



Greater Minnesota Parks & Trails Legislative Forum - February 2025

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February 14, 2025

Agenda for today

- ▶ Legislative Session - where are we at?
- ▶ GMPT's Legislative Agenda
 - ▶ Reminder
 - ▶ Status of GMPT Legislation
 - ▶ Status of either priorities
- ▶ What else are we watching
- ▶ What's next and how you can help

GMPT's Legislative Advocacy & Your Role

- ▶ At its core, GMPT founded to advocate for the parks and trails of Greater Minnesota
- ▶ Legislative Advocacy (AKA lobbying) is a team sport
 - ▶ Lead at legislature is our lobbyist, Elizabeth Wefel
 - ▶ Board/Executive Team drives the ship with our legislative policies/agenda as the guide stone
 - ▶ Our members play a crucial role as voices to their own legislators and other key legislators

Legislative session begins in earnest

- ▶ After weeks of chaos, proceedings begin in the House.
 - ▶ First day of session, DFL stays home to prevent a quorum
 - ▶ GOP continues forward as if nothing happens
 - ▶ Supreme Court agrees - No Quorum. Standstill
 - ▶ Powersharing agreement reached!
- ▶ Senate started in a tie and shared power for first few weeks.
 - ▶ Election of new senator gives DFL majority
 - ▶ Powersharing arrangements gone though glimmers of bipartisanship remain

Translating the Agenda & Policies into Legislation

- ▶ Bill one: Appropriate 20% of legacy funds to Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails. This bill will also address fees to DNR.
- ▶ Bill two: Pay for Commission out of general fund, not legacy.
- ▶ Other legislation
 - ▶ Support passage of LCCMR bill that include funding for local grants as well as member projects
 - ▶ Support inclusion of local parks and trails grants in final bonding bill

Progress on legislation

- ▶ SF 1039 (Hauschild)/HF 489 (Skraba)
 - ▶ Legacy appropriation, extensions, and administrative costs
 - ▶ Our bill imposes a flat fee on DNR.
 - ▶ First hearing this week in Senate
- ▶ SF 1040 (Hauschild)/HF 723 (Skraba)
 - ▶ Shifts Commission cost to general fund
 - ▶ No hearing yet, but budget requests have not been heard

Progress on legislation

- ▶ LCCMR Bill SF 506 (Hawj)/HF ?
 - ▶ Recommendations on how to spend ENRTF
 - ▶ Funding for local parks and trails grant programs plus member projects
 - ▶ First hearing this week in Senate. Passed to taxes
- ▶ Bonding
 - ▶ Priority - Funding for local parks and trails grant programs
 - ▶ Included in governor's bonding proposal, but final inclusion is uncertain

Progress on Legislation

- ▶ Local Sales Tax Authority S.F. 375
 - ▶ Provides expedited process of certain local sales taxes
 - ▶ Designated Regional Parks and Trails potentially eligible
 - ▶ Discussion continue

Other Legislation of Interest

- ▶ Outdoor School for All Grant Program Creation S.F. 1050
 - ▶ Creates grant program for outdoor education. Must be accredited overnight outdoor school
- ▶ Keep It Clean Program S.F. 1297 (Putnam)
 - ▶ Surcharge on fishing house licenses
 - ▶ Grant program to local units of government to help keep crap off ice
- ▶ Statewide Bicycle Pass Fee H.F. 469 (Heintzman)
 - ▶ Creates requirement for a state bicycle pass for all state trails
- ▶ No Legacy Funds for Overhead HF 529 (Bliss) /SF 27 (Green)
- ▶ Director of Grants Administration HF 754 (Robbins)

Other topics we're watching for

- ▶ Parkland dedication and attacks on park/trail accessibility

What's next?!

- ▶ Sign up for legislative action day and make an appointment with your legislator
- ▶ Read our monthly newsletter and legislative updates
- ▶ Let us know what you're hearing!
- ▶ Next forum TBD - Likely March 14



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QUESTIONS?