Areas which permit recreational use of the forest in its natural state, not requiring an overnight stay, including but not limited to picnicking, fishing, swimming, boat launching, hiking, interpretation, and nature observation. (2) Campground. Provide minimum facilities to accommodate overnight camping. (c) Outdoor recreation subareas located within state forests shall be administered by the commissioner of natural resources in a manner which is consistent with the purposes of this subdivision. **Subd. 8.State wildlife management area; purpose; resource and site qualifications; administration.** (a) A state wildlife management area shall be established to protect those lands and waters which have a high potential for wildlife production and to develop and manage these lands and waters for the production of wildlife, for public hunting, fishing, and trapping, and for other compatible outdoor recreational uses. (b) No unit shall be authorized as a state wildlife management area unless its proposed location substantially satisfies the following criteria: (1) includes appropriate wildlife lands and habitat, including but not limited to marsh or wetlands and the margins thereof, ponds, lakes, stream bottomlands, and uplands, which permit the propagation and management of a substantial population of the desired wildlife species; and (2) includes an area large enough to ensure adequate wildlife management and regulation of the permitted recreational uses. (c) State wildlife management areas shall be administered by the commissioner of natural resources in a manner which is consistent with the purposes of this subdivision to perpetuate, and if necessary, reestablish quality wildlife habitat for maximum production of a variety of wildlife species. Public hunting, fishing, trapping, and other uses shall be consistent with the limitations of the resource, including the need to preserve an adequate brood stock and prevent long-term habitat injury or excessive wildlife population reduction or increase. Physical development may provide access to the area, but shall be so developed as to minimize intrusion on the natural environment. **Subd. 9.State water access site; purpose; resource and site qualifications; administration.** (a) A state water access site shall be established to provide public access to rivers and lakes which are suitable for outdoor water recreation and where the access is necessary to permit public use. (b) No unit shall be authorized as a state water access site unless its proposed location substantially satisfies the following criteria: (1) the body of water to which access is being provided and surrounding lands can withstand additional recreational use without undue damage to the environment or undue risks to the health and safety of water users; (2) public access to the body of water is either nonexistent or inadequate. (c) State water access sites shall be administered by the commissioner of natural resources or the commissioner of transportation in a manner which is consistent with the purposes of this subdivision to provide public access to water. Access roads, off-road parking areas, refuse containers, sanitary facilities, and facilities for limited picnicking and primitive camping may be provided when the commissioner determines that these activities are justifiable and are compatible with the resource and the natural environment. **Subd. 10.State wild, scenic, and recreational rivers; purpose; resource and site qualifications; administration; designation.** (a) State wild, scenic, and recreational rivers shall be established to protect and maintain the natural characteristics of all or a portion of a river or stream, or its tributaries, or lake through which the river or stream flows which together with adjacent lands possesses outstanding

Appendix E: Authorizing Legislation

scenic, scientific, historical, or recreational value, as provided by sections 103F.301 to 103F.345. (b) State wild, scenic, and recreational rivers shall be administered by the commissioner of natural resources in a manner which is consistent with the purposes of this subdivision and sections 103F.301 to 103F.345. **Subd. 11.State historic sites; purpose; resource and site qualifications; administration; designation.** (a) A state historic site shall be established to preserve, restore, and interpret buildings and other structures, locales, sites, antiquities, and related lands which aptly illustrate significant events, personalities, and features of the history and archaeology of the state or nation. (b) No unit shall be authorized as a state historic site unless it is historically important for any of the following reasons: (1) is the site of or directly associated with a significant historical event; or (2) is associated with persons whose lives and accomplishments are historically unique or important; or (3) embodies the distinctive characteristics of an architectural style or method of construction which represents a particular and significant historical period, or the work of a master builder, designer, or architect; or (4) has yielded, or is likely to yield, historical or archaeological artifacts, records, or other original data or information; or (5) is a geographical feature of outstanding significance and includes, by way of example, the highest point in the state, the continental divide, and the source of the Mississippi River. (c) State historic sites shall be administered by the commissioner of natural resources, the Minnesota Historical Society, the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota, governmental subdivisions of the state, or by county historical societies jointly or independently as designated by law in a manner which is consistent with the purposes of this subdivision to maintain and, if necessary, restore the historical integrity of the site to commemorate or illustrate its historical importance. Ancient features of significance shall be protected from disturbance until archaeological research has been completed. Interpretive programs for visitors shall be provided including, where practicable, interpretation of research programs under supervised conditions. Recreational use of natural features shall be permitted only where this can be accomplished without detriment to historical values. Physical development shall be limited to those facilities necessary to achieve the management and use objectives. **Subd. 12.State rest area; purpose; resource and site qualifications; administration.** (a) A state rest area shall be established to promote a safe, pleasurable, and informative travel experience along Minnesota highways by providing areas and facilities at reasonable intervals for information, emergencies, or the rest and comfort of travelers. (b) No unit shall be authorized as a state rest area unless its proposed location substantially satisfies the following criteria: (1) is adjacent to or in near proximity to a trunk or interstate highway; (2) is developed at appropriate intervals based on the type of road system, traffic and traffic projections and known or projected usage of the proposed development; (3) may be near or associated with a place or area of natural, scientific, cultural, or historic interest. (c) Rest areas shall be administered by the commissioner of transportation in cooperation with other agencies as appropriate in a manner which is consistent with the purposes of this subdivision. State rest areas may be managed to provide parking, resting, restroom, picnicking, orientation, travel information, and other facilities for the convenience of the traveling public. Where located in conjunction with features of interest, state rest areas shall provide interpretive exhibits or other facilities if appropriate to promote understanding and enjoyment of the features.**Subd. 13.Additional parks; administration.** All other state parks which, though not meeting the resource and site qualifications contained in subdivisions 2 and 3, were in existence on January 1, 1984, shall be administered by the commissioner of natural resources as units of the outdoor recreation system. **Subd. 14.Aquatic management areas.** (a) Aquatic management areas may be established to protect, develop, and manage lakes, rivers, streams, and adjacent wetlands and lands that are critical for fish and other aquatic life, for water quality, and for their intrinsic biological value, public fishing, or other compatible outdoor recreational uses. (b) Aquatic management areas may be established to protect wetland areas under ten acres that are donated to the Department of Natural Resources. (c) No unit may be authorized unless it meets one or more of the following criteria: (1) provides angler or management access;(2) protects fish spawning, rearing, or other unique habitat; (3) protects aquatic wildlife feeding and nesting areas; (4) protects critical shoreline habitat; or (5) provides a site for research on natural history. (d) Aquatic management areas must be administered by the commissioner of natural resources

in a manner consistent with the purposes of this subdivision to perpetuate and, if necessary, reestablish high quality aquatic habitat for production of fish, wildlife, and other aquatic species. Public fishing and other uses shall be consistent with the limitations of the resource, including the need to preserve adequate populations and prevent long-term habitat injury or excessive fish population reduction or increase. Public access to aquatic management areas may be closed during certain time periods. (e) State-owned lands or waters, or any state-owned interests in lands or waters, acquired before August 1, 2000, that meet the criteria of this subdivision and that have been administered by the commissioner of natural resources as fish management areas or other areas of fishery interest are authorized as units of the outdoor recreation system upon designation by the commissioner of natural resources as aquatic management areas. **Subd. 15.State boater wayside.**(a) Boater waysides may be established to provide for public use.(b) No unit shall be authorized as a state boater wayside unless its proposed location substantially satisfies the following criteria: (1) contains resources that are desirable for use by boaters; (2) is accessible by persons traveling by boat, canoe, or kayak; and (3) may be near, associated with, or located within a unit of the outdoor recreation system under this section. (c) State boater waysides shall be administered by the commissioner of natural resources in a manner that is consistent with the purpose of this subdivision. Facilities for sanitation, picnicking, overnight mooring, camping, fishing, and swimming may be provided when the commissioner determines that these activities are justifiable and compatible with the resources and the natural environment.

Metropolitan Area Regional Recreation Authorizing Legislation

473.302 REGIONAL RECREATION OPEN SPACE SYSTEM; PURPOSE.

The legislature finds that the pressure of urbanization and development threatens valuable recreational open space areas in the metropolitan area at the same time as the need for such areas is increased. Immediate action is therefore necessary to provide funds to acquire, preserve, protect and develop regional recreational open space for public use.

473.147 REGIONAL RECREATION OPEN SPACE SYSTEM POLICY PLAN.

Subdivision 1. **Requirements.** The Metropolitan Council after consultation with the Parks and Open Space Commission, municipalities, park districts and counties in the metropolitan area, and after appropriate public hearings, shall prepare and adopt a long-range system policy plan for regional recreation open space as part of the council's Metropolitan Development Guide. The policy plan shall identify generally the areas which should be acquired by a public agency to provide a system of regional recreation open space comprising park district, county and municipal facilities which, together with state facilities, reasonably will meet the outdoor recreation needs of the people of the metropolitan area and shall establish priorities for acquisition and development."