



# Invest in Local Parks & Trails

Greater Minnesota Parks & Trails supports **SF 835/HF 654**, which allocate \$1 million from the general fund to both the **DNR's Outdoor Recreation Program** and **Local Trail Connections Program**, successful statewide grant programs that provide matching funds for local parks and trails projects.

## What are the local parks and trails grant programs?

- **Outdoor Recreation Grant Program** provides funding for acquisition, development and/or redevelopment of local parks and recreation areas.
- **Local Trail Connections Program** provides funding for relatively short trail connections between where people live and desirable locations.

## Why are these grant programs important?

- These grants are vital to helping fund local parks and trails projects **throughout the state**.
- Many projects that do not meet the high bar to qualify for funding under the Legacy Amendment can only look to these programs for state funding.
- Parks, trails and natural areas are a strong tourism draw and a major economic driver for our state.

**\$2,834,173,626**

Total statewide economic impact of local & regional parks and trails in Minnesota

**22,411**

Jobs created by local & regional parks spending in Minnesota

**\$523**

Economic impact of local & regional parks and trails per Minnesota resident

## Past recipients praise the DNR's local parks and trails grant programs:

*"Owatonna does not have a comparable tax base to metro communities, nor do we have park dedication funding. Nor do we have the land or qualifications to acquire regionally significant status for Legacy funds. The DNR grants make recreational opportunities possible. Without this, we would just be maintaining status quo ... THANK YOU for these programs."*

- Mary Jo Knudson, Owatonna Recreation Supervisor

*"We love our trail! This trail has had such a positive impact on our community—it's a great place for recreation, exercise and social interaction. ... We feel the trail emulates what our community is all about—a peaceful time to slow down and connect with people, as well as an active and healthy lifestyle."*

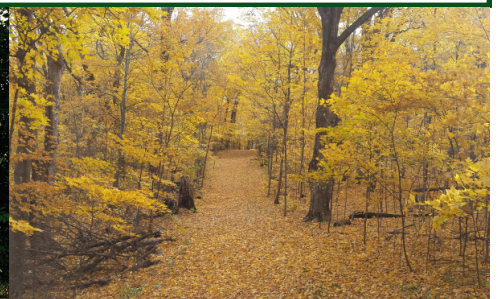
- Holly Sammons, Luverne Economic Development Director

*"Without grant opportunities, this land acquisition [for Eddy Park Reserve] would not be possible. Wright County is committed to preserving open space and providing outdoor recreational opportunities for the public, and funding sources such as the Natural and Scenic Grant Program assists us in achieving that goal for today and into the future."*

- Mark Mattice, Wright County Parks & Recreation Director

*"Isanti County Parks was able to purchase 9.5 acres of property adjacent to Becklin Homestead County Park with a grant from the Outdoor Recreation Program. Without this funding source for local park land acquisition, this property would most certainly not have been acquired as an addition to the park."*

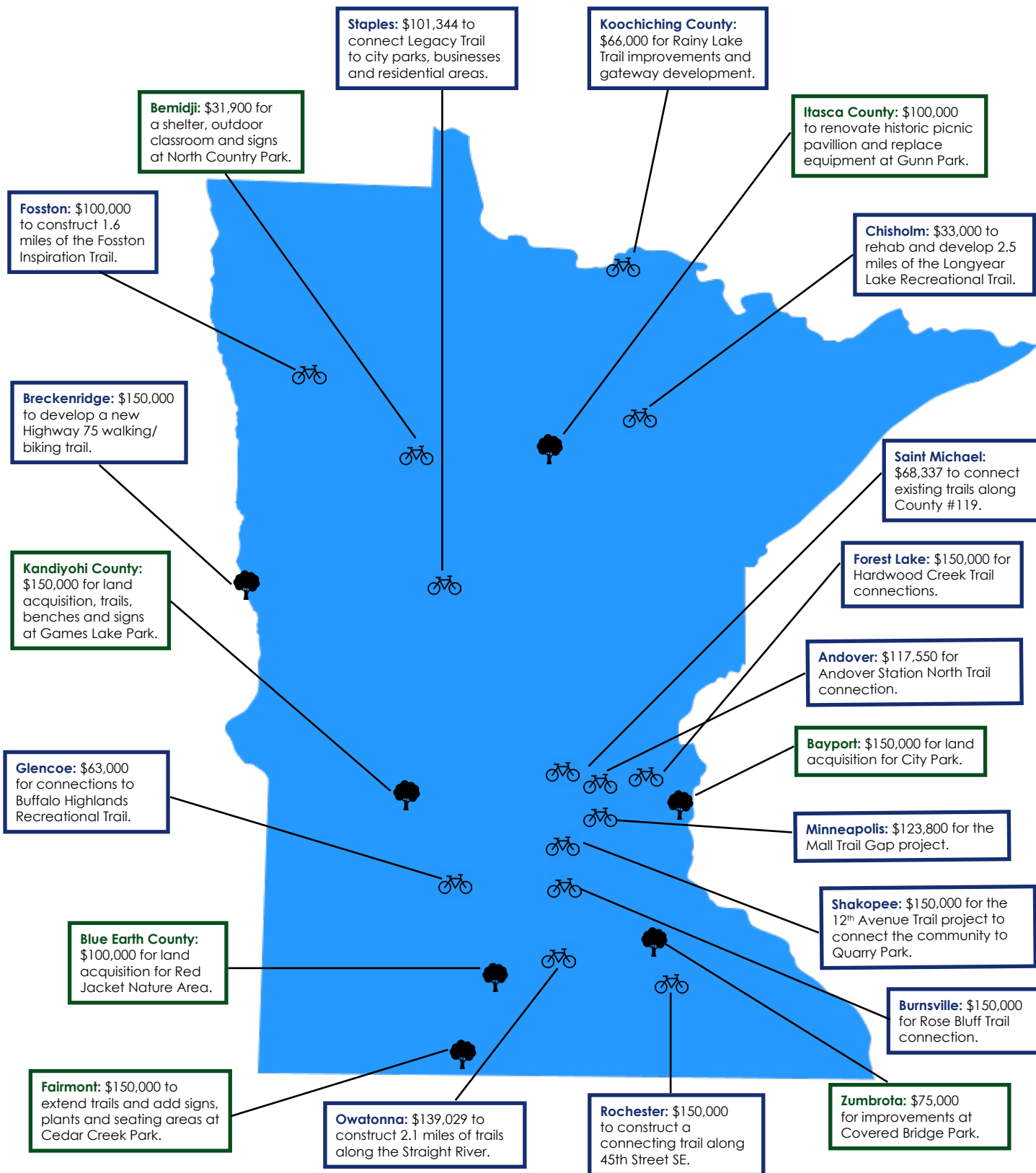
- Barry Wendorf, Isanti County Parks Director



Stats in sidebar are based on 2013 results from "Economic Impact of Local and Regional Park Agencies' Spending" study, conducted for the National Parks and Recreation Association by the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University.

Prepared for Greater MN Parks & Trails by Flaherty & Hood, P.A. 2/7/2019

# How have Minnesota communities benefited from DNR grant programs?



These are just a few of the parks and trails projects that have received grants through the DNR's Outdoor Recreation and Local Trail Connections grant programs in recent years. Dozens of trails across the state and parks in every county have received funding through these important programs.