



# Invest in Healthy Kids & Communities

## Support \$4 million in general obligation bonds for the DNR's local parks & trails grant programs (HF 1039 Murphy/SF 513 Ruud)

### What are the DNR's local parks and trails grant programs?

- **Outdoor Recreation Program** provides funding for acquisition, development and/or redevelopment of local parks and recreation areas.
- **Local Trail Connections Program** provides funding for short trail connections between where people live and desirable locations.

### Why are these grant programs important?

- Outdoor recreation is for everyone! Grants allow cities and counties to modernize playgrounds and other amenities so that they are accessible to all visitors.
- For many Minnesotans, local community parks and trails are their only access to outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Projects that do not qualify for funding under the Legacy Amendment can only look to these programs for state funding.
- The pandemic has led to a massive increase in visitors to local parks and trails, a trend that is expected to continue.

**\$2,834,173,626**

Total statewide economic impact of local & regional parks and trails in Minnesota

**22,411**

Jobs created by local & regional parks spending in Minnesota

**\$523**

Economic impact of local & regional parks and trails per Minnesota resident

### Past recipients praise the DNR's local parks and trails grant programs:

*"Without grant opportunities, this land acquisition (for Eddy Park Reserve) would not be possible. This public park does not care what color your skin is, what political party you belong to, or how much money is in your pocket. The park belongs to all Minnesotans, and Wright County is committed to preserving open space and providing recreational opportunities for all. Funding sources such as the Natural and Scenic Grant Program assist us in achieving this goal."*

- Mark Mattice, Wright County Parks & Recreation Director

*"These grant funds help leverage additional local dollars to make improvements to our parks to better serve all segments of our community. For Silver Lake Park, we are improving access to and within the playground features to serve all abilities, including some adult exercise equipment that can be utilized by those in wheelchairs."*

- Mike Nigbur, Rochester Director of Parks & Forestry

*"The Sherburne History Center is a popular destination for school groups, but the main exhibit was not wheelchair accessible. The Local Trail Connection Grant helped us build a trail system so that all children can access this facility."*

- Gina Hugo, Sherburne County Parks Coordinator

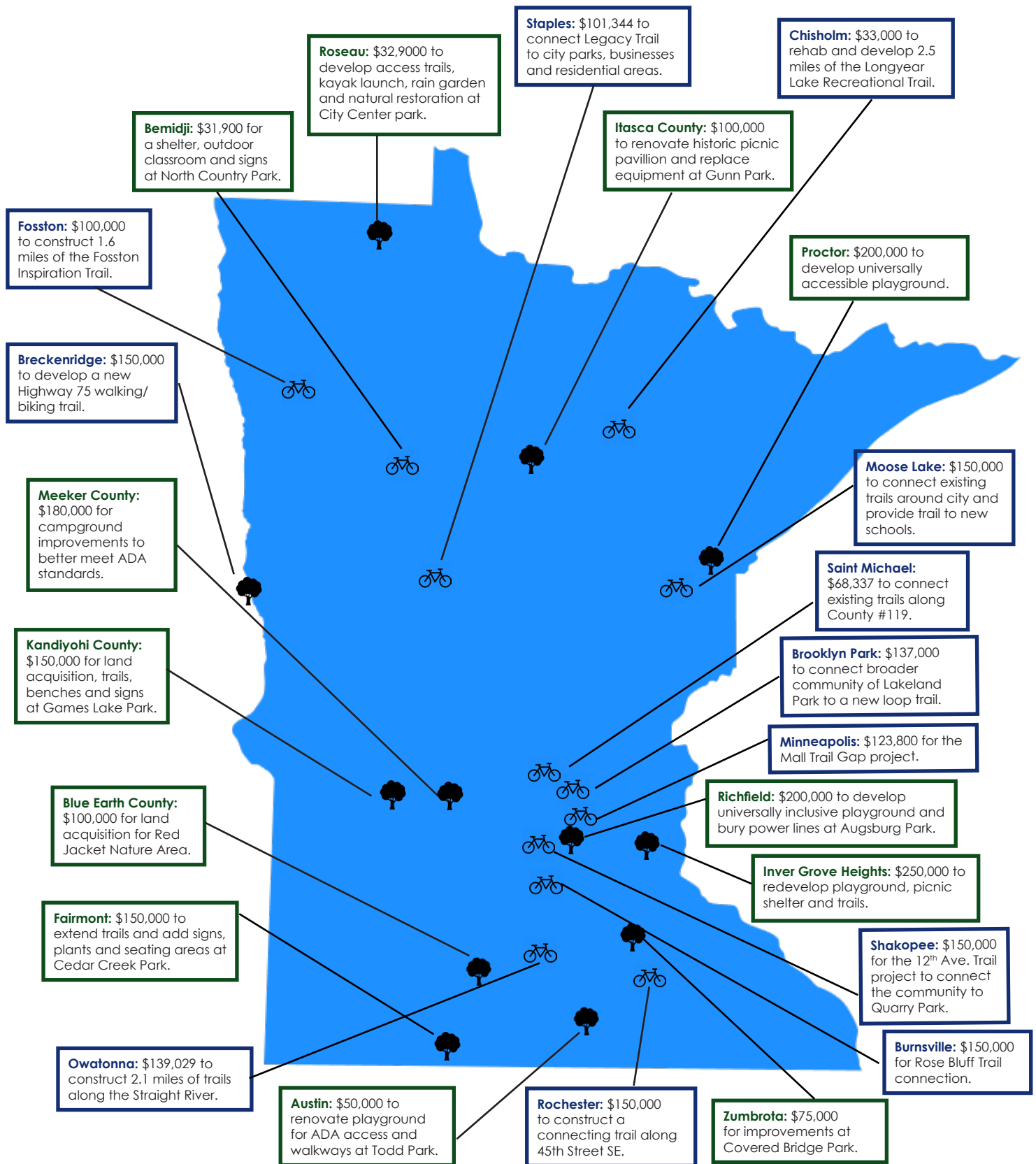
*"We love our trail! This trail has had such a positive impact on our community—it's a great place for recreation, exercise and social interaction. ... We feel the trail emulates what our community is all about—a peaceful time to slow down and connect with people, as well as an active and healthy lifestyle."*

- Holly Sammons, Luverne Economic Development Director



Stats in sidebar are based on 2013 results from "Economic Impact of Local and Regional Park Agencies' Spending" study, conducted for the National Parks and Recreation Association by the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University.

# How have Minnesota communities benefited from DNR grant programs?



These are just a few of the parks and trails projects that have received grants through the DNR's Outdoor Recreation and Local Trail Connections grant programs in recent years. Dozens of trails across the state and parks in every county have received funding through these important programs.