



# Invest in Local Parks & Trails

Greater Minnesota Parks & Trails supports **HF 1270/SF 689**, which allocates \$2.5 million each (\$5 million total) in bonding to the **DNR's Outdoor Recreation Grant Program** and **Local Trail Connections Program**, two 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.

**\$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 Outdoor Recreation Grant Program & Local Trail Connections Program

*"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

*"With the support of the Outdoor Recreation Grant, the East Grand Forks Swimming Pool will undoubtedly be one that its residents will continue to enjoy for years to come!"*

- Reid Huttunen, East Grand Forks Parks & Recreation Superintendent

*"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

*"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."*

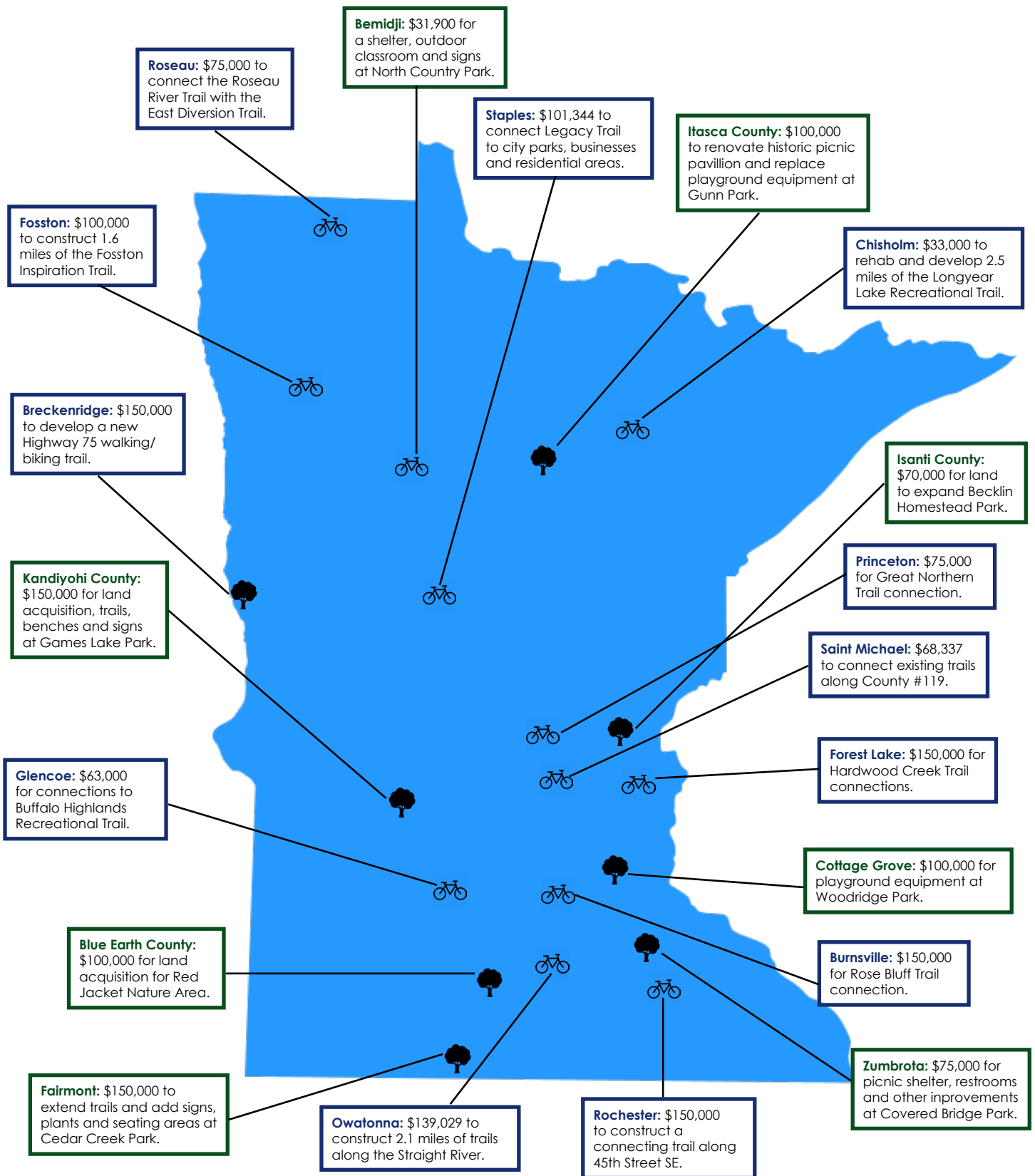
- Barry Wendorf, Isanti County Parks Director



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. 3/20/2018

# How have Minnesota communities benefited from local parks & trails grants?



This is a sampling of some of the parks and trails that have received grants through the Outdoor Recreation Grant Program and the Local Trail Connections program over the past five years. Dozens of trails across the state and parks in every county have received funding through these important programs.