



“Get Out MORE” — Modernize Outdoor Recreation Experiences

Outdoor recreation is central to Minnesota’s identity, fundamental to our economy, and essential for our health and quality of life. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in renewing and evolving our outstanding, but aging, state outdoor recreation system. This transformative Get Out MORE (Modernize Outdoor Recreation Experiences) budget proposal will ensure Minnesotans of all abilities and interests enjoy a world-class recreation system, whatever outdoor adventure they choose.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis estimates that outdoor recreation contributes more than \$9.9 billion annually to Minnesota’s economy and makes up 91,000 jobs (Outdoor Industry Association survey, 2022). The DNR provides enriching public outdoor recreation —such as hunting, fishing, wildlife-watching, camping, skiing, hiking, biking, off-highway vehicle riding—for Minnesotans of all ages and backgrounds. These opportunities depend on Minnesota’s well-managed outdoor recreation system that includes state parks, recreation areas, trails, forests, wildlife and aquatic management areas, public water access sites and other facilities. However, many DNR-managed facilities are 60 to 90 years old. These facilities are showing their age, and in some cases are not designed for today’s outdoor users.

The \$236 million Get Out MORE investment centers on five key areas:

Enhancing Access and Welcoming New Users to Public Lands and Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Improving accessibility at DNR-managed facilities and public lands for people with disabilities also enhances the experience of other users. Improved road access and signage and rehabilitated state trails further improve Minnesotans’ recreational experiences. A General Fund investment of \$28 million, including \$48 million from the capital budget, will support wide-ranging accessibility enhancements at state parks, recreation



areas and wildlife management areas; provide accessible outdoor recreation equipment for use on state lands; improve parking lots, road access, and signage; and rehabilitate segments of the most used state trails.



Revitalizing Camping and Related Infrastructure

Much of Minnesota's camping and related outdoor recreation infrastructure was developed in the 1930s and 1960s and is not designed to meet the needs of today's visitors.



Further, many of the wastewater and drinking water systems that support state campgrounds have reached the end of their useful life and need renewal and replacement. A General Fund investment of \$5 million, including \$30 million from the capital budget, will fund the highest priority drinking water and wastewater system replacements, as well as a campground modernization pilot project.

Modernizing Boating Access

DNR-operated public water accesses need significant investment to make them accessible to all users, meet the needs of modern watercraft, improve protection of public waters from stormwater runoff and invasive species, and enhance climate resilience. A General Fund investment of \$35 million, including \$15 million from the capital budget, will allow DNR to renew and rehabilitate more than 100 public water accesses to serve anglers, boaters and paddlers across Minnesota.



Enhancing Fisheries and Fishing Infrastructure

Minnesota's renowned fishing opportunities are supported by fish hatcheries that are in critical need of renewal and modernization. A number of these hatcheries were constructed in the 1950s and are still operating with original equipment. The DNR also manages 360 shore fishing sites and fishing piers across the state. Many new anglers, families and children, and people with more limited economic resources rely on shore fishing facilities to access Minnesota's public waters. A total of \$35 million from the General Fund, including \$25 million from the capital budget, will be used to modernize fish hatcheries, revitalize fishing piers, and add shore fishing opportunities where communities are currently underserved.



Restoring Streams and Modernizing Water-related Infrastructure to Support Outdoor Recreation

More intense rains are combining with changes in land use to cause more flooding and road washouts, degrade streambanks, and overwhelm water control structures. This impacts our fish, waterfowl and recreation opportunities. A \$15 million General Fund investment will be used to replace culverts and bridges to improve stream ecology, remove or modify dams and restore habitat to enhance fish passage, and renovate other water control structures to address the impacts of climate change and support waterfowl production.



Minnesota is known for its unique outdoor recreation opportunities, but not all Minnesotans can experience those opportunities today. By building a more modern and inclusive outdoor recreation system, Minnesota can better serve current outdoor enthusiasts, connect even more people to the outdoors, and help ensure future generations will also benefit from time spent in our unparalleled natural places.



Category	General Fund	Bonding	Total Amount (\$ in 000s)
Enhancing Access and Welcoming New Users to Public Lands and Outdoor Recreation Facilities	\$28,000	\$48,000	\$76,000
Modernizing Camping and Related Infrastructure	\$5,000	\$30,000	\$35,000
Modernizing Boating Access	\$35,000	\$15,000	\$50,000
Enhancing Fisheries and Fishing Infrastructure	\$35,000	\$25,000	\$60,000
Restoring Streams and Modernize Water-related Infrastructure	\$15,000		\$15,000
Total	\$118,000	\$118,000	\$236,000

Throughout the 2023 legislative session, go to dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/legislativeinfo for updates on these once-in-a-generation investments to Minnesota’s outdoor recreation system as well as DNR’s work on the FY 2024/25 biennial budget.