



Friends Group Partners Impact | 2020

Parks & Trails Council partners with friends groups across Minnesota. **Friends groups are volunteer-led, independent organizations** that promote, preserve, and enhance parks and trails in their local communities, and **they have a BIG impact on Minnesota's special places.**



53 Friend Group Partners

Parks & Trails Council worked with **53** friends groups across Minnesota in 2020.



758 Volunteers

Friend Group Partners engaged **758** volunteers during 2020.



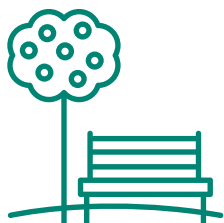
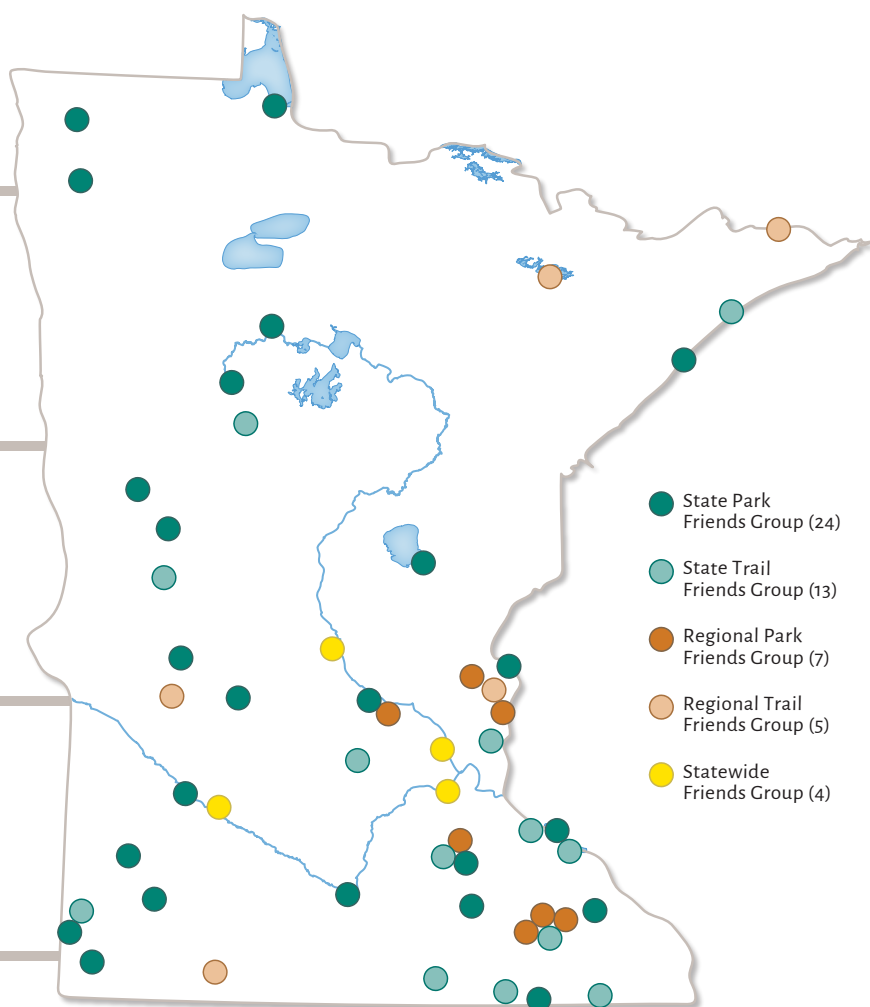
2,764 Members

Friend Group Partners had the support of **2,764** members in 2020.



28,545 Facebook Followers

Friend Group Partners were "followed" by **28,545** people on Facebook in 2020.



\$157,000

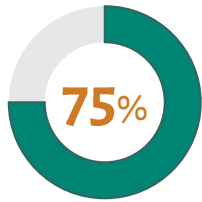
Friends Group Partners contributed over **\$157,000 in direct support** to parks and trails initiatives in 2020.



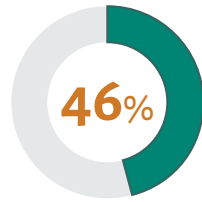
11,700hrs

Friends Group Partners donated over **11,700 volunteer hours** to their parks and trails in 2020.

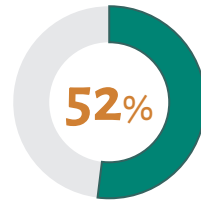
What Friends Group Partners did in 2020



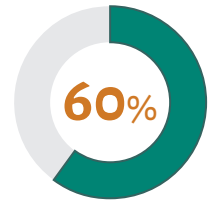
Organized or supported **public events**



Supported **youth engagement** efforts



Engaged in **natural resource** projects



Published **mail or email newsletters**



Frontenac State Park Association supported a winter candlelight event, where 400 visitors came to enjoy the snow-covered trails by candlelight. The Association helped with planning and promotion, provided funding for expenses, and recruited volunteers to help the day of the event.



Gitchi-Gami Trail Association organized a science field trip for a class of 5th grade students. They biked over 20 miles on the state trail and stopped along the way at Split Rock Lighthouse State Park. During the day they engaged in trail safety activities and natural history and science lessons.



Friends of Chester Woods was active in many natural resource projects, including buckthorn removal, seed collection from native prairie plants, and bluebird box monitoring. Their volunteers even made friends with (and kept an eye on) some goats, who aided in invasive species eradication.



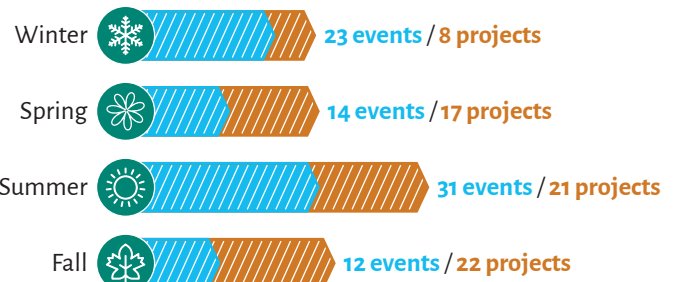
Glendalough Park Partners issued their 100th newsletter issue in 2020. In this special edition, they shared their first-ever newsletter and highlighted their accomplishments of the past 25 years. They expanded the mailing list to spread the word and inspire more people to support the park.



Friends Group Partners organized or supported **65 public events** in 2020, drawing **3,970 attendees**



Friends Group Partners organized or supported **50 stewardship projects** in 2020.



* Some events/projects take place over multiple seasons