

Natural Resources Betterment of Buildings

AT A GLANCE

2022 Request Amount:	\$49,000
Priority Ranking:	2
Project Summary:	\$49 million for reconstruction or replacement of offices and facilities that are unsafe, fail to meet current needs, or have reached the end of their useful life, in order to create a healthy and safe workplace and better serve all Minnesotans.

Project Description

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requests \$49 million to acquire, construct, and improve buildings under M.S. 86A.12. The request will allow significant improvements to, or replacement of, DNR-managed buildings across Minnesota including:

- adding needed capacity for the statutorily-required storage of mineral exploration samples at the **Hibbing Drill Core Library** and enhancing the mineral core examination facilities;
- addressing critical needs at the **Waterville fish hatchery**, which is nearly 70 years old, including biosecurity measures and a discharge water treatment system;
- enhancing the safety and efficiency of tree seed and seedling storage and processing facilities at the **Badoura State Forest Nursery** to support afforestation and reforestation efforts across Minnesota; and
- replacing **campground shower buildings** at state parks to enhance their safety, functionality and accessibility while reducing maintenance costs.

These funds will also support the highest-priority replacements of inadequate or unsafe office and storage spaces statewide and the most critical renovations to historic buildings.

Project Rationale

The DNR manages built assets valued at nearly \$3 billion for the benefit of all Minnesotans. This infrastructure, which spans every Minnesota county and reflects generations of investment, connects Minnesotans with the outdoors, supports community prosperity, conserves our natural heritage, and contributes to our quality of life. Stewardship of these assets requires ongoing repair, renovation, and replacement.

Funding for Natural Resources Acquisition and Betterment of Buildings is a critical counterpart to funding for Natural Resources Asset Preservation (NRAP). NRAP funding addresses the regular maintenance needs (including the backlog of deferred maintenance) that affects the safety and usability of DNR-managed facilities. “Betterment” funding allows for significant improvements to, or replacement of, buildings that are unsafe, fail to meet current needs, or have reached the end of their useful life. These programs together are critical to address the substantial deferred maintenance and renewal/replacement needs for DNR-managed facilities and infrastructure.

The growing list of renewal and replacement needs (currently estimated to require more than \$100 million per year to systematically address) poses considerable risk to the public benefits provided by DNR-managed assets. This requires significant investment to ensure these resources continue to serve all Minnesotans safely and effectively into the future.

Renewal and replacement of DNR-managed buildings also reduces operating costs and enhances public value by replacing antiquated buildings with ones that require less energy and water to operate, have greater safety features, provide better access to all Minnesotans, and require significantly less maintenance now and into the future.

Project Timeline

The project will be completed within the given time frame.

Other Considerations

The DNR uses renewal and replacement to enhance the energy efficiency and sustainability of DNR facilities, which lowers operating costs for specific facilities.

When determining building needs, the DNR looks for opportunities to consolidate uses to promote efficient use of space and reduce long-term operating costs (example: co-located offices or storage).

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

This will have a minimal impact on operating budgets, although some reduction may be realized due to the enhanced efficiency of replaced buildings.

Description of Previous Appropriations

L2018, Ch. 214 - Bond, Buildings, \$6,000

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