



Dam Safety Project Priority List

11/09/2021

Department of Natural Resources

Dam Safety Program

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Dam Safety Project Priority List

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) prepares this dam safety project priority needs list as directed by Minnesota Statutes Section 103G.511, Subdivision 12. The DNR examined dams owned by the state and political subdivisions and prioritized those dams in need of repair, reconstruction, or removal. The DNR considered danger to life, damage to property, and the factors listed in Minnesota Statute 103G.511, Subdivision 6 when prioritizing the dams.

The top section of the priority list table includes completed dam safety projects, as well as currently funded projects that are not yet completed. Each line represents a certain project or phase of a project, so some dams are listed multiple times because there have been multiple projects or multiple phases of a project. The middle section is the priority list of 71 currently unfunded dam projects. The final section includes dams that are not prioritized, as they are significantly lower priority.

The hazard classification shown on the list relates to Minnesota Rule 6115.0340. A Class I dam failure would result in high consequences, including potentially the loss of human life; whereas a Class III dam failure would have minor consequences.

Cost estimates are preliminary. Actual project costs will depend on final project design and construction bids received.

Minnesota's public dam infrastructure includes 644 dams owned by the state, counties, cities, and watershed districts. The State of Minnesota owns 312 of these dams. Most of these public dams are over 50 years old and require ongoing repairs to maintain their structural integrity and prevent public safety hazards.

Dam Safety Program - Project Priority Needs List
Prepared as directed by Minnesota Statutes Section 103G.511, Subdivision 12
(Dollars in Thousands)

DNR Ecological and Water Resources
Updated May 30, 2021

Priority Ranking	Name	Owner	County	DNR Region	Hazard Class	Project Type	Est Cost (K)	State's Cost (K)	Cumulative State Cost (K)	Primary Needs	Comments
Complete	Byllesby	County	Dakota/Goodhue	3	1-High	Repair	\$7,600	\$3,800		safety	Completed in 2015, 2008-2010-2012 bonding
Complete	Pike River	DNR	St. Louis	2	2-Med.	Repair eng.	\$30	\$30		safety/maintain lake levels	Completed in 2016, 2012 bonding, design only
Complete	Coon Rapids	County	Hennepin	3	2-Med.	Repair/modify	\$16,000	\$16,000		safety	Completed in 2016, 2012 bonding
Complete	Champlin Mill Pond	City	Hennepin	3	2-Med.	Repair/modify	\$3,800	\$3,000		safety	Completed in 2016. 2010 and 2014 bonding
Complete	Balsam Lake	DNR	Itasca	2	3-Low	Repair	\$300	\$300		safety/maintain lake levels	Completed in 2017. 2012 bonding
Complete	St. Cloud	City	Stearns	3	1-High	Repair	\$3,612	\$700		safety	Completed in 2017. 2012 bonding, Obermeyer gates
Complete	Pelican Rapids	City	Otter Tail	1	1-High	Repair eng.	\$45	\$22		safety	Completed in 2017. 2012 bonding, design
Complete	Little Stone Lake	County	St. Louis	2	2-Med.	Repair	\$200	\$100		safety	Completed in 2017. 2017 bonding, culverts
Complete	Shady Lake	County	Olmsted	3	2-Med.	Remove	\$1,350	\$1,350		safety	Completed in 2018. 2011 and 2012 bonding
Complete	Byllesby	County	Dakota/Goodhue	3	1-High	Repair	\$3,100	\$1,522		safety	Completed in 2018. 2014 and 2017 bonding
Complete	Collinwood	DNR	Meeker	4	3-Low	Repair	\$318	\$318		safety/maintain lake levels	Completed in 2018. 2017 bonding, emergency
Complete	Rapidan	County	Blue Earth	4	2-Med.	Repair	\$2,400	\$2,400		safety	Completed in 2019. 2014 bonding
Complete	Lake Bronson	DNR	Kittson	1	1-High	Rehab. eng.	\$400	\$400		safety/maintain lake levels	Completed in 2019. 2012 bonding, pre-design
Complete	Esquagama Lake	DNR	St. Louis	2	3-Low	Repair/modify	\$50	\$50		maintain lake levels	Completed in 2020. 2017 bonding
funded FY17	Lanesboro	City	Fillmore	3	1-High	Repair/rehab	\$4,300	\$4,300		safety/historical preservation	To be completed in 2021. 2017 bonding and 2021GF
funded FY17	Willow River	DNR	Pine	2	2-Med.	Modify	\$2,000	\$2,000		safety	To be completed in 2021. 2017 bonding, rock rapids
funded FY17	Brawner	DNR	Lyon	4	3-Low	Repair/remove	\$700	\$700		safety	To be completed in 2021. 2017 bonding. Failure 2015
funded FY17	Pelican Rapids	City	Otter Tail	1	1-High	Repair eng.	\$1,000	\$500		safety	Rock masonry wall failed, spillway deteriorating
funded FY17	Sullivan Lake	DNR	Morrison	3	3-Low	Replace	\$200	\$200		maintain lake levels	Abutment- Local support, earth work
funded FY17	West Leaf Lake	DNR	Otter Tail	1	3-Low	Repair	\$50	\$50		maintain lake levels	Abutments- Local support, difficult access
funded FY17	Grindstone River (Hinckley)	DNR	Pine	2	2-Med.	Replace/remove	\$500	\$500		safety	Right abutment; dam removal; design phase
funded FY17	High Island Lake	DNR	Sibley	4	3-Low	Replace	\$275	\$275		safety/maintain lake levels	Failed spring 2019.
funded FY17	Norway Lake	City	Cass	1	1-High	Rehab. eng.	\$400	\$200		safety	Replace dam with rock rapids.
funded FY20	Lake Bronson	DNR	Kittson	1	1-High	Replace	\$18,000	\$18,000		safety/maintain lake levels	Rebuild dam
funded FY20	Emergencies	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	\$2,000	\$2,000		safety	To Be Determined should an emergency arise
1	Lake Bronson	DNR	Kittson	1	1-High	Replace	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$5,500	safety/maintain lake levels	Rebuild dam. Have \$20M. \$5.5M additional request.
2	Grindstone River (Hinckley)	DNR	Pine	2	2-Med.	Remove	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$6,500	safety	Right abutment; dam removal
3	Clearwater	DNR	Clearwater	1	3-Low	Modify	\$500	\$500	\$7,000	safety	Safety. Recent drowning.
4	Bucks Mill	DNR	Becker	1	3-Low	Modify	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$8,000	safety/maintain lake levels	Safety-hydraulic roller. Tampering.
5	Nest Lake	County	Kandiyohi	4	3-Low	Repair	\$500	\$250	\$8,250	safety/maintain lake levels	Land sale. Downstream raceway repairs.
6	Schultz Lake	DNR	St. Louis	2	3-Low	Repair	\$150	\$150	\$8,400	maintain lake levels	Not at authorized level
7	Silver Lake	DNR	Waseca	4	3-Low	Repair/modify	\$250	\$250	\$8,650	maintain lake levels	Not at authorized level
8	South Connection	DNR	Polk	1	3-Low	Repair	\$50	\$50	\$8,700	maintain lake levels	Not at authorized level. Abutment washout
9	Perkins Lake	DNR	Stevens	1	3-Low	Repair	\$50	\$50	\$8,750	safety/maintain lake levels	Runout issues. Public meeting.
10	Lime Lake	County	Murray	4	3-Low	Modify	\$700	\$350	\$9,100	maintain lake levels	Exposed rebar, undermined concrete
11	Warren Lake	DNR	Cottonwood	4	3-Low	Repair/remove	\$500	\$500	\$9,600	safety/maintain lake levels	Overtopping protection or dam raise or removal
12	Lake Titlow	City	Sibley	4	3-Low	Repair	\$600	\$300	\$9,900	maintain lake levels	Dam is rubble. Water quality issue as well.
13	Lake Sarah	County	Murray	4	3-Low	Modify	\$400	\$200	\$10,100	maintain lake levels	County request
14	Lake Linka	Pope SWCD	Pope	1	3-Low	Repair	\$50	\$25	\$10,125	safety	Replace cradle and stabilize embankment
15	Roseau River Pool 1	DNR	Roseau	1	3-Low	Repair	\$250	\$250	\$10,375	safety	Crack and displacement in dam/road
16	Diamond	County	Kandiyohi	4	3-Low	Repair	\$300	\$150	\$10,525	maintain lake levels	Poor condition. County request.
17	Lower Sakatah	DNR	Rice	4	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$10,625	safety	Remove catwalk and piers for safety and bogs
18	Mud Lake downstream of Emily	DNR	Le Sueur	4	3-Low	Replace	\$100	\$100	\$10,725	maintain lake levels	Sheet pile heave, deterioration
19	Eden Lake	DNR	Stearns	3	3-Low	Repair	\$150	\$150	\$10,875	maintain lake levels	Operation; Lake Assn. letter of support
20	Hewitt/Wing River Dam	DNR/City	Todd	3	3-Low	Repair/modify	\$250	\$125	\$11,000	safety	removal/modification; ownership is unclear
21	Splitrock Creek	DNR	Pipestone	4	2-Med.	Repair	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$12,000	safety/maintain lake levels	Potential structural issues
22	Pike River	DNR	St. Louis	2	2-Med.	Repair	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$16,000	safety/maintain lake levels	Poor condition, expensive repairs
23	Silver Lake	City	Olmsted	3	2-Med.	Modify	\$4,000	\$2,000	\$18,000	safety/restore fish passage	Part of trail connection project
24	Bevens Creek	DNR	Carver	3	N/A	Remove	\$100	\$100	\$18,100	safety	Breached. Requires removal.
25	Moose Lake State Park	DNR	Carlton	2	3-Low	Repair	\$250	\$250	\$18,350	recreation	Conduit and riser rusted. Second dam close by.
26	Crooked Lake	WD	Anoka	3	3-Low	Repair	\$50	\$25	\$18,375	maintain lake levels	Vinyl sheet pile for seepage
27	Halleque	DNR	Douglas	1	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$18,475	safety/maintain lake levels	Scarps in embankment and bad concrete
28	Shields	DNR	Rice	4	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$18,575	maintain lake levels	Right abutment has failed
29	Borden	DNR	Crow Wing	2	3-Low	Repair	\$50	\$50	\$18,625	maintain lake levels	Leaning left abutment; rock arch rapids option
30	Dam Lake	DNR	Aitkin	2	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$18,725	maintain lake levels	Both abutments
31	Ten Mile	DNR	Otter Tail	1	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$18,825	maintain lake levels	Redo dam and embankment, sill
32	Hanging Kettle Lake	DNR	Aitkin	2	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$18,925	maintain lake levels	Both abutments falling
33	Ripple Lake	DNR	Aitkin	2	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$19,025	maintain lake levels	Put in steel, left abutment failing

34	Long (Tamefish)	DNR	Aitkin	2	3-Low	Repair/Modify	\$50	\$50	\$19,075	maintain lake levels	Sheet pile heave, rocks and debris
35	Toad	DNR	Becker	1	3-Low	Repair/Modify	\$100	\$100	\$19,175	maintain lake levels	Concrete deterioration. Local interest.
36	McCraney	DNR	Mahnomen	1	3-Low	Repair/Modify	\$100	\$100	\$19,275	maintain lake levels	Tilting abutments. Concrete deterioration.
37	Little Toad	DNR	Becker	1	3-Low	Repair/Modify	\$50	\$50	\$19,325	maintain lake levels	Debris problem. Maintenance. Concrete deterioration.
38	Hill Annex No. 1	State	Itasca	2	3-Low	Modify	\$100	\$100	\$19,425	safety	High water levels
39	Donna Lake	not known	St. Louis	2	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$50	\$19,475	safety	Drummond Grade. Ownership unclear. Fisheries.
40	Sandstone (Robinson Park)	not known	Pine	2	3-Low	Remove	\$100	\$100	\$19,575	safety	Potential hazard to river users
41	Platte River	DNR	Morrison	3	3-Low	Remove	\$500	\$500	\$20,075	safety/fish passage	American Rivers interest in removal
42	State Hospital Pond	State	Nicollet	4	2-Med.	Remove/modify	\$500	\$500	\$20,575	safety	Buildings may get wet, consider dam removal
43	Long	State	Hubbard	1	3-Low	Modify	\$250	\$250	\$20,825	maintain lake levels	DOT project in 2023
44	Lightning	DNR	Grant	1	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$20,925	maintain lake levels	Fisheries 2015; failing slowly 2018
45	Elim	Carlton SWCD	Carlton	2	3-Low	Remove	\$1,000	\$500	\$21,425	safety	SWCD looking to remove the dams-private prop.
46	Hanson	Carlton SWCD	Carlton	2	3-Low	Remove	\$1,000	\$500	\$21,925	safety	SWCD looking to remove the dams-private prop.
47	Knife Lake	LID	Kanabec	3	2-Med.	Modify	\$500	\$250	\$22,175	safety	Possible drowning hazard
48	Sunrise River Pool #1	DNR	Chisago	3	3-Low	Modify	\$50	\$50	\$22,225	safety	Bog problems, possible drowning machine
49	Sunrise River Pool #3	DNR	Chisago	3	3-Low	Modify	\$50	\$50	\$22,275	safety	Bog problems, possible drowning machine
50	Calhoun	DNR	Kandiyohi	4	3-Low	Repair	\$300	\$300	\$22,575	safety/maintain lake levels	Controls Green Lake, spalling, tampering
51	Eagle Lake	DNR	Crow Wing	2	3-Low	Repair	\$25	\$25	\$22,600	maintain lake levels	Put in steel, tampering
52	South Stanchfield	DNR	Isanti	3	3-Low	Replace	\$50	\$50	\$22,650	maintain lake levels	County bridge replacement not ready
53	Wynne	DNR	St. Louis	2	3-Low	Modify	\$100	\$100	\$22,750	safety	Log jam, right abutment fill, difficult access
54	Homer township/Pickwick	Township	Winona	3	2-Med.	Repair/modify	\$300	\$150	\$22,900	safety/maintain lake levels	Order to repair, verify hazard
55	Rum River (Anoka)	City	Anoka	3	3-Low	Modify	\$600	\$300	\$23,200	safety	Flashboard, big gate
56	Otter Tail River (Phelps Mill)	County	Otter Tail	1	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$50	\$23,250	safety/fish passage	Historic structure, fish passage
57	Clearwater River	Counties	Stearns/Wright	3	3-Low	Repair	\$300	\$150	\$23,400	safety	Recent bike trail
58	Big Stone Lake	WD/DNR	Big Stone	4	2-Med.	Modify	\$50	\$50	\$23,450	safety	Corps acceptance needed
59	Woolen Mill (Faribault)	City	Rice	4	2-Med.	Remove/modify	\$400	\$200	\$23,650	safety	Need scope of project
60	Sunrise River (Kost)	County	Chisago	3	3-Low	Modify	\$100	\$50	\$23,700	safety	Fishing hole; need further discussions
61	Pine Lake	DNR	Aitkin	2	3-Low	Repair	\$150	\$150	\$23,850	maintain lake levels	Not high priority, but keep on list
62	Northern Light Lake	DNR/USFS	Cook	2	3-Low	Repair	\$50	\$50	\$23,900	maintain lake levels	Need internal discussions, consider dam removal
63	Melrose	City	Stearns	3	2-Med.	Repair	\$400	\$200	\$24,100	safety	Wall repair. Exploring possible projects.
64	French Lake	County	Rice	4	3-Low	Replace	\$200	\$100	\$24,200	maintain lake levels	5 years
65	Crooked Creek R-3	SWCD	Houston	3	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$50	\$24,250	safety	Sinkhole
66	Bear Creek Site No. 3	SWCD	Houston	3	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$50	\$24,300	safety	Sinkhole
67	Pioneer Tailings	City	St. Louis	2	3-Low	Repair/remove	\$100	\$50	\$24,350	safety	May want to remove, near golf course
68	Pioneer Tailings Clarification	City	St. Louis	2	3-Low	Repair/remove	\$100	\$50	\$24,400	safety	May want to remove, near golf course
69	Douglas Tailings	State	St. Louis	2	3-Low	Remove	\$50	\$50	\$24,450	safety	Breach dam when done mining
70	Abandoned mining dams	State	Various	2		Repair/remove	\$500	\$500	\$24,950	safety	Research
71	Clayton Lake	DNR	Pine	2	3-Low	Repair	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$26,750	safety/historic preservation	Completely new spillway

The remaining projects are grouped by DNR Region and are not prioritized.

	Ice Cracking	DNR	Becker	1	3-Low	Repari	\$100	\$100	\$26,850	maintain lake levels	Some concrete deterioration.
	Little Floyd	DNR	Becker	1	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$26,950	maintain lake levels	Minor concrete deterioration.
	Hattie Lake	DNR	Cass	1	3-Low	Repair	\$25	\$25	\$26,975	maintain lake levels	Put in steel stoplogs
	Milona Lake	DNR	Douglas	1	3-Low	Repair	\$150	\$150	\$27,125	maintain lake levels	Concrete deterioration, leaning left abutment
	Upper Hunt Lake	DNR	Douglas	1	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$27,225	maintain lake levels	
	Portage Lake	DNR	Hubbard	1	3-Low	Repair	\$200	\$200	\$27,425	maintain lake levels	
	Stephen	City	Marshall	1	3-Low	Modify	\$200	\$100	\$27,525	safety/restore fish passage	
	Blanche	DNR	Otter Tail	1	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$27,625	maintain lake levels	Put in steel stoplogs, concrete pier deterioration
	Fergus Falls	City	Otter Tail	1	N/A	Remove remnant	\$100	\$100	\$27,725	safety	
	Long (Dalton)	DNR	Otter Tail	1	3-Low	Repair	\$50	\$50	\$27,775	maintain lake levels	Put in steel stoplogs, concrete deterioration
	Long (Elizabeth)	DNR	Otter Tail	1	3-Low	Repair	\$50	\$50	\$27,825	maintain lake levels	Put in steel stoplogs, concrete deterioration
	Prairie Lake	DNR	Otter Tail	1	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$27,925	maintain lake levels	Snowmobile trail over dam; letter of support
	Rose Lake	DNR	Otter Tail	1	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$28,025	maintain lake levels	
	Cross	DNR	Polk	1	3-Low	Repair	\$50	\$50	\$28,075	maintain lake levels	Abutment washout forthcoming
	Turtle	DNR	Polk	1	N/A	Remove	\$50	\$50	\$28,125	safety	Non-functional, remove remnants
	Crissy Lake	DNR	Stevens	1	2-Med.	Modify	\$300	\$300	\$28,425	safety/restore fish passage	
	Hill Lake	DNR	Aitkin	2	3-Low	Repair	\$50	\$50	\$28,475	maintain lake levels	Put in steel stoplogs
	Greer Lake	DNR	Crow Wing	2	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$28,575	maintain lake levels	
	O'Brien Lake	DNR	Crow Wing	2	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$28,675	maintain lake levels	Steel stoplogst recently installed
	Round Lake	DNR	Crow Wing	2	3-Low	Repair	\$25	\$25	\$28,700	maintain lake levels	Put in steel stoplogs, concrete deterioration
	Buck Lake	DNR	Itasca	2	3-Low	Modify	\$100	\$100	\$28,800	safety/aesthetics	
	Splithand Lake	DNR	Itasca	2	3-Low	Remove	\$100	\$100	\$28,900	safety/aesthetics	
	Floodwood	DNR	St. Louis	2	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$29,000	safety/maintain lake levels	
	Pequaywan	DNR	St. Louis	2	3-Low	Repair	\$50	\$50	\$29,050	safety/maintain lake levels	Fix eroded hole on apron

Sturgeon Lake	DNR	St. Louis	2	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$29,150	maintain lake levels	Potential for additional steel stoplogs
Onamia	DNR	Mille Lacs	3	3-Low	Modify	\$50	\$50	\$29,200	maintain lake levels	Wildlife concern with safe bog removal
Sauk Centre	City	Stearns	3	2-Med.	Modify	\$500	\$250	\$29,450	safety	
Fairhaven	County	Wright/Stearns	3	3-Low	Modify	\$600	\$300	\$29,750	safety	
Springfield	not known	Brown	4	3-Low	Remove/modfy	\$300	\$150	\$29,900	safety/restore fish passage	
Talcot Lake	DNR	Cottonwood	4	3-Low	Repair	\$150	\$150	\$30,050	safety/maintain lake levels	
Mantorville	City	Dodge	4	3-Low	Repair/Modify	\$300	\$150	\$30,200	safety/maintain lake levels	
Calhoun Diversion	DNR	Kandiyohi	4	3-Low	Modify	\$100	\$100	\$30,300	maintain lake levels	Need fixed crest to address tampering
Louise Lake	DNR	Mower	4	3-Low	Repair	\$300	\$300	\$30,600	safety/restore fish passage	
Ocheda	DNR	Nobles	4	3-Low	Repair	\$25	\$25	\$30,625	maintain lake levels	Put in steel stoplogs, tampering
Elysian Lake	DNR	Waseca	4	3-Low	Repair	\$150	\$150	\$30,775	maintain lake levels	
Watonwan River Diversion	County	Watonwan	4	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$30,875	maintain lake levels	Added in 2013
Granite Falls	City	Yellow Medicine	4	1-High	Modify	\$600	\$300	\$31,175	safety	Mixed interest in whitewater park

Notes:

- 1) Priorities are subject to change based on results of dam safety inspections, readiness of local project sponsors, opportunities for piggybacking projects, etc.
 - 2) All cost estimates are preliminary; actual costs will depend on final project design and construction bids received.
 - 3) MS Section 103G.511 authorizes matching grants to local governments and requires legislative approval of projects or grants of \$250,000 or more.
 - 4) MS Section 103G.515 authorizes the state to pay the full cost of dam removals under certain conditions.
 - 5) "Remove/modify" means a final decision has not been made on whether the dam will be removed or modified.
- *The removal of private dams may be eligible for state assistance. Repairs and modifications of private dams are not eligible.
- For more information contact: Randall Doneen at (651) 259-5156, or Jason Boyle at (651) 259-5715.

103G.511 PUBLICLY OWNED DAM REPAIR.

Subd. 6. **Determination of grant.** The commissioner shall consider all relevant factors in determining whether to repair or reconstruct a state-owned dam or to make a grant to a political subdivision including:

- (1) the age and type of construction of the dam;
- (2) the use of the dam for water supply, flood control, navigation, hydroelectric power generation, recreation, wildlife management, scenic value, or other purposes related to public health, safety, and welfare;
- (3) the consequences of abandonment, removal, or alteration of the dam;
- (4) prospective future uses of the dam; and
- (5) the relative importance of the dam to the statewide water resource program.

Subd. 12. **Priority list of dams needing repair.** After reviewing examinations of dams owned by the state and political subdivisions, the commissioner shall prioritize the state and political subdivision dams in need of repair, reconstruction, or removal and report by June 1 of each odd-numbered year to the legislature. The commissioner must prioritize projects considering danger to life, damage to property, and the factors listed in subdivision 6.