



# GREATER MN REGIONAL PARKS & TRAILS

Volume 2

September 1st, 2011

## GMRPT COALITION

### Legislative Success

The Greater MN Regional Parks & Trails Coalition had great success during the 2011 Legislative Session.

A direct result of the efforts by our membership was obtaining over \$7 million of Legacy funds EXCLUSIVELY for Greater Minnesota each of the next two years. The Coalition also helped acquire \$2 million from the Environmental Trust Fund which feeds the DNR grant program designated for Regional Parks, Trails and Connections throughout Greater Minnesota.

This is an unprecedented amount when considering that over the past 10 years a total of \$8 million was made available to regional park & trail grant programs.

Grant awards from the Park & Trail Legacy Grants Program can be used for the acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of a new or existing park or trail of regional or statewide significance.

For information on regional park and trail grants visit: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/index.html>



GMRPTC Lobbyist Dan Larson, Chair Marcia Larson, Communications Coordinator Barry Wendorf, & Vice Chair Chuck Wocken testifying to the Legacy Committee

#### A message from our GMRPTC Lobbyist:

"Congratulations to the membership. I hope you recognize the great work your leadership team did in pulling the group together and, with your help and support - standing their ground under opposition that was pointed, constant and at times withering during the course of the session. This dynamic will not change as the funding battle for next funding cycle begins today," Dan Larson.

### GMRPTC Meeting Schedule

The Greater MN Regional Parks & Trails Coalition will be holding an open meeting on Thursday September 22nd at 4:00pm as a breakout session during the MRPA Annual Conference at Mystic Lake Casino Hotel - 2400 Mystic Lake Blvd. - Prior Lake, MN 55372

The Greater MN Regional Parks & Trails Coalition will be holding its third annual membership meeting and election of officers on Thursday October 6th from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm at the Brainerd Fire Station—23 Laurel Street—Brainerd, MN 56401

In an effort to increase participation by park and trail providers throughout the state, the GMRPTC will be conducting Interactive Television (ITV) meetings on the following dates:

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

September 22nd / 4:00pm - 6:00pm / Mystic Lake Casino - Open Meeting at MRPA Conference

October 6th / 10:00am - 2:00pm / Brainerd, MN - GMRPT Coalition Annual Meeting

#### *ITV Schedule:*

January 5th - ITV Meeting (time & locations to follow)

April 5th - ITV Meeting (time & locations to follow)

June 7th - ITV Meeting (time & locations to follow)



Coalition Contact Information: [barry.wendorf@co.isanti.mn.us](mailto:barry.wendorf@co.isanti.mn.us)

## Greater MN Regional Parks & Trails

### The purpose of this coalition is:

Through dues, provide the contract services of a governmental affairs representative at the Minnesota Legislature each year in order to support legislation that ensures funding for regional parks and trails in Greater MN to better serve all Minnesotans;

To provide leadership for coordination and development of a statewide network of regional parks and trails, and;

To provide information and education to people working in the member agencies of the coalition.

### Greater MN Regional Park & Trail Study

In an effort to further justify future Park & Trail Legacy Funding allocations to greater MN regional parks & trails, the GMRPTC was awarded a \$175,000 grant during the 2011 Legislative Session in order to:

- Define and develop information, including the number of users and potential users of greater MN regional parks and trails;
- Collect and compile details on the facilities within the greater MN regional park system;
- Develop a plan for high priority park and trail acquisition and development opportunities.

### YOUR HELP NEEDED

Park & Trail Providers throughout Greater MN will be asked to conduct and report completed surveys to the GMRPTC based on the guidelines and requirements set forth by the study.

### Membership Form 2012

Your GMRPTC membership dues are used to fund government affairs representation that will build key legislative support and bring equity to Greater Minnesota from Legacy and other Park & Trail funding sources. To continue to succeed and become a voting member of the GMRPTC a membership fee of \$150 is required by **January 20th, 2012**.

*In keeping the membership fee low, the GMRPTC is pursuing a goal of 100% paid membership.*

Organization Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **GMRPT Coalition**

Please mail completed form and check to

1901 Highway 25 N, Buffalo, MN 55313

Attn: Marc Mattice—Park Administrator



*Established in 2010*