



Greater MN Regional Park & Trail Coalition (GMRPT)

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What Is GMRPT?

Greater MN Regional Park and Trail Coalition consist of rural cities, counties, townships, and agencies advocating for equal funding for regional parks and trails in Greater MN to better serve all Minnesotans. With 67% of all outdoor recreation hours happening within 30 minutes of your home, Greater Minnesota provides close-to-home nature opportunities in regional parks and on regional trails. Currently, there are 128 Regional Parks (*totaling 41,474 acres*) and 35 Regional Trails (*totaling 489 Miles*) all administered by Greater Minnesota cities and counties.

Why BLEND Supports GMRPT?

Research has indicated there is a direct link between nature and health. Nature provides an hour-to-hour opportunity for physical activity. Nature is also important to a child's development in every way, including intellectually, emotionally, socially, spiritually, and physically. Greater MN Regional Park and Trail agencies provide these types of facilities close to home where individuals, families and youth can easily access these benefits.

How GMRPT Impacts You?

The Park and Trail Legacy Fund, which is funded by revenue coming from a stateside sales tax, appropriate funds among three entities to make improvements to our park and trail systems: Metro Parks, DNR, and Greater MN Regional. Unfortunately, Greater MN receives disproportionate and non-exclusive funding; competing with Metro Parks and DNR for these funds. The GMRPT has come together to speak with one clear voice for *equal and exclusive funding* for regional parks and trails throughout Greater MN. Without proper allocations of these funds, Greater MN will not be able to acquire, develop, maintain and restore regional parks and trails.

How Can You Help?

Contact your MN State Representative and Senator and ask them to support equal and exclusive funding for Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails. Sign up for our newsletter and we'll include you on breaking news and action items where and when your help is needed most!

For more information, log on to

www.BlendCentralMN.org

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