



Marking the 10th Anniversary of Legacy Amendment Impact on Minnesota's Parks and Trails

Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee, December 2018



Table of contents

A note from the project team.....	3
Celebrate	4
Event sites	5
Celebration activities	5
Educate.....	6
What is the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment?.....	6
Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee	8
How has Legacy funding been spent so far?	9
What is the impact of Legacy funding?	10
Listen	12
Legacy's impact on Minnesota's parks and trails.....	12
<i>Connecting people and the outdoors</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Acquire land/create opportunities.....</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Take care of resources</i>	<i>14</i>
Future priorities for Minnesota's parks and trails Legacy investments.....	15
Minnesota State Fair results	16
Personal impact of parks and trails Legacy funding	17
Children's perspectives.....	20
Most common themes in children's favorite park and trail memories	21
What we learned	23
Appendix A. Legacy Advisory Committee	25
Appendix B. Data Collection Process	26
Appendix C. Regional Event Details.....	30
Appendix D. Selected Legacy projects	32
Appendix E. More information	41

A note from the project team

2018 marks the tenth anniversary of the passage of Minnesota's Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment.

Minnesota's state and regional system of 186 parks and 439 trails has been a major beneficiary of the investments made by the Legacy Fund since 2008. To recognize the first ten years of this 25-year constitutional amendment, we embarked on a series of regional public events to celebrate, educate, and listen as citizens shared their perspectives on, and aspirations for, Minnesota's comprehensive system of state and regional parks and trails.

We are the Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee (PTLAC), along with the leadership of the three agencies who work with the Committee. The PTLAC is composed of representatives appointed by the Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission. Its purpose is to provide recommendations to enhance promotion, coordination, and accountability throughout the implementation of the 25-year span of the current Legacy Amendment.

A team of PTLAC members, with leadership and staff from the Legacy agencies, planned and executed the events with volunteer assistance from a host of parks and trails friends from across the state. We are grateful and humbled by the selfless contributions of the many partners who came to the regional events and shared their time and talents with the public in celebration of the Legacy Amendment.

This report shares highlights of our celebrations across the state, summarizes our extensive efforts to share information about the impact of Legacy funding on the state's regional parks and trails system, and explains how what we learned will impact priorities and decisions for the next 15 years of Legacy funding. We organized this report to share what we learned as we celebrated, educated, and listened across the state.

Sincerely,

Bob Bierscheid, Chair of the PTLAC

Renee Mattson, Executive Director of Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

Emmett Mullin, Manager for Regional Parks & Natural Resources, Metropolitan Council

Erika Rivers, Director of MN DNR Parks and Trails



Celebrate



Regional
Events

9

Across
the State

By hosting nine regional events across the state, we were able to celebrate the impact of Legacy funding with over 12,500 Minnesotans starting with a perfectly cold winter day in late January through to the “dog days of summer” at the Minnesota State Fair. In keeping with the spirit of Minnesota parks and trails, participants enjoyed activities that showcased the time of year and what made each site unique.



Event sites

- North Twin Cities: Silverwood Park, St. Anthony
- Central Minnesota: St. John's University, Collegeville
- Southwest: Red Baron Arena, Marshall
- South Twin Cities: Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve, Bloomington
- Southeast: 125 Live, Rochester
- Northwest: Itasca State Park, Park Rapids
- West central: Prairie Wetland Environmental Learning Center, Fergus Falls
- Northeast: Essentia Health Duluth Heritage Sports Center, Duluth
- 2018 Minnesota State Fair, DNR Building



Celebration activities

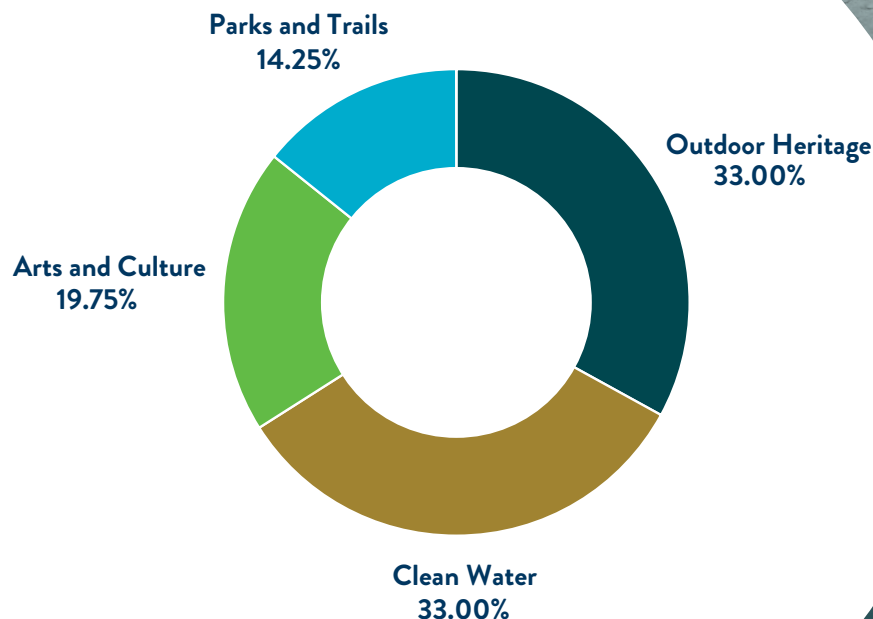
- Ice fishing
- Kick-sledding
- Roasting marshmallows
- Geo-caching
- Rock climbing wall
- Guided nature walks
- Archery
- Raptor and reptile programs
- Bicycle obstacle courses

Educate

The ten-year anniversary of the Legacy Amendment allowed us to remind Minnesotans participating at these events of the history of the amendment and its significant impact on Minnesota's parks and trails. What follows are some educational highlights shared through our regional outreach efforts.

What is the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment?

Minnesota voters passed the 25-year Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment in November 2008 to enhance —not replace—existing funding for the protection of natural resources, outdoor recreation, and the arts. The funds generated from the amendment are referred to as Legacy funds. Voters approved raising the state sales tax by $\frac{3}{8}$ of one percent (from 6.5 percent to 6.875 percent) from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2034 to contribute to the Legacy Fund. The legislature appropriates the money collected from the sales tax increase to four different parts within the Legacy Fund each year, with 33 percent to the Outdoor Heritage Fund, 33 percent to the Clean Water Fund, 19.75 percent to the Arts and Culture Fund, and 14.25 percent to the Parks and Trails Fund.



\$360M
collected since
July 1, 2009

Since July 1, 2009, the Parks and Trails Fund has collected approximately \$360 million. Over the 25-year period, the Parks and Trails Fund is expected to receive about \$1.26 billion. The money in the Parks and Trails Fund is distributed among three Legacy systems:



State Parks and Trails are overseen by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR)



Regional parks and trails in the Twin Cities are coordinated by the Metropolitan Council (Met Council)



Designated regionally significant parks and trails in Greater Minnesota are overseen by the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission (GMRPTC)



Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee

These three agencies convene and meet regularly with the Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee (PTLAC).¹ The PTLAC was established to champion the 25-year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan.² This Legacy Plan was the result of almost two years of conversations with Minnesotans. The plan established guidelines on funding priorities for the Parks and Trails Fund, and it focuses on activities geared toward parks and trails of regional and state significance. Within parks and trails of state and regional significance, Legacy projects are those that seek to address one or more of the strategic directions set forth in the Legacy Plan:



Connect people and the outdoors by increasing participation in parks and trails



Take care of the resources we have by maintaining parks and trails infrastructure and investing in resource management



Acquire land and create opportunities for new and existing parks and trails



Coordinate among public, private, and non-profit partners that also support parks and trails in the state

¹ See Parks and Trails Advisory Committee, (www.legacy.mn.gov/ptlac).

² See “Parks and Trails Legacy Plan, Parks and Trails of State and Regional Significance A 25-year long-range plan for Minnesota”, February 14 2011. (www.legacy.mn.gov/sites/default/files/resources/parks_trails_legacy_plan_0.pdf).

How has Legacy funding been spent so far?

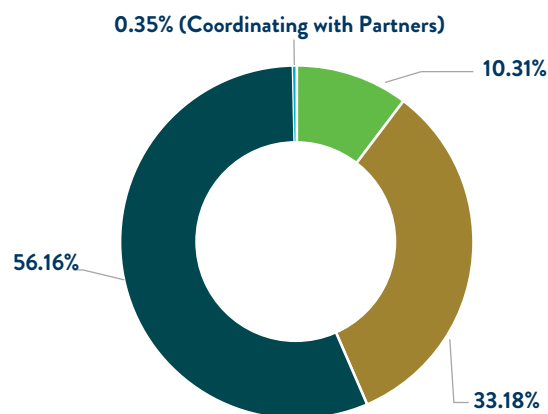
In the first eight years of Legacy funding, the three agencies have distributed Legacy funds between the recommended four strategic directions of the Legacy Plan in the following ways:

Minnesota DNR Parks and Trails, with its statewide, mature system of parks and trails, has dedicated more than half of Legacy funds on taking care of existing infrastructure and natural resources. Of the three agencies, the DNR has dedicated the most resources of the three agencies to connecting people, through its signature “**I Can**” series³ and other work.

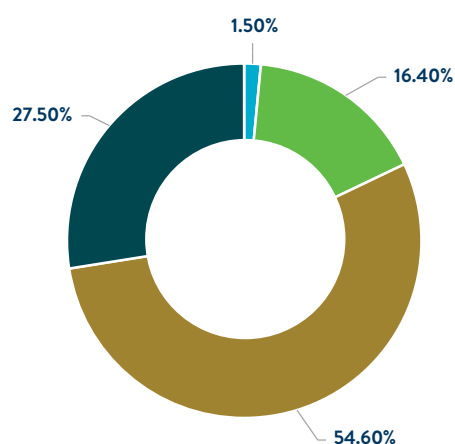
The ten implementing agencies who work with the Metropolitan Council, with their mix of older urban core facilities and newer and growing suburban communities, lean toward greater investments in acquiring land and creating new opportunities, while still dedicating significant funding to take care of existing resources.

The Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission is a new system, established in 2013. While some elements of the system are older and in need of taking care, most funding has gone into establishing the system through acquisition and development of new facilities.

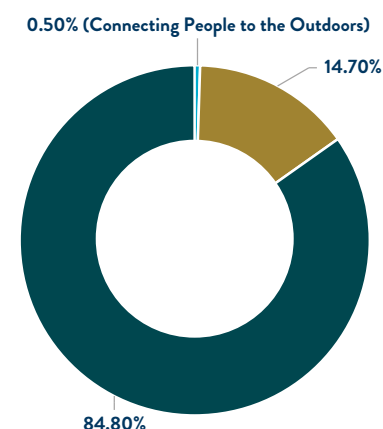
Metropolitan Council



DNR Parks and Trails



Greater Minnesota



● Acquire Land, Create Opportunities ● Taking Care of What We Have ● Connecting People to the Outdoors ● Coordinating with Partners



³ See Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/ican/index.html).


What is the impact of Legacy funding?

The Parks and Trails Legacy Fund has already had a remarkable impact. A full and current database of all the projects can be found at the **Minnesota's Legacy website** (www.legacy.mn.gov). For the regional events and the state fair, Legacy agency staff prepared information on a representative sample of the work that was made possible by Parks and Trails Legacy funds (see appendix for table listing the projects shared at the events). Here are just four examples of how Legacy funds helped accomplish the four strategic directions of the 25-Year Plan:






Detroit Mountain Recreation Area
Legacy Funded Area Improvements





 **Legacy Pillar: Acquire Land, Create Opportunities**
Managed by Detroit Mountain Recreation Area


Minneopa State Park
Legacy Funded Bison Reintroduction



 **Legacy Pillar: Take Care of What We Have**
Managed by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Tamarack Nature Center
Legacy Funded Discovery Hollow Nature Play Area



 **Legacy Pillar: Connecting People and the Outdoors**
Managed by Ramsey County Parks & Recreation



This Legacy-funded website, “Minnesota’s Great Outdoors Discovery Tool”, provides a single location for those interested in getting outdoors to search for what they want to do and where to find it at state and regional parks and trails. Managed by DNR in coordination with the Metropolitan Council, GMRPTC and MN.IT, this robust online site holds information on 186 parks and 439 trails.

“Minnesota’s Great Outdoors Discovery Tool”
mn.gov/greatoutdoors

Listen

Celebration and education weren't the only reasons for this outreach to Minnesotans. Ten years after the start of Legacy funding, we wanted to know whether our efforts continue to be in line with Minnesotan's priorities for their parks and trails and whether our collective efforts continue to be valued. These events allowed us to listen to Minnesotans in a structured way. Their feedback, along with the wealth of informal conversations we had while hosting the events and "in the field" helped us gain insights from Minnesotans around the state regarding the continued validity of Legacy strategic directions.

Legacy's impact on Minnesota's parks and trails

The event planning team created four sets of activities to collect feedback from people around Minnesota. Some activities were designed to solicit thoughts on the impact of Legacy funding, while others encouraged participants to provide perspectives and broader aspirations on the future of Legacy investments in Minnesota's parks and trails. The questions we asked were framed by the existing Legacy Plan. We sought to build on this 25-year plan, because we believe it's a good plan. We solicited responses within the broad guidance of the plan, allowing opportunities to listen for new themes that might emerge that the Plan had not anticipated.

After ten years of Legacy funding, we also wanted to know if these investments had made a difference within specific regions and across the state. Responses to both questions fell into common themes, so the questions were analyzed together. The following categories show the overall response themes, and provides common responses within each theme.



Connecting people and the outdoors

Improved accessibility

- “Helping others access these parks.”
- “Increased accessibility.”
- “Nicer accessible trails.”

Improved health and wellness

- “Healthier lifestyles for residents!”
- “Gives me a place to go for solitude.”
- “Health and wellness for cities of three million people is key.”
- “More intergenerational programs.”

Supported communities

- “Gave me a place to go to gather with friends.”
- “Renovation and expansion of Quarry Hill Nature Center, where thousands of children connect.”
- “Adds a place for residents and neighbors to have a place to build memories.”

Brought new visitors to parks

- “Gave my daughter the first exposure to the wonders of northern MN through Itasca Naturalist.”
- “Attract tourism to greater MN.”
- “The investments are what make MN and welcome new people.”

Increased awareness and pride in parks and trails

- “Makes the natural world a part of MN’s identity, something to be proud of.”
- “Proud to be a Minnesotan who cares about our natural legacy.”
- “Helped spark more local interest in our area parks and trails.”





Acquire land/create opportunities

More facilities

- “New campground at Whitewater State Park.”
- “Giving us trails to see our beautiful and wild places.”

Improved accessibility

- “Helping others access these parks.”
- “Increased accessibility.”
- “Nicer accessible trails.”

Take care of resources

Improved facilities, parks, and trails

- “Park improvements including St. Cloud River Bluffs.”
- “Restored Bear Paw Cabin [at Itasca State Park] where many guests stayed while attending my wedding.”
- “Maintaining and repairing Soudan underground mine.”

Preserved natural areas

- “Acquisition of new land protecting it for people of MN.”
- “Preserve areas which would otherwise be neglected.”
- “Preserved natural areas and wildlife.”

Improved natural resources

- “Invasive species control at Chester Woods Park.”
- “Restoration of MN native prairie habitats.”
- “Clean water.”



Future priorities for Minnesota's parks and trails Legacy investments

To gain insights into public perspectives on Legacy funding priorities, event attendees were invited to play a game prioritizing types of investments for the next 5-10 years using a \$100 individual or group investment. Slightly different versions of this game were used at the regional events and at the Minnesota State Fair. The results are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Average results from Investment game at the first eight regional events (80 rounds completed)



Investment options included:

- Take care of natural resources
- Connect people through programming
- Acquire land
- Take care of existing facilities
- Connect people through awareness
- Develop new facilities

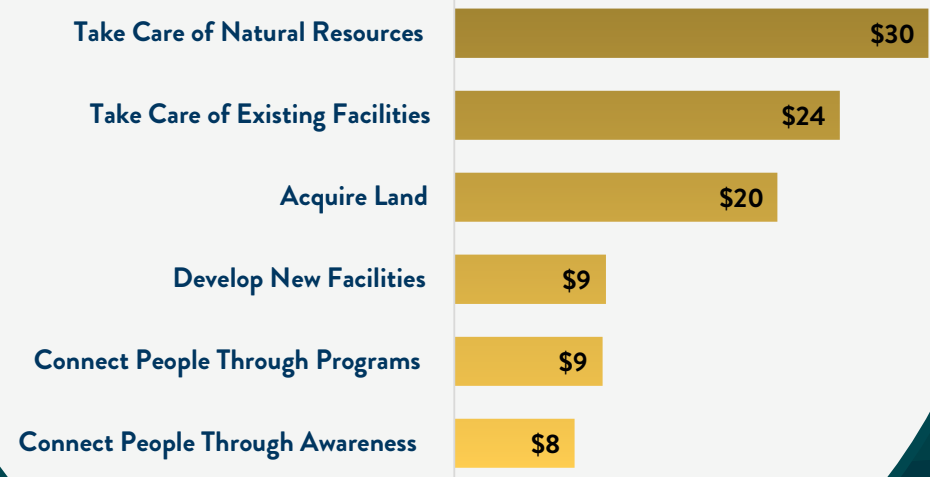
Overall, taking care of existing resources and facilities was most important to participants, followed by connecting people, acquiring land, and developing new facilities.



Minnesota State Fair results

A modified version of the investment game was offered at the DNR building at the Minnesota State Fair in August 2018 with some similar results, as shown in Figure 2. Taking care of resources and facilities rated highest of the six categories. In contrast to regional events, state fair participants rated connecting people lower than other options.

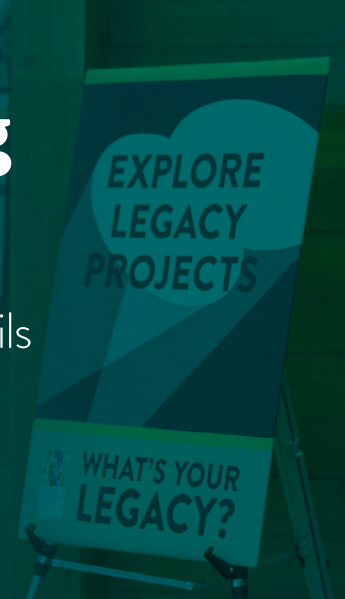
Figure 2: Average results from Investment game at the state fair (over 1,000 individuals participated)



Personal impact of parks and trails Legacy funding

We know the demographics of our state are shifting compared to the demographics of those using our system of parks and trails.⁵ Learning more about how our parks and trails system can maintain its relevance in the lives of Minnesotans is important so we asked:

- What one thing could be done with future Legacy investments that would increase your participation in outdoor recreation?
- What most excites you about the future of Minnesota parks and trails?



Common themes from the responses we gathered and provides example responses from participants regarding future Legacy investments.



Acquire parks, trail, and conservation land

- “Continue to grow trails for hiking/biking.”
- “Filling in the gaps in trails.”
- “Increase the amount of acres in SW MN. There are many natural areas but for parks it can be a long drive to get some.”
- “Preserving more of nature (water bodies and trails) in smaller areas.”



Maintain and improve natural resources

- “Increase spending on natural resource conservation and restoration.”
- “Stopping invasive species.”
- “Keep our waters clean.”
- “Riverbank restoration.”



Maintain parks and trails

- “Updating the facilities and keeping trails clean and updated.”
- “Put money into keeping the trails clean.”
- “That they are being taken care of and maintained for my kids and future generations.”

⁵ See Minnesota’s State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2014-2018 (www.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/reports/scorp)



More programming and events

- “More learning opportunities for non-savvy campers.”
- “More programs for married couples without kids.”
- “Music in the park.”
- “Hunting programs with my kids.”



More activities

- “Activities like geocaching.”
- “Kayaking activities.”
- “Boat rental that works like public bike rental.”
- “More paddle boards or canoes.”



More and improved features

- “Stroller accessibility for the trails and parks.”
- “Better play equipment.”
- “More year-round camping cabins.”
- “Better signs and mapping of trails.”



Awareness and marketing of parks, trails, and programming

- “Enhanced marketing.”
- “I didn’t know all this existed! So exciting. If I knew of all these resources I could get my family more active in them.”
- “Better awareness.”
- “More marketing. I think it is important to promote environmental stewardship so more people are aware of it.”



Quotes representative of the four general areas of feedback received regarding what most excites participants about the future of Minnesota parks and trails.



Being outdoors, doing activities, connecting to natural resources

- “All of the opportunities for connecting with nature and the outdoors.”
- “Observing the beauty and spending time in nature.”
- “All the programs and events.”



Preserving and restoring natural resources

- “Protecting more habitat for nature and wildlife.”
- “Continuing to take care of all parks.”
- “Preserving natural environments for all.”



New and improved opportunities for activities, programming, and exploring

- “New additions to trails and bike trails.”
- “The continued improvements to current facilities.”
- “More pretty and pet-friendly parks.”



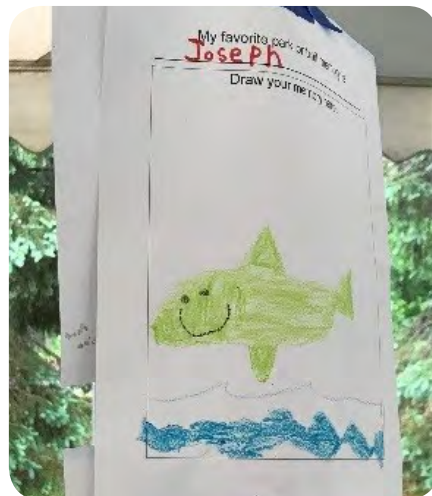
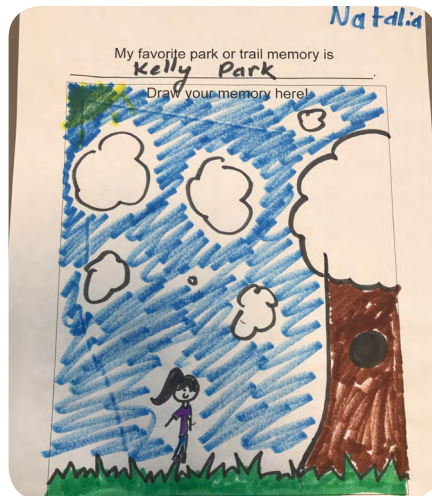
Experiencing the outdoors with friends, family, and communities

- “Having many opportunities to raise my kids in nature.”
- “Increased integration of communities through park use.”
- “Easy to hang out with friends at the parks and do some activities together.”



Children's perspectives

Each event also included a “Kid Zone” with two child-friendly data collection activities. Volunteers offered each child drawing paper that said: “My favorite park or trail memory is...” Children were encouraged to draw their response, and to write a sentence or a few words explaining the memory.



Most common themes in children's favorite park and trail memories



Volunteers also encouraged children to answer another question, “What activities in nature are you and your friends most interested in trying?” This activity was much less popular than the drawing activity, making any quantitative analysis difficult. In general, children most often mentioned activities related to play areas, as well as fishing, boating, and other water activities.

State fair

We used a different approach at the state fair. At the Legacy exhibit room, we set up a picnic table with blank paper and crayons. Signage at the table read: “Kids! Draw your Dream Park! What is in it? What do you do there?” We categorized their drawings and found the themes shown in the table below.



Drawing type	Number of drawings
Mixed natural and structural features	152
Predominantly natural features or conservation themes	97
Other/indeterminate	47
Predominantly structural features	40
Predominantly fantasy elements (unicorns, dragon eggs, mermaids, etc.)	8

What we learned

The tenth anniversary of the Legacy Amendment provided an opportunity for agencies receiving Parks and Trails Legacy funds and the Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee to talk with Minnesotans across the state about the past and future impact of Legacy funding. The anniversary also allowed us to demonstrate our commitment to a key value from the original Legacy Plan: coordinating with partners. All regional events and the Legacy exhibit at the Minnesota State Fair were team efforts, and everyone's hard work over many months resulted in closer collaborative partnerships than ever before.⁶

Insights and observations shared with us by participants throughout 2018 aligned well with the strategic directions laid out in the existing Legacy Plan. Having used the Legacy Plan as a guide to our event planning, this is not surprising. But there were also free-form questions designed to see if new priorities not anticipated by the plan might emerge. While a few comments identified concerns outside the scope of the Legacy Plan,⁷ the quantity of similar comments did not point to new priorities.

Participants placed a high value on stewardship of our existing system of parks and trails (see Figures 1 and 2, pg 15-16). Participants ranked existing Legacy Plan priorities, Taking Care of Natural Resources and Taking Care of Existing Facilities, first and second, respectively. We understand this to mean we are to continue careful, thoughtful stewardship of those parks and trails and related facilities. Providing everyone access to our state's waters, forests, prairies, and other natural and cultural features through this exceptional system of parks and trails is clearly a valued legacy worth protecting.

We found feedback on the two other main priorities of the Legacy Plan, Connecting People with the Outdoors and Acquiring Land and Creating Opportunities, to be less straightforward when comparing input from the regional events with input gathered at the state fair. Activities geared toward Connecting People with the Outdoors were a higher priority for those giving feedback at regional events than those at the state fair. Acquire Land and Creating Opportunities was identified as a higher priority for state fair participants than those at the regional events. Overall, participants placed value in all of four of these priorities, with a diversity of thought around the relative importance of each.

Similar diversity in outlook can be seen on the 'Use of Legacy Funds to Date' chart (p. 9). There, Acquiring Land and Creating Opportunities have, for each agency, received more funding than Connecting People with the Outdoors. In part this is because buying land and developing facilities tends to be expensive relative to the cost of advertising and running outdoors programs. But we duly note that our respondents find it to be very important to invest in connecting people, by passing on the love of the outdoors to the next generation, and making our current and future facilities welcoming to all.

⁶Emblematic of a year of strong collaboration was the June 2018 launch of Minnesota's Great Outdoors (www.mn.gov/greatoutdoors/). This web-based exploration tool contains all parks and trails of regional or statewide significance. It is a partnership between the three Legacy agencies and Minnesota IT Services. (www.mn.gov/mnit/).

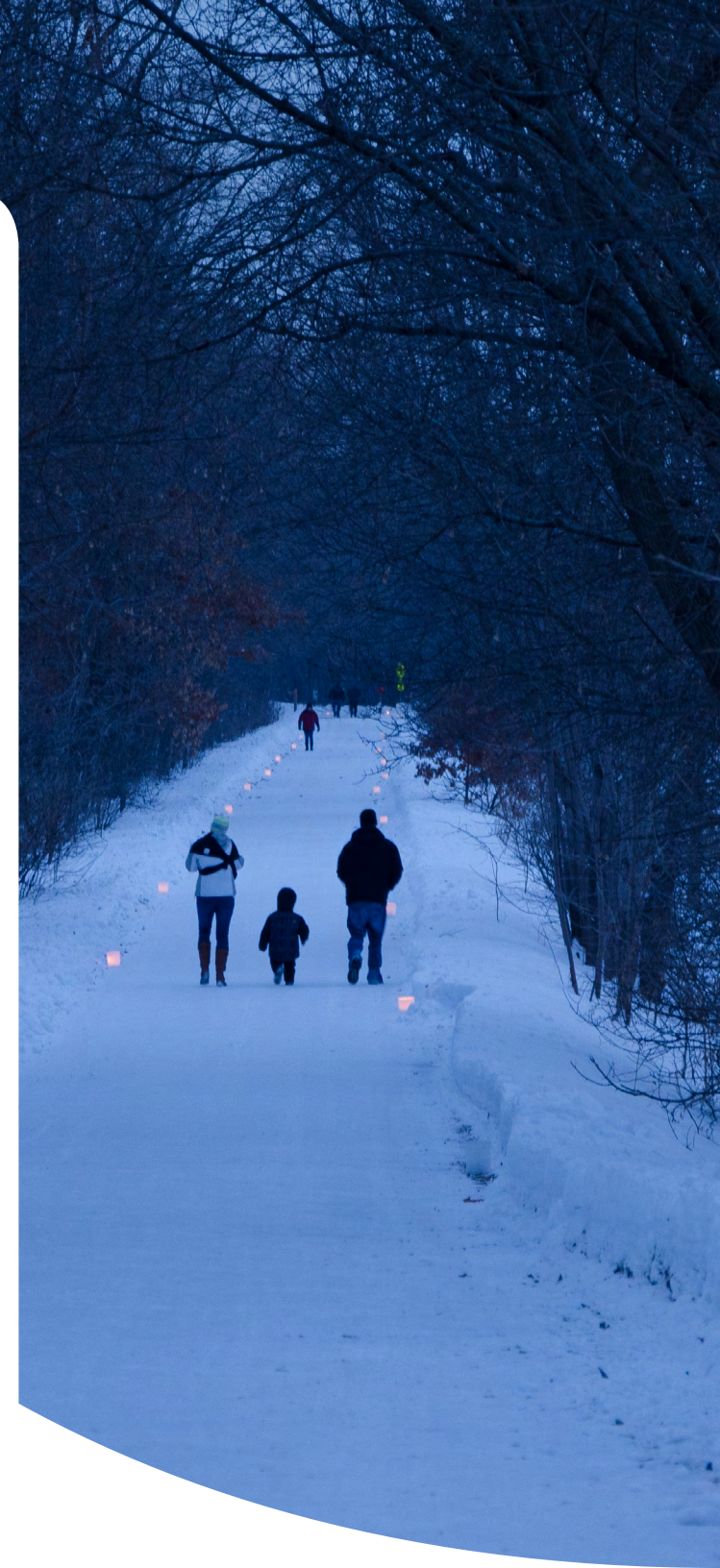
⁷Some participants commented about keeping parks clean and beautiful. This is valuable, but this responsibility falls under regular maintenance work, not Legacy funding. Other participants commented about hunting programs for kids, which are typically housed in fish and wildlife departments.



Based on the data collected and the conversations we experienced as we traveled across the state, we offer these reflections:

- Many people's identities as Minnesotans are tied to having good parks, trails, and natural resources.
- Minnesotans place high value on taking care of facilities and preserving the natural resources already found within existing parks and trails.
- Many Minnesotans see the health and wellness benefits offered by nearby parks and trails as part of their daily lives.
- Parks and trails must become more accessible and welcoming to people with different abilities.
- More public awareness of these resources and marketing specific parks and trails by Legacy agencies is necessary.
- Older participants are concerned about preserving natural resources for younger generations and about teaching them about nature and outdoor activities.

The perspectives we gathered through this effort will guide future Legacy funding decisions, and the PTLAC will continue to champion effective implementation of the Legacy Plan in its advisory work with the agencies. Every two years, the agencies seek its advice on strategic directions as a new biennial budget cycle gets underway. We are so grateful to all of the Minnesotans who contributed their time, energy, and ideas to this project. Your efforts will leave their own legacy.



Appendix A. Legacy Advisory Committee

Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission Appointees

Kathy Bergen, Duluth
Peter Royer, Litchfield
Wayne Sames, Eagan

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Appointees

Nancy Hanson, New Hope
Brook Maier, Monticello
Les Ollila, Grand Rapids

Metropolitan Council Appointees

Bob Bierscheid, Roseville
Poppy Potter, St. Paul
Patrick Stieg, Savage

Ad hoc Appointees

Katherine Bloom, Golden Valley
Chris Crutchfield, St. Paul
Margot Imdieke-Cross, Minneapolis
Tim Mitchell, Rochester
Louise Segreto, Edina
Randy Sorensen, East Grand Forks
Tom Stoa, Winona
May Yang, St. Paul

Organization liaisons

Renee Mattson, GMRPTC
Emmett Mullin, Met Council
Erika Rivers, DNR Parks and Trails

Tenth anniversary project planning team and site teams

Rick Anderson, Lyon County
Kathy Bergen, PTLAC
Bob Bierscheid, PTLAC chair, Team Leader
Katherine Bloom, PTLAC
Bob Chance, DNR Parks and Trails
Connie Cox, DNR Parks and Trails
Margy Hughes, Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission
Brook Maier, PTLAC
Renee Mattson, Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission
Tim Mitchell, PTLAC
Tom Moffatt, Silverwood Park
Emmett Mullin, Metropolitan Council
Les Ollila, PTLAC
Steve Plaza, City of Fergus Falls
Laura Preus, DNR Parks and Trails
Paul Purman, DNR Parks and Trails, Project Manager
Randy Quale, City of Bloomington
Wayne Sames, PTLAC
Louise Segreto, PTLAC
Stacy Sjogren, Minnesota Management and Budget, Management Analysis and Development, Project Facilitator
Randy Sorensen, PTLAC
Stefanie Stearns, DNR Parks and Trails
Scott Struelens, Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa
Scott VanDerMillen, City of Marshall
Karlin Ziegler, Olmsted County Parks

Appendix B. Data Collection Process

General approach to data collection

The data collected at the regional and state fair events was intended to be a tool for public engagement, not a statistically valid representation of Minnesotans. What follows is a general description of how we collected data.

Aspirational questions (all ages)

- What one thing could be done with future Legacy investments that would increase your participation in outdoor recreation?
- What most excites you about the future of Minnesota parks and trails?

Process: At each regional event, participants were offered a trivia card. Volunteers encouraged participants to examine the information posters and talk with volunteer staff to answer the questions on the card. They could then exchange the completed card for a small prize. The aspirational questions were printed at the bottom of the trivia card. The question regarding increasing personal participation received 140 responses, and the question regarding the future of parks and trails received 125 responses. Examples of responses are in the section beginning on page 13.

Perspectives question (all ages)

- Where do you think we should focus Parks and Trails Legacy investments in the next 5-10 years?

Process: At each regional event, guests of all ages were invited to play the “\$100 Game” in order to get a group (or individual, if playing alone) answer to the question. Participants were told the purpose of the game was to come to consensus on how Park and Trails Legacy funds should be prioritized for the next 5-10 years. First, individuals were given five chips, each with a value of \$20. They were also given a card that asked them to decide how they would invest their “money” in the following areas:

- Take care of natural resources
- Take care of existing facilities
- Connect people through awareness
- Connect people through programming
- Acquire land
- Develop new facilities
- Other

Next, a facilitator asked each participant to share their reasoning and encouraged the group to come to consensus on how they would invest their money. The facilitator asked the group to record their decision on a data collection sheet. A total of 80 facilitated conversations were recorded. The results of these discussions are shown in the section beginning on page 15.

State fair process

The process for gathering this information at the state fair was streamlined. Each person (or in some cases, small group) was given “\$100” in the form of 5 \$20 fuzzy balls. After explaining what each category of investment meant (the “other” category was not included), the person was encouraged to spread their “money” around or spend it all in one place. A total of 11,065 votes were cast. The results of these discussions are shown in the section beginning on page 16.

Perspective questions (children)

- My favorite park or trail memory is _____!
- What activities in nature are you and your friends most interested in trying?

Process: At each regional event included a “Kid Zone” area so children could share their thoughts about Minnesota’s parks and trails. Most popular was a coloring station where participants could draw a picture that showed their favorite park or trail memory. We collected 298 drawings, and used 187 of them to develop themes.

Older children were encouraged to share comments and drawings on table posters for the second question. Low amounts of data on the first question only allowed us to draw general conclusions: winter sports activities, fishing, boating, and other water sports seemed to be most popular.

Children were encouraged to exchange their drawings and written comments for a small gift.

At the state fair, the Legacy exhibit room had a picnic table set up near the \$100 voting station. On the table were blank sheets of paper and crayons. Signage at the table read: “Kids! Draw your Dream Park! What is in it? What do you do there?” Additional signage read “Hey Kids! Take your artwork or leave it with us! If you leave it here, we may share it with others by hanging it up or including it in a report!” Staff managed the table for orderliness and supplies, but they did not provide verbal instruction other than pointing it out to participants.





State fair blackboard question (all ages)

At the state fair, one corner of the Legacy exhibit room had a 4' x 8' acrylic blackboard and was stocked with fluorescent markers. The question on the blackboard read “What Is Your Favorite Thing to Do Outside?” This activity was intended to be a free-form, fun means of public engagement. The board filled up frequently with responses. Several times per day, the board was photographed then wiped down so that new responses could be added. Tallied responses are presented on page 29 in the form of a word cloud.

Impact questions (adults)

- How did Legacy investment make a difference in your area?
- How did Legacy make a difference for the state of Minnesota?

Process: At each regional event, participants put their answers to each of these questions on posters. The “difference in your area” question poster was designed with an oak tree outline, and guests wrote their answers on leaf-shaped stick-on notes. The “difference for the state” question was designed as a galaxy, and guests wrote their answers on star-shaped stick-on notes. This was the least successful data collection station. Responses regarding the difference Legacy investments have made in a specific region totaled 87. A total of 76 responses were collected for the second question about Legacy funding impact on the state. Because responses to both questions fell into common themes, responses were analyzed together. The results are shown in the section beginning on page 12.



Appendix C. Regional Event Details

Silverwood Park

Location: Silverwood Park, 2500 County Rd E, St Anthony, MN 55421 (Three Rivers Park District)

Date/time: Saturday, January 27, 2018, 1-4 p.m.

Activities offered: ice fishing, snowmobile simulator, kick-sledding, s'more making/fire, and outdoor adaptive equipment demonstrations for people with a range of abilities.

Number of public attendees: 200

Saint John's University

Location: Guild Hall, St. John's University, 2850 Abbey Plaza, Collegeville, MN 56321

Date/time: Friday, April 27, 2018, 4-7 p.m.

Activities offered: bicycle outings to Lake Wobegon Regional Trail, ATV simulator, outdoor adaptive equipment demonstrations for people with a range of abilities.

Number of public attendees: 20

City of Marshall

Location: Red Baron Arena, 400 Tiger Drive, Marshall, MN 56258

Date/time: Sunday, April 29, 2018, 12-2:30 p.m.

Activities offered: Blue Mounds State Park bison buggy, birding, bicycle obstacle course, disc golf, ATV simulator, outdoor adaptive equipment demonstrations for people with a range of abilities.

Number of public attendees: 65

City of Bloomington

Location: Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve, Normandale Lake Band Shell, 5901 West 84th St., Bloomington, MN 55438
(City of Bloomington Parks/Three Rivers Park District)

Date/time: Friday, May 11, 2018, 5-8 p.m.

Activities offered: live Latin music at the band shell, rock-climbing wall, raptor demonstrations, ATV simulator, food trucks, fireworks, outdoor adaptive equipment demonstrations for people with a range of abilities.

Number of public attendees: 85

City of Rochester

Location: 125 LIVE Center for Active Adults, 125 Elton Hills Dr. NW, Rochester, MN 55901

Date/time: Saturday, May 19, 2018, 1-4 p.m.

Activities offered: Whitewater River Watershed Lego Model, wildlife demonstrations, ATV simulator, outdoor adaptive equipment demonstrations for people with a range of abilities.

Number of public attendees: 20

Itasca State Park

Location: Forest Inn, Itasca State Park, 36750 Main Park Drive, Park Rapids, MN 56470

Date/time: Saturday, June 2, 2018, 1-4 p.m.

Activities offered: live music, geocaching, fishing, ice cream in a bag and campfire cooking, raptor demonstrations, ATV simulator, guided nature walks, tours of Douglas Lodge and Old Timer's Cabin, tick ecology station, outdoor adaptive equipment demonstrations for people with a range of abilities.

Number of public attendees: 200

City of Fergus Falls

Location: Prairie Wetland Environmental Learning Center, 602 Minnesota State Hwy 210 East, Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Date/time: Saturday, June 16, 2018, 1-4 p.m.

Activities offered: archery, Central Lakes State Trail trailhead tours, nature hikes, and outdoor adaptive equipment demonstrations for people with a range of abilities.

Number of public attendees: 20

City of Duluth

Location: Essentia Health Duluth Heritage Sports Center, 120 S 30th Ave West, Duluth, MN 55806

Date/time: Wednesday, June 27, 2018, 4-6:30 p.m.

Activities offered: reptile demonstrations, bicycle obstacle course, ATV simulator, and outdoor adaptive equipment demonstrations for people with a range of abilities. Essentia Health-Duluth partnered on the event and offered a free healthy meal and other activities.

Number of public attendees: 1000

Appendix D. Selected Legacy projects

For the Legacy 10th Anniversary regional celebrations, and at the Minnesota State Fair, agency staff compiled and shared summary information about a sampling of work funded (in whole or part) by the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund. The table below summarizes these projects. More information about programs and projects receiving Parks and Trails Legacy Fund support is at Minnesota's Legacy (www.legacy.mn.gov). For more information about how individual Legacy projects are selected for funding, please visit the websites of the Department of Natural Resources, Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission, and the Metropolitan Council (listed in Appendix E.)

Take care of resources

Park or trail name	Sample Project	For more information
Alexander Ramsey Regional Park	Improved biking trails/ADA bathrooms Replaced over three miles of crumbling trails and added new accessible bathrooms.	Redwood Area Community Center (www.redwoodareacommunitycenter.com)
Camden State Park	Upgrades and improvements A variety of improvements and upgrades, including new ADA picnic tables and fire rings at campsites, new/improved electrical service at campsites, rehabbed swimming pond, and a feasibility study on converting managers residence to lodging.	Camden State Park (www.mndnr.gov/camden)
Chambers Grove Regional Park	Flood recovery and accessibility improvements Flood of 2012 recovery and accessibility improvements to restrooms and playground at historic Chambers Grove Park.	Chambers Grove State Park (www.duluthmn.gov/st-louis-river-corridor/chambers-grove-park)
Como Regional Park	Shuttle service, road and lily pond improvements Improvements in infrastructure and access at Como Regional Park.	Como Regional Park (www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-recreation/como-regional-park)

Park or trail name	Sample Project	For more information
Glacial Lakes State Trail	Trail improvements, Willmar to Spicer Major state trail improvements, widening and repaving from Spicer to Wilmar.	Glacial Lakes State Trail (www.mndnr.gov/glaciallakestrail)
Itasca State Park	Bear Paw Guest House and bike trail improvements Conversion of historic CCC-era guest house to accessible overnight use. Bike trails were rerouted and widened for improved safety and maintenance.	Itasca State Park (www.mndnr.gov/itasca)
Lake Elmo Regional Park Reserve	Improved swim pond amenities and accessibility New facilities to improve visitor experience and accessibility at Lake Elmo swimming pond.	Lake Elmo Regional Park Reserve (www.co.washington.mn.us/parks)
Lilydale Regional Park	Road and trail realignments Realigned roads and trails for better public access to Lilydale Park, the Mississippi River, and Pickerel Lake. Cleaned up former dump site.	Lilydale Regional Park (www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-recreation/design-construction/)
Maplewood State Park	Prairie restoration Restored over 600 acres of prairie; native habitat greatly improved, invasive plants reduced.	Maplewood State Park (www.mndnr.gov/maplewood)
Minneapolis Chain-of-Lakes Regional Park	Revitalization of trails Revitalization of trails at Lakes Harriet and Calhoun/Bde Maka Ska in the most-used regional park in Twin Cities.	Minneapolis Chain-of-Lakes Regional Park (www.minneapolisiparks.org)

Park or trail name	Sample Project	For more information
Minneopa State Park	Bison Restoration A small herd of bison was reintroduced to the park in 2015, creating a new location for Minnesota's Bison Conservation Herd.	Minneopa State Park (www.mndnr.gov/state_parks/minneopa/bison.html)
Quarry Hill Regional Park	Quarry Hill Nature Center improved exhibits and habitat New exhibits, improved live animal habitat.	Quarry Hill Regional Park (www.qhnc.org)
Zippel Bay State Park	LED lighting upgrades LED lighting upgrades to all existing lighting in park, reducing costs and improving lighting.	Zippel Bay State Park (www.mndnr.gov/zippelbay)

Connect people and the outdoors

Park or trail name	Sample Project	For more information
Bald Eagle-Otter Lakes Regional Park	Discovery Hollow Nature Play Area, Tamarack Nature Center Created a unique nature-based outdoor play space with garden. Expanded nature center, created volunteer coordinator position.	Bald Eagle-Otter Lakes Regional Park (www.TamarackNatureCenter.org)
Blue Mounds State Park	Prairie and Bison Tours Support ongoing operations of tours launched in 2018 at Blue Mounds State Park. The vehicle was acquired with LCCMR funding.	Blue Mounds State Park (www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/blue_mounds/prairie-and-bison-tour.html)
Itasca State Park	Interpretive Naturalist Staff Support for interpretive naturalist staff at the ‘crown jewel’ state park to meet visitor demand. Over 27,000 visitors attended over 400 programs offered by Legacy-funded interpretive staff at Itasca State Park and its satellite operation at La Salle Lake State Recreation Area.	Itasca State Park (www.mndnr.gov/itasca)
Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Regional Park Reserve	New Learning Stations, Wargo Nature Center Seven new learning stations enhanced outdoor learning for 5,000 children per year attending programs.	Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Regional Park Reserve (www.anokacountyparks.com)
Wright and Stearns Counties Parks	“Schools in the Parks” Programming Various Wright and Stearns counties contracted with Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center to provide outdoor experiences for over 1800 participants in 2017.	Wright and Stearns Counties Parks (www.gmrptcommission.org)

Acquire land, creating opportunities

Park or trail name	Sample Project	For more information
Bear Head Lake State Park	New trail center and landscaping New trail enter and landscaping at 'America's Favorite State Park' outside Ely.	Bear Head Lake State Park (www.mndnr.gov/bearhead)
Big Bog State Recreation Area	Camper cabin, entrance sign, accessible path development Added new camper cabin to a popular location, created an accessible path around Ludlow Pond, and added an arched sign to the boardwalk entrance.	Big Bog State Recreation Area (www.mndnr.gov/bigbog)
Browns Creek State Trail	Acquire and develop new state trail Funds contributed to both the acquisition and development of the Browns Creek State Trail, linking Stillwater with the Gateway State Trail and St. Paul.	Browns Creek State Trail (www.mndnr.gov/browns creek)
Cascade Lake Park	New Park Development Added utilities, parking, storm water management to Cascade Lake, a natural lake.	Cascade Lake Park (www.rochestermn.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation)
Cedar Lake Farm Park	Accessibility and welcoming improvements Improved accessibility with new parking, companion care restroom and a paved trail, expanded swimming beach, and more. Site managed by Scott County in partnership with Three Rivers Park District.	Cedar Lake Farm Park www.scottcountymn.gov/772/Parks-Trails www.threeriversparks.org/

Park or trail name	Sample Project	For more information
Central Lakes State Trail	New accessible state trailhead DNR partnered with local government and MNDOT to develop a new accessible trailhead at trail's western terminus.	Central Lakes State Trail (www.mndnr.gov/centrallakes)
Cuyuna County State Recreation Area	Mountain Bike Skills Area and Trails Created four progressively more difficult trail loops, created a new trail connection to City of Crosby.	Cuyuna County State Recreation Area (www.mndnr.gov/cuyuna)
Detroit Mountain Recreation Area	Trail improvements Added a skills loop, beginner loop, downhill flow trails, single direction trails, and multi-directional multi-use trails. Developed an accessible (ADA) hiking trail and a multi-use connecting trail to Mountain View County Park.	Detroit Mountain Recreation Area (www.gmrptcommission.org)
Duluth Traverse Trail	New mountain bike trails Constructed 9.1 miles of natural surface multi-use trail, purpose-built for mountain biking. Expanded trail centers at Lester Park in the east, and created Mission Creek Trail Center in the west.	Duluth Traverse Trail (www.duluthmn.gov/st-louis-river-corridor/Duluth-traverse)
Elm Creek Park Reserve	New Nature Center Replaced old Eastman nature center with new state of the art building.	Elm Creek Park Reserve (www.threeriversparks.org)

Park or trail name	Sample Project	For more information
Glendalough State Park	New trail connection, new remote yurt A partnership with city and county resulted in a new 5.5 mile bike trail in the park, and a trail connection to the city of Battle Lake. A separate project added new yurt on Annie Battle Lake.	Glendalough State Park (www.mndnr.gov/glendalough)
Hartley Park	New Nature Playscape and other features Collaborative approach constructed a new nature playscape, expanded parking and neighborhood access, increased accessibility, and restored landscape elements.	Hartley Park (www.duluthmn.gov/parks/parks-listing/Hartley-park)
Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Regional Park Reserve	Improvements to Normandale Lake Park Renovated existing parking lot and constructed new lot. New lots meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.	Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Regional Park Reserve (www.bloomingtonmn.gov)
Irving & John Anderson County Park	Land Acquisition Acquired 80 acres including oak forest, wetland, established prairie, and restored prairie habitats. Protected approximately 4,500 feet of shoreline. Added two miles of non-motorized multi use trails, including groomed cross-country ski trails during winter season.	Irving & John Anderson County Park (www.co.isanti.mn.us/isanti/departments/parks-and-recreation/county-parks/irving-&-john-anderson-county-park)
Kensington Rune Stone Regional Park	Visitor/Interpretive Center Construction of a visitor center, walkways, roads, and plaza area. Interpretation of why rune stones were made and what happened to the Kensington Rune Stone after Olaf Ohman made his discovery public.	Kensington Rune Stone Regional Park (www.gmrptcommission.org)

Park or trail name	Sample Project	For more information
La Salle Lake State Recreation Area	New state recreation area Leveraged Legacy dollars with other sources of funding to acquire deep, pristine lake and surrounding property.	La Salle Lake State Recreation Area (www.mndnr.gov/lasalle)
Lake Bemidji State Park	New group camp Developed Lavinia Group Camp with its own water, five electric sites, tent area, screened shelter building, and large fire ring.	Lake Bemidji State Park (www.mndnr.gov/lakebemidji)
Lake Waconia Regional Park	Acquired historic Coney Island of the West Acquired historic Coney Island of the West, preserved 33 acres and one mile of shore, leveraged additional revenue from public and private sources.	Lake Waconia Regional Park (www.co.carver.mn.us/parks/waconiaregionalpark)
Lake Wobegon Trail	New trail connection Created a 3.2 mile critical trail connection of the Lake Wobegon Regional Trail to the Greater St. Cloud area, increasing accessibility.	Lake Wobegon Trail (www.co.stearns.mn.us/Recreation/TrailsandConditions/LakeWobegonTrail)
Luce Line State Trail	New paved trail, Hutchinson to Winsted Connected Hutchinson, Silver Lake, and Winsted with 23 miles of new, paved multi-use state trail. Replaced or rehabbed three bridges; dedicated parallel track for horses. Partnership with local governments.	Luce Line State Trail (www.mndnr.gov/luceline)
Milford Mine Memorial Park	New park to honor Minnesota mining history Developed accessible boardwalk, interpretive panels, and memorial wall to introduce visitors to the Milford Mine disaster of 1924.	Milford Mine Memorial Park (www.crowwing.us/294/Milford-Mine-Memorial-Park)

Park or trail name	Sample Project	For more information
Mississippi River Regional Trail	Completed trail gaps and new trailheads Partnered with other agencies to complete critical gaps in 27-mile trail from Hastings to St. Paul, developed cooperatively managed trailheads at Pine Bend Bluffs SNA and Swing Bridge Park.	Mississippi River Regional Trail (www.dakotacounty.us/parks)
Paul Bunyan State Trail	New trail connection Developed 6.5 new multi-use, accessible trail from Brainerd/Baxter to Crow Wing State Park.	Paul Bunyan State Trail (www.mndnr.gov/paulbunyan)
Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail	New trail connections New regional trail connects six cities with parks (including Interstate State Park in Taylor's Falls), schools, neighborhoods, and campgrounds.	Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail (www.co.chisago.mn.us/425/parks-trails)
Whitewater State Park	New Minneiska Campground Added new state of the art campground, fully funded by Legacy. 40 new electric sites. Increase in energy use is offset with alternative energy and conservation measures.	Whitewater State Park (www.mndnr.gov/whitewater)

Appendix E. More information

For a digital copy of this report, or for more information about the Park and Trails Legacy Fund, the Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee, the agencies receiving Parks and Trails Legacy dollars, and more, please explore the following resources.

- [Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Trails](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/parks_trails) (www.dnr.state.mn.us/parks_trails)
- [Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission](http://www.gmrptcommission.org/) (www.gmrptcommission.org/)
- [Legacy Amendment](http://www.revisor.mn.gov/constitution/#article_11) (Article 11 in the Minnesota Constitution) (www.revisor.mn.gov/constitution/#article_11)
- [Metropolitan Council, Regional Parks and Trails](http://www.metrocouncil.org/parks.aspx) (www.metrocouncil.org/parks.aspx)
- The Parks and Trails Legacy Plan for Parks and Trails of State and Regional Significance: A 25-year long-range plan for Minnesota – [Minnesota Legacy Site](http://www.legacy.mn.gov/funds/parks-trails-fund/plan) (www.legacy.mn.gov/funds/parks-trails-fund/plan)
- [Minnesota's Great Outdoors](http://mn.gov/greatoutdoors/) – This web-based exploration tool contains all parks and trails of regional or statewide significance. It is a partnership between MN DNR, Metropolitan Council, Greater MN Regional Parks and Trails Commission, and Minnesota IT Services (MNIT). (mn.gov/greatoutdoors/)
- [Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee](http://www.legacy.mn.gov/ptlac) (www.legacy.mn.gov/ptlac)
- Legislative Coordinating Commission – [Parks and Trails Legacy Fund](http://www.legacy.mn.gov/parks-trails-fund) (www.legacy.mn.gov/parks-trails-fund)



10th ANNIVERSARY