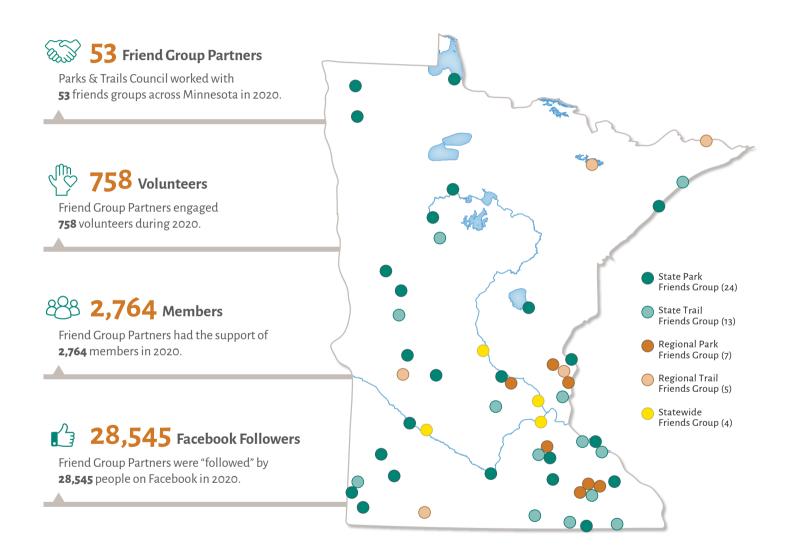
**People Saving Special Places** 

## Parks & Trails council of MINNESOTA

### 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.** 





\$157,000 Friends Group Partners contributed over \$157,000 in direct support to parks

and trails initiatives in 2020.



# **11,700**hrs

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

#### www.parksandtrails.org

### What Friends Group Partners did in 2020



Organized or supported **public events** 



Supported **youth** engagement efforts



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Engaged in **natural** resource projects



or email newsletters Tracks & Trails



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

#### For more information:

Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota 275 East 4th Street #250 St. Paul, MN 55101 www.parksandtrails.org | 651-726-2457 Methodology: Data from a survey of Friends Group Partners conducted in January 2021. Of the 53 partner organizations contacted, 35 completed the survey for a response rate of 66%. Where possible, information for non respondents was collected through organizational knowledge and Facebook profiles. Results are limited to the responding organizations and thus underrepresent the full impact of Friends Group Partners. Published April 2021. Credits: Icon artwork is from the Noun Project: "Partner" by Tomas Knopp; "Donate" by basith ibrahim; "group" by mikicon; "thumb up" by Adrien Coquet; "park bench" by Made by Made; "Time" by rivercon; "event" by Sewon Park; "Plant" by Max Hancock; "lcicle", "Summer' and "Autumn" by Made; "Flower" by Oksana Latysheva