



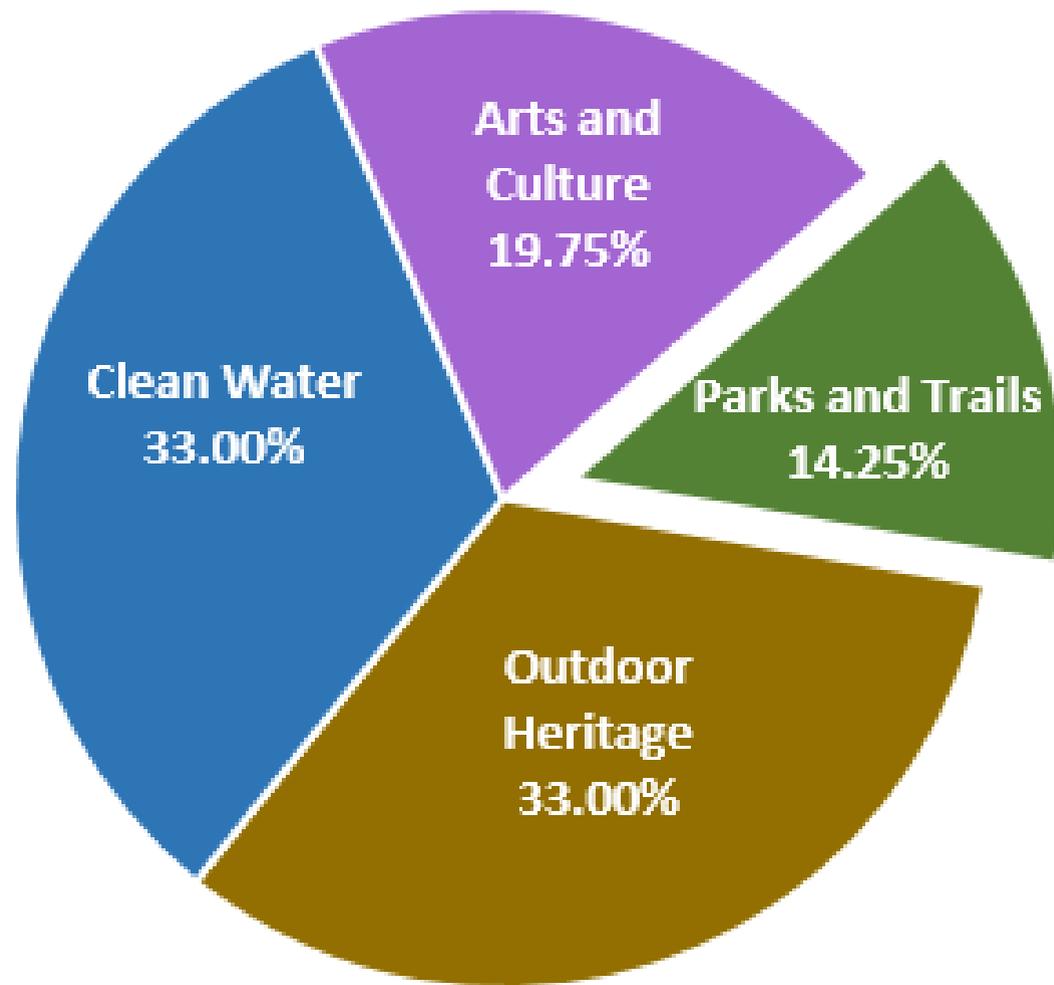
Outdoors for Everyone

Minnesota Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Update



Emmett Mullin, March 2, 2026, Community Development Committee

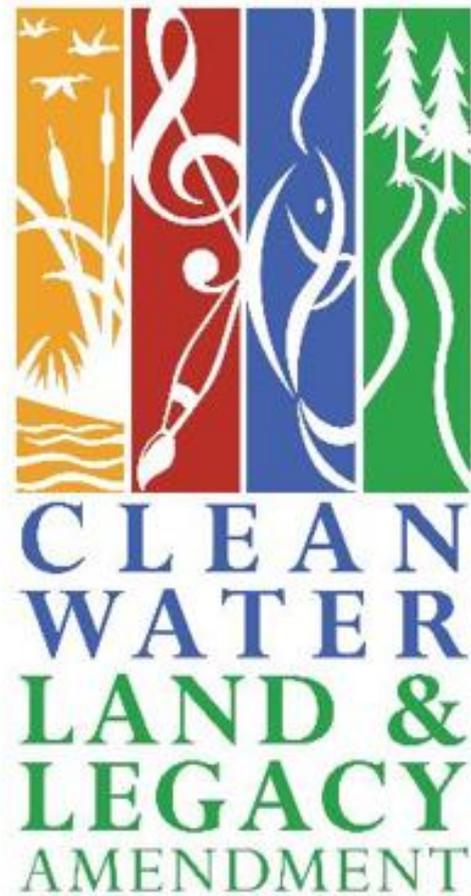
Parks and Trails Legacy Fund: One of Four Legacy Funds



Minnesota voters passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution in 2008. The Legacy Amendment is funded from a three-eighths of one percent increase to the state sales tax with revenue dedicated to:

1. protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams, groundwater from degradation, and to protect drinking water sources (33.0%);
2. restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forest and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife (33.0%);
3. support arts, arts education and arts access, and to preserve Minnesota's history and cultural heritage (19.75%);
4. **support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance (14.25%).**

Parks and Trails Legacy Partnership



**Greater Minnesota Regional Parks
and Trails Commission**

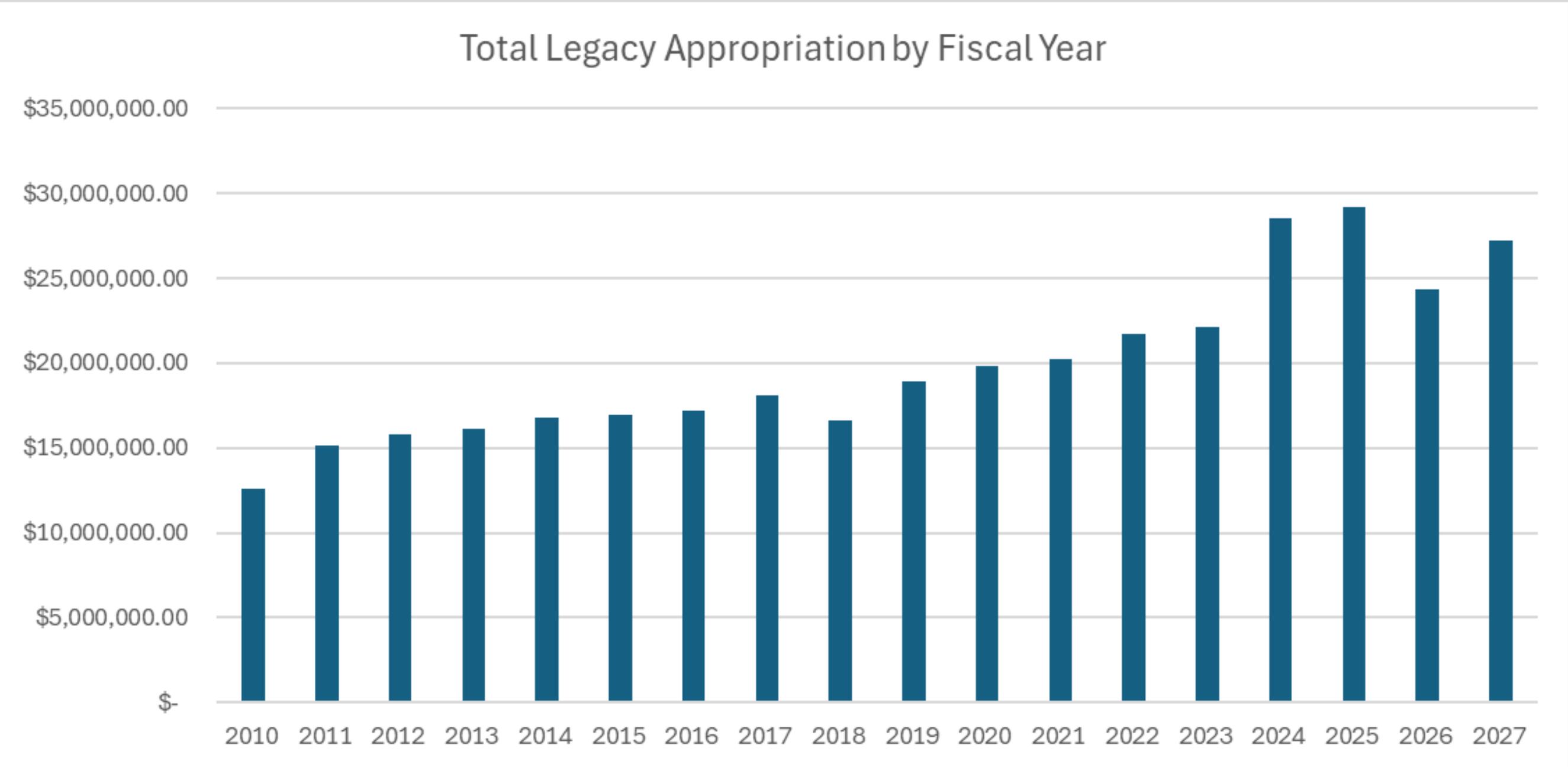


**Metropolitan Council
Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trails**



**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Parks and Trails Division**

Legacy Investments in the Metro Region

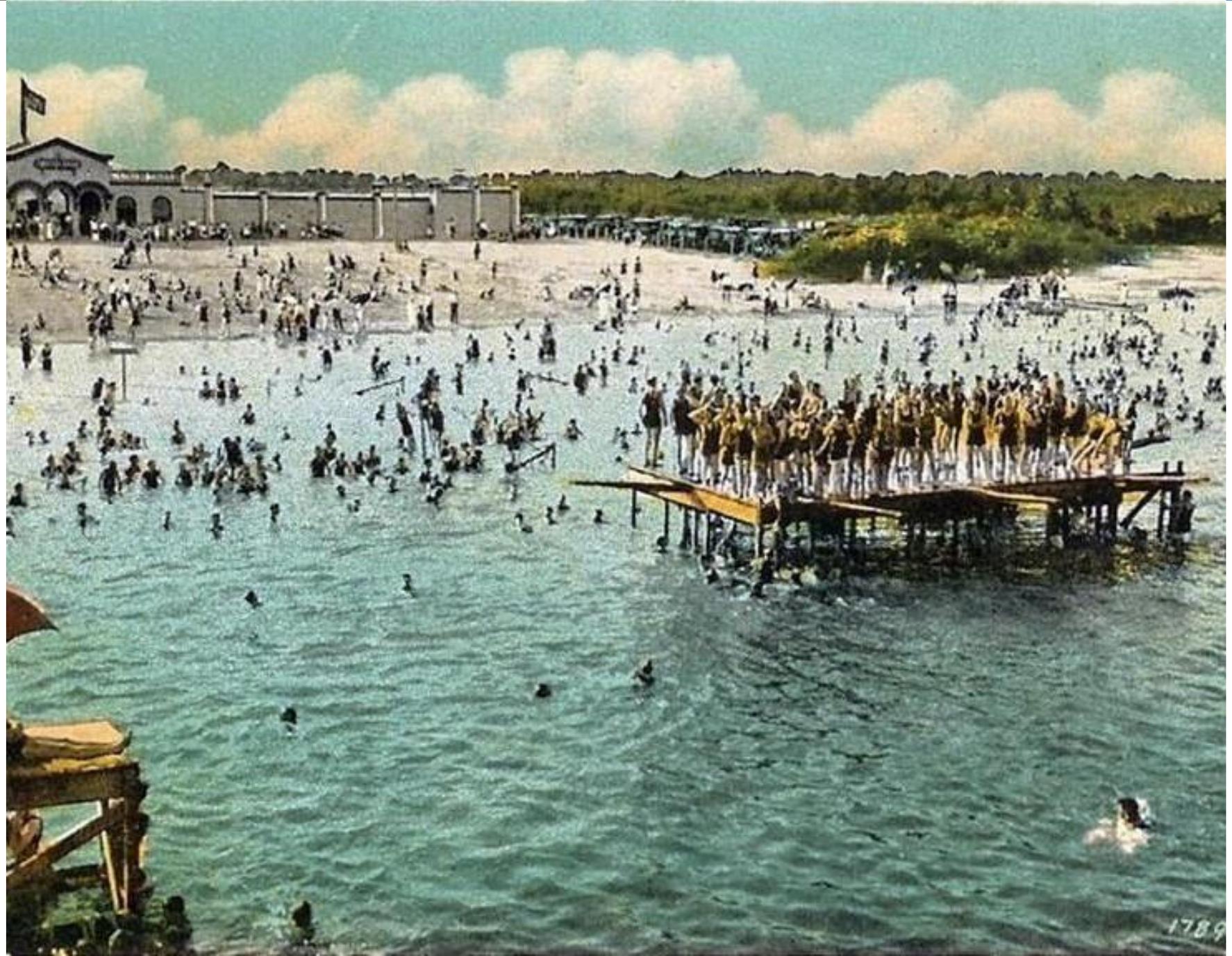


Historic and Growing Regional System Requires Regular Investment

Total Legacy funds awarded in the Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trails System for the first 18 years is **\$357,426,000**

Lake Nokomis swim platform in the early 1900s.

Part of the Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park.



Parks and Trails Legacy Plan: 25-year Long Range Plan for Minnesota

Legacy Vision

In 2035, our world-class parks and trails connect everyone to the outdoors...

PARKS AND TRAILS LEGACY PLAN

Parks and Trails of State and Regional Significance

A 25-year long-range plan for Minnesota



February 14, 2011

Four “Pillars” or Strategic Directions



Connect People and the Outdoors



Acquire Land, Create Opportunities



Take Care of What We Have



Coordinate Among Partners

Parks and Trails Legacy Fund

Making a **BIG** Difference in our Region and Across Minnesota



OUTDOORS FOR EVERYONE

MINNESOTA PARKS AND TRAILS LEGACY FUND UPDATE—2025



Parks and Trails Legacy Impact

Battle Creek Regional Park

- The Winter Recreation Area at Battle Creek Regional Park in **Ramsey County** attracts skiers from all over the metro and beyond with its extensive cross-country ski trails.
- Legacy Funds contributed **\$1.6M** to bring reliable snow-making to the East Metro.



Parks and Trails Legacy Impact

Mississippi Gateway Regional Park

- **Three Rivers Park District** transformed Mississippi Gateway Regional Park into a premier destination that welcomes visitors to the Mississippi riverfront.
- This collaborative project invested **\$11.5M** in Legacy funds to create a new Welcome Center, a Tree Top Trail, a fully accessible visitor experience and lots more.



Parks and Trails Legacy Impact

Lake Waconia Regional Park

- Thanks to almost **\$700K** in Legacy funds, **Carver County** was able to transform Lake Waconia Regional Park's waterfront into Paradise Commons, a year-round visitor center with accessible restrooms, concessions, classrooms, a picnic pavilion, and an indoor event space.
- Without Legacy Funds, this project would not have been possible.



Parks and Trails Legacy Impact



Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail

- **Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board** used about **\$1M** in Legacy Funds to repair a critical pedestrian connection over the Minnehaha Creek, by refurbishing an historic bridge that was being undermined by frequent flooding and freeze-thaw cycles.
- Thanks to the Legacy Funds, the Park Board was able to remove the bridge structure in one piece, refurbish it off-site, and then re-install it on new, more robust footings.

Parks and Trails Legacy Impact

Connect People and the Outdoors

- The Parks and Trails Legacy Fund has had a **huge** impact on the expansion of outdoor recreation opportunities in and around the Metro area.
- The regional park implementing partnership is committed to actively connecting people and the regional system.
- Agency outreach staff proactively reach out to their communities to ensure everyone can access and enjoy these spaces.



Parks and Trails Legacy Impact

What does the future hold?

- In **2034**, the Legacy Amendment will sunset unless reauthorized.
- Will our Legacy work create something big and enduring?
- Will Minnesotans look back across the 25-year plan implementation and say, the Parks and Trails Legacy Amendment accomplished what we hoped for?





Thank you

Emmett Mullin

Manager, Regional Parks and Trails

