



Application for Regional Designation Workshop 2017

Access Application and Master Plan Portals at GMRPTCommission.org

OVERVIEW

This application process gives all cities, townships, and counties in Greater Minnesota equal opportunity to request that a park or trail be formally designated as being regionally significant. Regional designation by the GMRPTC is required prior to recommendation for Legacy Parks & Trails funding by the Commission.

The application can be accessed at:

GMRPTCommission.org  "Applications" Tab

Click "Application" button to access the Application or Master Plan portals.

Only one User Name/Password per applicant agency, please – share among staff if necessary.

Your work will auto-save as you enter it. You can return anytime up until you **SUBMIT**.


Application for Designation Deadline: Ongoing **Master Plan Deadline:** Ongoing
Funding Application Deadline: July 31, 2017

APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

An online application "Toolbox" is available on the application webpage. Tools include tutorials, sample resolutions, application question lists, and FAQ sheets.

Technical assistance is available; contact System Plan Coordinator Joe Czapiewski at Coordinator@GMRPTCommission.org.

All applicants are strongly encouraged to contact staff during application development to discuss your concept and details. Staff are also available to review applications and Master Plans for technical completeness prior to submission. Email us to request the review **BEFORE** you submit the application. Once it is submitted, the application is complete.

Key Document: In submitting the **Application**, it is presumed that all applicants are familiar with the pertinent provisions of the GMRPTC Strategic Plan, Chapter 3, which lists all detailed selection criteria, Available at GMRPTCommission.org  "Important Links" in the lower right corner.

Master Plan guidance and requirements can be found on pages 61-62 of the Strategic Plan, or at the bottom of the "Applications" tab page.

Greater Minnesota Regional Parks & Trails Commission

Regional Designation Application Process

FAQ – 4.14.17

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 and complete a qualified Master Plan are scored by the Evaluation Team and, if considered by the Commission to meet regional needs, become part of the statewide system plan and eligible for funding.



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 and is part of a regional system across Greater Minnesota. While not required, it also makes you eligible for the Regional Parks and Trails Legacy funding. It is estimated that over \$8 million a year will be available for parks and trails that become part of the system plan.

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 potential for quality outdoor recreation and to draw users from across the region that counts. Chapter 3 of the GMRPTC Strategic Plan details the criteria used to evaluate four classes of facilities – large Natural Resource-based Parks, Special Recreational Feature Parks, and both Non-motorized and Motorized Trails. Take the time to compare your facilities against the very specific criteria before you decide to apply. The Strategic Plan can be found on the website's HOME page under “Important Links”.

Q: What is the online Application and Master Planning portal?

A: All high-ranking projects must submit an application and Unit Master Plan in order to be fully scored and evaluated for regional designation. Many cities and counties in Minnesota have not completed a Master Plan, for cost and other reasons. By creating a portal that can simplify creating a Master Plan, the GMRPTC is reducing the cost to local units of government while also ensuring that all requirements for a professional, technically sound plan are met. Anyone can use the online portal, which is a requirement for regional designation applicants, even if they don't want to apply for designation. We want to help you create great plans!

Q: How competitive is the evaluation process?

A: This is not strictly a competitive process. The GMRPTC's goal is to establish a system of high quality regional parks and trails in Greater Minnesota.

Q: Where can I learn more about the web-based application for regional designation and Master Planning tool?

A: Both items can be accessed on the “Applications” tab on our website. A toolbox with criteria and application tutorials is available on the Applications page.

Q: What if I have more questions?

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