Island saved at Lake Vermilion State Park



Day on the Hill 2014







Friends of Casey Jones Trail meeting with legislator during Day on the Hill 2014 Annual Report

Bike MN event at Jay Cooke

Parks & Trails council of Minnesota



Cascade River State Park (photo by Rudi Hargesheimer)

Our Mission

To acquire, protect and enhance critical land for the public's use and benefit.

Our Vision

We envision an interconnected system of parks, trails, waterways, natural areas and open spaces that provide all Minnesotans with outstanding outdoor recreational opportunities and that preserve the natural diversity of our state.



Michael Tegeder, President

Brett Feldman, Executive Director

Dear Friends

Working together to achieve our mission

Looking back to 2014 we can be very proud of what we've accomplished on behalf of Minnesota's parks and trails. Perhaps one of the most exciting developments that happened was when the Legislature passed a bill to fund the acquisition and development of 13 state trail projects that had been on hold for four, long years. During those years of "waiting" we continually worked with volunteers and concerned community members who kept hope that soon these projects could get underway. That hope has been fulfilled.

These community members understand the value that trails can bring to their communities. And when we work together we can show our legislators the groundswell of support these trails have and convince them to invest for the public good. We've all witnessed the transformation that occurred with the Root River State Trail in Lanesboro--a rural city that was waning until the trail came in. Now it's known as the bed and breakfast capital of Minnesota with trail tourism an essential part of the mix. With these 13 state trail projects underway, the ripple effects of trail tourism will begin to revitalize these communities while connecting more people with the outdoors.

Last year was also important for the land acquisition projects we completed for Minnesota parks and trails. The value of land varies dramatically across our state and often the pristine places protected by our parks and trails are some of the most desirable (and therefore expensive) land around. We all appreciate the beauty of the natural landscape and want to enjoy it. Luckily Minnesotans also value the intrinsic value of such places enough to ensure everyone can enjoy them in a protected state.

The island we protected for Lake Vermilion State Park in 2014 is a prime example of highly valuable land that deserves to be enjoyed by all. With the boost that Lake Vermilion State Park received from the 2014 bonding bill to continue developing state-of-the-art visitor amenities, we're certain many, many people will visit and appreciate the amazing view protected by the acquisition of this island.

Thank you for your support!

Mishurd Leopeler

Michael Tegeder, President of the Board

Brett Feldman

Brett Feldman, Executive Director



Superior Hiking Trail (photo by Gary Alan Nelson)

Land Protection



Preserving special places for future generations

Minnesota has outstanding parks and trails that not only protect out state's most significant ecological communities, but also ensure unparalleled opportunities for the public to recreate and learn about our natural and cultural heritage. The land protection work of the Parks & Trails Council saves those special places that are most vulnerable to being lost to incompatible development. We acquire the land and hold it in trust for the park or trail until it can be officially incorporated. Since 1954 Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota has helped to acquire nearly 11,000 acres of land for Minnesota's state and regional parks and trails.



Cuyuna Lakes State Trail

In 2002 Cuyuna Lakes State Trail was authorized by the Minnesota Legislature as a state trail to be built within Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area and connecting to the nearby communities. However with no funds appropriated by the legislature, the trail required grassroots efforts to be built. In 2004 Parks & Trails Council acquired several easements necessary for approximately 1.8 miles of the trail, which are now completed as part of the eight miles of paved trail. In 2014 these easements were conveyed to the state.



Island at Lake Vermilion State Park

In January 2014, Parks & Trails Council saved a critical 2.9-acre island in Lake Vermilion for the state park, which is still being developed. This forested island is on the edge of Cable Bay where it is visible from 60 percent of the park shoreland, playing a starring role in the ruggedly majestic viewshed of the park.

The urgency to acquire this land stemmed

from the transformation underway in Lake Vermilion where nearby islands are quickly being developed with housing. Working with the DNR, we were able to expedite this project so it was incorporated into the State Park the same year we acquired it.



Forest in Temperance River State Park

Most visitors to Temperance River State Park explore the area along Lake Superior where the campground and hiking trails provide breathtaking views. Yet, the park also offers miles of backcounty hiking trails within forested land shared by the Superior National Forest. In 2013 there remained a single 40-acre parcel within this forest area that was privately owned. By acquiring one half interest in this land, Parks & Trails Council safeguarded its use for the park as intact, hardwood forest. This land will remain vital habitat for wildlife and protect the headwaters for a perennial stream flowing directly into Lake Superior.

Baptism River at Tettegouche State Park (photo by Gary Alan Nelson)

LAND CONVEYED TO PUBLIC OWNERSHIP BY PARKS & TRAILS COUNCIL IN 2014

Location of Land	Acres	Land Value	Year Acquired	Description
Lake Vermilion State Park	2.90	\$279,250	2014	Rocky, pine forested island nestled within Lake Vermilion's Cable Bay.
Temperance River State Park	40.00 (½ interest)	\$30,000	2013	Within large, intact hardwood forest that includes the headwaters of a perennial stream flowing directly into Lake Superior. One half interest on 40 acres.
Cuyuna Lakes State Trail	9.25 (1.8 miles approx.)	\$21,000	2004	Easement necessary to complete development of the trail.
TOTAL	32.15	\$330,250		

LAND HELD IN TRUST BY PARKS & TRAILS COUNCIL AT 2014 YEAR END

Location of Land	Acres	Land Value	Year Acquired	Description
Banning State Park	108.39	\$250,000	2013	Shoreline along the Kettle River studded with boulders rising to a forested bluff. Acquired in partnership with Minnesota Climbers Association.
Crow Wing State Park	5.00	\$135,000	2004	Long-term holding acquired as excess, non-park land as part of a project that expanded Crow Wing State Park by 55 acres.
Finland State Forest (for Crosby Manitou State Park)	3.50	\$16,400	2004	Remnant land acquired as part of a land exchange with Lake County that helped expand Crosby Manitou State Park by 2,060 acres.
Sibley State Park	153.06	\$460,000	2014	Rolling grassy hills at SE corner of Sibley State Park necessary to build a spur for the Glacial Lakes State Trail to lead into the park.
Superior Hiking Trail (at Devil's Track River near Grand Marais)	40.00	\$28,000	1995	Long-term holding of land to which we have granted a permanent easement to the Superior Hiking Trail for use as part of the trail with a primitive campsite.
Tettegouche State Park	2.50	\$19,200	2013	Forested wetlands providing scenic views from Hwy. 31. and a quarter-mile buffer between highway and the Sawtooth Trail. Donated by Mark and Joan Strobel.
TOTAL	312.45	\$861,400		·

Crow Wing State Park (photo by Gary Alan Nelson)

Research & Public Policy

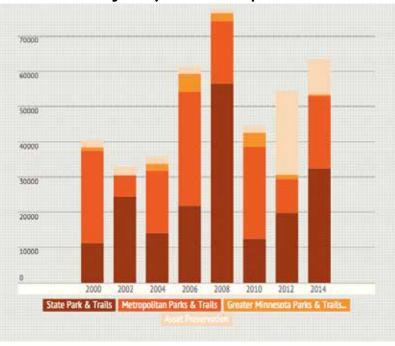
Being an independent, honest and forthright voice

The Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota's ability to effectively communicate the needs of the Minnesota's park and trail systems and its users to legislators and government officials has made it the preeminent voice for parks and trails throughout Minnesota and at the Capitol. Always determined and forward-thinking, P&TC heads into each legislative session armed with a comprehensive agenda seeking necessary and smart investments in our park and trail systems.



In 2014 parks and trails receive largest bonding bill investment in six years

In 2014 Gov. Dayton signed a capital investment bill into law that included \$50 million for park-and-trail-specifc projects as well as \$10 million for asset preservation projects on all DNR-managed properties (e.g., state parks, state forests, wildlife refuges, scientific areas). Overall, the 2014 package increased bonding dollars for parks and trails by



Bonding History for Minnesota's parks and trails

nearly 75% compared to the 2011-12 bonding cycle. This was the single largest capital investment state parks and trails received since Lake Vermilion was acquired in 2008 to become Minnesota's 67th state park.

One key priority for the Parks & Trails Council was ensuring that the final bill included funding for state trail projects that had been on hold since 2010. Working with our partners and key legislators, we succeeded in funding 13 state trail projects totalling \$17.7 million. Many of these projects are extensions to connect trails into cities and parks. Regrettably, one trail, the Casey Jones State Trail, was cut from the bill during the final hours of negotiation despite the project's strong merits and local support. Parks & Trails Council continues to work with local groups, the DNR, and state legislators to develop this trail.

In addition to the state trail projects, the bonding bill included a significant appropriation of \$14 million to continue the development of Lake Vermilion State Park. Other projects funded included the Red River State Recreation Area, Fort Snelling State Park, the Metropolitan Regional Park System, and numerous other regional park and trail projects in Greater Minnesota.



Minnesota had a budget surplus in 2014 that allowed legislators to supplement the previous year's budget appropriations. Of the \$1.23 billion surplus, \$2 million went toward the operation and maintenance of state parks and trails. These funds came at a crucial time, as the Division of Parks and Trails (PAT) budget is still trying to recover from the global recession of 2009. According to PAT director Erika Rivers,

the additional funding secured 16 positions and 100,000 hours of staff time for fiscal year 2015. Also included in the supplemental budget was \$350,000 to develop a segment of the Willard Munger State Trail in Chisago County in honor of the late James L. Oberstar.

Our 2014 Day on the Hill

The annual Parks & Trails Council's "Day on the Hill" event was held on March 4, 2014. People came from far and wide-the farthest being 200 miles-to learn about the issues facing parks and trails and to make their voices heard at the State Capitol. Bonding was the focus of discussions with the Minnesota Legislature preparing to pass a bonding bill. Many critical park and trail projects were in need of bonding dollars.

The event featured presentations from the leaders of all three of Minnesota's park systems--state, metro and Greater Minnesota. In addition, the following legislators gave brief presentations, Sen. Matt Schmit (DFL, Red Wing), Sen. Carrie Ruud (R, Breezy Point), and Rep. Matt Dean (R, Dellwood).

Finally many in attendance headed out to meet one-on-one with legislators--at least 23 representatives and 21 senators received a visit.





Member & Member & Community Engagement

Working together to protect & enhance special places

Our members make our mission of acquiring, protecting and enhancing critical lands possible. Parks & Trails Council works to keep members informed of issues in state and regional parks and trails throughout the year so they continue to understand and value of these places. We also provide opportunities for members to gather and experience the treasured places we work on behalf of. A critical way members actively roll up their sleeves to protect and enhance Minnesota's parks and trails is through the work of Friends Groups, which Parks & Trails Council support with technical assistance and opportunities to unify their efforts by learning from each other.

10th Annual BIKE MINNESOTA! with Parks & Trails



Over 75 bicyclists participated in the 2014 Bike Minnesota with Parks & Trails Council event that was held at Jay Cooke State Park over Labor Day weekend.

The riders covered 150 miles over three days. The Munger State Trail, which runs through Jay Cooke State Park was a significant portion of the miles biked.

Former congressman and retired judge, David Minge, coordinated program stops that highlighted the local community. Highlights included a tours of:

- Fond du Lac Community College
- Carlton County Historical museum
- Esko Historical Museum
- Janaki Fisher Merrit Community Supported Agriculture Farm
- Moose Lake Fire Museum
- Lake Superior College Emergency Response Training Center
- Morgan Park home

Friends Group Support



Many parks and trails receive invaluable support from volunteer-based groups who help in a variety of ways from organizing clean-up events and naturalist programs to acquiring land and advocating for the trail or park.

Parks & Trails Council supports these efforts in various ways.

Fiscal Sponsorship

In 2014, P&TC supported 24 Friends Groups by providing fiscal sponsorship services that enabled them to receive nonprofit status. P&TC assumes the responsibility of creating and maintaining accounting records. Through this relationship Friends Groups were able to undertake a number of projects that enhanced our states parks. At the end of 2014 P&TC held \$166,258 on behalf of these 24 Friends Groups:

- Central Lakes Trail Association
- Friends of Anderson Park
- Friends of Bertram Chain of Lakes
- Friends of Jackson County Trails
- Friends of Lake Maria
- Friends of Lashbrook Park
- Friends of Maplewood State Park
- Friends of Scandia Parks and Trails
- Friends of Wild River State Park
- Gateway Browns Creek Trail
 Association
- Glacial Ridge Trail Association
 - Friends of Father Hennepin State Park
 - Friends of Hayes Lake

- Friends of Murray County Parks
- Friends of Nerstrand Big Woods State Park
- Friends of Whitewater State Park
- Friends of William O'Brien State
- Park
 - Frontenac State Park Association
 Coodbus Piercer Teril A
- Goodhue Pioneer Trail AssociationIsanti County Sportsmen Club
- KIDFUN
- Minnesota Horse Council
- Minnesota Wilderness Trails Alliance
- Sibley State Park Improvement
 Association



60th Annual Dinner



Keynote speaker Sen. Dave Durenberger (left) with wife Susan Foote and P&TC executive director Brett Feldman.

The keynote speaker at our 60th Annual Dinner, held on March 18, was former Senator Dave Durenberger. During his tenure as U.S. Senator, 1978-1995, Durenberger helped establish the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, helped secure appropriations to implement the landmark Boundary Waters Canoe Area Act of 1978, authored vital Clean Air and Water Act amendments and was the driving

The Reuel Harmon

Award was awarded to

and judge David Minge.

former Congressman

For the past decade

David Minge has used

his charismatic leader-

ship to envision, organize

and execute the Parks &

Trails Council's annual

bike tour. It has been a

labor of love fueled by his

deep appreciation for the

outdoors, bicycling and

engaging with people.

force behind numerous other important pieces of environmental legislation and appropriations.

At the annual dinner Sen. Durenberger detailed the parks and trails movement in Minnesota with a timeline dotted with fascinating people, tremendous accomplishments and pristine places.



Reuel Harmon Award recipient David Minge (center) with P&TC executive director Brett Feldman and president Mike Tegeder.

Regardless of the region of the state in which the event is held, David is always recognized as a great ambassador for Parks & Trails Council, bringing with him a band of merry followers.

Magney Circle Events

The Magney Circle is our leadership group of individuals who give a contribution of \$500 of more per year. With this commitment comes opportunities to gain in-depth knowledge of our work through tours, presentations and special events. In 2014, Parks & Trails Council hosted two events for Magney Circle members.

Rustic State Park Architecture Presentation



The first event was a presentation by architectural historian Rolf Anderson on state park rustic architecture. Rolf's talk highlighted park buildings throughout the state ranging from the iconic log buildings at Itasca and

Scenic State Parks to the colorful stone buildings at Flandrau and Blue Mounds State Parks.

Bouldering at Banning State Park



The second Magney Circle Event was a tour of the land acquired for Banning State Park in 2014 by Parks & Trails Council in partnership with the Minnesota Climbers Association. The land is one of the few places in Minnesota that offers

prime rock boulders for climbers and boulderers. We heard from officials from the local city of Sandstone and the Department of Natural Resources about the impact that this land acquisition will have to the city and for state parks. Banning has become the fifth state park to allow climbing now that this land is part of the park. Magney Circle members had a chance to try bouldering themselves with the guidance of Minnesota Climbers Association members.



Parks & Trails Council is honored to be one of the 23 Minnesota-based environmental organizations that comprise the Minnesota Environmental Fund—a workplace giving program. If you would like more info on how to take advantage of this program visit: <u>www.mnenvirofund.org</u> Gitchi Gami State Trail (photo by DNR)

Financial Health



Ensuring fiscal accountability for our supporters

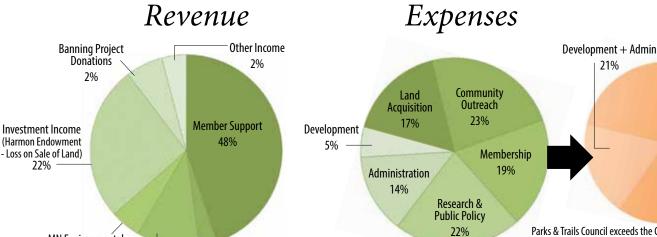
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Support & Revenue	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Grants & Contributions	\$ 236,326	\$ 35,000	\$ 271,326
Membership Support	179,534	-	179,534
Special Events (net expenses of \$12,920)	175	-	175
Investment Income	138,904	-	138,904
Loss on Sale of Property ^a	(1,267)	-	(1,267)
Other Income	24,405	-	24,405
Satisfaction of Program Restrictions	11,125	(11,125)	-
Total Support & Revenue	589,202	23,875	613,077
Expenses	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Land Acquisition	99,096	_	99,096
Community Outreach	137,855	-	137,855
Membership	110,966	-	110,966
Research & Public Policy	129,659	-	129,659
Administration	80,541	-	80,541
Development	30,686	-	30,686
Total Expenses	588,803	-	588,803
Change in Net Assets	399	23,875	24,274
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	7,156,497	11,625	7,168,122
Net Assets at End of Year	\$ 7,156,896	\$ 35,500	\$ 7,192,396

(a) Parks & Trails Council holds land in trust for public partners that occasionally declines in value by the time of sale. This decline in value is absorbed by P&TC's Samuel H. Morgan Land Fund.

Programs

79%



-Corporate Grants

5%

Parks & Trails Council exceeds the Charities Review Council recommendation that at least 65% of expenses be spent on programs, and no more than 35% on admin and fundraising combined.

MN Environmental

Fund

5%

Foundation

Grants

16%



Kettle River at Banning State Park (photo by Gary Alan Nelson)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets	2014	2013
Current Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 4,347,814	\$ 4,826,077
Pledges Receivable	45,200	-
Prepaid Expenses	10,537	10,922
Accounts Receivable	335	6,911
Protected Property	959,326	530,834
Equipment - Net	15,616	4,100
Investments	2,517,142	2,131,549
Insurance Policy	79,565	76,092
Total Assets	\$ 7,975,535	\$ 7,586,485
Liabilities & Net Assets	2014	2013
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 116,196	\$ 10,701
Accrued Expenses	7,540	6,448
Deferred Revenue	800	-
Funds Held for Friends Groups	166,258	150,837
Long-term Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	230,000	-
Notes Payable	262,345	250,377
Total Liabilities	783,139	418,363
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	7,156,896	7,156,497
Temporarily Restricted	35,500	11,625
Total Net Assets	7,192,396	7,168,122
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 7,975,535	\$ 7,586,485

NET ASSETS BY FUND

Fund	2014	2013
General Fund (Unrestricted)	\$347,466	\$ 333,009
Samuel H. Morgan Land Acquisition Fund ^b	4,637,288	4,691,939
Reuel Harmon Endowment Fund ^c	2,172,142	2,131,549
Temporarily Restricted	35,500	11,625
Total	\$7,192,396	\$ 7,168,122

(b) The Samuel H. Morgan Land Acquisition Fund is a revolving account that covers acquisition costs and is reimbursed when land is transferred to a public agency.

(c) The Reuel Harmon Endowment Fund provides up to 5% of its balance annually for general operations.

Financial information is based on an independent auditor's report conducted in accordance with auditing standards for the years ended Dec. 31, 2014 and 2013. To obtain a copy of the complete audit, please contact the Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota office at 651-726-2457.

Samuel H. Morgan Land Acquisition Fund

As the founders of the Parks & Trails Council bore witness to pristine lands being sold and torn up for development, they made a commitment to dedicate their resources to a strategically managed land fund. The Samuel H. Morgan Land Fund operates as a revolving account that gets spent many times over to ensure precious lands are acquired for protection and incorporation into Minnesota's park and trail system. Parks & Trails member-supporters have added to this fund over the years, making it a powerful force in the effort to preserve parks and trails.

When Parks & Trails Council transfers land to a public agency, it is sold at the current fair market value so that funds can be returned to the account, where they are used to purchase the next critical parcel. Volunteer attorneys and their firms from around the state generously donate all legal expenses.

Thank you to 2014 supporters



The generosity of individuals, organizations, businesses and foundations makes the work of Parks & Trails Council possible. Thank you!

Individual, Corporation & Foundation Donors

Magney Circle Members Recognizing our leadership circle of individuals who gave a gift of \$500 or more for general operations in 2014.

\$5,000 and more

3M Foundation The Athwin Foundation Keith and Louise Fester The Halleck Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation Minnesota Climbers Association Minnesota Environmental Fund Katherine M. Nielsen Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation Peter and Linda Seed Fred and Eleanor Winston

\$1,000 - \$4.999

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