

Budget for One Minnesota



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan recommend \$131 million for the 2019 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) capital budget. The DNR operates in every single county and serves Minnesotans where they live, work, and play. Camping, snowmobiling, trail riding, hunting, fishing, timber harvest, and minerals development all require the DNR to keep trails and bridges, state parks, water access sites, buildings and other assets maintained, safe, and accessible to all.

This capital budget funding will contribute to One Minnesota by targeting investments that maintain strong and safe infrastructure, promote community prosperity by supporting jobs across the state, connect people from all communities with the outdoors, and protect our natural resources across our various geographical regions.

TAKING CARE OF WHAT WE HAVE



Natural Resources Asset Preservation

The DNR's top priority is taking care of the \$3 billion of capital assets we have by preserving and, when needed, replacing existing facilities. The DNR manages over 2,800 buildings, of which nearly 1 in 3 is over 50 years old, 1 in 4 is in unacceptable or poor condition, and only 1 in 4 meet today's design and building standards. The *Natural Resources Asset Preservation (NRAP)* (M.S. 84.946) recommendation of \$71.5 million includes funding for buildings, water and wastewater systems, energy improvement projects, roads and bridges, trails and trail bridges, water access sites, and water control structures. Our goal is to bring all capital assets up to good or better condition within 10 years. The current annual NRAP need is \$168 million, including \$44 million for deferred maintenance and \$111 million for renewal and replacement.



Betterment of Buildings

DNR buildings must be safe, ADA accessible, energy efficient, and strategically located. \$14 million for betterment of buildings would enable the DNR to make significant improvements and renovations to buildings to meet these goals. Priorities include the Hibbing drill core library, offices, state park shower buildings, fish hatcheries, and storage facilities in order to bring them up to current standards and ensure work places are safe.



Betterment and Acquisition of Public Lands

\$20 million in funding for betterment and acquisition of public lands is needed to manage and conserve the natural resources and recreational opportunities of the state. These funds would provide for reforestation of state lands, groundwater monitoring wells, state trail connections, prairie restoration in parks and along trails, stream restoration, water access improvements, and shade tree program grants. Additionally, the funds would be used to acquire strategic in-holdings and critical needs.

PROTECTING PUBLIC SAFETY



Fire Operation Airport Infrastructure

Airport infrastructure that can accommodate specialty firefighting aircraft is crucial to DNR's ability to prevent and suppress wildland fire. \$2 million is needed to replace aircraft staging and access areas (ramps) at air tanker bases. The top priority is the Range Regional Airport in Hibbing, which is decaying and almost inoperable, threatening both aircraft and pilot safety.



Dam Safety Repair, Reconstruction and Removal

Minnesota's aging dams require ongoing repairs to protect public safety and maintain water levels on recreational lakes. \$2 million supports the design, engineering, reconstruction, or modification of publicly owned dams.

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH THE OUTDOORS



Improving Accessibility to State Parks and Rec Areas

Many buildings at state parks are over 50 years old and are not compliant with current ADA standards. \$19.5 million will improve accessibility at strategic facilities. This work will include renovations of existing park facilities and trails as well as developing new accessible amenities to meet the growing demand of a diverse user base and people of all abilities.



Parks and Trails Local and Regional Grant Program

The Parks and Trails Local and Regional Grant Program delivers outdoor recreation opportunities to the public and maintains the health and economic vitality of Minnesota's communities by ensuring public access to a high-quality system of local and regional parks and trails. \$2 million would provide competitive grants to local governments for acquisition and development of local and regional parks and trails across the state.