



2023 Capital Budget

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages nearly \$3.5 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. These assets include the state park campground where Minnesotans spend their summer vacation, the public fishing pier where a child catches their first fish and the hatchery that raised that fish for stocking, and the DNR office where people can buy a hunting license, submit a permit application, or pick up a state trails map. Investments are needed now to ensure these assets meet the needs of current and future generations of Minnesota.

The One Minnesota Budget recommends \$265.7 million in capital investment for the DNR. This investment will advance the DNR’s mission and address priorities such as improving access to the outdoors, advancing safety and community wellbeing, and rehabilitating aging—and in some cases failing—infrastructure. This capital budget, along with the 2023 operating budget recommendation, includes funding for the transformative Get Out MORE (Modernizing Outdoor Recreation Experiences) initiative. The Get Out MORE investments will ensure Minnesotans of all abilities enjoy a world-class recreation experience, whatever outdoor adventure they choose. Please see DNR’s Get Out MORE fact sheet for more information.

Preserve existing assets (Natural Resources Asset Preservation): \$133 million

Repair or replace degraded or failing building components; public water access sites; bridges, roads and trails; fish hatchery infrastructure; and wastewater and drinking water systems at state parks and recreation areas. This includes \$86.5 million for Get Out MORE.

Address new or changed facility and infrastructure needs (Betterment of Buildings): \$43.7 million

Modernize existing facilities—including the Waterville fish hatchery, and seed extraction



and storage at the State Forest Nursery—and invest in new facilities, such as an additional drill core storage building in Hibbing. This includes \$20 million for Get Out MORE.



Invest in public lands (Acquisition and Betterment of Land): \$18 million

Acquire high-priority parcels and improve existing state lands by adding shore fishing opportunities, replanting and seeding trees after timber harvests, enhancing access to state lands, and creating a more welcoming, safe and inclusive experience for visitors. This includes \$5.5 million for Get Out MORE.



Wildfire aviation infrastructure: \$9.4 million

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

State land accessibility: \$6 million

Make comprehensive accessibility improvements to high-use state parks and wildlife management areas, including completing the accessibility project at William O’Brien State Park. This investment is also part of Get Out MORE .

Dam Safety repair, reconstruction or removal: \$9.6 million

Modify or remove publicly-owned dams that pose a public safety risk and respond to dam safety emergencies.

Throughout the 2023 legislative session, go to dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/legislativeinfo for updates on this capital budget proposal.

Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program: \$24 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: \$14.4 million

Construct a visitor center and design campground and trail additions.



Community Tree Planting Grants: \$6 million

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



Parks and Trails local and regional grant program: \$1.2 million

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

Local Project Grant Administration

In addition to these investments, the capital budget includes \$454,000 for administration of local project grants and costs necessary to repay previous state bond investments in Upper Sioux Agency State Park.