

# Parks and Trails Legacy Partner Agency Update

House Legacy Finance Committee • March 25, 2026



**Greater Minnesota Regional  
Parks and Trails Commission**

**Metropolitan Council  
Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trails**

**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**

# Minnesota Clean Water, Land and Legacy



*Legacy Amendment revenue is distributed into four funds.*

## Strategic Directions:

- Connect People and the Outdoors
- Acquire Land, Create Opportunities
- Take Care of What We Have
- Coordinate Among Partners

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

# Working Together

- Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee
- Advance joint projects with partners (user-friendly websites, trail projects, cooperative research, etc.)
- Minnesota Parks Artist-in-Residence program (MNPAiR)
- Welcoming and accessible parks and trails



Metropolitan Council

# Metropolitan Regional Park System

Emmett Mullin  
Regional Parks and Trails  
Manager

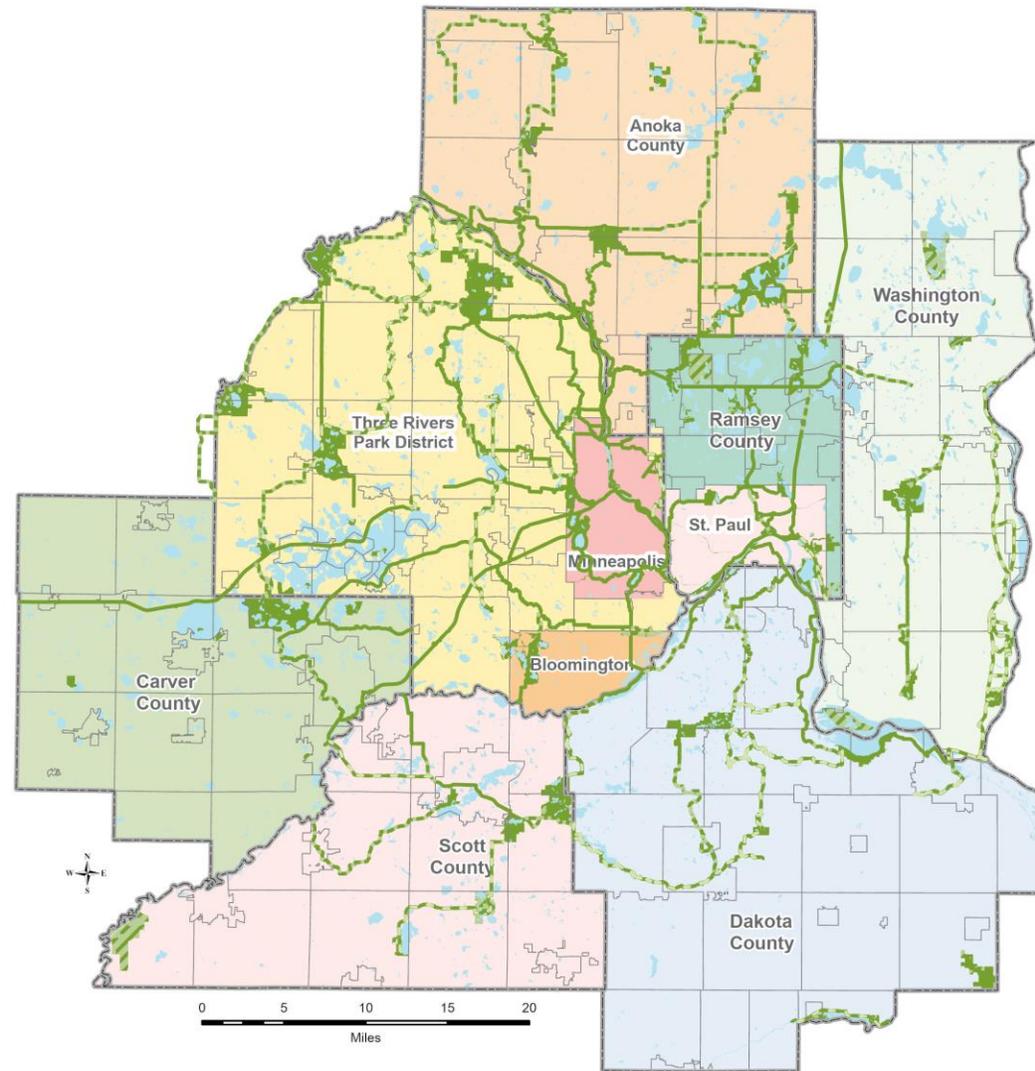
Battle Creek Regional Park



# Collaboration and cooperation

## 10 Regional Parks implementing agencies

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



- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| Regional Trail (Open to the Public)     | County Boundaries            |
| Regional Trail (Not Open to the Public) | City and Township Boundaries |
| Planned Trail (Not Open to the Public)  | Lakes and Rivers             |
| Regional Park (Open to the Public)      |                              |
| Regional Park (Not Open to the Public)  |                              |
| Planned Park (Not Open to the Public)   |                              |

# Regional parks and trails system



**NATURE-BASED SYSTEM PROVIDES SIGNIFICANT GREENSPACE AND WILDLIFE HABITAT**



**8 SPECIAL FEATURES** (LIKE COMO PARK ZOO AND CONSERVATORY AND GALE WOODS FARM)



**58 REGIONAL PARKS AND PARK RESERVES**



**NEARLY 500 MILES OF INTERCONNECTED REGIONAL TRAILS**



**OVER 69 MILLION VISITS IN 2023**



**OVER 65,000 ACRES OF LAND PROTECTED**

# Parks & Trails Fund - Minnesota's Legacy

## Critical Investments, Big Impacts



Blakeley Bluffs Park Reserve Acquisition  
Scott County



Minnesota River Greenway Regional  
Trail Development, Dakota County

# Parks & Trails Fund - Minnesota's Legacy



**MNPAiR Program featuring Dakota County Parks, Ramsey County Parks, and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Parks**



**mn** DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

# Parks and Trails Legacy Fund: Minnesota DNR Overview

Laura Preus | Minnesota DNR, Division of Parks and Trails



# State Parks and Trails

## Create Opportunities, Connect People to the Outdoors



Shipwreck Creek Campground and Trail  
Connection at Split Rock Lighthouse State Park



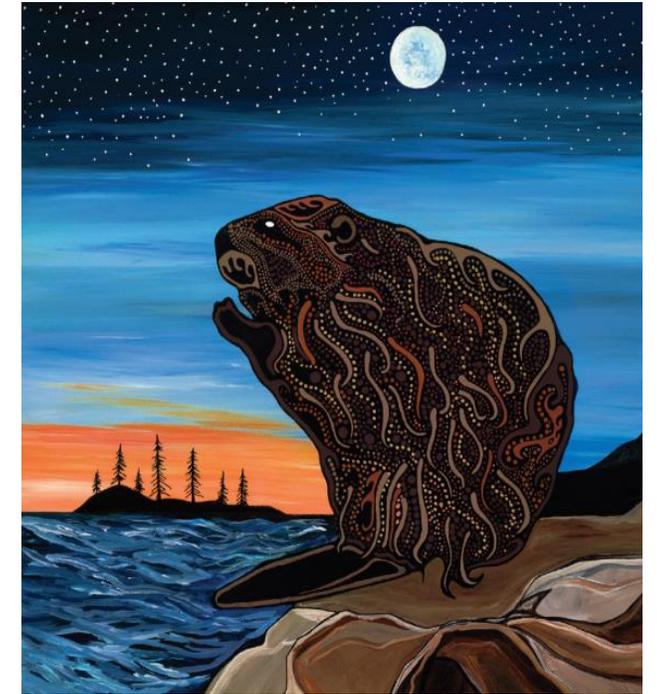
*I Can Camp!* at Afton State Park

# State Parks and Trails Take Care of What We Have



Sibley State Park's Lakeview Campground

# State Parks and Trails Coordinate with Partners



MNPAiR Program at Lake Bemidji State Park,  
Tettegouche State Park



# Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

Renee Mattson  
Executive Director





# Create Opportunities



# Coordinate with Partners



MNPAiR – Olmsted County Oxbow Park and Zollman Zoo,  
Rochester Cascade Lake Park and Quarry Hill Nature Center

# Coordinate with Partners



MNPAiR – Granite Falls Memorial Park and Douglas County  
Lake Brophy Park

# Coordinate with Partners



MNPAiR – Sherburne County Two Inlets at Bdé Heháka - Omashkooz  
Zaaga'igaans Regional Park and Wright County Ney Park

# MNPAiR Artists



# Thank You



FORECAST