Heritage Tourism
Explore Minnesota Tourism has a marketing campaign promoting our state parks that begins with “In one day, I <insert what you learned/discovered about spending time in a park>.” They’ve got some pretty clever ones like, “In one day, we found out that moose look a lot bigger when they’re not in a cartoon,” and “In one day, I went from operating a swizzle stick in a latte to a canoe in the river.” Here’s my “In one day”: “In one day, I went from being lost in my work to being lost in the woods.”

For several years my family would drive up to the Duluth area and spend the day hiking at Jay Cooke State Park. I loved basking in the sun, enjoying the cool, crisp fall air, and crunching the fallen leaves beneath my feet. And yes, I even managed to get myself lost once because I was so enthralled with crunching leaves that I couldn’t be bothered to look up and watch where I was going. It’s just one of many memories I recall of trips to our state parks. I’ve been camping more times than I can count, and made day trips just as often. So, can you guess what the theme of this issue is?

Our state parks make great vacation spots for those looking to get away from the hustle of day-to-day life. I recently discovered that Minnesota state parks have a combined total of over 1,225 miles of hiking trails and 322 miles of biking trails, ready for your enjoyment. We all know that Minnesota is the land of 10,000 lakes and, not surprisingly, many are located with parks. Camping, kayaking, canoeing, birding, hiking, and biking are all just a few things you can do at a state park. Several parks even have historic resources built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Veteran Conservation Corps (VCC) that are still actively serving the public. This summer, why not get out and explore a park near—or far—from you?

Minnesota makes it affordable for everyone to enjoy our natural resources. A vehicle permit for one year that is valid at all state parks is a reasonable $25.00. A single-day pass is only $5.00. Campsites, available at most state parks, max out at $20.00 per night. Excellent websites to help you plan your visit can be found at both the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website (www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/index.html) and Explore Minnesota Tourism’s site (www.exploreminnesota.com/state-parks).

In the United States land has always been our greatest natural resource—but not all land preservation takes the form of parklands. We’ve added two articles to the mix that deal specifically with land preservation as a whole. In Minnesota, the Minnesota Land Trust permanently protects the lands and waters that define our communities and enrich our quality of life through establishing and monitoring permanent conservation easements. On the national level, President Obama recently convened a conference on “America’s Great Outdoors” that aims to create more awareness about and travel to our nation’s natural resources. You have the opportunity to get involved and provide feedback on new measures to protect and promote our natural treasures.

This summer is proving to be just as busy as the last, but I am making sure my plans include a trip to one of Minnesota’s 66 state parks. Is your trip planned?

Kelli Andre
Editor
Everyone who lives in a city ought to have a place in the country—a sort of second home where you can show up unannounced and always feel welcome. For many Minnesotans, state parks have become that haven. Like any home, state parks hold our history—natural and cultural.

From Afton to Zippel Bay, state parks protect Minnesota’s natural heritage—the headwaters of the Mississippi, a grove of old-growth pines, a stand of Big Woods, a patch of unplowed prairie, and so much more. Just as human history entwines with natural history, so too state parks encompass our cultural heritage—evidence of first American Indian people, fur traders, voyageurs, explorers, pioneers, New Deal workers, and others. All parks offer abundant opportunities for exploration.

What unexplored biological riches do state parks’ 226,713 acres hold? Inventories reveal a lot. For example, from 2001 to 2007, state parks conducted an inventory of bird species. Working with renowned birder Bob Janssen, staff documented over 360 species, including 27 Minnesota endangered, threatened, or special concern species.

Today, the state parks database contains more than 31,000 records of bird sightings, and every state park has a bird checklist. The lists enrich birding for park visitors and help resource managers tailor their work. At Great River Bluffs State Park, for instance, documented nesting of the endangered Henslow’s sparrow has led to more prairie planting and prescribed burning to provide prime habitat.

From archaeology to zoology, state parks provide the grounds for research. Overall, the state parks system has some 600 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, 360 known archaeological sites, and 62 historic districts or landmarks.
Archaeological research at Fort Ridgely State Park has revealed layers of American Indian history, from the U.S. – Dakota War of 1862 back at least 5,000 years. Millennia before Mille Lacs Kathio became a state park, this land along the Rum River attracted humans. During the past 100 years, archaeologists have uncovered more than 25 archaeologically significant sites, and research continues. Some of their findings are on display at the park. And on the park’s Archaeology Day in September, visitors also get a chance to dig.

Every year more than 50 scientists apply for and receive permits to conduct research in parks. A paleontologist searches for fossils at Hill Annex Mine State Park. Geologists explore karst features—deep fissures, sinkholes, and underground caves—at Banning State Park. At Maplewood a scientist collects frogs to investigate the cause of frog deformities. In several parks tree climbers gather cone and branch samples for a researcher who is studying the genetic diversity of old white pines. His study could help forest managers select seed sources.

The Minnesota County Biological Survey includes state parks in its search for uncommon species. At 1,575 park locations, researchers have found rare plant and animal species. For example, four caddisfly species new to the state were first observed in state parks. At Camden, Split Rock Creek, and Glacial Lakes, a researcher found two species of butterflies never documented in those state parks. Knowing where rare butterfly species, such as the Dakota skipper, occur has led resource managers to alter where and when they conduct spring burns. Knowing where to find uncommon plants and wildlife, park naturalists can guide visitors to enjoy viewing without disturbing.

As well as rare species, we need to know about common ones. Documenting their presence or absence, abundance, and range provides a baseline for monitoring global change and resource use. “What is common today may become rare in the future,” says DNR parks resource management coordinator Ed Quinn.

Some state parks offer a view of once-common human activities that have become rare. Minneopa State Park preserves the remains of a German-style windmill, built in 1864 to grind grain into flour. At the Lars Larson mill established in 1886, farmers brought their wheat and rye for grinding. On summer Sundays, families gathered by the mill for picnics. Today, Old Mill State Park powers the millstones with the original steam engine for demonstrations. Park visitors can walk across the river on a swinging bridge with stone pillars fashioned by Works Progress Administration stonecutters and masons in the 1930s. On a summer day, visitors might stop by the old fieldstone beach house and go for a swim in the pond. And some visitors might even take time to gather with family and friends for an old-fashioned picnic.

History buffs know state parks harbor some noteworthy buildings. The Clement H. Beaulieu home, built in the Greek revival style in 1847, stands in Crow Wing State Park. Douglas Lodge, built at Itasca State Park in 1905, is a classic of rustic log architecture. Charles A. Lindbergh State Park shelters the boyhood home of the famous aviator. His father built the home in 1906, just before he began serving as a U.S. representative.

In state parks, Minnesota’s history, natural resources, and outdoor life meet. Touring parks, visitors can see this. Going afield, researchers find this too. Every state park opens a window into the past and into the natural world today. And every state park helps shelter, restore, perpetuate, and interpret Minnesota’s natural and cultural heritage.
Of all the photography projects I have had the privilege to be involved with, photographing our state parks has proven to be the most challenging and the most rewarding. In the spring of 2008, I proposed the idea to the Minnesota Historical Society Press to publish a book on our state parks. The idea immediately took hold and soon the publishers had found Chris Niskanen, one of Minnesota’s finest outdoor writers, and outdoors editor for the Saint Paul Pioneer Press, to join the project. Chris and I developed a basic outline for the book and soon after I set off down the trail with camera and tripod in tow. We weren’t interested in creating another guidebook that had already been done, instead, the goal for the book was to showcase the incredible beauty, rich history and natural wonder in our own backyard.

Early in the project my biggest challenge was wondering if I would be able to adequately capture with the camera what I was seeing and experiencing during my visits. Most of the parks are spread out over thousands of acres and a photograph is limited and can only record a small part of what an eye can see. However, by the fall of 2009 when I had hiked, kayaked, fished, camped and explored all 66 of Minnesota’s parks, I had long forgotten my fears and wished the project wasn’t over.

In the following pages, you’ll see just a sampling of the thousands of photographs I took while working on this project. I hope you enjoy them.

Enjoy!

Doug Ohman

Doug Ohman, of Pioneer Photography, is the photographer of the Minnesota Byways series, which includes Barns of Minnesota, Cabins of Minnesota, Churches of Minnesota, Schoolhouses of Minnesota and Courthouses of Minnesota. Doug is also the Alliance’s go-to photographer for the 10 Most Endangered Historic Places List.

The book Prairie, Lake, Forest – Minnesota State Parks was released this spring and has already received many favorable reviews. If you want to enjoy the beauty of Minnesota and read fun and interesting stories about our own “Yellowstones,” this book is a must. The book is available at most local and regional bookstores or a signed copy can be purchased directly from Doug Ohman. Contact Doug at pioneerphotos@comcast.net.
A bridge at Old Mill State Park; this WPA-built water tower with observation deck, located in Lake Bronson State Park, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; Split Rock Lighthouse, in Two Harbors, celebrates its centennial anniversary in 2010; fishing is a favorite pastime of many Minnesotans. Here, a man is fly-fishing in White Water State Park.
Cascade River State Park is home to one of many waterfalls that are dotted throughout Minnesota’s state parks; this sign marks the entrance to Itasca State Park; Minnesota’s State Bird, the Common Loon, swims with its young; the Lars Larson Homestead at Old Mill State Park.
Big Woods: Yesterday and Today

By Amy Acheson

Hiking along the Big Woods Trail on a sunlit morning under a thick canopy of age-old trees one can find a world that exists all its own. Peeking through the lofty foliage, streams of light angle down, touching the delicate ecosystem of flora and fauna that flourishes below.

Nerstrand Big Woods State Park, located eight miles southeast of Northfield and about 50 miles southeast of Minneapolis and St. Paul in Wheeling Township, is the best remnant left in Minnesota of what was known as the “The Big Woods,” a massive band of hardwoods that once stretched (over two million acres) diagonally across the state, extending as far north as St. Cloud, west to Mankato and southeast to Faribault.

For several reasons the Nerstrand Woods tract was preserved over the years. It serves as a sanctuary for habitat indigenous to the region and is of historic significance to its visitors today.

The Big Wood’s History Runs Deep

Glaciers grooved the way for a unique topography in this part of Minnesota that later became open prairies, brushland, oak savanna, rivers, lakes and the Big Woods. The Cannon and Minnesota rivers served as barriers, protecting the Woods from prairie fires over the years. A Minnesota DNR document accurately depicts the Woods and its surroundings well: “The Big Woods forest in all its fullness rose from the sundrenched expanses like a great dark wall.”

Although early pioneers cleared much of the original Big Woods for farming and logging purposes, this particular tract, by Nerstrand, had a unique purpose as small wood lots for over 150 early pioneers, used for fuel and timber. This arrangement turned out to have an unlikely benefit that would later prove to be pivotal in the Woods preservation. An inspection report by the United States Department of the Interior National Park Service in 1935 states, “During the early settlement of the country surrounding this area, it was divided into small 5 and 10 acre plots to serve the various farmers of the region as wood lots … This condition has prevented any one individual from acquiring a large piece of the area and has prevented entirely its use for pasturage and its complete elimination in a single operation by an individual.”

So the forest floor was kept intact. Of course, windstorms, disease, and climate changes all took their toll over the years. Then as time went on, the threat of accelerated timber clearings for economic benefit became apparent. Ecologists, botanists, and concerned neighbors alike put forth a valiant effort to “Save the Big Woods!” According to newspapers in the late 1930s, it stood in most imminent danger of depletion by the encroachment of the woodman’s ax!

An article written by the Nerstrand Bicentennial Committee of 1976 states, “Credit for the movement to save the woods must be given to the conservation-minded citizens of the surrounding communities. Carleton and St. Olaf College botanists, who had been bringing their students into the woods to study its vegetation, worked especially hard for its preservation.”

A botany professor at Carleton College by the name of Harvey E. Stork was instrumental in the movement and he was even working towards this effort back in the 1920s. In a paper read before the Rice County Historical Society in 1934 he states his plea: “The axe is fast making inroads into this forest which should be made a state park before further destruction makes that impossible for all times.
This has a direct bearing on the preservation of state historical records for the woods itself is a living record of what this natural feature so important in the trends of the state's history was like.”

Citizens did not want to lose Nerstrand Woods and believed in "preserving for all time this beautiful remnant of the historic Big Woods," according to a 1939 article in The Pioneer, a magazine section of the St. Paul Sunday Pioneer Press. What was set in motion by Stork, other biologists, environmentalists, and concerned neighbors finally took hold! In 1945, the land was designated as Nerstrand Big Woods State Park.

**Today’s Plan for Landscape Ecology**

As we’ve settled into the 21st century, prairie farmers surrounding the Woods have embraced a broader ecological view. Landowners now work in stewardship with specific farming practices to protect the Woods ecosystem and the area lakes and rivers that feed into it. There is more education on the importance of biological diversity. In *Managing Landscapes in the Big Woods Ecosystem*, it states, "A certain variety of living organisms is needed for the natural environment to fully function. When an ecosystem is fragmented, or when some of its components are removed, it may continue to exist in a partial or simplified way—at least for a time. At some point, however, if too much diversity is lost, the ecosystem effectively collapses, no longer able to regenerate its species, habitats, or soil.”

To further protect the Big Woods ecosystem, the park plans to expand over the years by ecological boundaries rather than geographical lines.

Today, this broad-leaf deciduous forest, contains excellent woodland habitat for migratory and nesting birds indicating a quality, mature forest, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. They have recorded presence of such species as cerulean warblers, Acadian flycatchers, blue-gray gnatcatchers and red-shouldered hawks to name a few. Park management is currently watching over an endangered redheaded woodpecker.

The park also contains a wildflower known as the Dwarf Trout Lily that only exists in this area and nowhere else on earth! It is considered a federally endangered forest wildflower as it was jeopardized with the possibility of extinction. It is a delicate, pale pink flower about the size of a dime or less. It is unique from other trout lilies in that it is an underground vegetative runner and has a variable number of petals. Its mode of reproduction is only by a single offshoot by flowering plants and only a small proportion actually produce flowers. It is believed the plant was spread from glacial floodwaters somewhere on the Cannon River. Great efforts have been made to maintain its existence.

Various activities are going on all year long using the designated paths and recreation areas at the park. They have skiing, camping, hiking, snowshoeing, bird watching, geocaching … and various other programs. Some come to see the impressive spring wildflowers, to hike down to the Hidden Falls, or for the vibrant fall colors. Whatever brings you to Nerstrand Big Woods State Park, you will find a place of primitive beauty with a remarkable history that has been protected, enjoyed and revered over the years.

**Websites:** www.dnr.state.mn.us and www.visitingnorthfield.com

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*Managing Landscapes in the Big Woods Ecosystem*
The Pioneer, Seek to Save the Big Woods Remnant
Nerstrand Big Woods State Park - Park History document
Geology of Nerstrand Woods State Park, H.E. STORK
Wildflower Checklist, NBWSP
Bird Checklist, NBWSP
Inspection Report, U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service
Nerstrand - a History by the Nerstrand Bicentennial Committee, 1976
Minnesota Dwarf Trout Lily, an endangered Minnesota Wildflower
Faribault Daily News
Lake Superior’s north shore, towering birch forests, glacial lakes, meandering rivers, rolling prairies, and scenic blufflands are but a few of the characteristic landscapes that define Minnesota. Protecting these treasured landscapes has become the defining mission of the Minnesota Land Trust, a 501(c)3 non-profit conservation organization. The Land Trust preserves the natural and scenic heritage of our state through public and private partnerships. Working in tandem with landowners, communities, and other conservation organizations, the Land Trust permanently preserves land and water resources using conservation easements and other tools; educates and advocates for the preservation of Minnesota’s unique environmental systems; connects people with the benefits of Minnesota’s natural heritage; and leads the conservation movement forward. Founded in 1991, the Land Trust has permanently protected over 37,000 acres on 400 properties across the state.

Minnesota has one of the fastest growing populations in the upper Midwest, with more than a million acres of open farm lands, wild shorelines and natural areas that are under the threat of conversion to residential or commercial uses over the next 25 years. Balancing this growth with the state’s tradition of conservation is one of Minnesota’s greatest challenges. Fortunately, there are innovative conservation tools and land protection strategies that can help preserve these natural areas for future generations. One of the most powerful of these tools is a conservation easement, an option which helps protect private land for the public good.

Conservation easements are individually tailored agreements through which landowners voluntarily limit the use and development of their property to permanently preserve its natural or scenic features. These features, called conservation values, might include significant wildlife and plant habitat, lake or river shoreline, wetlands or important scenic or cultural lands which benefit the public. In order to protect these conservation values, certain restrictions on the use of the property and the reserved rights of the landowner are detailed in the conservation easement which is a legal, recorded document. The easement is conveyed to a non-profit conservation organization or government agency qualified to hold and enforce easements. Once the easement is signed by the landowner and the easement holder, the document is filed with local county land records.

Most conservation easements, including all of those held by the Minnesota Land Trust, are perpetual. They apply to the current owner and all future landowners, permanently protecting the property. Each conservation easement is unique and is individually crafted to reflect the special characteristics of the land and the particular situation of the landowner.

The Minnesota Land Trust is obligated to monitor and enforce the terms of each easement that it holds. Staff or certified volunteers schedule regular monitoring visits to each property to make sure the land continues to be used in accordance with the easement. If necessary, the Minnesota Land Trust will legally defend its easements in the event of a violation. The Land Trust does not otherwise have the right to use the property without the landowner’s permission.

Conservation easements give landowners peace of mind, knowing that their commitment to protecting their land will be forever respected and remain an enduring legacy for their family and their community.

The Minnesota Land Trust recently completed a conservation easement with Sid and Ginny Maurer in southeastern Minnesota near the community of Red Wing. The scenic city of Red Wing is nestled among the bluffs of the upper Mississippi River and is unique among southern Minnesota cities, having adopted an Open Space Preservation Plan several years ago. The city remains committed to implementing the Plan in partnership with individuals and non-profit organizations, as parks and open

By Anne Murphy, Conservation Stewardship Director, Minnesota Land Trust
space are a critical element to community character.

Red Wing native Sid Maurer has fond childhood memories growing up on the family farm in Burnside Township. Although Sid and his wife Ginny now live in California, they continue to own the family land outside of Red Wing and visit often. Having witnessed a fair amount of change to the family land and surrounding area in recent years, the Maurer’s began to think about the future of the land. On December 31, 2009 they permanently protected 28 acres of forested floodplain and an additional 414 acres off Highway 19 by donating a conservation easement to the Land Trust. The conservation easement ensures that the Maurer’s land will continue to serve as habitat for wildlife while enhancing the water quality of Spring Creek as it meanders on its way to the Mississippi River.

When asked what motivated their efforts the Maurer’s responded: “Our experience growing up in Red Wing was wonderful and continues to hold an important place in our hearts.” After the Maurers moved to California in 1969, they raised their family of four children and made a point to come back to Red Wing every year. “California showed us how easy it is to lose touch with the land once it is developed. We wanted to give something back, to leave something behind that says ‘this is a place we love.’ Protecting the land for future generations to enjoy was something we could do.”

When the Maurer’s contacted the Minnesota Land Trust in 2007, the organization was very interested in helping them to meet their conservation goals. Kris William Larson, executive director of the Land Trust described the importance of their property: “Their land is at the gateway to Red Wing and the Mississippi River Blufflands, which is a critical natural area for more than 40% of the biological diversity within the state of Minnesota. We also recognize that permanently protecting land for the future is a big decision. The Maurer’s were careful to consider the implications of their decision on their family, the community and for future generations. It has been an honor to work with them and we are grateful for their commitment to land conservation here in southern Minnesota.”

The conservation easement that protects the Maurer’s land allows for continued agricultural use in areas currently farmed, but restricts future development and other uses inconsistent with the protection of its natural features. If or when the land is sold, all new owners will also be bound by the terms of the easement, preserving the land’s conservation values for future generations. To ensure compliance with the terms of the easement, the Land Trust will monitor the land annually.

The Maurer’s land includes important natural habitats identified in the state’s Wildlife Action Plan. The protection of this site preserves a larger complex of habitat for species such as the red shouldered hawk, cerulean warbler, Blandings turtle, as well as the wood turtle. The land also includes
an important archeological site with research currently being conducted by Minnesota State University, Mankato. Building upon previous research from the now-defunct Institute for Minnesota Archaeology, archeologists believe this area to be a key link in delineating the relationship between Oneota and Silvernale cultures and will spend the summer months collecting subsurface artifacts from the property.

Protecting the land with a conservation easement is also consistent with the city of Red Wing’s Open Space Plan that envisions protecting land along Highway 19 as well as along Spring Creek with a potential goal of expanding the public trail system. According to Brian Peterson, Planning Director for the City of Red Wing “the City has worked with the Minnesota Land Trust to protect other important natural resources, including land on Trenton Island and our first project together at Coon Hill. Having an organization that can work with private landowners to further conservation goals is important for Red Wing and our objective to protect the Green Infrastructure of our community.”

Noting that the Land Trust has completed over 400 other projects throughout the state, including several in the Red Wing area, Director Larson explains “Working with private landowners to permanently protect land is an alternative to public ownership that has direct benefit to the public and at the same time honors the role that private conservation plays across the state. Conservation-minded landowners come to us looking for peace of mind, wanting to continue the legacy of land that has given them so much. They often want their own families to be able to continue using the land, but recognize the land’s importance to broader public purposes such as the preservation of scenic views, the protection of wildlife habitat, the need to protect our waterways as well as other recreational pursuits.”

Partial funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). The largest contribution however, was made by Sid and Ginny Maurer who gave up the development potential of their land and in addition made a financial contribution to the Minnesota Land Trust to provide for the long-term stewardship associated with the conservation easement.

As a 501(c)3 non-profit conservation organization, the Minnesota Land Trust is a public charity and relies on the generosity of individuals, businesses, foundations, and other organizations to protect the natural and scenic places that all Minnesotans treasure. More information about the Land Trust can be found at www.mnland.org or by calling 651-647-9590.
Americans have a proud tradition of working together—from the ground-up—to conserve farmland and open space for future generations, restore rivers and streams, protect areas for hiking and biking, preserve beaches and coastlines, conserve wildlife habitat for fishing and hunting, and restore the cultural and historic sites that tell America’s story. In fact, community-driven efforts to conserve America’s land, water, and wildlife are a major reason why we are blessed with the parks, refuges, forests, and open spaces that we enjoy today.¹

On Friday, April 16, 2010 the Obama Administration hosted a White House Conference on America’s Great Outdoors. Nancy Sutley, Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior, and Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture led the conference, which addressed the challenges, opportunities and innovations surrounding modern-day land conservation and the importance of reconnecting Americans and American families to the outdoors.²

“America’s outdoors are part of our national identity. They are the farms, ranches and forests that we take great pride in, and the neighborhood parks, trails and fields where we spend memorable time with our families and friends,” said Nancy Sutley, Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. “Too many of these places are disappearing. In launching this conversation, we strive to learn about the smart, creative community efforts underway throughout the country to conserve our outdoor spaces, and hear how we can support these efforts.”³

“Across the country, Americans are working to protect the places they know and love, from the streams they fished as children and the parks where families gather together to the battlefields and buildings that tell America’s story,” said Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior. “The Conference is a great chance to learn about these efforts, start a new dialogue about conservation in America, and find ways to further the work that is already going on in cities and towns, counties and states throughout the country.”⁴

“There is no doubt that we face serious challenges to our natural resources: climate change, air and water pollution, a lost connection between some Americans and the outdoors, and a fragmentation and loss of open space,” said Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture. “We believe that the best way to answer these challenges is to work with landowners, conservation groups, sportsmen and women, local communities, and state and local governments to conserve America’s great outdoors, and in doing so, reconnect Americans to our forests, working lands and public lands.”⁵

This conference brought together over 600 leaders from communities across the country who are working to protect their outdoor spaces. Participants included working ranchers and farmers, sportsmen and women, State and local government leaders, Tribal leaders, public lands experts, conservationists, youth leaders, business representatives and others who view the outdoors as integral to their communities. The discussion centered on the conservation opportunities in communities, the challenges facing them, and the innovative solutions they are crafting from the bottom up.⁶

The conference also offered an opportunity for participants to engage with each other, learn from past and ongoing efforts, communicate how the Federal Government can support these efforts, and identify new opportunities to work together to modernize our approach to conservation, and reinvigorate the national conversation about our outdoors.⁷

“Even in times of crisis, we’re called to take the long view to preserve our national heritage…”  
—President Obama in his remarks on America’s Great Outdoors, April 16, 2010.
As follow up to this conference, the Secretary of the Interior, along with President Obama, have launched a national dialogue about conservation in America and you can get involved. Go to http://ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf/ to submit your own ideas on how the initiative can promote the protection and enjoyment of our natural resources.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has recently issued talking points on how they believe this great idea can be made even better: include cultural resources. America’s Great Outdoors Initiative can be strengthened by vigorously embracing not just natural resources but our cultural resources as well. As a nation, it’s important to recognize, maintain, protect and expand our nation’s heritage represented in historic and cultural sites and parks. The Trust is asking that you promote the idea of full funding for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), as well as submit ideas of your own on how America’s Great Outdoors can promote the protection and enjoyment of our cultural resources. Here are some talking points to get you started:

- Fully fund the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF).
  ◊ Modeled after its sister program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the HPF provides dedicated funding to support the programs and activities that were identified in the National Historic Preservation Act, and which are critical components to the cultural, environmental, and economic sustainability of our nation’s communities.

- Increase funding for existing federal programs that promote preservation and heritage tourism and encourage people to discover and explore America’s Great Outdoors.
  ◊ Programs like Save America’s Treasures, Preserve America, and National Heritage Areas attract private dollars and work in partnership with the federal government to address preservation needs as well as promote economic development and create jobs.

- Include State and municipally- owned historic parks and sites, National Historic Landmarks and sites on the National Register of Historic Places as well as privately owned historic sites in the scope of the initiative.
  ◊ These sites are easily accessible as they located in nearly every community across the nation, and through reinvestment and rediscovery can play an important role in getting Americans outdoors.

- Increase funding for the maintenance, protection and expansion of existing historic sites, parks, and cultural landscapes.
  ◊ Our historic, cultural and archeological resources suffer from devastating maintenance backlogs, lack of proper survey, and inadequate comprehensive planning.

- Expand federally protected historic and cultural sites as appropriate through the establishment new national parks, national monuments, units of the National Landscape Conservation System and other federally protected areas.

- Increase the capacity of federal, state, and local agencies to care for and interpret historic and cultural places while engaging youth and creating jobs for Americans by expanding the Youth Conservation Corps, reinstating a Civilian Conservation Corps, and supporting programs like Teaching with Historic Places.

- Increase funding for programs that give American’s hands-on opportunities for preservation experiences and ownership of our publicly owned resources like the Forest Service’s Passport in Time program and reinstate programs like the Challenge Cost Share program with the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

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2The White House, http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/cea/Press_Releases/March_26_2010
Ibid.
Ibid.
Ibid.
Ibid.
# Preservation Alliance of Minnesota
## 26th Annual Minnesota Preservation Awards
### 2010 Nomination Form

**Submission deadline:** Received by Wednesday, July 21, 2010 (4:30 p.m. CST)

## A. General Information
1. Name of the property / person / organization being nominated: 

2. Street Address:

3. City / County / ZIP Code:

4. This property was on the Alliance’s Ten Most Endangered List. Indicate year, if known: ______

**PLEASE USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS TO COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS**

## B. Nomination Statement / Award Nomination
5. Summarize your nomination in 500 words. Please address why this nominated project, person or organization demonstrates excellence in historic preservation. Include pertinent information such as whether this project used historic rehabilitation tax credits for its completion and describe project accomplishments.

6. Please check all that apply:

   FOR PROJECTS
   - Adaptive Reuse
   - Addition / Expansion
   - Archaeological Site / Protection
   - Education / Interpretation / Publication
   - Preservation Planning
   - Restoration / Rehabilitation
   - Sustainable Design

   FOR PEOPLE / GROUPS
   - Advocacy
   - Career Achievement
   - Community Effort
   - Emerging Leader
   - Stewardship

## C. Project Information
7. Current designation status of property (check all that apply):

   National Register of Historic Places:
   - Individual
   - Contributing to historic district

   Local designation:
   - Individual
   - Contributing to historic district

Designation nomination in progress:

   - National
   - Local

Other (please list):

8. This project used historic rehabilitation tax credits for its completion: ___ Yes ___ No

## D. Nominator Information
9. Nominator name:

10. Nominator street address:

11. Nominator city / state / ZIP code:

12. Nominator phone / fax:

13. Nominator e-mail:

## E. Owner Information
14. Owner of property:

15. Owner’s address:
16. Owner’s city / state / ZIP code: _______________________________________________________
17. Contact name (if owner is not a person): ________________________________________________
18. Contact phone / fax: __________________________________________________________________
19. Contact e-mail: _______________________________________________________________________
20. Type of ownership: ___ Public ___ Private

F. Stakeholder Information
21. List names, addresses, phone and email contact information for all parties involved in this
   project, including, but not limited to: Archaeologists, Architects, Builders, Consultants,
   Contractors, Financiers, etc.

G. Indemnification
The undersigned hereby gives to the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota (“Alliance”) a non-exclusive license
to use, and to allow others to use, in whole or in part, in whatever manner the Alliance may desire, including
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other materials submitted to the Alliance in connection with the Minnesota Preservation Awards.

The Alliance is hereby given permission to make any editorial changes and/or additions to the materials
referred to herein as it may deem necessary or desirable for production purposes. The undersigned hereby
agrees that it has the authority to grant these rights, that it has obtained any such permissions and rights
necessary from third parties, including, without limitation, models, creators, photographers, writers, and
producers, and that it will hold harmless and indemnify the Alliance from and against any claim brought
against the Alliance from third parties that may arise out of violation of these paragraphs. By signing, I
acknowledge my agreement to the aforementioned terms and verify that I have the authority to make such
assignments.

_____________________________ ____________________________
Nominator’s Signature Date

H. Nomination Instructions
• Nominations are due to the Preservation Alliance’s office by Wednesday, July 21, 2010, 4:30 pm
   CST
• The Preservation Alliance of Minnesota is making a conscious effort to reduce our impact on the
   environment; therefore, this year you have two options for submitting your nomination:
   o By E-mail: E-mail your nomination to Kelli Andre at kandre@mnpreservation.org.
   OR
   o By mail or delivered CD or DVD: Mail or deliver a CD or DVD of your nomination to:
     Preservation Alliance of Minnesota
     416 Landmark Center
     75 West Fifth Street
     Saint Paul, MN 55102
• You MUST include in your email or on your CD or DVD:
  o The nomination form and all subsequent attachments used to complete nomination form;
  o At least two “before” digital photos of the project and two “after” digital photos of the project
    with 300 dpi resolution or higher.
• By submitting photos with your nomination, you are giving the Alliance authority to use photos for
  promotional purposes.
• Additional materials are welcome if they help the selection committee evaluate the nomination. They are
  not required. Optional materials might include news accounts, reports, illustrations and drawings, and
  letters of support.
• Information listed on the nomination form should appear EXACTLY as you wish it to appear; this
  information may be sent to the media and will be used for award plaques. Any changes will incur a $30.00
  fee.
• Award recipients will receive one award gratis. Additional awards may be purchased through the Alliance.
• Call the Alliance office at 651-293-9047 or e-mail kandre@mnpreservation.org with any questions.
If there’s been a theme for my first month working at the Preservation Alliance, it’s been “quick.” Starting off, I attended the National Main Street Conference before even ending my job at the Brainerd Lakes Chamber as their Main Street Coordinator. Attending the conference so early allowed me to learn from other states about how best to develop Minnesota’s own Main Street Coordinating Program before having too many preconceived notions of my own.

On May 27th, I left our St. Paul office again to help set-up for Minnesota Main Street’s official Launch Event. During the event we publicly announced that applications were open to communities to join the program. It was held at the Main Street Theatre in Sauk Centre. No better place could be found than the setting for Sinclair Lewis’ book, *Main Street.*

The Main Street Theatre is a community focal point for Sauk Centre and its owners, Bob and Mary Douvier, are adding theaters by renovating available space next door. The Theatre’s marquee (see photo on page 18) is representative of the physical streets, historic buildings, and community gatherings that it inspired Minnesota Main Street’s logo (center).

Event attendees heard from their local legislators, Senator Joe Gimse and Representative Paul Anderson; Sauk Centre Mayor Brad Kirckof; Theatre owner Bob Douvier; Britta Bloomberg of the Minnesota Historical Society; along with our own Bonnie McDonald and myself; with noted author Bill Morgan recounting childhood stories of Pipestone’s Main Street. The event went wonderfully, but I must confess: PAM intern Will O’Keefe and volunteer Tom Balcom organized it all.

**What is Minnesota Main Street?**

Minnesota Main Street is an economic development program of the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota that assists locally-driven community programs revitalizing their historic and traditional commercial districts. Minnesota joins 42 other states with similar programs.

Minnesota Main Street is recognized by the National Trust Main Street Center® as the official statewide coordinating program and has been financed in part with funds provided by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society. As the statewide coordinating program, Minnesota Main Street provides participating local Main Street organizations with the training, tools, information, and networking to be successful in their downtown revitalization efforts.

The volunteer-based programs in local communities use the National Trust’s Main Street Center Four-Point Approach® which focuses on Design (physical improvements and maintenance), Promotion (marketing and events), Economic Restructuring (improving existing businesses and recruiting new), and Organization (includes everything needed for the first three to keep going: fundraising, communication, volunteer retention, HR, consensus building, etc.). This is done all while leveraging the unique assets these communities share: the historic nature of their business district and the people who make it home.

**Services to Communities**

In its first year of operation, the Minnesota Main Street Program will invest almost $100,000 in visits, training seminars, technical assistance, and consulting services for its Main Street membership network. We have two different levels that communities may join: Designated Main Streets and Associate Members.

The Designated Main Street Programs will be competitively selected through an application process. We are only able to select five communities in 2010. Selected communities will have a paid staff person (funded and organized locally) who coordinates the work of local volunteers’ revitalization efforts. Minnesota Main Street will provide these programs with training for staff and volunteers four times each year. Participants will be given the opportunity to participate in networking with other communities undergoing similar efforts, and receive $6,400 in technical assistance, training, and materials. Designated programs also gain the right to use “Main Street” in their name.
Applications for communities to become Designated Minnesota Main Street Programs were distributed this May with a submission deadline of June 21.

Any community in Minnesota may become an Associate Member of Minnesota Main Street upon paying the $200 membership dues. These communities benefit from participating in the Minnesota Main Street Program network and receiving discounted admission to trainings and workshops. Associate members are not eligible for the $6,400 in technical assistance but may use their membership experience to develop a program that can meet the Designated community criteria in the future.

Memberships are also available for businesses and individuals interested in networking and training. Businesses gain an avenue to increase their exposure and knowledge of issues pertaining to Main Street communities.

Additional information and application materials may be found online at www.mnpreservation.org/programs/main-street.

History of this Resurgence on Main Street

Minnesota did have a statewide program that began in 1980 and was part of the State government. Demand was high for assistance revitalizing downtowns then, too. Thirty-three communities applied and only two were accepted as demonstration sites in the first four years. Over the next decade nineteen more communities were accepted. However, the statewide program was moved from department to department until its funding was cut in 1995 and the program came to an end. A non-profit, Hometown Minnesota, was formed by the local communities to provide training and maintain the connections they had formed.

Fifteen years later, I am proud to be the newest Minnesota Main Street Program Coordinator. The earlier Main Street activities in the state set a good foundation for downtown revitalization work. Some local programs that began ten to twenty years ago are still very active, such as Anoka and Red Wing.

Many Main Streets and downtowns in Minnesota are making resurgence, whether they’re a small farming community or resort town, or maybe a neighborhood shopping area in a larger city. However, and this is a big however, these improvements don’t just happen. It takes the efforts of many people and organizations all working together towards a common goal before change is seen. Main Street can be the catalyst to start this work and the engine to keep it going.

Emily Northey
Minnesota Main Street Coordinator
The Last Word

By Bonnie McDonald

Our annual heritage tourism issue has become a perennial favorite for our staff as a venue for us to share the great vacation finds we’ve made across the state. This issue expands upon our earlier offerings, which focused on historic communities. Cultural heritage tourists like us are also likely to be eco-tourists; those who are interested in adding destinations to their itinerary that include the rich natural resources for which Minnesota is so well-known. Cultural and natural resource protection goes hand-in-hand and it is a wise investment of our own precious vacation dollars to patronize both.

Many of Minnesota’s state parks include historic properties as part of their recreational offerings. You may already be familiar with some of the popular state parks with historic sites like Fort Snelling, Charles Lindbergh, or Itasca. But, we hope you explore others in greater Minnesota that may be less known to you: Fort Ridgley, Upper Sioux Agency, Soudan Underground Mine, and Glendalough. The latter has a fascinating history as a former game farm owned by the

Minneapolis Tribune. Its historic lodge has been fully restored by the Minnesota DNR.

As I write this article, I’m on vacation in historic Door County, Wisconsin, where my family has returned annually since 1955. (Yes, I realize this is traitorous behavior considering my commitment to supporting Minnesota’s local tourism industry.) We make it a point to explore the small Main Street communities on the peninsula and patronize the local businesses. At the Alliance, we’re excited to know that Minnesota now has the tool utilized by many of these Wisconsin communities: the Main Street Program. We are proud to welcome Emily Northey to our staff as the new Minnesota Main Street Program Coordinator to administer the Alliance’s newest tool to assist historic communities. We thank the State of Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, administered by the Minnesota Historical Society, for its financial support to make the re-launch of this program possible.

Our staff has been busy this spring rolling out the tools we’ve worked to provide for our members and their historic properties. We hosted our inaugural (Anti)Wrecking Ball at Minneapolis’ Soap Factory in May to announce the 2010 10 Most Endangered Historic Places list. Over 200 people attended this smashing event to hear the announcement and vote for our first-ever $2,500 seed grant dedicated to the winning 10 Most property. You can count on this event being a perennial offering.

Concurrent to these two new programs is advancement of the third, and largest, new preservation tool: the Minnesota State Historic Tax Credit. We’ve fielded dozens of calls and e-mails from property owners interested in utilizing the credit. It is indicative of the pent-up demand for preservation development despite the lagging construction economy. The Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office is administering the application process that began this June. We are working to develop training presentations that will focus on how to use the credit in your community.

So, where do we go from here? We are now moving into the exploration phase of a future real estate program that will include real estate agent trainings, a possible revolving loan or acquisition fund, and perhaps even participating in financing partnerships. It is certainly an exciting time for historic preservation in our state and for the Alliance as an organization. We continually thank you for your membership support as it provides the capacity for us to achieve such significant goals.

A significant, and invaluable, contributor to the Alliance’s magazine has been Dan Abrahamson, former intern and current magazine layout designer. This issue sadly marks Dan’s last as he heads off to graduate school. On behalf of all of us at the Alliance, I want to thank Dan for the dedication he has shown these past years. Dan, we all wish you great success in your future and hope for your speedy return to the land of 10,000 preservation projects.

Bonnie McDonald
Executive Director

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Bonnie McDonald
Executive Director
Where Is It?

By Bill Morgan

Rick Lakes, Brainerd, has correctly identified the puzzle twice in a row. The May-June "Where Is It?" is the village hall in Gibbon, Minnesota, built in 1895. Byrnhild Rowberg, Northfield, and Justin Fortney, Hastings, also answered correctly. In their Guide to the Architecture of Minnesota, Gebhard and Martinson say the building "employs the image of a medieval castle ... a battered stone base with battered crenelated brick parapets, round arches, and an open belfry tower ..." Byrnhild says the building is visible from Highway 19 in Sibley County.

This issue's "Where Is It?" gives new meaning to the words "charming" or "gem."

Where was it last time? Gibbon, MN

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