



Special Places

PARKS & TRAILS COUNCIL OF MINNESOTA NEWSLETTER

Mille Lacs Kathio State Park © Gary Alan Nelson

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P&TC Research News Spearheading first statewide trail count

If you were out on a state trail recently, you may have seen a smiling face “count” you as you went by. That’s because during September, over 50 volunteers helped Parks & Trails Council count the number of bicyclists, walkers, joggers, and skaters using Minnesota’s state-authorized trails. In total, over 200 hours were spent counting users at 26 different trail locations across the state (see map on pg.3). Additionally, the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission and University of Minnesota installed two automatic counters along the Gitchi Gami trail for the summer season.

Count | pg 6



Dave Lais from the Sibley State Park Improvement Association driving a tractor while helping to clean up the tons of trash on the land P&TC recently acquired for Sibley State Park. Right: Natural, rolling grasslands cover the majority of the land acquired.

P&TC Land Project Update Massive cleanup for Sibley State Park

When Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota acquired the 154 acres of privately owned land at the southwest corner of Sibley State Park in December 2014, we did so knowing it presented a tremendous opportunity for the park, but also a tremendous responsibility: turning an unsanctioned landfill into parkland.

The majority of the 154 acres are pristine grasslands that have been enrolled in the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). This voluntary program reimburses farmers who set aside environmentally sensitive

land from agricultural production and instead manage it for conservation benefits. As such, the majority of the land is primed to effortlessly and seamlessly blend into Sibley State Park where staff are well versed in prairie restoration.

However, one corner of the land was far from pristine. Here, a former farmstead was surrounded by 123 tons of trash that included 588 tires, leaking appliances, hazardous wastes like farm herbicide, and crumbling boats to name a few.

Cleanup | pg 3

From the President

Getting ready to celebrate 125 years of Minnesota State Parks



By Mike Tegeder, president

The year 2016 will be a year to remember. No, I am not a forecaster, I have no idea how the Vikings will do their first year in the new stadium or where the stock market will be on Dec. 31, 2016, and I wish I knew how the elections will turn out. But literally, 2016 will be a year to remember and celebrate two great milestones in Minnesota history: The 125th anniversary of Minnesota State Parks and the 50th anniversary of Minnesota State Trails.

The first state park and the beginning of our great state park tradition was Lake Itasca. The word Itasca itself is made up from two Latin words, veritas ca-put or “true head,” and refers to the lake being the headwaters of the Mississippi River. But it is also the true head or foundation for all the parks to follow.

The DNR’s webpage for Itasca Park has an interesting note on the origin of the park: “In the late 1800s, Jacob V. Brower, historian, anthropologist and land surveyor, came to the park region to settle the dispute of the actual location of the Mississippi Headwaters. Brower saw this region being quickly transformed by logging, and was determined to protect some of the pine forests for future generations. It was Brower’s tireless efforts to save the remaining pine forest surrounding Lake Itasca that led the state legislature to establish Itasca as a Minnesota State Park on April 20, 1891, by a margin of only one vote. Through his conservation work and the continuing efforts of others throughout the decades, the splendor of Itasca had been maintained.”

One visionary citizen and one wise legislator made all the difference. This is something that we should all remember this coming year. Each of us can all make a difference for generations to come.

And the early history of the park is even more amazing with the contribution of one young woman to the park’s surviving its first years. In 1903, Mary Gibbs, the 24-year-old daughter of the park superintendent, was appointed by the governor to succeed her father who unexpectedly died. She soon had to face down loggers who put up a dam and were flooding the park. It is a great story and one to be remembered too.

Over the past 125 years there are many other examples of such vision and courage. The year 2016 will be a good time to share these inspiring stories and to renew our commitment to join in this great legacy.

The parks had a 75-year head start, but the trails are now spreading out throughout our beloved state, and with our efforts will be there just as vital 125 years in the future.



We are a proud member of the Minnesota Environmental Fund, a workplace giving option comprised of 22 environmental nonprofits working to protect, conserve and restore Minnesota’s environment. Visit the website to see if you can donate through your workplace or to find out how to add your workplace to the program.

www.mnenvirofund.org

THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS SPONSORS





Series of photos from the 154 acres P&TC recently acquired for Sibley State Park from left: Rolling grasslands, native prairie wildflower called Prairie Smoke, volunteer cleaning up some of the tons of debris; volunteers picnicking after long day's work; leaning shed; mallards in the pond.

Cleanup

Continued from page 1

Cleaning up that amount of debris was no easy task, but the volunteers from the Sibley State Park Improvement Association (SSPIA) were undeterred in pitching in to get it done. All summer, volunteers have been cleaning up this land, putting in a staggering 529 hours of work.

In total, the SSPIA organized 29 clean-up days with 2-10 volunteers per day, plus another three days of work by Community Service Workers (a program for misdemeanor jail inmates), plus another 45 days where Dave Lais, who is the secretary-treasurer for SSPIA, worked solo doing hands-on clean up or coordinating the effort from home.

The long days of work for the volunteers often ended with a group picnic and refreshments. "This has really been a fun project and team effort to work on," said Lais. "Our encouragement came from seeing this badly blighted farmstead take on a more natural and picturesque appearance, sort of like making a silk purse out of a sow's ear."

And to top it off, the SSPIA also

made significant donations to help cover some of the costs of the clean-up.

"The commitment and generosity of these volunteers who gave so much of their time, labor and funds to transform this land has been instrumental to this project and a true inspiration," said Brett Feldman, Parks & Trails Council's executive director.

In addition to the volunteers, professional excavation crews were brought in to operate heavy machinery for bulldozing, crushing and disposing of large waste. Other players involved an asbestos abatement inspector, the PCA, DNR, local fire departments, the Kandiyohi County environmental services director, county commissioners.

Today, this land is unrecognizable from its former state. All the trash and dilapidated buildings are gone. The only remaining clues of the bedraggled past are patches of bare soil where buildings used to be. It will take some time for the native prairie seeds we planted here to take root and restore the land—an effort that is certainly worth a little patience.

Now, Parks & Trails Council will

continue to hold this land in trust as we work with the DNR to secure funding to incorporate it into Sibley State Park.

Meanwhile we are working to move a trail project along that will connect a 5-mile spur of the Glacial Lakes State Trail into Sibley State Park via this land—a key vision for how this land was intended to be used.

Plans are underway by the DNR but the timeline is undetermined. Once complete, this spur of the Glacial Lakes Trail will come off the main trail at New London then run through the heart of downtown, passing two schools before winding into Sibley through this newly cleaned up land with its rolling prairie.



Bicyclists on the Glacial Lakes State Trail where it connects into New London. This is where the new 5-mile spur will begin on its route to connect to our recently acquired land for Sibley State Park.

Trail Building Updates

Swedish Immigrant Trail breaks ground on new segment



Groundbreaking on Aug. 27 for the new 2.2 mile segment near Interstate State Park.

At the end of September, construction crews began pulling into the worksite to build a new 2.2-mile segment of the Swedish Immigrant Trail between Shafer and Taylors Falls. It was quite a sight for the many people who have been advocating for this trail for nearly 20 years.

The Swedish Immigrant Trail is a regional trail owned and managed by Chisago County, where parks director Laird Mork has been overseeing the project. This new segment will be located between Tern Ave. in Shafer (near the privately owned Wildwood RV Park and Campground) and the northwestern edge of Interstate State Park in Taylors Falls.

Mork expects construction crews to complete this trail segment by the end of June 2016. The project includes the construction of three bridges and the trail surface will be lime-rock until additional funds are found for paving.

This new segment adds to the current three unconnected segments of the Swedish Immigrant Trail and will mark the completion of about one-third of the total miles envisioned for trail—22 miles from Wyoming to Taylors Falls that weaves along lake-

shores, through quiet pastures (including one with bison) and wetlands, into the quaint downtowns of Chisago City, Lindström, Shafer, and through the old-growth forest at Interstate State Park.

While this 2.2 mile project is a relatively short segment, it seems to signal to many that completing the total trail is a viable goal. The next step will be closing the 1.5-mile gap between this segment and the 2-mile segment through Shafer. Plus another 1.4 miles is planned through Interstate State Park. The DNR is in charge of building that segment and have plans to include a scenic overlook toward the St. Croix River. There's no timeline for the park segment yet. First DNR staff need to assess the natural and cultural resources, estimate the costs and identify funding.

Trail Building Updates

Smoothing out the Luce Line State Trail



Celebration in Hutchinson for the paving of this segment of the Luce Line State Trail.

On Sept. 26, the cities of Hutchinson and Winsted hosted events to celebrate the DNR's paving of approximately 20 miles of the Luce Line State Trail between these two cities.

Previously this segment of trail was the coarsest part of the trail with a gravel surface. Now, this is the only paved segment of the DNR-managed portion. Within the metro area Three Rivers Parks District manages another nine miles of the Luce Line that is paved. This metro segment connects directly with the DNR-managed segment in Plymouth, where it continues for 37 miles as crushed limestone

before ending in Winsted.

The trail runs through downtown Hutchinson along the lakefronts before winding through the quaint countryside with a mix of woods and prairie and farmland.

The paving project took several years as the base rock was laid in 2013 with financial support from local cities and McLeod County along with Legacy Funds. To finish the paving, Parks & Trails Council successfully advocated at the state capitol for an additional \$1.7 million in bonding funds that were awarded in 2014.

Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails Update

Work continues on building the regional system

With a second full year of work under its belt, the Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails Commission (GMPTC) has created the initial round of officially designated regional parks and trails. The list includes 25 parks and trails with all six regions of the state being represented. More will be added in the coming years.

The GMPTC was created by the Minnesota Legislature in 2013 in response to the passage of the Legacy Amendment, which created a new pot of money for parks and trails of state and regional significance. GMPTC is charged with planning and providing funding recommendations. Previously regional status was an unofficial designation in Greater Minnesota.

Now, for a park or trail in Greater Minnesota to be considered for regional status, the managing entity (usually a county or city) must submit an application to the GMPTC.

2015 Designations for Regional Parks and Trails

Natural Resource-Based Regional Park

- Douglas Co.—Kensington Park
- Granite Falls—Memorial Park
- Isanti Co.—
Irving & John Anderson Park
- Moorhead—MB Johnson Park
- Olmsted Co.—
Chester Woods Park
- Redwood Falls—
Alexander Ramsey Park
- Rochester—Quarry Hill Park
- Rochester—Gamehaven Park
- Rochester—Cascade Lake Park
- Stearns Co.—Quarry Park
- Stearns Co.—Rockville Park
- Stearns Co.—Warner Lake Park
- Wright Co.—Bertram Park
- Wright Co.—Robert Ney Park

Special Recreational Feature Regional Park

- Beltrami Co.—
Northland Sports Park
- Detroit Lakes—Detroit Mountain
- Sandstone—Robinson Park

Regional Trails

- Chisago Co.—
Swedish Immigrant Trail
- Chisago Co.—Sunrise Prairie Trail
- Lake Shore—Gull Lake Trail
- Mille Lacs Co.—
Plains to Port Trail
- Otter Tail Co.—
Perham to Pelican Rapids Trail
- St. Cloud—Beaver Island Trail
- Stearns Co.—Lake Wobegon Trail
- Joint Powers Board—
Cannon Valley Trail

State Parks Update

The bison have arrived at Minneopa

by the Department of Natural Resources

Eleven genetically rare bison have been released into Minneopa State Park near Mankato as part of the newest efforts by the DNR and the Minnesota Zoo to expand the Minnesota Conservation Bison Herd.

At one time, bison numbered 30 and 60 million in North America and roamed throughout Minnesota except the northeastern portion. During the late 19th century, bison were hunted to near extinction. The last wild bison observed in Minnesota was in Norman County in 1880.

Bison were reintroduced to Blue Mounds State Park near Luverne in 1961. Genetic testing of the herd from 2011-2013 found they were largely free of any genetic material that would have come from cross-breeding with cattle, making them quite rare.

In 2012, The Minnesota Zoo and the DNR entered into an agreement to preserve the American bison. The 90 bison at Blue Mounds State Park will be grown to a 500-animal herd occupying several locations. Minneopa State Park is the first location

to welcome the rare bison.

The group of 11 bison brought to Minneopa include cow/calf pairs and yearling bison heifers; some of the cows are bred and will calve next spring. Eventually the herd will grow to 30-40 bison.

With an anticipated date of mid-October, the public will be allowed to drive personal vehicles through the range on a hard-surfaced road. The interpretive focus will be the historic relationship between bison and humans.

Count

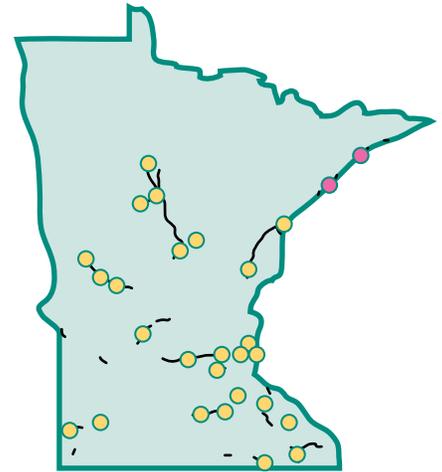
Continued from page 1

The 2015 trail count methodology is based on the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Bicycle and Pedestrian Counting Initiative, which was started in 2012 to help interested cities and organizations across Minnesota conduct bicycle and pedestrian counts. Once the data is analyzed, it will provide us with a ballpark estimate of how many people use our state trails.

We started the trail count project because one of the most common

questions we're asked when advocating for trail projects is "how many people use (or will use) the trail?" And up until now, we haven't had a good, up-to-date answer. The 2015 trail count is a small step towards further understanding how our state trails are used, and our hope is to expand our counting program in future years. The more information we have, the better we can support the trails we all love to explore.

Be sure to keep an eye on our website (and next newsletter) for results from the study. To the many volunteers who made the 2015 trail count possible: a big and heartfelt thank you!



Trail users were counted at 28 different locations across Minnesota during September:

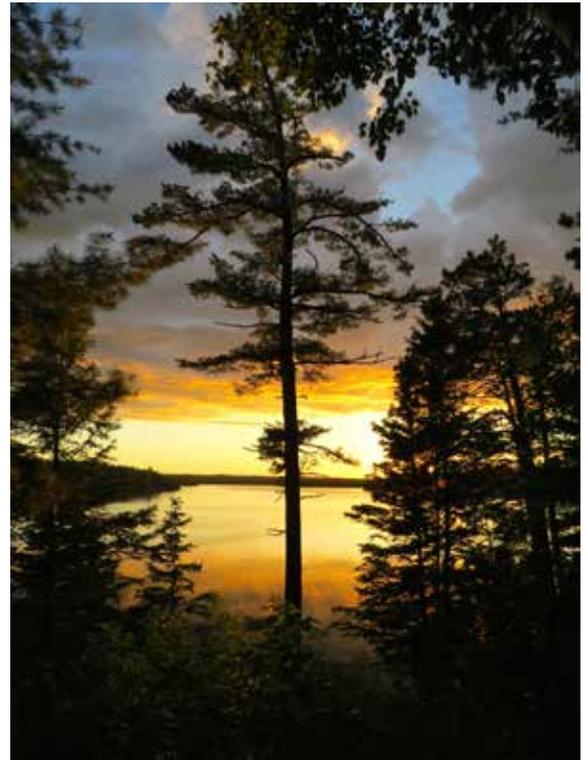
Facebook

Photo Contest Winners



Winning photo in the category of "Enjoying our parks and trails" taken by Manda Baldwin at Carley State Park.

This past summer we launched a photo contest on our Facebook page where we asked people to share special moments caught in Minnesota's parks and trails. It was a delightful job to look through the many scenes that people shared. While we narrowed the submission down to a handful of finalists, we let our Facebook fans vote on the winner in each category. The winners each received a \$100 gift card to Minnesota State Parks. ***Thank you to everyone who submitted photos!***



Winning photo in the category of "Natural beauty in our parks and trails" taken by Janell Wesenberg at Itasca State Park and titled, "Peace Pipe Vista."



P&TC Event Recap Bike Minnesota! at Glendalough State Park

Over Labor Day weekend 2015, Parks & Trails Council hosted our 11th annual, 3-day bike tour with thirty supporters, who helped raise \$5,000 in support of Parks & Trails Council's mission. The group biked 156 miles starting and ending each day at Glendalough

State Park. We bike along the new 12-mile loop trail that goes through the park and into the nearby city of Battle Lake. We visited many other places too, as captured in the photo essay below.

THANK YOU!

Planning Sponsors

Network Battle Lake
Glendalough Park Partners

Volunteers

Jean Bowman
Peter & Steph Christianson
Gary & Karalyn Harrington
Richard Keir
Lisa Malmstrom
Arol McCaslin
David Minge
Norma Monroe
Steve Nelson
Peggy Prowe
Paul & Linda Roberts
Wynn & Anna Roberts
Sue Tysdal
Janet Widness

Presenters

Benjamin Eckhoff, park naturalist
Lake Region Pioneer Thresherman's Assoc.
Ken Nyberg, sculptor
Ottertail Co. Historical Society
Dave Radford, archeologist
Jeff Stabnau, historian
Jeff Wiersma, park manager



- L to R, top to bottom:
- 1) Dinner at Glendalough
 - 2) Bicycling in lake country
 - 3) Fergus Falls Treatment Center
 - 4) Central Lakes State Trail (CLST)
 - 5) Thresherman's Association Tour
 - 6) CLST
 - 7) Tenting at Glendalough
 - 8) Hiking up Inspiration Peak
 - 9) Prospect House Tour
 - 10) New Glendalough Trail

Members' Write

Adventures on the Superior Hiking Trail

By Greg Lauer, Proud member since 2002

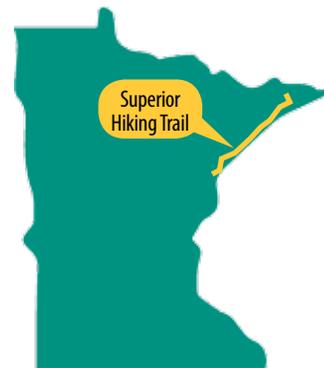
To celebrate my 40th birthday, I decided to thru-hike the Superior Hiking Trail (SHT). My wife was initially a little skeptical of the idea, but when I told her my alternative plan was to buy a BMW sports car, she quickly agreed to the backpacking plan.

Preparations started months before departure. My last backpacking trip was years ago, so the first task was updating my equipment. Nearly everything these days is lighter and smaller, and shopping for gear was like being a kid in a toy store. Then I got maps, bought food, and packaged my resupply boxes.

Two days after my birthday, my parents and I drove to

Grand Marais on the North Shore. We had dinner at a little seafood restaurant overlooking the harbor, which had the feel of a small Scandinavian fishing village.

The next morning, we continued up Highway 61 to the Arrowhead Trail and beyond to the northernmost trailhead of the SHT. I lifted my backpack out of the car, grabbed my trekking poles, and said goodbye. For the next 14 days, I walked. And walked. And walked some more.



Greg's Hiking Journal



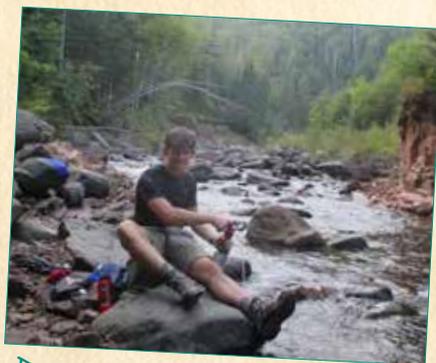
Day 1

I hiked to the 270° Overlook, the official beginning of the trail, just a mile from the Canadian border. After absorbing the stunning vista, I turned around and started trekking south towards Duluth.



Day 2

Yesterday I met only one backpacker on the trail, and today was equally lonely. My backpacking food tastes horrible. Rain is forecast in the coming days. Why did I think this trip was a good idea?!



Day 3

My friend Pete joined me this morning, and he brought fresh food! We ate steak and mushrooms on the top of Pincushion Mountain for one of the best al fresco meals of my life.

Day 4

It rained mercilessly last night, and the Devil Track River near our campsite rose nearly a foot. Then it rained again this evening. The trail is muddy.

Day 5

Pete and I hiked all day and reached Lutsen, my first resupply stop. Pete said goodbye, and I got a hotel room

at the mountain resort. The hot tub was heavenly.

Day 6

This evening I shared a campsite with Jim, a retired fellow from Grand Rapids who kayaked down the Mississippi and wrote a book about it. He was a great storyteller.



Day 7

I keep encountering groups camping under giant blue tarps. A counselor told me it's freshman orientation at Northwestern University. Nearly 200 kids drove up from Illinois to spend a week on the SHT. Not a bad way to start college!



Day 8

Today I encountered crews marking the course for the Superior Ultramarathon, and a sage named Don advised me, "Here's somethin' to put in yer coconut, Greg. If yooo run a hunderd miles, I can tell yooo this, ain't nobody gonna take that away! Yooo earned that foreveerrr!" His words had me chuckling for hours.

Day 9

Near Finland, I met Jim, a volunteer who maintains a section of the trail. He was enormously friendly and informative. Folks like him are the soul of the SHT, and I couldn't thank him enough for contributing his time and talents to the trail.



Day 10

Last night I stayed at my friend Shannon's cabin near Silver Bay, and today I hiked around Tettegouche State Park. The trail was full of hikers! In the evening, Shannon picked me up at the trailhead in Beaver Bay, and he made spaghetti at the cabin. The meal and beer were outstanding.

When I reached home, my daughter opened the door. Her first words: "Dad, you need a shower!" Yes, I definitely did. I also needed to eat. Over the course of two weeks, I lost 15 pounds, and it was a treat to have real food again.

So what does it all mean? What was the point of hiking nearly 300 miles? Initially I struggled with these questions, but upon reflection, I began to understand what Don told me on Day 8. Walking the SHT is a genuine achievement and a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Whatever happens in the next 40 years, I'll always have my thru-hike.



Day 11

This morning I lightened my pack to quicken my pace. Gone are the stove, sleeping bag, sunglasses, book (The Odyssey), and all other non-essential gear. Well, I might've gone too far. It was cold this evening, and the sleeping bag was missed!



Day 12

I was on the trail for 12+ hours covering almost 30 miles. I nearly fell asleep while journaling that evening.

Day 13

It was another long day, and I arrived at camp just before dusk. My feet are sore as heck. Greeting me was a very inebriated guy who works in an operating room in Duluth; I can only hope he is more sober at the hospital!

Day 14

Just after 8am, I lost the trail and ended up crossing a swamp. At one point, I waded through mud up to my knees. Yuck! After navigating back to the trail, I walked into Duluth and had a pint to celebrate.

Top 5 Reasons to thru-hike the SHT

1. Gaze in awe at the absolutely amazing views and vistas.
2. Meet friendly and fascinating folks from all walks of life.
3. Be free from the tyranny of emails and text messages.
4. Enjoy exercise better than any Stairmaster.
5. Eat whatever you want and still lose weight.

State Parks along the SHT

1. Judge C.R. Magney
2. Cascade River
3. Temperance River
4. George H. Crosby
5. Tettegouche
6. Split Rock Lighthouse
7. Gooseberry Falls
8. Jay Cooke State Park



Overlooking a northwoods lake at Manitou State Park along the Superior Hiking Trail. Photo by Rudi Hargesheimer

Member Support Stories

Leaving a legacy

Our members make the work we do on behalf of Minnesota's parks and trails possible. We are honored that so many people share in our deep commitment for preserving these special places. Occasionally we are fortunate enough to hear the inspiring stories that our members carry with them, which compels their support for this work. Here are two recent stories.

HOW A HUMMINGBIRD INSPIRED A LEGACY GIFT

*by Judy Reisman,
Proud member since 2000*

“ For 61 years the Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota has worked to make our parks and trails the envy of the nation. My wife Jane and I share this vision and are committed to doing our part to preserve these most special outdoor places for all to experience and enjoy.

That is why I have designated a significant portion of my estate for the Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota.

Jane and I have camped and hiked in

many of the state parks and especially love the parks along Lake Superior.

After my mother died, we hiked to a high peak overlooking a north woods lake. As we rested on soft pine needles, I heard the unmistakable whir of a hummingbird. Within moments, it landed on my red t-shirt, licked the shirt, and flew away. Although I know the hummer was attracted by the color red, it felt like a greeting from my mom.

I feel strongly that saving wilderness from development will afford future generations the same opportunities I have had. It is an investment in our future that we must make.”

REMEMBER: PASS IT FORWARD!

*by Louise Fester
Proud member since 1997*

Louise shared the following story upon making a significant gift to Parks & Trails Council in memory of her husband Keith Fester, who served on the board of P&TC from 2010-2014 and our Land Committee from

2009-2014.

“ It was Keith's desire that future generations be able to enjoy all the beauty and activities that Minnesota's great outdoor spaces offer. Over many years our family has enjoyed Minnesota's numerous parks along with the cross-county skiing and hiking and biking trails. As Keith always said: Pass it Forward! And that is my intent with this contribution... preserve it for the generations to come.”



Named in honor of Judge C. R. Magney, the Magney Circle consists of members who support our mission with a generous contribution of \$500 or more each year. Magney Circle members are invited to special events during the year. To join, visit parksandtrails.org/join_donate

Friends Group Corner

Friends group forms for Luce Line Trail



Friends of Luce Line West

At a glance

Friends Group Started:
September 2015

Mission:

To work with other stakeholders to improve, maintain and promote the Luce Line State Trail.

Current Members: 11

About the Trail:

Approx. 54 miles developed between Plymouth and Cedar Mills with 1.5 mile gap in Winsted. Built on former railroad line that was in operation 1913-1970.

Membership info:

www.FriendsoftheLuceLine.org



Parks & Trails Council is happy to welcome a new friends group to the network of volunteers working on behalf of parks and trails in Minnesota. The Friends of Luce Line West was established this September.

These Friends are a collection of community leaders and trail enthusiasts from the areas around Hutchinson and Winsted in Central Minnesota, about 60 miles due west from the Twin Cities. While they have been busy with the logistics of starting a friends group—things like recruiting the first members, setting up a bank account, writing a mission—they were also busy celebrating a major accomplishment with the paving of approximately 15 miles of the trail this fall (more about the project on pg. 4).

Steve Cook, the former mayor of Hutchinson and a board member for Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota is the president of the group. He has been working tirelessly on behalf of this trail for years and is excited to now have a group of dedicated members to help in the effort.

With the major paving project completed, the group's focus is now in promoting it. They want to see more people enjoying the trail and recognizing its recreation, health and community benefits. Cook mentioned that the group may start working to help add amenities such as benches, tables, and shelters as well as planting trees and restoring prairie along the trail.

Parks & Trails Council is the official fiscal sponsor of this group, meaning we act as their nonprofit umbrella.

Friends Group Partners

Volunteer-based groups working on behalf of Minnesota's parks and trails and members of Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota

Border Route Trail Association, Inc.

Central Lakes Trail Association

Friends of Anderson Park

Friends of Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park

Friends of Cannon Valley Trail

Friends of Casey Jones Trail

Friends of Forestville

Friends of Glacial Lakes State Park

Friends of Jackson County Trails

Friends of Lake Bemidji State Park

Friends of Luce Line West

Friends of Maplewood State Park

Friends of Mill Towns State Trail

Friends of Murray County Parks

Friends of Scandia Parks and Trails

Friends of the Lindbergh Heritage

Friends of Wild River State Park

Gateway-Brown's Creek Trail Association

Gitchi Gami Trail Association

Glacial Ridge Trail Association

Lake Louise State Park Association

Minnesota Rovers Outdoors Club

MN Nordic Ski Association

North Star Ski Touring Club

Northstar Trail Travelers

Prairie Visions

Sibley State Park Improvement Association

Southeast Minnesota Association of Regional Trails (SMART)

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