

			Project Requests for State Funds		
Project Title	Priority Ranking	Funding Source	2026	2028	2030
Legend Maintenance Building- Giants Ridge	1	GO	\$ 6,400	\$ 0	\$ 0
Minnesota Discovery Center Relocation	2	GO	\$ 3,200	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Project Requests			\$ 9,600	\$ 0	\$ 0
General Obligation Bonds (GO) Total			\$ 9,600	\$ 0	\$ 0

(\$ in thousands)

**Legend Maintenance Building- Giants Ridge****AT A GLANCE****2026 Request Amount:** \$6,400**Priority Ranking:** 1**Project Summary:** \$6.4 million in general obligation bonds to relocate and construct a new maintenance building at The Legend golf course located within the Giants Ridge Recreation Area in Biwabik, Minnesota.**Project Description**

This project involves constructing a new maintenance building for The Legend golf course at a new site away from the main entrance to enhance safety for guests and employees. The existing 40-year-old facility then will be repurposed.

**Project Rationale**

This project addresses aging and inefficient infrastructure located at the main entrance where guests arrive. The 40-year-old maintenance building—originally built for ski operations and later repurposed for golf course maintenance—now poses safety concerns due to heavy equipment and deliveries sharing space with guests. By constructing a new, energy-efficient, and secure maintenance facility at a separate location, the project will improve operational efficiency, enhance guest and employee safety, and create a more welcoming arrival experience. In addition to reducing deferred maintenance, the project will generate dozens of construction jobs and support the local economy.

**Project Timeline**

Funding: 2026

Design: Already Complete

Bid: Fall 2026

Construction: 2027

Completion: 2028

**Other Considerations**

Between 2017 and 2019, Giants Ridge, which includes The Legend, generated an average annual economic impact of \$55.4 million in northeastern Minnesota. This project will help The Legend continue drawing tourism revenue into the local economy while expanding employment opportunities for the regional workforce. It also promotes healthier, more vibrant communities throughout the region and the state. As one of the largest employers on the East Iron Range, Giants

Ridge plays a vital role in supporting the area's economic and social well-being.

### **Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

This project will reduce agency spending on deferred maintenance by repurposing the existing 40-year-old maintenance building and constructing a new facility in a more central location on the property. Relocating operations to the new site will improve efficiency, lower ongoing operating costs, and enhance overall functionality. Additionally, the new building will incorporate energy-efficient technologies, helping to reduce the facility's overall carbon footprint.

### **Description of Previous Appropriations**

In 2023, the Governor recommended \$16.614 million in general obligation bonds and the Legislature appropriated \$12.229 million in general obligation bonds for snowmaking infrastructure and replacing water lines at Giants Ridge.

### **Project Contact Person**

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(\$ in thousands)

## Minnesota Discovery Center Relocation

**AT A GLANCE**

<b>2026 Request Amount:</b>	\$3,200
<b>Priority Ranking:</b>	2
<b>Project Summary:</b>	\$3.2 million in general obligation bonds to support the design, engineering, site acquisition, and infrastructure for the relocation and repurposing of the Minnesota Discovery Center and its Iron Range archives to a new site in Chisholm. The project will create compliant, efficient, and inclusive facilities that address critical preservation, capacity, and accessibility issues threatening the MDC's historical collections.

**Project Description**

This project will support site acquisition, design, engineering, utilities, and infrastructure for the relocation and repurposing of the Minnesota Discovery Center and its archives of Iron Range history at a new site in Chisholm.

The project includes site work and the installation of infrastructure to support the Minnesota Discovery Center at its new location in Chisholm.

**Project Rationale**

The project will provide compliant, adequate, efficient, and inclusive public facilities that protect, preserve, and expand one of the largest artifact and archival collections in Minnesota. Most importantly, it addresses high-risk infrastructure issues that currently threaten existing historical artifacts and archival materials.

Additional impacts of the project include:

- Proper preservation and storage of thousands of overflow records and historical artifacts in the MDC's collections.
- Increased archival capacity, allowing the MDC to grow its historical collections and generate additional revenue through record requests, exhibitions, and visitation.
- Reduction of disparities and inequities in the current design of archival facilities.
- Improved inclusive access to existing and future historical artifacts and archival collections for scholarly, educational, and research purposes.
- Creation of a new multi-use space available to rent, supporting the MDC's growing list of facility rental clients.
- Reduced labor and energy costs, as well as improved safety, allowing the MDC to reinvest savings into critical infrastructure improvements that enhance the public experience.

## **Project Timeline**

Funding: 2026

Design, Engineering, and Site Acquisition: 2027

Bid & Construction: 2028

Completion: 2029

## **Other Considerations**

The Minnesota Discovery Center (MDC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit responsible for operating and maintaining state-owned capital assets originally constructed in the 1970s and 1980s. MDC's current capital budget is insufficient to address more than \$40 million in critical infrastructure needs across our 660-acre campus.

This bonding proposal identifies the most urgent capital needs to proactively address them before an emergency situation arises. Currently, historical collections are at high risk due to inadequate, outdated, and failing archival infrastructure. Something as simple as a false fire alarm could destroy millions of irreplaceable records and artifacts at any time.

MDC strongly believes that state-owned facilities, such as our historical archives, should be held to the highest standards, as they belong to the residents of Minnesota.

- MDC is the largest state-owned records repository outside of St. Paul and one of the largest museum and cultural complexes in northern Minnesota. It is also one of Chisholm's largest employers and contributes \$3.89 million annually to the local and regional economy.
- In 2021 alone, MDC's research center archival collection served thousands of individuals from 48 states and 17 countries, as well as military APOs and Washington, D.C.
- This project benefits rural residents in a distressed region of our state and serves all Minnesotans.
- It creates jobs, attracts more tourists to the region, and helps diversify employment opportunities for the regional workforce.
- The research center and archival spaces are public resources.
- Museums in Minnesota have a \$917 million economic impact and rank among the most trusted institutions in the United States.

## **Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

This project will likely provide significant energy savings and building efficiencies and generate new revenue through facility rentals and special events. Furthermore, a larger research and academic audience will be served, both in person and virtually, which will also contribute to increased revenue. MDC will save tens of thousands of dollars by avoiding the need for major annual repairs and maintenance.

## **Description of Previous Appropriations**

N/A

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