SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

S.F. No. 1447

(SENATE AUTHORS: HOFFMAN and Hawj)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
02/17/2025		Introduction and first reading Referred to State and Local Government

A bill for an act

relating to state government; appropriating money from clean water and parks and trails funds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

ARTICLE 1

CLEAN WATER FUND

Section 1. **CLEAN WATER FUND APPROPRIATIONS.**

The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are appropriated to the agencies and for the purposes specified in this article. The appropriations are from the clean water fund and are available for the fiscal years indicated for allowable activities under the Minnesota Constitution, article XI, section 15. The figures "2026" and "2027" used in this article mean that the appropriations listed under the figure are available for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, or June 30, 2027, respectively. "The first year" is fiscal year 2026. "The second year" is fiscal year 2027. "The biennium" is fiscal years 2026 and 2027. These are onetime appropriations.

	APPROPRIATIONS	
	Available for the Year	
	Ending June 30	
	2026	**2027**
Sec. 2. **CLEAN WATER FUND**		
Subdivision 1. **Total Appropriation**	**$ 155,354,500**	**$ 155,397,500**

This appropriation is from the clean water fund. The amounts that may be spent for each purpose are specified in the following sections.

Subd. 2. **Availability of Appropriation**

Money appropriated in this article may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. Money appropriated in this article must be spent in accordance with Minnesota Management and Budget MMB Guidance to Agencies on Legacy Fund Expenditure. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.28, and unless otherwise specified in this article, fiscal year 2026 appropriations are available until June 30, 2027, and fiscal year 2027 appropriations are available until June 30, 2028. If a project receives federal funds, the period of the appropriation is extended to equal the availability of federal funding.

Subd. 3. **Disability Access**

Where appropriate, grant recipients of clean water funds, in consultation with the Council on Disability and other appropriate governor-appointed disability councils, boards, committees, and commissions, should make progress toward providing people with disabilities greater access to programs, print publications, and digital media related to the programs the recipient funds using appropriations made in this article.

Subd. 4. **Increasing Diversity in Environmental Careers**

Agencies should work to provide opportunities that encourage a diversity of students to pursue

careers in environment and natural resources when implementing appropriations in this article.

Sec. 3. **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE** **$ 17,275,000 $ 17,275,000**

(a) $370,000 the first year and $370,000 the second year are to increase monitoring for pesticides and pesticide degradates in surface water and groundwater and to use data collected to assess pesticide use practices.

(b) $3,100,000 the first year and $3,100,000 the second year are for monitoring and evaluating trends in the concentration of nitrate in groundwater; promoting, developing, and evaluating regional and crop-specific nutrient best management practices, cover crops, and other vegetative cover; assessing adoption of best management practices and other recommended practices; education and technical support from University of Minnesota Extension; grants to support agricultural demonstration and implementation activities, including research activities at the Rosholt Research Farm; and other actions to protect groundwater from degradation from nitrate.

(c) $2,000,000 the first year and $2,000,000 the second year are for the agriculture best management practices loan program. Any unencumbered balance at the end of the second year must be added to the corpus of the loan fund.

(d) $1,600,000 the first year and $1,600,000 the second year are for technical assistance; research, demonstration, and promotion

projects on properly implementing best management practices and vegetative cover; and more-precise information on nonpoint contributions to impaired waters and for grants to support on-farm demonstration of agricultural practices.

(e) $50,000 the first year and $50,000 the second year are for maintenance of the Minnesota Water Research Digital Library. Costs for information technology development or support for the digital library may be paid to Minnesota IT Services.

(f) $3,500,000 the first year and $3,500,000 the second year are to implement the Minnesota agricultural water quality certification program statewide.

(g) $155,000 the first year and $155,000 the second year are for a regional irrigation water quality specialist through University of Minnesota Extension.

(h) $3,000,000 the first year and $3,000,000 the second year are for grants to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota to fund the Forever Green initiative and to protect the state's natural resources while increasing the efficiency, profitability, and productivity of Minnesota farmers by incorporating perennial and winter-annual crops into existing agricultural practices.

(i) $500,000 the first year and $500,000 the second year are for testing drinking-water wells for pesticides.

(j) $1,750,000 the first year and $1,750,000 the second year are for conservation

equipment assistance grants to purchase equipment or items to retrofit existing equipment that has climate and water quality benefits.

(k) $1,250,000 the first year and $1,250,000 the second year are for expanding the existing state weather station and soil temperature network to provide accurate and timely weather data to optimize the timing of irrigation, fertilizer, pesticide, and manure applications and support land management decisions.

(l) Unless otherwise specified, the appropriations in this section are available until June 30, 2030.

Sec. 4. **POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY** **$ 24,701,500 $ 24,701,500**

(a) $9,450,000 the first year and $9,450,000 the second year are for completing needed statewide assessments of surface water quality and trends according to Minnesota Statutes, chapter 114D.

(b) $7,250,000 the first year and $7,250,000 the second year are to support public participation in the watershed approach and to update watershed restoration and protection strategies, which include total maximum daily load (TMDL) and other supporting studies according to Minnesota Statutes, chapter 114D, for waters on the impaired waters list approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

(c) $1,000,000 the first year and $1,000,000 the second year are for groundwater assessment, including enhancing the ambient

monitoring network, modeling, and evaluating trends.

(d) $1,600,000 the first year and $1,600,000 the second year are for national pollutant discharge elimination system wastewater and stormwater TMDL implementation efforts.

(e) $3,540,500 the first year and $3,540,500 the second year are for enhancing the county-level delivery systems for subsurface sewage treatment system (SSTS) activities necessary to implement Minnesota Statutes, sections 115.55 and 115.56, for protecting groundwater. This appropriation includes base grants for all counties with SSTS programs. Counties that receive base grants must report the number of properties with noncompliant systems upgraded through an SSTS replacement, connection to a centralized sewer system, or other means, including property abandonment or buyout. Counties also must report the number of existing SSTS compliance inspections conducted in areas under county jurisdiction. The required reports must be part of the established annual reporting for SSTS programs. Of this amount, at least $900,000 each year is available to counties for grants to low-income landowners to address systems that pose an imminent threat to public health or safety or fail to protect groundwater. A county receiving a grant under this paragraph must submit a report to the agency listing the projects funded, including an account of the expenditures.

(f) $650,000 the first year and $650,000 the second year are for activities and grants that reduce chloride pollution.

(g) $461,000 the first year and $461,000 the second year are to support activities of the Clean Water Council according to Minnesota Statutes, section 114D.30, subdivision 1.

(h) $750,000 the first year and $750,000 the second year are for a grant program for sanitary sewer projects that are included in the draft or any updated Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Project Comprehensive Plan to restore the water quality of waters in Voyageurs National Park. Grants must be awarded to local government units for projects approved by the Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board and must be matched by at least 25 percent from sources other than the clean water fund.

(i) Any unencumbered grant balances in the first year do not cancel but are available for grants in the second year. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.28, the appropriations in this section are available until June 30, 2030.

Sec. 5. **DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES** **$ 14,650,000 $ 14,650,000**

(a) $2,825,000 the first year and $2,825,000 the second year are for stream flow monitoring.

(b) $1,525,000 the first year and $1,525,000 the second year are for lake Index of Biological Integrity (IBI) assessments.

(c) $550,000 the first year and $550,000 the second year are for assessing mercury and other fish contaminants, including PFAS compounds, and monitoring to track the status of impaired waters over time.

(d) $2,500,000 the first year and $2,500,000 the second year are for developing targeted, science-based watershed restoration and protection strategies and for technical assistance for local governments.

(e) $2,350,000 the first year and $2,350,000 the second year are for water-supply planning, aquifer protection, and monitoring activities and analysis.

(f) $2,250,000 the first year and $2,250,000 the second year are for technical assistance to support local implementation of nonpoint source restoration and protection activities and targeted forest stewardship for water quality.

(g) $700,000 the first year and $700,000 the second year are for tool development and evaluation, including maintaining and updating spatial data for watershed boundaries, streams, and water bodies and integrating high-resolution digital elevation data and for assessing the effectiveness of forestry best management practices for water quality.

(h) $100,000 the first year and $100,000 the second year are for accelerating completion of or updates to county geologic atlases and supplementing water chemistry or chemical movement studies.

(i) $350,000 the first year and $350,000 the second year are for increasing native

freshwater mussel production capacity and restoring and monitoring freshwater mussel restoration efforts.

(j) $1,500,000 the first year and $1,500,000 the second year are for providing technical and financial assistance for county and local governments to replace failing or ineffective culverts using modern designs that restore floodplain connectivity, biological connectivity, and channel stability. This appropriation is available for up to two additional years.

Sec. 6. **BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES** **$ 71,801,000 $ 71,801,000**

(a) $45,000,000 the first year and $45,000,000 the second year are for agreements to implement state-approved watershed-based plans. The agreements may be used to implement projects or programs that protect, enhance, and restore surface water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams; protect groundwater from degradation; and protect drinking water sources. Activities must be identified in a comprehensive watershed plan developed under the One Watershed, One Plan program and seven-county metropolitan groundwater or surface water management frameworks as provided for in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 103B, 103C, 103D, and 114D. Other legacy funds may be used to supplement projects funded under this paragraph. This appropriation may be used for:

(1) implementing state-approved plans, including within the following watershed planning areas: Big Fork River, Blue Earth

River, Bois de Sioux - Mustinka, Buffalo-Red River, Cannon River, Cedar - Wapsipinicon, Chippewa River, Clearwater River, Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota, Crow Wing River, Des Moines River, Greater Zumbro River, Hawk Creek - Middle Minnesota, Kettle and Upper St. Croix, Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank, Lake of the Woods, Lake Superior North, Le Sueur River, Leech Lake River, Little Fork River, Long Prairie River, Lower Minnesota River East, Lower Minnesota River West, Lower St. Croix River, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers, Minnesota River-Mankato, Mississippi River Brainerd, Mississippi River Headwaters, Mississippi River St. Cloud, Mississippi River-Sartell, Mississippi River Winona/La Crescent, Missouri River Basin, Nemadji River, North Fork Crow River, Otter Tail, Pine River, Pomme de Terre River, Rainy-Rapid River, Rainy Headwaters - Vermilion, Rainy River-Rainy Lake, Red Lake River, Redeye River, Redwood River, Root River, Roseau River, Rum River, Sand Hill River, Sauk River, Shell Rock and Winnebago River, Snake River, South Fork of the Crow River, St. Louis River, Thief River, Two Rivers Plus, Upper and Lower Red Lake, Upper Minnesota River, Upper Mississippi - Grand Rapids, Watonwan River, Wild Rice - Marsh, and Yellow Medicine River;

(2) implementing seven-county metropolitan groundwater or surface water management frameworks; and

(3) implementing other comprehensive watershed management plan planning areas that have a board-approved and local-government-adopted plan as authorized in Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.801.

The board must establish eligibility criteria and determine whether a planning area is ready to proceed.

(b) $3,000,000 the first year and $3,000,000 the second year are for agreements with local government units to protect and restore surface water and drinking water; to keep water on the land; to protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams; and to protect groundwater and drinking water, including feedlot water quality and subsurface sewage treatment system projects and stream bank, stream channel, shoreline restoration, and ravine stabilization projects. The projects must use practices demonstrated to be effective, be of long-lasting public benefit, include a match, and be consistent with total maximum daily load (TMDL) implementation plans, watershed restoration and protection strategies (WRAPS), groundwater restoration and protection strategies (GRAPS), or local water management plans or their equivalents. Up to 50 percent of this appropriation is available for land-treatment projects and practices that benefit drinking water.

(c) $4,350,000 the first year and $4,350,000 the second year are for accelerated implementation, local resource protection, statewide analytical targeting or technology tools that fill an identified gap, program

enhancements for technical assistance, citizen and community outreach, compliance, and training and certification.

(d) $1,250,000 the first year and $1,250,000 the second year are:

(1) to provide state oversight and accountability, evaluate and communicate results, provide implementation tools, and measure the value of conservation program implementation by local governments; and

(2) to submit to the legislature by December 15 each even-numbered year a biennial report detailing the recipients and projects funded and the results accomplished under this section.

(e) $2,000,000 the first year and $2,000,000 the second year are to provide assistance, oversight, and support for local governments in implementing and complying with riparian protection and excessive soil loss requirements.

(f) $1,000,000 the first year and $1,000,000 the second year are for a working lands floodplain program and to purchase, restore, or preserve riparian land and floodplains adjacent to lakes, wetlands, rivers, streams, and tributaries, by conservation easements or other agreements to keep water on the land, to decrease sediment, pollutant, and nutrient transport; reduce hydrologic impacts to surface waters; and increase protection and recharge for groundwater. Up to $60,000 is for deposit in a conservation easement stewardship

account established according to Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.103.

(g) $2,500,000 the first year and $2,500,000 the second year are for conservation easements under Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.501 to 103F.535, or for agreements with local units of government or Tribal governments for long-term protection of groundwater supply sources. Priority must be placed on drinking water supply management areas where the vulnerability of the drinking water supply is designated as high or very high by the commissioner of health, that are mitigation level 1 or 2 under the groundwater protection rule, where drinking water protection plans developed by Tribal governments have identified high vulnerability, or where drinking water protection plans have identified specific activities that will achieve long-term protection. Up to $200,000 is for deposit in a conservation easement stewardship account established according to Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.103.

(h) $100,000 the first year and $100,000 the second year are for a technical evaluation panel to conduct restoration evaluations under Minnesota Statutes, section 114D.50, subdivision 6.

(i) $500,000 the first year and $500,000 the second year are for assistance to, oversight of, and agreements with local governments to enhance and update comprehensive watershed management plans developed under Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.801.

(j) $1,000,000 the first year and $1,000,000 the second year are for technical and financial assistance for the conservation drainage program, in consultation with the Drainage Work Group, coordinated under Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.101, subdivision 13, and including projects to improve multipurpose water management under Minnesota Statutes, section 103E.015.

(k) $500,000 the first year and $500,000 the second year are to purchase permanent conservation easements to protect lands adjacent to public waters that have good water quality but that are threatened with degradation. Up to $60,000 is for deposit in a conservation easement stewardship account established according to Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.103.

(l) $425,000 the first year and $425,000 the second year are to systematically collect data and produce county, watershed, and statewide estimates of soil erosion caused by water and wind, and track adoption of conservation measures, including cover crops, to address erosion. This appropriation may be used for agreements with the University of Minnesota to complete this work.

(m) $500,000 the first year and $500,000 the second year are for implementing a water legacy program to expand partnerships for clean water.

(n) $2,500,000 the first year and $2,500,000 the second year are for permanent conservation easements to protect and restore wetlands and associated uplands. Up to

$100,000 is for deposit in a conservation easement stewardship account established according to Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.103.

(o) $5,926,000 the first year and $5,926,000 the second year are for financial and technical assistance to enhance adoption of cover crops and other soil health practices to achieve water quality or drinking water benefits. The board may use agreements with local governments, the United States Department of Agriculture, AgCentric at Minnesota State Center for Excellence, and other practitioners and partners to accomplish this work. Up to $450,000 is for an agreement with the University of Minnesota Office for Soil Health for applied research and education on Minnesota's agroecosystems and soil health management systems. This appropriation may be extended to leverage available federal funds.

(p) $750,000 the first year and $750,000 the second year are to contract for delivery of services with Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa for restoration, maintenance, training, and other activities consistent with this section.

(q) $500,000 the first year and $500,000 the second year are to provide support to soil and water conservation districts and other local governments and partner organizations in the Lake Superior basin to leverage Great Lakes Restoration Initiative or other federal funding to implement prioritized activities.

(r) The board may shift funds in this section and may adjust the technical and administrative assistance portion of the funds to leverage federal or other nonstate funds, to facilitate oversight responsibilities, or to address high-priority activities identified by the board consistent with local water management plans.

(s) The board must require grantees to specify the outcomes that will be achieved by the grants.

(t) The appropriations in this section are available until June 30, 2030, except grant or easement funds are available for five years after the date a grant or other agreement is executed. Returned funds must be repurposed consistent with the purposes of this section.

Sec. 7. **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH** **$ 15,095,000 $ 15,145,000**

(a) $5,925,000 the first year and $5,925,000 the second year are to develop health risk limits and other health-based guidance and conduct outreach activities for contaminants found or anticipated to be found in Minnesota drinking water; to accredit private laboratories to conduct analyses for these contaminants; and to increase the capacity of the department's laboratory to analyze for these contaminants.

(b) $3,000,000 the first year and $3,000,000 the second year are for ensuring safe drinking water for private well users in southeast Minnesota and statewide by designing and implementing voluntary interventions to reduce health risks to private well users,

including identifying private well locations, studying the occurrence and magnitude of contaminants in private wells, developing guidance and conducting outreach and education about well testing and mitigation, awarding grants to local governments, and offering well testing.

(c) $3,870,000 the first year and $3,920,000 the second year are for protecting sources of drinking water, including planning, implementation, and monitoring activities and grants to local governments and public water systems.

(d) $1,750,000 the first year and $1,750,000 the second year are to develop and deliver groundwater restoration and protection strategies on a watershed scale for use in local comprehensive water planning efforts, to provide resources to local governments for activities that sustain groundwater and protect sources of drinking water, and to enhance approaches that improve the capacity of local governmental units to protect and restore groundwater resources.

(e) $250,000 the first year and $250,000 the second year are to develop public health policies and approaches to address threats to safe drinking water, including implementation of a statewide action plan for protecting drinking water.

(f) $300,000 the first year and $300,000 the second year are for optimizing the statewide recreational water portal that includes an inventory of public beaches and information about local monitoring results and closures

and that provides information about preventing illness and recreational water stewardship.

(g) Unless otherwise specified, the appropriations in this section are available until June 30, 2029.

Sec. 8. **METROPOLITAN COUNCIL** **$ 2,125,000 $ 2,125,000**

(a) $1,375,000 the first year and $1,375,000 the second year are to support communities implementing projects that address emerging drinking water supply threats and overall water sustainability, provide cost-effective regional solutions, leverage interjurisdictional coordination, support local implementation of wellhead protection plans, and prevent degradation of groundwater and surface water resources. These activities will provide communities with:

(1) potential solutions to better connect land use impacts on water supply and overall water sustainability;

(2) ways to balance regional water use by using surface water, stormwater, wastewater, and groundwater;

(3) an analysis of infrastructure requirements needed to maintain and strengthen the reliability of water systems;

(4) development of planning-level cost estimates, including capital costs and operating costs;

(5) funding mechanisms and an equitable cost-sharing structure for regionally beneficial water supply development projects;

(6) information and tools to use to address climate change impacts on overall water supply systems and overall water sustainability; and

(7) ways to reduce impacts on the groundwater system through stormwater reuse grants to assist communities in reducing water use.

(b) $750,000 the first year and $750,000 the second year are for grants that implement water demand reduction measures. The grants are to assist municipalities in the metropolitan area with implementing water demand reduction measures to ensure the reliability and protection of drinking water supplies.

Sec. 9. **UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA** **$ 1,400,000 $ 1,400,000**

(a) $400,000 the first year and $400,000 the second year are for developing Part A of county geologic atlases. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2030.

(b) $1,000,000 the first year and $1,000,000 the second year are for a program to evaluate performance and technology transfer for stormwater best management practices, to evaluate best management performance and effectiveness to support meeting total maximum daily loads, to develop standards and incorporate state-of-the-art guidance using minimal impact design standards as the model, and to implement a system to transfer knowledge and technology across the local government, industry, and regulatory sectors. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2032.

Sec. 10. **LEGISLATURE** **$ 7,000 $ -0-**

$7,000 the first year is for the Legislative Coordinating Commission for the website required under Minnesota Statutes, section 3.303, subdivision 10.

Sec. 11. **PUBLIC FACILITIES AUTHORITY** **$ 8,300,000** **$ 8,300,000**

(a) $8,250,000 the first year and $8,250,000 the second year are for the point source implementation grants program under Minnesota Statutes, section 446A.073. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2032.

(b) $50,000 the first year and $50,000 the second year are for small community wastewater treatment grants and loans under Minnesota Statutes, section 446A.075. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2032.

(c) If there is any uncommitted money at the end of each fiscal year under paragraph (a) or (b), the Public Facilities Authority may transfer the remaining funds to eligible projects under any of the programs listed in this section according to a project's priority rank on the Pollution Control Agency's project priority list.

ARTICLE 2

PARKS AND TRAILS FUND

Section 1. **PARKS AND TRAILS FUND APPROPRIATIONS.**

The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are appropriated to the agencies and for the purposes specified in this article. The appropriations are from the parks and trails fund and are available for the fiscal years indicated for each purpose. The figures "2026" and "2027" used in this article mean that the appropriations listed under the figure are available for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, or June 30, 2027, respectively. "The first year" is fiscal year 2026. "The second year" is fiscal year 2027. "The biennium" is fiscal years 2026 and 2027. These are onetime appropriations.

		APPROPRIATIONS	
		Available for the Year	
		Ending June 30	
		2026	2027

Sec. 2. **PARKS AND TRAILS FUND**

Subdivision 1. **Total Appropriation**	$ 65,290,000	$ 67,845,000

The amounts that may be spent for each purpose are specified in the following sections.

Subd. 2. **Availability of Appropriation**

Money appropriated in this article may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. Money appropriated in this article must be spent in accordance with Minnesota Management and Budget MMB Guidance to Agencies on Legacy Fund Expenditure. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.28, and unless otherwise specified in this article, fiscal year 2026 appropriations are available until June 30, 2028, and fiscal year 2027 appropriations are available until June 30, 2029. If a project receives federal funds, the period of the appropriation is extended to equal the availability of federal funding.

Subd. 3. **Disability Access**

Where appropriate, grant recipients of parks and trails funds, in consultation with the Council on Disability and other appropriate governor-appointed disability councils, boards, committees, and commissions, should make progress toward providing people with disabilities greater access to programs, print publications, and digital media related to the

programs the recipient funds using appropriations made in this article.

Subd. 4. **Energy and Water Conservation**

Grant recipients of parks and trails funds should prioritize water and energy conservation technology and the use of renewable energy for construction and building projects funded with an appropriation made in this article.

Sec. 3. **DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES** **$ 39,435,000 $ 40,978,000**

(a) $25,855,000 the first year and $26,866,000 the second year are for state parks, recreation areas, and trails to:

(1) connect people to the outdoors;

(2) acquire land and create opportunities;

(3) maintain existing holdings; and

(4) improve cooperation by coordinating with partners to implement the 25-year long-range parks and trails legacy plan.

(b) The commissioner may spend money appropriated under paragraph (a) on I Can! programs, including but not limited to programs designed to provide underserved youth and youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer the opportunity to experience the outdoors with similar peers.

(c) $12,927,000 the first year and $13,434,000 the second year are for grants for parks and trails of regional significance outside the seven-county metropolitan area under Minnesota Statutes, section 85.535. The grants

awarded under this paragraph must be based on the lists of recommended projects submitted to the legislative committees under Minnesota Statutes, section 85.536, subdivision 10, from the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission established under Minnesota Statutes, section 85.536. Grants funded under this paragraph must support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance that meet the applicable definitions and criteria for regional parks and trails contained in the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan adopted by the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission on April 22, 2015. Grant recipients identified under this paragraph must submit a grant application to the commissioner of natural resources. Up to 2.5 percent of the appropriation may be used by the commissioner for the actual cost of issuing and monitoring the grants for the commission. Up to 4.5 percent of the appropriation may be used by the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission to carry out its duties under Minnesota Statutes, section 85.536, including the continued development of a statewide system plan for regional parks and trails outside the seven-county metropolitan area.

(d) By January 15, 2026, the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission must submit a list of projects that contains the commission's recommendations for funding from the parks and trails fund for fiscal year 2027 to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative

committees and divisions with jurisdiction over environment and natural resources and the parks and trails fund.

(e) By January 15, 2026, the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission must submit a report that contains the commission's criteria for funding from the parks and trails fund, including the criteria used to determine if a park or trail is of regional significance, to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over environment and natural resources and the parks and trails fund.

(f) $653,000 the first year and $678,000 the second year are for coordination and projects between the department, the Metropolitan Council, and the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission; enhanced web-based information for park and trail users; and support of activities of the Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee.

(g) The commissioner must contract for services with Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa for restoration, maintenance, and other activities under this section for at least $850,000 the first year and $850,000 the second year.

(h) Grant recipients of an appropriation under this section must give consideration to contracting with Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa for restoration, maintenance, and other activities.

(i) In addition to the requirements under paragraph (g), the commissioner should work to provide other opportunities that encourage a diversity of students to pursue careers in environment and natural resources when implementing appropriations in this section.

Sec. 4. **METROPOLITAN COUNCIL** **$ 25,855,000 $ 26,867,000**

(a) $25,855,000 the first year and $26,867,000 the second year are for distribution according to Minnesota Statutes, section 85.53, subdivision 3.

(b) Money appropriated under this section and distributed to implementing agencies must be used only to fund the list of projects approved by the elected representatives of each of the metropolitan parks implementing agencies. Projects funded by the money appropriated under this section must be substantially consistent with the project descriptions and dollar amounts approved by each elected body. Any money remaining after completing the listed projects may be spent by the implementing agencies on projects to support parks and trails.

(c) Grant agreements entered into by the Metropolitan Council and recipients of money appropriated under this section must ensure that the money is used to supplement and not substitute for traditional sources of funding.

(d) The implementing agencies receiving appropriations under this section must give consideration to contracting with Conservation Corps Minnesota for restoration, maintenance, and other activities.

APPENDIX
Article locations for 25-02505

ARTICLE 1 CLEAN WATER FUND..... Page.Ln 1.5
ARTICLE 2 PARKS AND TRAILS FUND..... Page.Ln 20.24