



# Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



## 2016-2017 BIENNIAL BUDGET FACT SHEET Parks and Trails Legacy – DNR Parks and Trails \$17,237,000 in FY 2016 / \$18,067,000 in FY 2017 [Parks and Trails Legacy Fund]

### It Is Needed Because

This initiative will advance DNR's Legacy priorities and help establish a 21<sup>st</sup> century state park and trail system. DNR will continue to make targeted progress toward the four main goals from the 25-year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan, including connecting people to the outdoors, acquiring land and creating new opportunities, taking care of what we have, and coordinating with partners.

This initiative also supports 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.

### Major Program Elements

- **Connect People to the Outdoors.** We promote and provide innovative programs and special events that educate, interpret and build outdoor stewardship skills. For example, the I Can! series reaches out to young families and new park and trail users to teach camping, climbing, archery and more. In FY 16-17 we will provide interpretive programs to 240,000 participants and skill-building programs to 16,000 participants. We will also offer more outreach to diverse audiences, and use new technologies to better engage the next generation.
- **Acquire Land, Create Opportunities.** We pursue high-priority acquisitions that provide important connections and conserve natural and cultural resources. In FY16-17 we will acquire approximately 40 new state park acres and 25 new state trail acres. We will also complete high-priority development projects, including the construction of one new campground.
- **Take Care of What We Have.** This means that we

renew infrastructure and maintain natural and cultural resources to support high-quality outdoor experiences. In FY16-17 we will rehabilitate one campground, 30 state trail miles, four trail bridges, and we will enhance accessibility and solar energy across the system. We will also conduct prescribed burns on about 5,600 acres, control invasive species on about 8,700 acres, and reconstruct native plant communities on about 900 acres.

- **Coordinate with Partners.** Minnesotans and visitors should experience parks and trails of state and regional significance as a seamless network. DNR works with the Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee and partners to create this network. In FY16-17, the DNR Parks and Trails Division System Plan will help us better coordinate project activities with our partners. We describe more detailed coordination activities in the Parks and Trails Legacy – Coordination Among Partners Fact Sheet.

### Key Measures and Outcomes

We will continue to track progress toward the 25-Parks and Trails Legacy Plan and DNR Legacy priorities. Key measures include:

- State park permit sales and overnights stays
- Participation in interpretive and skill-building programs and special events
- Acres of parkland and state trails miles acquired
- Measures of specific improvements to our aging infrastructure, including rehabilitations on state trails and trail bridges
- Number and type of new opportunities in parks and trails (e.g., from new development projects), and
- Acres of prescribed burns, invasive species control, and native plant restorations

**Fiscal Impacts**

In FY16-17 DNR will direct spending in the following categories:

- \$5,448,000 for connect people to the outdoors
- \$9,628,000 for acquire land, create opportunities
- \$20,228,000 for take care of what we have
- \$1,091,000 for coordinating with partners (as a separate appropriation)

**For Further Information, Please Contact:**

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