



# City of East Grand Forks

600 DeMers Ave · East Grand Forks, MN 56721  
Administration Phone: 218-773-2483; [www.egf.mn](http://www.egf.mn)

Parks Department: 218-773-8000 · Email: [RHuttunen@egf.mn](mailto:RHuttunen@egf.mn)

For Immediate Release:  
December 8, 2021

For additional information, contact: *Reid Huttunen, East Grand Forks Parks & Recreation Director*  
Phone: 218-399-3388 or email to [RHuttunen@EGF.MN](mailto:RHuttunen@EGF.MN)

## **\$1.26 Million grant to fund enhancements at East Grand Forks' LaFave Park**

December 8, 2021, East Grand Forks, MN - People who enjoy outdoor recreation in the *East Grand Forks* area will soon have their experiences enhanced, once recommendations are approved to fund \$1.26 Million *in* improvements to the LaFave Park area, at the confluence of the Red Lake and Red Rivers.

The Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission (GMRPTC) just completed its extensive application review process and chose LaFave Park, a part of the Red Lake River Corridor Regional trail, and 19 other parks and trails around MN for a record \$12.2 million in funding for Fiscal Year 2023. The GMRPTC will now ask the Minnesota Legislature to approve the recommendations through the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund, one of four funds created by the 2008 Minnesota Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. The Legislature has annually approved GMRPTC requests, since Legacy Funds are already dedicated and may only be spent to support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance.

“We are elated to have been selected for this grant from the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission, which will allow us to make much needed improvements to the LaFave Park area. Planned improvements include construction of new boat accesses onto the Red River, construction of a new boat access parking, and road improvements through the LaFave Park area,” said Reid Huttunen, East Grand Forks Parks & Recreation Director. “Area residents and visitors already enjoy the world-class fishing and recreation amenities on our trails and rivers, and these improvements will bring a much needed boost to the amenities and beauty of one of the most visible parks located in our community.

“Every grant awardee is very deserving, and we commend them for how thoroughly they described their needs in their grant applications,” said GMRPTC Executive Director Renee Mattson. “It’s the dedicated people at the local level who make Greater Minnesota’s parks and trails really shine, and we’re pleased to assist them with their efforts.”

Of the \$1.26 Million dollar grant award recommendation for the East Grand Forks project, \$851,768 will be provided by the Parks & Trails Legacy Fund, and 25% of the project or \$292,881 will be a local matching contribution from the City of East Grand Forks. Upon approval from the MN Legislature, project funds for engineering and construction will become available after July 1, 2022.



# City of East Grand Forks

600 DeMers Ave · East Grand Forks, MN 56721  
Administration Phone: 218-773-2483; [www.egf.mn](http://www.egf.mn)

Parks Department: 218-773-8000 · Email: [RHuttunen@egf.mn](mailto:RHuttunen@egf.mn)

The 20 parks and trails recommended for funding by GMRPTC are below. District numbers in the grid refer to these geographic areas of Minnesota: 1-Northeast; 2-Northwest; 3-West Central; 4-East Central; 5-Southwest; 6-Southeast.

Grant Recipient	Award	District
Duluth Traverse	\$167,783.00	1
Duluth Spirit Mountain Recreation Area	\$1,254,471.00	1
Big Falls Campground and Horse Camp	\$1,043,115.00	1
Gull Lake Trail - Cass County Fairview Township	\$167,280.00	2
Red Lake River Corridor: LaFave Park, East Grand Forks	\$851,768.00	2
Granite Falls Memorial Park	\$569,973.00	3
Isanti County Irving & John Anderson Park	\$780,225.00	4
Sherburne County Big Elk Lake Park	\$1,250,000.00	4
Wright County Robert Ney Park	\$75,000.00	4
Stearns County Beaver Island Trail	\$1,129,850.00	4
Wright County Stanley Eddy Park Reserve	\$32,200.00	4
Redwood Falls Ramsey Park	\$137,500.00	5
Lyon County Garvin Park	\$1,109,350.00	5
Lincoln County Hole in the Mountain Park	\$1,026,698.00	5
Rochester Cascade Lake Park	\$379,000.00	6
Red Wing He Mni Can/Barn Bluff Park	\$527,145.00	6
Cannon Valley Trail	\$490,463.00	6
Austin Jay C. Hormel Nature Center	\$255,552.00	6
Olmsted County Chester Woods Park	\$338,800.00	6
Winona Bluffs Traverse	\$403,320.00	6
Connecting People With the Outdoors Small Grants Fund	\$212,053.00	All
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,201,546.00</b>	

“Legacy Funding is an amazing and far-reaching gift that Minnesotans chose to make happen by voting to tax themselves,” added Mattson. “Without Legacy dollars, many of these projects simply would not happen or would take many years before coming to fruition.”

The GMRPTC provides recommendations to the Minnesota Legislature for grants to parks and trails of regional significance in the 80 counties outside the seven-county metropolitan area. Since 2014 the GMRPTC has awarded more than \$52 million in grants to over 50 regional parks and trails. Combined with \$20 million in community matches, grants are used to fund infrastructure improvements, land acquisitions, new facilities, trail rehabilitation and more. Additional information may be found at [gmrptccommission.org](http://gmrptccommission.org).

###