



2022

Legislative Agenda

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.

Banning State Park • Heather Weins / P&TC Photo Contest

Our 2022 Legislative Priorities:



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT
PROJECTS



KEEP OHVs OUT
OF STATE PARKS



DIVERSITY, EQUITY
AND INCLUSION



COMMUNITY-DRIVEN
PARK & TRAIL PROJECTS

See reverse side for details

Parks & Trails Legislative Priorities:



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Historically, Minnesota has not invested sufficient resources to maintain park and trail infrastructure in acceptable conditions. Using a combination of the state surplus, bonding and the federal infrastructure package, we're advocating for:

\$100 Million for State Park and Trails:

- \$30.5 million for state park buildings and accessibility
- \$16 million for state park campground renovations
- \$13 million for state park water and wastewater systems
- \$14 million for state park and trail bridges
- \$12 million for Lake Vermilion State Park development
- \$6 million for state park roads
- \$4.8 million for state trail rehabilitation
- \$4 million for state park and trail land acquisition

Local and Regional Grant Programs:

- \$15 million for the Metro Regional Park and Trail Grant Program
- \$4 million for Local and Regional Park and Trail Grant Programs



DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

We want parks and trails to be welcoming places for everyone, yet studies consistently show Black people, Indigenous people, and people of color are underrepresented among park and trail visitors. We encourage legislative efforts to develop new programs that welcome people from different backgrounds and address disparities in access to public lands.



KEEP OHVs OUT OF STATE PARKS

We oppose all efforts to introduce or expand the use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) in state parks and on paved state trails for the following reasons:

- State law is clear that OHVs are incompatible with state parks.
- Opinion surveys show state park visitors don't want OHVs in parks.
- OHVs would introduce visitor safety and environmental hazards.
- OHVs already have disproportionate access to public lands.



COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PARK & TRAIL PROJECTS

We support local volunteers to advocate for projects in their communities. In 2022 we're working with local friends groups on the following projects:

- Casey Jones State Trail
- Gateway State Trail
- Citchi-Gami State Trail
- Glacial Lakes State Trail
- Heartland State Trail - Itasca Spur
- Mill Towns State Trail
- Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail
- Shooting Star State Trail

Click on each project to learn more or find details on our website!

Wild River State Park • Mike Chrun / P&TC Photo Contest