

Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee

Mission, Vision, Guiding Principles, Goals and Tasks Final Draft 10.10.2012 Revised 10.8.13

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Legacy Advisory Committee is to promote and coordinate the implementation of the 25-year *Parks and Trails Legacy Plan*, which was presented to the Minnesota Legislature in February 2011. The plan will guide the use of Legacy funding, specifically the Parks and Trails Fund, which receives 14.25 percent of the sales tax revenue resulting from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.

2. Core Elements

2.1. Mission

To champion the 25-year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan by providing recommendations to enhance promotion, coordination, and accountability throughout implementation of the plan.

2.2. Vision (*Legacy Plan, page 5*):

- 2.2.1. Connect People and the Outdoors
- 2.2.2. Acquire Land, Create Opportunities
- 2.2.3. Take Care of What We Have
- 2.2.4. ***Coordinate Among Partners***

2.3. Goal (*Legacy Plan, page 28*):

Enhanced coordination of Minnesota's seamless network of state and regional parks and trails through a statewide advisory body

- 2.3.1. **Advise convening sponsor commissioners, the Legislature and the public**

3. Guiding Principles (*Legacy Plan, page 4*) and the Advisory Committee

- 3.1. **Stewardship.** Build responsibility for Minnesota's natural resources with a particular emphasis on engaging the next generation of Minnesotans.
- 3.2. **Focus on Children and Families.** Recognize that children are the pathway to increasing participation and environmental stewardship and the caring adults in their lives are vital to sustaining their connection to the environment.

- 3.3. **Inclusiveness.** Support opportunities that welcome all of Minnesota’s diverse population.
- 3.4. **Accessibility.** Support opportunities for people of all abilities. Remove constraints between people and the outdoors and enable active lifestyles.
- 3.5. **Orientation to the Future.** Be strategic, and research- and data-driven, and have a sense of priority.
- 3.6. **Connectedness.** Build an interconnected system with parks, trails, lakes, rivers and natural areas that are accessible to all Minnesotans.
- 3.7. **Significance and Endurance.** Create opportunities, perhaps intangible, that do not exist today. Build on the current successful network of parks and trails.
- 3.8. **Supplement, Don’t Replace.** Enhance current parks and trails revenue streams; don’t replace them.
- 3.9. **Partnerships.** Optimize use of Legacy funds by encouraging coordinated and collaborative approaches.
- 3.10. **Accountability.** Be transparent and easily understandable to the public.
- 3.11. **Dynamic.** The needs of the state and its population will shift and change over 25 years. This document and work of this body will need to be flexible to meet changing needs while upholding the spirit of the 25-year plan and the public’s intention of the funds.

4. *Guidelines for Investments (Legacy Plan, page 32)*

- 4.1. Legacy funds should be invested to support the four strategic directions of this report: connect people to the outdoors; acquire land, create opportunities; take care of what we have; and coordinate among partners. A viable parks and trails system requires supporting a variety of activities: acquisition, development, redevelopment, restoration, operations and maintenance, as well as programming and marketing. Daily maintenance, such as trash removal and cleaning bathrooms, is not a recommended use of Legacy funds.
- 4.2. Recognize that state and regional parks and trails characteristics and needs vary widely throughout the state and that they will likely change significantly over the coming decades. Outdoor recreation providers should be able to respond in a timely manner as unexpected or one-time opportunities arise. Major demographic, cultural, economic, environmental and social changes are taking place that will influence how, when, where and why people participate in outdoor recreation activities. Flexibility in the use and distribution of Legacy funds will be an important factor in determining how well we are able to adapt to these changes.

- 4.3. Don't establish a permanent distribution formula for parks and trails Legacy funds; recognize that funding levels may fluctuate across parks and trails of state and regional significance as well as across the four strategic directions over time to meet changing and evolving needs.
- 4.4. Take advantage of exceptional, one-time opportunities that may require larger-than-normal fund allocations in a timely manner.
- 4.5. Create an opportunity fund for acquisition projects that require immediate action.
- 4.6. Distribute Legacy funds in a manner that will be viewed by the citizens of Minnesota as reasonable. Geography, population and funding sources should be taken into consideration.
- 4.7. Ensure that Legacy funding supplements existing sources of funding to accelerate support for Minnesota's parks and trails of state and regional significance. This fund must not replace other sources.
- 4.8. Establish minimum funding levels for parks and trails of state and regional significance (a funding floor) to ensure that all park and trail systems receive at least a minimum allocation on a regular basis. This allows for flexibility in funding across state and regional parks and trails over time. Do not lock funding allocations into a set formula.
- 4.9. Over time, achieve at least a reasonable degree of equity of funding among parks and trails of state and regional significance. This does not suggest equal funding amounts for each system.
- 4.10. Provide regional park and trail providers in Greater Minnesota with grant opportunities to assist their efforts to connect people with the outdoors through marketing and programming.
- 4.11. Build strong relationships among the providers of parks and trails of regional significance. Encourage development and support of complementary facilities and discourage duplicative ones.
- 4.12. Ensure reasonable access for Minnesotans of all abilities. Help users make informed choices to meet their interests and needs.
- 4.13. Recognize differences and play to the strengths of each outdoor recreation provider. The needs, priorities, resources and existing infrastructure vary greatly across state and regional parks and trails. These differences will evolve and change over time. The investment guidance should recognize and embrace these differences and avoid a one-size-fits-all approach.

- 4.14. Be strategic in complementing other funding sources. Legacy funds should attract and leverage other sources of funding, allowing for an increase in the extent and quality of the existing state and regional systems.
- 4.15. Use Legacy funds to leverage other funding sources so as to maximize the benefits of the Parks and Trails Fund investment.
- 4.16. Coordinate the timing and amount of investments from all funding sources for state and regional parks and trails in ways that maximize the strengths and benefits that each source can provide.
- 4.17. Optimize all available sources of parks and trails funding. Don't rely on Legacy funds to carry the parks and trails load.
- 4.18. Legacy fund investments must be strategic and provide high-quality recreational opportunities that benefit a wide variety of people, therefore Legacy funds must supplement existing sources of funding so as to increase the overall effort for making Minnesota's state and regional parks and trails better.
- 4.19. Evaluate parks and trails Legacy investments, ensuring that they are cost-effective and meet visitor needs.
- 4.20. Encourage local contribution. Local contribution is a concrete expression of commitment to a proposed project. It also can increase local ownership of the park or trail project. Local contribution extends parks and trails funding, including Legacy funding, to have a greater total impact. Local contribution is challenging for some communities; innovative approaches to raising local contributions will help these communities reach their parks and trails goals.
- 4.21. Work to standardize matching requirements for related state funding sources to a 25 percent local match.
- 4.22. Encourage leveraging funding from multiple sources, including other local sources, state, federal, private and foundations.
- 4.23. Recognize in-kind matching contributions. These contributions add real value other than cash and include materials, equipment services, staff time or other professional services. They allow local communities to demonstrate their commitment to a project in a meaningful and affordable way.

5. Target Markets (*Legacy Plan, page 7*)

- 5.1. Youth
- 5.2. Young adults
- 5.3. Families with children

- 5.4. Traditionally under-represented racial and ethnic groups
- 5.5. New immigrants
- 5.6. Older adults

Appendix A: Goals and Tasks

<i>Goals and Tasks</i>	<i>Indicator(s)</i>	<i>Status (e.g. completed or in progress)</i>
1. A statewide advisory body will promote and coordinate the implementation of the 25-year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan.	e.g. Regular meetings, reviewing plans and coordinating with funding committee	In progress
1.1. The Parks and Trails Legacy Plan Steering Committee will advise the DNR Commissioner on the establishment of the advisory body.	The Legacy Parks and Trails Committee was established in January 2012	Completed
1.2. Advise convening sponsor commissioners, the Legislature and the public.		
2. Promote and coordinate the implementation of the 25-year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan.		
2.1.1. Encourage the coordinated development of a network of parks and trails.		
2.1.2. Work together on issues of common interest, such as: efforts to increase participation; make strategic connections, additions and expansions; and develop a way to share best practices.		
2.1.3. Involve youth in the advisory committee planning efforts in order to build ownership in Minnesota’s parks and trails.		
2.1.4. Identify benchmarks, design methods and collection systems and report on progress.		
3. Define the Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails Regional Network.		
3.1.1. Help guide and support its development, creating agreement on how it best relates to the state parks and trails system as well as the metro-regional parks and trails system.		
3.1.2. Build on the recommendations and criteria laid out in this plan.		
4. Encourage state and regional park and trail providers to connect regularly with their local and federal counterparts, ensuring that all systems work as a coordinated whole.		
4.1.1. Foster the continuation of the work among park and trail providers that began during the Legacy-planning process to create a seamless network of parks and trails.		
4.1.2. Use the Minnesota Recreation and Park Association network, as well as other established networks, to help facilitate these		

conversations.		
4.1.3. Support statewide discussions to identify the barriers to creating a seamless system and work to overcome them.		