

## Parks and Trails

DNR's Division of Parks and Trails acquires natural resource land for restoration and management of state parks, recreation areas and waterways.

Minnesota has a variety of parks, trails, and water recreation areas:

- 66 state parks, nine recreation areas and nine waysides
- 1,300 miles of state trails, ranging from pavement to natural terrain
- 35 state water trails and public water accesses including more than 4,500 miles of paddling waters, campsites, rest areas, and scenic views
- 3,000 public water accesses and hundreds of fishing piers and shore fishing sites

Parks and Trails administers grants-in-aid to local units of government and organizations to maintain:

- snowmobile trails
- off-highway vehicle trails
- cross-country ski trails

Parks and Trails is also responsible for Lake Superior Safe Harbors, and stewardship programs for Minnesota's lakes, rivers and trails.

## Parks and Trails Land Acquisitions

The Division of Parks and Trails regularly collaborates with the Minnesota Parks and Trails Council, facility- or trail-specific friends groups, and local governments to acquire land for:

- legislatively authorized additions to existing state parks and state recreation areas
- recreation-based facilities, namely state trails and public water access sites



*Itasca Headwaters*

## Land acquisition programs

### State Parks and State Recreation Areas (fee title)

State parks preserve and protect significant natural, scenic, scientific, or historic features in the park. State parks and SRA programs prioritize acquiring land within the statutory boundary that:

- protects and grows natural resource land and its cultural features
- expands existing resources -- especially riparian, endangered or special concern species or their habitats
- improves land management capabilities by creating better locations for burn break and other essential functions
- enhances and promotes the use and enjoyment of the natural recreational resources

### State Trails and Public Water Accesses (fee title)



*Spider Lake Trail*

A state trail provides access to or passage through significant scenic, historic, scientific, or recreational areas. State trails and public water access programs prioritize acquiring lands, based on need or local input, that:

- emphasize recreation opportunities where there are also natural and scientific values
- provide opportunities for the public to access and enjoy the state's lakes and rivers
- create a variety of water access sites including full-service marinas and Lake Superior

### State Waysides (fee title)

State waysides are generally too small to be state parks or state recreation areas, but possess unique, high quality, or scenic natural and cultural resources. The state no longer actively seeks to acquire lands for state wayside rests.

## Local government engagement for land acquisitions

Throughout the acquisition process, Parks and Trails completes local government engagement as required by department policy or funding source. For example:

- all public water access acquisitions require public notice through the legal section of a local newspaper
- all acquisitions require county board notification per DNR policy
- all acquisitions purchased using Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) funding require county board approval

## Contact

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