

**METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**  
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**DATE:** April 29, 2010  
**TO:** Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission  
**FROM:** Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks (651) 602-1360  
**SUBJECT:** **Upcoming Regional Workshops on Parks and Trails Legacy Plan**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has been collaborating with the University of Minnesota, the Citizens League, Metropolitan Council, regional park agencies and other park and trail organizations on creating a “Parks and Trails Legacy Plan” as called for in 2009 legislation. The objective of the plan is to provide advice to the Legislature on spending the Parks and Trails Fund –a portion of the dedicated 3/8ths cent sales tax authorized under the State constitutional amendment referred to as the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.

Attached are documents that provide background information on the planning effort, plus an announcement on upcoming regional workshops to provide opportunities for input into this plan, and the addresses of websites associated with the plan.

I serve as a member of the steering committee for the plan and will answer questions you may have that are not covered in the attached materials or websites.

## Background Information on the Parks and Trails Legacy Planning Effort

### What is the Parks and Trails Legacy Planning effort?

- In 2008, Minnesotans passed the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Act funded by a 3/8% increase in the state sales tax. 14.25% of the funds generated from the increase will provide funding for state and regional parks and trails.
- The Minnesota State Legislature requested that a plan be developed to help guide how the Legacy Funds as well as other traditional sources of funding, should be spent for state and regional parks and trails. The Department of Natural Resources was charged to lead the planning effort in collaboration with other park and trail providers, non-governmental organizations, and citizens throughout Minnesota.
- The Department of Natural Resources is working in collaboration with the University of Minnesota on this project. The University has been tasked with developing a parks and trails inventory and framework to support and inform the plan.

### What will the plan include?

- The plan will include a vision, priorities, and criteria for decision-making for using the funds.
- The plan will identify gaps and needs in the current state and regional system, and make recommendations to address them.
- The Citizens League is engaging the public to provide guidance on vision, priorities, and development of criteria for decision-making.

### How can I be involved?

- A variety of opportunities are available for citizens to provide input into the planning process. In May and June, the Parks and Trails Legacy planning effort will host 17 regional workshops throughout the state.
- For up-to-date project information and opportunities to participate, check-out the parks and trails legacy websites: [www.patl.intergov.mn.gov](http://www.patl.intergov.mn.gov) and [www.citizing.org](http://www.citizing.org)

### If I have questions, who should I contact?

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## **Workshops offer citizens an opportunity to help chart future of Minnesota's parks and trails system**

Minnesotans have an opportunity to help chart the course of regional and state parks and trails for the next 25 years by participating in one of 17 workshops to be held around the state in May and June (workshop schedule attached).

The meetings will provide citizens with a chance to influence the Parks and Trails Legacy Plan that will guide funding decisions for regional and state parks and trails.

Workshops are scheduled for the following communities: Baudette, Bemidji, Brainerd, Detroit Lakes, Duluth, Eden Prairie, Forest Lake, Grand Rapids, Marshall, Minneapolis, North Mankato, St. Cloud, St. Paul, Savage, Thief River Falls, Rochester and Willmar. Check this website for specific locations.  
[www.patl.intergov.mn.gov](http://www.patl.intergov.mn.gov)

Minnesotans passed the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment in 2008 that enacted a three-eighths percent sales tax increase for natural resources and the arts. Of the money collected, 14.25 percent is providing funding for state, metro, and Greater Minnesota regional parks and trails projects.

The plan will offer a vision, set priorities, and develop funding criteria. The plan will also identify gaps and needs in the current regional and state system, and make recommendations to address them. It will be presented to the Minnesota Legislature by February 15, 2011.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is partnering with the Citizens League, a non-partisan, non-profit organization, in the workshop planning effort. People from all walks of life are encouraged to participate in the workshops, especially those who currently don't use the regional or state parks and trails system.

The workshops are scheduled from 7-9 p.m. and will focus on vision, priorities, and future opportunities. The meetings will provide ample opportunity for discussion and questions.

"Everyone who attends will have an opportunity to provide their insights," said Courtland Nelson, DNR Parks and Trails Division director. "Now is the time for Minnesotans to share their ideas and dreams for parks and trails for the next 25 years."

The University of Minnesota is developing an inventory of existing regional and state parks and trails that will be used in the planning effort. This information will be available for review at the workshops.

For meeting details and more information about the Parks and Trails Legacy Plan, visit [www.patl.intergov.mn.gov](http://www.patl.intergov.mn.gov).

People unable to attend a workshop, can provide input on the Citizen's League Web site at [www.citizing.org](http://www.citizing.org).

## Parks and Trails Legacy Plan Workshop Schedule

Community	Facility	Address	Date	Time
St. Cloud	St. Cloud Public Library	1300 West Saint Germain Street Mississippi Room	Thursday, May 6th	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Baudette	Lake of the Woods Public School	236 15 <sup>th</sup> Avenue SW ITV – Media Room	Tuesday, May 11th	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Ramsey/ St. Paul	Como Zoo/Conservatory Visitor Center	1225 Estabrook Drive Saint Paul	Tuesday, May 11th	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Thief River Falls	Northland Community and Technical College	1101 Highway 1 East Rooms 201 & 203 (West side of campus)	Wednesday, May 12th	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Anoka/Washington	Headwaters Service Center	19955 Forest Road North Forest Lake	Wednesday, May 12 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Bemidji	Bemidji State University	Hobson Memorial Union 1500 Birchmont Drive Crying Wolf Room	Thursday, May 13th	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Detroit Lakes	Minnesota State Community and Technical College	900 Hwy 34 E C101	Tuesday, May 18 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Scott/Dakota	McColl Pond Environmental Learning Center	13550 Dakota Ave South Savage	Thursday, May 20th	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Grand Rapids	MN Interagency Fire Center	402 SE 11 <sup>th</sup> Street Training Room (upstairs)	Thursday, May 27th	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Brainerd	Central Lakes College	501 West College Drive Cafeteria	Wednesday, June 2nd	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Duluth	The Depot	506 West Michigan Street	Thursday, June 3rd	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Hennepin/Carver	Bryant Lake Park	6800 Rowland Road Eden Prairie	Tuesday, June 8th	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Marshall	Southwest MN State University	1501 State Street	Wednesday, June 9th	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Willmar	Ridgewater College	2101- 15 <sup>th</sup> Avenue NW Large Outreach Room – Parking Lot C Door Number 59	Thursday, June 10th	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Minneapolis	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Headquarters	2117 West River Rd N	Tuesday, June 15th	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Rochester	Clarion Inn	1630 South Broadway	Wednesday, June 16 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
<b>Mankato</b>	<b>South Central College</b>	<b>1920 Lee Boulevard E119 and E121 North Mankato</b>	<b>Thursday, June 17th</b>	<b>7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.</b>