



PARKS & TRAILS POLICY BRIEF

Jay Cooke State Park • Jim Shuder / P&TC Photo Contest

 April 2025

HF 1314 / SF 247: MINNESOTA STATE PARK LAND ACQUISITION

BILL SUMMARY

- Provides \$10 million to acquire land within Minnesota's state park system.
- Funds the expansion of existing state parks and/or the creation of a new state park as authorized by the legislature.
- Only allows the purchase of land from willing sellers. DNR does not use eminent domain to acquire state park land.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

- Public demand for Minnesota state parks is at historic highs, with permit sales 61% higher in 2024 than they were 2012.
- In 2024, Upper Sioux Agency State Park and Hill Annex Mine State Park were deauthorized. While both closures had unique circumstances, they represented a loss of 1,900 acres from our state park system. This bill would help replace those acres with new state park land for Minnesotans to enjoy and explore.
- Minnesota's state park system has only grown by approximately 1% since 2010, slower than other units of the state outdoor recreation system.
- State law is clear that state park land shall "be perpetually dedicated" for state park use. When unique circumstances necessitate the transfer of state park land, replacement lands should be acquired to replace what was lost.
- Approximately 16% of authorized state park land is still privately owned and inaccessible to the public.
- The 25-Year Parks & Trails Legacy Plan set a target of creating five new state parks or recreation areas between 2009 and 2034. To date, there's been a net loss of one.



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