



# Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



**2016-2017 BIENNIAL BUDGET FACT SHEET**  
**Parks and Trails Legacy – Greater Minnesota**  
**\$8,618,000 in FY 2016 / \$9,033,000 in FY 2017**  
**[Parks and Trails Legacy Fund]**

## **It Is Needed Because**

This funding will provide grants to local governments to connect people to the outdoors, create new parks and trails, and maintain existing ones. The grant program will help create a seamless system of outdoor recreation across the state.

This initiative advances the 2015 Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission System Plan. It also contributes to the DNR's Conservation Agenda goals to create outdoor recreation opportunities, conserve natural resources, and contribute to strong and sustainable job markets, economies and communities.

This funding will directly provide for a competitive grant program that will help achieve the goals of the 25-year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan, including connecting people to the outdoors, acquiring land and creating opportunities, taking care of what we have, and improving coordination across outdoor recreation providers.

## **Major Program Elements**

- In the past, the DNR has led and managed the Parks and Trails Legacy Grant Program for Greater Minnesota. The Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission, established by the legislature in 2013, is now ready to lead and manage this program.
- The commission will guide the planning and grant selection for Greater Minnesota based on the results of its public engagement process in six districts across the state, and provide recommendations to the legislature for Greater Minnesota parks and trails grants.
- The DNR will continue to work closely with the commission and provide contract management for funded projects, as well as technical assistance to grant applicants and recipients.

## **Key Measures and Outcomes**

This program will provide grants to local governments to create and maintain outdoor recreation opportunities of regional or statewide significance in Greater Minnesota. Key measures include:

- the number and type of grants;
- dollars awarded;
- results achieved (e.g., acres acquired, parks and trails developed, and satisfaction of park and trail users); and
- economic trends and benefits resulting from local parks and trails.

Since 2010, Greater Minnesota Legacy funds have been used to acquire more than 1,000 acres of parkland. These important acquisitions, most in rapidly growing areas, provide the land for new recreational opportunities.

## **Fiscal Impacts**

This proposal provides \$17,651,000 from the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund. It allows for grants to local governments to connect people to the outdoors and up to 2.5% for the DNR to manage the grants according to standards consistent with the Minnesota Office of Grants Management.

## **For Further Information, Please Contact:**

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