

Lake Vermilion Soudan Underground Mine State Park

AT A GLANCE

2022 Request Amount:	\$12,000
Priority Ranking:	8
Project Summary:	\$12 million to design and develop key recreational amenities at Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park, Minnesota's newest state park.

Project Description

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requests \$12 million for Lake Vermilion Soudan Underground Mine State Park. This project supports continued design and construction of recreational opportunities and supporting infrastructure at Minnesota's newest state park. Projects include:

- construction of the Lake Lodge Visitor Center; design of the South Vermilion Ridge Campground, including campsites with electric hook-ups and shower facilities,
- rehabilitation of an existing fire tower, including access, parking and interpretation,
- design of additional hiking/biking trails within the park, and
- design and construction of a renewable energy project that will offset some operating costs of the park.

Project Rationale

The DNR is responsible for providing a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities across the state. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated how important state parks, trails, and recreation areas are to Minnesotans, with visitors flocking to these public resources in record numbers. State parks and trails advance a key agency priority of connecting people with the outdoors, which offer health and wellness benefits to individuals, families and communities. Lake Vermilion State Park was established in 2008 by the Minnesota Legislature, and the Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine Cooperative Master Plan was completed in December 2010. The goal for development of the park is to provide new nature-based recreational opportunities that will encourage healthy, active lifestyles, and engage increasingly diverse users in a growing appreciation for outdoor activities.

Project Timeline

The project will be completed within the given time frame.

Other Considerations

This request focuses on continued investment and development in Minnesota's newest state park.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

Upon completion of the new recreational amenities, there will be some additional operating costs,

which will be partially offset by revenue from entrance permits, facility rental, camping fees, and equipment rentals.

Description of Previous Appropriations

L2020 (5th SS), Ch. 3 - Bond, \$5,800,000

L2018 Ch. 214 - Bond, \$4,000,000

L2017 (1st SS), Ch. 8 - Bond, \$3,500,000

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