

NOTICE: Application for Regional Designation/Master Plan Workshops

Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

REGISTER AT: <http://www.eventbrite.com/o/gmrptc-8060574801>



To: Park/Trail and Outdoor Recreation Managers, City/County Administrators, Land Commissioners, and others responsible for regional-level parks and trails in Greater Minnesota.

What: This two-part workshop will: 1) Provide training on the criteria and on-line application for GMRPTC designation as a Regional park or trail; and 2) Introduce a NEW online Master Planning tool designed for local managers and recreation planning professionals alike.

How: Each workshop consists of 2 one-hour blocks. Attend one or both blocks of your choosing.

First Hour: Review and understand the criteria and online application process for Greater Minnesota cities/counties to request a park or trail be designated as regionally significant. Regional designation by the GMRPTC is required prior to recommendation for Legacy Parks and Trails Funding by the Commission.

Second Hour: A new online Master Planning tool has been created to help local jurisdictions efficiently create qualified Master Plans for their parks and trails. This block will introduce and review the online portal, which can be used by anyone but is required for formal regional designation applicants who score highly in the first round of evaluation.

When and Where: Attend the location for your District if possible; if not, please attend at a different location with a more convenient date. Doors open one half hour prior to the start of the workshop. Please register at the Eventbrite link at the top of the page.

District 2

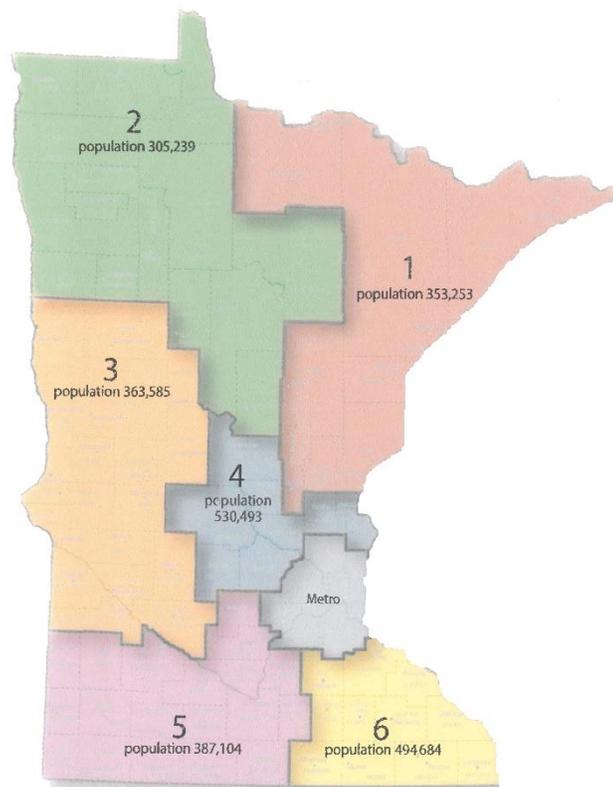
9:00 – 11:00 AM, March 9
NW Minnesota Foundation
201 3rd St NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

District 3

1:00 – 3:00 PM, March 10
West Central Initiative
1000 Western Ave
Fergus Falls, MN 56538

District 5

9:00 – 11:00 AM, March 17
New Ulm Civic Center, Rm 203
1212 N. Franklin St.
New Ulm, MN 56073



District 1

1:00 – 3:00 PM, March 8
Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites
200 W 1st Street
Duluth, MN

District 4

9:00 – 11:00 AM, March 16
Robert Ney Memorial Park
5212 73rd St NW
Maple Lake, MN 55358

District 6

1:30 – 3:30 PM, March 14
Quarry Hill Park Nature Center
701 Silver Creek Rd NE
Rochester, MN 55906

Questions? Please see the attached FAQ sheet for more information. Still have questions? Contact System Plan Coordinator Joe Czapiewski at coordinator@gmrptcommission.org or 218-556-3651.

Greater Minnesota Regional Parks & Trails Commission
Regional Designation Application and Master Planning Portals
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks & Trails Commission (GMRPTC)?

A: The Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission was established in 2013. It undertakes system planning and provides recommendations to the legislature for projects funded by the Legacy Parks and Trails Fund for parks and trails of regional significance in counties and cities outside the seven-county metropolitan area.

Q: What does it mean to be “Regionally Designated?”

A: After considerable public and legislative involvement, MN Statute 85.536 established the GMRPTC and the criteria that set the standard for high-quality *regional* parks and trails across Greater Minnesota. Only those facilities that apply for evaluation are scored by the Evaluation Team and considered for selection by the Commission to become part of the statewide system plan, then becoming eligible for Legacy funding recommendations by the GMRPTC.



Q: Why would I want our park or trail to be “Regionally Designated?”

A: Achieving regional designation shows that your publicly-owned facility meets a very high standard for natural-resource based outdoor recreation in Greater Minnesota. While not required, it also makes you eligible for the Regional Parks and Trails Legacy funding program. It is estimated that at least \$8 million per year will be available for Greater Minnesota regional parks and trails.

Q: How can I tell if my park or trail might qualify as a regional facility?

A: Whether your park or trail is complete, a concept on paper, or somewhere in between, it is the facility’s vision for quality outdoor recreation that counts. Chapter 3 of the GMRPTC Strategic Plan details the criteria used to evaluate each of four classes of facilities. Compare your facilities against the very specific criteria before you decide to apply. The Strategic Plan can be found at www.gmrptcommission.org.

Q: What do I need to know about the new online Master Planning tool?

A: A Master Plan is a required component of the regional designation application. It describes how the facility vision meets regional needs and criteria, is well designed, and that implementation and management is achievable. The new web tool provides a framework for any local jurisdiction to complete all of the GMRPTC-required components of a Master Plan. By simply adding information to the appropriate box, a park or trail manager can build a master plan. Fill in the parts you know and use consultants or partners to fill in other parts. It may also reduce the cost of a planning consultant, as there is no need to develop expensive documents.

Q: Who can create a Master Plan using the online tool?

A: Anyone responsible for a park or trail facility can use the Master Planning tool. There is no requirement to even apply for regional designation. This is our commitment to better planning for better parks and trails in Greater Minnesota.

Q: Where can I learn more about the web-based application for regional designation or the online Master Plan tool?

A: The best way is to attend the Application Workshop. One will be held in each district, at a time and location listed on the first page of this notice. The first hour of each workshop will review the application, the second hour will review the new Master Plan web tool. Attend one or both parts, based on your needs. Please register at <http://www.eventbrite.com/o/gmrptc-8060574801>, as space is limited.

Q: What if I can’t make it to the application workshop?

A: Feel free to attend a workshop in a nearby district if that time works better for you. If you can’t make that, there will be an online tutorial available on our website after the workshops have been completed.

Q: What if I have more questions?

A: Please contact a Commissioner in your District (info at www.gmrptcommission.org/commission-members.html), or System Plan Coordinator Joe Czapiewski at coordinator@gmrptcommission.org or 218-556-3651.