

Natural Resources

Projects Summary

(\$ in thousands)

Project Title	Rank	Fund	Project Requests for State Funds			Gov's Rec	Gov's Planning Estimates	
			2024	2026	2028	2024	2026	2028
Natural Resources Asset Preservation	1	GO	205,000	205,000	205,000	71,550	71,550	71,550
Natural Resources Betterment of Buildings	2	GO	87,000	87,000	87,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Natural Resources Acquisition and Betterment of Public Lands	3	GO	35,000	35,000	35,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Wildfire Aviation Infrastructure	4	GO	6,000	0	0	0	0	0
Improving Accessibility of DNR-managed Lands and Facilities	5	GO	25,000	25,000	25,000	2,000	0	0
Dam Safety Repair, Reconstruction or Removal	6	GO	10,000	10,000	10,000	0	0	0
Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program	7	GO	25,000	25,000	25,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Parks and Trails Local and Regional Grant Program	8	GO	4,000	4,000	4,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Total Project Requests			397,000	391,000	391,000	100,550	98,550	98,550
General Obligation Bonds (GO) Total			397,000	391,000	391,000	100,550	98,550	98,550

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/>

AT A GLANCE

Conserve and Manage Natural Resources

- Manage 1.3 million acres of wildlife management areas, 192,000 acres of scientific and natural areas, and 4.3 million acres of state forest
- Manage fisheries in 4,400 fishing lakes and 15,000 miles of fishable streams and rivers in Minnesota
- Manage 2,800 surface-water monitoring sites

Get People Outdoors

- Operate 75 state parks and recreation areas, 43 state forest campgrounds and nine state waysides
- Manage 2.4 million license sales and 1.4 million boat and vehicle registrations
- Provide more than 29,800 miles of trails for hiking, biking, snowmobiles, off-highway vehicles, horseback riding and cross-county skiing
- Manage 1,700 public water accesses, 390 fishing piers and 35 water trails

Build the Economy

- Provide recreation opportunities that contribute to the state's \$16.7 billion outdoor recreation economy
- Manage 12 million acres of state mineral rights, including those on School Trust Lands, contributing directly to the state's economy
- Offer 900,000 cords of timber annually while meeting forest certification requirements on 5 million acres of state lands, including 2.5 million acres of School Trust Lands, that provide habitat, clean water, carbon storage and recreational opportunities as well as timber

Serve the Public

- Respond to over 126,000 calls and emails from the public received by the DNR Information Center
- Ensure the health and safety of employees and visitors at 3,000 facilities statewide
- Deliver information via the DNR website, which had 94.5 million pages viewed by 14 million users
- Protect people and property from wildfires and other natural disaster emergencies

PURPOSE

The mission of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is to work with Minnesotans to conserve and manage natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and to provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life.

STRATEGIES

To accomplish its mission, the DNR uses the following long-term strategic framework:

1. Minnesota's waters, natural lands, and diverse fish and wildlife habitats are conserved and enhanced.

The DNR works closely with partners to achieve this goal by:

- Enhancing management of surface waters and groundwater—through monitoring, permitting, education and compliance—to ensure sustainability and quality
- Working with farmers, landowners, local officials and the public to promote conservation and enhancement of forests, prairies, grasslands and wetlands
- Proactively identifying and preventing the spread of invasive species
- Inventorying and monitoring the status of natural lands, waters, wildlife and plants

- Implementing climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies through public land management activities and assistance to private landowners
2. **Minnesota’s outdoor recreation opportunities meet the needs of new and existing participants so all benefit from nature.** The DNR seeks to engage more Minnesotans in outdoor activities to benefit health, community and conservation by:
 - Managing the state’s parks, trails, forests, recreation areas and other lands to provide quality, accessible visitor experiences and attract new users
 - Providing affordable outdoor learning experiences to beginners by implementing programs, such as the “I Can!” and “Learn to Hunt” Programs and the online Minnesota Outdoor Skills and Stewardship Series
 - Promoting user friendly, digital recreation information, available through new websites and mobile apps
 3. **Minnesota’s natural resources contribute to strong and sustainable job markets, economies and communities.** While ensuring strong environmental stewardship, the DNR helps generate billions of dollars a year for the state through outdoor recreation, forest products, and mineral and water resources, by:
 - Maintaining diverse, healthy, and productive forests that meet third party certification standards while also providing a sustainable and predictable source of timber for Minnesota’s forest products industry
 - Researching and developing mining technologies that protect the environment
 - Improving data management systems to provide better access to and analysis of groundwater and surface water data for sustainable communities
 - Leasing mineral rights and real estate and selling land and timber from the School Trust portfolio
 - Providing management of public lands, fish and wildlife populations, and facilities such as public water accesses and forest roads to support outdoor recreation experiences
 4. **The DNR demonstrates operational excellence and continuous improvement in service to Minnesotans.** The DNR strives to continually improve services offered by:
 - Ensuring the health and safety of employees and visitors at DNR facilities
 - Employing a diverse workforce that reflects the communities we serve
 - Improving access to parks, trails and other DNR facilities for people of all abilities
 - Maintaining work standards that reinforce positive and professional conduct, promote diversity and inclusion, and support staff training and development
 - Increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy use to reduce costs and reduce the environmental impact of our operations
 - Developing continuous improvement projects to improve efficiency of operations and customer satisfaction

In partnering with Minnesotans to advance the above goals, strategies and ultimately the DNR mission, the agency strives to ensure that the benefits of Minnesota’s abundant natural resources and outdoor places benefit all Minnesotans. As part of this work, the DNR manages nearly \$3.5 billion worth of built assets, as well as public lands across Minnesota. The agency also advances diversity, equity and inclusion by striving to ensure its facilities, lands and engagement processes are welcoming and accessible, and its services are equitable across economic and cultural communities.

Finally, the DNR’s work is rooted in natural resources management and environmental protection. Thriving natural systems are critical for thriving communities, and by managing for the sustained health of natural resources, the DNR contributes to community health and economic opportunity. In this work, the agency is also committed to mitigating and adapting to climate change and enhancing the climate resiliency of natural systems and communities now and into the future.

Department of Natural Resources legal authority comes from Minnesota Statutes:

[84](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=84) (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=84>)

[84A-84D](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/part/CONSERVATION) (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/part/CONSERVATION>)

[85-87A](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/part/RECREATION) (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/part/RECREATION>)

[88-91](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/part/FORESTRY) (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/part/FORESTRY>)

[92-94](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/part/LANDS+AND+MINERALS) (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/part/LANDS+AND+MINERALS>)

[97-102](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/part/GAME+AND+FISH) (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/part/GAME+AND+FISH>)

[103A](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=103A) (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=103A>)

[127A](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=127A) (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=127A>)

AT A GLANCE

The mission of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is to *work with Minnesotans to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and to provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life.*

The DNR manages a broad array of lands, buildings, facilities and infrastructure that serve and benefit people across Minnesota and support the advancement of the following mission-focused goals:

- **Goal 1:** Minnesota's waters, natural lands, and diverse fish and wildlife habitats are conserved and enhanced.
- **Goal 2:** Minnesota's outdoor recreation opportunities meet the needs of new and existing participants so all benefit from nature.
- **Goal 3:** Minnesota's natural resources contribute to strong and sustainable job markets, economies, and communities.
- **Goal 4:** DNR demonstrates operational excellence and continuous improvement in service to Minnesotans.

Factors Impacting Facilities or Capital Programs

The DNR is responsible for extensive capital assets — both “built” (e.g., buildings, forest roads, campgrounds, fish hatcheries, boat ramps, dams) and “natural” (i.e., public lands). In addition to being diverse in type, these assets are geographically dispersed across all 87 counties and 5.6 million acres of public land in Minnesota. DNR-managed lands, buildings, facilities and infrastructure serve Minnesotans across the state, are part of the fabric of communities and contribute to our quality of life.

DNR assets are also critical to advancing the DNR's mission of conserving and managing natural resources, providing outdoor recreational opportunities, and providing for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life. Through a robust capital asset management program, the DNR manages existing assets in alignment with its mission, Conservation Agenda, and Strategic Plan, and identifies and advances capital budget requests that reflect the highest-priority capital investment needs.

Biennially, the DNR publishes a 10-Year Capital Asset Need Report that summarizes asset conditions and identifies the funding needed to restore DNR-managed built assets back to “fair” or better condition within 10 years. The most recent report, completed in February 2023, concludes that meeting this goal requires an investment of \$211 million each year for the next 10 years, a nearly 14% increase in annual need compared to the 2021 Capital Asset Need Report. The report also summarizes the most pressing challenges and opportunities the DNR is facing in managing facilities and infrastructure to best serve Minnesotans. Climate change, aquatic invasive species, changes in the needs and desires of the public, and the overall age of built assets are the most prominent challenges identified in the 2023 report.

The DNR's approach to capital investment and asset preservation is not solely focused on assessing, repairing and replacing facilities and infrastructure in-kind, but also *improving* capital assets to serve all Minnesotans. Sustained investment in asset management allows the DNR to enhance accessibility, improve energy and water efficiency, and build climate resiliency into facilities and infrastructure across the state. It also allows the DNR to acquire, restore and improve access to the public lands that Minnesotans are increasingly seeing as essential to their health and wellbeing.

- The DNR’s 2024 Capital Budget request was formulated to address the challenges and opportunities noted above and advance the following four strategic goals of the Conservation Agenda and Strategic Plan:

Goal 1: Minnesota’s waters, natural lands, and diverse fish and wildlife habitats are conserved and enhanced.

The DNR works closely with partners to protect and restore Minnesota’s landscapes, manage fish and wildlife populations, prevent and curb the spread of harmful invasive species, and implement climate change mitigation and adaptation practices on public lands. The 2024 Capital Budget request includes funding for the strategic acquisition and betterment of public lands, as well as repairs and enhancements to the facilities (e.g., offices, fish hatcheries, shops, tree nursery, storage) critical to this conservation work.

Goal 2: Minnesota’s outdoor recreation opportunities meet the needs of new and existing participants so all benefit from nature.

Outdoor recreation is vital to Minnesotan’s health and quality of life, community prosperity and the state’s robust tourism economy. The 2024 request aims to ensure people have access to high quality, diverse outdoor experiences by providing for the repair, renewal, and improved accessibility and development of parks, trails, forest recreation areas, public water access sites and wildlife management areas.

Goal 3: Minnesota’s natural resources contributes to strong and sustainable job markets, economies, and communities.

Minnesota’s natural resource-based economies — including tourism, forest products, and mineral resources — generate billions of dollars in economic activity. Investing in these economies is critical to the state’s long-term economic health. The 2024 request would advance this goal by improving the health and diversity of the state’s forest lands, repairing roads and bridges that support economic activity, mitigating flood risk, enhancing outdoor recreation experiences, supporting wildfire suppression, and providing grant funding to assist Minnesota communities.

Goal 4: DNR demonstrates operational excellence and continuous improvement in service to Minnesotans.

Accomplishing our natural resource goals requires operational excellence. DNR must continually seek to improve efficiency and effectiveness on behalf of Minnesotans. This includes maintaining, enhancing and replacing DNR-managed assets to ensure they continue to serve the public now and into the future. This includes investing in DNR’s facilities and infrastructure to ensure safe and effective delivery of public services.

Through the 2024 Capital Budget request, the DNR seeks to improve its delivery of conservation services, connect more people to the outdoors, better service diverse communities, ensure the health and safety of Minnesotans, reduce operating costs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and preserve the state’s cultural and ecological assets.

Self-Assessment of Agency Facilities and Assets

Build Assets (i.e., Buildings and Infrastructure): While the 2023 capital bonding appropriations gave a boost to addressing large modernization projects, an immense need remains. The following are a few examples of the condition of DNR-managed built assets; more details can be found in the 2023 10-year Capital Asset Need Report:

- **Buildings:** Of the nearly 3,000 buildings for which the DNR has responsibility, including 285 buildings where employees report to work:
 - Nearly 1 in 3 buildings are over 80 years old
 - 1 in 4 buildings are in unacceptable or poor condition
 - Only 1 in 4 buildings meet today’s design and building standards
- **Roads:** DNR manages over 4,655 miles of paved and unpaved roads within state forests, state parks and recreation areas and wildlife management areas. Roughly 180 road miles need to be rehabilitated each year to keep them in safe and passable condition.
- **Bridges:** DNR owns 514 pedestrian and vehicle bridges statewide. These bridges provide safe crossings over rivers, streams, and highways for a variety of purposes including recreation, resource management and emergency response. A number of the bridges are in need of attention to address significant

structural issues that have resulted in mandatory closures to traffic or the imposition of weight restrictions.

- **Dams:** DNR manages 311 dams, many which were built in the 1930s. There is a growing need to rehabilitate these dams, as a majority are beyond their expected useful life.
- **Replacement/expansion needs:** In addition to the repair and rehabilitation needs highlighted above, many DNR facilities have reached the end of their useful life or no longer meet their intended purpose, requiring a total replacement or expansion. These include:
 - Multiple DNR office buildings that cannot be retrofitted to address significant accessibility, health and safety, and mechanical issues.
 - The Hibbing Drill Core Library, which has used all existing storage space and cannot accept new core samples that are essential to scientific and economic study and advancement in Minnesota.
 - The State Forest Nursery, where funding is needed for the final phase of a comprehensive modernization effort that will help meet the challenges of climate change and sustainable forest management.

Natural Assets (i.e., Public lands): Examples of capital investment needs and opportunities associated with DNR-managed public lands include: reforestation, acquisition of strategic in-holdings and easements, development of new and expanded wildlife and aquatic management areas, stream restoration, and development and replacement of recreational facilities like campgrounds and shore-fishing areas. These investments advance natural resource conservation goals, support local economies, and help ensure Minnesotans of all incomes and abilities can access and enjoy public lands.

Agency Process for Determining Capital Requests

The 2024 Capital Budget request is designed to advance the agency's mission and goals. The DNR's 10-year Capital Asset Need Report (mndnr.gov/reports), Conservation Agenda, and Strategic Plan (mndnr.gov/conservation_agenda) guided the development of this request. The capital budget development process involves an agency-wide interdisciplinary approach. The process starts with DNR senior management team discussing investment needs and establishing principles to guide proposal development. Program staff and the capital budget team then develop proposals based on the analysis of capital needs and identified principles. Proposals are then discussed and prioritized by senior managers and the DNR Commissioner's Office approves the final request.

Major Capital Projects Authorized in 2022 and 2023

- Natural Resources Asset Preservation (\$36 million);
- Natural Resources Betterment of Buildings – Waterville Hatchery (\$20 million); Badoura State Forest Nursery (\$10 million);
- Natural Resources Acquisition and Betterment of Public Lands (\$2.5 million); Community Tree Planting Grants (\$10.063 million); State Forest Reforestation (\$6 million); Wildfire Aviation Infrastructure (\$6.36 million)
- Improving Accessibility to State Parks, Rec Areas, and Wildlife Management Areas (\$1.2 million)
- Dam Safety Repair and Reconstruction (\$4 million); Flood Hazard Mitigation Grants, includes earmarks for specific projects (\$55.415 million); Parks and Trails Local and Regional Recreation Matching Grants (\$2 million)
- Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park (\$11 million)
- Canisteo Open Mine Pit Complex (\$8.875 million); St. James Open Pit Mine (\$2.5 million)
- Glendalough State Park (\$1.1 million); Maplewood State Park Trail Segment (\$939,000); Blufflands Trail System (\$4 million); All-Terrain Vehicle Trail Systems in St. Louis County (\$1.294 million); Directed funding for state trail development (\$22.66 million); Pass-through funds to local governments (various infrastructure projects) – \$40.835 million

Natural Resources Asset Preservation

AT A GLANCE

2024 Request Amount:	\$205,000
Priority Ranking:	1
Project Summary:	\$205 million for the repair and renovation of capital assets (including buildings, roads, trails, public water accesses, bridges, recreational facilities and more) to ensure they are safe and functional for the recreating public, modernize Minnesota’s outdoor recreation experiences, support the conservation of Minnesota’s natural resources, and preserve the state’s investment in its capital assets.

Project Description

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requests \$205 million for Natural Resources Asset Preservation (NRAP) needs under M.S. 84.946. The DNR manages a broad array of buildings, infrastructure and recreational assets that serve and benefit people across Minnesota. This includes 2,924 buildings at more than 225 locations, 75 state parks and recreation areas, nine waysides, 43 forest campgrounds, 4,655 miles of roads, 2,605 miles of paved trails, 514 bridges and several thousand culverts, 1,689 public water access sites, 1,554 water control structures, 311 dams, 15 fish hatcheries, one tree nursery, and thousands of miles of hiking trails. All of these require periodic repair and renewal.

This request addresses the following high-priority needs:

- **Buildings:** \$50 million for repair and deferred maintenance of existing buildings, particularly to bring crisis or poor buildings and building components up to acceptable or better condition. The DNR’s 10-Year Capital Asset Need Report shows that of 2,924 buildings, 192 are in crisis condition and 483 are in poor condition. Special focus will be paid to safety and accessibility for visitors and staff, and operational efficiency.
- **Water and Wastewater Systems:** \$14.4 million to address aging and failing water and wastewater infrastructure statewide, including at our most heavily used state parks such as Itasca, Lake Bemidji, and Fort Snelling state parks. Projects will focus on water and wastewater systems that do not meet current health and environmental standards.
- **Roads, Trails, and Bridges:** \$57.8 million to provide critical repair and renewal of roads, trails, culverts and bridges in the worst condition on public land. DNR-managed roads provide Minnesotans access to state forests, parks, recreation areas, and wildlife management areas, and the recreational and economic activities these lands support. These roads also provide access to private land and are essential to safety and emergency response. State Trails provide low-cost access to outdoor recreation and have approximately 2 million visitors annually. Priority trail repair projects include the Glacial Lakes, Paul Bunyan, Luce Line, Shooting Star and Willard Munger state trails.

- **Public Water Access Sites (PWAs) and Lake Superior Small Craft Harbors:** \$12 million to continue the effort to rehabilitate Minnesota’s public water accesses and harbors to make them accessible to all users, meet the changing needs of modern vessels (both motorized and paddle sports), retrofit accesses for improved protection of public waters from stormwater runoff and invasive species, and enhance resilience from more frequent climate-related storm events.
- **Water Control Structures:** \$7 million to repair or replace deteriorating water control structures that provide waterfowl habitat and support fisheries on key shallow lakes and wetlands across Minnesota.
- **Monitoring Wells:** \$2.5 million for rehabilitation of existing groundwater monitoring (observation) wells. Monitoring wells are placed in various aquifers across the state to measure groundwater levels and provide long-term groundwater level data. The resulting data are used for water supply planning by communities, industry, and agriculture. Maintenance of these wells is critical to meeting these needs.
- **Campsites, Group Camps, Shower Buildings, Day Use Areas and Vault Toilets:** \$46.4 million to address deferred maintenance and meet the changing needs of the public by refurbishing campgrounds, group camps, shower buildings, day use areas and vault toilets in state parks, recreation areas and forest campgrounds, thereby connecting more people to the outdoors.
- **Hatcheries:** \$14.8 million for critical repairs to fish hatchery facilities that support conservation, outdoor recreation, tourism and rural economies.

The above investments include resources to continue the Get Out MORE initiative to Modernize Outdoor Recreation Experiences in Minnesota.

Project Rationale

The DNR manages built assets valued at \$3.5 billion for the benefit of all Minnesotans. These facilities and infrastructure, which span every Minnesota county and reflects generations of investment, connect Minnesotans with the outdoors, support community prosperity, conserve our natural heritage, and contribute to our quality of life. Stewardship of these assets requires ongoing repair, renovation, and replacement.

NRAP funding is complemented by “Betterment of Buildings” funding that is a separate component of DNR’s overall bonding request. NRAP funding addresses the backlog of deferred maintenance that affects the safety, usability and effectiveness of DNR-managed facilities and infrastructure. “Betterment” funding allows for substantial improvements or additions to, or replacement of, buildings that fail to meet current needs or have reached the end of their useful life, and construction of new buildings essential to advancing the DNR’s mission. These programs together are critical to address the substantial deferred maintenance and renewal/replacement needs for DNR-managed facilities and infrastructure.

The growing list of deferred maintenance (currently estimated to total \$778 million) poses considerable risk to the safety and usability of DNR-managed assets, and the public benefits they provide. Significant investment in asset preservation is essential to ensure these resources continue to serve all Minnesotans safely and effectively into the future; it also allows the DNR to enhance

accessibility, improve energy and water efficiency, and build climate resiliency into facilities and infrastructure across the state.

Project Timeline

The project will be completed within the given time frame.

Other Considerations

The DNR's asset preservation needs are further documented in the most recent DNR 10-Year Capital Asset Need report (mndnr.gov/reports).

Investing in Natural Resources Asset Preservation also advances the DNR's Get Out MORE initiative. This effort received significant funding in the 2023 Legislative Session, but further investment is needed to fully realize the vision of ensuring Minnesotans of all abilities and interests enjoy a world-class recreation system, whatever outdoor adventure they choose.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

This request does not require additional operating funds. Addressing our asset preservation needs in a timely manner prevents more costly repairs in the future. Operating funds may be needed for capital repairs if future bonding appropriations are insufficient.

Description of Previous Appropriations

L2023, Ch. 72 - Bond, Asset Preservation \$36,000,000

L2020 (5th SS), Ch. 3 - Bond, Asset Preservation \$20,000,000

L2019 Ch. 2 - Bond, Asset Preservation, \$3,419,000

L2018 Ch. 214 - Bond, Asset Preservation, \$26,581,000

L2017 (1st SS), Ch. 8 - Bond, Asset Preservation, \$15,000,000

Project Contact Person

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Governor's Recommendation

The Governor recommends \$71.55 million in general obligation bonds for this request. Also included are budget estimates of \$71.55 million for each planning period for 2026 and 2028.

Natural Resources

Project Detail

(\$ in thousands)

Natural Resources Asset Preservation

PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Prior Years	FY 2024	FY 2026	FY 2028
State Funds Appropriated and Requested				
General Obligation Bonds	\$ 86,000	\$ 205,000	\$ 205,000	\$ 205,000
State Funds Pending				
Non-State Funds Already Committed				
Non-State Funds Pending				
TOTAL	\$ 86,000	\$ 205,000	\$ 205,000	\$ 205,000

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS

Cost Category	Prior Years	FY 2024	FY 2026	FY 2028
Property Acquisition	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Predesign Fees	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Design Fees	\$ 0	\$ 30,750	\$ 30,750	\$ 30,750
Project Management	\$ 0	\$ 20,500	\$ 20,500	\$ 20,500
Construction	\$ 0	\$ 153,000	\$ 153,000	\$ 153,000
Relocation Expenses	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
One Percent for Art	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Occupancy Costs	\$ 0	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750
Inflationary Adjustment	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 0	\$ 205,000	\$ 205,000	\$ 205,000

IMPACT ON STATE OPERATING COSTS

Cost Category	FY 2024	FY 2026	FY 2028
IT Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (\$)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (FTE)	0.0	0.0	0.0

SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS

	Amount	Percent of Total
General Fund	\$ 205,000	100 %
User Financing	\$ 0	0 %

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements will apply to projects after adoption of the bonding bill.

Is this project exempt from legislative review under M.S. 16B.335 subd. 1a?	No
Predesign Review (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 3):	
Does this request include funding for predesign?	Yes
Has the predesign been submitted to the Department of Administration?	No
Has the predesign been approved by the Department of Administration?	N/A
Will the project design meet the Sustainable Building Guidelines under M.S. 16B.325?	Yes
Will the project designs meet applicable requirements and guidelines for energy conservation and alternative energy sources (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 4 and 16B.32)?	Yes
Have Information Technology Review Preconditions been met (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 5 & 6)?	Yes
Will the project comply with the targeted group purchasing requirement (M.S. 16C.16 subd. 13)?	Yes
Will the project meet public ownership requirements (M.S. 16A.695)?	Yes
Will a use agreement be required (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 2)?	No
Will program funding be reviewed and ensured (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 5)?	Yes
Will the matching funds requirements be met (M.S. 16A.86 subd. 4)?	N/A
Will the project be fully encumbered prior to the Cancellation Deadline (M.S. 16A.642): December 31, 2028?	Yes
M.S. 16A.502 and M.S. 16B.31 (2): Full Funding Required	Yes
M.S. 473.4485: Guideway Project	
Is this a Guideway Project?	No
Is the required information included in this request?	N/A

Natural Resources Betterment of Buildings

AT A GLANCE

2024 Request Amount:	\$87,000
Priority Ranking:	2
Project Summary:	\$87 million to acquire, construct, and improve offices and facilities to meet current needs and better serve all Minnesotans.

Project Description

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requests \$87 million to acquire, construct, and improve buildings under M.S. 86A.12. The request will support significant modernization and enhancement efforts including:

- adding needed capacity to store mineral exploration samples at the **Hibbing Drill Core Library** and enhancing the mineral core examination facilities;
- replacing DNR offices and storage facilities or constructing new facilities, following careful consideration of opportunities for consolidation and divestment, to improve accessibility, staff safety, public service and operational effectiveness;
- design and construction of the final phase of modernization at the **Badoura State Forest Nursery** to 1) alleviate the state’s dependence on a single, out-of-state commercial grower for plug (i.e., “containerized”) seedlings; 2) lengthen the spring planting window by growing plug seedlings that can be harvested and planted during times when bare-root seedlings cannot; 3) enhance the survival rate of reforestation efforts in years with low rainfall; and 4) help meet the increased demand for seedlings for reforestation and climate mitigation efforts; and
- further advance the **Get Out MORE (Modernize Outdoor Recreation Experiences) initiative** by constructing new or significantly modernized/enhanced visitor centers, picnic shelters, trail center facilities, camper cabins, and campground shower buildings at state parks and recreation areas.

These funds will also support the most critical renovations to historic buildings that DNR manages.

Project Rationale

The DNR manages built assets valued at \$3.5 billion for the benefit of all Minnesotans. This infrastructure, which spans every Minnesota county and reflects generations of investment, connects Minnesotans with the outdoors, supports community prosperity, conserves our natural heritage, and contributes to our quality of life. Stewardship of these assets requires ongoing repair, renovation, and replacement.

Funding for Betterment of Buildings is a critical complement to funding for Natural Resources Asset Preservation (NRAP). NRAP funding addresses the backlog of deferred maintenance that affects the safety, usability and effectiveness of DNR-managed facilities and infrastructure. “Betterment” funding

allows for substantial improvements or additions to, or replacement of, buildings that fail to meet current needs or have reached the end of their useful life, and construction of new buildings essential to advancing the DNR's mission.

These programs together are critical to address the substantial deferred maintenance and renewal/replacement needs for DNR-managed facilities and infrastructure.

The growing list of renewal and replacement needs poses considerable risk to the public benefits provided by DNR-managed assets. New buildings are also needed to improve operations, increase access to outdoor recreation opportunities, manage and protect natural resources, and store critical equipment. This requires significant investment to ensure these resources continue to serve all Minnesotans safely and effectively into the future and meet the evolving needs of Minnesotans and our natural resources.

Renewal and replacement of DNR-managed buildings also reduces operating costs and enhances public value by replacing antiquated buildings with ones that require less energy and water to operate, have greater safety features, provide better access to all Minnesotans, and require significantly less maintenance now and into the future.

Project Timeline

The project will be completed within the given time frame.

Other Considerations

When determining building needs, the DNR looks for opportunities to consolidate uses to promote efficient use of space and reduce long-term operating costs (example: co-located offices or storage).

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

Betterment of Buildings activities have been funded through capital investments before and this proposal is not expected to result in new impacts on operating budgets. Addressing our capital asset needs in a timely manner prevents more costly repairs in the future. Operating funds may be needed for capital repairs if future bonding appropriations are insufficient.

Description of Previous Appropriations

L2023, Ch. 72 - Bond, Buildings, \$30,000,000

L2018, Ch. 214 - Bond, Buildings, \$6,000,000

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Governor's Recommendation

The Governor recommends \$12 million in general obligation bonds for this request. Also included are budget estimates of \$12 million for each planning period for 2026 and 2028.

Natural Resources

Project Detail

(\$ in thousands)

Natural Resources Betterment of Buildings

PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Prior Years	FY 2024	FY 2026	FY 2028
State Funds Appropriated and Requested				
General Obligation Bonds	\$ 36,000	\$ 87,000	\$ 87,000	\$ 87,000
State Funds Pending				
Non-State Funds Already Committed				
Non-State Funds Pending				
TOTAL	\$ 36,000	\$ 87,000	\$ 87,000	\$ 87,000

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS

Cost Category	Prior Years	FY 2024	FY 2026	FY 2028
Property Acquisition	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Predesign Fees	\$ 0	\$ 435	\$ 435	\$ 435
Design Fees	\$ 0	\$ 13,050	\$ 13,050	\$ 13,050
Project Management	\$ 0	\$ 8,700	\$ 8,700	\$ 8,700
Construction	\$ 0	\$ 63,815	\$ 63,815	\$ 63,815
Relocation Expenses	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
One Percent for Art	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Occupancy Costs	\$ 0	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Inflationary Adjustment	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 0	\$ 87,000	\$ 87,000	\$ 87,000

IMPACT ON STATE OPERATING COSTS

Cost Category	FY 2024	FY 2026	FY 2028
IT Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (\$)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (FTE)	0.0	0.0	0.0

SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS

	Amount	Percent of Total
General Fund	\$ 87,000	100 %
User Financing	\$ 0	0 %

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements will apply to projects after adoption of the bonding bill.

Is this project exempt from legislative review under M.S. 16B.335 subd. 1a?	No
Predesign Review (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 3):	
Does this request include funding for predesign?	Yes
Has the predesign been submitted to the Department of Administration?	No
Has the predesign been approved by the Department of Administration?	No
Will the project design meet the Sustainable Building Guidelines under M.S. 16B.325?	Yes
Will the project designs meet applicable requirements and guidelines for energy conservation and alternative energy sources (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 4 and 16B.32)?	Yes
Have Information Technology Review Preconditions been met (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 5 & 6)?	Yes
Will the project comply with the targeted group purchasing requirement (M.S. 16C.16 subd. 13)?	Yes
Will the project meet public ownership requirements (M.S. 16A.695)?	Yes
Will a use agreement be required (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 2)?	No
Will program funding be reviewed and ensured (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 5)?	Yes
Will the matching funds requirements be met (M.S. 16A.86 subd. 4)?	N/A
Will the project be fully encumbered prior to the Cancellation Deadline (M.S. 16A.642): December 31, 2028?	Yes
M.S. 16A.502 and M.S. 16B.31 (2): Full Funding Required	Yes
M.S. 473.4485: Guideway Project	
Is this a Guideway Project?	No
Is the required information included in this request?	N/A

Natural Resources Acquisition and Betterment of Public Lands

AT A GLANCE

2024 Request Amount:	\$35,000
Priority Ranking:	3
Project Summary:	\$35 million to acquire and better public lands in order to conserve Minnesota's natural resources, enrich outdoor recreational opportunities, and provide for sustainable commercial uses of natural resources.

Project Description

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requests \$35 million to acquire and improve DNR-managed public lands under M.S. 86A.12.

Acquisition: \$9 million is requested to acquire (either in fee or through easements):

- High-priority parcels for Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs), focusing on strategic in-holdings and adjacent parcels to existing SNAs, parcels already in public ownership, and those that may provide match for RIM funding.
- Strategic in-holdings for state parks and recreation areas, and high-priority parcels for state trails, and public water accesses.
- Forested parcels currently in private ownership that might otherwise be converted to non-forest uses.

Betterment of Public Lands: \$26 million is requested to improve public lands, including:

- Reforestation after timber harvests, forest pest outbreaks, and storms/wildfires.
- Forest stand improvement projects to enhance species diversity, resilience, wildlife habitat, water quality benefits, and economic value.
- Improvements (e.g., safety, adding parking, and accessibility features) at SNAs.
- Renewal and replacement of campgrounds, recreation areas, and day-use areas and development of new campgrounds or campground loops to meet the needs of current and future users. This includes adding new tenting and group campsites, adding amenities such as larger campsites and increased capacity for RV camping at existing campgrounds, developing new RV dump stations, and building trailheads.

Project Rationale

Minnesota’s public lands are vital to the health and wellbeing of the state. They provide opportunities for those of all incomes and abilities to connect with and enjoy the benefits of the outdoors, and they contribute to the health of local economies. Continued investment is needed both to maintain the

rich outdoor resources Minnesotans currently enjoy and to ensure the state’s public lands meet the needs of a growing and changing population. Investment is also needed to help ensure Minnesota’s natural systems are resilient to the effects of climate change and other large-scale landscape impacts.

Project Timeline

The project will be completed within the given time frame.

Other Considerations

DNR evaluates acquisitions using department-wide Strategic Land Asset Management (SLAM) goals, as well as division- and program-specific goals for Forestry, Parks and Trails, Fish and Wildlife and Ecological and Water Resources. DNR’s department-wide land acquisition goals are to:

- Increase close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities
- Protect significant and/or rare natural resources
- Restore and protect water resources
- Mitigate and adapt to climate change
- Expand access to existing land holdings
- Consolidate land ownership, creating larger, contiguous blocks of DNR lands

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

Land acquisitions can impact operating budgets. Acquiring in-holdings may increase operating efficiency by consolidating ownership and reducing boundary and trespass issues. Some acquisitions may result in development of new facilities in the future which could increase operating costs. Campground expansions may increase operating costs, but may also increase resource utilization.

Description of Previous Appropriations

- L2023, Ch. 72 – General Fund, Acquisition and Betterment of Public Lands, \$2,500,000
- L2023, Ch. 72 - Bond, Reforestation, \$6,000,000
- L2020 (5th SS), Ch. 3 - Bond, Forests for the Future (i.e., easement acquisitions), \$1,000,000 L2018, Ch. 214 - Bond, Reforestation, \$3,000,000
- L2017 (1st SS), Ch. 8 - Bond, Reforestation, \$1,000,000 L2017 (1st SS), Ch. 8 - Bond, Parks and Trails, \$14,548,000
- L2017 (1st SS), Ch. 8 - Bond, St. Paul Invasive Tree Pests, \$1,500,000

Project Contact Person

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Governor's Recommendation

The Governor recommends \$7 million in general obligation bonds for this request. Also included are

budget estimates of \$7 million for each planning period for 2026 and 2028.

Natural Resources

Project Detail

(\$ in thousands)

Natural Resources Acquisition and Betterment of Public Lands

PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Prior Years	FY 2024	FY 2026	FY 2028
State Funds Appropriated and Requested				
General Obligation Bonds	\$ 12,500	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
State Funds Pending				
Non-State Funds Already Committed				
Non-State Funds Pending				
TOTAL	\$ 12,500	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS

Cost Category	Prior Years	FY 2024	FY 2026	FY 2028
Property Acquisition	\$ 0	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000
Predesign Fees	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Design Fees	\$ 0	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,100
Project Management	\$ 0	\$ 1,050	\$ 1,050	\$ 1,050
Construction	\$ 0	\$ 22,850	\$ 22,850	\$ 22,850
Relocation Expenses	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
One Percent for Art	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Occupancy Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Inflationary Adjustment	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 0	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000

IMPACT ON STATE OPERATING COSTS

Cost Category	FY 2024	FY 2026	FY 2028
IT Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (\$)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (FTE)	0.0	0.0	0.0

SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS

	Amount	Percent of Total
General Fund	\$ 35,000	100 %
User Financing	\$ 0	0 %

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements will apply to projects after adoption of the bonding bill.

Is this project exempt from legislative review under M.S. 16B.335 subd. 1a?	Yes
Predesign Review (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 3):	
Does this request include funding for predesign?	N/A
Has the predesign been submitted to the Department of Administration?	N/A
Has the predesign been approved by the Department of Administration?	N/A
Will the project design meet the Sustainable Building Guidelines under M.S. 16B.325?	Yes
Will the project designs meet applicable requirements and guidelines for energy conservation and alternative energy sources (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 4 and 16B.32)?	Yes
Have Information Technology Review Preconditions been met (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 5 & 6)?	N/A
Will the project comply with the targeted group purchasing requirement (M.S. 16C.16 subd. 13)?	Yes
Will the project meet public ownership requirements (M.S. 16A.695)?	Yes
Will a use agreement be required (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 2)?	No
Will program funding be reviewed and ensured (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 5)?	Yes
Will the matching funds requirements be met (M.S. 16A.86 subd. 4)?	N/A
Will the project be fully encumbered prior to the Cancellation Deadline (M.S. 16A.642): December 31, 2028?	Yes
M.S. 16A.502 and M.S. 16B.31 (2): Full Funding Required	Yes
M.S. 473.4485: Guideway Project	
Is this a Guideway Project?	No
Is the required information included in this request?	N/A

Wildfire Aviation Infrastructure

AT A GLANCE

2024 Request Amount:	\$6,000
Priority Ranking:	4
Project Summary:	\$6 million to modernize wildfire aviation infrastructure in Brainerd that supports effective response to wildfires and other safety needs.

Project Description

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) responds to wildfires and other safety and emergency resource management needs such as flooding, wind damage, and ice and snow damage to state administered lands, which requires safe, secure, and efficient facilities to house air operations. The primary duty of the Brainerd wildfire aviation base is safe and efficient response to wildland fire.

This request will allow the DNR to replace two aging and inadequate modular units (trailers) with a new wildfire and emergency response operations center building at the Brainerd airport. The new operations center will accommodate up to 30 staff with space for briefing, dispatch, crew readiness, airtanker loading, storage, and pilot rest areas. The project will also replace several sheds that house aircraft loading equipment with buildings to accommodate firefighting chemical and equipment storage and aircraft loading equipment.

Project Rationale

Airtanker base, hangar, and helibase facilities must be secure, safe, energy efficient, and provide the space needed for operations personnel and aircraft pilots and crews to allow the DNR to effectively respond to wildfires and other emergency response and public safety needs on state lands, as requested.

To meet these goals, the Brainerd wildfire aviation base facilities will:

1. Be strategically located to support wildfire and emergency response needs in central Minnesota;
2. Be the primary airtanker base for large operations in central Minnesota;
3. Support integrated operations as much as possible to increase efficiency and inter-operability; and,
4. Provide for storage and protection of equipment to increase lifecycle and avoid unscheduled repairs.

Project Timeline

The project will be completed within the given time frame.

Other Considerations

The DNR is working with the Brainerd Lakes Regional Airport Commission on this project and may grant the commission funds to execute construction.

Modernization of the Brainerd facility will complete the DNR's near-term upgrades to wildfire aviation bases. These strategically placed aviation bases provide rapid and safe response to wildfire prone areas of the state. The bases are also available for other public safety emergency response needs. Long-term maintenance needs such as the replacement of the ramp in Bemidji and Brainerd should be anticipated in approximately 2033 due to pavement deterioration over time.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

This request does not require additional operating funds.

Description of Previous Appropriations

L2023, Ch. 72 - Bond, Wildfire Aviation Infrastructure, \$6,360,000

Project Contact Person

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Governor's Recommendation

The Governor does not recommend capital funding for this request.

Natural Resources

Project Detail

(\$ in thousands)

Wildfire Aviation Infrastructure

PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Prior Years	FY 2024	FY 2026	FY 2028
State Funds Appropriated and Requested				
General Obligation Bonds	\$ 6,360	\$ 6,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
State Funds Pending				
Non-State Funds Already Committed				
Non-State Funds Pending				
TOTAL	\$ 6,360	\$ 6,000	\$ 0	\$ 0

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS

Cost Category	Prior Years	FY 2024	FY 2026	FY 2028
Property Acquisition	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Predesign Fees	\$ 0	\$ 75	\$ 0	\$ 0
Design Fees	\$ 0	\$ 225	\$ 0	\$ 0
Project Management	\$ 0	\$ 125	\$ 0	\$ 0
Construction	\$ 0	\$ 5,330	\$ 0	\$ 0
Relocation Expenses	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
One Percent for Art	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Occupancy Costs	\$ 0	\$ 245	\$ 0	\$ 0
Inflationary Adjustment	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 0	\$ 6,000	\$ 0	\$ 0

IMPACT ON STATE OPERATING COSTS

Cost Category	FY 2024	FY 2026	FY 2028
IT Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (\$)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (FTE)	0.0	0.0	0.0

SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS

	Amount	Percent of Total
General Fund	\$ 6,000	100 %
User Financing	\$ 0	0 %

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements will apply to projects after adoption of the bonding bill.

Is this project exempt from legislative review under M.S. 16B.335 subd. 1a?	No
Predesign Review (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 3):	
Does this request include funding for predesign?	Yes
Has the predesign been submitted to the Department of Administration?	No
Has the predesign been approved by the Department of Administration?	No
Will the project design meet the Sustainable Building Guidelines under M.S. 16B.325?	Yes
Will the project designs meet applicable requirements and guidelines for energy conservation and alternative energy sources (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 4 and 16B.32)?	Yes
Have Information Technology Review Preconditions been met (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 5 & 6)?	Yes
Will the project comply with the targeted group purchasing requirement (M.S. 16C.16 subd. 13)?	Yes
Will the project meet public ownership requirements (M.S. 16A.695)?	Yes
Will a use agreement be required (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 2)?	No
Will program funding be reviewed and ensured (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 5)?	Yes
Will the matching funds requirements be met (M.S. 16A.86 subd. 4)?	N/A
Will the project be fully encumbered prior to the Cancellation Deadline (M.S. 16A.642): December 31, 2028?	Yes
M.S. 16A.502 and M.S. 16B.31 (2): Full Funding Required	Yes
M.S. 473.4485: Guideway Project	
Is this a Guideway Project?	No
Is the required information included in this request?	N/A

Improving Accessibility of DNR-managed Lands and Facilities

AT A GLANCE

2024 Request Amount:	\$25,000
Priority Ranking:	5
Project Summary:	\$25 million to comprehensively improve the accessibility of DNR-managed lands and facilities to Minnesotans of all abilities.

Project Description

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requests \$25 million to comprehensively improve the accessibility of state-managed lands and facilities to Minnesotans of all abilities, thereby advancing the DNR's strategic priorities of connecting people to the outdoors and expanding diversity, equity and inclusion. The funding will enable the DNR to complete accessibility improvements to high-use facilities at state parks and recreation areas, as well as high-visitation wildlife management areas (WMAs) and aquatic management areas (AMAs). Improving accessibility at DNR-managed facilities and public lands enhances the experience of all users.

State park and recreation area renovation efforts will improve accessibility of bathrooms, parking areas, showers, campsites, trails and a variety of day-use and interpretive facilities, as well as provide new amenities to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse user base with a variety of physical abilities and skills. These projects also allow for improvements to signage and interpretive exhibits when part of a larger renovation effort.

The DNR will also complete WMA and AMA accessibility improvements identified to have the greatest benefit as part of an ongoing opportunity assessment. Projects are expected to include improved accessibility of parking lots, trails, and hunting blinds.

Project Rationale

Many DNR buildings and facilities are more than 50 years old and were built before the advent of state and federal accessibility standards. Recent renovations and construction projects meet these standards. However, such projects are currently only implemented as buildings and facilities need major repairs. As a result, most DNR-managed buildings and facilities remain only partially accessible.

The DNR has been partnering with the Minnesota Council on Disability and interested stakeholders to identify opportunities to enhance accessibility at public lands and facilities more comprehensively. The Natural Resources Asset Preservation (NRAP) funding request includes resources to rehabilitate Minnesota’s public water accesses to make them accessible to all users. Significant investment is also needed to create more comprehensive accessibility at other public lands and facilities.

This project will build on demonstrations of what more comprehensive accessibility looks like, such as the accessibility improvements underway at William O’Brien State Park. It will provide for more accessible experiences across the state so that all Minnesotans can enjoy public lands and facilities in their entirety.

Project Timeline

The project will be completed within the given time frame.

Other Considerations

Enhanced accessibility opens outdoor experiences to people with disabilities and improves access and experience for people of all abilities.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

Investments that increase accessibility have been funded through capital investments for many years and this proposal is not expected to result in new impacts on operating budgets.

Description of Previous Appropriations

L2023, Ch. 72 – Bond, \$1,200,000

L2020, (5th SS), Ch. 3 - Bond \$3,000,000

L2018, Ch. 214, Bond, \$500,000

Project Contact Person

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Capital Asset Manager

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Governor's Recommendation

The Governor recommends \$2 million in general obligation bonds for this request.

Natural Resources

Project Detail

(\$ in thousands)

Improving Accessibility of DNR-managed Lands and Facilities

PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Prior Years	FY 2024	FY 2026	FY 2028
State Funds Appropriated and Requested				
General Obligation Bonds	\$ 4,700	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
State Funds Pending				
Non-State Funds Already Committed				
Non-State Funds Pending				
TOTAL	\$ 4,700	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS

Cost Category	Prior Years	FY 2024	FY 2026	FY 2028
Property Acquisition	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Predesign Fees	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Design Fees	\$ 0	\$ 3,750	\$ 3,750	\$ 3,750
Project Management	\$ 0	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Construction	\$ 0	\$ 18,750	\$ 18,750	\$ 18,750
Relocation Expenses	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
One Percent for Art	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Occupancy Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Inflationary Adjustment	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 0	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000

IMPACT ON STATE OPERATING COSTS

Cost Category	FY 2024	FY 2026	FY 2028
IT Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (\$)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (FTE)	0.0	0.0	0.0

SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS

	Amount	Percent of Total
General Fund	\$ 25,000	100 %
User Financing	\$ 0	0 %

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements will apply to projects after adoption of the bonding bill.

Is this project exempt from legislative review under M.S. 16B.335 subd. 1a?	No
Predesign Review (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 3):	
Does this request include funding for predesign?	Yes
Has the predesign been submitted to the Department of Administration?	N/A
Has the predesign been approved by the Department of Administration?	N/A
Will the project design meet the Sustainable Building Guidelines under M.S. 16B.325?	Yes
Will the project designs meet applicable requirements and guidelines for energy conservation and alternative energy sources (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 4 and 16B.32)?	Yes
Have Information Technology Review Preconditions been met (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 5 & 6)?	Yes
Will the project comply with the targeted group purchasing requirement (M.S. 16C.16 subd. 13)?	Yes
Will the project meet public ownership requirements (M.S. 16A.695)?	Yes
Will a use agreement be required (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 2)?	No
Will program funding be reviewed and ensured (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 5)?	Yes
Will the matching funds requirements be met (M.S. 16A.86 subd. 4)?	N/A
Will the project be fully encumbered prior to the Cancellation Deadline (M.S. 16A.642): December 31, 2028?	Yes
M.S. 16A.502 and M.S. 16B.31 (2): Full Funding Required	Yes
M.S. 473.4485: Guideway Project	
Is this a Guideway Project?	No
Is the required information included in this request?	N/A

Dam Safety Repair, Reconstruction or Removal

AT A GLANCE

2024 Request Amount:	\$10,000
Priority Ranking:	6
Project Summary:	\$10 million to maintain the structural integrity of dams, prevent public safety hazards, and regulate water levels on rivers and lakes.

Project Description

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requests \$10 million for dam safety projects. This request supports the DNR’s Dam Safety Program, which was established under M.S. 103G.511 to manage Minnesota’s public dam infrastructure. The program provides design, engineering, and construction assistance to repair, reconstruct, or remove dams, and to respond to dam safety emergencies. This request will support the top 18 projects on the Dam Safety project priority list:

- Modification of two low-head river dams to address an obsolete design that presents an inherent safety hazard.
- Critical repairs to or removal of approximately 11 additional dams managed by the DNR.
- Grants to local units of government to address safety needs at up to five locally-owned dams.

About 10 percent of the request will be reserved for emergencies. Unspent emergency funds will be used on high-priority projects identified on the Dam Safety project priority list.

Project Rationale

Dams are used to regulate water levels on many of Minnesota’s recreational lakes, providing significant outdoor recreation, tourism, economic, and community benefits. For example, Mille Lacs, Minnetonka, Bronson, and Ottertail lakes all depend on dams to regulate water levels.

There are more than 1,150 dams in Minnesota; 650 are public dams, and the state owns more than 300 of these. Most of the publicly owned dams in Minnesota are more than 50 years old and require ongoing repairs to maintain their structural integrity, prevent public safety hazards, and to regulate water levels on recreational lakes. Emergency repairs must be made when risk of an imminent dam failure threatens public safety.

Management of the state’s public dam infrastructure via the Dam Safety Program also includes modification of hazardous or obsolete dams, and removal of those that no longer provide significant public benefits or where rehabilitation would not be cost-effective or environmentally protective. These projects may also provide natural resource benefits by maximizing the biological diversity of river systems and restoring and reconnecting upstream and downstream habitats.

Project Timeline

The project will be completed within the given time frame.

Other Considerations

As a part of the Dam Safety Program, every other year the DNR develops and submits to the legislature a dam safety project priority list. This list, along with the maintenance needs identified in the DNR's 10-Year Capital Asset Need Report, informs each capital request for dam safety repair, reconstruction and removal.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

The Dam Safety Program has been funded by capital investments for many years and is not expected to result in new impacts on operating budgets.

Description of Previous Appropriations

L2023, Ch. 72 – Bond, \$4,000,000

L2020 (5th SS), Ch. 3 - Bond, \$20,000,000

L2017 (1st SS), Ch. 8 - Bond, \$9,400,000

Project Contact Person

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Capital Asset Manager

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Governor's Recommendation

The Governor does not recommend capital funding for this request.

Natural Resources

Project Detail

(\$ in thousands)

Dam Safety Repair, Reconstruction or Removal

PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Prior Years	FY 2024	FY 2026	FY 2028
State Funds Appropriated and Requested				
General Obligation Bonds	\$ 24,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
State Funds Pending				
Non-State Funds Already Committed				
Non-State Funds Pending				
TOTAL	\$ 24,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS

Cost Category	Prior Years	FY 2024	FY 2026	FY 2028
Property Acquisition	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Predesign Fees	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Design Fees	\$ 0	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600
Project Management	\$ 0	\$ 700	\$ 700	\$ 700
Construction	\$ 0	\$ 7,700	\$ 7,700	\$ 7,700
Relocation Expenses	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
One Percent for Art	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Occupancy Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Inflationary Adjustment	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 0	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000

IMPACT ON STATE OPERATING COSTS

Cost Category	FY 2024	FY 2026	FY 2028
IT Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (\$)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (FTE)	0.0	0.0	0.0

SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS

	Amount	Percent of Total
General Fund	\$ 10,000	100 %
User Financing	\$ 0	0 %

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements will apply to projects after adoption of the bonding bill.

Is this project exempt from legislative review under M.S. 16B.335 subd. 1a?	Yes
Predesign Review (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 3):	
Does this request include funding for predesign?	N/A
Has the predesign been submitted to the Department of Administration?	N/A
Has the predesign been approved by the Department of Administration?	N/A
Will the project design meet the Sustainable Building Guidelines under M.S. 16B.325?	N/A
Will the project designs meet applicable requirements and guidelines for energy conservation and alternative energy sources (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 4 and 16B.32)?	N/A
Have Information Technology Review Preconditions been met (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 5 & 6)?	N/A
Will the project comply with the targeted group purchasing requirement (M.S. 16C.16 subd. 13)?	Yes
Will the project meet public ownership requirements (M.S. 16A.695)?	Yes
Will a use agreement be required (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 2)?	No
Will program funding be reviewed and ensured (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 5)?	Yes
Will the matching funds requirements be met (M.S. 16A.86 subd. 4)?	Yes
Will the project be fully encumbered prior to the Cancellation Deadline (M.S. 16A.642): December 31, 2028?	Yes
M.S. 16A.502 and M.S. 16B.31 (2): Full Funding Required	Yes
M.S. 473.4485: Guideway Project	
Is this a Guideway Project?	No
Is the required information included in this request?	N/A

Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program

AT A GLANCE

2024 Request Amount:	\$25,000
Priority Ranking:	7
Project Summary:	\$25 million for cost-share grants to local governments, including cities, counties, and watershed districts, for projects that reduce flood risk. Projects range from purchasing and removing damaged and at-risk residential structures from the floodplain to constructing levees, pumping stations, and multi-purpose flood impoundments.

Project Description

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requests \$25 million for Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program grants. These funds provide cost-share grants to local governments to support projects that reduce flood risk in cities and watershed districts in the Red River Valley, Minnesota River Valley and other flood-risk areas across the state. Types of projects include the purchase and removal of flood-damaged and at-risk residential structures and construction of levees, pumping stations, and multi-purpose flood impoundments.

This funding supports the Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program established by M.S. 103F.161.

Project Rationale

Flood mitigation is cost effective. A 2017 study by the National Institute of Building Sciences shows that every \$1 spent on flood mitigation avoids \$7 in future damages. Minnesota’s previous investments in flood mitigation have resulted in a more flood-resilient state, and significantly decreased emergency flood response and recovery costs. Even with the significant progress that has been made, flood risks remain. Climate change and the resulting increased intensity of storm events has increased the need for robust program funding to enhance the resilience of Minnesota communities to future flooding events.

Project Timeline

The projects will be completed within the given time frame.

Other Considerations

Past appropriations for the Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program have leveraged significant federal and local dollars, considerably reducing Minnesota's vulnerability to both the safety and economic impacts of floods.

This program is complemented, but not replaced by, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s community resiliency grants.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

The Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program has been funded by capital investment for many years and is not expected to result in new impacts on operating budgets.

Description of Previous Appropriations

L2023, Ch. 72 – Bond, \$34,300,000
L2023, Ch. 72 – General Fund, \$21,115,000
L2020, (5th SS), Ch. 3 - Bond, \$17,000,000
L2018, Ch. 214 - Bond, \$20,000,000
L2017, SS1, Ch. 8 - Bond, \$11,555,000
L2015, SS1, Ch. 5 - Bond, \$23,549,000
L2015, SS1, Ch. 5 - Bond, \$2,515,000 (Disaster)
L2015, SS1, Ch. 5 - General Fund, \$500,000 (Disaster)

Project Contact Person

Samantha Minkler
Capital Asset Manager
651-259-5701
Samantha.Minkler@state.mn.us

Governor's Recommendation

The Governor recommends \$6 million in general obligation bonds for this request. Also included are budget estimates of \$6 million for each planning period for 2026 and 2028.

Natural Resources

Project Detail

(\$ in thousands)

Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program

PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Prior Years	FY 2024	FY 2026	FY 2028
State Funds Appropriated and Requested				
General Obligation Bonds	\$ 71,300	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
General Fund Cash	\$ 21,115	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
State Funds Pending				
Non-State Funds Already Committed				
Non-State Funds Pending				
TOTAL	\$ 92,415	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS

Cost Category	Prior Years	FY 2024	FY 2026	FY 2028
Property Acquisition	\$ 0	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Predesign Fees	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Design Fees	\$ 0	\$ 6,250	\$ 6,250	\$ 6,250
Project Management	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Construction	\$ 0	\$ 13,750	\$ 13,750	\$ 13,750
Relocation Expenses	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
One Percent for Art	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Occupancy Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Inflationary Adjustment	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 0	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000

IMPACT ON STATE OPERATING COSTS

Cost Category	FY 2024	FY 2026	FY 2028
IT Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (\$)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (FTE)	0.0	0.0	0.0

SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS

	Amount	Percent of Total
General Fund	\$ 25,000	100 %

SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS

	Amount	Percent of Total
User Financing	\$ 0	0 %

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements will apply to projects after adoption of the bonding bill.

Is this project exempt from legislative review under M.S. 16B.335 subd. 1a?	Yes
Predesign Review (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 3):	
Does this request include funding for predesign?	N/A
Has the predesign been submitted to the Department of Administration?	N/A
Has the predesign been approved by the Department of Administration?	N/A
Will the project design meet the Sustainable Building Guidelines under M.S. 16B.325?	N/A
Will the project designs meet applicable requirements and guidelines for energy conservation and alternative energy sources (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 4 and 16B.32)?	N/A
Have Information Technology Review Preconditions been met (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 5 & 6)?	N/A
Will the project comply with the targeted group purchasing requirement (M.S. 16C.16 subd. 13)?	N/A
Will the project meet public ownership requirements (M.S. 16A.695)?	Yes
Will a use agreement be required (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 2)?	No
Will program funding be reviewed and ensured (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 5)?	Yes
Will the matching funds requirements be met (M.S. 16A.86 subd. 4)?	Yes
Will the project be fully encumbered prior to the Cancellation Deadline (M.S. 16A.642): December 31, 2028?	Yes
M.S. 16A.502 and M.S. 16B.31 (2): Full Funding Required	Yes
M.S. 473.4485: Guideway Project	
Is this a Guideway Project?	No
Is the required information included in this request?	N/A

Parks and Trails Local and Regional Grant Program

AT A GLANCE

2024 Request Amount:	\$4,000
Priority Ranking:	8
Project Summary:	\$4 million to provide competitive grants to local governments for acquisition and development of local parks and trails across the state.

Project Description

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requests \$4 million to provide competitive grants to local governments for acquisition and development of regional or local parks and trails across the state. These funds will support existing park and trail grant programs established in M.S. 85.019:

- Outdoor Recreation Grant Program: \$2 million to help local governments acquire, develop and/or redevelop close-to-home outdoor recreation facilities.
- Natural and Scenic Area Grant Program: \$1 million to help local governments and school districts acquire and protect natural and scenic areas statewide. Lands in their natural condition are becoming less available or reduced in size due to development and privatization, especially in areas of high population growth, shoreland, bluff tops, and areas where land use changes may restrict natural and scenic recreation opportunities to the public.
- Local Trail Connections Grant Program: \$500,000 to provide grants to local units of government to develop and acquire trail connections to residential areas, schools, workplaces, community centers, recreation areas, trails and parks.
- Regional Trail Grant Program: \$500,000 to provide grants to local units of government for development and acquisition of regional trails outside of the metropolitan area.

Project Rationale

This project supports Minnesota’s communities by helping to ensure public access to a high-quality system of local and regional parks and trails. Connecting people to the outdoors is a DNR strategic priority that is critical to enhancing community health and wellness. Pass-through funding for local and regional parks and trails projects further fosters connections of children and families to the outdoors.

Project Timeline

The project will be completed within the given time frame.

Other Considerations

While Legacy funds have provided additional park and trail building acquisition and development funding to areas of regional significance, these funding sources cannot be used for local parks and trails. Local programs have received Lottery-in-Lieu, Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, and General Fund appropriations in recent years, but the demand for funding is significantly greater than available funds.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

The Parks and Trails Local and Regional Grant Program has been funded through capital investments for many years and is not expected to result in new impacts on operating budgets.

Description of Previous Appropriations

L2023, Ch. 72 – Bond, \$2,000,000

Project Contact Person

Samantha Minkler
Capital Asset Manager
651-259-5701
Samantha.Minkler@state.mn.us

Governor's Recommendation

The Governor recommends \$2 million in general obligation bonds for this request. Also included are budget estimates of \$2 million for each planning period for 2026 and 2028.

Natural Resources

Project Detail

(\$ in thousands)

Parks and Trails Local and Regional Grant Program

PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Prior Years	FY 2024	FY 2026	FY 2028
State Funds Appropriated and Requested				
General Obligation Bonds	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
State Funds Pending				
Non-State Funds Already Committed				
Non-State Funds Pending				
TOTAL	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS

Cost Category	Prior Years	FY 2024	FY 2026	FY 2028
Property Acquisition	\$ 0	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800
Predesign Fees	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Design Fees	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Project Management	\$ 0	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200
Construction	\$ 0	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Relocation Expenses	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
One Percent for Art	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Occupancy Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Inflationary Adjustment	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 0	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000

IMPACT ON STATE OPERATING COSTS

Cost Category	FY 2024	FY 2026	FY 2028
IT Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (\$)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (FTE)	0.0	0.0	0.0

SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS

	Amount	Percent of Total
General Fund	\$ 4,000	100 %
User Financing	\$ 0	0 %

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements will apply to projects after adoption of the bonding bill.

Is this project exempt from legislative review under M.S. 16B.335 subd. 1a?	Yes
Predesign Review (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 3):	
Does this request include funding for predesign?	N/A
Has the predesign been submitted to the Department of Administration?	N/A
Has the predesign been approved by the Department of Administration?	N/A
Will the project design meet the Sustainable Building Guidelines under M.S. 16B.325?	Yes
Will the project designs meet applicable requirements and guidelines for energy conservation and alternative energy sources (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 4 and 16B.32)?	Yes
Have Information Technology Review Preconditions been met (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 5 & 6)?	N/A
Will the project comply with the targeted group purchasing requirement (M.S. 16C.16 subd. 13)?	Yes
Will the project meet public ownership requirements (M.S. 16A.695)?	Yes
Will a use agreement be required (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 2)?	No
Will program funding be reviewed and ensured (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 5)?	Yes
Will the matching funds requirements be met (M.S. 16A.86 subd. 4)?	No
Will the project be fully encumbered prior to the Cancellation Deadline (M.S. 16A.642): December 31, 2028?	Yes
M.S. 16A.502 and M.S. 16B.31 (2): Full Funding Required	Yes
M.S. 473.4485: Guideway Project	
Is this a Guideway Project?	No
Is the required information included in this request?	N/A