

# 2020 Legislative Agenda



*People Saving Special Places*  
[www.parksandtrails.org](http://www.parksandtrails.org)

Parks & Trails Council has been working since 1954 to acquire, protect and enhance critical land for the public's use and benefit. Every year we meet with community leaders, local advocates, park and trail managers, and policy experts to identify the top issues affecting our state's critical infrastructure of parks and trails. We hope you will work with us to cultivate a world-class park and trail system that benefits all Minnesotans.

Nerstrand Big Woods State Park  
Aaron Kostko / P&TC Photo Contest

## Our 2020 Legislative Priorities:



FIX CRITICAL  
PARK AND TRAIL  
INFRASTRUCTURE



ACCELERATE  
STATE TRAIL  
REHABILITATION



KEEP  
STATE PARKS  
QUIET AND NATURAL



SUPPORT  
LOCAL  
VOLUNTEERS



FUND PARK AND  
TRAIL GRANT  
PROGRAMS

*See reverse side for details*



2020

# Parks & Trails Legislative Priorities



## Fix critical park and trail infrastructure

Minnesota's state park and trail system is over 125 years old, and much of the system's infrastructure — such as shower buildings, trail bridges, and water systems — has been neglected due to insufficient funding. P&TC is urging the legislature to fund the DNR's bonding request to address this backlog of needs, ensuring park and trail facilities are safe and functional for the public and support the conservation of Minnesota's natural resources.



## Accelerate state trail rehabilitation

Our 2018-2019 *State of the Trails Report* extensively studied the condition of Minnesota's state trails using data collected by the Research Bike. Based on those research findings, P&TC is urging the legislature to fund state trail rehabilitation at \$4.8 million annually. Without this funding Minnesota's state trail system will steadily fall into disrepair.



## Keep State Parks quiet and natural

P&TC has opposed legislative efforts that would have allowed off-highway vehicle (OHVs) use within state parks. We will continue to oppose all efforts to introduce the use of OHVs in state parks. Allowing OHVs to use state parks is incompatible with long-standing state law, state park visitors consistently oppose the idea, and there are appropriate places other than state parks to encourage OHV recreation.



## Support local volunteers

Minnesota's parks and trails wouldn't exist without the dedication of volunteers working to build and improve parks and trails in their own local communities. P&TC works alongside these volunteer groups, providing legislative guidance and support. To see a list of volunteer groups we're working with and supporting at the legislature in 2020, please visit our website.



## Fund park and trail grants

Minnesota's parks and trails rely on a multitude of state grant programs to deliver the experiences Minnesotans expect and deserve. P&TC is urging the legislature to pass the funding recommendations of the LCCMR (including \$16.2 million for park and trail projects), \$15 million for Met Council's Regional Parks and Trails grant program, and \$4 million to fund local and regional DNR grants.