



PARKS & TRAILS POLICY BRIEF

Willard Munger State Trail • Andrew Oftedal / P&TC

March 2025

MINNESOTA STATE TRAIL REHABILITATION

BY THE NUMBERS

67%

Percentage of paved state trail miles in smooth or very smooth condition.

66

Miles of paved state trails that are in rough or very rough condition and need immediate rehabilitation.

218

Projected miles of paved state trails that will be in rough or very rough condition by 2035, if current trends continue.

KEY POINTS

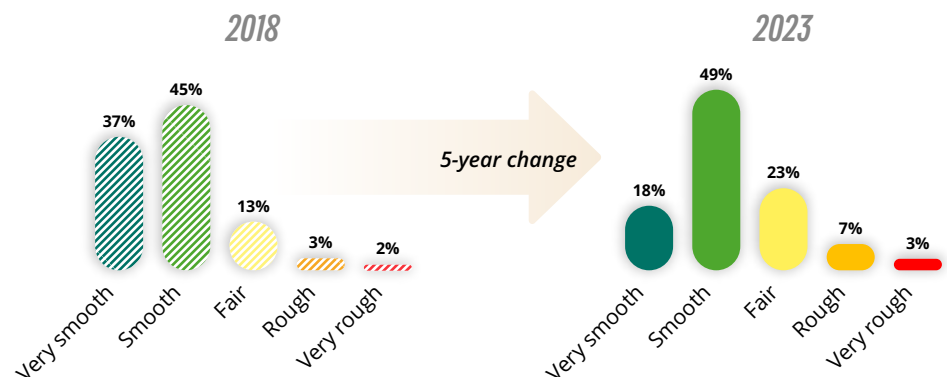
- ✓ Minnesota is **not doing enough to maintain** its paved state trails.
- ✓ Between 2018 and 2023, the number of paved state trail **miles in rough or very rough condition more than doubled**, from 29 miles to 66 miles.
- ✓ If current trends continue, **only 21% of paved state trails will still be in smooth (or better) riding condition by 2035.**
- ✓ **HF 1964/ SF 373** are bipartisan bills that provide **key funding to repair state trails** in poor condition.

BACKGROUND

Minnesota's state trails are community assets that make Minnesota a better place to live, work, and visit. They connect people to the outdoors, improve health, boost local businesses, enhance safety and are fun for people of all ages, means, and abilities. To help understand the trail system's needs, we developed a Research Bike in 2018 to provide trail managers and lawmakers with data on the user experience of Minnesota's paved state trails. Our newest data tells a clear story: our trails are falling into disrepair and are in urgent need of maintenance funding.

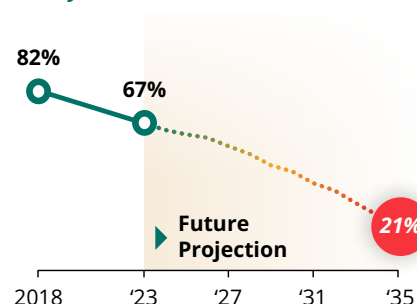
MINNESOTA'S DETERIORATING STATE TRAILS

How smooth are Minnesota's paved state trails to ride?



Projected State Trail Conditions

Percentage of paved state trails in **very smooth** or **smooth** condition



HF 1964 / SF 373

- Provides \$9.6 million from state bonding to renovate paved state trails
- Addresses critical public safety issues, improves recreation opportunities, and promotes tourism
- Bipartisan support



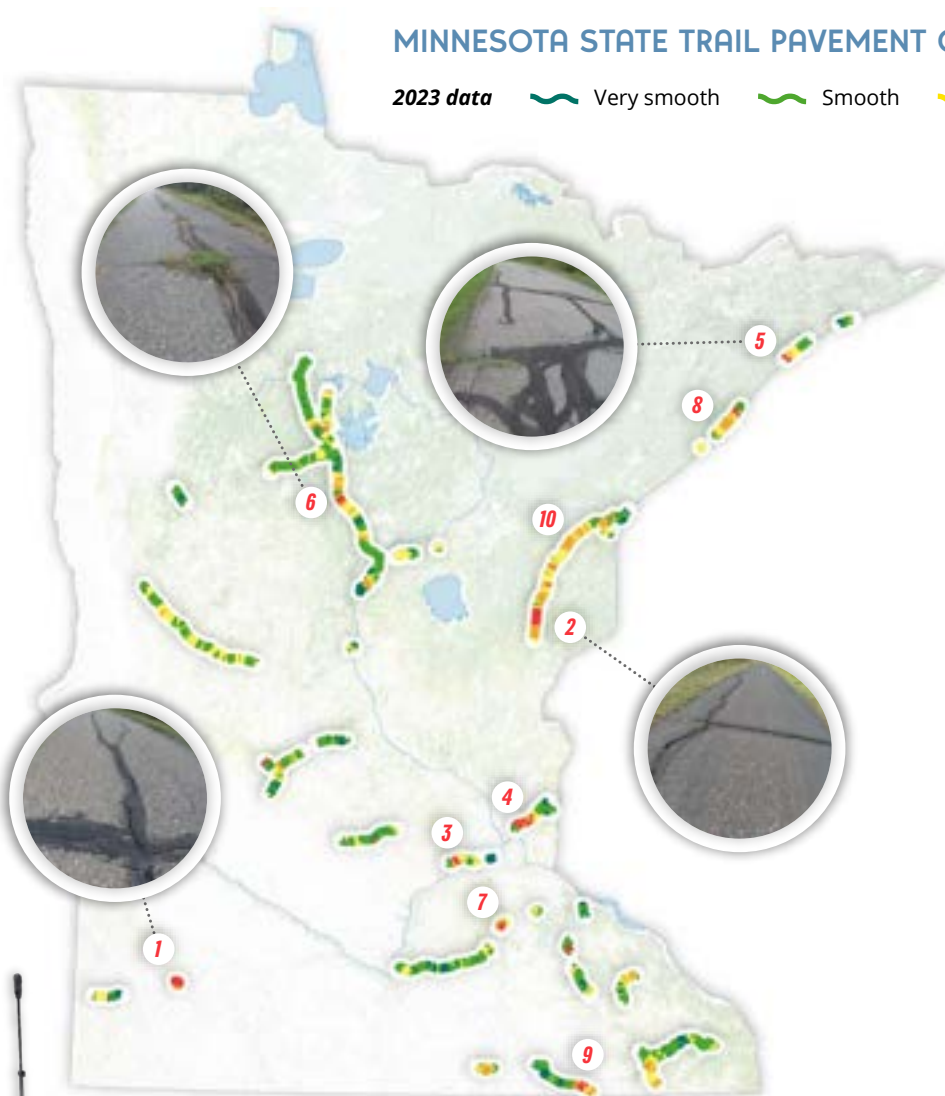
PARKS & TRAILS
COUNCIL OF MINNESOTA

MINNESOTA STATE TRAIL REHABILITATION

Brown's Creek State Trail • Lisa Filter / P&TC

MINNESOTA STATE TRAIL PAVEMENT CONDITIONS

2023 data  Very smooth  Smooth  Fair  Rough  Very rough



TOP 10 ROUGHEST TRAIL SEGMENTS

- 1 CASEY JONES STATE TRAIL**
Currie Loop • 5.6 miles
- 2 WILLARD MUNGER STATE TRAIL**
Hinckley to Finlayson • 12.8 miles
- 3 MINNESOTA VALLEY STATE TRAIL**
Shakopee • 2.5 miles
- 4 GATEWAY STATE TRAIL**
Maplewood to Oakdale • 6.6 miles
- 5 GITCHI GAMI STATE TRAIL**
Schroeder • 2.8 miles
- 6 PAUL BUNYAN STATE TRAIL**
Pine River to Hackensack • 12.8 miles
- 7 MILL TOWNS STATE TRAIL**
Dundas to Northfield • 2.9 miles
- 8 GITCHI GAMI STATE TRAIL**
Split Rock Lighthouse SP • 3.1 miles
- 9 SHOOTING STAR STATE TRAIL**
Taopi to LeRoy • 9.5 miles
- 10 WILLARD MUNGER STATE TRAIL**
Moose Lake to Barnum • 12.3 miles



HOW WE MEASURE TRAIL CONDITIONS

Our trail ratings are based on data collected by our Research Bike, an electric-assist bicycle outfitted with sensors and cameras that document the user experience of paved trails. Since 2018, we've collected over 1.1 million data points used to calculate trail roughness ratings, taken over 145,000 trail photos, and published virtual trail tours on Google Maps that have been viewed 9.7 million times.