

# Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources

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The enacted 2006 capital budget recommendations contained in Chapter 258 appropriates \$177.8 million for environment, natural resources and agriculture related projects.

Agriculture & Environment Bonding Appropriations	
(\$'s in thousands)	
Dept. of Agriculture	\$1,500
Dept. of Natural Resources	\$100,704
Pollution Control Agency	\$17,300
Water and Soil Resources Board	\$7,900
Minnesota Zoological Garden	\$15,000
Metropolitan Council(parks and trails)	\$35,362
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$177,766</b>

The specific projects funded for the agriculture and environment and natural resources area by agency includes:

## Department of Agriculture

- **Joint biosafety laboratory facility.** The appropriation of \$1.5 million is for the outfitting of the joint Department of Agriculture/Department of Health laboratory space to meet more stringent requirements of containment. Specific expenditures would include specialized air and effluent treatment systems.

## Department of Natural Resources

- **Flood hazard mitigation grants.** \$25 million is for state cost sharing grants to local units of government to implement measures that reduce or eliminate future flood damages.
- **Dam repair.** \$2.250 million is for dam repair, reconstruction and removal projects.
- **RIM wildlife area land acquisition.** \$14 million is to acquire land for addition to public wildlife management areas.
- **Large scale forest conservation easements.** \$7 million is to acquire forest land conservation easement in conjunction with the forest legacy program.
- **State park infrastructure rehabilitation and natural resource restoration.** \$3 million is to be used for rehabilitation of aging and failing park non-building infrastructure.
- **State park building construction and rehabilitation.** \$3 million is for construction and rehabilitation projects on buildings within the park system.
- **Fisheries acquisition and improvement.** \$2 million is to acquire aquatic management area parcels, and to make improvements to aquatic management areas.
- **State land reforestation.** \$4 million would be used to complete reforestation of state forest lands after harvest operations.
- **State forest land acquisition.** \$1 million is to acquire private lands within state forest boundaries.

- **State park acquisition.** \$3 million is to acquire private land within state park boundaries.
- **Scientific and natural areas.** \$2 million is to be used to acquire and develop SNA's statewide.
- **Water access.** \$3 million is for acquisition and construction of boat access sites, fishing piers and shore fishing sites.
- **State trails acquisition, rehabilitation and repair.** \$10.811 million is to acquire, develop and rehabilitate parcels of the state trail system.
- **Stream protection and restoration.** \$2 million is to complete restoration projects on state waters.
- **Native prairie easements and development.** \$1 million is for acquisition and development of native prairie plant parcels.
- **Waterfowl habitat structures.** \$1 million is to upgrade or replace water control structures related to habitat on public lands and waters.
- **Fish hatchery improvements.** \$1 million is for completing improvements to DNR fish hatchery facilities.
- **Asset preservation.** \$2 million is to be used for maintenance and repair projects in existing DNR facilities statewide.
- **State park camper cabins.** \$2 million is to construct approximately 75 rustic camper cabins in state parks.
- **Lake Superior harbors.** \$3 million is for capital improvements to public accesses and small craft harbors on Lake Superior.
- **Regional trails.** \$1.133 million is for grants to local units of government for the development of regional trails.
- **Trail connections.** \$2.010 million is for grants to local units of government to construct connecting trails to portion of the state trail system.
- **Metro Greenways.** \$500,000 is for grants to local units of government for acquisition or development of greenways in the metro region.
- **Local initiative grants.** \$2 million is for grants to units of local government to acquire and better parks and recreation areas.
- **Forest road and bridges.** \$1 million is for reconstruction and betterment of state forest roads and bridges.
- **Prairie Wetlands ELC.** \$2 million is for a grant to the city of Fergus Falls to expand the Prairie Wetlands Environmental Learning Center.

### **Pollution Control Agency**

- **Closed landfill program.** \$10.8 million is to design and construct remedial systems at publicly owned mixed municipal solid waste landfills.
- **Capital assistance grants.** \$4 million is for Capital Assistance Grants. These grants to local communities fund construction of facilities that promote composting, reduce waste, promote recycling, and produce energy from incinerating waste.

- **Koochiching gasification facility.** \$2.5 million is for a grant to Koochiching County to be used in the development of a plasma torch gasification facility to convert municipal solid waste into energy.

### **Water and Soil Resources Board**

- **Local government road wetland replacement.** \$4.2 million of bonding is to replace wetlands lost to improvements made to public transportation projects. \$700,000 is from the general fund and is for the administrative costs of the program.
- **Streambank and lakeshore erosion control.** \$1 million is for grants to soil and water conservation districts for projects through the state cost share program.
- **Minnesota River Area 2.** \$500,000 is for grants to local governments in the Minnesota River basin to be used for floodwater retention systems improvements.
- **Grass Lake improvements.** \$2.2 million is for restoration projects at Grass Lake in Kandiyohi County.

### **Minnesota Zoological Gardens**

- **Zoo master plan construction.** \$7.5 million is for rehabilitation and addition of exhibits at the zoo.
- **Asset preservation.** \$7.5 million is for asset preservation projects at the zoo.

### **Metropolitan Council**

- **Metropolitan Regional Parks.** \$35.362 million is for the council's park capital improvements program, and for grants to local units of government. Funds are used to acquire and improve the metro regional parks system and specified local park and trail projects. The funds will be distributed by the council to the regional park operating agencies and to local units of government.

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