

# Parks and Trails Legacy Partner Agency Update

House Legacy Finance Committee • February 23, 2022



## Minnesota 25-Year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan • Vision

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

- *Every Minnesotan has a strong connection to natural resource-based parks and trails throughout the state.*
- *Young people, families, and seniors are active outdoors and as a result are healthy.*
- *Minnesotans who have traditionally not participated as much at parks and trails are active outdoors and feel welcome.*

# Minnesota 25-Year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan • Pillars



Connect People to the Outdoors



Acquire Land, Create Opportunities



Take Care of What We Have



Coordinate Among Partners

# Engage Minnesotans in a Shared Outdoor Recreation Legacy

- Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee
- Advance joint projects with partners (e.g., user-friendly websites, trail projects, joint research, etc.)
- Welcoming and accessible parks and trails



# Covid-19 Pandemic Impact

As a result of the pandemic, visitors valued park and trail experiences even more -- and new visitors have been introduced and welcomed to our parks and trails.

Trail use for walking and bicycling saw some of the greatest increases.

State and Regional Park visits increased across the systems in 2020 and high demand continued in 2021.

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

STAY SAFE MN



## Outdoor Recreation and Facilities

*Partners worked together with MN Dept of Health to develop outdoor recreation guidelines*

# Covid-19 Pandemic Impact

## Minnesotans value the outdoors and natural resources





# Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

Renee Mattson  
Executive Director



# Greater Minnesota System Development

67 Parks and Trails

- 22 Regional trails
- 33 Natural Resource Based Parks
- 12 Special Features

Climbing wall at Rochester  
Quarry Hill Park



Olmsted County Oxbow Park and Zollman Zoo



Riders on the Duluth Traverse  
Mountain Bike System



# Making Parks and Trails Welcoming and Accessible for All

Site visit for new, universally accessible nature playground at Rochester Cascade Lake Park



Snowshoeing adventure at Wright County Robert Ney Park



Red Wing He Mni Can – Barn Bluff Park with English and Dakota language interpretive pillars





Parks and Trails Legacy Fund

# Metropolitan Regional Park System

LisaBeth Barajas  
Executive Director of Community Development



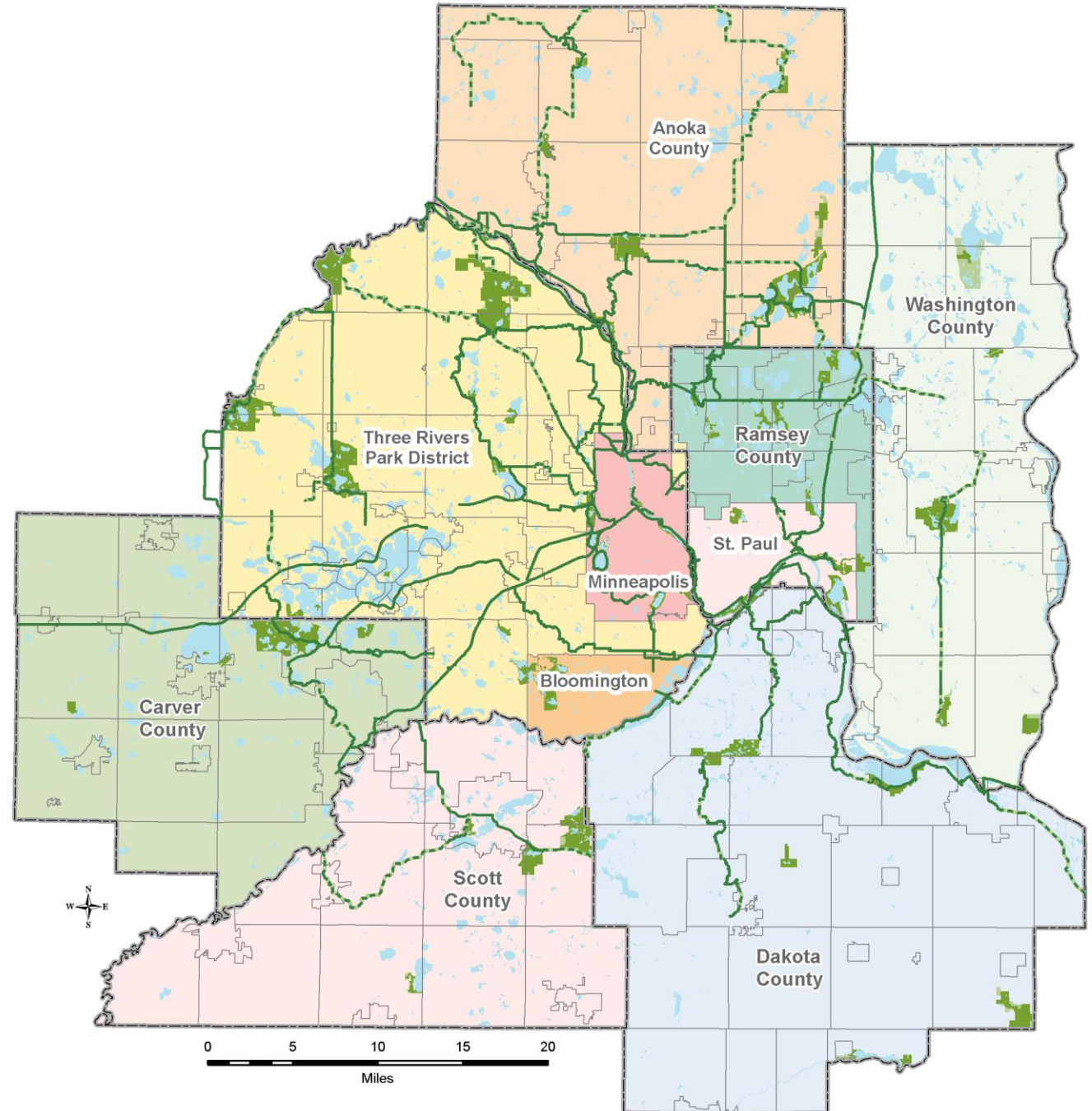
# 10 Regional Parks Implementing Agencies

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



# Regional Park System

- **44** Regional Parks
- **12** Park Reserves
- **8** Special Recreation Features
- **55** Regional Trails with **415** miles of currently open to the public
- Almost **55,000 acres** of parkland



# Connecting People and the Outdoors



Try It Ice Fishing, Fish Lake Regional Park  
Three Rivers Park District

*Focusing on  
Introductory  
Experiences*



Fish Lake Regional Park



Nordic Opener, Elm Creek Park Reserve  
Three Rivers Park District

# Connecting People and the Outdoors



Archery in the Parks, Dakota County

## *Building New Outdoor Skills*



Canoeing, Lebanon Hills Regional Park, Dakota Co.



Learn to Ski with Outdoor Latino, Dakota County

# Create Opportunities – Ramsey County Example

## BATTLE CREEK WINTER RECREATION AREA



*Enhancing health, well-being and equity through connection to the natural environment.*





**mn** MINNESOTA  
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

## Parks and Trails Legacy Fund: DNR Overview

**Ann Pierce** | **Director, Division of Parks and Trails**

# Minnesota State Parks and Trails

## State Parks and Recreation Areas

- 75 State Parks and Recreation Areas
- Nearly 5,000 camping and lodging units
- 240,000 acres of land managed

## State and Grant-in-Aid (GIA) Trails

- 25 state trails
- 1,500 miles of developed state trails
- 3,600 miles of hiking, biking, horse, and motorized trails within state parks, state recreation areas, and state forests
- 24,600 miles of Grant-in-aid trails (snowmobile, OHV, and ski)

## State Forest Recreation Areas

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

## Water Recreation

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



# Minnesota State Parks and Trails

## Connect People and the Outdoors

### New Library Pass Program



### Multi-cultural marketing

**m MINNESOTA STATE PARKS AND TRAILS**

Trailblazer

February 2021

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

~Maya Angelou

**Black History Makers**

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

From a [pioneering fur trader](#), the [Civilian Conservation Corps](#) service men and the first Black [district conservationist](#) in Winona County, to [artists](#) and [leaders](#) working on inclusion, we share the stories of some of those leaving their marks in the outdoor recreation world.

Let's keep studying, learning and listening about Black history makers, beyond this month.

**Harriet Tubman, the Ultimate Outdoors Woman**

Did you know that Harriet Tubman used her knowledge of the environment and wildlife to communicate, navigate and survive? An [unsung naturalist](#), Tubman relied on her knowledge of astronomy to orient herself while traveling, used owl calls as a signal and

**m MINNESOTA STATE PARKS AND TRAILS**

Trailblazer

November 2021

*"Our relationship with land cannot heal until we hear its stories."*

Robin Wall Kimmerer, quote from [Braiding Sweetgrass](#)

**Aaniin. Tanyáŋ Yahipi**

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

**OUT & ABOUT**

**Bradley Harrington, Angler and Leader Who Accepts Manitog Gifts**

Mii a'aw anishinaabe aabajitood l'iw gaa-pi-miin'igoowizid ji-mino-bimaadizid.

Before taking on his current role as Tribal Liaison with the Minnesota DNR Commissioner's Office, Harrington was Commissioner of Natural Resources for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

### Interpretive Exhibits

7347-853579.test.occell.com

Bog Walk Trail Stop 1

What can you find in the bog?

**What is a bog?**

The Ojibwe word for a bog is mashkiig.

"mush-keeg"

00:00

The Ojibwe word for a bog means "medicine from the earth". A bog is like a store full of useful plants.

Maps Explore Info Favs

# Minnesota State Parks and Trails

Connect People and the Outdoors

## *I Can!... Programs*



*I can*  
**MOUNTAIN  
BIKE!**



*I can*  
**PADDLE!**



*I can*  
**CAMP!**

# Minnesota State Parks and Trails

## Take Care of What We Have



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

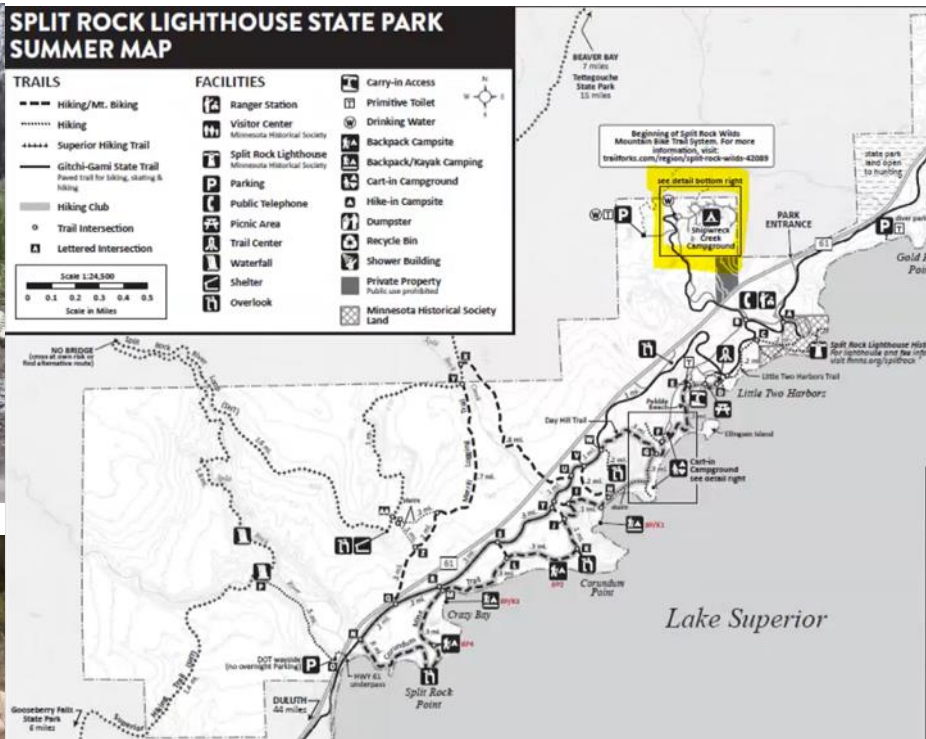
## Create Opportunities



**Glacial Lakes State Trail within Sibley State Park**  
Legacy funds provide supplemental funds to make safe, accessible and welcoming trail projects possible

# Minnesota State Parks and Trails

## Create Opportunities



**Shipwreck Creek Campground at Split Rock Light House State Park**  
*Opening Spring 2022*



# Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment, 2009 - 2034



# Thank You

Questions?

