



Greater Minnesota

# REGIONAL PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION



## Policy & Planning Report for 2020





## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Friends,

This year has been a challenging and difficult time for everyone; in Minnesota, the United States and across the globe. However, we now see positive signs, with vaccines on the horizon and the relief that life will return to a semblance of normal in coming months.

As we sought refuge from social distancing of our friends and colleagues, we found solace in nature, enjoying the beauty of our natural spaces. The positive outcome of this trying time has been multitudes of new users finding and enjoying parks and trails throughout the state. Parks and trails in Greater Minnesota embraced these new enthusiasts and found innovative ways to provide programming, while keeping everyone safe.

Out of the darkness of 2020 we will emerge into the hope and light of 2021, with a legion of folks who found nature in their back yards, a remote region of the state, or a well-known facility.

The wisdom of Minnesotans to tax themselves and bring to fruition the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment is never more welcome than in this year, when use of our natural resources provided calm and peace in turbulent times.

On behalf of the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission, it is our privilege to serve the citizens of our great state. We offer thanks and appreciation to our colleagues at the 64 designated parks and trails throughout Greater Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Thomas Ryan, Chair

1. Lake County Mountain Bike Trail
2. Winona Bluffs Traverse Holzinger Lodge

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## District Commissioners

District 1		<b>Tim Engrav, Britt</b> Executive Committee At-Large	District 4		<b>Barry Wendorf, Zimmerman</b>
		<b>Beth Pierce, Hibbing</b>			<b>Jonathan Wolf, St. Cloud</b>
District 2		<b>Bryan Pike, Brainerd</b> Executive Committee Secretary/Treasurer	District 5		<b>Rick Anderson, Balaton</b> Executive Committee Vice Chair
		<b>Matthew Hill, Breezy Point</b>			<b>Ted Suss, Lucan</b>
District 3		<b>Peg Furshong, Sacred Heart</b>	District 6		<b>Thomas Ryan, Byron</b> Executive Committee Chair
		<b>Brad Bonk, Alexandria</b>			<b>Tom Stoa, Winona</b>
At-Large		<b>Jen Foley, St. Cloud</b>	<p><b>Executive Director:</b> Renee Mattson, Duluth  <b>System Plan Coordinator:</b> Joe Czapiewski, Bemidji  <b>Administrative Assistant:</b> Margy Hughes, St. Joseph</p>		

# FY22 LEGACY FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

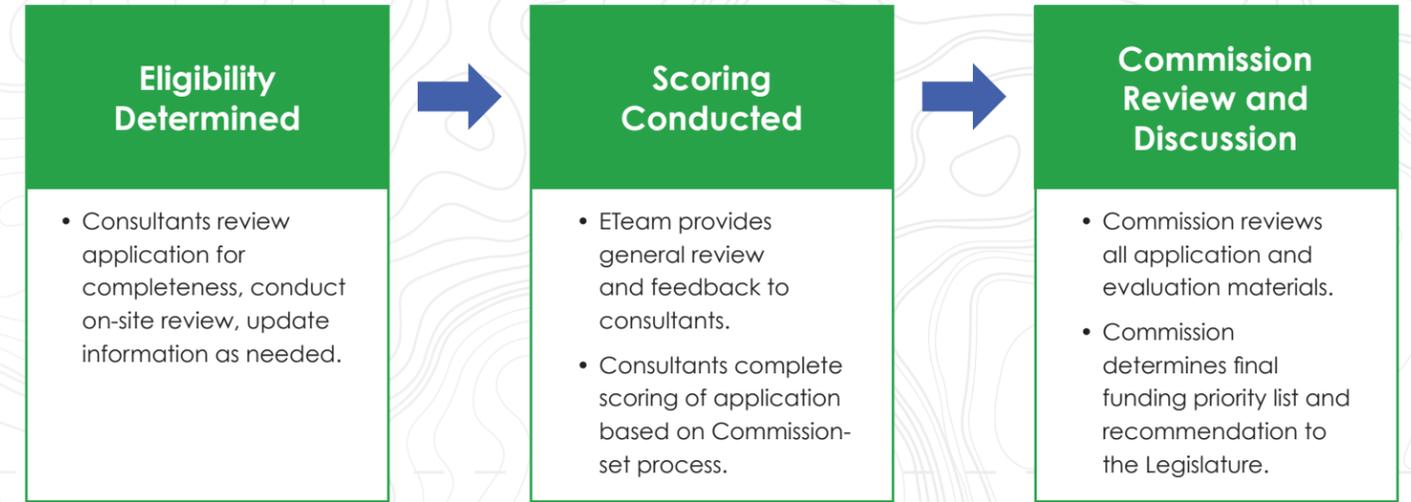
Due to tax collections coming in lower than anticipated as a result of economic factors related to COVID-19, Minnesota Management and Budget revised estimates for Legacy collections downward. Lower tax collections resulted in the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission reducing FY21 awards to meet the revised Legacy apportionment. With the cooperation of three FY21 funding recipients, GMPRTC was able to balance the loss of funding. The first three projects are recommended for "make whole" funding out of the FY22 apportionment.

PROJECT	AWARD	DIST.
Olmsted County Oxbow Park and Zollman Zoo	\$350,000	6
Goodhue County Byllesby Park	\$180,000	6
Offer Tail County Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail	\$781,000	3
Mesabi Trail	\$300,000	1
Lake County Mountain Bike Trails	\$400,000	1
Gull Lake Trail	\$2,434,922	2
Moorhead River Corridor Trail	\$660,925	3
Chisago County Sunrise Prairie Trail	\$1,182,282	4
Wright County Connecting People with the Outdoors	\$67,000	4
Luverne Loop & Blue Mounds Trail	\$839,300	5
Winona Bluffs Traverse	\$560,000	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,755,429</b>	

These projects are recommended for FY22 Funding if Minnesota Management Budget forecasts are better than anticipated.

PROJECT	AWARD	DIST.
Sandstone Robinson Park	\$321,750	1
Olmsted County Oxbow Park and Zollman Zoo	\$192,000	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$513,750</b>	

# FUNDING RECOMMENDATION SELECTION PROCESS



## SCORING CRITERIA

Park Criteria	Trail Criteria	Connecting People to the Outdoors Criteria
Completes a regionally substantial component in the applicants Master Plan.	Completes a regionally substantial component in the applicants Master Plan.	Supports the programming and marketing components in the applicants Master Plan.
Fills a gap and provides an outdoor recreation benefit of regional significance for that district.	Fills a gap and provides connectivity to users. Could also provide connectivity to a larger trail system to create a recreation benefit for the district.	Fills a gap and provides a proven outdoor recreation benefit of regional significance for that district.
Is significantly linked to one or more of the four pillars in the 25-Year Legacy Plan.	Is significantly linked to one or more of the four pillars in the 25-Year Legacy Plan.	Is significantly linked to the Connecting People to the Outdoors pillar objectives as well as additional pillars in the 25-Year Legacy Plan.
Project is a critical acquisition or critical rehabilitation and repair of a park facility or feature.	Project is a critical acquisition or critical rehabilitation and repair of a trail, trailhead facility or trail feature.	Provides significant and locally sustainable recruitment, retention or reactivation of outdoor recreation participation.
Provides access to quality natural and cultural resources within the district.	Provides access to quality natural and cultural resources within the district.	Provides access for underserved populations to quality natural and cultural resources within the district.
Has a financial match. A higher match will receive greater point awards.	Has a financial match. A higher match will receive greater point awards.	Has a financial match. A higher match will receive greater point awards.
Includes a fully detailed budget and implementation plan.	Includes a fully detailed budget and implementation plan.	Includes a fully detailed budget and implementation plan.

# Parks and Trails 25-Year Legacy Plan

In 2008, Minnesotans passed the Clean Water Land and Legacy Act, commonly referred to as the "Legacy Amendment". The Legacy Amendment is funded by a 3/8 percent increase in the state sales tax. State and regional parks and trails receive 14.25% of the funds generated by the tax. The Minnesota State Legislature mandated that the Department of Natural Resources develop a 25-year, long-range plan to help guide and inform how the Legacy Funds should be spent. Over 18 months, an extensive public outreach effort was conducted throughout the state. The 25-Year Legacy Plan was developed as a result of the public engagement by teams of recreation and conservation professionals.

The future direction of this thoughtful 25-Year Legacy Plan is distilled down from the input and engagement of the Minnesotans who contributed their voices to shape the plan. **The strategy is based on the four pillars below that describe the priorities:**



## Connect People and the Outdoors

Participants in the Legacy Plan Public Engagement Workshops emphasized the importance of building Minnesota's next generation of stewards for the state's natural areas. One of the most effective ways to do that is by increasing outdoor recreation participation. The plan describes seven key strategies to engage new users and maintain the interest and enthusiasm of existing users of our parks and trails.

- A welcoming environment
- Access for all
- Marketing
- Quality
- Programming and special events
- Partnerships
- Infrastructure and amenities

## Acquire Land, Create Opportunities

Minnesotans are by nature avid outdoor recreators. While there are many rich opportunities to enjoy and recreate in parks and trails throughout Minnesota, new and expanded opportunities are needed to satisfy current users as well as to create opportunities for new users. This pillar speaks to the need to acquire land to meet nature-based outdoor activities and to create opportunities through new trails and park facilities.

## Take Care of What We Have

The 25-Year Legacy Plan addresses the need to invest in the aging infrastructure across Minnesota's well used and loved parks and trails system. This pillar does not address the routine maintenance of parks and trails, which should be part of ongoing maintenance operations, but promotes investment in the protection of assets through preservation, rehabilitation and renewal.

## Coordinate Among Partners

Coordination across systems is essential to achieve the vision encapsulated in the 25-Year Legacy Plan. It is universally understood that users want and expect quality parks and trails and may not know, or care, what agency is responsible for the management of the resource. It is incumbent upon the outdoor recreation providers to communicate with each other and work to provide a quality experience.



- 1 - Rochester Cascade Lake Park Beach
- 2 - Winona Bluffs Traverse Mountain Biking
- 3 - Kettle River Whitewater Rafting
- 4 - Red Wing He Mni Can – Barn Bluff Park
- 5 - 10-Year Celebration of the Legacy Amendment, Silverwood Regional Park Kids Corner



# DISTRICT 1

## Acquire Land, Create Opportunities

### Mesabi Trail

This premier trail winds its way through 135 miles of tall forests, bubbling streams and rolling hills, connecting 28 communities, countless city parks and attractions and three state parks. The trail is partially built on abandoned rail beds and old logging and mining roads. When fully complete the trail will travel 155 paved miles. The trail is within proximity to population centers and provides residents and visitors convenient access to one of the longest, most scenic and historic paved trails in the United States. In fact, an incredible 220,000 people enjoyed the trail in 2020, illustrating that the Mesabi Trail fills a need and enriches the lives of residents and visitors to the Iron Range.

## Take Care of What We Have

### Sandstone Robinson Park

Robinson Park is located at the site of a quarry owned by James J. Hill from 1885-1919 and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1991. A Legacy Grant will provide funding for critical infrastructure improvements to create vehicular separation from pedestrian circulation for a safer park experience and the protection of historic park elements. The project also addresses runoff currently flowing into the Kettle River down the boat ramp which will in turn improve the quality of the water entering the river. These important infrastructure enhancements will set the stage for future projects that will better the visitor experience in the park.



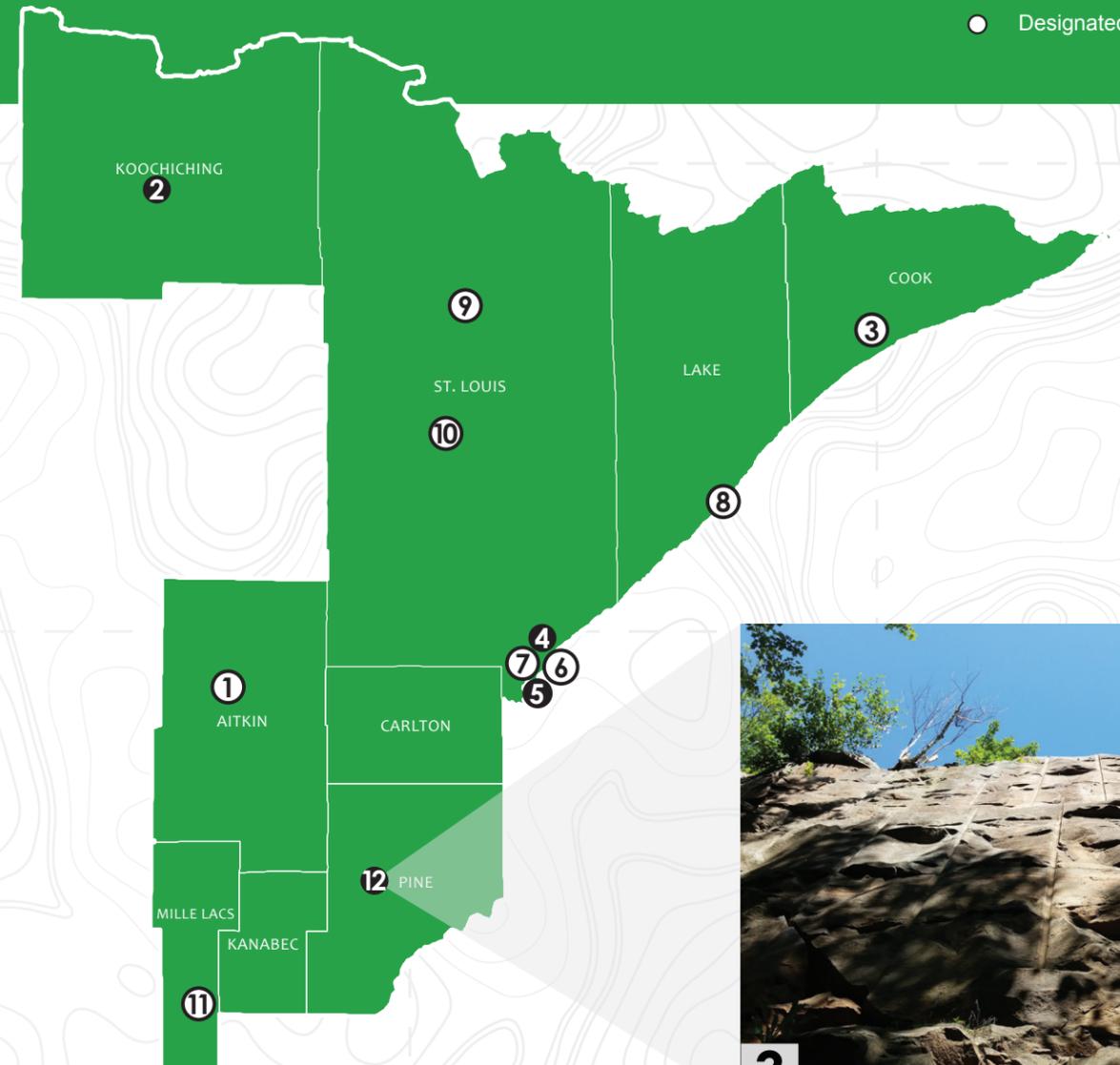
- 1 - Lake County Mountain Bike Trail
- 2 - Duluth Hartley Park Pond
- 3 - Sandstone Robinson Park

## TOTAL FUNDING AWARDED TO DISTRICT 1 (FY16-FY21)

*This notes the total number of applications and the total amount of grants made to this district over time.*

**9 Projects Funded**  
**20 Applications**

**\$8,670,857 Awarded**  
**\$1,553,033 Community Match**



	DESIGNATED PARK/TRAIL	CLASSIFICATION
1	Aitkin County Northwoods ATV Trail	T
2	Big Falls Campground and Horse Camp	S
3	Cook County Mountain Bike Trail System	S
4	Duluth Hartley Park	N
5	Duluth Spirit Mountain Recreation Area	S
6	Duluth Traverse	S
7	Hermantown/Proctor Munger Trail Spur	T
8	Lake County Mountain Bike Trails	T
9	Lake Vermilion Trail	T
10	Mesabi Trail	T
11	Mille Lacs County Plains to Port Trail	T
12	Sandstone Robinson Park	S

N=Natural Resource-Based Park | S=Special Recreation Feature Park | T=Regional Trail, motorized, non-motorized, mixed use, water



# DISTRICT 2

## Coordinate Among Partners

### Red Lake River Corridor

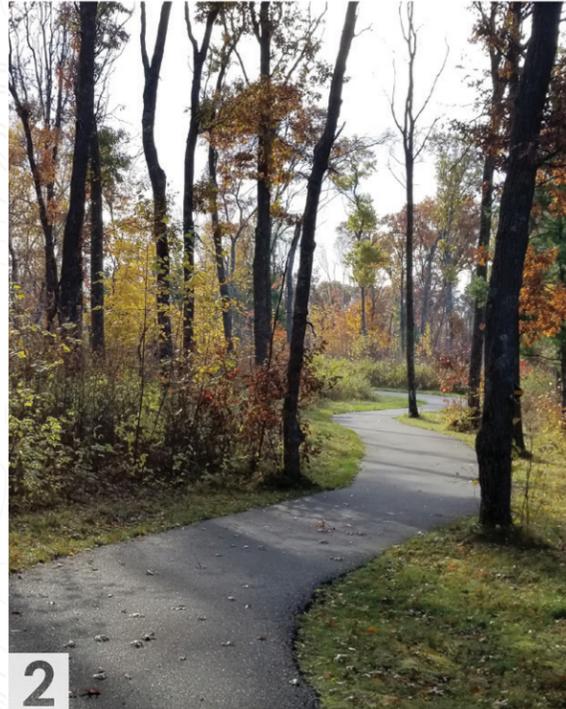
The Red Lake River Corridor is a multi-jurisdictional trail that connects the communities of East Grand Forks, Fisher, Crookston, Red Lake Falls, St. Hilaire and Thief River Falls along the scenic riverway that boasts three biomes. Tracing a landscape rich in natural and cultural history, the corridor traverses lands occupied by Glacial Lake Agassiz, which left deep, rich soils and beach ridge features. The six partner cities, Pennington, Red Lake and Polk counties, along with the Red Lake Watershed District comprise the Red Lake River Corridor Joint Powers Board. Their partnership has been successful in their regional designation status as well as fruitful funding applications to further their master plan ambitions for the corridor.



## Connect People and the Outdoors

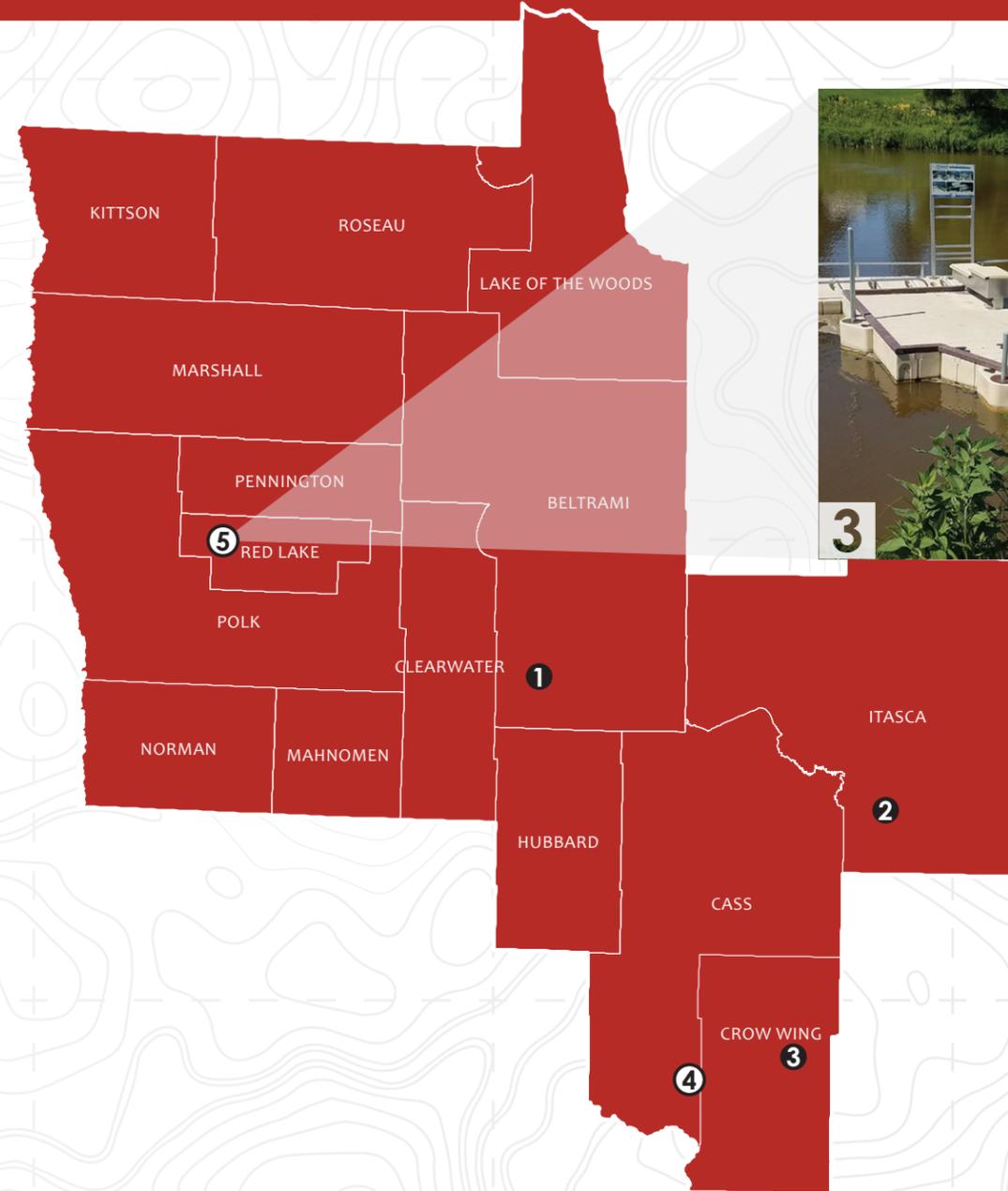
### Cohasset Tioga Recreation Area

Tioga Recreation Area is located on 500 beautifully wooded acres with two of the region's most unique lakes. The area features 30 miles of world-class single-track mountain bike trails, snowshoeing and beaches. In the heart of the 1950's iron ore mining boom, Tioga No. 2 Mine shipped more than 3 million tons of iron ore. Now, families can enjoy a variety of mountain bike trails for all skill levels, two beaches and multiple access points for water recreation and winter adventure snowshoeing plus all year fat-tire biking covering a wide range of activities. Cohasset is a rapidly growing community and the support and interest from a broad range of individuals and businesses has led to significant investment in the recreation area.



- 1 - Cohasset Tioga Recreation Area
- 2 - Lake Shore Gull Lake Trail
- 3 - Red Lake River Corridor

- Designated Parks
- Designated Trails



## TOTAL FUNDING AWARDED TO DISTRICT 2 (FY16-FY21)

*This notes the total number of applications and the total amount of grants made to this district over time.*

**8 Projects Funded**  
**12 Applications**

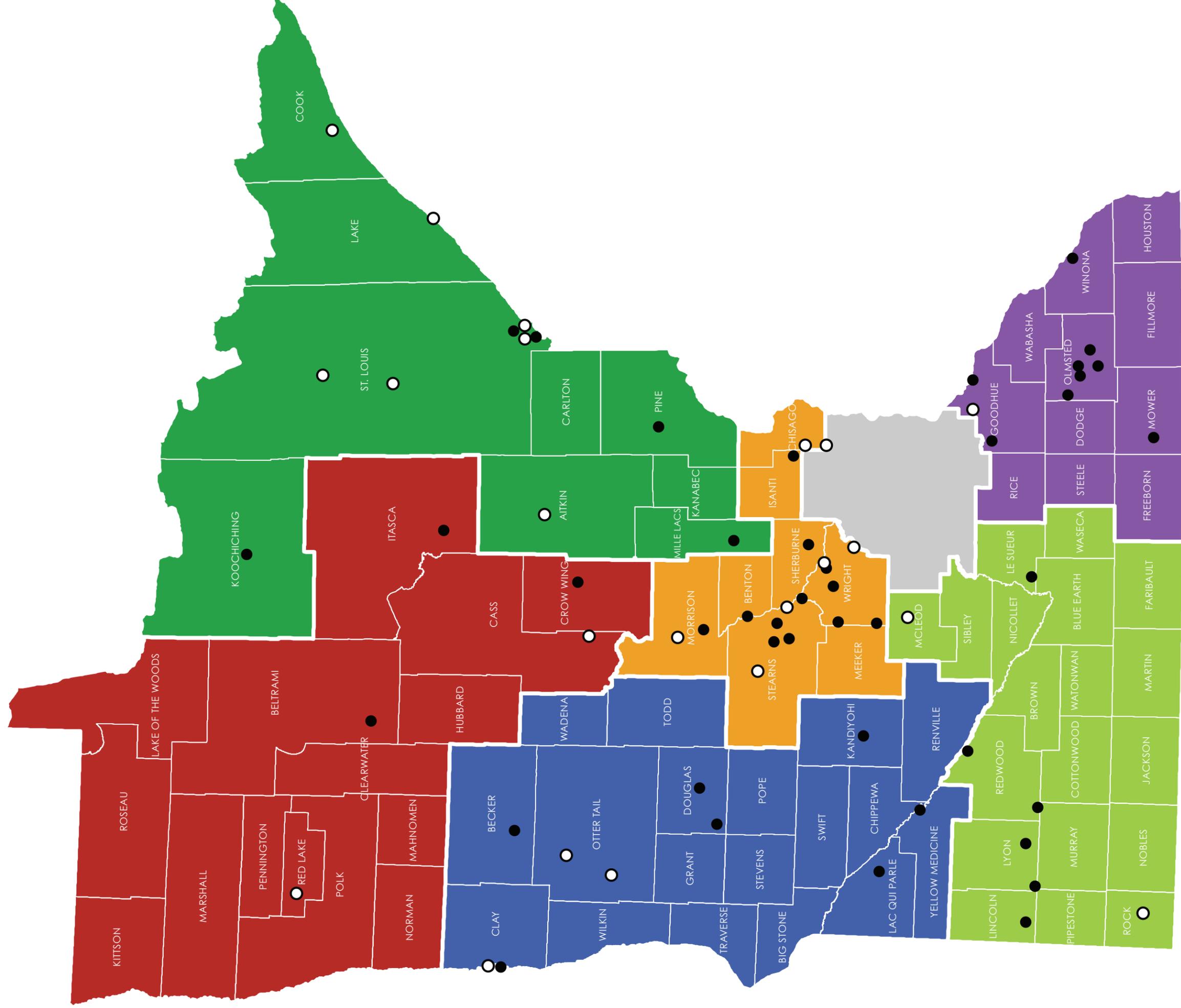
**\$4,456,934 Awarded**  
**\$1,509,635 Community Match**

	DESIGNATED PARK/TRAIL	CLASSIFICATION
1	Beltrami County Northland Sports Park	S
2	Cohasset Tioga Recreation Area	N
3	Crow Wing County Milford Mine Memorial Park	S
4	Lake Shore Gull Lake Trail	T
5	Red Lake River Corridor	T

N=Natural Resource-Based Park | S=Special Recreation Feature Park | T=Regional Trail, motorized, non-motorized, mixed use, water

# DESIGNATED REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT PARKS & TRAILS

(AS OF 12/31/20)



**KEY**

- Designated Parks
- Designated Trails

DISTRICT 1	DISTRICT 3	DISTRICT 5
DISTRICT 2	DISTRICT 4	DISTRICT 6

# DISTRICT 3

## Acquire Land, Create Opportunities

### Detroit Mountain Recreation Area

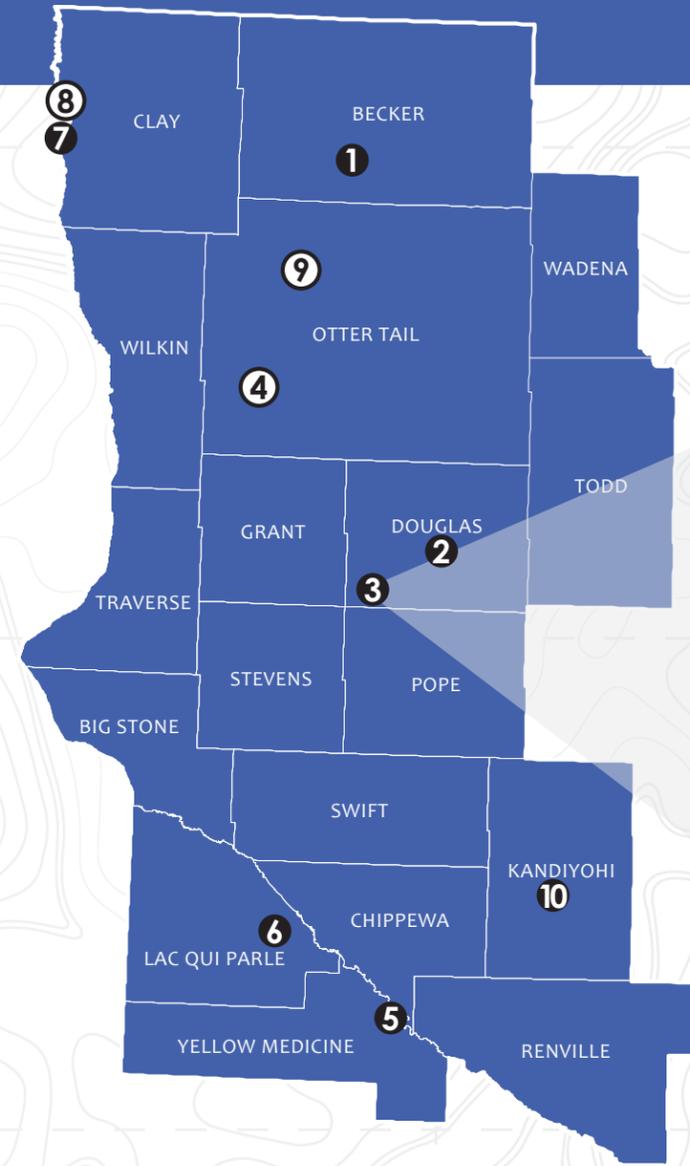
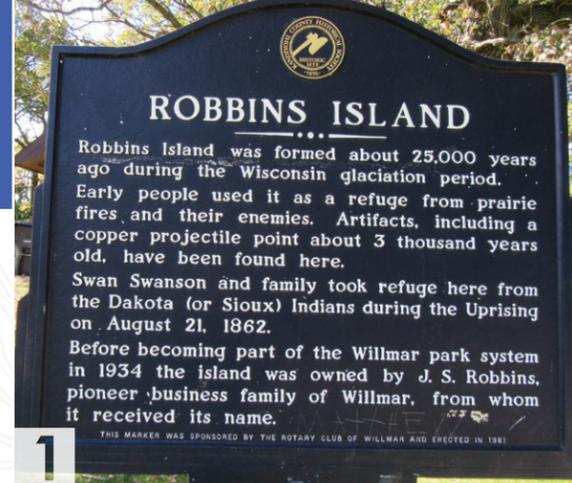
A citizen-led, grassroots effort to raise funds and reopen the former Detroit Mountain Ski Area as a four-season recreation area resulted in the Detroit Mountain Recreation Area (DMRA). Over a period of four years, nine million dollars was raised to acquire the 200-acre site, construct a ski lodge, install two chair lifts, snowmaking infrastructure and a network of mountain bike trails. With Legacy funding, DMRA also acquired an additional 150 acres to expand their recreational offerings, construct a new nature scape play area, and create additional mountain bike trails for beginners, as well as more challenging terrain for intermediate and advanced riders. With tremendous community support and help from the Legacy funds, DMRA is now a four-season facility, offering activities for all ages and all abilities.

## Connect People and the Outdoors

### Moorhead River Corridor

The Midtown segment of the Moorhead River Corridor runs through tree-lined residential neighborhoods and connects to trail segments via trailheads located near commercial centers in town. A small but vital connection, the Midtown segment, made possible with Legacy funds, will run along the flood protection levee system. The trail will provide a continuous access along the riverfront between North and South Moorhead and help the community achieve its goals of more paved trails and better connectivity to high-quality recreation opportunities. The Midtown Trail will assist with connections to Moorhead's three main colleges, as well as numerous cultural opportunities, historical sites along the Red River, and the Heritage Hjemkomst Interpretive Center in Downtown Moorhead.

- 1 - Willmar Robbins Island Park
- 2 - Moorhead River Corridor Trail
- 3 - Douglas County Kensington Park



- Designated Parks
- Designated Trails

	DESIGNATED PARK/TRAIL	CLASSIFICATION
1	Detroit Lakes Detroit Mountain Recreation Area	S
2	Douglas County Lake Brophy Park	N
3	Douglas County Kensington Park	N
4	Fergus Falls Glacial Edge Trail	T
5	Granite Falls Memorial Park	N
6	Lac qui Parle County Park	N
7	Moorhead MB Johnson Park	N
8	Moorhead River Corridor Trail	T
9	Otter Tail County Perham to Pelican Rapids Trail	T
10	Willmar Robbins Island Park	N

N=Natural Resource-Based Park | S=Special Recreation Feature Park | T=Regional Trail, motorized, non-motorized, mixed use, water

## TOTAL FUNDING AWARDED TO DISTRICT 3 (FY16-FY21)

This notes the total number of applications and the total amount of grants made to this district over time.

**13 Projects Funded**  
**26 Applications**

**\$9,958,507** Awarded  
**\$4,441,790** Community Match



# DISTRICT 4

## Connecting People and the Outdoors

### Stearns County Quarry Park

Quarry Park and Nature Preserve is a 683-acre park nestled on the borders of the Greater St. Cloud area in Stearns County. Due to Covid-19, the popular swimming quarries were initially closed. When they reopened at 50% capacity, parking was also restricted 50%. This meant the crowds and wait became longer and road congestion became extreme. After a few iterations of a text waiting system, which worked, but proved cumbersome to manage, the Stearns County IT Department built an application that solved the problem. Wait notification was completed using a drop-down menu and single button click. The application even calculated the average wait time so visitors knew approximately how long they would have to wait to get into the park, helping resolve the congestion issues. Thanks to the ingenuity of park staff, Quarry Park and Nature Preserve remained open to swimmers during the summer of 2020.

## Coordinate Among Partners

### Chisago County Swedish Immigrant Trail

The Chisago County Swedish Immigrant Trail, when complete, will be a 20-mile, multi-use trail that celebrates the Swedish Immigrant History of the area. The trail will complete missing links in the County's trail system and fill a gap in the state and regional trail system. The trail links the communities of Wyoming, Chisago City, Lindstrom, Center City, Shafer and Taylors Falls and provides a connection to Interstate State Park. When complete the trail will connect to Sunrise Prairie Trail and from there to a multitude of regional and state trails, providing a web of connectivity. The area in which the trail meanders is rich in history and culture, with beautiful state park facilities and striking views of the St. Croix River.

- 1 - Wright County Collinwood Park
- 2 - Chisago County Swedish Immigrant Trail
- 3 - Isanti County Irving & John Anderson Park



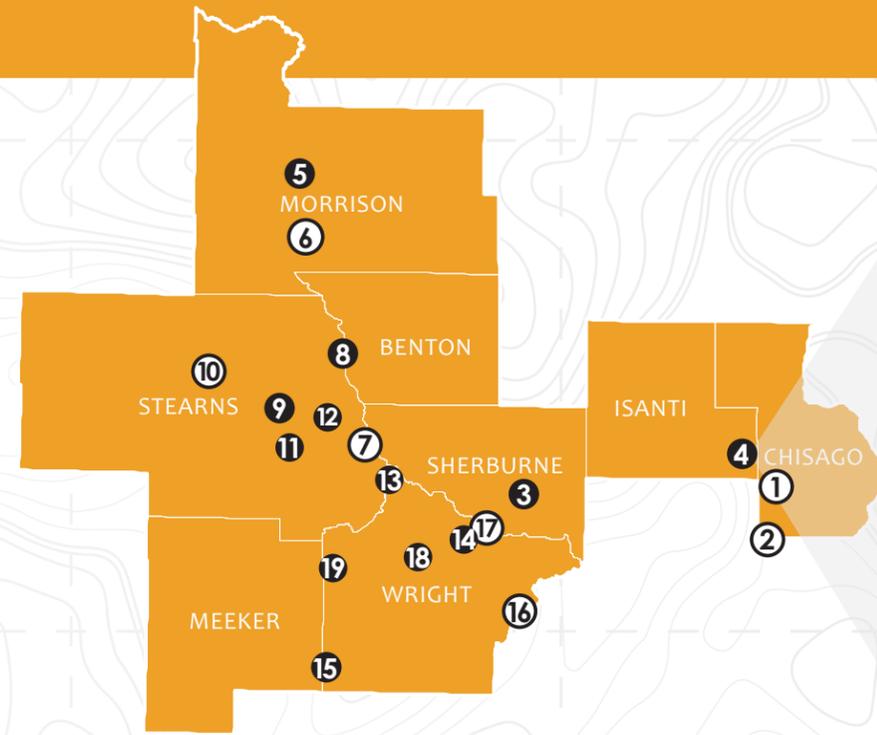
1



2



3



- Designated Parks
- Designated Trails

	DESIGNATED PARK/TRAIL	CLASSIFICATION
1	Chisago County Sunrise Prairie Trail	T
2	Chisago County Swedish Immigrant Trail	T
3	Elk River Woodland Trails Park	N
4	Isanti County Irving & John Anderson Park	N
5	Morrison County Belle Prairie Park	N
6	Morrison County Soo Line Trail	T
7	St. Cloud Beaver Island Trail	T
8	Stearns County/Benton County Great River Park Complex	N
9	Stearns County Kraemer Lake Park	N
10	Stearns County Lake Wobegon Trail	T
11	Stearns County Rockville Park	N
12	Stearns County Quarry Park	N
13	Stearns County Warner Lake Park	N
14	Wright County Bertram Chain of Lakes Park	N
15	Wright County Collinwood Park	N
16	Wright County Crow River Trail	T
17	Wright County Great River Trail	T
18	Wright County Robert Ney Park	N
19	Wright County Stanley Eddy Park Reserve	N

N=Natural Resource-Based Park | S=Special Recreation Feature Park | T=Regional Trail, motorized, non-motorized, mixed use, water

## TOTAL FUNDING AWARDED TO DISTRICT 4 (FY16-FY21)

This notes the total number of applications and the total amount of grants made to this district over time.

**18 Projects Funded**  
**26 Applications**

**\$13,197,972 Awarded**  
**\$3,586,199 Community Match**



# DISTRICT 5

## Take Care of What We Have

### Le Sueur County Lake Washington Park

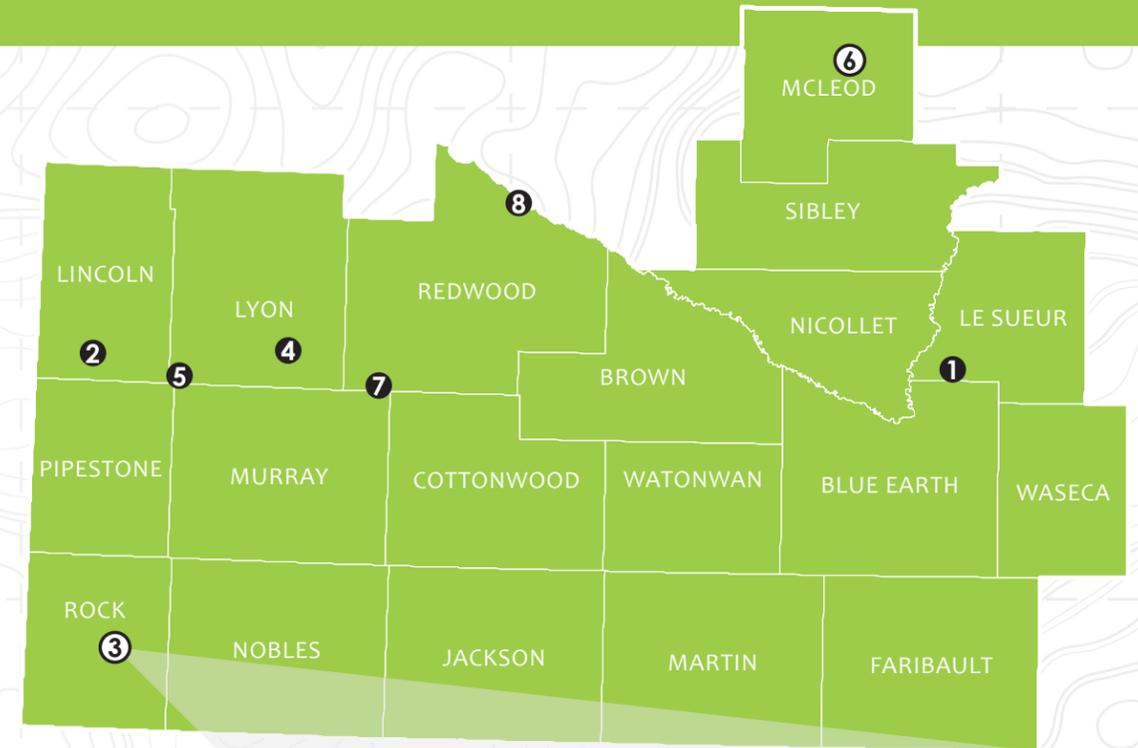
Improving park amenities will increase the campground occupancy and enable it to become a regional family destination. With restoration of 49 acres of prairie planted in 2019 and shoreline redevelopment, the park will have greater appeal not only to visiting campers but residents of the area as well, in addition to taking care of the prairie and shoreline. The park has quality nature trails, but with a road extension, day users will gain greater access into the park and have enhanced connections. The Le Sueur County Parks Department works with local school groups, the YMCA, scouting groups and nature learning centers to provide programming and education within the park.

## Acquire Land, Create Opportunities

### Luverne Loop & Blue Mounds Trail

Luverne Loop connects to the six-mile Blue Mounds Trail out to Blue Mounds State Park. The City of Luverne developed creative solutions to trail completion within the city. A former Casey's gas station was purchased, completely reimagined, and became a trailhead center, with parking, public restrooms, a bike tune-up station, bike racks and an electric car charger. Attractive wayfinding will direct visitors and residents to attractions, amenities and maps. A local match leveraged a variety of grant funding and by completing the project in phases it became a much more feasible project. Working through easement alterations in a creative way proved to be a positive outcome for the final trail alignment.

- 1 - McLeod County Dakota Rail Trail
- 2 - Redwood County Plum Creek Park
- 3 - Luverne Loop & Blue Mounds Trail



- Designated Parks
- Designated Trails

## TOTAL FUNDING AWARDED TO DISTRICT 5 (FY16-FY21)

*This notes the total number of applications and the total amount of grants made to this district over time.*

**8 Projects Funded**  
**12 Applications**

**\$3,269,265 Awarded**  
**\$446,891 Community Match**

	DESIGNATED PARK/TRAIL	CLASSIFICATION
1	Le Sueur County Lake Washington Park	N
2	Lincoln County Hole in the Mountain Park	N
3	Luverne Loop & Blue Mounds Trail	T
4	Lyon County Garvin Park	N
5	Lyon County Twin Lakes Park	N
6	McLeod County Dakota Rail Trail	T
7	Redwood County Plum Creek Park	N
8	Redwood Falls Ramsey Park	N

N=Natural Resource-Based Park | S=Special Recreation Feature Park | T=Regional Trail, motorized, non-motorized, mixed use, water



# DISTRICT 6

## Take Care of What We Have

*Austin Jay C. Hormel Nature Center*

Since 2017, the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center has been working diligently on invasive species control, largely focused on removal of buckthorn and honeysuckle, two of the biggest problems at the Center. While traditional mechanical shredding methods followed by targeted herbicide applications have been successful, they've also tried an alternative method of invasive control, goats. A local farmer offered the goats at no charge to test the impact on a few acres. From a public interest standpoint, land management using goats has garnered a great deal of attention and excitement. There are pros and cons to the goat foraging including what vegetative response will be. In the meantime, Jay C. Hormel Nature Center is working hard to control invasive species and provide entertainment value as well.



1

## Take Care of What We Have

*Cannon Valley Trail*

The Cannon Valley Trail connects the communities of Cannon Falls, Welch and Red Wing and parallels the Cannon River for the entirety of its 20-mile length. With an excess of 100,000 annual visits, the trail is well used and contributes to the health and economic well-being of the region. The trail runs through diverse and spectacular scenery on a former Chicago Great Western Railroad line. And as with most rail trails, aging bridges and culverts require replacement and repair. In the past few years Legacy funds have provided the means to replace degraded 100 year old bridges that have long passed their prime. With these essential repairs, the trail will continue to welcome bikers, hikers, in-line skaters and cross-country skiers through all four seasons.



2

- 1 - Austin Jay C. Hormel Nature Center
- 2 - Rochester Cascade Lake Park
- 3 - Winona Bluffs Traverse

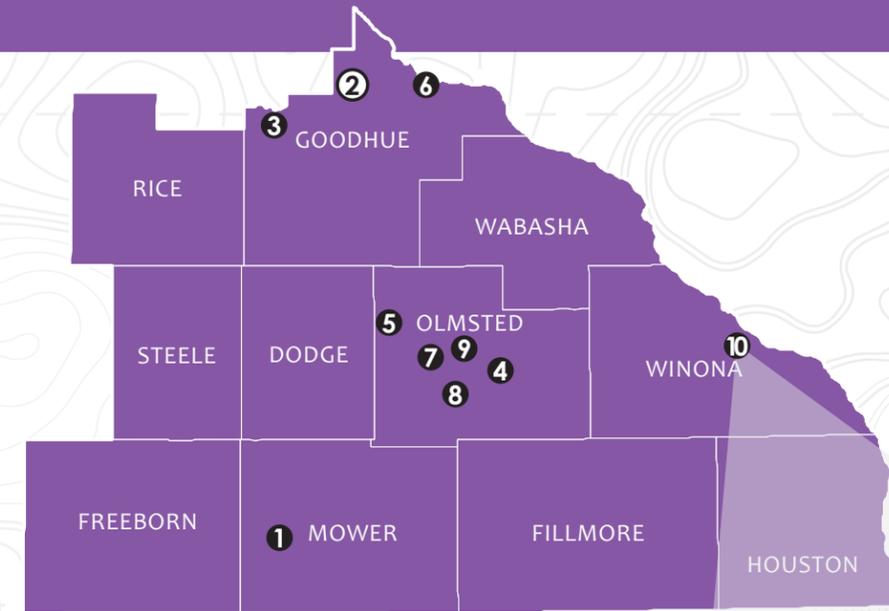
## TOTAL FUNDING AWARDED TO DISTRICT 6 (FY16-FY21)

*This notes the total number of applications and the total amount of grants made to this district over time.*

**14 Projects Funded**  
**21 Applications**

**\$12,671,014 Awarded**  
**\$8,481,566 Community Match**

- Designated Parks
- Designated Trails



3

	DESIGNATED PARK/TRAIL	CLASSIFICATION
1	Austin Jay C. Hormel Nature Center	N
2	Cannon Valley Trail	T
3	Goodhue County Bylesby Park	S
4	Olmsted County Chester Woods Park	N
5	Olmsted County Oxbow Park/Zollman Zoo	S
6	Red Wing He Mni Can – Barn Bluff Park	S
7	Rochester Cascade Lake Park	N
8	Rochester Gamehaven Park	N
9	Rochester Quarry Hill Park	N
10	Winona Bluffs Traverse	S

N=Natural Resource-Based Park | S=Special Recreation Feature Park | T=Regional Trail, motorized, non-motorized, mixed use, water



# 2020 MILESTONES

- Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission (GMRPTC) added two new designated facilities to the system in 2020, a new park complex across Stearns and Benton Counties and a new trail. The new designations are additions to District 4 and bring the total of regionally significant parks and trails to 64.
- The global pandemic caused GMRPTC to conduct business in a virtual environment, as it did so many businesses and institutions. After resolving the Commission's monthly meeting needs it was necessary to find ways to perform on-site reviews and technical assistance, while not on site. Conference calls, Zoom video meetings and increased communication resulted in a seamless continuation of service. In June staff resumed making on-site visits while practicing all safety protocols.
- The Strategic Plan update continues and will be complete in the first quarter of 2021. The process to update the plan has been rich in participation and will yield a plan that has adjusted to a growing and maturing system.
- GMRPTC was part of a working group that developed COVID-19 campground reopening guidelines that were shared with the Minnesota Department of Health and the Governor's office. The working group included Greater Minnesota, Metro Parks, DNR, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The collaboration resulted in developing a document in an efficient, comprehensive manner with partner agencies working closely together.
- Planned improvements to the Commission's Data Management System were launched in a fourth phase of updates. This phase will provide more robust reporting features and provide a customer relationship management component which will offer better tracking and follow up for existing facilities and those seeking information on how to become designated.
- The GMRPTC bid farewell to five long serving Commissioners and welcomed five new citizen advocates for Greater Minnesota.

1

**Greater Minnesota Regional Parks & Trails Commission**

**STRATEGIC PLAN**

District 2 Northwest population = #

District 1 Northeast population = #

District 4 East Central population = #

District 3 West Central population = #

Metro

District 5 Southwest population = #

District 6 Southeast population = #

GREATER MINNESOTA REGIONAL Parks and Trails COMMISSION

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

2



3

Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission is comprised of 13 members appointed by the governor, two members from each of the six districts and one at-large member.

The Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission was created to undertake system planning and provide recommendations to the legislature for grants funded by the parks and trails legacy fund to counties and cities outside of the seven-county metropolitan area. These parks and trails must be designated by the GMRPTC as being regionally significant.



4



5

- 1 - Duluth Hartley Park
- 2 - GMRPTC Strategic Plan Cover
- 3 - Winona Bluffs Traverse Sugar Loaf Climb Photo Credit: Cynthia Porter
- 4 - Lake Wobegon Trail Section Opening
- 5 - Wright County Collinwood Park



[gmrptcommission.org](http://gmrptcommission.org)

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@gmrptc  

@greaterminnesota 

**Cover Photo:**

Luverne Loop & Blue Mounds Trail