



# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS EDUCATION & ENVIRONMENT

March 6, 2025

NORTH  
**Dakota**  
Be Legendary.™

| Parks & Recreation



## Purpose

Empower People • Improve Lives • Inspire Success

## Mission Statement

Enrich generations through experiences that connect people and places

## Values

Curiosity • Courage • Collaboration • Communication • Conservation

# CENTURY CODE

## 55-08: Parks & Recreation Department

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) is charged by Century Code to plan and coordinate government programs encouraging the full development and preservation of existing and future parks, outdoor recreation areas, and nature preserves (NDCC 55-08-01.1) and to serve as a focal point in the state for activities related to parks (NDCC 55-08-01.2).



# THE WHY

**\$1.6 Billion**

Total outdoor recreation  
value added in  
2023 to ND

**\$154 Million**

Contributed to  
ND's economy in 2020

**93%**

of U.S. adults say their  
mental health is  
improved by parks and  
recreation services





# INFRASTRUCTURE

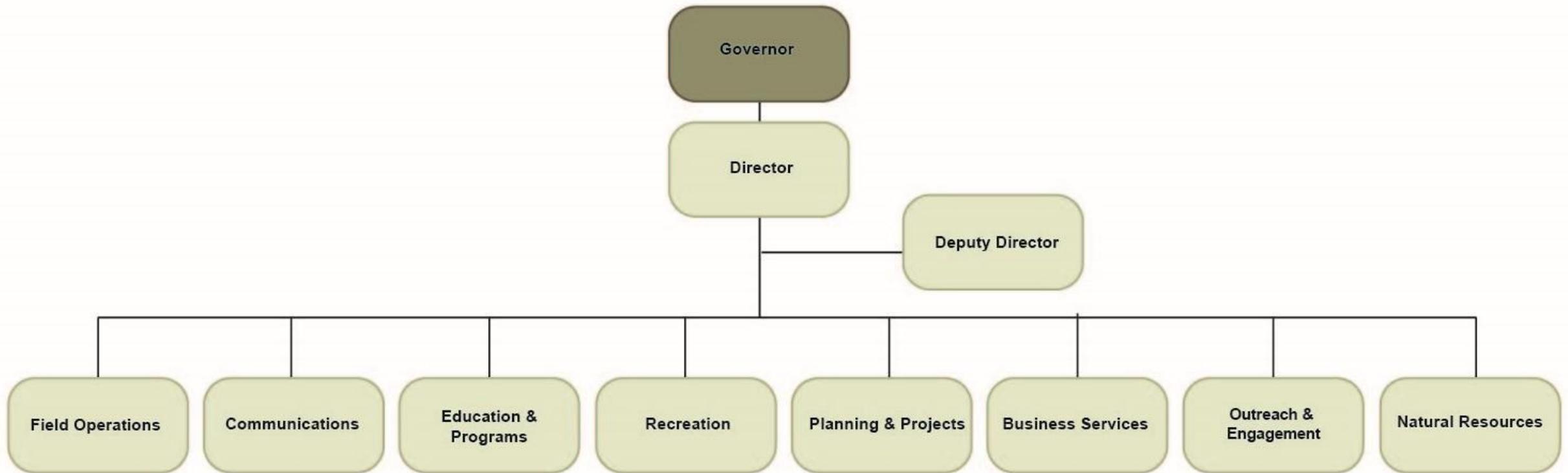
- 1,370 Campsites
- 331 Buildings
- 59 Overnight Rental Accommodations
- 16 Rental Meeting Spaces
- 205 Miles of Multi-Use Trails
- 238 Marina Slips
- 125 Restroom Facilities
- 1,700 Picnic Tables
- 130 Miles of Roadway
- 14 Concession Stores



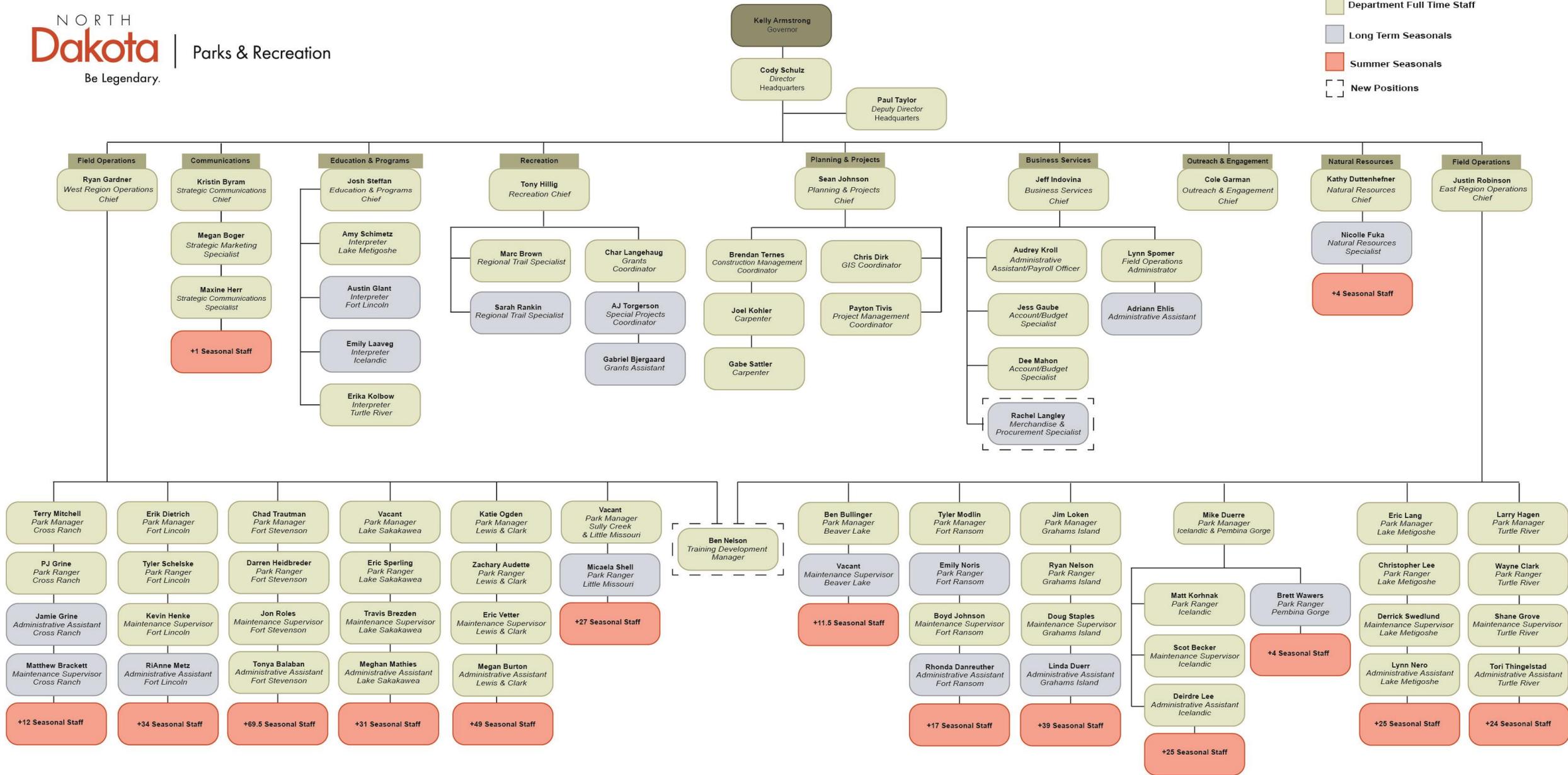
## OPERATIONS

- 21,287 acres managed
- 15 Destination properties (4 Corp/Bureau properties)
- 1.2 million visitors in 2024
- 95,181 camping nights in 2024
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> best year
- 84 year-round staff
- 373 seasonal staff

# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



- Department Full Time Staff
- Long Term Seasonals
- Summer Seasonals
- New Positions



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Curiosity:

- Launched ND State Park App
- Established a State Park Foundation
- Secured Alternative Funding
  - Stihl Grant
  - Maple Sugar Grant

## Courage:

- Expanded Rentals/Pontoons
- Concession Trailer
- Guinness Record for S'mores



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Collaboration:

- **Office of Outdoor Recreation**
- **DPI Partnership**
  - Field Trips & Day Camps
- **Tribal Relations**
  - Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Splash Pad Grant
  - Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation Crow Flies High
- **Safety & Enforcement Partnership**
- **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries** – Lewis & Clark, Fort Stevenson



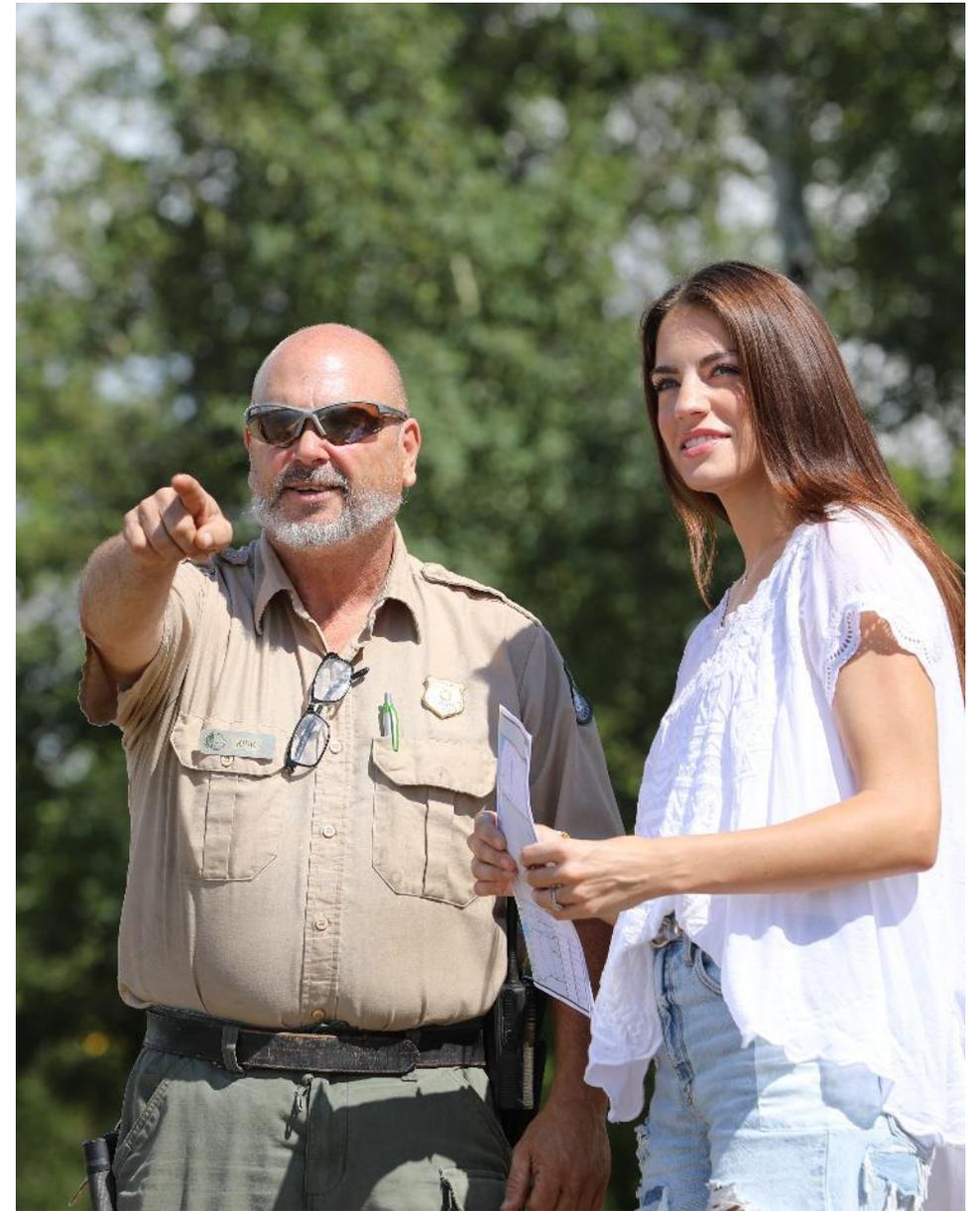
# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Communication:

- Expanded communications
- Developed/launched Marketing Plan
  - Video Series
- Outreach & Engagement Division

## Conservation:

- Tree Plan
- Controlled Burn
- Prairie Orchid Program



# AUDIT FINDINGS

2021-2023 Audit had no findings



# CHALLENGES

## Weather:

- Drought/wildfires
- Low water levels on Lake Sakakawea

## Infrastructure

## Procurement process for public improvements

## Federal Government

## Staffing:

- Recruiting of seasonal staff
- Retention of year-round staff



**Deferred  
Maintenance Video**  
Scan to watch





# STAFF TURNOVERS & VACANCIES

- 15.4% turnover in FTE positions (biennial percentage)
- 30% turnover in year-round temp positions (biennial percentage)
- 3 Vacancies

# OPPORTUNITIES

## Creative Funding Solutions

## Technology

- Hardware (locks)
- Software (reservation system)

## Mobile staffing & amenities

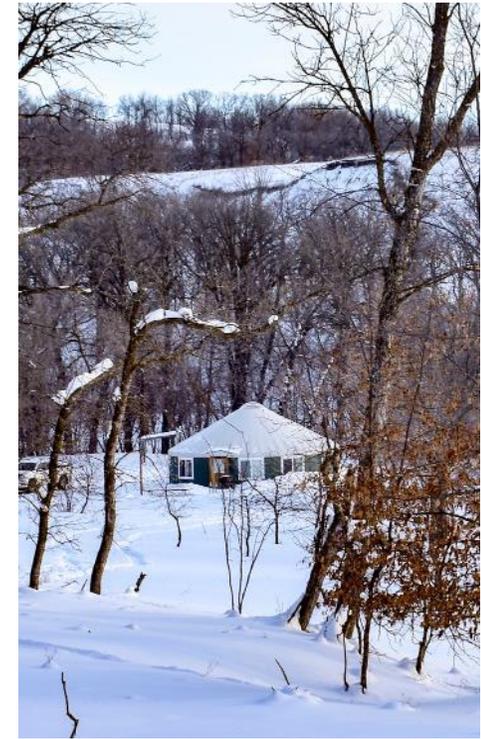
- Roaming ranger
- Traveling concession trailer

## Last Mile Initiative

- Partnering with gateway communities

## Shift in recreational demand

- RV size and utilities
- Year-round facilities





# NEW POSITIONS

## 2023 SESSION ALLOCATION

### **Cabin maintenance position:**

- 1 FTE
- Not to fill until the second half of the biennium
- Will cost: \$80,819 per year

### **6 year-round temp conversions:**

- 5 positions were filled on the first day of the new biennium
- 1 position took 3 months
- No funding appropriated

# AGENCY FEES

(AS OF DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2024)

FUND	AMOUNT	SOURCE
Parks and Recreation Fund	\$7,228,231	Campsites, cabins, vehicle passes, rental equipment
Snowmobile Fund	\$1,019,473	Snowmobile sales, registration, and 40 gallons of fuel
Trail Tax Transfer Fund	\$922,654	Off Highway Vehicle registrations
State Parks Concession Fund	\$2,011,595	Concession operations sales



# ONE-TIME FUNDING 2023-2025 BIENNIUM

PROJECT	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
Capital Projects/Deferred Maintenance	\$10,000,000	Address deferred maintenance, replace worn-out structures, and build new ones to meet evolving visitor needs
Park Matching Grant Program	\$3,000,000	Create a matching grant program with \$1.5M in state funds and \$1.5M in non-state match authority.
Cabin Construction	\$2,400,000	Construction of year-round cabins.
Lake Metigoshe Reimagined	\$250,000	Held outreach sessions and planned updates to improve Lake Metigoshe State Park's flow and visitor experience.
City, County, and Tribal Park System Grants	\$6,000,000	Provides dollar-for-dollar matching grants to political subdivisions for repairing, upgrading, or expanding outdoor offerings via a competitive process.

# ONE-TIME FUNDING (CONTINUED)

PROJECT	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
Pembina Gorge Campground Construction	\$6,000,000	Construct campground at Pembina Gorge State Park to include water and electricity.
International Peace Garden Pavilion Construction	\$800,000	The State of North Dakota matched the \$875,000 Canadian dollars given by the Province of Manitoba to repair and upgrade the Willis Pavilion.
Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library	\$70,000,000	Provide a line of credit for Theodore Roosevelt Library construction; unused to date.
Sovereign Land Grants	\$2,000,000	A competitive grant to expand recreational opportunities on sovereign lands in North Dakota.

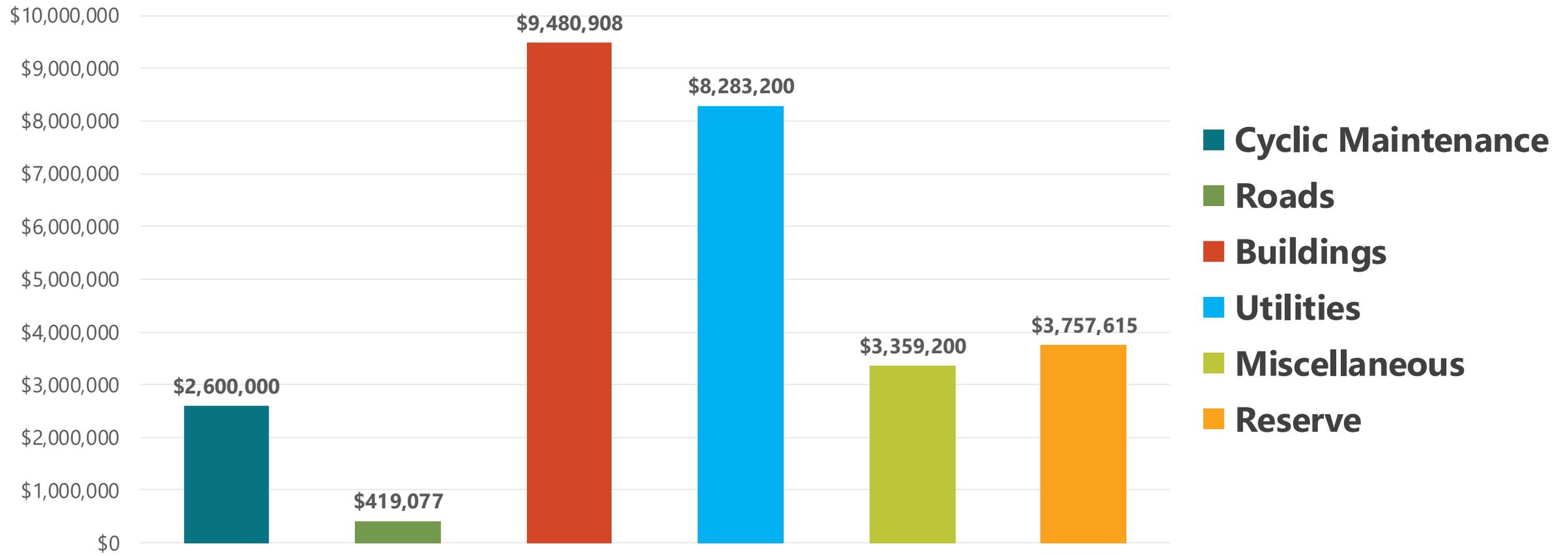


## Deferred Maintenance & Capital Projects

Parks & Recreation was appropriated \$17.9 million in ARPA during the 2021 special session and \$10 million in SIIF during the 2023 regular session for deferred maintenance and capital projects.

# Capital Improvement/Deferred Maintenance Dollar Amount

## ARPA & SIIF Dollars by Project Type

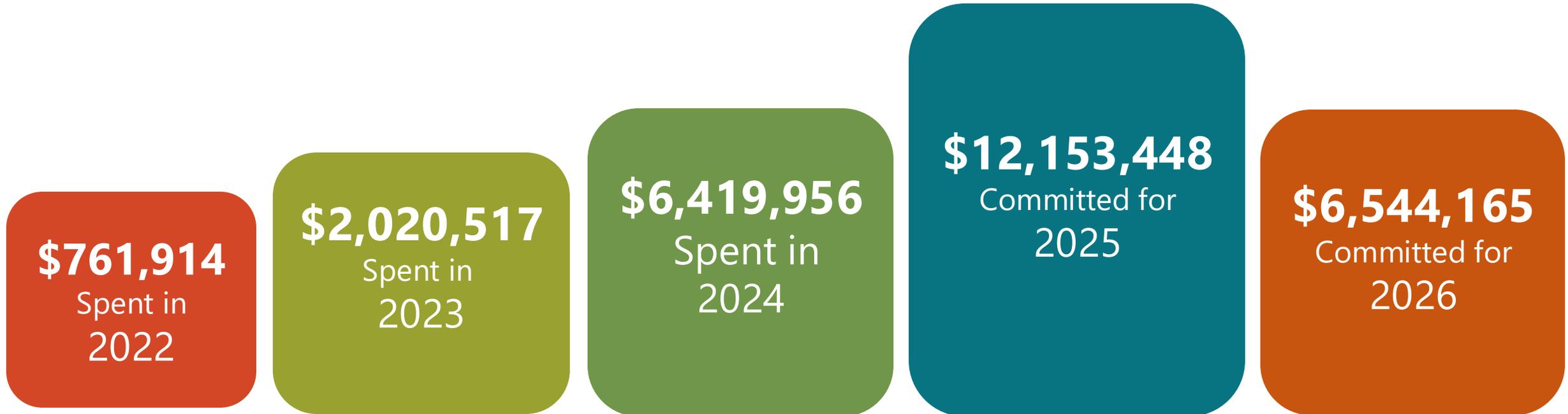


# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT/DEFERRED MAINTENANCE DOLLAR AMOUNT



# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT/DEFERRED MAINTENANCE DOLLAR AMOUNT

## Estimated Completion of ARPA & SIF Projects by Year



# FEDERAL STATE FISCAL RELIEF FUND - ARPA

## PARK DISTRICT MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM

- \$5 million appropriation
- \$353,058 remaining to be spent - anticipated spend by 6/30/2025

## MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM (internal)

- \$816,400 appropriation
- \$750,762 remaining to be spent – anticipated spend by 12/31/2025

## DEFERRED MAINTENANCE & CAPITAL PROJECTS

- \$17.9 million appropriation
- \$9,588,087 remaining to be spent – anticipated spend by 12/31/2025



# PEMBINA GORGE STATE PARK

- **Campground Groundbreaking & Construction**

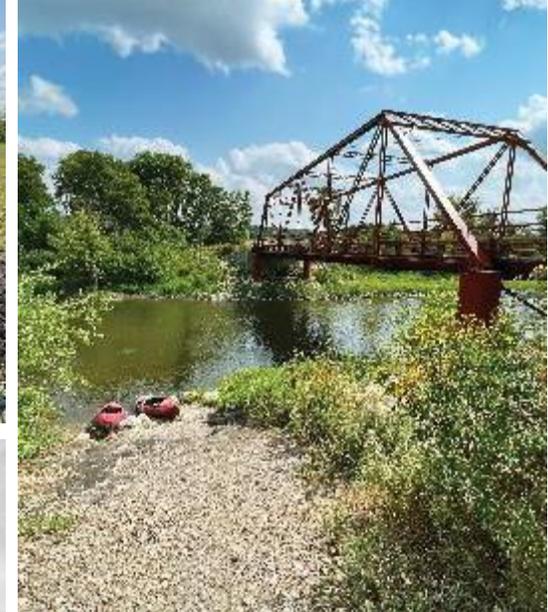
- Official groundbreaking held May 31, 2024
- Construction underway, contracted with LinnCo Inc.
- Estimated completion mid-2025

- **Legislative Support**

- \$6 million approved by 2023 Legislature

- **Impact**

- Enhances outdoor recreation and tourism
- Provides economic development & workforce recruitment/retention





HWY 55



# HB 1019 FOCUS AREAS

- Workforce
- Technology
- Infrastructure
- Grants
- Efficiencies (3% base cut)



# ONE-TIME FUNDING

CATEGORY	GOVERNOR RECOMMENDATION	HOUSE APPROVED	FUND TYPE	DESCRIPTION
FTE	2 Team Members \$382,952	0	General	New Positions for the agency
FTE Conversions	9 Team Members \$269,901	9	General	Converting year-round temporary positions to FTE. The cost is retirement and holiday leave.
Equipment Life Cycle	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$250,000 General + \$250,000 SIIF	Replace equipment that has hit the end of its life cycle.
Deferred Maintenance & Capital Projects	\$15,000,000	\$12,500,000	SIIF	For capital projects and deferred maintenance for our roads, marinas, and vertical infrastructure.

# ONE-TIME FUNDING

CATEGORY	GOVERNOR RECOMMENDATION	HOUSE APPROVED	FUND TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Comfort Stations/Storm Shelters Matching Funds	\$924,000	\$924,000	SIIF	This would allow us to leverage an additional \$2.75 million in federal funds for comfort stations that would double as storm shelters. Funding would be Disaster Relief Funds (DRF)
WiFi Expansion + Park Automation	\$3,650,000 + \$1,000,000	\$0	SIIF	<b>WiFi Expansion:</b> Expanding WiFi to all park buildings.  <b>Park Automation:</b> Increase self-registration technology; automated keypad locking systems; bike, kayak, and ski rental systems
State Park Technology	-	\$2,500,000	SIIF	Combination of WiFi and Park Automation asks.

# ONE-TIME FUNDING (CONTINUED)

CATEGORY	GOVERNOR RECOMMENDATION	HOUSE APPROVED	FUND TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Outdoor Education Initiative	\$750,000	\$0	-	\$750,000 (just authority)
State Park Matching Grants	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	SIIF	Internal matching funds to match against non-state sources (\$1,250,000 million is matching funds, \$1,250,000 is authority)
County, City, and Tribal Grants + Outdoor Fine Arts Venue Improvement Grant	\$2,500,000 + \$10,000,000	\$0	SIIF	<b>County, City, and Tribal Grants:</b> Funding for 50 - 50 matching grant program.  <b>Outdoor Fine Arts Venue Improvement Grant:</b> Grant to Locals
Park Grants	-	\$7,500,000	SIIF	Combination of County, City, and Tribal Grants and Outdoor Fine Arts Venue Improvement Grant.

# ONE-TIME FUNDING (CONTINUED)

CATEGORY	GOVERNOR RECOMMENDATION	HOUSE APPROVED	FUND TYPE	DESCRIPTION
IPG Music Camp Complex Revitalization	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	SIIF	Upgrade HVAC systems, water heaters, and other building infrastructure in the dining hall and dorms
IPG Sewer System Upgrades	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	SIIF	Sewer upgrades for the dining hall and dorms
Peace Garden Cactus Conservatory Project	-	\$317,500	SIIF	Cover Conservatory Project overrun; need Manitoba match.



# QUESTIONS?

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