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Friends of Itasca State Park Receives \$5,000 Grant to Complete Habitat Restoration Project in Itasca State Park

Park Rapids, MN – Volunteer-led Friends of Itasca State Park will implement a project to construct and place tree cages at Itasca State Park with support from the Minnesota DNR and funds issued by Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota. These tree cages will be placed around young red pine, white pine and jack pine to keep deer from damaging the trees allowing for quicker and healthier growth. The project will include volunteer opportunities for community members at events May – October.

The Friends of Itasca State Park was one of five groups selected to receive \$5,000 from Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota under a statewide grant program that seeks to restore habitat in state parks. This grant program was made possible by the Henry S. Crosby Foundation, which issued grant money to Parks & Trails Council to advance protection of state parks through land acquisition and habitat restoration projects.

All awardees of this grant include: Friends of Itasca State Park, Friends of Maplewood State Park, Friends of Nerstrand Big Woods State Park, Friends of Wild River State Park, and Frontenac State Park Association.

Parks & Trails Council worked with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to identify potential projects and overlap them with active Friends Groups. These projects compliment longterm, natural resource management goals of the parks and fit into the wide variety of activities of Friends Groups. Friends Groups support state parks in various ways, from raising money and promotion, to advocacy and programming.



