



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.

Cover Photos

Background: Baptism River at Tettegouche State Park (by Tom Cooper).

Sanpshots (clockwise from top left: Bike tour of Luce Line State Trail with the mayor of Hutchinson and P&TC board members; bikers on Glacial Lakes State Trail during Bike Minnesota with P&TC; Joe Bagnoli presenting P&TC's legislative agenda during our 2013 Day on the Hill; bikers at Sibley State Park during Bike Minnesota with P&TC.; P&TC's member appreciation event at Fort Snelling State Park; Executive Director Brett Feldman with Governor Mark Dayton; Magney Circle tour of Mystery Cave led by park manager Mark White.



Michael Tegeder, President

Brett Feldman, Executive Director

Dear Friends

Working together to achieve our mission

Looking back at 2013, gives us the chance to reflect on the success we've had with our new model of involving volunteer groups in our land projects. Often, because our land projects involve sensitive real estate transactions, we chug ahead in a subdued tone, carefully and quietly negotiating tough land deals with private landowners. This is harder than it sounds; every land project we deal with stirs great excitement, and we want to let everyone know how we're on the brink of preserving significant natural resources for future generations to enjoy. Well, starting in 2012 we partnered with volunteers from the Friends of Mill Towns State Trail and together we did just that--telling anyone who would listen how we were working to acquire three miles for the trail. And it worked! Thanks to the efforts of the Friends of the Mill Towns Trail, we raised \$55,000 from a groundswell of supporters who believed in the project. In 2013, we conveyed that land to the DNR, and to Goodhue County who promptly began making the trail a reality. We can't wait to ride our bikes here, pedaling across the new pedestrian bridge spanning the scenic Cannon River.

So, when the Minnesota Climbers Association (MCA) came to us in 2013 with a proposal to acquire a stretch of land along the Kettle River in Banning State Park, we were anxious to try this model a second time. And it worked again! This time, with the help of MCA, we raised \$25,000 and built support from the City of Sandstone and the local business community who was convinced of the potential for sustainable tourism embodied here. By October 2013 we closed the deal and began work to incorporate the land into the park. With this project our partnership extended beyond land acquisition. We also facilitated discussions between the climbers and the park managers that in 2014 should result in Banning becoming the fifth state park to allow climbing. We hope to see some of the DNR's "I Can Climb" programs here in the near future.

It's amazing to see the unique ways people experience and appreciate Minnesota's parks and trails. Here were two diverse groups--bike riders and climbers--who shared a passion for creating opportunities for outdoor recreation, and we were thrilled to help make these dreams come

We look forward to more opportunities to work with dedicated volunteers in acquiring, protecting and enhancing critical land for the public's use and benefit. Of course this is all made possible by the support of Parks & Trails Council members.

Thank you for your support!

Michael Tegeder,

President of the Board

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Brett Feldman, **Executive Director**

Brett Feldman



Superior Hiking Trail (photo by Gary Alan Nelson)

Land Protection



Preserving special places for future generations

Land is at the heart of this organization. Not just any land—land with outstanding natural or cultural value that needs to be conserved so everyone can know and experience its rich wonders. Despite the nearly universal appeal of parks and trails, intense pressures often compel communities to use high-quality land for other uses. This makes our work both essential and challenging. Since 1954 Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota has helped to acquire nearly 11,000 acres of land for parks and trails. In 2013 alone we undertook 13 projects—more than one per month—resulting in the protection of 338 acres for our statewide park system.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR 2013 COMPLETED LAND PROJECTS



Crow Wing State Park

In the heart of this park, at the confluence of the Crow Wing and Mississippi Rivers lies a peninsula that served as a trading-post site during the fur-trade era. Since 2008 P&TC has been working to

ensure this critical land does not become a housing development, plopped down in the middle of the park. The urgency in this project became clear when the owner began subdividing and marketing it to housing developers. Yet, with agility and diligence, by 2013 P&TC successfully completed this multi-year project and conveyed the final 10 acres of undeveloped, peninsula land to the park. In total the project protected all but five acres on the peninsula from development.



Mill Towns State Trail

This southeastern Minnesota trail, which is minimally developed despite years of planning, received an important boost in 2013 with the combined efforts of the DNR. Goodhue County, Dakota

County, P&TC and the Friend of Mill Towns Trail. Together these entities coordinated the acquisition of a 3-mile corridor running from Lake Byllesby Regional Park to the regional Cannon Valley Trail. P&TC's contribution was 66 acres along the south bank of the river where the proposed trail bridge is being built. In addition, our advocacy efforts helped ensure Goodhue County Commissioners approved their necessary portion of the project.



Mille Lacs Kathio State Park

This state park is renowned for the ancient history evident within it boundaries. Unfortunately not all that land is safely owned by the park. In 2012 one private owner, a Lutheran camp, put 75.5 acres

of land within the park boundaries up for sale. This land contained ancient burial mounds dating back 9,000 years. While the DNR was not in a position to acquire it, P&TC was and ensured this irreplaceable history was preserved. In 2013 this project was completed and protected as park-owned land.



Tettegouche State Park

In 2013 P&TC conveyed 1,000 feet of shoreline along the scenic Baptism River to be preserved as part of Tettegouche State Park. Located less than a mile upstream from the park's popular Illgen Cabin

(built on a past P&TC acquisition) and near a park trail, this project ensures continuity of protected lands and preserve river quality. This project marks the seventh one P&TC has completed within Tettegouche, which is one of the most visited state parks in Minnesota with 390,000 annual visits.



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

PARKS & TRAILS COUNCIL LAND CONVEYED TO PUBLIC OWNERSHIP IN 2013

Location of Land	Acres	Land Value	Year Acquired	Description
Crow Wing State Park (3 parcels)	10.00	\$515,350	2012	On peninsula at convergence of Mississippi and Crow Wing Rivers.
Gateway State Trail	0.80	\$14,630	2002	Future extension of the trail. Donated by John Baird.
Mille Lacs Kathio State Park	75.55	\$98,000	2013	Former youth camp along Lake Warren with ancient burial mounds.
Mill Towns State Trail (2 parcels)	66.00	\$635,000	2013	Landing for a pedestrian bridge along the trail spanning the Cannon River.
Tettegouche State Park	55.00	\$157,000	2008	Includes 1,000 feet of shoreline along the Baptism River less than a mile upstream from the park's Illgen Cabin.
TOTAL	207.35	\$1,419,980		

PARKS & TRAILS COUNCIL LAND HELD IN TRUST AT 2013 YEAR END

Location of Land	Acres	Land Value	Year Acquired	Description
Banning State Park	108.00	\$250,000	2013	Shoreline along 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 with a project that incorporated 55 acres into the park.
Cuyuna Lakes State Trail	9.25	\$19,260	2004	Easement where a portion of the trail is built.
Superior Hiking Trail	40.00	\$28,000	1995	Long-term holding of an easement that has enabled development of that portion of trail.
Temperance River State Park	20.00	\$30,000	2013	Within large, intact hardwood forest that includes the headwaters of a perennial stream flowing directly into Lake Superior.
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	190.25	\$481,460		



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.



General fund restored for state parks and trails in 2013

After two biennia of drastic funding cuts to the operation of state parks and trails, the tide finally turned during the 2013 legislative session. Legislators passed the Omnibus Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance and Policy Bill (HF 976), with \$39.56 million to operate state parks and trails in fiscal years 2014 to 2015. This is a 14 percent increase over last biennium.

Parks & Trails Council had advocated for \$44.5 million, citing the importance of our park and trail system to tourism and the toll the previous cuts were taking on visitor satisfaction as well as the growing demand fueled by increased population. Yet, in the end, the final appropriation was a victory for state parks and trails and goes a long way toward ensuring these special places are well cared for.

The same bill (HF 976), also maintained the status quo for the operation and maintenance of metropolitan area regional parks at \$5.74 million in general fund allocation.

Day on the Hill 2013

The annual Parks & Trails Council's "Day on the Hill" event was held on March 12 with over 100 supporters **(E)**. DNR Parks and Trails director Courtland Nelson shared the accomplishments and needs for the state parks and trails system **O**. Then we heard from representatives of the three park systems (state, metro, and greater Minnesota) on the work group decision for allocation of the Legacy 's Parks and Trails Fund (A).

Several legislators from key committees addressed our group to offer their assessments on the legislative session, including Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Minneapolis) and Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) . Following the program, participants had valuable, one-on-one meetings with legislators to urge them to support the funding requests for parks and trails **FB**.





Heartland State Trail

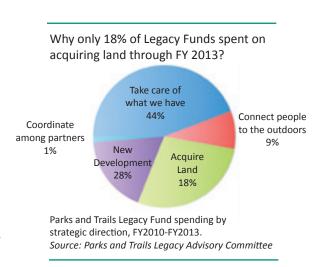
Legacy Amendment's Parks and Trails Fund

Legislators abided by the recommendation made at the beginning of the 2013 session from a task force of park professionals representing the three systems (state, metro and greater Minnesota) in allocating the Legacy Amendment's Parks and Trails Fund. As such, 40 percent of Legacy Funds were appropriated to the state system, 40 percent to the metro system and 20 percent to the greater Minnesota system.

While this debate between the systems garnered most of the attention, an equally important issue is *how* funds are spent. Parks & Trails Council advocated to use the majority of funds on acquiring land and developing opportunities, as this would be truly transformative and in line with the public's intent for the Legacy Funds. Such a focus prevailed in Greater Minnesota's use of Legacy Funds with legislators specifying acquisition projects for this system. Meanwhile it is unclear how the DNR will allocate their portion of Legacy Funds, since this same bill did not specify projects within the state parks and trails system.

Bonding for the 13 state trails vetoed in 2010

The final issue Parks & Trails Council actively advocated for in 2013 was a bonding bill to fund the development of 13 trail projects that were vetoed in 2010. While 2013 was not a traditional bonding year, a small bonding bill did pass. Unfortunately, despite strong support for these trails by the Chair of the House Capital Investment Committee, Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul), in the end the House and Senate passed a pared down bill with no funding for state trails.







Member & Community Engagement

Working together to protect & enhance special places

Our members make the it possible to fulfill our mission of acquiring, protecting and enhancing critical lands. They are the essential base of support. Parks & Trails Council works to keep our members informed of issues in state and regional parks and trails throughout the year so they continue to understand and value these places and can be mobilized when the need arises. 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.

9th Annual Bike MN with Parks & Trails



Over 80 bicyclists participated in the 2013 Bike Minnesota with Parks & Trails Council event that was held at Sibley State Park over Labor Day weekend.

The three-day ride

spanned 165 miles with much of that on multi-use trails, including the Glacial Lakes State Trail and Lake Koronis Regional Trail.

Several local representatives visited with the group to express their support of parks and trails, including Rep. Mary Sawatzky (DFL-Willmar), Rep. Dean Urdahl (R-Grove City), the Mayors of Spicer, New London and Paynesville, and two county commissioners.

Former congressman and retired judge, David Minge, coordinated program stops that highlighted the local community, including presentations on Sibley State Park's attractions, the Willmar 8 Bank Strike, the Dakota War of 1862, the antique threshing machine displays along the highways, local railroad history and state trail development plans. Other stops included a reconstructed 1868 log church and art galleries in New London.

Friends Group Efforts



Many parks and trails receive invaluable support from voluntary groups that help in various ways. Some organize clean-ups, fundraisers, or naturalist programs, while others focus on acquiring land and governmental funding

for the trail or park. Parks & Trails Council supports these efforts in various ways.

One form of support comes in the form of start-up assistance, which P&TC helped do for two state parks in 2013. Nerstrand Big Woods State Park and Whitewater State Park underwent the arduous process of recruiting a core group of members, establishing a shared vision and mission and taking the first steps toward action.

In 2013, P&TC supported 28 Friends Groups by providing fiscal client services that allow the groups to raise contributions that are tax-deductible.

A survey was undertaken in 2013 to assess how we could further enhance the work of Friends Groups. The results of this survey informed a new strategic plan that features Friends Groups support more prominently.



Annual Dinner



The keynote speaker at our 59th Annual Dinner, held on March 19, was acoustic ecologist Gordon Hempton, who spearheaded an initiative to protect one-square inch of space within the Olympic National Park as

free from human noise intrusions. Such places are increasingly rare and he shared the importance of natural sounds to both the ecology and the experience of a place.



The Reuel Harmon Award was awarded to Mary Lee Dayton for her outstanding support of Parks & Trails Council's efforts, both through her generous personal contributions and through the generosity of the WM Foundation, which she founded with her husband, Wallace Dayton, who was an early founder of Parks & Trails Council and passed away

in 2002. Due to ailing health, Mary Lee's daughter Kate Nielsen accepted the award on her behalf. In a statement recorded for the annual dinner, Mary Lee Dayton shared this sentiment: ""It takes an entire body of people to make our state parks what they are, and it will continue to require that people realize it doesn't just happen. If it means something to you, you have to find a way to get involved."

Member Appreciation Event



On July 27 Parks & Trails Council held a member celebration at Fort Snelling State Park with bluegrass music, a beginner's orienteering course, fish print making, lawn games and a food truck.

This third annual member appreciation event highlighted the effort to extend the Minnesota Valley State Trail into Fort Snelling State Park. Many visitors currently access the park on bike, using the regional trail that connects Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis. But if advocacy efforts are successful, visitors will be able to hop on the extended Minnesota Valley Trail in the park and bike 20 miles along the river to Minnesota State Recreation Area near the city of Shakopee.

Magney Circle Tours



All members of Parks & Trails Council are important to ensuring special places are preserved. Some individuals go above and beyond the typical support and give a contribution of \$500 of more per year—these people are our

Magney Circle members. With this commitment comes opportunities to gain in-depth knowledge of our work through tours, presentations and special events.

In 2013, Parks & Trails Council hosted two events for Magney Circle members: a tour of Mystery Cave during the rededication of the park's visitor center in honor of William H. Morrissey and an exclusive reception with mountaineering photographer Jimmy Chin.



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: www. mnenvirofund.org



Gitchi Gami State Trail (photo by DNR)

Financial Health



Ensuring fiscal accountability for our supporters

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

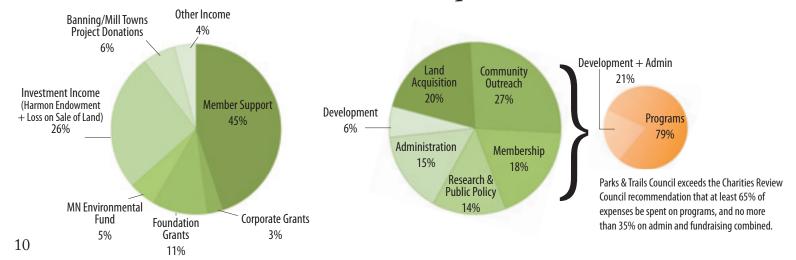
Support & Revenue	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Grants & Contributions	\$ 282,317	\$ 11,125	\$ 293,442
Membership Support	158,370	-	158,370
Special Events (net expenses of \$11,500)	553	-	553
Investment Income	394,983	-	394,983
Loss on Sale of Property ^a	(221,363) ^a	-	$(221,363)^a$
Other Income	21,924	-	21,924
Satisfaction of Program Restrictions	25,000	(25,000)	<u>-</u>
Total Support & Revenue	661,784	(13,875)	647,909

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

iotai Support & Revenue	001,/84	(13,8/5)	647,909	
Expenses	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	
Land Acquisition	111,396	=	111,396	
Community Outreach	149,675	-	149,675	
Membership	102,443	-	102,443	
Research & Public Policy	77,814	-	77,814	
Administration	85,026	-	85,026	
Development	32,620	-	32,620	
Total Expenses	558,974	-	558,974	
Change in Net Assets	102,810	(13,875)	88,935	
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	7,053,687	25,500	7,079,187	
Net Assets at End of Year	\$ 7,156,497	\$ 11,625	\$ 7,168,122	

Revenue

Expenses





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

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets	2013	2012	
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 4,826,077	\$ 3,711,743	
Pledges Receivable	-	27,637	
Prepaid Expenses	10,922	11,545	
Accounts Receivable	6,911	-	
Protected Property	530,834	1,841,708	
Equipment - Net	4,100	6,833	
Investments	2,131,549	1,828,977	
Insurance Policy	76,092	72,449	
Total Assets	\$ 7,586,485	\$ 7,500,892	
Liabilities & Net Assets	2013	2012	
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	\$ 10,701	\$ 21,131	
Accrued Expenses	6,448	5,593	
Deferred Revenue	-	800	
Funds Held for Others	150,837	155,226	
Long-term Liabilities			
Notes Payable	250,377	238,955	
Total Liabilities	418,363	421,705	
Net Assets			
Unrestricted	7,156,497	7,053,687	
Temporarily Restricted	11,625	25,500	
Total Net Assets	7,168,122	7,079,187	
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 7,586,485	\$ 7,500,892	

NET ASSETS BY FUND

Fund	2013	2012
General Fund (Unrestricted)	\$ 333,009	\$ 310,177
Samuel H. Morgan Land Acquisition Fund ^b	4,691,939	4,914,533
Reuel Harmon Endowment Fund ^c	2,131,549	1,828,977
Temporarily Restricted	11,625	25,500
Total	\$ 7,168,122	\$ 7,079,187

⁽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.

Financial information is based on an independent auditor's report conducted in accordance with auditing standards for the years ended Dec. 31, 2013 and 2012. 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.

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

Thank you to 2013 supporters



Parks & Trails Council's work is made possible through the generosity of individuals, organizations, businesses and foundations who support our mission. We are grateful to everyone who has contributed.

Magney Circle Members

Recognizing individuals who made a gift of \$500 or more to the general operations in 2013

Anonymous

Karla and Brad Anderson

Bruce and Martha Atwater

Matthew Bass

Ms. Thelma Boeder

Adam Oliansky and Kathy Bonnifield

Richard and Mary Brainerd

Peter and Nancy Breyfogle

Paul H. Brown

Mr. and Mrs. William R. Buell

Peter K. Butler

David Chizek

Sarah and Whitney Clark

Carolyn Sampson and Kathleen Connelly

Mike and Julia Costello

Jean and Joe Crocker

David and Kitty Crosby

Steven Culbert

Barb L. Daggett

Ruth and Bruce Dayton

Laurie Hanson and Kim Dayton

Mary Lee Dayton

David Dixen

Mary C. Dolan

Susan Foote and Senator Dave Durenberger

Robert and Nancy Erickson

Timothy, Emily, John, Ava and Luke

Eschweiler

Tim and Noreen Farrell

Sheila R. Faulkner

Elizabeth Haugen and Brett Feldman

Keith and Louise Fester

Joel Martin and Lisa Filter

Richard and Carol Flint

Kathleen A. Ford

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Mary Hauser

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Daphne Walmer and David Herreid

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Judy Ostendorff and Ron Jensen

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Mary Kennedy and Mark Larson

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Judith Reisman and Jane Levin

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Rupert and Jeanne Strobel

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Steven and Georganne Thorne

Walt McCarthy and Clara Ueland

Ed Murphy and Nan Upin

Joe Weisenburger

Lee Wenzel

Fred and Eleanor Winston

Tom and Diane Witzig

Bruce Hendrickson and Laura Wolf

Steve and Ellen Young

Kurt E. Zuppke

Individual. Corporation & Foundation Donors

Recognizing those who made gifts to the general operations and/or the Samuel H. Morgan Land Fund in 2013

\$5,000 and more

3M Foundation

The Access Fund

Richard and Mary Brainerd

Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation

Mary Lee Dayton

Keith and Louise Fester

Friends of Mill Towns State Trail

The Halleck Fund of The Saint Paul

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Mr. and Mrs. William R. Buell

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Mike and Julia Costello

Steven Culbert

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Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund

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Mary Russell

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Mark and Joan Strobel

Rupert and Jeanne Strobel

Walt McCarthy and Clara Ueland

Tom and Diane Witzig

\$500 - \$999

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Gateway-Brown's Creek Trail Association

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Steve and Ellen Young Kurt E. Zuppke

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R. James Gesell Daren Gislason

Gitchi-Gami Trail Association

Florence Gleason Lvnn Glesne James F. Glockner Jeffrey Goettl Melvin F. Goldenbogen Matthew Graham **Don Grant** Kevin Gregerson Stacey J Grimes

Paul Swenson and Kathy Guess

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