



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2012-2013 BIENNIAL BUDGET FACT SHEET Parks and Trails Fund Grant Program Expenditures: \$6,165,000 FY 2012 / \$6,165,000 FY 2013 (Parks and Trails Fund)

It is needed because

By providing grants, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) can accelerate the protection and restoration of Minnesota's natural resources and provide a sustainable outdoor recreation infrastructure. This initiative represents a significant change in addressing the need for acquisition and development of parks and trails of regional or statewide significance.

The Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment created the parks and trails fund, an important new funding source for parks and trails statewide. Of the total dollars generated by the Legacy amendment, 14.5 percent will be dedicated to support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance. A portion of this funding will be used for grants for these parks and trails.

Parks and trails are essential for providing close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. Local units of government often lack sufficient resources to acquire and develop adequate recreational facilities to meet regional needs. Opportunities for public recreation providers to acquire and protect larger parcels are diminishing as larger landholdings are broken into smaller parcels for development.

Grant requests have significantly out-paced available funds. In FY 2010, DNR awarded \$3.9 million in regional parks and trail grants, including \$500,000 for solar energy grants. DNR received 57 trail and 20 park applications requesting over \$27 million for \$3.4 million available. There were 17 applications for solar energy grants requesting \$1.4 million with \$500,000 available. In FY 2011, \$4.9 million in regional park and trail grants were awarded, with \$600,000 for solar energy. DNR received 45 trail and 22 park applications totaling \$26 million with \$4.3 million available. There were 13 applications for solar grants, totaling \$532,000 with \$600,000 available.

Major program elements

Grants will be made for acquisition and development of regional parks and trails. A match will be required and grant recipients are responsible for ongoing operations and maintenance of the facilities.

Priority-setting

This is a competitive grant program for parks and trails of regional or statewide significance. Priority for trail funding will be given to projects that provide connectivity, enhance opportunities for commuters, complete systems, and enhance safety.

Project locations

Projects are located statewide.

Key Measures and Outcomes

- Assist governments to acquire lands for parks and trails to address present and future needs;
- Assist governments to develop park and trail facilities to meet present and future needs;
- Leverage significant funds and resources through match requirements;
- Increase access to natural resource-based outdoor recreation opportunities;
- Provide connectivity across the landscape; and
- Provide greater coordination among partners.

Financial implications

This one-time appropriation provides \$6,165,000 in FY 2012 and \$6,165,000 in FY 2013 from the parks and trails fund.

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