

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road · Saint Paul, Minnesota · 55155-4037

Office of the Commissioner

651-259-5555



March 12, 2010

The Honorable Ellen Anderson
Env., Energy and N.R. Budget Division, Chair
Capital Building, Room 120
75 Rev. Dr. Mr. Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-1606

The Honorable Mary Murphy
Cultural and Outdoor Resources Finance Div., Chair
343 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St Paul, Minnesota 55155

The Honorable Dennis Frederickson
Env., Energy and N.R. Budget Division
and Senate Finance Committee
139 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

The Honorable Greg Davids
Cultural and Outdoor Resources Finance Division
283 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

The Honorable Jean Wagenius
Environment and N.R. Finance, Chair
449 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

The Honorable Richard Cohen
Senate Finance Committee, Chair
Capitol Building, Room 121
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St Paul, Minnesota 55155

The Honorable Tom Hackbarth
Environment and N.R. Finance Division
309 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Honorable Chairs and Ranking Minority Members:

RE: First Year Report of Parks and Trails Legacy Fund

This letter is in regards to the Parks and Trails Fund outlined in Minnesota Laws 2009, Chapter 172, Article 3, Section 2, requiring the commissioner of natural resources to submit a report of expenditures and outcomes for this appropriation.

The Legislature and the people of Minnesota have charged the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) with some key strategic objectives in the Outdoor and Cultural Heritage Law. Our agency will: connect people to the outdoors, accelerate natural resource management, accelerate facility maintenance and



March 9, 2010
Page Two

rehabilitation, and utilize the Conservation Corps of Minnesota to assist us with these projects. The DNR Division of Parks and Trails is developing a ten-year strategic plan that outlines how the DNR will meet these objectives, and will position the division and department for long-term success. We are also leading a collaborative process for developing a ten year strategic coordination plan and a 25 year long-term plan for parks and trails of regional and statewide significance. The plan includes goals, measurable outcomes, a vision of what the parks and trails will look like in 25 years and a plan for use of the funds.

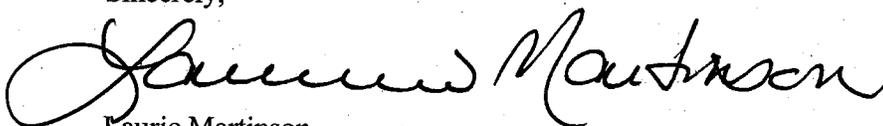
Minnesotans are already starting to see exciting results and experience new programs due to the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund. This is our first annual report showing our initial FY 10 efforts and outcomes along with some of the anticipated next steps and outcomes for the remainder of this biennium.

Accountability to Outcomes

The Outdoor and Cultural Heritage Law requires the tracking and reporting of outcomes¹ to address citizen expectations for accountability to results. DNR is building on our experience in using performance indicators to track and report conservation results. This work has been exemplified by our *Strategic Conservation Agenda* and *Budgeting for Results*. We are developing an Outcomes Tracking System to meet the outcomes reporting requirements for the Legacy Funds. This report includes the working list of indicators and targets that we will be using to track and report Legacy-funded outcomes to the public.

We look forward to working with each of you as we seek to connect people to the outdoors, protect and restore our natural resources, renew our state park and trail facilities and strategically plan how to most effectively use the Parks and Trails Legacy funds throughout the 25 year authorization.

Sincerely,



Laurie Martinson
Deputy Commissioner

¹ Chapter 172 outcome definition (Session Laws 2009): "Indicators or other performance measures that may be quantified or otherwise measured in order to measure the effectiveness of a project or program in meeting its intended goal or purpose." - 2009 Culture and Outdoor Heritage Law (Chapter 172)