



2024 Capital Budget

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages nearly \$3.5 billion worth of built assets across Minnesota. This is in addition to the 5.6 million acres of public land that we manage. DNR-managed lands, buildings, facilities and infrastructure are part of the fabric of communities and support the state’s renowned quality of life. These assets include the state park campground where Minnesotans spend their summer vacation; the forest road that provides access for recreation (including hiking, birding and hunting), sustainable timber management, and wildfire response; and the DNR office where people can meet with a staff expert, buy a hunting license, submit a permit application, or pick up a state trails map.

The One Minnesota Budget recommends \$100.55 million in capital investment for the DNR. This investment will advance the DNR’s mission and address priorities such as rehabilitating aging-and in some cases failing- infrastructure, improving access to the outdoors, and advancing safety and community wellbeing.

Preserve existing assets (Natural Resources Asset Preservation): \$71.55 million

Repair, renovate or replace degraded or failing capital assets to ensure they are safe and functional for the public, support the conservation of Minnesota’s natural resources, and preserve the state’s investment in its capital assets. These funds are used for buildings, roads, trails, public water accesses, bridges, recreational facilities and more. As we address asset preservation, we also upgrade to today’s standards and best practices – whether that be accessibility, energy efficiency, or climate resiliency – thereby enabling DNR to better serve all Minnesotans.



Before: This very large culvert on a forest road system in Finland State forest was washed out by a storm in 2022.



After: The culvert was replaced with a steel bridge in 2023, designed to allow for fish passage and to withstand the increasing intensity of storms due to climate change.



Acquire, construct, and improve offices and facilities (Betterment of Buildings): \$12 million

Modernize or replace existing facilities and invest in new facilities, such as adding storage capacity for mineral exploration samples and enhancing examination facilities at the Hibbing Drill Core Library.



Invest in public lands (Acquisition and Betterment of Land): \$7 million

Acquire new, high-priority parcels and also improve existing state lands through actions, such as establishing new trees after timber harvest and enhancing access, quality and visitor safety on DNR managed lands.



Throughout the 2024 legislative session, go to dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/legislativeinfo for updates on DNR legislative initiatives.

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Improving accessibility of DNR-managed lands and facilities: \$2 million

Make comprehensive accessibility improvements to one or two high-use facilities at state parks and recreation areas, or high-visitation wildlife management areas and aquatic management areas. Improving accessibility at DNR-managed facilities and public lands enhances the experience of all users.

Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program: \$6 million

Provide cost-share grants to local governments, including cities, counties, and watershed districts, for projects that reduce flood risk.



Parks and Trails local and regional grant program: \$2 million

Provide competitive grants to local governments for acquisition and development of local parks and trails across Minnesota.



This information can be made available in alternative formats such as large print, braille, or audio tape by emailing info.dnr@state.mn.us or calling 651-259-5016.