



SPLIT ROCK LIGHTHOUSE STATE PARK
Steve Simmer / P&TC photo contest



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

DEAR MEMBERS & SUPPORTERS

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND PRESIDENT

CASCADE RIVER STATE PARK
Jim Rook / P&TC photo contest

JULY 2025

Welcome to our annual review of the past year's accomplishments. The highlights from 2024 encompass all facets of our work: land acquisition, research and policy, and community engagement.

In 2024, our land acquisition efforts added land that completes a vital section of the Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail. We also transferred ownership of a parcel to become part of Tettegouche State Park, marking the final step in the often-lengthy process of land conservation for parks and trails. We held this parcel in trust for five years before successfully transferring it to the MNDNR in June 2024. Our capacity for long-term project work distinguishes P&TC and is essential for conserving land for Minnesota's parks and trails.

The 2024 Minnesota legislative session was marked by chaos and contention. The primary focus was on passing a bonding bill, which ultimately failed. Fortunately, thanks to the historic investment levels from the 2023 session, this outcome was less painful. Besides the bonding bill, P&TC supported other key funding

initiatives that succeeded, including a major grant from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to bolster our land acquisition efforts. Our research team was instrumental in advancing our policy goals.

Our collaborations with Friends Groups remained strong in 2024, with grants awarded for habitat projects at three parks. We are proud to work with these volunteer-led groups.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the generous support of our members and supporters, who help us fulfill our mission. We are fortunate to have a community of park and trail enthusiasts in Minnesota. Thank you for your support. Together, we are people conserving special places!



Kathy Bonnifield
Board Chair

Brett Feldman
President

LAND ACQUISITION

WE PARTNER WITH PUBLIC AGENCIES TO ASSIST IN ACQUIRING LANDS FOR PARKS AND TRAILS. OUR SAMUEL H. MORGAN LAND FUND IS PAIRED WITH STAFF RESOURCES ENABLING US TO ACT QUICKLY BEFORE AN OPPORTUNITY IS LOST.

TETTEGOUCHE STATE PARK
David Riewe / P&TC photo contest

LAND ACQUIRED



SWEDISH IMMIGRANT REGIONAL TRAIL

See stats at right in Land Held in Trust

This land will fill a critical gap in the Swedish Immigrant Trail. P&TC bought three parcels from separate landowners and is working to convey them to Chisago County, who applied for Legacy Funding for trailbuilding, which may be completed by 2026. In the end, trail users will enjoy an 8.75-mile trail from Interstate State Park to downtown Center City.

Swedish Immigrant Trail near P&TC's recent acquisition.
Photo by Andrew Oftedal / P&TC

LAND CONVEYED



TETTEGOUCHE STATE PARK

ACQUIRED FOR FEE	DEC 2019
CONVEYED TO MNDNR:	JUNE 2024
ACRES	12.5
VALUE CAPITALIZED	\$37,200

This was part of a complex purchase with half the land inside the boundary of Tettegouche and half outside. The land is essentially undeveloped and lies along the scenic Baptism River where it adjoins land P&TC previously saved for this park.

Baptism River in Tettegouche State Park.
Photo by Thomas Cooper / Flickr CC

LAND HELD IN TRUST

ON DEC. 31, 2024

CUYUNA COUNTRY/CUNYUNA LAKES

ACQUIRED	FEB 2022
ACRES	0.74
VALUE AT PURCHASE	\$13,000

FINLAND STATE FOREST

ACQUIRED	SEP 2004
ACRES	3.5
VALUE	UNKNOWN

Remnant holding from Crosby-Manitou land exchange.

LAKE SHETEK STATE PARK

SECURED AT AUCTION	OCT 2020
ACQUIRED	OCT 2022
ACRES	24.5
VALUE AT PURCHASE	\$1.85 MILLION

SWEDISH IMMIGRANT REGIONAL TRAIL

ACQUIRED	DEC 2024
ACRES	21.50
TRAIL MILES EXPECTED BY 2026	2.01
VALUE AT PURCHASE	\$241,716

SUPERIOR HIKING TRAIL

ACQUIRED	JULY 1995
ACRES	40
VALUE AT PURCHASE	\$28,000

Long-term holding protects Devil's Track campsite on SHT.

TETTEGOUCHE STATE PARK

ACQUIRED	DEC 2019
ACRES OUTSIDE PARK BOUNDARY	12.5
VALUE AT PURCHASE	\$40,600

Remnant holding from land conveyed in 2024. See story at left.

RESEARCH & PUBLIC POLICY

WE STRIVE TO BE AN INDEPENDENT, HONEST AND FORTHRIGHT VOICE FOR PARKS AND TRAILS AT THE STATE CAPITOL. OUR INDEPENDENT RESEARCH COMPLEMENTS THE WORK OF OUR PUBLIC PARTNERS.

SIBLEY STATE PARK
Anneliese Tatham / P&TC

POLICY ADVOCATED

WE SUPPORTED THE MNDNR'S CAPITAL INVESTMENT PACKAGE

In 2024, the MNDNR identified \$100 million worth of projects in need of capital investment from the state. We diligently supported funding these projects, which included addressing deferred maintenance for campsites, bathrooms, trails, wastewater systems and more. Ultimately, the 2024 Minnesota Legislature failed to pass a bonding bill for any of the state's capital needs.

WE SUPPORTED THE SUCCESSFUL PASSAGE OF \$80 MILLION ENRTF BILL

The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) Bill passed, leading to critical investment in numerous environmental projects, including a first-ever investment of \$1.9 million into P&TC's very own land acquisition program. Additional projects included development of the new Driftless Area Hiking Trail, land acquisition for Metro Regional Parks, and rehabilitation work for state trails, based on data provided by P&TC's research bike.

WE SUPPORTED FRIENDS GROUP PARTNER TRAIL PROJECTS.

In 2024, we helped six Friends Group Partners advocate for trail projects in their communities. Unfortunately none were funded due to the 2024 Legislature's failure to pass a bonding bill.

WE MAINTAINED VIGILANCE IN KEEPING OHVS FROM STATE PARKS

Our meetings with decision-makers before and throughout the legislative session paid off in 2024. No harmful legislation passed in 2024 that would allow the use of OHVs in state parks.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

STATE PARK LAND ACQUISITION RESEARCH

Explored potential sites for Upper Sioux Agency State Park replacement.

CONTRIBUTING TOWARD A NATIONAL TRAIL MONITORING STANDARD

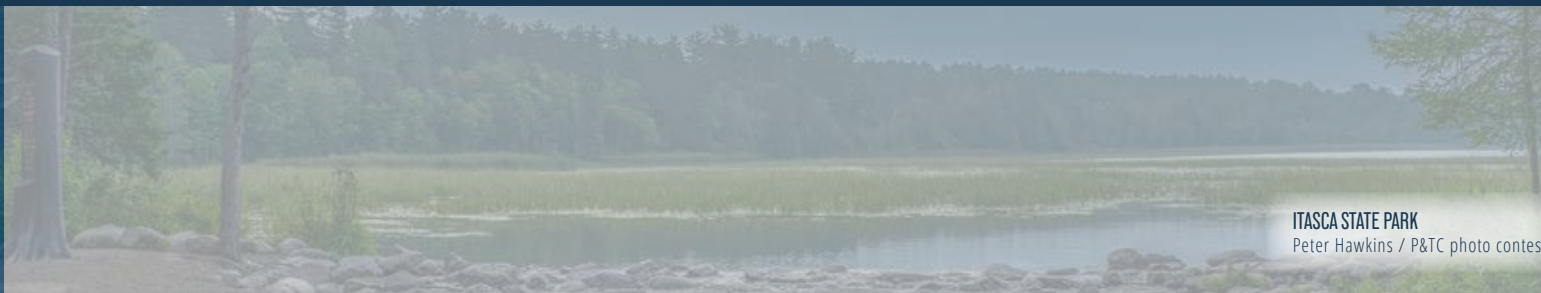
We collaborated with researchers from Iowa State University and the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization to standardize trail condition monitoring. Our role involved collecting and sharing data using our Research Bike. Additionally, we've advised at least nine other organizations across the country in creating their own data bikes.

STATE PARK VEHICLE REGISTRATION PERMIT

Studied different models of offering low-cost state park permits during vehicle registration process as an alternative to increasing cost of existing state park vehicle permits.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

WE VALUE AND ENCOURAGE COLLABORATION AND VOLUNTEERISM. OUR PUBLIC LANDS THRIVE WHEN COMMUNITIES FOSTER RELATIONSHIPS ROOTED IN A LAND ETHIC OF STEWARDSHIP.



ITASCA STATE PARK
Peter Hawkins / P&TC photo contest

ENGAGING SUPPORTERS



CELEBRATED WITH OUR ANNUAL SHINDIG

We hosted an evening for members and supporters to gather, celebrate, and learn. The Reuel Harmon Award was presented to Sen. Fong Hawj and the Friends Group Partner Award went to Frontenac State Park Association.

HOSTED 9TH ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

Continuing a tradition of highlighting the beauty of Minnesota's parks, we hosted our annual photo contest with 230 photographs submitted.



FRIENDS GROUP PARTNERSHIPS

HABITAT GRANTS COMPLETED

Our grant program partnered with volunteers to complete habitat restoration projects in 2024.

FRONTENAC STATE PARK ASSOCIATION

Removed invasives and planted native plants around a wildlife blind in the park.

FRIENDS OF MINNEOPA STATE PARK

Removed invasives and planted native plants around the picnic area in the park.

FRIENDS OF SCANDIA PARKS AND TRAILS

Removed invasives and planted native plants in the newly established Liten Park.

FOUR ONLINE FORUMS HOSTED

We continued to convene friends groups for virtual learning and sharing with webinars. Topics included volunteer appreciation, citizen science, governance, and social media.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

WE VALUE THE SUPPORT OF OUR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS AND UPHOLD OUR DUTY TO FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS. WE UNDERGO AN INDEPENDENT AUDIT ANNUALLY.

JAY COOKE STATE PARK
Levi Janssen / P&TC photo contest

2024 SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET

CASH & SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS	585,864
SAMUEL H. MORGAN LAND ACQUISITION FUND	
<i>A revolving account that covers acquisition costs and is reimbursed when land is transferred to a public agency. Balance includes the value of land P&TC holds in trust (see page 3).</i>	5,280,553
REUEL HARMON ENDOWMENT FUND	
<i>Provides up to 5% of its balance annually for general operations.</i>	3,361,767
OTHER ASSETS	74,262
TOTAL ASSETS	9,302,446
LESS LIABILITIES	260,148
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 9,042,298

2024 FINANCIAL ADJUSTMENT

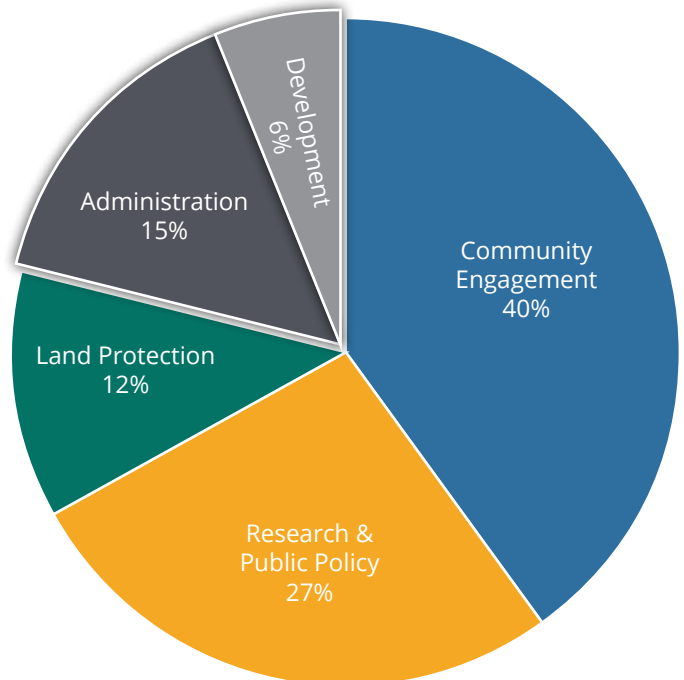
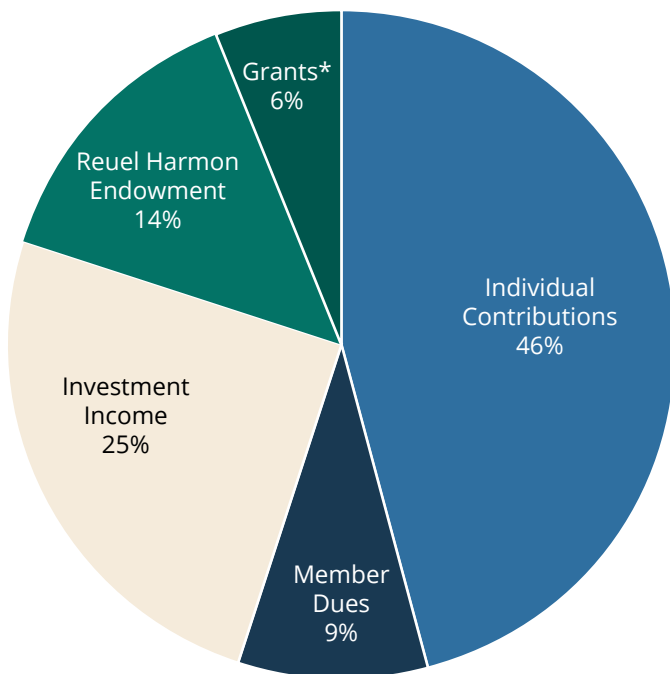
CHANGE IN VALUE OF REUEL HARMON ENDOWMENT FUND BEFORE OPERATIONS	147,570
LESS REUEL HARMON ENDOWMENT FUND DRAW FOR OPERATIONS	(147,570)
CHANGE IN REUEL HARMON ENDOWMENT FUND	305,562
CHANGE IN SAMUEL H. MORGAN LAND ACQUISITION FUND	0
CHANGE IN OTHER ASSETS	0
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	305,562
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	8,609,430
NET ASSETS - END OF THE YEAR	\$ 9,042,298

2024 SUPPORT & OPERATING REVENUE

MEMBER DUES <small>First \$35 of support per membership</small>	90,160
INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	476,241
FOUNDATION GRANTS <small>*does not include the \$1.886 million Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund grant, which was not used in 2024.</small>	61,000
NET SPECIAL EVENTS	(948)
PROGRAM INCOME	2,858
INVESTMENT INCOME	255,691
ENDOWMENT FUND OPERATING SUPPORT	147,570
	\$ 1,032,572

2024 OPERATING EXPENSES

LAND PROTECTION	98,662
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	334,415
RESEARCH & PUBLIC POLICY	225,838
ADMINISTRATION	123,655
DEVELOPMENT	50,945
	\$ 833,515



Parks & Trails Council of MN spends 79% of expenses on programs, which aligns with the Charities Review Council recommendation that 65% or more of a nonprofit's 3-year average annual expenses will be used to directly support programming.

2024 GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

John Beane
Judy Crotteau
Paul Englund
Harvey Feldman
Dorothy and Bill Gilbert
Lee Heaton
Roger Heimgartner
Eugene Holden
Craig Homstad
Mike Kriel
Gerald Meier
Douglas Pierce Morgan
Mike and Carol Nelson
Joan Palmer
Doug Rand
Tim Richardt
Dean Smith
Dawn Solnitzky
Judy Stone
Barb Wahman
Sharon and Kenneth Wyberg

2024 GIFTS IN HONOR OF

Winter Aline Erikson
Julie Gugin
Alex Leslie
Travis and Roxanne Thiel

2024 SPONSORS & MAJOR ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORTERS

3M Gives
Ameriprise Financial
Glendalough Park Partners
Microsoft
Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota Fund
Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation
Pohlad Family Foundation
Shetek Lutheran Ministries
The KMS Charitable Fund
Tito's Handmade Vodka
UnitedHealth Group



2024 IN-KIND DONORS

Alan and Bev Gustafson
Big River Pizza
Brett Feldman and Elizabeth Haugen
Cannon Valley Trail
Castle Danger Brewing Co
Central Avenue Liquors
ClockTower Liquor
Cove Point Lodge
Lowertown Liquors
Manisha Nordine
Minnesota Zoo Foundation
Patagonia
Peace Coffee
Rustic Roots Winery
Saint Paul Saints
Science Museum of Minnesota
Stinson Wine & Spirits
Target - Edina
Taylors Falls Scenic Boat Tours
Three Rivers Park District
Wheel Fun Rentals
Wild Mountain

2024 FRIENDS GROUP PARTNERS

Friends of Anderson Park
Back Country Horsemen of Minnesota
Friends of Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park
Friends of Blue Mounds State Park
Border Route Trail Association Inc.
Friends of Camden State Park
Friends of the Cannon Valley Trail
Friends of the Casey Jones State Trail Association
Central Lakes Trail Association
Friends of Chester Woods
Chester Woods Trail Group
Chisago County Parks and Trails Foundation
Friends of Eden Prairie Parks
Frontenac State Park Association
Gateway Brown's Creek Trail Association
Gitchi-Gami Trail Association
Friends of Glacial Lakes State Park
Glacial Ridge Byway Association
Glendalough Park Partners
Goodhue Pioneer Trail Association
Itasca-Heartland Connection Trail Steering Citizen
Committee
Friends of Itasca State Park
Friends of Jackson County Trails Inc.
Friends of Lake Bemidji State Park
Friends of Lake Louise State Park
Friends of Lake Maria State Park
Friends of Lake Shetek State Park
Friends of the Lake Vermilion Trail
Friends of Lashbrook Park
Friends of Maplewood State Park
Friends of the Mill Towns State Trail
Friends of Minnehaha Park
Friends of Minneopa State Park
Minnesota Trail Riders Association (MTRA)
Friends of Nerstrand Big Woods State Park
North Star Ski Touring Club
NorthStar Trail Travelers
Friends of Oxbow
Friends of Rice Lake State Park
Friends of Savanna Portage State Park
Friends of Scandia Parks and Trails
Friends of the Shooting Star Trail
Sibley State Park Improvement Association
Friends of Tettegouche State Park
Friends of Whitewater State Park
Friends of Wild River State Park
Friends of Munger South
Friends of Zippel Bay State Park

2024 STAFF

Brett Feldman _____ President
Lisa Filter _____ External Relations Director
Lauren Mitchell _____ Database Coordinator
Andrew Oftedal _____ Research & Policy Manager
Anneliese Tatham _____ Administrative Assistant
Phoebe Ward _____ Friends Group Program Manager

2024 CONSULTANTS

Ann Lenczewski _____ Government Relations Consultant
of Lockridge Grindal Nauen, PLLP
Alex Hassel _____ Government Relations Consultant
of Lockridge Grindal Nauen, PLLP
Jasmine Epps-Flowers _____ Government Relations Consultant
of Lockridge Grindal Nauen, PLLP
Barb Simonson _____ Accountant Consultant
Steve Young _____ Land Acquisition Consultant

2024 PRO-BONO LAW FIRMS & ATTORNEYS

Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.

Sarah B. Bennett
Jeff Benson
Lisa Lindenfelser, Senior Paralegal

Larkin Hoffman Attorneys

Patrick Plunkett

Barna, Guzy & Steffen Attorneys at Law

Chuck Seykora

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JANUARY-AUGUST

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Kathy Bonnifield _____ Board Chair
Dick Brainerd _____ Human Resource Committee Chair
Tharangi Cumararatunge _____ Director At-Large
Rick Nelson _____ Board Treasurer
Wayne Sames _____ Board Secretary
Tom Stoa _____ Land Committee Chair
Colleen Tollefson _____ Board Vice Chair &
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Kirk Rodysill
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Marv Trandem
Cyri Van Hecke
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Tharangi Cumararatunge
Chia Lee Xiong
Kirk Rodysill
Pete Royer
Wayne Sames
Tom Stoa
Colleen Tollefson (Chair)
Marv Trandem
Kimberley Washington

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Tim Farrell*
Jane Harper
John Provo
Wayne Sames
Chuck Seykora*
Tom Stoa (Chair)
Cyri Van Hecke

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Kathy Bonnifield
Bob Erickson
Bruce Johnson
Rick Nelson (Chair)
Tom Pavey
Maureen Reed
Pete Royer

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Dick Brainerd _____ Human Resource Committee Chair
Tharangi Cumararatunge _____ Director At-Large
Verónica Jaralambides _____ Director At-Large
Rick Nelson _____ Board Treasurer
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Tom Stoa _____ Land Committee Chair
Colleen Tollefson _____ Board Vice Chair &
Legislative Committee Chair

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Dave Detert*
Tim Eschweiler
Tim Farrell*
Jane Harper
John Provo
Wayne Sames
Chuck Seykora*
Tom Stoa (Chair)
Cyri Van Hecke

*non-voting member

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Bob Erickson
Bruce Johnson
Rick Nelson (Chair)
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Maureen Reed
Pete Royer

HONORARY DIRECTORS

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WHITEWATER STATE PARK
Erin Swenson / P&TC photo contest



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COUNCIL OF MINNESOTA

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