# Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails
# Legislative Policies 2027

1. A strong and vibrant regional parks and trails system plays a vital role in the continued health and economic growth of Greater Minnesota. Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails (GMPT) supports a Legacy parks and trails funding formula that allocates at minimum 20% of the total funds to regional parks and trails of Greater Minnesota, reauthorization of the Legacy Amendment, and adding alternative funding streams, when possible, to support this system.

2. Local parks and trails are crucial resources that enhance the vitality of communities throughout the state, but communities often lack the money to invest in the construction and maintenance of these resources. The GMPT supports increasing the funding for these programs, from both state and federal sources, and any other programs that support construction and maintenance of local and regional parks in Minnesota.

3. The Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission has engaged in a rigorous process to designate regional parks and trails and to recommend how the Legacy funds for Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails should be appropriated. The GMPT supports awarding the grants in accordance with these recommendations and. finding a stable funding source for the Commission that does not reduce the Legacy funds available for parks and trails projects.

4. The Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) was created to restore, protect, and enhance natural resources throughout Minnesota. GMPT opposes efforts to exclude Greater Minnesota from accessing the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program and other programs supported by the OHF.

5. Creating or upgrading parks or trails often requires a variety of tools for land and easement acquisition. The GMPT opposes efforts to restrict or remove the tools currently available to local governments for these purposes.

6. Although legal use of e-bikes can make recreation more accessible for Minnesotans, the increase in the unauthorized use of e-bikes on local and regional trails is creating health and safety challenges throughout the state. GMPT supports efforts to promote the safer use of e-bikes, including increased enforcement and strengthening of existing laws.

Adopted by the Greater Minnesota Parks & Trails Membership on October 21, 2026

# Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails
# Legislative Agenda 2027

1. The GMPT supports legislation that allocates 20% of the Parks and Trails fund to the parks and trails of Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission to be allocated in accordance with the Commission's Recommendations and that ties the reimbursement of state grant administration fees to the work actually performed by the state agency providing those services.

2. The GMPT supports legislation that would extend the expiration date of legacy parks and trails grant completion deadlines.

3. The GMPT supports the passage of a Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources bill that includes funding for the Local Trail Connections, Outdoor Recreation, and Natural and Scenic Area grant programs and for selected local and regional park and trail projects.

4. The GMPT supports passage of an Outdoor Heritage Bill that ensures all of Greater Minnesota is eligible for Conservation Partners Legacy grants.

Adopted by the Greater Minnesota Parks & Trails Membership on October 21, 2026