



**PARKS & TRAILS**  
COUNCIL OF MINNESOTA

# 2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



Glacial Ridge State Park • Mick Rollins / P&TC Photo Contest

## ***OUR MISSION:***

Parks & Trails Council (P&TC) 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.

## ***OUR 2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:***



Invest in the future of parks and trails



Keep OHVs out of state parks



Promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in the outdoors



Support community-driven park and trail projects



### INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF PARKS AND TRAILS

Historically, Minnesota has not invested sufficient resources to maintain park and trail infrastructure in acceptable conditions. Using a combination of bonding, the budget surplus, and the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF), we're advocating for:

#### **\$100 MILLION FOR STATE PARK AND TRAILS:**

- \$17.2 million for state park buildings and accessibility improvements.
- \$46.4 million for renovating state park campgrounds and day use areas.
- \$9 million for renovating state park water and wastewater systems.
- \$7.8 million for park and trail bridges.
- \$9.6 million for state trail rehabilitation (HF 491/ SF 1218).
- \$10 million for state park acquisitions.

#### **LOCAL AND REGIONAL GRANT PROGRAMS:**

- \$15 million for metro park and trail grants.
- \$4 million for local and regional grants.

#### **ENRTF GRANTS (HF 3377 / SF 3507):**

- \$79.6 million to preserve, develop, and maintain Minnesota's natural resources.
- Full package recommended by LCCMR.
- Includes state park acquisition grant to P&TC.



### KEEP OHVS OUT OF STATE PARKS

We oppose introducing or expanding the use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) in state parks:

- 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.



### SUPPORT COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PROJECTS

We support local volunteers to advocate for projects in their communities. Priority projects in 2024 include:

- Casey Jones State Trail
- Glacial Lakes State Trail
- Heartland State Trail - Itasca Spur
- Shooting Star State Trail
- Willard Munger State Trail

Click on each project to learn more!



### PROMOTE DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION IN THE OUTDOORS

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 efforts to develop new programs that welcome people from different backgrounds and address disparities in access to public lands.

Great River Bluffs State Park • Aaron Kostko / P&TC Photo Contest

