

WELCOME!

Legislative Action Day

Greater Minnesota Parks & Trails

February 24, 2025



Legislative Advocacy & Strategy

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Session Dynamics

- Late start due to partisan chaos
- Budget year
 - Budget Deficit Anticipated ? How much?
 - Cuts? Tax Increases?
 - Bonding bill!??



Session Dynamics – Everything is a bit off

- Senate started off as shared power, now it's back to DFL control
- House took a while to start. GOP control to start. Likely shared after March 11 special election.
- No committee deadlines yet, though clock is ticking.



What does this mean?

- Budget discussions will be contentious.
- Less money for financial requests and a smaller bonding bill.
- Essential to get Legacy and LCCMR bills across the finish line.
- Upside – bad policy ideas less likely to move forward.



GMPT Goals:

- Legacy Funds
- Funding for Commission
- More money for local parks and trails
 - LCCMR
 - Bonding

Slow start has delayed introduction. **WATCH FOR LEGISLATIVE ALERTS AND UPDATES**



Legacy Request



20% of parks and trails for Greater Minnesota



Extend funding availability for member projects



Set DNR compensation for grant-related services at a flat rate



Authored by Sen. Hauschild and Rep. Skraba (S.F. 1039/H.F. 489)



Heard last week in Senate. Waiting on House hearing.



General Fund for Commission

Shift funding for Greater Minnesota Regional Parks & Trails Commission from Legacy to General Fund

\$500,000 per year request

S.F. 1040/ H.F. 723

Sen. Hauschild / Rep. Skraba

Long term important, but challenging given budget circumstances



Other bills that we support

- LCCMR
 - Includes appropriation for DNR Local Parks & Trails Grants
 - Multiple member projects funded
 - Funding extended for multiple projects
 - Senate hearing 2 weeks ago on S.F. 506
 - House hearing today on H.F. 1218
- Bonding
 - Grant programs in governor's recommendations



Message for your legislators

- Introduce yourself and your organization
- Talk about recent projects and how they benefit your community as well as upcoming projects
- Ask for support on Legacy. Keep Greater Minnesota's share and move to flat fee. Get the bill done
- Funding for the commission frees up more money for projects
 - Remind them Greater Minnesota does not receive same level of funding nor same sources of funding
- Representatives can sign onto House versions of bill



Message for legislators

- Remind them we need to get the Legacy and LCCMR bills passed!



What else is happening – policy

- Early concerns about eminent domain have not yet resulted in a bill
- Some legislators heavily focused on “overhead”
- Watching housing bills
 - Early proposals would have made park dedication fees impossible, but authors have backed off
 - Stay tuned on this issue.



What else is happening - Taxes

- Local sales tax reform
- Ongoing discussion about what types of projects qualify for expedited process
- Working with Senator Hauschild and others on language so that designated projects qualify for expedited process
 - Other projects would need to go to legislatures
 - All projects would still need to get voter approval



How can you help and stay involved?

- Connect with your legislator
- Ask your legislator to support our legislation. Ask House members to sign on.
- Participate in our bi-weekly legislative forums
 - March 14, 2:00 via zoom
- Watch for updates and respond to action alerts
- Talk to your city/county staff and electeds, ask for their help!



Questions?

