



Updates for the JCNRB

- Legislative session is going full force. Updates from DNR include:
 - The budget includes \$221.4 million in capital bonding to address critical issues such as improving access to the outdoors, advancing safety and community wellbeing, and rehabilitating aging — and in some cases failing — infrastructure.
 - \$81.5 million for DNR- managed public lands, facilities and infrastructure
 - Approximately \$25.5 million for forestry and tree related items, including replacing seedling mortality, private forest management support, reforestation, community tree planting and shade tree drought replacement
 - Approximately \$26 million for Land and water restoration including stream restoration, culvert replacement, grassland and wetland restoration, and natural resources asset preservation.
 - Approximately \$40 million for outdoor recreation infrastructure
 - Approximately \$20 million for public water access
- CWD was detected in a wild deer in Grand Rapids, prompting the DNR to update its response plan to better reflect a statewide approach to disease surveillance. There will be some culling activities around Grand Rapids to determine spread in the area.
- The 2022 Minnesota Governor’s Fishing Opener will celebrate fishing in a variety of ways, over several weeks and in multiple locations in the Chippewa National Forest region and Leech Lake Reservation. Activities include a roundtable on the State of Fishing and the Fishing industry, Take a Mom fishing weekend, and Gov. Walz will fish with MN Fishing Hall of Fame guide Tom Neustrom.
- DNR will hold several webinars to discuss steelhead fishing and fishing for rough fish. The first was held March 23rd. The second will be at noon on Wednesday March 30th. More information, including registration information for webinars each Wednesday through May 25, is available on the outdoor skills and stewardship page of the [DNR website](https://mndnr.gov/Discover) (mndnr.gov/Discover).
- Fire restrictions are beginning around the state with permits being required. Please see DNR’s website for latest updates.
- DNR will begin temporarily closing some state forest roads and trails as seasonal melting makes them too soft to support vehicle traffic without causing damage. For information on road and trail closures, visit the [DNR’s road closure page](https://mndnr.gov/closures) (mndnr.gov/closures).

2022 BONDING

Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan’s Budget to Move Minnesota Forward recommends a \$221.4 million capital bonding investment for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This investment, which is included in the Walz-Flanagan Local Jobs and Projects Plan, will advance the DNR’s mission and address critical issues such as improving access to the outdoors, advancing safety and community wellbeing, and rehabilitating aging – and in some cases failing – infrastructure. This investment is one part of a 2022 budget package that supports DNR’s capital assets, climate adaptation and mitigation work, and drought relief efforts. You’ll find details on the capital bonding investment below.

Preserve existing assets (Natural Resources Asset Preservation): \$110.8 million

Repair or replace degraded or failing building components, public water access sites, bridges, roads and trails throughout the state, and wastewater and drinking water systems at state parks.

Meet new or changed facility and infrastructure needs (Betterment of Buildings): \$36.4 million
Modernize existing facilities – including drill core storage in Hibbing, the Waterville fish hatchery, and seed extraction and storage at the Badoura State Forest Nursery – and invest in new facilities.

Invest in public lands (Acquisition and Betterment of Land): \$15 million

Acquire high-priority parcels and improve existing state lands by adding shore fishing opportunities, replanting and seeding trees after timber harvests, enhancing access, and creating a more welcoming, safe and inclusive experience for visitors.

Wildfire aviation infrastructure: \$7.8 million

Repair or replace infrastructure at the Hibbing and Brainerd airports that is critical for wildfire response.

State land accessibility: \$5 million

Make comprehensive accessibility improvements to high-use state parks and wildlife management areas.



Dam safety repair, reconstruction or removal: \$8 million

Modify or remove publicly owned dams that pose a public safety risk, respond to dam safety emergencies, and provide contingency funds for the Lake Bronson Dam replacement project.

Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program: \$20 million

Provide grants to local governments to reduce flood risk in the Red and Minnesota river valleys and other at-risk areas of the state.

Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park: \$12 million

Construct the visitor center and design future campground and trail additions.

Parks and trails local and regional grants: \$1 million

Help support acquisition and development of local and regional parks and trails across Minnesota.

Community tree planting grants: \$5 million

Help mitigate loss of shade trees from pests and disease thereby supporting climate change mitigation, public health, and water quality.

In addition to these investments, the recommendations include \$435,000 for administration of local project grants and costs necessary to repay previous state bond investments in Upper Sioux Agency State Park.

Throughout the 2022 legislative session, you can find updates on this bonding proposal as well as investments in DNR’s work on climate mitigation and adaptation and drought relief on the DNR website: <https://go.usa.gov/xtNx9>