



275 East 4th St, Ste 250 • St. Paul, MN 55101

651-726-2457 • www.parksandtrails.org

Greetings Tim,

Minnesota’s parks and trails are among the best in the nation, and we know that the involvement of Friends Groups is critical in keeping them that way. Over the years, Friends Groups have established new parks and trails, encouraged more people to spend time in these special places, and enhanced the experience for the thousands of people who visit each year.

Parks & Trails Council’s (P&TC) Friends Group program helps Friends Groups connect with each other to learn and grow together. Each year, we organize opportunities for Friends Groups to learn, participate, and engage with a community of volunteers. P&TC has also continued to seek out new ways to support Friends Groups’ “behind-the-scenes” work like membership tracking, board recruitment, and project planning. See reverse for more highlights.

P&TC is committed to supporting our Friends Group partners in the coming year. We will continue providing resources and assistance however we can, partnering with Friends Groups to work towards collective goals in support of our parks and trails.

Your friends group plays a crucial role in the stewardship of Minnesota’s parks and trails. We invite you to renew your Friends Group Partner membership by December 31 to remain connected to this community of stewards and maintain access to the program’s resources in 2023. Together, we can make a lasting, positive impact on our state’s parks and trails.

Sincerely,

Brett Feldman, Executive Director

## Friends Group Membership Renewal

Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

- We’d like to renew our Friends Group partner membership until December 31, 2023 for \$35.
- Plus, we’d like to make an additional contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support Parks & Trails Council’s mission.

Enclosed is a check payable to **Parks & Trails Council of MN**

Visa  Mastercard  AmEx  Discover

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Friends of Itasca State Park  
Tim Holzkamm  
36750 Main Park Drive  
Park Rapids, MN 56470



## Parks & Trails Council Friends Group Program

The Friends Group Program is a one-stop shop for helpful resources and tips. Through the program, P&TC convenes more than 50 Friends Groups across Minnesota who network and share best practices with each other. P&TC seeks to partner with Friends Groups on various projects to further advance the stewardship of our state's parks and trails.

### Program Benefits

- Participate in P&TC events, such as online webinars and in-person workshops.
- List upcoming events, story highlights, and board vacancies on P&TC's website.
- Plug into legislative efforts that support parks and trails.
- Be eligible to apply for P&TC-administered grants.
- Support the statewide mission of P&TC to acquire, protect, and enhance parks and trails.

### 2022 Highlights

- Awarded grant funding for 6 Earth Day events hosted by Friends Groups around the state.
- Partnered with more than 25 Friends Groups on a Scavenger Hunt program in summer.
- Continued our webinar series, with multiple Friends Group partners sharing their insights.
- Supported 9 Friends Group-driven projects at the Legislative level.
- Awarded our annual Friends Group Partner Award.

### 2023 Goals

- Continue to offer webinar programming relevant to Friends Group concerns.
- Administer a grant program available only to Friends Group partners.
- Conduct site visits and join meetings or events.
- Assist in Friends Group recruitment efforts.
- Continue our long-term evaluation of the statewide impact of Friends Groups.

These items build the foundation for the Friends Group program. However, the most important part is you! Learn more about the Friends Group program by visiting [www.parksandtrails.org/friends-groups](http://www.parksandtrails.org/friends-groups) or by reaching out to Phoebe Ward, Friends Group Program Manager, at [pward@parksandtrails.org](mailto:pward@parksandtrails.org).

## More Information Request

We are interested in receiving more information about how to obtain or achieve the following benefits:

- Create or update our website listing
- Submit an event, story, or board vacancy to be listed on the website
- Access the grant guide or webinars
- Obtain liability insurance
- Partner with P&TC on a special project
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

