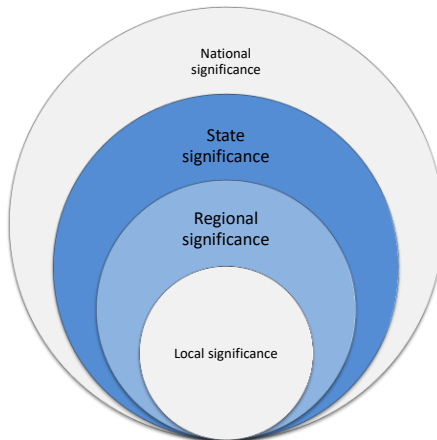


# Parks and Trails Legacy Strategic Directions Overview

Minnesota House: Legacy Finance Committee  
April 2, 2019



Passed in November 2008, the focus of Parks and Trails Legacy is parks and trails of state and regional significance.



## The 25 Year Legacy Plan

The 2009 Legislature directed DNR to develop a plan to guide the use and evaluation of funds over the 25 year life of Legacy.

DNR convened a wide array of stakeholders over 18 months held a series of open meetings with the public, and developed *A Parks and Trails Vision for Minnesotans*:

“In 2035, our world-class parks and trails connect everyone to the outdoors. They create experiences that inspire a legacy of stewardship for the natural world and they provide fun outdoor recreational opportunities that strengthen friendships, families, health, and spirit, now and into the future. Minnesotans experience the full range of benefits that outdoor recreation provides, reinforcing our identity as an outdoor culture.”

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## Four Strategic Directions Frame the 25-Year Plan



Connect People to the Outdoors



Acquire Land, Create Opportunities



Take Care of What We Have



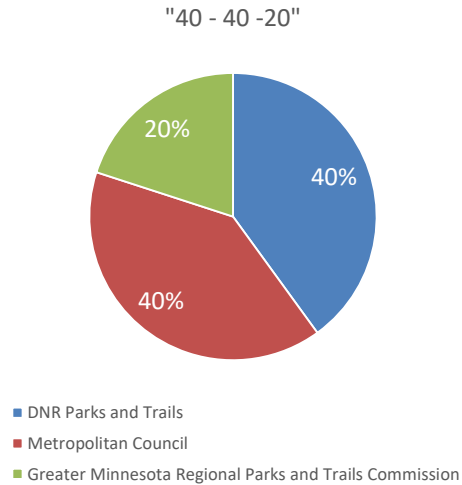
Coordinate Among Partners

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## Funding Split for Parks and Trails Fund

The 2011 Legislature directed the creation of a working group to make recommendations of funding distributions for parks and trails of state and regional significance. The Legacy Funding Work Group recommended a “40-40-20” split through the FY18/19 biennium.



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## 10-Year Celebration Events

**12,500 Minnesotans**  
participated in  
**9 events**  
around the state from  
January through the State  
Fair.

Events were held to:

1. Celebrate
2. Educate
3. Listen



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## What We Learned

Reflections from the Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee,  
Department of Natural Resources, Metropolitan Council, and Greater  
Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission



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Full report available online: [www.legacy.mn.gov/parks-and-trails-10th-anniversary-report-0](http://www.legacy.mn.gov/parks-and-trails-10th-anniversary-report-0)

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### Parks and Trails Legacy Fund: DNR Overview

Erika Rivers | Director, Division of Parks and Trails

March 25, 2019

Senate Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee

# Minnesota State Parks and Trails System



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## State Parks and Recreation Areas:

- 75 state parks and recreation areas
- 4,800 camping and lodging units

## State Forest Recreation Areas:

- 58 forest campgrounds/day use areas
- 1,000 OHV trail miles
- 12,000 miles of GIA OHV trails

## State and Grant-in-Aid Trails:

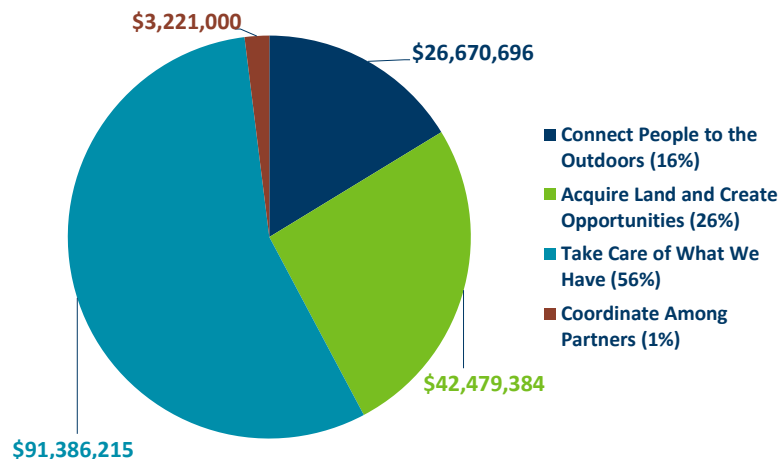
- 2,900 total state trail miles, authorized
- 21,000 miles of GIA snowmobile trails

## Water Recreation:

- 35 state water trails
- 1,500 public water accesses
- 370 fishing piers

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## MN DNR FY10-19 Parks and Trails Legacy Appropriations, by Pillar



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MN DNR, State Parks and Trails | Legacy Fund Overview

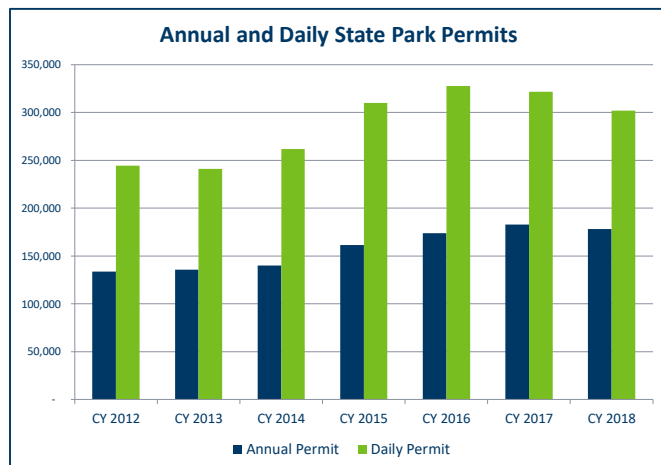
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## Coordinating among Partners (1%)



The mission of the Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee is to champion the 25-year *Parks and Trails Legacy Plan* by providing recommendations to enhance promotion, coordination, and accountability throughout implementation of the plan.”

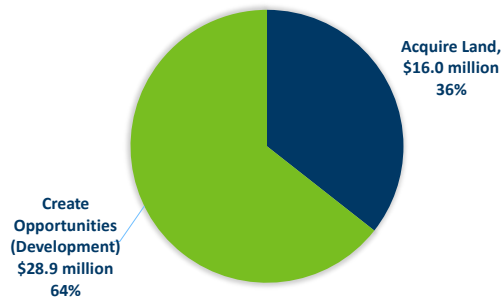
## Connecting People to the Outdoors (17%)



## Acquire Land and Create Opportunities (24.5%)



### TOTAL A&D LEGACY ALLOCATIONS, FY10-19



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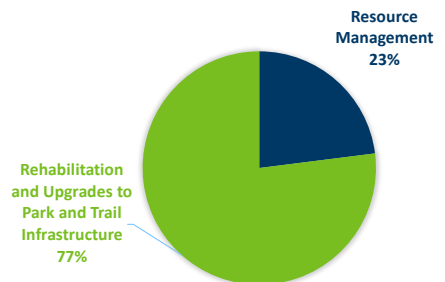
MN DNR, State Parks and Trails | Legacy Fund Overview

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## Take Care of What We Have (58.5%)



### PROPOSED SPENDING FOR FY20-21



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MN DNR, State Parks and Trails | Legacy Fund Overview

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## DNR Parks and Trails Legacy Investment Selection Process



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MN DNR, State Parks and Trails | Legacy Fund Overview

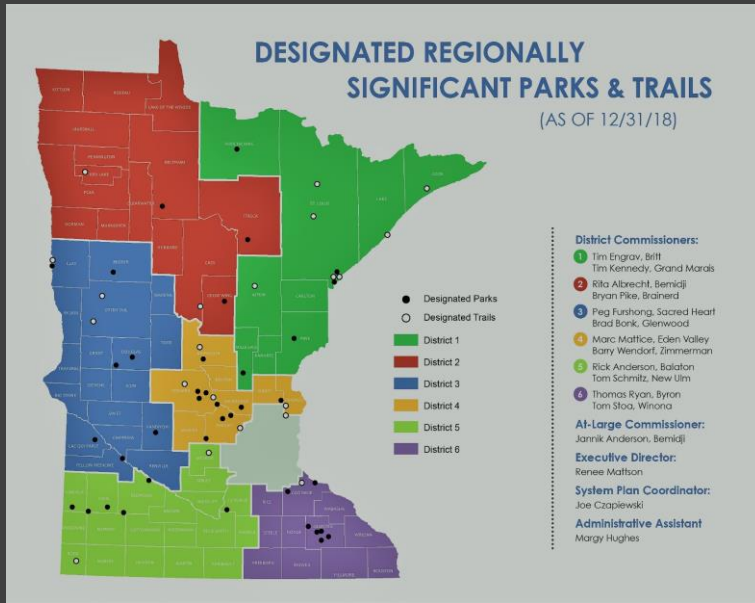
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## Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission



# Greater Minnesota System Development



## Greater Minnesota System

- 28 Natural Resource Based Parks
- 20 Trails; motorized, non-motorized, mixed use and water
- 11 Special Recreation Feature Parks

**FY20 FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

PROJECT	AWARD	DIST.
Duluth Hartley Park	\$1,293,975	1
Duluth Traverse	\$889,198	1
Red Lake River Corridor	\$1,491,881	2
Lake Shore Gull Lake Trail	\$1,206,319	2
Granite Falls Memorial Park	\$150,000	3
Wright County Bertram Park	\$2,297,600	4
Morrison County Belle Prairie Park	\$65,000	4
Lincoln County Hole in the Mountain Park	\$53,000	5
Redwood County Plum Creek Park	\$27,000	5
Rochester Gamehaven Park	\$1,076,410	6
Cannon Valley Trail	\$88,875	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,639,258</b>	

## LEGACY GRANT OUTCOMES 2016-2019: COMPLETE OR IN PROGRESS

LEGACY DOLLARS AT WORK IN GREATER MINNESOTA

PROJECT PLANNING **3**

**19.06** RESTORED TRAIL MILES

**683.87** ACRES  
ACQUIRED FOR PARKS

**39** PROGRAMMING  
CONNECTING PEOPLE TO THE OUTDOORS

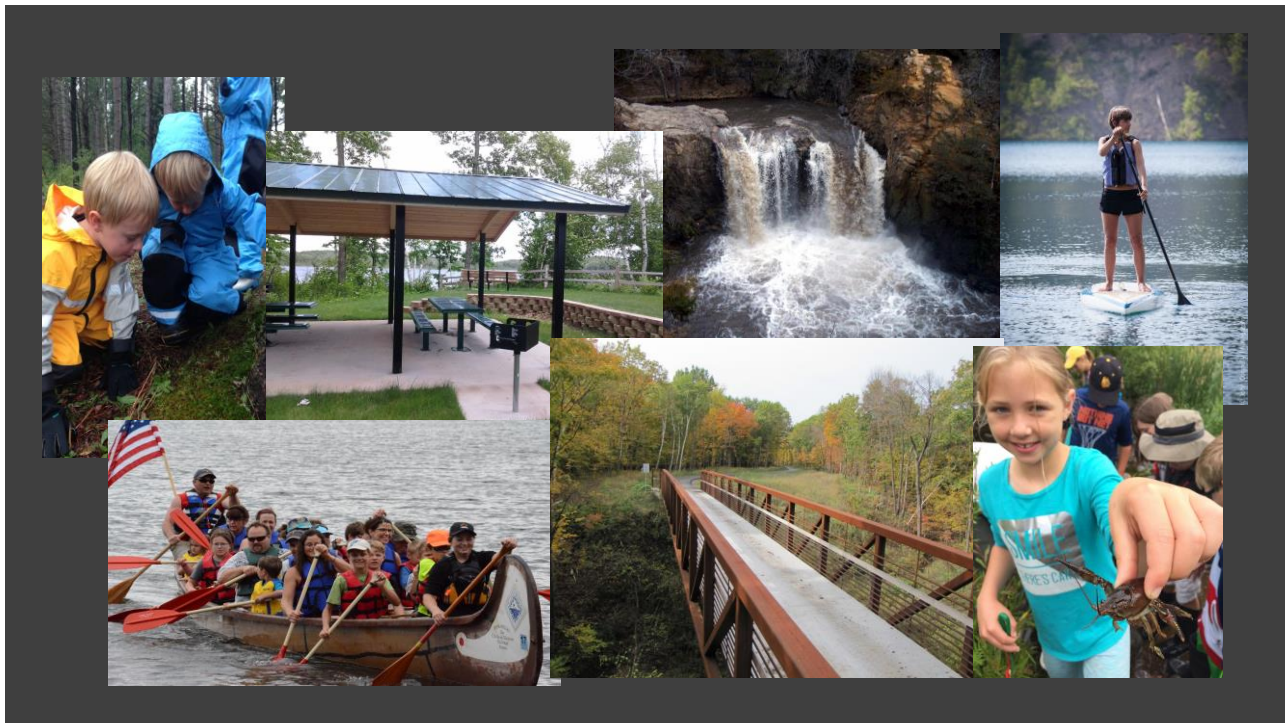
**10.25** TRAIL MILES  
ACQUIRED

**5** BRIDGE  
PROJECTS

**23** PARKS  
DEVELOPMENT

**68.38** NEW TRAIL MILES

Photo Caption:  
Cannon Valley Trail - District 6

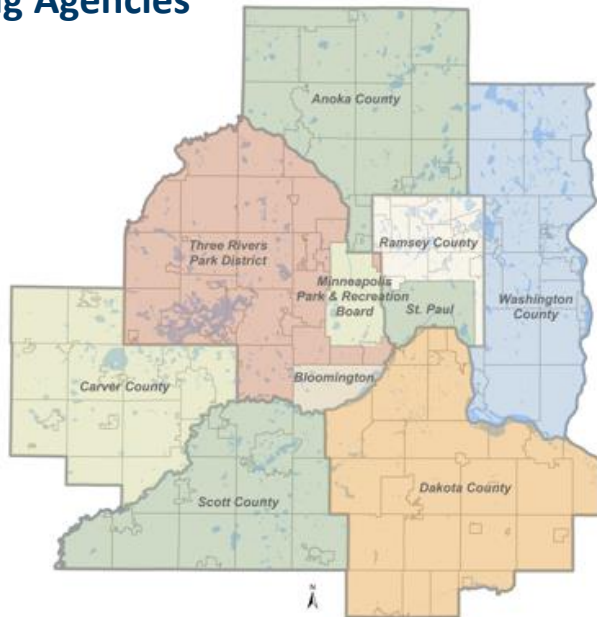


## Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Metropolitan Regional Park System

LisaBeth Barajas, Community Development Director  
Metropolitan Council

## Regional Parks Implementing Agencies

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



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## Regional Parks System

### System Facts

- 44 Regional Parks
- 12 Park Reserves
- 8 Special Recreation Features
- 49 Regional Trails with almost 400 miles of opportunities
- Almost 55,000 acres of parkland



Family friendly fun at Silverwood Park  
Three Rivers Park District

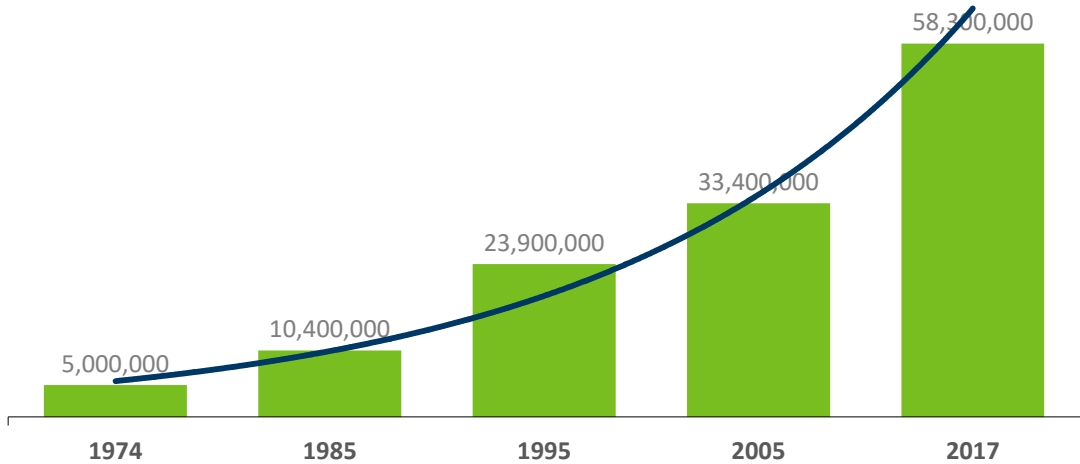
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## Visits to the Regional Park System Have Grown between 1974 and 2017



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## Parks and Trails Fund Distribution

State statute\* splits funding for metropolitan regional parks into two areas:

- 90% distributed *non-competitively*, by formula, to the 10 implementing agencies
- 10% distributed on a first-come-first-served basis for land acquisition
  - Met Council matches acquisition funds on a three-to-two basis



Lake Minnewashta Regional Park

\*Minn. Statute 85.53, subd. 3

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## FY2020-21 Proposed Legacy Projects

- 53 project proposals across all ten implementing agencies.
- Projects conform with Council-approved master plans.
- Wide array of projects including visitor center developments, park and trail developments and restorations, accessibility and restroom improvements, playground enhancements, programming, and more!



Minnehaha Parkway  
Regional Trail



Bruce Vento Regional Trail

3/25/2019

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## Questions?

Thank you!



3/25/2019

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