

# Project Introduction

# Legislative Charge



## Legislation (64.8 § 6) Creation of a Parks and Trails Inventory and Framework.

*Legislation (64.8 § 6) CREATION OF A PARKS AND TRAILS INVENTORY, FRAMEWORK, AND PLAN. Subdivision 1. Inventory and framework development. (a) The University of Minnesota Center for Changing Landscapes is directed to create a long-range framework for an integrated statewide parks and trails system that provides information on the natural resource-based recreational opportunities available throughout the state. The detailed framework must include an inventory of existing regionally and statewide significant parks and trails, respond to recreational trends and demographic changes, and identify underserved areas, overused facilities, and gaps in the current parks and trails system. The framework must identify opportunities for enhancing existing assets, developing new assets, and linking those assets together effectively within realistic financial resources. (See Appendix A for full authorizing text.)*

## Integrated Network Guidelines

Minnesota's Network of Parks and Trails should be managed **adaptively** to ensure its long-term sustainability with respect to the protection of natural and cultural resources, the facilitation of high quality recreation experiences, and the advancement of stewardship behaviors among Minnesotans.

A variety of **complementary** outdoor recreation settings and linkages between those settings should be maintained across the State, because Minnesotans seek a diversity of high quality recreation opportunities, and recreation experiences contribute to the high quality of life in Minnesota.

Minnesotans' **access** to diverse, high quality outdoor recreation opportunities must be evaluated in light of the state-wide, regional and local supply including the abundance, quality, and distribution of parks and trails.

Opportunities for **high quality** recreation experiences should be created, monitored, and sustained through careful consideration of recreation settings, activities, experiences, benefits, and constraints.

As Minnesota's population grows and settlement patterns shift, addressing how these **population dynamics** will affect demand for and access to diverse, high quality outdoor recreation opportunities will be essential.

As Minnesota's population **diversifies**, monitoring and meeting the needs of multiple population subgroups will be critical because these groups vary in the recreation settings, activities, and experiences they prefer, as well as the constraints they face.

**Impacts** and potential threats to Minnesota's Network of Parks and Trails should be monitored and assessed across three setting components: (a) the natural environment, (b) the social environment, and (c) the built and managed environment.

