

**Parks and Recreation Department  
Budget No. 750  
House Bill No. 1019**

	<b>FTE Positions</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
2025-27 legislative appropriation	76.00	\$15,528,741 <sup>1</sup>	\$46,562,974	\$62,091,715
2023-25 legislative appropriation	<u>65.00</u>	<u>14,826,600</u>	<u>125,343,684</u>	<u>140,170,284</u>
2025-27 appropriation increase (decrease) to 2023-25 appropriation	11.00	\$702,141	(\$78,780,710)	(\$78,078,569)

<sup>1</sup>This amount includes \$250,000 of one-time funding. Excluding this amount, the agency's ongoing General Fund appropriation is \$15,278,741.

**Item Description**

**Full-time equivalent changes** - The Legislative Assembly approved 76 FTE positions for the Parks and Recreation Department for the 2025-27 biennium, an increase of 11 FTE positions from the 2023-25 biennium authorized level of 65 FTE positions. The Legislative Assembly converted 9 temporary positions to FTE positions and added 2 FTE natural resource services II positions for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the biennium, of which 1 FTE position is for Roughrider State Park and 1 FTE position is for Pembina Gorge State Park.

**New and vacant FTE pool** - The Legislative Assembly transferred \$172,328 for 2 new FTE positions and \$507,065 for estimated savings from vacant FTE positions from the salaries and wages line item to the new and vacant FTE pool line item.

**One-time funding** - The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$21.7 million of one-time funding to the Parks and Recreation Department for the 2025-27 biennium, of which \$250,000 is from the General Fund and \$21.4 million is from other funds, as follows:

	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
Replacement of equipment, including lawn mowers, skid steers, tractors, and other equipment <sup>1</sup>	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$500,000
Deferred maintenance on roads, structures, utilities, and marinas <sup>2</sup>		12,500,000	12,500,000
Comfort stations at state parks <sup>2</sup>		924,000	924,000
State parks technology enhancements <sup>2</sup>		2,500,000	2,500,000
Lake Metigoshe State Park sewer infrastructure system <sup>2</sup>		800,000	800,000
State parks matching grants <sup>3</sup>		2,500,000	2,500,000

**Status/Result**

The department converted the 9 temporary seasonal positions to FTE positions in July 2025 and plans to hire the 2 FTE natural resources services II positions after funding becomes available in July 2026.

Through January 2026, the department had estimated vacant FTE position savings of \$252,707. The agency used \$150,980 for accrued leave payouts, extra salary increases, and other salary needs. The agency had between 2 and 5 vacant FTE positions from July 2025 through January 2026.

The following is a summary of the status of the department's one-time funding:

Replacement of equipment, including lawn mowers, skid steers, tractors, and other equipment	Through March 2026, the department has spent \$250,000 from the General Fund on equipment purchases, including lawn mowers and off-highway vehicles for maintenance and operations. The department anticipates using the remaining \$250,000 from other funds for the purchase of trailers, skid steers, and lawn mowers but is delaying purchase until federal funding is received in fall 2026 that may be used to match special funds.
Deferred maintenance on roads, structures, utilities, and marinas	Through March 2026, the department spent approximately \$402,870 for deferred maintenance and capital projects. The department anticipates spending more funding on deferred maintenance needs during the spring 2026, fall 2026, and spring 2027 construction seasons but it is unknown how much will be spent during the 2025-27 biennium. The department anticipates receiving approximately \$8 million from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund in federal fiscal year 2027 that the department may use as matching funds for deferred maintenance projects.

International Peace Garden - International Music Camp complex revitalization project <sup>2</sup>		1,400,000	1,400,000
International Peace Garden - Sewer, water, and irrigation master development plan <sup>2</sup>		250,000	250,000
International Peace Garden - Cactus conservatory project <sup>2</sup>		317,500	317,500
	\$250,000	\$21,441,500	\$21,691,500

<sup>1</sup>Other funds appropriated for the replacement of equipment is from the Parks and Recreation Fund.

<sup>2</sup>Funding for this item is from the Strategic Investment and Improvements Fund (SIIF).

<sup>3</sup>Funding for state park matching grants is from SIIF (\$1.25 million) and local matching funds (\$1.25 million).

Comfort stations at state parks	In February 2026, the department received approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to use federal FEMA funding for the construction of comfort stations at state parks. The federal FEMA funding will be used as matching funds with funding appropriated from SIIF. The department anticipates constructing six comfort stations at Fort Ransom State Park, Icelandic State Park, Fort Stevenson State Park, Lewis and Clark State Park, Rough Rider State Park, and Pembina Gorge State Park. The department estimates construction will begin in late summer 2026 and be completed in fall 2026 or spring 2027.
State parks technology enhancements	Through March 2026, the department has not spent funding for state parks technology enhancements. The department anticipates working with the Information Technology Department on expanding Wi-Fi capabilities in staff buildings at state parks and purchasing autonomous lawn mowers. The department anticipates requesting an exemption during the 2027 legislative session to continue authorization for this funding into the 2027-29 biennium.
Lake Metigoshe State Park sewer infrastructure system	Through March 2026, the department has not received any requests for funding reimbursement from the Lake Metigoshe Sewer District for the Lake Metigoshe State Park sewer infrastructure system project as the project is in the final engineering phase. The department anticipates the project will begin in fall 2026.
State parks matching grants	Through March 2026, the department has not spent funding for state parks matching grants. The department is waiting to receive Land and Water Conservation Fund funding in federal fiscal year 2027 that the department may use as matching funds for the program. The department estimates projects will begin in fall 2026 or spring 2027 and anticipates requesting an exemption during the 2027 legislative session to continue authorization for this funding into the 2027-29 biennium.
International Peace Garden - International Music Camp complex revitalization project	See the <b>International Peace Garden</b> section below.
International Peace Garden - Sewer, water, and irrigation master development plan	See the <b>International Peace Garden</b> section below.
International Peace Garden - Cactus conservatory project	See the <b>International Peace Garden</b> section below.

**International Peace Garden** - The following is a summary of funding appropriated to the Parks and Recreation Department for the International Peace Garden for the 2025-27 biennium, including \$1,126,329 of ongoing funding from the General Fund and \$1,967,500 of one-time funding from SIIF:

	General Fund	SIIF	Total
Base budget funding for International Peace Garden salaries and operating expenses (ongoing funding)	\$1,126,329		\$1,126,329
International Music Camp complex revitalization project		\$1,400,000	1,400,000
Sewer, water, and irrigation master development plan		250,000	250,000
Cactus conservatory project		317,500	317,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,126,329</b>	<b>\$1,967,500</b>	<b>\$3,093,829</b>

**Appropriation - Additional federal funds or other funds** - Section 4 of House Bill No. 1019 appropriates any additional income from federal or special funds that may become available to the department for the 2025-27 biennium.

**Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library project** - In Senate Bill No. 2019 (2023), the Legislative Assembly appropriated one-time funding of \$70 million from a Bank of North Dakota line of credit to the department to support activities related to the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library project. Section 3 of the bill required any entity receiving funds from the line of credit to repay funds to the department, including accrued interest on the line of credit. The bill provided if the amounts available from participating entities are not sufficient to repay the line of credit by June 30, 2027, the department is required to request a deficiency appropriation from the Legislative Assembly to repay the line of credit.

The following is a summary of the status of funding appropriated for the International Peace Garden for the 2025-27 biennium:

Base budget funding for International Peace Garden salaries and operating expenses	The department distributes base-level funding to the International Peace Garden at the beginning of each fiscal year. The department provided \$563,164 in July 2025 and anticipates providing the remaining \$563,165 in July 2026.
International Music Camp complex revitalization project	Through March 2026, the department has not reimbursed the International Peace Garden for the International Music Camp complex revitalization project. The International Peace Garden is waiting for the sewer, water, and irrigation master development plan to be finalized before beginning the project.
Sewer, water, and irrigation master development plan	Through March 2026, the department has not reimbursed the International Peace Garden for the sewer, water, and irrigation master development plan. It is unknown when the master development plan will be complete but the department anticipates reimbursing the International Peace Garden in spring 2026 for a portion of the work performed.
Cactus conservatory project	The project was completed in July 2025. The department distributed the entire \$317,500 to the International Peace Garden.

Through March 2026, the department has not received funding pursuant to Section 4 of House Bill No. 1019, but has been awarded the following funding:

Funding Description	Federal Funds	Special Funds	Total
FEMA grant funding	\$2,862,000		\$2,862,000
Department of Transportation (DOT) Special Road Fund (SRF) Program - Grahams Island State Park roads		\$289,667	289,667
DOT SRF - Beaver Lake State Park roads		362,268	362,268
DOT SRF - Fort Ransom State Park roads		299,426	299,426
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,862,000</b>	<b>\$951,361</b>	<b>\$3,813,361</b>

The department has accessed the entire \$70 million line of credit from July 2025 through November 2025. Through March 2026, \$788,890 of interest has accrued on the line of credit. The Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library is scheduled to open on July 4, 2026.

It is unknown if the entity that received funds from the line of credit will be able to repay the line of credit by June 30, 2027, if an exemption will be requested to allow for repayment during the 2027-29 biennium, or if a deficiency appropriation will be requested during the 2027 legislative session.

In subsection 13 of Section 9 of House Bill No. 1019, the Legislative Assembly authorized the Parks and Recreation Department an exemption to continue unspent funding from the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library project line of credit from the 2023-25 biennium into the 2025-27 biennium and provided the funding may be used only for providing reimbursement of construction costs associated with building the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, including fixtures, furnishings, exhibit structures, supplies, and materials.

Funding appropriated for the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library project in prior bienniums includes:

- \$15 million appropriated from the General Fund and transferred to the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum Endowment Fund for use by the Governor's office during the 2017-19 biennium.
- A \$35 million Bank of North Dakota loan available to the Governor's office beginning in the 2017-19 biennium. The loan proceeds were transferred to the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum Endowment Fund, from which the Governor has continuing appropriation authority. In House Bill No. 1025 (2021), the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$17.5 million from the General Fund as a 2019-21 biennium deficiency appropriation to repay a portion of the loan. In House Bill No. 1015 (2021), the Legislative Assembly appropriated a contingent \$17.5 million from the General Fund to the Bank to repay the remaining balance of the loan during the 2021-23 biennium.

**Exemptions** - The Legislative Assembly authorized 16 exemptions in Section 9 of House Bill No. 1019 to allow the Parks and Recreation Department to continue an estimated \$101,642,823 of unexpended prior biennium appropriations into the 2025-27 biennium, including \$106,516 from the General Fund and \$101,536,307 from other funds.

The department continued \$97.6 million of appropriation authority into the 2025-27 biennium, including \$106,516 from the General Fund, \$17.8 million from SIIF, \$7.7 million from federal funds, \$70 million for the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library project line of credit, and \$2 million from the department's operating fund derived from matching funds and State Water Commission grant funding.

The department anticipates requesting exemptions during the 2027 legislative session to continue authorization for approximately \$4 million into the 2027-29 biennium, as follows:

<b>Biennium/Purpose</b>	<b>Amount Remaining on June 30, 2025</b>	<b>Amount Spent Through March 31, 2026</b>	<b>Anticipated Amount Remaining on June 30, 2027</b>
2019-21 - Extraordinary repairs/capital projects			
2021-23 - Trail lease renewals and tail easements	\$56,516		
2021-23 - Fort Abraham Lincoln viewshed	50,000		

2021-23 - Federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund (SFRF) - Deferred maintenance/capital projects	3,609,058	\$3,609,058	
2021-23 - SFRF - Local park district grants	335,056	335,056	
2021-23 - SFRF - State parks capital project improvements	730,241	730,241	
2021-23 - SFRF - Deferred maintenance/capital projects	3,059,430	2,532,210	
2023-25 - International Peace Garden projects	405,932	405,932	
2023-25 - Deferred maintenance and capital projects	8,956,615	3,774,879	\$2,000,000
2023-25 - Cabin construction	2,392,067		1,500,000
2023-25 - Lake Metigoshe reimagined project	87,050		
2023-25 - Local park district matching grant	1,684,578	1,134,140	
2023-25 - Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library line of credit	70,000,000	70,000,000	
2023-25 - Pembina Gorge Campground project	3,530,811		500,000
2023-25 - State parks matching grants	1,500,000		
2023-25 - Deferred maintenance projects at state parks and purchase of equipment (formerly sovereign land grants authorization)	1,217,530	98,422	
Total	\$97,614,884	\$82,619,938	\$4,000,000