



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2016-2017 BIENNIAL BUDGET FACT SHEET

Parks and Trails Legacy – Coordination Among Partners

\$536,000 in FY 2016 /\$555,000 in FY 2017

[Parks and Trails Legacy Fund]

It Is Needed Because

The state and regional parks and trails system is made up of different providers across the state funded by numerous sources. This complex network poses a challenge to state and regional providers interested in meaningful coordination, as well as end users who seek high quality, connected and accessible opportunities.

Coordination among partners is critical to achieve the goals of the 25-year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan. The three implementing agencies (Department of Natural Resources, Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission, and Metropolitan Council) are working together to advance a more coordinated approach to achieve outcomes for the Legacy Parks and Trails Fund. Effective coordination results in wise use of funds and may result in cost savings.

This initiative contributes to each implementing agency's strategic goals.

Major Program Elements

This request builds on previous appropriations from the Legacy Parks and Trails Fund related to coordination and research. It advances partnership work in the following key areas:

- Research – Standardized coordinated research is needed across the three systems to understand who is using the state and regional park and trail system, where they are coming from, and their satisfaction with facilities and programs. Research is critical to ensuring Minnesotans' expectations for use of the Legacy Parks and Trails Fund are being met.
- Web-based systems – One of the goals in the Parks and Trails Legacy Plan is enhanced, integrated and accessible information for park

and trail users. Partners have already been coordinating on the development of integrated Web tools that will give people the ability to do trip planning, create customized maps, use print-on-demand services and interface with smartphones. Accessing information about desired park and trail experiences through an integrated website will be a service for park and trail users. This proposal will build on that effort.

- Support for the Legacy Advisory Committee - The Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee (LAC) works to ensure implementation of the 25-year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan. Members provide recommendations and help advance common goals ([Parks and Trails Advisory Committee Home page](#)).
- Restoration evaluation – Evaluation of natural resource restoration projects across all four Legacy funds will determine progress toward achievement of restoration goals. A significant amount of Legacy funds have been invested in restoration projects and an assessment of progress will guide future investments and assess achievement of restoration goals.
- Other priority coordination needs such as joint marketing and youth involvement and connecting racially and ethnically diverse audiences need a coordinated effort as well.

Key Measures and Outcomes

Key outcomes of coordination include improved performance for achieving the goals of the 25-year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan, and more efficient use of the Legacy Parks and Trails Fund. Specific measures and outcomes include:

- Develop an integrated user-friendly website.

- Develop and implement a standard survey tool and methodology for implementation across state and regional parks and trails.
- Hold six Legacy Advisory Committee meetings per year with the completion of an annual work plan designed to monitor and evaluate and recommend how to implement the Parks and Trails Legacy Plan.
- Complete restoration evaluations and an assessment of the acres of natural resource sites improved.
- Increase engagement among youth and diverse audiences.

A major goal for all outdoor recreation providers is to increase the per capita participation in nature-based outdoor recreation, particularly among under-represented groups, including families with young children and communities of color.

Fiscal Impacts

This proposal provides \$1.091 million from the Parks and Trail Legacy Fund in FY2016/17 for this effort. The products and benefits of this change item are shared among the Department of Natural Resources, the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission, and the Metropolitan Council. The responsibility for coordinating, planning and communicating is also shared to ensure that these benefits meet the needs of the three entities.

For Further Information, Please Contact:

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