



PRESERVE LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS IN OUR GREAT OUTDOORS

Photo: Marcie Forsberg

Minnesotans share a tradition of protecting and investing in our Great Outdoors. It is a tradition that we expect our elected leaders in St. Paul to respect and continue. Minnesotans dramatically made this point on Election Day 2008, as the country was falling into recession, by voting overwhelmingly for the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution, and raising taxes and dedicating the funds for additional investment in the things we treasure most about Minnesota.

In 2016, we will work to ensure that capital investments for Minnesota's Great outdoors make up at least the traditional 22% of total state general obligation bonds. This level will keep the faith with Minnesota voters and comply with the Constitutional language of the Legacy Amendment, which states: *"money under this section must supplement traditional sources of funding for these purposes and may not be used as a substitute."**

MEP coalition bonding priorities include:

- ▶ **Governor Dayton's historic water bonding proposal, including;**
 - > \$167 million to help communities repair and modernize their aging wastewater and drinking water systems. A portion of these water infrastructure funds will be matched four times by Federal grants.
 - > \$30 million for targeted conservation easements with willing farmland owners to conserve soil, eliminate erosion, and protect habitat and water quality. These state RIM-Reserve funds would leverage up to a \$120 million federal match, as part of a five-year 100,000 acre Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).
 - > \$12.7 million to remove polluted riverbed sediment from the St. Louis River estuary. These state funds would leverage \$23.6 million in federal dollars.
- ▶ **Capital investment for key public transportation infrastructure. Including bus facilities and Safe Routes to School statewide, and Twin Cities Metro Area light rail expansion.**

*Article XI, Section 15 of the Minnesota Constitution