

## 2020 CAPITAL INVESTMENT REQUEST: BUILDING ONE MINNESOTA THROUGH QUALITY OF LIFE



Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan have recommended \$196.3 million for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), of which \$51.8 million would be dedicated to improving quality of life in the state.

- *Acquisition and Betterment of Public Lands: \$30 million*
- *Improving Accessibility at State Parks and Recreation Areas: \$10 million*
- *Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park: \$5.8 million*
- *Parks and Trails Local and Regional Grant Program: \$4 million*
- *Community Tree Planting Grants: \$2 million*



*Pictured:  
Canoeists paddle  
on the St. Louis River.*



### ACQUISITION AND BETTERMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

Public lands help improve and conserve Minnesota's natural heritage, enrich public outdoor recreational opportunities, and provide for sustainable commercial uses of natural resources. This request would allow the DNR to:

- 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, RECREATION AREAS

The DNR works to ensure all Minnesotans have access to the outdoors. This request would allow the DNR to:

- 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.



*Planting  
trees  
engages  
youth and  
benefits  
Minnesota  
communities.*



### LAKE VERMILION-SOUDAN UNDERGROUND MINE

Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park was established in 2014 as an additional opportunity for Minnesotans and others to explore the northern part of the state. This request would allow the DNR to:

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



## PARKS AND TRAILS LOCAL AND REGIONAL GRANT PROGRAM

The DNR provides four matching grant programs to Minnesota communities: the Outdoor Recreation, Regional Park, Local Trail Connections and Regional Trail grant programs. This request would enable local communities to:

- Acquire about 100 acres for parks and trails.
- Develop or redevelop several local or regional parks.
- Complete 20 local and regional trail projects to create a network of close-to-home recreation opportunities.



## COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING GRANTS

Maintaining shade tree coverage is increasingly important for energy efficiency, climate mitigation, and public health. This request would allow the DNR to:

- Help communities mitigate loss or damage of their forest resources as a result of shade tree disease or pests, such as emerald ash borer.



*Hunting on public lands creates deeper and more meaningful connections with Minnesota's natural resources.*



*Public lands support pollinator habitats.*



*Boat access point at the Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park.*

For more information, review the [10-year Capital Asset Plan \(mndnr.gov/reports\)](https://mndnr.gov/reports).