

**Subject** Parks and Trails Fund

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## Overview

This bill contains the fiscal years 2020 and 2021 appropriations from the parks and trails fund, including appropriations to: the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for state parks, state trails, and state recreation areas, and for regional parks and trails in greater Minnesota through the parks and trails legacy grant program; and to the Metropolitan Council for metropolitan regional parks and trails.

The parks and trails fund is one of the four funds established by the “Legacy Amendment” passed by the voters in 2008 that raised the state’s sales tax by three-eighths of one percent and dedicated the revenue for various purposes. The parks and trails fund receives 14.25 percent of the revenue and must be spent “only to support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance.”

## Summary

Section	Description
1	<b>Parks and trails fund appropriations.</b> Technical.
2	<b>Parks and trails.</b> Provides a total appropriation of \$51,216,000 from the parks and trails fund in fiscal year 2020, and \$51,634,000 in fiscal year 2021. States that the money appropriated may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and must be spent in accordance with Minnesota Management and Budget’s Guidance to Agencies on Legacy Fund Expenditure. Makes the funds available for two years or, when federal funds are involved, for the time period equal to the federal funding availability. Requires recipients of an appropriation to make progress towards providing greater access to programs, print publications, and digital media for people with disabilities related to programs funded with the appropriations, where appropriate.
3	<b>Department of Natural Resources.</b> Appropriates \$30,932,000 in fiscal year 2020 and \$31,187,000 in fiscal year 2021 to the DNR for the following parks and trails purposes:

Section	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$20,280,000 in 2020 and \$20,447,000 in 2021 for state parks and trails to connect people to the outdoors, acquire land and create opportunities, maintain existing holdings, and coordinating with partners;</li><li>• \$10,140,000 in 2020 and \$10,224,000 in 2021 for grants for regional parks and trails in greater Minnesota under the parks and trails legacy grant program, based on recommendations of the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission, and for operation costs of the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission; and</li><li>• \$512,000 in 2020 and \$516,000 in 2021 for coordination between the DNR, Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission, and the Metropolitan Council and other activities.</li></ul> <p>Requires the commissioner to contract with the Conservation Corps Minnesota for at least \$1,000,000 each year and requires implementing agencies receiving funds to give consideration to contracting with the Conservation Corps Minnesota.</p>
4	<p><b>Metropolitan Council.</b></p> <p>Appropriates \$20,280,000 in fiscal year 2020 and \$20,447,000 in fiscal year 2021 for metropolitan regional parks and trails to be distributed to implementing agencies according to the parks and trails fund metropolitan park distribution formula under current law. The appropriation must be used to fund the projects approved by the elected representatives of each implementing agency. Requires grant agreements to ensure that funds are used to supplement (not substitute) traditional sources of funding. Requires implementing agencies receiving funds to give consideration to contracting with the Conservation Corps Minnesota.</p>
5	<p><b>Legislature.</b></p> <p>Appropriates \$4,000 in fiscal year 2020 to the Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) for the Legacy website.</p>



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