



Walking the bluff P&TC acquired for Frontenac State Park
LISA FILTER/P&TC



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Our Programs

2017 *by the numbers*

Land Protection

185

ACRES OF LANDS ACQUIRED

By acting swiftly and judiciously to acquire parcels for Frontenac and Sibley state parks and the Hastings-to-Redwing trail, we protected critical opportunities for conservation and recreation.

\$1.6 million

VALUE OF LANDS WE HOLD IN TRUST

In addition to the new lands acquired in 2017, we hold eight other lands in trust, expressly for the intent of protecting them for a park or trail.

Research & Policy

589

MILES OF TRAIL RATED

In a first-of-its-kind report, we bicycled the full length of every state trail in Minnesota to give a comprehensive overview of their condition to plan for future needs and communicate their value.

50+

PUBLIC COMMENTS SHARED OPPOSING ATVs IN PARKS

Our members responded when we sent out an action alert and many let us know they contacted planners as part of the Taconite State Trail planning process.

Community Engagement

3,800

MEMBERS ENGAGED

Together, we add up to a powerful force for parks and trails. Our advocacy is strengthened by the momentum we gain in knowing that so many people care deeply about these places.

12

VOLUNTEER GROUPS SUPPORTED AS FISCAL CLIENTS

We assume the fiduciary responsibilities that enable grassroots groups to support parks and trails through fundraising, organizing, and promoting these places.

Letter from Leadership



May 2018

Dear Friends,

We are very proud and honored to have worked with numerous community groups and parks and trails agency staff last year to save critical lands through acquisition and our advocacy at the state capitol.



With the acquisition of the 159 acres of land for Frontenac in 2017 we knowingly took on a project that requires persistence and patience as it will likely take years to see through to its conclusion of becoming part of the park. We act swiftly when opportunities like this arise because we're mindful that they may come only once in a lifetime. Without this ability and mindset, the opportunity could be lost. In this case, there were no other entity to ensure the land was acquired because the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources can only contemplate buying land within a park's legally defined statutory boundary, of which this lay outside.

This year we've been working with the legislature to amend the Frontenac State Park's statutory boundary to include this land that undoubtedly deserves to be part of the state park and would offer incredible hiking and birding opportunities. With the legislative session still in progress we don't know the outcome yet, but we are prepared to hold this land in trust for as long as prudently feasible.

Meanwhile we continue our work in both research and policy. With the release of our report that rates the condition of all Minnesota's state trails, we move ever more confidently in our role as advocates for building and maintaining these incredible assets. Knowing that the majority (79 percent) of state trails are in excellent or good condition is reassuring. And the data is now available to create a plan and funding goals to repave those trails in poor condition while planning for the coming years to keep our trails in good condition. The vision of connecting people across the state with cities and parks through a healthy mode of travel, whether by bicycle, foot, horse or roller blades inspires us to continue this important work.

Finally, we want to express our sincere gratitude to our members, whose support makes all this work possible. Thank you!

Julie Gugin,
President of the Board

Brett Feldman,
Executive Director



Land Protection

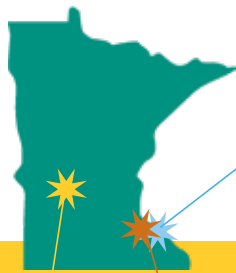
Saving special places for future generations

We partner with state, regional, and local agencies as well as volunteer Friends Groups and others across Minnesota to acquire critical lands for parks and trails, ensuring the protection of their natural and cultural treasures and access for people to enjoy for generations to come.

With our Samuel H. Morgan Land Fund, which operates as a revolving account that gets spent many times over, we have dedicated funds ready to respond quickly when land goes for sale. This paired with our staff expertise ensures critical opportunities to save land are not lost.

On bluff overlook P&TC Acquire for Frontenac State Park
BRETT FELDMAN/P&TC

2017 Land Saved



Final piece to bring entire shore of Lake 21 into Sibley State Park

This project has been years in the making and shows how patience can pay off. Lake 21 now offers a completely natural lake experience. Park staff began discussions to buy the land decades ago but it never finalized. Timing is critical in land deals and while there was a close call with a sale for high-end development, luckily that didn't happen either. When the land was passed down to family, an opportunity re-rose to buy it for the park. Acquisition was just the first step as numerous structures and dumpster-loads of debris were then removed with the assistance of the Sibley State Park Improvement Association's volunteer members. As this was the last piece of private property along the lake, a whole new potential is opened up for a trail to circle the lake. The group campsite is located along this lake and now these campers have a completely unobstructed view of this beautiful lake.



Saving bluffs for Frontenac State Park

Hiking to the top of the bluffs, at this land Parks & Trails Council purchased adjacent to Frontenac State Park, provides awe-inspiring views from all directions. To the south you can see a stream running from an ecologically critical wetlands and into the waters of the Mississippi River where it widens to become Lake Pepin. To the north is the view of the park's bluffs and prairie. Historically used as pasture land, it's now restored to native savanna. We are currently working with the legislature to expand the park's boundary to include this land.



First parcel for the proposed Hastings-Redwing Trail

This land project secures about one mile of former railroad line along the Vermillion River for the proposed 20-mile-trail that would connect to trails in Hastings and Redwing.

LAND HELD IN TRUST FOR A PARK OR TRAIL AT 2017 YEAR END

Location of Land	Acres	Land Value*	Year Acquired
Casey Jones State Trail for trailhead in the city of Lake Wilson	0.58	\$2,500	2015
Finland State Forest part of exchange for Crosby Manitou State Park	3.50	\$16,400	2004
Frontenac State Park restored bluffs just outside current boundary	158.82	\$866,250	2017
Hastings-Redwing Trail first land for planned trail, not currently usable	10.30	\$30,900	2017
Sibley State Park at southeast border, enables Glacial Lakes State Trail connection	153.06	\$460,000	2014
Sibley State Park final privately owned land around Lake 21	15.77	\$200,000	2017
Superior Hiking Trail at Devil's Track River near Grand Marais	40.00	\$28,000	1995
Tettegouche State Park forested wetlands along Hwy. 31. provides 1/4-mile buffer	2.50	\$19,200	2013
TOTAL	384.53	\$1,623,250	

No land was conveyed to a park or trail in 2017

*Listed is the land value on the date it was acquired; the value may have increased or decreased depending on changes in the market.



Research & Public Policy

*An independent, honest and
forthright voice*

By effectively researching and communicating the needs of Minnesota's parks and trails to legislators and government leaders, we play a vital role in ensuring these special places are created, maintained and protected for generations to come.

Fully funding state parks and trails remains elusive goal

Lawmakers passed a two-year budget for state parks and trails that will keep state parks and trails relatively stable. But, ultimately this budget outcome was the result of increased park fees and decreased general fund appropriations. The sustainability of such an approach is uncertain at best and could have unintended consequences in creating barriers for certain populations to visit state parks.

Gov. Mark Dayton deserves recognition for winning a last-minute concession that gives the MnDNR a department-wide operating adjustment from the general fund, without which, cuts may have been forthcoming.



Key trail projects funded, but too many others left unfunded

Funding received for 4 of 13 trail projects we supported:

- **Gitchi-Gami:** \$3.13 million to extend the segment in Grand Marais to Cascade River State Park. SOURCE: BONDING BILL
- **Glacial Lakes:** \$2.6 million toward building a 6.25-mile spur to connect into Sibley State Park from New London, and repair the trail in Sibley State Park. SOURCE: BONDING BILL
- **Heartland:** \$3.3 million toward building the segment in Detroit Lakes to Frazee. SOURCE: BONDING BILL
- **Mill Towns:** \$328,000 toward extending the segment in Dundas to Faribault (Bonding Bill). Plus \$438,000 toward building a bridge over the Cannon River in Faribault that provides a connection to the Sakatah State Trail. SOURCE: ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND
- **Casey Jones:** \$600,000 to extend the segment in Pipestone five more miles to reach Woodstock. SOURCE: ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

State trail projects left unfunded:

Chester Woods, Goodhue-Pioneer, Interstate State Park's trail to connect with Swedish Immigrant Trail, Minnesota Valley, Mississippi Blufflands, Preston-Harmony.



Keeping state parks protected from off-highway vehicles

With the release of the Taconite State Trail Draft Master Plan in Dec. 2016, we saw and responded to its seeming permissiveness in alluding that OHVs, such as ATVs may be allowed as the trail runs through McCarthy Beach and Bear Head Lake state parks. Knowing that state law has always been interpreted to prohibit such use, we quickly alerted our members and the response was resounding with at least 50 members notifying us they submitted comments in opposition. By Oct. 2017, we saw that our voices were heard as the MnDNR released the final plan with new language that unequivocally stated:

"OHVs are prohibited in state parks per MN Rules 6100.1900, thus an OHV route around the park would be necessary. Also, the State Park Visitor Surveys and public comments during this planning process indicate strong opposition to adding OHV use within state parks."



First-of-its kind inventory of trail conditions

By coordinating an extensive new research project, we ensured every mile of Minnesota's State Trails were systematically ridden and assessed to give us a clear picture of the needs of the state trail system.

Our conclusions showed that overall the trails are currently in good shape with 79 percent rated as either excellent or good. We were further able to estimate that state trails have a 28-year life span before deteriorating into poor condition.

Knowing all this, planning for future maintenance need—one of the biggest obstacles for the system—could be within reach.



Community Engagement

Engaging people to protect parks and trails

Our motto, "people saving special places" reflects the grassroots nature of our work. Members provide the largest and most important source of our revenue--members make this important work possible. We work to keep our members informed and motivated.



Day on the Hill brings advocates together

Our annual Day on the Hill brought supporters together to learn about the upcoming legislative session and equip them with tools to effectively advocate for parks and trails needs. As efforts emerged from some groups to allow off-road vehicles into state parks, we invited renowned ecologist George Wuerthner to present on his research into the detrimental environmental impacts motorized recreation. In addition, our government relations consultant led a panel discussion with Rep. Hausman (DFL-St. Paul), Rep. Jason Metsa (DFL-Eveleth), Sen. Carrie Ruud (R-Breezy Point), and Sen. David Senjem (R-Rochester).



Honoring outstanding service and more at Annual Dinner

Over 200 P&TC members gathered for our annual dinner where we recognized Rep. Alice Hausman with the Reuel Harmon Award for her unwavering commitment to championing legislation benefitting Minnesota's parks and trails.

Award-winning photojournalist Brian Peterson enthralled the attendees with photos from his Minnesota State of Wonders book that captured the four seasons of our state, largely from state parks.

With more than 50 businesses and individuals generously donating items for our silent auction and raffle, we raised \$6,800 to help sustain our work.



Partnering with Friends Groups

Volunteer-based, independent Friends Groups continue to be important partners in our work. In 2017 we supported 12 groups as their fiscal sponsors in raising funds for important projects. By highlighting the work of these groups, plus another 10 groups on our website, we are beginning to tackle our goal of connecting these groups with the necessary resources to increase their capacity.



Behind-the-scenes on two projects with Magney Mingles

With two major projects that P&TC worked on seeing milestones in 2017, our Magney Circle members were invited to tour the impact of this work.

On June 3, a two-mile segment of the Mill Towns State Trail held a grand opening with a ribbon cutting, brass band, cupcakes and speeches. Magney Circle members joined the celebration after enjoying a guided bike tour by DNR planning staff.

On Oct. 7, Magney Circle members and Frontenac State Park Association members hiked the land we acquired and are currently working to add to the park. Sen. Dave Durenberger spoke on the importance of protecting places like this land.



Financial Health

Being stewards of our financial resources

We value the generous resources that our supporters have entrusted with us to deliver on our mission. It is a trust we take seriously. Accordingly, to ensure the sound management and transparency of our financial resources we submit our accounting to a full audit by certified public accountants, as presented here.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Support & Revenue	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Member/Corp Contributions & Grants	\$ 459,642	\$ 250,000	\$ 709,642
Member Dues	87,780		87,780
Special Events (net expenses of \$12,473)	2,586		2,586
Investment Income	418,762		418,762
Loss on Sale of Property ^a	(14,521)		(14,521)
Other Income	22,213		22,213
Satisfaction of Time Restrictions	35,000	(35,000)	-
Total Support & Revenue	1,011,462	215,000	1,226,462

Expenses

Land Acquisition	102,232	-	102,232
Community Outreach	163,899	-	163,899
Membership	94,034	-	94,034
Research & Public Policy	145,261	-	145,261
Administration	71,528	-	71,528
Development	41,201	-	41,201
Total Expenses	618,155	-	618,155

Change in Net Assets	393,307	215,000	608,307
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	7,136,023	35,000	7,171,023
Net Assets at End of Year	7,529,330	250,000	7,779,330

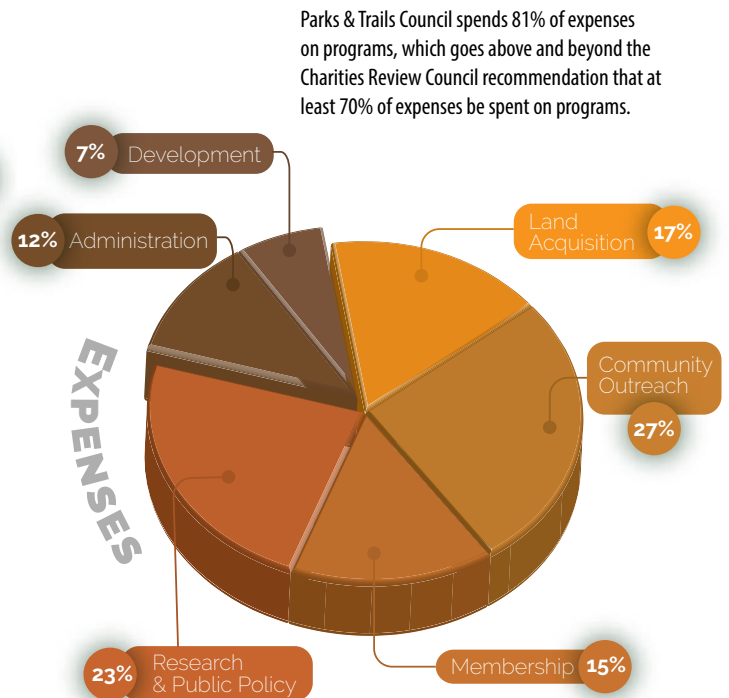
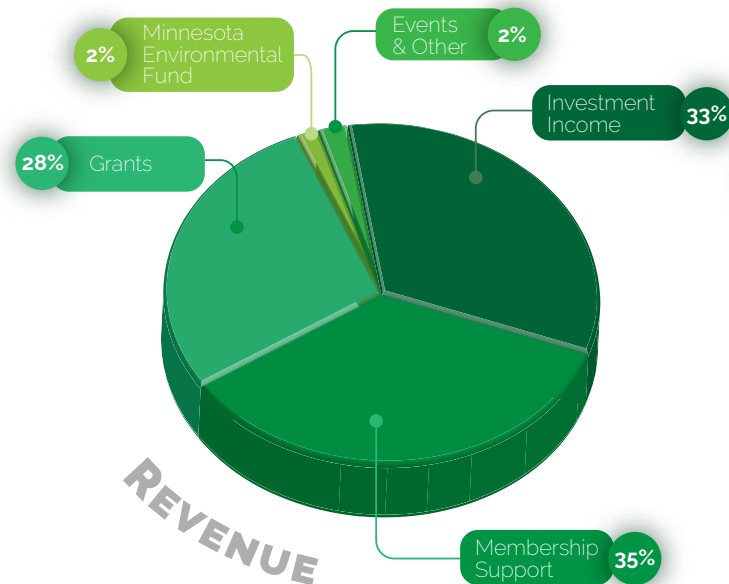
(a) Parks & Trails Council holds land in trust for public partners that occasionally declines in value by the time of sale. This decline in value is absorbed by P&TC's Samuel H. Morgan Land Fund.

NET ASSETS BY FUND

Fund	2017	2016
General Fund (Unrestricted)	\$471,977	\$366,157
General Fund (Temp Restricted)	\$250,000	\$35,000
Samuel H. Morgan Land Acquisition Fund ^b	\$4,824,346	\$4,644,061
Reuel Harmon Endowment Fund ^c	\$2,433,007	\$2,125,805
Total	\$7,779,330	\$7,171,023

(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.



Parks & Trails Council spends 81% of expenses on programs, which goes above and beyond the Charities Review Council recommendation that at least 70% of expenses be spent on programs.

Financial information is based on an independent auditor's report conducted in accordance with auditing standards for the years ended Dec. 31, 2017 and 2016. To obtain a copy of the complete audit, please contact the Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota office at 651-726-2457.

Magney Circle



The legacy left by our founder Judge Clarence Magney inspires our work today. His vision for conserving land for everyone to enjoy, created treasured places where memories and connections continue to be made long after his life and will continue for generations to come. Our Magney Circle members continue this legacy of generosity on behalf of parks and trails in Minnesota with their gifts of \$500 or more annually.

\$5,000+

Richard "Dick" and Mary Brainerd
Louise Fester
Katherine M. Nielsen
Peter and Linda Seed
Fred and Eleanor Winston

\$1,000+

Dr. Dorothy H. Anderson
Bruce and Martha Atwater
Jen Bayer
Mr. and Mrs. William R. Buell
Peter K. Butler
Gary R. Carlson
David Chizek M.D.
Patricia A. Colburn
Mike and Julia Costello
Steve and Amy Culbert
Mr. Thomas E. Daggett and Dr. Barbara L. Daggett
Robert and Nancy Erickson
Tim and Noreen Farrell
Brett Feldman and Elizabeth Haugen
Gail L. Fiskewold
Dick and Donna Heine
Mike and Karel Helgeson
Theresa Horan
Frank Janezich
Ms. Carol E. Jennings
Richard E. Keir
The Kellogg Family
Katherine L. Kladstrup
Drs. Jim and Penny Langland
Judith Reisman and Jane Levin
Pam and Harry Lienke
Dan Luna
Sheila and Chris Martin
Walt McCarthy and Clara Ueland
Lucy and Bob Mitchell - The Longview Foundation
Dr. Donna Morgan
Dennis Murnyak
Robert and Emily Nesvold
Richard and Joan Newmark
Jim Nystrom
David and Marla Olson
Thomas and Susan Pavey
Robert R. Piche

Kem Pomeroy
Maureen Reed and Jim Hart
Tom Stoa and Christine Boudin Stoa
Mark and Joan Strobel
Rupert and Jeanne Strobel
Tom Tegeder and Dorothy Seitz
Tracy Van Steenburgh and James W. A. Ladner
Tom and Diane Witzig
Steve and Ellen Young
Phil and Anne Zink

\$500+

Joe and Cathy Amato
Karla and Brad Anderson
Susan and Jay Anderson
Bob Bierscheid
Paul Blonski
Ms. Thelma Boeder
Kathy Bonnifield and Adam Oliansky
Leila Brammer
Henry and Nancy Brantingham
Gerald C. Bren
Richard Brennan
Peter and Nancy Breyfogle
Paul H. Brown
Michael R. Conley
Kathleen A. Connelly
Steve W. Cook
Jean and Joe Crocker
Keith and Katharyn Dawson
David Dixen
Senator Dave Durenberger and Susan Foote
Nan Upin and Ed Murphy
David and Nancy Erpestad
Sheila R. Faulkner
Harvey and Andrea Feldman
William Fester
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Lisa Filter and Joel Martin
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Julie Gugin and John Hall
Kit Hadley

Mary Hauser
Bill and Linda Holley
Chris Howard
Don Janes
Veronica Jaralambides and Chris Polston
Judy Ostendorff and Ron Jensen
Susan and David Johnson
Bruce E. Johnson
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Greg and Mai Lauer
Kathy and Allen Lenzmeier
Kellie and Dwayne Lowman
Toni R. Magnuson
John Malone
Michele Marrinan
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Pat and Patti McAdaragh
Anne McKinsey
Dana Meier
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Steven Miller
Carol J. Mizuno
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Mark and Jackie Nolan
John and Yvette Oldendorf
Keith and Carol Ottoson
Michele J. Peter
Michael Prichard
Lori Ricke and Eric Dunn
Anna Marie P. Rosen
Dominique Conseil and Misato Sakai
Robert Secor
Scott and Theresa Seys
Charles Silverson and Elaine Elnes
*Dave and Linda Simpkins
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Thomas B. Stirling
Roger Strand
John and Teresa Swoyer
Bob Nesheim and Marlys Johnson
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Jane Harper and John Velin
Jane and Ed Wachutka
Barry Warner and Maureen Wiegner
Bruce Hendrickson and Laura Wolf
Bernie and Evie Zeruhn
Kurt E. Zuppke
Anonymous (2)



Members & Supporters

*Together we are people
saving special places!*

Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota is honored to recognize the individuals, foundations and organizations whose incredible generosity makes it possible to continue our tradition of working to acquire and conserve land for outdoor recreation across Minnesota.

\$10,000+

3M Gives

Betty L. Meyer Revocable Trust

Henry S. Crosby Jr. Family Fund of The
Minneapolis Foundation

Bill Handsaker Fund at the Community
Foundation of Western Nevada

Minnesota Environmental Fund (MEF)

Patrick and Aimee Butler Family
Foundation

\$1,000+

Mary C. Dolan-The Longview Foundation

Robert Dunn Trust

Minnesota Energy Resources and
Wisconsin Public Service Foundation

Michael V. Tegeder Trust

UnitedHealth Group

\$500+

Ameriprise Financial

Carolyn Foundation

GiveMN

IBM International Foundation

Medtronic Foundation

Northstar Trail Travelers

Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota
Fund

Pincushion Trails Inn

\$100+

Jane Voglewede and David Abbott

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Paul J. Jungquist	John Lindblom	Joe P. Miller	David and JoAnne Peterson
Mark R. Kaczmarek	Gretchen and David Lindgren	Joel W. Miller	James McCarthy and Gloria Peterson
James Kalb	John Lindholm	Michael B. Miller	Al Peterson and Mary Findorff
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