Passed in November 2008, the focus of Parks and Trails Legacy is parks and trails of state and regional significance.
The 2009 Legislature directed DNR to develop a plan to guide the use and evaluation of funds over the 25 year life of Legacy.

DNR convened a wide array of stakeholders over 18 months held a series of open meetings with the public, and developed A Parks and Trails Vision for Minnesotans:

“In 2035, our world-class parks and trails connect everyone to the outdoors. They create experiences that inspire a legacy of stewardship for the natural world and they provide fun outdoor recreational opportunities that strengthen friendships, families, health, and spirit, now and into the future. Minnesotans experience the full range of benefits that outdoor recreation provides, reinforcing our identity as an outdoor culture.”

Four Strategic Directions Frame the 25-Year Plan

- Connect People to the Outdoors
- Acquire Land, Create Opportunities
- Take Care of What We Have
- Coordinate Among Partners
The 2011 Legislature directed the creation of a working group to make recommendations of funding distributions for parks and trails of state and regional significance. The Legacy Funding Work Group recommended a “40-40-20” split through the FY18/19 biennium.

10-Year Celebration Events

12,500 Minnesotans participated in 9 events around the state from January through the State Fair.

Events were held to:
1. Celebrate
2. Educate
3. Listen
What We Learned

Reflections from the Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee, Department of Natural Resources, Metropolitan Council, and Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

Parks and Trails Legacy Fund: DNR Overview

Erika Rivers  |  Director, Division of Parks and Trails
March 25, 2019
Senate Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee
State Parks and Recreation Areas:
• 75 state parks and recreation areas
• 4,800 camping and lodging units

State Forest Recreation Areas:
• 58 forest campgrounds/day use areas
• 1,000 OHV trail miles
• 12,000 miles of GIA OHV trails

State and Grant-in-Aid Trails:
• 2,900 total state trail miles, authorized
• 21,000 miles of GIA snowmobile trails

Water Recreation:
• 35 state water trails
• 1,500 public water accesses
• 370 fishing piers

MN DNR FY10-19 Parks and Trails Legacy Appropriations, by Pillar

- Connect People to the Outdoors (16%): $3,221,000
- Acquire Land and Create Opportunities (26%): $26,670,696
- Take Care of What We Have (56%): $91,386,215
- Coordinate Among Partners (1%): $42,479,384
Coordinating among Partners (1%) 

The mission of the Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee is to champion the 25-year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan by providing recommendations to enhance promotion, coordination, and accountability throughout implementation of the plan.”

Connecting People to the Outdoors (17%)
Acquire Land and Create Opportunities (24.5%)

TOTAL A&D LEGACY ALLOCATIONS, FY10-19

- Acquire Land, $16.0 million (36%)
- Create Opportunities (Development), $28.9 million (64%)

Take Care of What We Have (58.5%)

PROPOSED SPENDING FOR FY20-21

- Rehabilitation and Upgrades to Park and Trail Infrastructure (77%)
- Resource Management (23%)
DNR Parks and Trails Legacy Investment Selection Process

Early Strategic Discussions
Review Outcomes & Alignment
Set New Priorities & Objectives
Develop Biennial Portfolio
Develop Project List

March-June
June-September
September-November

Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission
Greater Minnesota System Development

**Greater Minnesota System**

- 28 Natural Resource Based Parks
- 20 Trails; motorized, non-motorized, mixed use and water
- 11 Special Recreation Feature Parks

**LEGACY GRANT OUTCOMES 2016-2019: COMPLETE OR IN PROGRESS**

**LEGACY DOLLARS AT WORK IN GREATER MINNESOTA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>AWARD</th>
<th>DIST</th>
<th>FY20 FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duluth Hartley Park</td>
<td>$1,293,975</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duluth Traverse</td>
<td>$889,196</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Lake River Corridor</td>
<td>$1,491,881</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake Shore Golf Lake Trail</td>
<td>$1,206,319</td>
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<td>Granite Falls Memorial Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wright County Barlow Park</td>
<td>$2,297,600</td>
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<td>Morrison County Belle Prairie Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lincoln County Hole in the Mountain Park</td>
<td>$52,000</td>
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<td>Redwood County Plum Creek Park</td>
<td>$27,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rochester Gammehaven Park</td>
<td>$1,076,410</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cannon Valley Trail</td>
<td>$88,875</td>
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</table>

**Total** $8,639,258

19.06 RESTORED TRAIL MILES

3 PROGRAMMING CONNECTING PEOPLE TO THE OUTDOORS

10.25 TRAIL MILES ACQUIRED

5 BRIDGE PROJECTS

23 PARKS DEVELOPMENT

68.38 NEW TRAIL MILES

Photo Credits: Cannon Valley Trail - DNR
Parks and Trails Legacy Fund
Metropolitan Regional Park System

LisaBeth Barajas, Community Development Director
Metropolitan Council
Regional Parks Implementing Agencies

- Anoka County
- Carver County
- Dakota County
- Ramsey County
- Scott County
- Washington County
- Bloomington
- Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board
- St. Paul
- Three Rivers Park District

Regional Parks System

System Facts

- 44 Regional Parks
- 12 Park Reserves
- 8 Special Recreation Features
- 49 Regional Trails with almost 400 miles of opportunities
- Almost 55,000 acres of parkland

Family friendly fun at Silverwood Park
Three Rivers Park District
Visits to the Regional Park System Have Grown between 1974 and 2017

Parks and Trails Fund Distribution

State statute* splits funding for metropolitan regional parks into two areas:

- 90% distributed *non-competitively*, by formula, to the 10 implementing agencies
- 10% distributed on a first-come-first-served basis for land acquisition
  - Met Council matches acquisition funds on a three-to-two basis

*Minn. Statute 85.53, subd. 3*
FY2020-21 Proposed Legacy Projects

• 53 project proposals across all ten implementing agencies.
• Projects conform with Council-approved master plans.
• Wide array of projects including visitor center developments, park and trail developments and restorations, accessibility and restroom improvements, playground enhancements, programming, and more!

Questions?

Thank you!