



Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails is a coalition of counties, cities, organizations, and individuals dedicated to improving Minnesotans' quality of life through recreational areas and opportunities by providing legislative support, promoting funding opportunities, and facilitating networking among parks and trails throughout Greater Minnesota.

Benefits of GMPT membership include:

- Strong advocacy at the State Capitol and with agencies on behalf of Greater Minnesota
- Monthly newsletter that highlights legislative work, funding opportunities, parks and trails
- Legislative Action Day at the Capitol that includes training on how to work with your legislators and outside speakers on topics such as grant funding and regional park designations
- Annual membership meeting with opportunities to share ideas with fellow parks and trails supporters, help set legislative priorities, to learn from experts on relevant topics, and more
- Legislative updates and alerts throughout the legislative session

Greater Minnesota needs a strong voice at the Capitol. Join today and be part of that voice!

2016 membership fees are as follows (please check the appropriate boxes):

- \$50 for jurisdictions with a population base of 1,000 or less
- \$150 for jurisdictions with a population base of 1,001 to 10,000
- \$225 for jurisdictions with a population base of 10,001 to 25,000
- \$300 for jurisdictions with a population base of 25,001 to 50,000
- \$450 for jurisdictions with a population base of 50,001 or more
- \$30 for personal / individual membership
- \$125 for non-profit group membership
- \$350 for corporate membership
- Elective legislative services assessment *
- Total of membership fee plus elective assessment**

* Members can support a strong presence at the Legislature by electing to pay the legislative services assessment. The recommended amount to pay is the same amount as your membership fee or more.

2016 Membership Form

Organization Name _____

Contact Name & Title _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Phone _____ TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$ _____

Please make your check payable to **Greater Minnesota Parks & Trails** and mail it with this form by Jan. 31, 2016 to:

Tom Salkowski, Treasurer
401 First Ave. NW, Buffalo, MN 55313



Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails

2014-2015 Activities and Results

Legislative Activity & Results

- Secured 20% of Parks & Trails Legacy funding for grants to regional parks and trails in Greater Minnesota (\$8.6 million in FY16 and \$9 million in FY17)
- Secured funding for the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks & Trails Commission (\$356,000 in FY16 and \$362,000 in FY17)
- Defeated attempts to place undue restrictions on the use of Legacy Funds
- Began advocating for more money for local trails programs

Communication and Organizational Highlights

- Changed name to reflect support for regional *and* local parks
- Commissioned a new logo
- Improved monthly newsletter with legislative news, member highlights, information on grants and Commission highlights
- Regular legislative updates

Member Engagement

- First-ever Legislative Action Day:
 - Flaherty & Hood led a discussion on how to lobby
 - Discussion with Sen. Ingebrigtsen and Rep. Urdahl about legislative action items
 - Members lobbied legislators from across the state on key issues
 - The DNR provided insight on grant funding and applications
 - Commission Chair Al Leiffort explained the new Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails System Plan
- "Action Alerts" helped keep members engaged with key legislators
- Members provided testimony at legislative hearings
- Member meetings included Commission updates on grant process and designation

Coming Soon!

- Redesigned website
 - Tool for sharing ideas on park funding
 - More advocacy on local parks and trails funding