

2022 BONDING

Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan’s Budget to Move Minnesota Forward recommends a \$221.4 million capital bonding investment for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This investment, which is included in the Walz-Flanagan Local Jobs and Projects Plan, will advance the DNR’s mission and address critical issues such as improving access to the outdoors, advancing safety and community wellbeing, and rehabilitating aging – and in some cases failing – infrastructure. This investment is one part of a 2022 budget package that supports DNR’s capital assets, climate adaptation and mitigation work, and drought relief efforts. You’ll find details on the capital bonding investment below.

Preserve existing assets (Natural Resources Asset Preservation): \$110.8 million

Repair or replace degraded or failing building components, public water access sites, bridges, roads and trails throughout the state, and wastewater and drinking water systems at state parks.

Meet new or changed facility and infrastructure needs (Betterment of Buildings): \$36.4 million

Modernize existing facilities – including drill core storage in Hibbing, the Waterville fish hatchery, and seed extraction and storage at the Badoura State Forest Nursery – and invest in new facilities.

Invest in public lands (Acquisition and Betterment of Land): \$15 million

Acquire high-priority parcels and improve existing state lands by adding shore fishing opportunities, replanting and seeding trees after timber harvests, enhancing access, and creating a more welcoming, safe and inclusive experience for visitors.

Wildfire aviation infrastructure: \$7.8 million

Repair or replace infrastructure at the Hibbing and Brainerd airports that is critical for wildfire response.

State land accessibility: \$5 million

Make comprehensive accessibility improvements to high-use state parks and wildlife management areas.



Dam safety repair, reconstruction or removal: \$8 million

Modify or remove publicly owned dams that pose a public safety risk, respond to dam safety emergencies, and provide contingency funds for the Lake Bronson Dam replacement project.

Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program: \$20 million

Provide grants to local governments to reduce flood risk in the Red and Minnesota river valleys and other at-risk areas of the state.

Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park: \$12 million

Construct the visitor center and design future campground and trail additions.

Parks and trails local and regional grants: \$1 million

Help support acquisition and development of local and regional parks and trails across Minnesota.

Community tree planting grants: \$5 million

Help mitigate loss of shade trees from pests and disease thereby supporting climate change mitigation, public health, and water quality.

In addition to these investments, the recommendations include \$435,000 for administration of local project grants and costs necessary to repay previous state bond investments in Upper Sioux Agency State Park.

Throughout the 2022 legislative session, you can find updates on this bonding proposal as well as investments in DNR’s work on climate mitigation and adaptation and drought relief on the DNR website: <https://go.usa.gov/xtNx9>

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Capital Assets

The DNR manages nearly \$3 billion worth of built assets, as well as public lands across Minnesota. DNR-managed lands, buildings, facilities and infrastructure are part of the fabric of communities and contribute to our quality of life. The recent increase in outdoor activity further emphasizes the importance of our natural lands and related infrastructure to community prosperity. Investments are needed now to ensure these assets meet the needs of current and future generations of Minnesotans.

**DNR capital assets are abundant, unique, and diverse.
DNR-managed assets include:**

The state park campground or camper cabin where Minnesotans and visitors spend their summer vacations.



The public fishing pier where a child catches their first fish – and the fish hatchery that raised that fish for stocking.



State forests (and the roads that provide access) that support wildlife habitat, recreation, and the forest products economy.



The DNR office where people can buy a fishing license, submit a permit application, or get information about natural resources in their community.



The native prairie that supports pheasants, songbirds and pollinators while improving water quality and capturing carbon.

...and much more.