

2020 CAPITAL REQUEST

Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan recommend \$196.3 million for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This recommendation represents a significant investment in the public lands, buildings, roads and trails, and other infrastructure that connect Minnesotans with the outdoors. It also supports community prosperity, conserves our natural heritage, and contributes to our quality of life.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND ASSET PRESERVATION

Natural Resources Asset Preservation: \$70 million

- Repair and rehabilitate buildings, water and wastewater systems, roads and bridges, trails, campsites, and more.

Betterment of Buildings: \$25 million

- Invest in the drill core library in Hibbing, offices, storage facilities, the state forest nursery, hatcheries, and more.

Wildfire Aviation Infrastructure: \$9.5 million

- Address aircraft staging and access area needs at air tanker bases and helibases in Hibbing, Grand Rapids, and Brainerd.

Dam Safety Repair, Reconstruction, or Removal: \$20 million

- Design, engineer, reconstruct, or modify publicly owned dams to protect public safety and maintain water levels on recreational lakes, with the highest priority being the Lake Bronson Dam.

Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program: \$20 million

- Mitigate and prevent flood risk for Minnesota communities.



The Windom Office after renovations.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Acquisition and Betterment of Public Lands: \$30 million

- Acquire strategic in-holdings and parcels to support pheasants and other prairie wildlife, as well as for Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs), state parks, forest management and Forests for the Future.
- Conduct reforestation and develop SNAs.
- Construct a forest campground, public water accesses, and additional groundwater observation wells.
- Increase production at hatchery ponds.

Improving Accessibility at State Parks and Recreation Areas: \$10 million

- Create extensive accessibility improvements at William O'Brien State Park.
- Design and plan initial improvements at Fort Snelling State Park.
- Establish a model for ongoing accessibility efforts.

Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park: \$5.8 million

- Design and construct a new campground and supporting infrastructure at Minnesota's newest state park.

Parks and Trails Local and Regional Grant Program: \$4 million

- Provide competitive grants to local governments for acquisition and development of local and regional parks and trails across the state.

Community Tree Planting Grants: \$2 million

- Help communities mitigate loss or damage due to shade tree pests or disease, and maintain shade tree coverage for climate mitigation and public health.

Natural Resources Asset Preservation

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NATURAL RESOURCES ASSET PRESERVATION IS THE DNR’S NUMBER ONE PRIORITY

NATURAL RESOURCES ASSET PRESERVATION (NRAP)

DNR operations and assets support the state economy, preserve natural areas, and provide recreational opportunities for all Minnesotans. Maintaining these assets requires significant and ongoing investment. Historically, NRAP funding has not been adequate to keep pace with our aging infrastructure needs.

Adequate and consistent funding for NRAP would enable the DNR to bring its buildings, recreational facilities, and other capital assets up to a safe and usable condition for the public and staff.

The capital investment proposal from Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan of \$70 million would allow the DNR to address all crisis building components and about half of poor building components, while also addressing other critical needs.

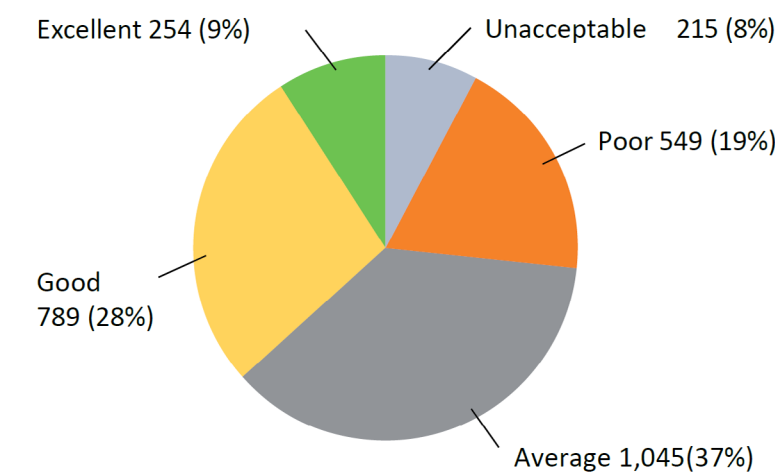
OUR BUILDING ASSESSMENT METHOD

The DNR is responsible for more than 2,800 buildings:

- One in four buildings is in unacceptable or poor condition
- Nearly one in three buildings is more than 50 years old
- Only one in four buildings meets today’s design and building standards

There are 118 DNR employees who work in buildings that are in unacceptable or poor condition. Facility condition assessments for buildings are done on an ongoing basis and are continually changing as projects are completed and assets age. Building components such as roofs, structures, and mechanical and electrical systems are evaluated and contribute to the building’s overall rating.

DNR Buildings Facility Condition Index Ratings: as of December 31, 2018



Damage on a DNR trail.

Natural Resources Asset Preservation and Replacement—M.S. 84.946, Subd. 2c: DNR has a separate statute for asset preservation that covers our unique assets, particularly the renovation of non-building, existing improvements such as trails, roads, bridges, and water control structures.

Public Safety and Asset Preservation



Left: A neighborhood in the city of Montevideo in 1991 and right: the same neighborhood in 2012. The city of Montevideo was able to acquire 120 at-risk residential and business properties located in floodplains adjacent to the Chippewa River because of funding provided through the Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program.



Left: The new Jay Cooke State Park shower building. Right: The shower and sinks of the previous Jay Cooke State Park shower building. The previous building was more than 50 years old and was too small to serve the 83-site campground in the park. In 2019, the campground hosted more than 37,700 overnight visitors.

Left: The previous Otter Creek Bridge on the Willard Munger State Trail. Right: The new bridge. The project used Natural Resource Asset Preservation funds to replace the timber bridge with a steel truss one in 2018. The Willard Munger State Trail is used for hiking, biking, skating and snowmobiling.



For a detailed understanding of the DNR’s asset preservation needs, view the 10-Year Capital Asset Plan (mndnr.gov/reports).

DNR Capital Assets Overview

The DNR manages \$3 billion of building and recreation assets that benefit Minnesotans. The agency operates in every county and serves Minnesotans where they live, work, and play. Good DNR infrastructure is necessary to support camping, snowmobiling, trail riding, hunting, fishing, timber harvest, and mineral development in the state. To do this, the DNR must keep trails and bridges, state parks, water access sites, roads, buildings, and other assets maintained, safe, and accessible to all.

- The DNR has more than 2,800 buildings, including 225 report-to-work buildings, and more than 29,000 building components such as roofs, foundations, and electrical systems.
- DNR capital assets are valued at about \$3 billion, which is based on the current replacement value.
- Annual bonding needs to preserve assets: \$156 million, which does not include regular maintenance of \$13 million not funded by bonding.

DNR CAPITAL ASSETS ARE ABUNDANT, UNIQUE, AND DIVERSE

4,500 fishing lakes		29,400 miles of trails (including grant-in-aid trails)		192,000 acres of scientific and natural areas
	2,800 buildings		1.3 million acres of wildlife management areas	19 fish hatcheries
350 trail bridges	3,300 miles of road	1,700 public water accesses		5,000 campsites
635 public dams	75 state parks and recreation areas		6,600 culverts	5 million acres of state forests

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