

Dam Safety Project Priority List

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Dam Safety Project Priority List

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) prepares this dam safety project priority needs list as directed by Minnesota Statutes Section 103G.511, Subdivision 12. The DNR examined dams owned by the state and political subdivisions and prioritized those dams in need of repair, reconstruction, or removal. The DNR considered danger to life, damage to property, and the factors listed in Minnesota Statute 103G.511, Subdivision 6 when prioritizing the dams.

The top section of the priority list table includes completed dam safety projects, as well as currently funded projects that are not yet completed. Each line represents a certain project or phase of a project, so some dams are listed multiple times because there have been multiple projects or multiple phases of a project. The middle section is the priority list of 78 currently unfunded dam projects. The final section includes dams that are not prioritized, as they are significantly lower priority.

The hazard classification shown on the list relates to Minnesota Rule 6115.0340. A Class I dam failure would result in high consequences, including potentially the loss of human life; whereas a Class III dam failure would have minor consequences.

Cost estimates are preliminary. Actual project costs will depend on final project design and construction bids received.

Minnesota's public dam infrastructure includes 644 dams owned by the state, counties, cities, and watershed districts. The State of Minnesota owns 312 of these dams. Most of these public dams are over 50 years old and require ongoing repairs to maintain their structural integrity and prevent public safety hazards.

Dam Safety Program - Project Priority Needs List Prepared as directed by Minnesota Statutes Section 103G.511, Subdivision 12 (Dollars in Thousands)

(Dollars in The											-
Priority Ranking	Name	Owner	County	DNR Region	Hazard Class	Project Type	Est Cost (K)	State's Cost (K)	Cumulative State Cost (K)	Primary Needs	Comments
Complete	Byllesby	County	Dakota/Goodhue	3	1-High	Repair	\$7,600	\$3,800		safety	Completed in 2015. 2008-2010-2012 bonding
Complete	Pike River	DNR	St. Louis	2	2-Med.	Repair eng.	\$30	\$30		safety/maintain lake levels	Completed in 2016. 2012 bonding, design only
Complete	Coon Rapids	County	Hennepin	3	2-Med.	Repair/modify	\$16,000	\$16,000		safety	Completed in 2016. 2012 bonding
Complete	Champlin Mill Pond	City	Hennepin	3	2-Med.	Repair/modify	\$3,800	\$3,000		safety	Completed in 2016. 2010 and 2014 bonding
Complete	Balsam Lake	DNR	Itasca	2	3-Low	Repair	\$300			safety/maintain lake levels	Completed in 2017. 2012 bonding
Complete	St. Cloud	City	Stearns	3		Repair	\$3,612	\$700		safety	Completed in 2017. 2012 bonding, Obermeyer gates
Complete	Pelican Rapids	City	Otter Tail	1	1-High	Repair eng.	\$45	\$22	2	safety	Completed in 2017. 2012 bonding, design
Complete	Little Stone Lake	County	St. Louis	2	2-Med.	Repair	\$200			safety	Completed in 2017. 2017 bonding, culverts
Complete	Shady Lake	County	Olmsted	3		Remove	\$1,350			safety	Completed in 2018. 2011 and 2012 bonding
Complete	Byllesby	County	Dakota/Goodhue	3	1-High	Repair	\$3,100	\$1,522	2	safety	Completed in 2018. 2014 and 2017 bonding
Complete	Collinwood	DNR	Meeker	4	3-Low	Repair	\$318	\$318	5	safety/maintain lake levels	Completed in 2018. 2017 bonding, emergency
Complete	Rapidan	County	Blue Earth	4	2-Med.	Repair	\$2,400			safety	Completed in 2019. 2014 bonding
Complete	Lake Bronson	DNR	Kittson	1	1-High	Rehab. eng.	\$400	\$400		safety/maintain lake levels	Completed in 2019. 2012 bonding, pre-design
Complete	Esquagama Lake	DNR	St. Louis	2	3-Low	Repair/modify	\$50			maintain lake levels	Completed in 2020. 2017 bonding
Complete	Lanesboro	City	Fillmore	3	1-High	Repair/rehab	\$4,266	\$4,266	;	safety/historical preservation	Completed in 2021. 2017 bonding and 2021 GF
Complete	Lake Carlos	DNR	Douglas	1	3-Low	Modify	\$8	\$8	5	maintain lake levels	Completed in 2021. 2017 bonding, emergency
Complete	Pike River	DNR	St. Louis	2	2-Med.	Repair	\$25	\$25	5	safety/maintain lake levels	Completed in 2021. 2017 bonding, emergency
Complete	Willow River	DNR	Pine	2	2-Med.	Modify	\$2,000	\$2,000		safety	Completed in 2022. 2017 and 2020 bonding
Complete	West Leaf Lake	DNR	Otter Tail	1	3-Low	Repair	\$44	\$44	-	maintain lake levels	Completed in 2022. 2017 bonding, rock rapids
Complete	High Island Lake	DNR	Sibley	4	3-Low	Replace	\$275	\$275	5	safety/maintain lake levels	Completed in 2022. 2017 bonding
Complete	Norway Lake	City	Cass	1	1-High	Rehab. eng.	\$400			safety	Completed in 2022. 2017 bonding, design
Complete	Pelican Rapids	City	Otter Tail	1	1-High	Repair eng.	\$1,000	\$13	3	safety	Completed in 2023. 2017 bonding
Complete	Brawner	DNR	Lyon	4	3-Low	Repair/remove	\$700	\$700		safety	Completed in 2024. 2017 bonding
partial FY17	Sullivan Lake	DNR	Morrison	3	3-Low	Replace	\$200			maintain lake levels	Abutment and earth work. Rock rapids planned.
partial FY17	Grindstone River (Hinckley)	DNR	Pine	2	2-Med.	Remove	\$500			safety	Right abutment; dam removal; design phase
partial FY17	Nest Lake	County	Kandiyohi	4	3-Low	Repair	\$1,000			safety	Need additional funding of \$250,000
funded FY20	Lake Bronson	DNR	Kittson	1	1-High	Replace	\$19,900			safety/maintain lake levels	Under construction
funded FY23	Lake Bronson	DNR	Kittson	1	1-High	Replace	\$3,900	\$3,900		safety/maintain lake levels	Under construction
funded FY23	Emergencies	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	\$100	\$100		safety	To Be Determined should an emergency arise
1	Rapidan	County	Blue Earth	4	2-Med.	Remove	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	0 safety	Est. for west bank. Dam removal later. FEMA \$ TBD.
2	Nest	County	Kandiyohi	4	3-Low	Repair	\$1,000			0 safety	Need additional funding of \$250,000.
3	Grindstone River (Hinckley)	DNR	Pine	2	2-Med.	Remove	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$11,250	0 safety	Right abutment; dam removal; design phase.
4	Sullivan Lake	DNR	Morrison	3	3-Low	Replace	\$500) maintain lake levels	Land rights being acquired. Design is complete.
5	Schultz Lake	DNR	St. Louis	2		Repair	\$300		\$12,050) maintain lake levels	Not at authorized level. Design is complete.
6	LeSueur Creek	DNR	Le Sueur	4	3-Low	Remove	\$300			0 safety	Failed. Ongoing erosion. Dam removal.
7	Kings Mill	County	Rice	4	1-High	Repair	\$300		\$12,500	0 safety	Flood damage to riprap and gate repairs.
8	Crooked Creek R-3	SWCD	Houston	3	1-High	Repair	\$100		\$12,550	0 safety	Sinkhole. Movement of spillway wall.
9	Woolen Mill (Faribault)	City	Rice	4	2-Med.	Remove/modify	\$5,500	\$2,750	\$15,300	0 safety	Damaged in 2024 flood. Replace with rock rapids.
10	Little Stone Lake	County	St. Louis	2	2-Med.	Repair	\$1,000		\$15,800	0 safety	Embankment stability.
11	Coon Rapids	County	Hennepin	3	2-Med.	Repair/modify	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$16,800	0 safety	High priority items from Ayers inspection.
12	Splitrock Creek	DNR	Pipestone	4	2-Med.	Repair	\$1,000			o safety/maintain lake levels	Potential structural issues.
13	Pike River	DNR	St. Louis	2	2-Med.	Repair	\$4,000			o safety/maintain lake levels	Poor condition, expensive repairs.
14	Lake Louise	DNR	Mower	4	3-Low	Repair	\$500			0 safety	Overflow spillway concrete missing.
15	Clearwater	DNR	Clearwater	1	3-Low	Modify	\$500			0 safety	Public safety.
16	Iowa Lake	County	Martin	4	3-Low	Repair	\$500			0 maintain lake levels	Runout issues with weir due to concrete deterioration.
17	Big Spunk	DNR	Stearns	3	3-Low	Repair	\$200			0 safety	Left abutment blocks missing.
18	Blue Mounds North	DNR	Rock	4	3-Low	Repair	\$500			0 safety	Damaged during June 2024 flood, missing blocks.
19	Calhoun Diversion	DNR	Kandiyohi	4	3-Low	Modify	\$300			0 maintain lake levels	Need fixed crest. Several funding sources.
20	Lake Washington	DNR	Meeker	4	3-Low	Repair	\$100			0 maintain lake levels	Runout issues with weir due to concrete deterioration.
21	Eagle Lake	DNR	Kandiyohi	4	3-Low	Repair	\$500			0 maintain lake levels	Runout issues with weir due to concrete deterioration.
22	Sunrise River Pool #1	DNR	Chisago	3	3-Low	Modify	\$500			0 safety	Bog problems. Multiple funding sources.
23	Sunrise River Pool #3	DNR	Chisago	3	3-Low	Modify	\$500			0 safety	Bog problems. Multiple funding sources.
24	Rice Lake	City	Hennepin	3	3-Low	Repair	\$1,500			0 maintain lake levels	Repair lake outlet control structure.
25	Wynne	DNR	St. Louis	2	3-Low	Modify	\$500			0 safety	Remove piers. Log jams. Difficult access.
26	Silver Lake	City	Olmsted	3	2-Med.	Modify	\$4,000			0 safety/restore fish passage	Rock rapids with wave features. Trail connection.
27	South Connection	DNR	Polk	1		Repair	\$200			0 maintain lake levels	Abutment washout temporarily repaired.
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8 0	Cross	DNR	Polk	1 3-Low	Repair	\$200	\$200	\$29,050 maintain lake levels	Abutment washout forthcoming.
9 N	Moose Lake State Park	DNR	Carlton	2 3-Low	Repair	\$500	\$500	\$29,550 recreation	Conduit and riser rusted. Second dam close by.
0 F	Rum River (Anoka)	City	Anoka	3 3-Low	Modify	\$4,000	\$2,000	\$31,550 safety	Concrete repair. Flashboard safety.
1	Horseshoe Lake WMA	WD/DNR	Kittson	1 3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$31,650 safety	WD request. FEMA funding sought. Replace outle
2 L	Little Pine Lake	DNR	Aitkin	2 3-Low	Repair	\$300	\$300	\$31,950 maintain lake levels	Leaning abutments.
	Platte River		Morrison	3 3-Low	Remove	\$500	\$500	\$32,450 safety/fish passage	American Rivers interest in removal.
	Halleque		Douglas	1 3-Low	Repair	\$300	\$300	\$32,750 safety/maintain lake levels	Weir failed and scarps in embankment.
	Warren Lake		Cottonwood	4 3-Low	Repair/remove	\$500	\$500	\$33,250 safety/maintain lake levels	Overtopping protection or dam raise or removal.
	Lake Linka		Pope	1 3-Low	Repair	\$50	\$25	\$33,275 safety	Replace cradle and stabilize embankment.
	Roseau River Pool 1 and 2					\$250	\$250		
			Roseau	1 3-Low	Repair			\$33,525 safety	Crack and displacement in dam/road. Pool 2 outle
	Diamond		Kandiyohi	4 3-Low	Repair	\$300	\$150	\$33,675 maintain lake levels	Poor condition. County request.
	Mud Lake downstream of Emily		Le Sueur	4 3-Low	Replace	\$100	\$100	\$33,775 maintain lake levels	Sheet pile heave and deterioration.
	Talcot Lake		Cottonwood	4 3-Low	Remove/modfy	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$35,275 safety/maintain lake levels	Replace with rock rapids. Abutments too low. Roll
	Okabena	,	Nobles	4 3-Low	Modify	\$1,650	\$825	\$36,100 maintain lake levels	New outlet structure.
	Fountain		Freeborn	4 3-Low	Modify	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$37,100 safety/fish passage	Remove dam and replace with rock arch rapids.
V	Wanamingo		Goodhue	3 N/A	Remove remnan	\$500	\$250	\$37,350 safety	Impediment to the river.
0	Crooked Lake	DNR	Crow Wing	2 3-Low	Repair	\$25	\$25	\$37,375 maintain lake levels	Seep through concrete weir. Concrete deterioration
(Chisago Lakes	LID	Chisago	3 3-Low	Replace	\$450	\$225	\$37,600 maintain lake levels	Water control structure steel piling. Project is ready
	Crooked Lake		Anoka	3 3-Low	Repair	\$50	\$25	\$37,625 maintain lake levels	Vinyl sheet pile for seepage.
	Shields		Rice	4 3-Low	Repair	\$300	\$300	\$37,925 maintain lake levels	Right abutment has failed.
	Borden		Crow Wing	2 3-Low	Repair	\$400	\$400	\$38,325 maintain lake levels	Leaning left abutment; rock arch rapids option.
	Dam Lake		Aitkin	2 3-Low	Repair	\$400	\$400	\$38,725 maintain lake levels	Both abutments need work.
	Ten Mile		Otter Tail	1 3-Low	Repair	\$400	\$400	\$39,125 maintain lake levels	Redo dam and embankment, sill.
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	Hanging Kettle Lake		Aitkin	2 3-Low	Repair	\$300	\$300	\$39,425 maintain lake levels	Both abutments falling.
	Ripple Lake		Aitkin	2 3-Low	Repair	\$200	\$200	\$39,625 maintain lake levels	Put in steel, left abutment failing.
	Long (Tamefish)		Aitkin	2 3-Low	Repair/Modify	\$300	\$300	\$39,925 maintain lake levels	Sheet pile heave, rocks and debris.
7	Toad		Becker	1 3-Low	Repair/Modify	\$300	\$300	\$40,225 maintain lake levels	Concrete deterioration. Local interest.
Ν	McCraney	DNR	Mahnomen	1 3-Low	Repair/Modify	\$300	\$300	\$40,525 maintain lake levels	Tillting abutments. Concrete deterioration.
L	Little Toad	DNR	Becker	1 3-Low	Repair/Modify	\$300	\$300	\$40,825 maintain lake levels	Debris problem. Maintenance. Concrete deteriorat
E	Badger Lake	County	Polk	1 3-Low	Modify	\$400	\$200	\$41,025 safety/maintain lake levels	County request to replace with rock arch rapids.
	Maple Lake	/	Polk	1 3-Low	Modify	\$700	\$350	\$41,375 safety/maintain lake levels	County request to replace with rock arch rapids.
	Hill Annex No. 1		Itasca	2 3-Low	Modify	\$100	\$100	\$41,475 safety	High water levels.
	Donna Lake		St. Louis	2 3-Low	Repair/remove	\$400	\$200	\$41,675 safety	Drummond Grade. Ownership unclear. Fisheries.
	Sandstone (Robinson Park)		Pine	2 3-Low	Remove	\$100	\$100	\$41,775 safety	Potential hazard to river users.
	Prior Lake		Scott	3 3-Low	Remove	\$150	\$150	\$41,925 safety	Abandoned structure.Ownership question.
	Hanska		Brown		Replace	\$300	\$300	\$42,225 safety	Structure bowing. Abutments repaired twice.
	Elim	Carlton SWCD		2 3-Low	Remove	\$1,000	\$500	\$42,725 safety	SWCD looking to remove the dams-private prop.
	Hanson	Carlton SWCD	Carlton	2 3-Low	Remove	\$1,000	\$500	\$43,225 safety	SWCD looking to remove the dams-private prop.
ŀ	Knife Lake	LID	Kanabec	3 2-Med.	Modify	\$500	\$250	\$43,475 safety	Possible drowning hazard.
5	South Stanchfield	DNR	Isanti	3 3-Low	Replace	\$50	\$50	\$43,525 maintain lake levels	County bridge replacement not ready.
(Otter Tail River (Phelps Mill)	County	Otter Tail	1 3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$50	\$43,575 safety/fish passage	Historic structure. Fish passage.
	Clearwater River		Stearns/Wright	3 3-Low	Repair	\$300	\$150	\$43,725 safety	Recent bike trail.
	Big Stone Lake		Big Stone	4 2-Med.	Modify	\$50	\$50	\$43,775 safety	Corps acceptance needed.
	Sunrise River (Kost)		Chisago	3 3-Low	Modify	\$100	\$50	\$43,825 safety	Fishing hole; need further discussions.
	Northern Light Lake		Cook	2 3-Low	Repair	\$50	\$50	\$43,875 maintain lake levels	Need internal discussions, consider dam removal.
	French Lake		Rice	4 3-Low		\$200	\$100	\$43,975 maintain lake levels	
		/			Replace Repair/remai/a				5 years.
	Pioneer Tailings		St. Louis	2 3-Low	Repair/remove	\$100	\$50	\$44,025 safety	May want to remove, near golf course.
	Pioneer Tailings Clarification		St. Louis	2 3-Low	Repair/remove	\$100	\$50	\$44,075 safety	May want to remove, near golf course.
	Douglas Tailings		St. Louis	2 3-Low	Remove	\$200	\$200	\$44,275 safety	Breach dam when done mining
	Abandoned mining dams		Various	2	Repair/remove	\$500	\$500	\$44,775 safety	Research.
	Clayton Lake		Pine	2 3-Low	Repair	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$46,575 safety/historic preservation	Completely new spillway.
e remaining	projects are grouped by DNR	Region and are	not prioritized.						
	lce Cracking		Becker	1 3-Low	Repair	\$200	\$200	\$46,775 maintain lake levels	Some concrete deterioration.
	Hattie Lake		Cass	1 3-Low	Repair	\$25	\$25	\$46,800 maintain lake levels	Put in steel stoplogs.
	Miltona Lake		Douglas	1 3-Low	Repair	\$200	\$200	\$47,000 maintain lake levels	Concrete deterioration, leaning left abutment.
				1 3-Low	Repair	\$200	\$200	\$47,100 maintain lake levels	
	Upper Hunt Lake		Douglas						
	Portage Lake		Hubbard	1 3-Low	Repair	\$200	\$200	\$47,300 maintain lake levels	
	Stephen	,	Marshall	1 3-Low	Modify	\$200	\$100	\$47,400 safety/restore fish passage	
	Blanche		Otter Tail	1 3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$47,500 maintain lake levels	Put in steel stoplogs, concrete pier deterioration.
	Fergus Falls	City	Otter Tail	1 N/A	Remove remnan	\$100	\$100	\$47,600 safety	
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Long (Elizabeth)	DNR	Otter Tail	1	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$47,800 maintain lake levels	Put in steel stoplogs, concrete deterioration.
Rose Lake	DNR	Otter Tail	1	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$47,900 maintain lake levels	
Turtle	DNR	Polk	1	N/A	Remove	\$100	\$100	\$48,000 safety	Non-functional, remove remnants.
Hill Lake	DNR	Aitkin	2	3-Low	Repair	\$50	\$50	\$48,050 maintain lake levels	Put in steel stoplogs.
Daggett Brook WMA	DNR	Cass	2	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$48,150 safety	Embankment washouts and beaver runs.
Greer Lake	DNR	Crow Wing	2	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$48,250 maintain lake levels	
O'Brien Lake	DNR	Crow Wing	2	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$48,350 maintain lake levels	Steel stoplogs recently installed.
Round Lake	DNR	Crow Wing	2	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$48,450 maintain lake levels	Put in steel stoplogs, concrete deterioration.
Buck Lake	DNR	Itasca	2	3-Low	Modify	\$100	\$100	\$48,550 safety/aesthetics	
Splithand Lake	DNR	Itasca	2	3-Low	Remove	\$100	\$100	\$48,650 safety/aesthetics	
Floodwood	DNR	St. Louis	2	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$48,750 safety/maintain lake levels	
Pequaywan	DNR	St. Louis	2	3-Low	Repair	\$50	\$50	\$48,800 safety/maintain lake levels	Fix eroded hole on apron.
Sturgeon Lake	DNR	St. Louis	2	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$48,900 maintain lake levels	Potential for additional steel stoplogs.
Onamia	DNR	Mille Lacs	3	3-Low	Modify	\$200	\$200	\$49,100 maintain lake levels	Wildlife concern with safe bog removal.
Sauk Centre	City	Stearns	3	2-Med.	Modify	\$500	\$250	\$49,350 safety	
Fairhaven	County	Wright/Stearns	3	3-Low	Modify	\$600	\$300	\$49,650 safety	
Mantorville	City	Dodge	4	3-Low	Repair/Modify	\$300	\$150	\$49,800 safety/maintain lake levels	
Elysian Lake	DNR	Waseca	4	3-Low	Repair	\$150	\$150	\$49,950 maintain lake levels	
Watonwan River Diversion	County	Watonwan	4	3-Low	Repair	\$100	\$100	\$50,050 maintain lake levels	Added in 2013.
Granite Falls	City	Yellow Medicine	4	1-High	Modify	\$600	\$300	\$50,350 safety	Mixed interest in whitewater park.

Notes:

Priorities are subject to change based on results of dam safety inspections, readiness of local project sponsors, opportunities for piggybacking projects, etc.
All cost estimates are preliminary; actual costs will depend on final project design and construction bids received.
MS Section 103G.511 authorizes matching grants to local governments and requires legislative approval of projects or grants of \$250,000 or more.
MS Section 103G.515 authorizes the state to pay the full cost of dam removals under certain conditions.
"Remove/modify" means a final decision has not been made on whether the dam will be removed or modified.

*The removal of private dams may be eligible for state assistance. Repairs and modifications of private dams are not eligible.

For more information contact: Randall Doneen at (651) 295-9437, or Jason Boyle at (651) 259-5715.

103G.511 PUBLICLY OWNED DAM REPAIR.

Subd. 6. **Determination of grant.** The commissioner shall consider all relevant factors in determining whether to repair or reconstruct a state-owned dam or to make a grant to a political subdivision including:

(1) the age and type of construction of the dam;

(2) the use of the dam for water supply, flood control, navigation, hydroelectric power generation, recreation, wildlife management, scenic value, or other purposes related to public health, safety, and welfare;

- (3) the consequences of abandonment, removal, or alteration of the dam;
- (4) prospective future uses of the dam; and
- (5) the relative importance of the dam to the statewide water resource program.

Subd. 12. **Priority list of dams needing repair.** After reviewing examinations of dams owned by the state and political subdivisions, the commissioner shall prioritize the state and political subdivision dams in need of repair, reconstruction, or removal and report by June 1 of each odd-numbered year to the legislature. The commissioner must prioritize projects considering danger to life, damage to property, and the factors listed in subdivision 6.