

Subject Legacy
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Overview

As amended, this bill contains appropriations from the outdoor heritage fund as well as provisions related to the parks and trails fund. The funds were both established by the “Legacy Amendment” passed by the voters in 2008.

Article 1: Outdoor Heritage Fund

This article contains fiscal year 2027 appropriations from the outdoor heritage fund (OHF). The appropriations are based upon recommendations made by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC). The LSOHC is a 12-member council made up of four legislators and eight citizens tasked with making annual recommendations to the legislature on how to spend money in the OHF. The OHF receives 33 percent of the revenues from the sales tax increase and the money may be spent only “to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife.”

Section Description – Article 1: Outdoor Heritage Fund

- 1 **Appropriations.**
Technical.
- 2 **Outdoor heritage fund.**
 - Subd. 1. Total appropriation.** Provides a total appropriation of \$191,081,000 in fiscal year 2027 from the OHF.
 - Subd. 2. Prairies.** Specifies appropriations totaling \$36,387,000 for various projects restoring, enhancing, and protecting the state’s prairies.
 - Subd. 3. Forests.** Specifies appropriations totaling \$36,939,000 for various projects restoring, enhancing, and protecting the state’s forests.
 - Subd. 4. Wetlands.** Specifies appropriations totaling \$33,188,000 for various projects restoring, enhancing, and protecting the state’s wetlands.

Section Description – Article 1: Outdoor Heritage Fund

Subd. 5. Habitats. Specifies appropriations totaling \$82,408,000 for various other habitat projects and the conservation partners legacy grant program.

Subd. 6. Administration. Specifies appropriations totaling \$2,159,000 for administration, including administrative costs of the LSOHC, contract management services from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and a technical evaluation panel.

Subd. 7. Availability of appropriation. States that the money appropriated may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan and may not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to a specific appropriation. Provides for the availability of money depending on use and whether or not federal funds are also used.

Subd. 8. Payment conditions and capital equipment expenditures. Requires all agreements to be administered on a reimbursement basis unless otherwise provided. Allows reasonable amounts to be advanced in some circumstances if approved as part of an accomplishment plan. Requires capital expenditures that exceed \$10,000 to be itemized and approved as part of an accomplishment plan.

Subd. 9. Mapping. Requires recipients of an appropriation to submit geographic information to the DNR on lands acquired in fee with the appropriation that are open to the public for hunting and fishing for mapping.

Subd. 10. Carryforward. Extends the availability of two prior appropriations.

3 Habitats.

Amends a previous OHF appropriation for a structural deterrent for invasive carp at Lock and Dam No. 5 on the Mississippi River to provide additional time for the design to be completed (until June 30, 2027).

Article 2: Parks and Trails Fund

This article contains a number of provisions impacting the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission (GMRPTC). The commission was established by law in 2013 and tasked with regional park system planning and providing recommendations for appropriations from the parks and trails fund for parks and trails of regional significance outside the seven-county metropolitan area. It also extends the availability of previous parks and trails fund appropriations.

Section Description - Article 2: Parks and Trails Fund

- 1 Districts; plans and hearings.**
Removes the requirement that districtwide plans and master plans for individual parks outside the seven-county metropolitan area meet certain criteria, as well as removes requirements for public hearings on those plans.
- 2 Recommendations.**
Specifies that parks and trails fund grant recommendations may be for “projects” rather than for “parks and trails.”
- 3 Chair.**
Requires the chair of the GMRPTC to be elected biennially rather than annually, which is required under current law.
- 4 Report.**
Requires the GMRPTC to list its recommendation for parks and trails fund grants by regional parks and trails district instead of in priority order as required under current law.
- 5 Parks and trails fund appropriation extensions.**
Extends the availability of six previous parks and trails fund grants.
- 6 Repealer.**
Repeals obsolete provisions establishing requirements for the first GMRPTC appointments (Minn. Stat. § 85.536, subd. 3) and its first meeting (Minn. Stat. § 85.536, subd. 4).



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