

# Outdoor adventures with the latino community in Minnesota 2021



@huellas.latinas

www.huellaslatinas.com

**HUELLAS**  
LATINAS

Photo by Luisana Mendez, Huellas Latinas

# MISSION

Inspire the creation of a vibrant, engaged and empowered outdoor community

# GOALS

1. Motivate the community to try outdoor activities. Finding in them the benefits of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being.
2. Empower the community through outdoor skills development, so they feel able to explore the parks on their own
3. Elevate the sense of belonging of the community with the places we visit as well as the engagement to protect and conserve natural spaces.



Photo by Luisana Mendez, Huellas Latinas



Photo by Luisana Mendez, Huellas Latinas



Photo by Cristina Tabón

*"Huellas Latinas activities are of great support to Latinos like me who come to the city without knowing anyone. It is a more than great space to integrate and get to know the beautiful places that the city has". - Cristina*

# ABOUT US

*Huellas Latinas is an organization created by Latinos for Latinos, dedicated to inspiring the creation of a vibrant, engaged and empowered outdoor community. Offering different meeting and exchange scenarios between different cultures and experiences. Strengthening the links and the sense of belonging with the place where they live.*

*Founder Luisana Mendez created Huellas Latinas in 2021 to provide safe, culturally appropriate spaces for Latino families to enjoy outdoor recreation in Minnesota. In her first year, Huellas Latinas was doing guided hikes through the Twin Cities parks, activities with Latino youth, yoga, birding walks, and celebrate Latino Conservation Week 2021. In addition, Huellas Latinas made strong alliances with other organizations to expand recreation opportunities for the community and created Huellas Latinas Hiking Club.*



Photo by Luisana Mendez, Huellas Latinas

# OUR IMPACT IN 2021

	<b>35</b> Activities
	<b>217</b> Families
	<b>363</b> People

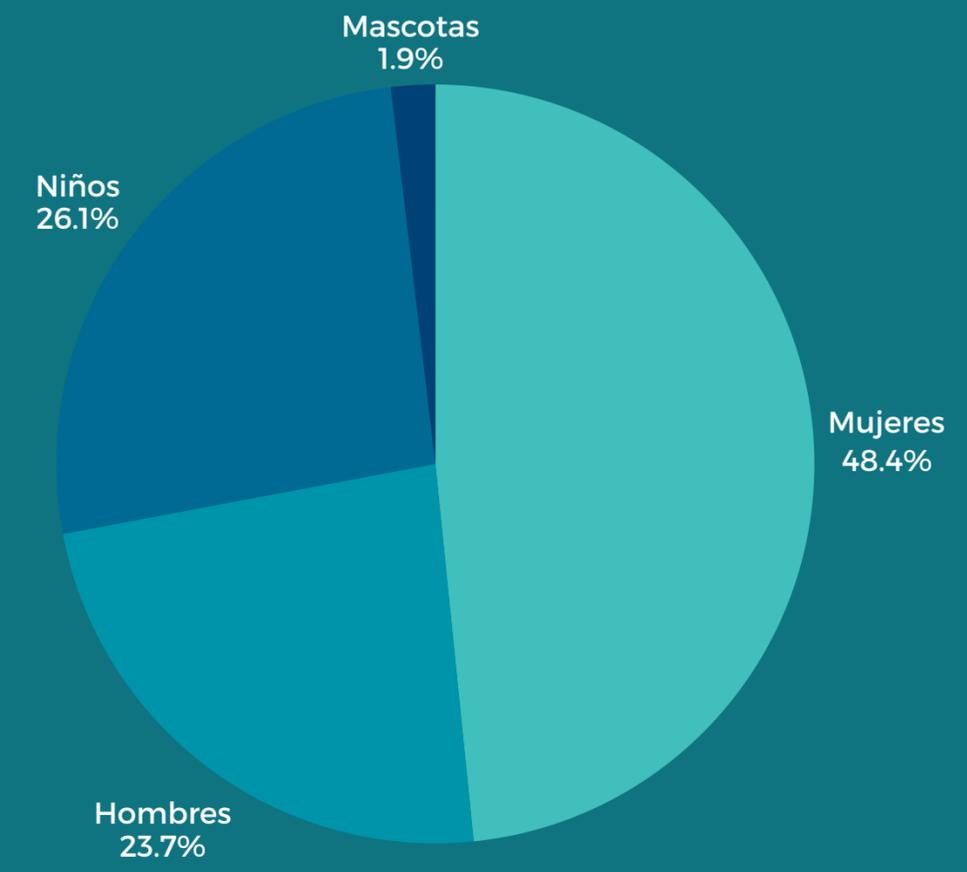
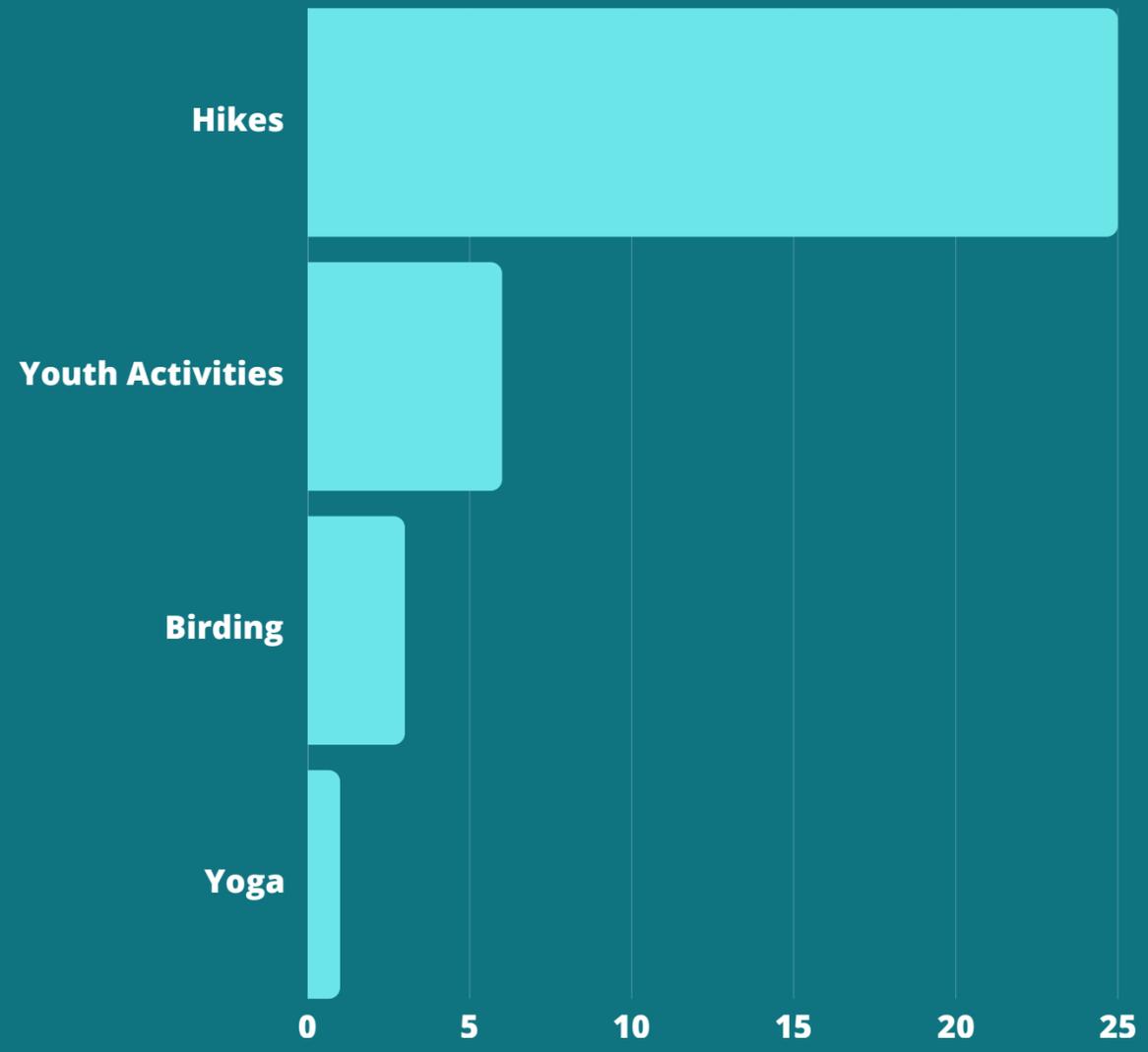




Photo by Wilmer Fernandez

*“Thank you Luisana for providing an opportunity to see the natural beauties that Minnesota has to offer and specifically the metropolitan area of St Paul and Minneapolis. It is important to see people like you interested in getting involved with the community and how you stated “being part of the city”. Your activities are important to show that our metro area offers endless opportunities to enjoy nature and to instill a healthy lifestyle. These activities also serve so that people who move to this area feel our welcome attitude from this that could become their new community. Thank you for all the work you do and see you in the next activity!” - Wilmer*

# HIKES CON FAMILIAS LATINAS IN SAINT PAUL

*This was the first Huellas Latinas program in partnership with Saint Paul Parks and Recreation. 8 hikes were guided around the parks of the city of Saint Paul, benefiting the families living in the city. The program focused on introducing Latino families to hiking as an activity to improve physical, mental, and spiritual health in a world that had been devastated as a result of COVID.*



Photos by Luisana Mendez, Huellas Latinas

# FIELD TRIPS WITH LATINE YOUTH

*Field trips with Latine youth was a partnership program with Centro Tayrone Guzman. 6 outdoor activities were guided around local parks. Activities benefited Latino youth and included hiking and birding. In addition, the program focused on introducing young people to the benefits of connecting with nature.*

Photos by Luisana Mendez, Huellas Latinas



# BIRDING WALKS

*In partnership with the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, we did 3 birding walks, giving the Latino community the opportunity to learn about this activity and about migratory birds in Minnesota.*



# LATINO CONSERVATION WEEK 2021

*2021 was also our first year participating in and promoting Latino Conservation Week. A national initiative from Hispanic Access that seeks to promote activities, education and environmental initiatives within the Latino community. On this occasion, we partnered with Yoga para la Gente, with small businesses and Latino entrepreneurs from Minnesota to offer the Hike & Yoga activity that benefited more than 20 Latino families.*



# HUELLAS LATINAS HIKING CLUB

*The experience of the programs led us to understand the community's need and interest in having a safe space to recreate and connect with nature and other members of our community. Thus, in September Huellas Latinas Hiking Club was born. We carry out periodic hiking activities exploring different environments and initiatives such as: Hiking in the dark experiencing the trails at night, urban hiking through the art district of the city of Saint Paul as part of the celebration of Hispanic Heritage month, and a fun Spooky Hike, where participants were able to wear costumes and then share sweets courtesy of Latino entrepreneurs.*

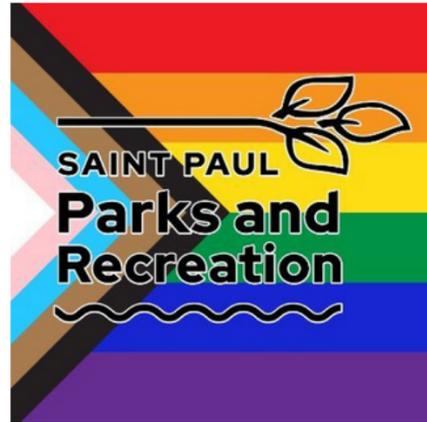
Photos by Huellas Latinas





*"I joined Huellas Latinas Hiking Club to stay connected to my community and enjoy the outdoors with people who may have similar experiences to mine, and can understand the transition of moving here from another state, or even from another country. I felt very isolated when I first moved here. Minnesota is finally starting to feel like home now that I've started attending Huellas Latinas walks and other events with groups that focus on people of different races and nationalities." - Ripley*

# OUR PARTNERS



# OUR SPONSORS



# ADVOCACY

1. Promoting the Saint Paul Bicycle Network Survey - Sep 2021
2. Listening Session: Dakota County Park's Ordinance (rules) Updates - Dec 2021

1. Hablando Entre Panas -  
Bloomington Community Access  
Television - Huellas Latinas

2. Kmoj / Ampers radio - BIPOC in  
Outdoors

3. Rompiendo el Hielo - La Jefa  
Radio MN - Huellas Latinas

4. Tu y Yo en la Radio - La Jefa  
Radio MN - Huellas Latinas

# RECOGNITION



- Some people walk in the rain,  
others just get wet.
- Roger Miller.