

10th
ANNIVERSARY



CLEAN
WATER
LAND &
LEGACY
AMENDMENT

Minnesota's Clean Water, Land, & Legacy Amendment

Ten years ago, in the midst of the worst economic recession in modern memory, Minnesotans overwhelmingly approved the Clean Water, Land, & Legacy Amendment to the state constitution.

The push for the Legacy Amendment began in the 1990s with several proposals for dedicated public funding for wildlife habitat. Momentum grew in the 2000s as citizens across the state urged lawmakers to address declining habitat funding and the need to protect Minnesota's renowned natural resources for future generations. The impetus was further fueled by multiple reports documenting that 40 percent of the state's lakes and rivers didn't meet basic water quality standards.

The 2008 State Legislature approved ballot language to fund clean water and conservation measures, state and regional parks and trails, and cultural resources. In November 2008, voters approved the Legacy Amendment by a resounding 56-39% margin. More than 1.6 million Minnesotans voted in favor, including a majority in every congressional district.



(Text adapted from Minnesota's Dedicated Conservation Funds: Protecting Our Great Outdoors, Legacy Coalition 2018)

How the Legacy Amendment works

The Legacy Amendment increased the state sales tax by $\frac{3}{8}$ ths of a percent – less than 4 cents on a \$10 purchase – from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2034.

The Legislature appropriates the money collected from the increase to the four Legacy funds; the revenue may be used only for the purposes specified in the amendment.

Outdoor Heritage Fund

Supports restoration, protection, and enhancement of wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat projects for the benefit of fish, game, and wildlife. The Fund may be used to prevent forest fragmentation, encourage forest consolidation, and expand restored native prairie.

Clean Water Fund

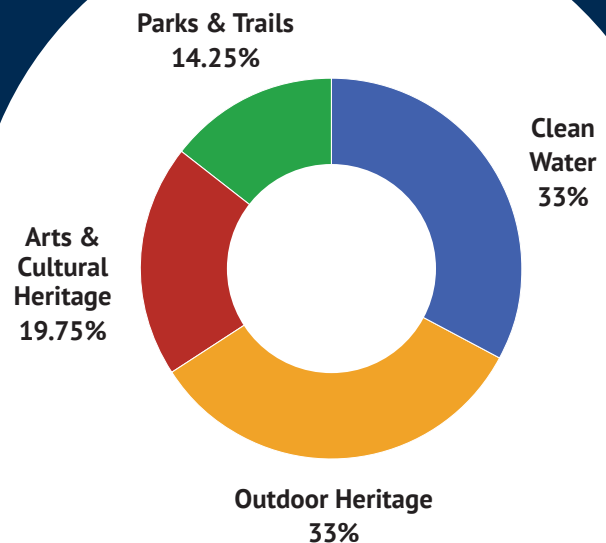
Designated to protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation. At least five percent of these expenditures must be designated to protecting drinking water sources.

Parks & Trails Fund

Supports parks and trails of regional or statewide significance; funds are divided by statute between the state park, metro park, and greater Minnesota park systems. Nonprofits do not receive Parks and Trails funds.

Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund

Designated to support arts, arts education, and arts access, and to preserve Minnesota's history and cultural heritage.



Attracts investments

Since 2008, Legacy-funded projects have taken place in every county. From 2010 to 2017, Legacy Funds have leveraged nearly \$2.5 billion in federal, local government, and private funds for the betterment of Minnesota's outdoor heritage, clean water, state and regional parks and trails, and arts and cultural heritage.

Who receives Legacy funds?

While Legacy sales tax revenue is initially appropriated to state agencies, a large portion is then passed to various non-state entities including nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and local government units. Between 2010 and 2017, local governments alone (cities, counties, townships, watershed districts, SWCDs) put over \$420 million to work!



Citizens' support for Legacy Funds has grown since 2008

The success of the Legacy Amendment has further strengthened its widespread citizen support. A February 2017 poll found that 75% of Minnesotans statewide support the Legacy Amendment. In rural Minnesota alone, 73% of residents indicated they support it.

(Polling data is from a statewide telephone poll of 502 registered Minnesota voters, conducted Feb. 1-5, 2017, for the Minnesota Environmental Partnership by the bipartisan research team of Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates and Public Opinion Strategies.)

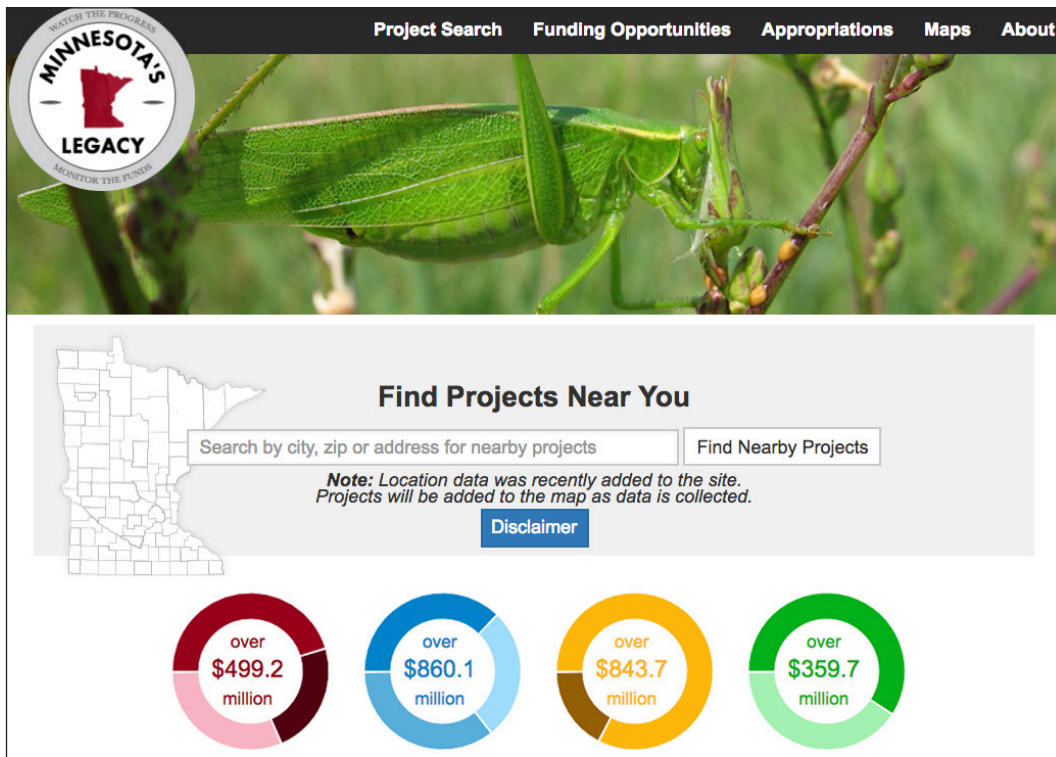
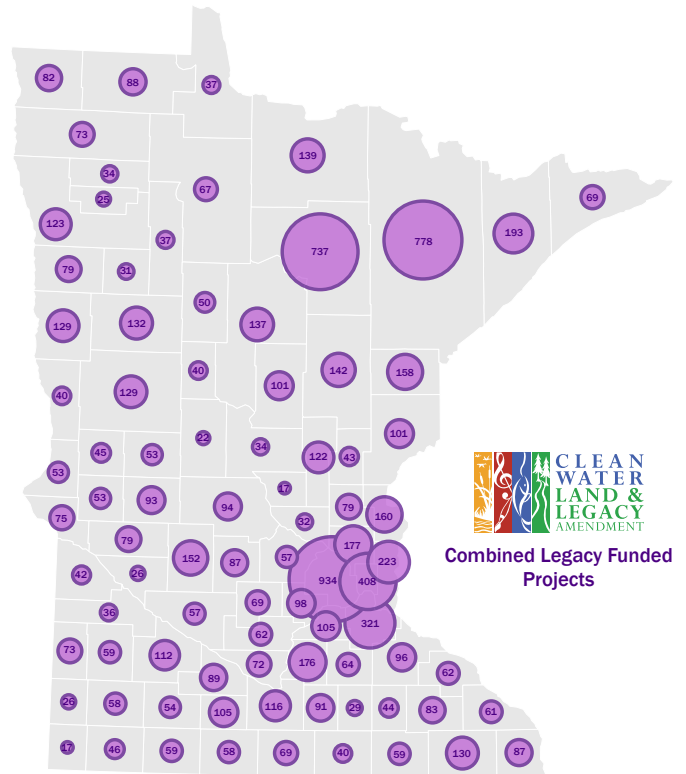
Legacy Fund guidelines

The Minnesota Constitution states that all Legacy funds “must supplement traditional sources of funding for these purposes and may not be used as a substitute” (Minn. Constitution, Art. XI, Sec. 15). There are also specific restrictions by fund, and legislative and citizen councils make recommendations on how the funds are spent. Because these are new dollars, the amendment does not impact the funding available for any other state priorities.

State statute also required that for each fund, a 10-year plan and 25-year framework to guide expenditures must be developed and presented to the Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC).

The LCC maintains the Legacy website, showing how monies from each fund are being used throughout the state.

See for yourself: legacy.mn.gov



Legacy funds – hard at work for Minnesota! Doing what they were created to do!

Outdoor Heritage Fund

Accomplishments and benefits

The Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) has financed restoration of 61,000 acres of wetlands, 600,000 acres of grasslands, and more than 40,000 acres of DNR Wildlife Management Area habitat and public access. It has also helped protect nearly 356,000 acres of high-quality habitat on private lands through conservation easement and has funded hundreds of local projects through the popular Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program.

Prior to the Legacy Amendment, funding for conservation, wildlife habitat, and the preservation of Minnesota's rich outdoor heritage was declining. Fish and wildlife populations have become stressed due to diminished quality habitats.

Many organizations came together to develop a thoughtful plan about how to prioritize what types of projects and where on the landscape the greatest habitat impact could be achieved. In the Legacy Amendment's first 10 years, more than \$2.5 billion in project requests have been submitted to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC); it has been able to fund only 40% of the requests made.

How it works

The 2008 Legislature created the LSOHC to make recommendations to the Legislature on OHF appropriations. The council includes legislators and members of the public appointed by the Governor or the Legislature. All funded projects must complete "Accomplishment Plans" as a mechanism of control and accountability for OHF monies.

The 25-year vision

"Restore, protect, and enhance Minnesota's wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife."

[Outdoor Heritage Fund A 25-year framework: Minnesota's conservation estate, historic conservation investments and future opportunities Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council December 15, 2010]

PROJECTS OF NOTE

Smith Lake Enhancement

(Wright County)

Led by: Ducks Unlimited

Habitat impact: Shallow lake, duck habitat

Ducks Unlimited worked with the Minnesota DNR Section of Wildlife to engineer and install a water-level control structure and use it to temporarily draw down water levels to enhance 330 acres of wetland habitat. This shallow lake was hypereutrophic with high levels of both Chlorophyll-A and Total Phosphorus (TP), causing algae blooms that shaded out aquatic plants, and degraded wetland habitat quality for ducks and other wildlife. Following enhancement, levels of both Chlorophyll-A and TP were dramatically reduced. Aquatic plants and invertebrates flourished in the clear, clean water, and waterfowl returned during both migration and breeding seasons, along with many local and visiting duck hunters that realized the improved conditions had resulted in a high-quality hunting spot.

ducks.org/conservation/glar/minnesota/habitat-enhancement-under-way-at-minnesotas-smith-lake



Protecting Wildlife Habitat

Minnesota Moose Habitat Collaborative

(Eastern St. Louis, Lake, and Cook counties)

Led by: Minnesota Deer Hunters Association | Habitat impact: Enhance forest/moose habitat

Moose have iconic status in our state and are central to the cultural identity, hunting heritage, and economy of northern Minnesota. Nonetheless, the northwest Minnesota moose population will soon be gone and the northeast Minnesota population is severely declining. Supporting and maintaining high quality moose habitat is critical for maintaining a moose population in the state. This project is a collaboration among many partners,* and has resulted in the enhancement of 13,000 acres of high-quality forest habitat in northeast Minnesota. It is on track to enhance a total of 20,000 acres in FY19. This project has mutually reinforcing goals: managing for healthy northern forests and high-quality moose habitat using techniques such as prescribed fire, brush removal, selective restoration planting, and winter shearing.

*Partners Involved: The Nature Conservancy, Lake County Forestry, St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department, Cook County, Superior National Forest, 1854 Treaty Authority, Fond du Lac Band, Grand Portage Band, MNDNR, University of MN Duluth, Natural Resources Research Institute, Ruffed Grouse Society, Wildlife Management Institute
startribune.com/in-minnesota-s-pine-woods-a-coalition-tries-to-restore-moose-habitat/304507291



BEFORE



AFTER

Irruption Wildlife Management Area Addition

(Murray County)

Led by: Pheasants Forever | Habitat impact: Grasslands and riparian wildlife habitat

This project funded the addition of high-quality riparian acres to the existing 208-acre Irruption Wildlife Management Area and the adjoining 320+ acres of permanently protected private land easements. The added tract protects 0.77 miles of riparian habitat on the Des Moines River. In addition to waterfowl benefits, it will provide excellent upland and big game hunting opportunities. This parcel is unique in that it is a collaborative effort between state, federal, nonprofit, and private partners* to

protect the upland habitat of a wellhead protection area. The wellheads on this quarter will supply clean water to the surrounding area and are monitored by Red Rock Rural Water.

*Partners involved: BWSR, Clean Water Fund, RIM, Red Rock Rural Water, Murray County PF, MWA-Shetek Prairie Chapter, NAWCA, OHF, landowner, and MNDNR.
dnr.state.mn.us/wmas/detail_report.html?id=WMA0038400

Clean Water Fund

Accomplishments and benefits

The Clean Water Fund (CWF) has accelerated state water quality data collection and created a sound framework to coordinate water quality projects. It has also supported substantial investments in on-the-ground practices and local capacity building for water improvement and protection. For example, 70 percent of CWF appropriations to the Board of Water and Soil Resources were awarded as grants to local governments, which were used to install more than 2,900 projects such as lake restoration, wetland protection, and improved septic systems. Locally led cleanup has taken 46 lakes and streams off Minnesota's impaired waters list. CWF spending has also allowed the state to catch up on federal Clean Water Act compliance and avoid the economic barriers and costly litigation experienced by other states. Notably, Clean Water funds have leveraged nearly \$200 million in federal funds between 2010-2017, or 73 cents for every implementation dollar invested.

How it works

The CWF funds water quality programs through the following state agencies: Metropolitan Council, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Minnesota Public Facilities Authority.

The 2008 legislature charged the Clean Water Council (established in 2006, as part of the 2006 Clean Water Legacy Act) to make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature for how CWF funds should be allocated. The Council includes 19 voting members, all appointed by the Governor and representing different water interests including agricultural, business, environmental, and local governments. There are also non-voting seats for five state agency representatives and four legislative members.

The 25-year vision

Protect and restore Minnesota's waters for generations to come, through pursuit of the following four goals:

- Drinking water is safe for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota
- Groundwater is clean and available
- Surface waters are swimmable and fishable
- Minnesotans value water and take actions to sustain and protect it

PROJECTS OF NOTE

Moody Lake Wetland Rehabilitation (Chisago County)

Led by: Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District
Clean Water impact: One farm cleanup reduces phosphorus pollution in Moody Lake by 60%

The Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District is making strides toward restoring Moody Lake and downstream waters, which empty into the St. Croix River. Strategic monitoring identified the primary source of high phosphorus levels in Moody Lake: a wetland where the sediment contained decades worth of accumulated cattle manure and runoff from a former dairy operation.

With a \$429,284 Clean Water Fund grant – plus funding from the local watershed district and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District sought to rehabilitate upstream wetlands in Chisago and Washington counties. With the farmer's cooperation, sediment was removed and wetland plants restored. Within six months of restoring that single wetland, phosphorus loading to Moody Lake fell by 60 percent. The goal of projects at two sites was an 80 percent reduction in nutrient-loading. A subsequent whole-lake alum treatment accomplished with help from a \$135,000 Clean Water Fund grant capped a multi-year diagnostic and implementation plan that started in 2011.

The long-term goal: Remove Moody Lake from the impaired waters list.

youtube.com/watch?v=OTqK-oetleE&feature=youtu.be



Photo: Ann Wessel, BWSR

Protecting Our Waters

Private Well Protection Study (statewide)

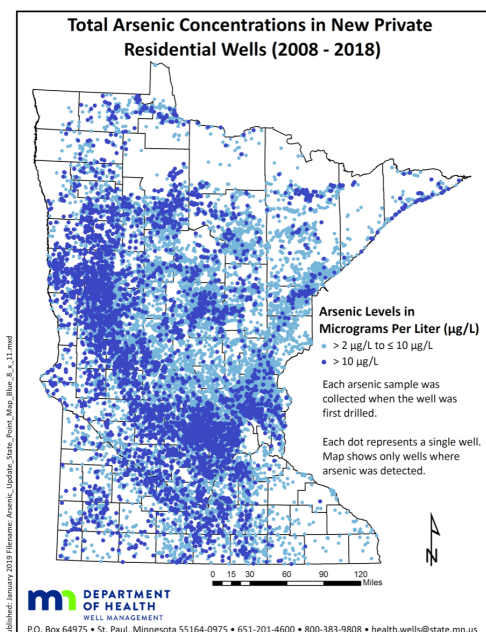
Led by: Minnesota Department of Health | Clean Water impact: Better understanding of arsenic contamination levels and new practices to reduce risks from arsenic

Arsenic is a naturally-occurring element found in rocks, soil, and groundwater throughout much of Minnesota. Drinking water with arsenic can increase the risk of cancer and other serious health effects. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) estimates that over 40 percent of drinking water wells in Minnesota have a detectable level of arsenic and about one in 10 wells have levels that are above the federal safe drinking water act standard of 10 micrograms per liter. The occurrence and distribution of arsenic in groundwater is difficult to predict. To better understand the distribution of arsenic and the best sampling methods, MDH sampled approximately 250 new water supply wells three times over one year. Wells were selected from areas with known elevated arsenic concentrations and from wells that were initially sampled using different sampling protocols. The goals of the study were to:

- Determine how water sampling methods and the timing of sample collection contribute to arsenic test results in a new well
- Determine how arsenic levels in new wells stabilize over time
- Identify the conditions that control arsenic occurrence in groundwater

MDH is using the study results to provide guidance and education to well contractors and private well owners to reduce risks from arsenic in well water.

health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/cwl/wells/arsenic.html



Root River Field to Stream Partnership (SE Minnesota)

Led by: Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Clean Water Impact: Improving trout stream water quality in an agricultural area

Through the Root River Field to Stream Partnership, federal, state, and local partners are working with farmers to determine what effect targeted conservation practices have on water quality. Using intensive edge-of-field and in-stream data collection, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture-led venture is focused on three small watersheds that drain into Root River tributaries in southeastern Minnesota. Findings apply to fields and rivers across southeastern Minnesota. The partnership has helped farmers identify sites at high risk for runoff and make changes to protect lands.

Among the conservation practices employed are cover crops, sediment control basins, pollinator-friendly plantings, and feedlot improvements. Conservation fixes draw from two Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources grants totaling nearly \$1.3 million. With Federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program funds via the Natural Resources Conservation Service plus landowner matches, the initial budget totaled nearly \$1.9 million. The implementation phase runs through 2020.

youtube.com/watch?v=pvk6KxLmqXA

Parks & Trails Fund

Accomplishments and benefits

The Legacy Amendment has brought tremendous benefits to Minnesota's state and regional system of 186 parks and 439 trails, while enhancing the health of individuals and communities, boosting economic development, and protecting natural resources. Projects funded by the Parks & Trails Fund (P&T) have resulted in facility improvements, new park facilities, increased park attendance, and the launch of popular engagement programs that introduce new and younger audiences to the outdoors.

Since 2009, the P&T Fund has collected approximately \$360 million. It is expected to receive about \$1.26 billion over the 25-year span of the amendment. Impressive as they are, these numbers are eclipsed by the need. For example, the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission is unable to fund over one-third of the requests it receives, and State Parks and Trails have a deferred maintenance backlog of more than \$250 million.

How it works

Parks & Trails funds are divided by statute between the state, metro, and greater Minnesota park systems. These are overseen respectively by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Metropolitan Council, and the


Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission. These three agencies meet regularly with the Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee (PTLAC), which was established as an advisory body to enhance promotion, coordination, and accountability of Legacy funds. The PTLAC comprises representatives appointed by the three agencies.

P&T Fund investments are guided by the Parks and Trails Legacy Plan, which emerged from nearly two years of transparent and interactive conversations with Minnesotans. The plan includes four strategic funding areas: connect people to the outdoors, take care of what we have, acquire land and create opportunities, and coordinate among partners.

The 25-year vision

"In 2035, our world-class parks and trails connect everyone to the outdoors. They create experiences that inspire a legacy of stewardship for the natural world and they provide fun outdoor recreational opportunities that strengthen friendships, families, health, and spirit, now and into the future. Minnesotans experience the full range of benefits that outdoor recreation provides, reinforcing our identity as an outdoor culture."

(Parks and Trails Legacy Plan: Parks and Trails of State and Regional Significance: A 25-year long-range plan for Minnesota)



"Our extensive 18-month public engagement effort allows us to confidently state that this is a parks and trails plan for Minnesotans and by Minnesotans."

(Marking the 10th Anniversary of Legacy Amendment Impact on Minnesota's Parks and Trails, Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee 2018)

Enhancing Parks and Trails

PROJECTS OF NOTE

Detroit Mountain Recreation Area (Becker County)

Led by: Detroit Mountain Recreation Area
Legacy pillar: Acquire land and create recreational opportunities

The Detroit Mountain Recreation Area used P&T funds to develop an accessible hiking trail and a multi-use connecting trail between Detroit Mountain Recreation Area and Mountain View County Park. They added a skills loop, beginner loop, downhill flow trails, single direction trails, and multi-directional, multi-use trails. Their overall goal was to enhance a skiing and biking facility that serves the 360,000 people living within 60 miles and to obtain International Bicycling Association Ride Center status, which will attract visitors from all over the country to this beautiful natural setting. Ongoing construction projects will be completed in 2019.

Tamarack Nature Center Discovery Hollow Nature Play Area (Ramsey County)

Led by: Ramsey County Parks and Recreation
Legacy pillar: Connect people to the outdoors

P&T funds helped create a unique outdoor nature-based play area with a garden and garden house. The nature center was also remodeled and expanded to include additional preschool classrooms and additional parking. As a result of these investments, the center has increased free program offerings, summer camp capacity, preschool camp options, volunteer positions, preschool class capacity, and accessibility for all ages and abilities. The Discovery Hollow Nature Play Area and Garden is now a regional play destination and annual attendance increased 65% from 2012 to 2016.

TamarackNatureCenter.org



Minneopa Park Bison Reintroduction (Blue Earth County)

Led by: Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources
Legacy pillar: Take care of what we have

The MN DNR partnered with the Minnesota Zoo to reintroduce a small bison herd to the park in 2015, creating a new location for Minnesota's Bison Conservation Herd. This herd is valuable for its lack of genetic material from cross-breeding with cattle. P&T funds helped prepare for the herd introduction, and install a well, waterer, and four miles of fencing enclosing 350 acres of prairie. A bison interpretive program was created, including guided bison tours for all ages that already serve 1,300 annual visitors. Since the bison reintroduction, park attendance has increased nearly 70% annually.

mndnr.gov/state_parks/minneopa/bison.html



Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund

Accomplishments and benefits

The Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF) of the Legacy Amendment was established to support “art, arts access, arts education, and to preserve Minnesota’s history and cultural heritage.”

The ACHF has brought substantial benefits to Minnesota. Arts and culture access and attendance has increased by 60%, more than 20,000 jobs supported by arts and culture organizations have been added across the state, the economic impact of the arts now exceeds \$2 billion annually, and government revenues generated by arts and culture have increased by 68% to \$159M/year (**CreativeMN.org**). Thousands of Minnesotans have benefited from history programs and many historic structures have been preserved in the first ten years of the Legacy Amendment.

Prior to the passage of the Legacy Amendment there was concern that growing pressure on the budgets of arts and culture organizations to serve all citizens of the state would jeopardize access to the arts for all Minnesotans. The ACHF Fund has not only stabilized and strengthened this area of our civic and educational life, it has fueled the vibrancy of Minnesota’s arts and cultural sector that now distinguishes us from surrounding states.

How it works

ARTS

By law, the legislature appropriates 47% the Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund to the Minnesota State Arts Board and Regional Arts Councils (RACs), which in turn use citizen panels to manage competitive grantmaking processes and decide on the approximately 2,500 grants issued each biennium. Grants have been given to projects in every Minnesota county. In the first 10 years of the Legacy Amendment, these funds have been in high demand; the State Arts Board/RAC system has been able to support only 50% of requests made. Information on Legacy arts funding from the State Arts Board and RACs can be found at arts.state.mn.us.

HISTORY

To fulfill the Constitutional requirement, funds are appropriated to the Minnesota Historical Society for statewide activities to preserve our state’s history and cultural heritage for today’s citizens and future

generations. A portion of these funds are distributed to local history organizations statewide through a competitive grants process with advice from the Historic Resources Advisory Committee, a volunteer citizens panel that reviews applications.

“The Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund has increased access to the arts and culture in every Minnesota county, bringing educational opportunity, economic vitality, and a higher quality of life to all Minnesotans.”

– Sheila Smith, Executive Director, Minnesota Citizens for the Arts



The MHS system makes an average of 250 grants per biennium. History grants have been made to organizations in all 87 counties. Other activities carried out by the Minnesota Historical Society include educational programs, preserving and making accessible important documents and artifacts, and helping the next

generation of Minnesotans understand and appreciate our past in order to create a meaningful future. Information on history Legacy programs, including annual reports summarizing all Legacy history grants and projects, can be found at mnhs.org/legacy

Other Arts and Cultural Heritage activities

Other organizations have also received ACHF funds for arts, history, and cultural heritage programming including public broadcasting, children’s museums, libraries, zoos, and other organizations.

Minnesotans place a high value on creativity and are more likely than other Americans to participate in the arts and culture and to be artists themselves. 90% of Minnesotans believe that arts and cultural activities help to make Minnesota an attractive place to live and work and 70% of Minnesotans believe that arts and culture are an important sector of our economy.*

* (Minnesota Center for Survey Research, 2017 Minnesota State Survey).

Enhancing Access to Arts and Culture

PROJECTS OF NOTE

St. Paul Chamber Orchestra

(Twin Cities Metro)

Grantmaking authority: Minnesota State Arts Board
Cultural impacts: Premier music exposure and education to Minnesota students, teachers, and residents

The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra is widely regarded as one of the finest chamber orchestras in the world. Its virtuoso musicians present more than 130 concerts and educational programs each year. With a unique commitment to geographic and socio-economic accessibility, the SPCO regularly performs in 16 venues across the Twin Cities and offers the most affordable tickets of any major orchestra in the United States; over 50 percent of SPCO tickets are available for \$15 or less and tickets are always free for children and students. The SPCO's award-winning CONNECT education program reaches over 5,000 students and teachers annually in 13 Minneapolis and Saint Paul public schools.

thespco.org



Thompson Hall, St. Paul: Preserving Community History

Grantmaking authority: Minnesota Historical Society | Cultural impacts: Preservation of historic center serving Minnesota deaf community

Thompson Hall recently celebrated 100 years of community building in the deaf community. Located in a historic building in St. Paul, Thompson Hall serves as a social and educational center for Minnesota's deaf community. Through Legacy grants, the organization has worked to preserve its historic structure, while preserving the history of the organization itself through documenting people and events over the course of 100+ years.

Celebrating Life: Essence Through Art

(Mankato region)

Grantmaking authority: Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council | Cultural impacts: Facilitating healing, community building, artistic expression

Twin Rivers Council for the Arts in Mankato partnered with One Bright Star and YES Network of Minnesota to create art for families who had experienced the tragedy of losing a child. As part of the recovery and healing process, artists met with families, who shared photos and stories, and described the child they had lost. Seven artists were paired with seven families to capture the essence of each child through an original work of art, which was included in a public exhibition. The families were very moved, grateful, and aided in healing.

twinriversarts.org/trca-events/2018/10/18/celebrating-life-essence-through-art-opening-reception

Legacy 10th Anniversary Event Steering Committee

Bob Bierscheid, *Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota*

Stephanie Devitt, *McKnight/SDK Communications*

Joe Duggan, *Pheasants Forever, Minnesota Deer Hunters Association*

Judy Erickson, *Conservation Strategies*

Mike Harley, *Environmental Initiative*

David Kelliher, *Minnesota Historical Society*

Steve Morse, *Minnesota Environmental Partnership*

Stephanie Pinkalla, *The Nature Conservancy*

Wayne Sames, *Legacy Parks and Trails Advisory Committee*

Sheila Smith, *Minnesota Citizens for the Arts*

Steve Woods, *Freshwater*

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Support for the Legacy Amendment 10th Anniversary event was provided by the McKnight Foundation. The event was a collaboration of representatives of each Legacy fund, coordinated by Freshwater.

THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

FRESHWATER