

# 2023 One Minnesota Budget



The One Minnesota Budget invests \$287.4 million to connect people to the outdoors, mitigate and adapt to climate change, manage natural resources proactively, and address DNR’s operational needs. This budget includes a balance of one-time investments in outdoor recreation and conservation with on-going support for programs and services that will benefit Minnesota’s environment, economy, and health into the future. Taken together, these investments will ensure that Minnesotans continue to enjoy our state’s natural lands and waters.

## Connect People to the Outdoors (\$142.6 million)

The DNR provides enriching public outdoor recreation—such as hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, wildlife-watching, camping, skiing, off-highway vehicle riding and more—for Minnesotans of all ages and backgrounds. These opportunities depend on Minnesota’s well-managed outdoor recreation system that includes state parks, recreation areas, trails, forests, wildlife and aquatic management areas, public water access sites and other facilities. By creating more modern and inclusive outdoor recreation experiences, Minnesota can better serve current outdoor enthusiasts, connect even more people to the outdoors, and help ensure future generations will also benefit from time spent in our unparalleled natural places.

## Get Out MORE (\$118 million)

Spanning the operating and capital budgets is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to modernize our state recreation experiences through the transformative Get Out MORE initiative. This initiative, funded equally through General Fund and capital investments, will ensure Minnesotans of all abilities enjoy a world-class recreation experience. This initiative centers on five areas:

- Enhancing access and welcoming new users to public lands and outdoor recreation facilities (\$28 million)
- Revitalizing camping and related infrastructure (\$5 million)
- Modernizing boating access (\$35 million)
- Enhancing fisheries and fishing infrastructure (\$35 million)





- Restoring streams and modernizing water-related infrastructure to support outdoor recreation (\$15 million)\*

Please see DNR's Get Out MORE factsheet for more information.

### Address State Trail Maintenance Funding Shortfall (\$2 million)

Minnesota is nationally known for its outstanding trail system that connects people to the outdoors via 25 multi-use state trails located across the state. This investment will provide the resources needed to maintain high-quality trails, keeping them safe and enjoyable for all Minnesotans.



### Improve Visitor Services at State Parks and Recreation Areas (\$6.6 million)

State parks and recreation areas are seeing sustained increases in visitation as more people experience the health and wellness benefits of being outdoors. This investment expands visitor services and maintenance, increases inclusive interpretive programming, and ensures natural and cultural resource protection to meet new and increased visitor needs. A park permit fee increase will support these investments.

### No Child Left Inside (\$2 million)

Connecting a child to the outdoors can change their life. No Child Left Inside grants provide children who have limited access to outdoor recreation with opportunities to experience the outdoors and learn about Minnesota's natural resources.

### Walk-In Access Program (WIA) Sustainability and Expansion (\$800,000)

The WIA program allows Minnesotans access to over 30,000 acres of private land for hunting and nature observation through landowner agreements. This investment will ensure that the program can continue if federal funding ends or expand the program if federal funding continues.



### Improving Minnesota's Water Recreation Experiences (\$13.2 million)

Minnesota is a state rich with water resources, making it a destination for those who love spending time on lakes, rivers, and streams. Boaters, paddlers and anglers rely on the state's extensive water recreation system, including public water access sites (PWAs). This investment supports urgently needed repairs at PWAs, addresses the services in highest demand (such as docks and bathrooms), and provides needed funds to local communities to ensure boater safety. Increased watercraft registration fees will support these investments.



\*Investments in stream restoration and water-related infrastructure are also part of DNR's climate change adaptation strategy, because they improve fish habitat and create more climate resilient water control structures.



## Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change (\$31.7 million)

Climate change is impacting our lands and waters as well as Minnesotans' ability to access and enjoy the benefits they provide. Our natural lands also represent some of our most powerful resources in mitigating the impacts of climate change. As highlighted in Minnesota's Climate Action Framework, by investing in the state's grasslands, wetlands, and forested lands, we can mitigate and adapt to climate change and protect the health of our communities, economy, and natural resources. By further investing in protecting and restoring our natural lands, we can harness the power of these landscapes to store more carbon and enhance Minnesota's resilience to the impacts of climate change.

### Enhancing Grasslands and Restoring Wetlands on WMAs for Carbon Capture and Resiliency (\$10 million)

Grasslands that are rich in native plants capture and hold more carbon, which helps to mitigate climate change. Healthy wetlands also trap carbon.



This investment will sequester carbon, provide higher quality wildlife habitat and improve water quality by restoring more than 6,000 acres of grasslands and wetlands on public wildlife management areas.

### Private Forest Landowner Technical Assistance, Cost Share and Inventory (\$4.2 million)

Nearly 50% of Minnesota's forest lands are privately owned. This investment will help private woodland owners to sustainably manage their forest, a key strategy for increasing carbon storage and ensuring forest health in the face of climate change.

### Enhancing Community Forests Through the Minnesota ReLeaf Program (\$15.2 million)

Trees benefit communities in many ways, providing carbon storage, improved air quality, reduced stormwater runoff, and shade that

reduces temperatures and energy costs. This investment will help communities address their reforestation needs stemming from emerald ash borer and other tree pests and disease.

### Accelerated Tree Seed Collection (\$800,000)

Tree seed collection is the critical first step in growing future forests. This investment will increase tree seed collection to support rapidly growing demand for tree planting on public and private lands.

### Protect and Restore Carbon Storage in State-Administered Peatlands (\$1.6 million)

Peatlands hold approximately 37% of the carbon stored by Minnesota's ecosystems demonstrating their tremendous potential to mitigate climate change. This investment will lay the groundwork for preserving and enhancing that potential on state lands.



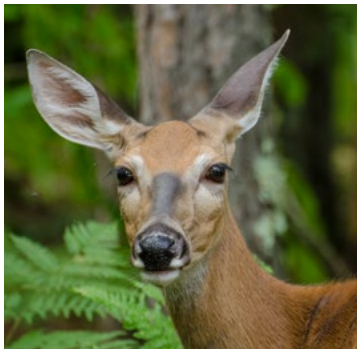


## Manage Natural Resources Proactively (\$18.3 million)

Conserving and stewarding Minnesota’s natural resources is at the heart of the DNR’s mission. The DNR addresses ongoing and emerging critical natural resource management, licensing and regulatory issues to sustain the health of our lands and waters. This requires that the DNR has a robust and modern set of tools in place to support and maintain both functioning ecosystems and sustainable communities, and to inform critical natural resource-related decisions.

### Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management (\$1.4 million)

CWD is an always-fatal neurological disease that is a particular threat to Minnesota’s white-tailed deer population. This investment will fund CWD surveillance



and management efforts critical to preserving a healthy and robust wild deer population for current and future generations.

### Investments in Fishing (\$2.4 million)

Quality and easily accessible fishing opportunities give Minnesotans the chance to get outdoors and spend time with their families, friends, and communities. This investment helps preserve quality fishing opportunities throughout the state. A fishing license increase of 20% for Minnesota residents and 30% for non-residents will fund investments necessary to ensure these opportunities.



### Modernizing Broadband Utility Licensing for State Lands and Public Waters (\$1.8 million)

With broadband expansion planned across Minnesota, we must provide resources to complete the necessary utility licensing in a timely manner. This investment will modernize the license application process through a web-based system and increased staffing dedicated to utility licensing to ensure timely review of applications.

### Updating Utility License Fees for State Lands and Public Waters (\$1.5 million)

Utility licenses are necessary whenever infrastructure projects cross state lands. This proposal restructures utility license applications fees so that the DNR has adequate capacity to review all applications—from pipelines to power lines—proposed to cross DNR-administered state land or public waters.

### Protecting and Managing Water Resources (\$1.7 million)

Water protection and management is vital to the quality of life in Minnesota. This investment provides staffing and resources devoted to water management and protection work. It also adds drainage and additional hydrology expertise to address areas of emerging need. Increased water-related fees will support these critical investments.



### Prevent and Manage Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in Minnesota (\$2.2 million)

Preventing the spread of invasive species is vital to continuing Minnesota's legacy of healthy and vibrant waters for all Minnesotans to enjoy. This investment increases the availability of AIS grants to local government units, Tribal nations and lake associations and increases DNR's capacity to manage AIS. An increase to the aquatic invasive species surcharge will support these important investments.



### Planting Tomorrow's Forests Today (Reforestation) (\$3 million)

Reforestation is critical to the sustainable management of Minnesota's forests. This investment will reforest lands after planned timber harvests and natural disasters to ensure healthy, vibrant forests to support future climate and economic needs.



### Enforcement Aviation Modernization (\$3.1 million)

This investment will help modernize and right-size DNR's enforcement aviation fleet to improve pilot and passenger safety and increase resource managers' and researchers' efficiency and effectiveness as they work on behalf of the state's natural resources.



### Increase Mining Regulatory Capacity (\$1.2 million)

Science-based decision making is a critical part of regulatory work. This investment will stabilize regulatory funding to help ensure that the DNR can conduct critical applied environmental research, manage review of both existing and proposed mining projects and continue to make decisions using the best available science.





## Address Our Operational Needs (\$94.7 million)



### Addressing Safety Needs at the Drill Core Library (\$1 million)

The Drill Core Library (DCL) in Hibbing is the only location in Minnesota that archives drill core samples collected state-wide. By law, it must be open to the public, but it has been closed since June 2022, due to safety concerns. This investment will make essential safety upgrades and prevent the potential collapse of aging and visibly-strained storage racks in order to reopen the DCL as soon as possible.

### Enforcement Public Safety Preparedness (\$720,000)

Conservation officers are sometimes called on to aid in situations that are not typically part of their everyday work. To be effective when called on, they must be ready with the proper training on how to best assist in these situations. This investment will provide that ongoing training and equipment for public safety responses.

Throughout the 2023 legislative session, go to [dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/legislativeinfo](https://dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/legislativeinfo) for updates on DNR's work on the FY 2024/25 biennial budget.

### Digital DNR: IT Modernization and Customer Experience Initiative (\$3.1 million)

Minnesotans and visitors expect and deserve modern, secure, and up-to-date online access to reserve a campsite, buy a park permit, secure a hunting or fishing license, or apply for a recreational permit.



This investment enables the DNR to address data management and cybersecurity needs and move from manual to automated business practices.

### Maintain Current Service Levels (\$89.9 million)

Each year the cost of doing business rises from health insurance and other compensation related costs to utilities, fuel and contracts for core services such as septic pumping and portable toilets. This funding will ensure that the DNR is able to provide consistent levels of service.



## DNR Investments in the One Minnesota Budget by Funding Category

	Connect People to the Outdoors	Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change	Manage Natural Resources Proactively	Address Our Operational Needs
Get Out MORE (\$118M)				
• State Land Access and Accessibility	28,000			
• Camping and Related Infrastructure	5,000			
• Boating Access	35,000			
• Fisheries and fishing	35,000			
• Streams and Water-Related Infrastructure*	15,000			
State Trail Maintenance	2,000			
Visitor Services at State Parks	6,600			
No Child Left Inside	2,000			
Walk-In Access Program	800			
Water Recreation Experiences	13,200			
Grassland/Wetland Restoration		10,000		
Private Forest Landowner Assistance		4,172		
Community Forests/ReLeaf Program		15,196		
Accelerated Tree Seed Collection		800		
Carbon Storage in Peatlands		1,566		
Chronic Wasting Disease			1,400	
Investments in Fishing			2,410	
Broadband Utility Licensing			1,830	
Utility Licenses Fees			1,520	
Protecting Water Resources			1,700	
Aquatic Invasive Species			2,200	
Planting Tomorrow's Forests (Reforestation)			3,000	
Enforcement Aviation Modernization			3,050	
Mining Regulatory Capacity			1,200	
Safety Needs at the Drill Core Library				1,000
Public Safety Preparedness				720
Digital DNR: IT Modernization				3,092
Maintain Current Service Levels				89,911
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>142,600</b>	<b>31,734</b>	<b>18,310</b>	<b>94,723</b>

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