



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!

2017 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**

New Members:
Pay and join any time after July 1
and receive the remaining months
of membership in 2016 free!

* 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.

2017 Membership Form

Organization Name _____

Contact Name & Title _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Phone _____ TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$ _____

Choose one: _____ Check enclosed **or** _____ Invoice Me

You can mail your check in today payable to **Greater Minnesota Parks & Trails** or email this form to greaterminparkstrails@gmail.com and we will invoice you in early December. Mailed forms should be sent to:

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



Greater Minnesota Parks & Trails

2015-2016 Results and Activities

Legislative Action

- Secured 20% of Parks & Trails Legacy funding for grants to regional parks and trails in Greater Minnesota (\$8.6M in FY16 and \$9M 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
- Introduced and testified on bipartisan legislation seeking money for local trail connections and outdoor recreation grant programs

Communication & Organizational Highlights

- Unveiled new website (greaterminparksandtrails.org)
- Changed name and logo to reflect support for regional *and* local parks
- Improved monthly newsletter with legislative news, member highlights, information on grants and Commission highlights

Member Engagement

- Hosted Legislative Action Day
 - Flaherty & Hood provided lobbying tips
 - Rep. Paul Torkelson, chair of the House Capital Investment Committee, discussed bonding bill
 - Members lobbied legislators from across the state on key issues
 - The DNR provided insight on grant funding and applications
 - Commission Executive Director Renee Mattson explained the designation process and new master plan portal
- "Action Alerts" and regular legislative updates helped keep members engaged with their legislators and other key lawmakers

Connection with Commission

- GMPT works closely with the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks & Trails Commission to address member concerns regarding the designation process and other important issues
- Member meetings included Commission updates on grant process and designation