NEW RECREATION LANDS PROGRAM

The Minnesota Land Trust is piloting a new initiative with Duluth to protect and promote the city’s nature-based recreational assets, including hiking, paddling, bird watching, trail running, skiing, mountain biking, and more. Hansi Johnson will spearhead this new program for the Minnesota Land Trust.

As Director of Recreational Lands, Hansi brings a wealth of experience and a passion for outdoor recreation to his new position, based in the Duluth office. For the past five years, Hansi was the Regional Director for the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA), helping volunteer clubs such as the Duluth-based Cyclists of Gitchee Gumee (COGGS) work to create world-class mountain biking trails and other important outdoor destinations.

Hansi recognizes that nature-based adventure activities such as mountain biking, rock climbing and trail running are fast-growing outdoor activities which can complement traditional pursuits such as hunting and fishing and engage different constituencies. As such, the Land Trust is exploring how to help communities around the state develop a robust nature-based, outdoor recreation infrastructure that will maintain Minnesota’s continued engagement with the great outdoors and outdoor recreation infrastructure. 

MORE PRAIRIE WETLANDS PROTECTED

Wetlands and shallow lakes provide the essential backbone for the survival of waterfowl and other important wildlife species. In fact, more than 50% of the amphibians and birds listed as Minnesota Species in Greatest Conservation Need use wetlands during their life cycle. Fortunately for these wildlife species, the Minnesota Land Trust recently completed three projects near Payne Falls as property owned by Carol Enzeke that protect chesapeake and habitat in this area of rapid development. Located just five miles north of Maplewood State Park in Otter Tail County, the Kratzke land lies on the edge of the once-vast prairie where it begins to transition into the Big Woods forest to the east. It features nearly 10,000 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Otter Lake and nearly 10,000 acres of public open space within city limits and more than 300 eventual miles of trails. Duluth recognizes that it cannot take an active role in nature recreation without an active role in nature conservation. As such, the Land Trust is exploring how to help communities around the state develop a robust nature-based, outdoor recreation infrastructure that will maintain Minnesota’s continued engagement with the great outdoors and outdoor recreation infrastructure.

MORE INFORMATION MAY BE FOUND AT MNLAND.ORG

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