

By the Numbers:

< 1%

Less than one percent of Minnesota's original prairie remains today

MN DNR - 2011

17,169

Acres of prairie are preserved in state parks and along state trails.

MN DNR - 2016

95%

of Minnesota's bird species are found in Minnesota State Parks.

MN DNR - 2015

278,880

Annual participants in state park and trail naturalist programs.

MN DNR - 2016

280

Endangered, threatened, and rare species are protected in Minnesota State Parks.

MN DNR - 2011

MINNESOTA'S SPECIAL PLACES

Preserving natural resources is the foundation of Minnesota's parks and trails. The natural and cultural resources that Minnesota's parks and trails preserve are vitally important; every acre of forest, for example, absorbs the carbon dioxide emissions of two cars every year!¹

So little is left of Minnesota's special natural places: only two percent of Minnesota's Big Woods and less than one percent of Minnesota's original prairie remains today.² Parks and trails ensure those remnants will be protected for the next generation.

"Achievement is symbolized by the park rather than by satellites and space travel. In establishing parks and nature preserves... we recognize the essential value of life itself."

Charles Lindbergh - 1973

Just a few of the natural gems protected in Minnesota State Parks...

300 year-old white pine forest at Schoolcraft State Park

Remnant prairie habitat for the extremely rare prairie chicken at Buffalo River State Park

Minnesota's highest waterfall at Grand Portage State Park

Abundant wildflowers and one of the last extensive stands of Big Wood Forest at Nerstrand Big Woods State Park

Bison herds at Blue Mounds and Minneopa State Parks



¹ American Forests. "Forest Facts." 2018.

² Minnesota DNR. "Parks and Trails Legacy Plan." 2011.

* Graphics created by Freepik

