



Gooseberry Falls State Park • Jim Schuder / 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 2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:



STRONG BUDGET FOR PARKS AND TRAILS

- General Fund
- Affordable State Park Fees
- State Park Land Replacement
- State Trail Rehabilitation
- Community-Driven Park and Trail Projects
- Legacy & ENRTF



KEEPING STATE PARKS QUIET AND NATURAL



INCREASING ACCESS TO PARKS AND TRAILS



Big Bog State Recreation Area • Joyce Palm / P&TC Photo Contest



STRONG BUDGET FOR PARKS AND TRAILS

GENERAL FUND

- The general fund is the single most important funding source for state parks and trails and should be increased to keep pace with inflationary costs and system needs.
- We support general fund appropriations for Metro Regional Parks and Trails and the Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails Commission.

AFFORDABLE STATE PARK FEES

- Cost shouldn't be a barrier to visit parks. Yet 28% of Minnesotans say they can't afford park permits, and the number is even higher for non-white and low-income Minnesotans.
- There's a better alternative to unsustainable price hikes: multiple states offer lower-priced park permits during the vehicle registration process. Such programs can increase park access while also generating increased revenues.

STATE PARK LAND REPLACEMENT

- The state park system lost 1,900 acres last year when two state parks were decommissioned. We're advocating for \$10 million to replace that land and expand the state park system, consistent with the Parks and Trails Legacy Plan.

STATE TRAIL REHABILITATION

- Our State of the Trails project highlights the need to continually invest in state trail rehabilitation. We're advocating for \$9.6 million to fix paved state trails that are in poor condition.

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PARK AND TRAIL PROJECTS

- We support local communities and volunteers advocating for park and trail initiatives.

LEGACY & ENRTF

- We support LCCMR's recommendations for funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) and the current consensus 40-40-20 split of the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund.



KEEPING STATE PARKS QUIET AND NATURAL

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 state parks.
- OHVs would introduce visitor safety and environmental hazards.
- OHVs already have disproportionate access to public lands.



INCREASING ACCESS TO PARKS AND TRAILS

We want parks and trails to be welcoming places for everyone, yet studies consistently show some Minnesotans are underrepresented among park and trail visitors. We encourage and support legislative efforts to develop programs and partnerships aiming to welcome more Black people, Indigenous people, people of color, and people with disabilities into Minnesota's parks and trails.

Whitewater State Park • Larry G. Paulson / P&TC Photo Contest