

(\$ in thousands)

Project Title	Priority Ranking	Funding Source	Project Requests for State Funds		
			2022	2024	2026
Water Line Replacement	1	GO	\$ 10,191	\$ 0	\$ 0
Minnesota Discovery Center	2	GO	\$ 7,102	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>Total Project Requests</b>			\$ 17,293	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>General Obligation Bonds (GO) Total</b>			\$ 17,293	\$ 0	\$ 0

(\$ in thousands)

**Water Line Replacement**

**AT A GLANCE**

**2022 Request Amount:** \$10,191

**Priority Ranking:** 1

**Project Summary:** \$10.191 million in state funds is requested to upgrade, construct, and support a new infrastructure system for the snow making process at Giants Ridge. The project provides efficiencies and upgraded technologies for piping systems and snow gun enhancements.

**Project Description**

- Upgrade infrastructure for snow making capabilities
- Replace failing underground infrastructure
- Provide automation technology for operations
- Increase pipe capacity for efficient operations
- Enhance safety on the hill during snow making operations
- Provide increased fire suppression

**Project Rationale**

The project will provide adequate stability and capacity for the snow making lines and system for the next 30 years. Other impacts of the project include:

- Increased revenue based on having beginner runs open early and for Christmas break
- Having 75 percent of the winter operations open for Christmas break has a large impact on early season revenue. Having this system in place will make that goal more attainable on a year to year basis
- Ability to make more snow during marginal early season conditions. Important as weather has been trending warmer for the month of November and early December over the last 10 years making it harder to open
- Ability to use existing fleet of snow guns on other runs
- Reduced labor costs due to the automation of the snow guns
- Potential to save \$30,000 to \$40,000 a year on labor and energy savings
- Ability to maximize the pump station to capacity reducing overall energy consumption and costs

**Project Timeline**

This project will occur over multiple years to accommodate business operations-seasonal impacts.

Funding Approval: 2022

Construction Start: 2023

Final Construction: 2024

### **Other Considerations**

The current pipeline for the hill resides on the main runs. The piping was installed 30 years ago. A total failure of a water line(s) is likely in the next few years due to the age and current conditions of the pipes. This would have an effect on the economic impact for the region for businesses that depend upon skier traffic for revenue for their local small businesses. Giants Ridge has a \$55 million impact to local and surrounding communities.

### **Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

This project will increase the capacity of the water lines for the snowmaking system for winter ski operations; and, with more snow product earlier in season, increase visitors and revenue.

### **Description of Previous Appropriations**

N/A

### **Project Contact Person**

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(\$ in thousands)

**Minnesota Discovery Center**

**AT A GLANCE**

<b>2022 Request Amount:</b>	\$7,102
<b>Priority Ranking:</b>	2
<b>Project Summary:</b>	\$7.102 million in state funds is requested to design, construct, reconfigure, repurpose, furnish, and equip new and existing buildings at the Minnesota Discovery Center (MDC) and Redhead Mountain Bike Park Trailhead in Chisholm. The MDC, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is the largest museum and cultural complex north of the Twin Cities and Redhead Mountain Bike Park is Minnesota’s newest public recreation area.

**Project Description**

The MDC is seeking \$7.1 million in state funds as a part of a 2 phase \$18 million update and expansion project. The \$7.1 million will be used to design, construct, reconfigure, repurpose, furnish, and equip 12,000 sq. ft. of new space to create a new multi-accessible ADA compliant year-round main entrance, ADA compliant public restrooms, a gift shop, and a multi-purpose and accessible event/creative/education space. Additionally, the MDC would remodel, reconfigure, and repurpose 14,900 sq. ft. of existing archival space to tie into a new year-round main entrance.

This investment in MDC and Redhead Mountain Bike Park will help in leveraging a \$20 million dollar investment of a private development adjacent to the facility.

The \$7.1 million project breakdown is as follows:

Construct, reconfigure, repurpose, design, furnish, and equip 12,000 sf. of new facilities to create a new year-round ADA compliant main entrance and multiuse event/creative/educational spaces and remodel, reconfigure, repurpose, furnish, and equip 14,900 sf. of existing facilities to tie into the new main entrance and update aging/failing infrastructure including:

- 2,300 sf. of new facilities that will serve as the new year-round ADA compliant main entrance for the MDC and Redhead Mountain Bike Park Trailhead. The new main entrance will house new ADA compliant public restrooms and create a centralized year-round location for our gift shop. The new main entrance and facilities will connect into our existing infrastructure and would serve as the main entrance for entire campus.
- 1,000 sf. of new archival space that recaptures space lost to a new main entrance and eliminates a failing sod roof currently above our archival storage space that is leaking water into our archives, which are state owned historical assets.
- 14,900 sf. of existing facilities will be reconfigured, repurposed, remodeled, furnished, and equip to tie into our new main entrance and existing facilities and will facilitate circulation from the new entrance to the campus as a whole. Additionally, this reconfiguration is needed to coordinate with a planned phase 2 archival storage facility construction project.
- 8,700 sf. of new facilities that will serve as a multi-use event space, public creative lab, and

education classroom that ties into our new main entrance, archival space, and remodeled parts of the campus. This facility would be utilized by thousands of northland students, teachers, artists, content creators that we host each year in addition to being utilized by thousands of visitors and businesses we accommodate on an annual basis.

## **Project Rationale**

By constructing a new main entrance, the MDC can create an experience that serves all demographics of our 50,000+ annual visitors including those with disabilities. The project will also maximize the use of space within our current campus footprint making it safer, more accommodating, easier to navigate, and more efficient to operate. Additionally, by repurposing, reconfiguring, and remodeling 14,900 sf. of existing space we can create a safer and more accommodating environment that transitions into our new main entrance and facilities as a part of this project. Additional project benefits and rationale include:

- State investment will help MDC and Redhead Mountain Bike Park leverage \$20 million in private development with a hotel being built adjacent to our facility.
- Replaces old roof that leaks into our state archives and records collections facility.
- Eliminates having to operate two seasonal entrances and move our gift shop twice a year.
- Provides a centralized place of arrival onto our property for guests.
- Maximizes campus space and streamlines efficiencies in our campus operations and facility costs.
- Creates ADA compliant entrance, public restrooms, and updates community spaces making them safe and more accommodating for our 50,000 plus annual guests.
- Provides safer environment for our guests and staff.
- Provides much needed updates and renovations to our campus, which was constructed in the 1970's and 1980's, making it safer and more efficient.
- The Minnesota Discovery Center is a 501c3 nonprofit and the State of Minnesota's largest museum and cultural complex north of the Twin Cities.
- Provides protection and preservation to thousands of state historical archival collections, documents, and assets.
- The Minnesota Discovery Center serves as one of the only state repositories for historical records and documents.
- Provides thousands of additional tourists coming to the Redhead Mountain Bike Park access to free public amenities and accommodations as required for being the trailhead facility.
- Positions the MDC to better accommodate educational programming, workshops, events, school field trips, individuals with disabilities, concerts, and the Minnesota High School Mountain Bike League Races starting in October of 2021.

## **Project Timeline**

Architectural / Engineering Design: 2022

Construction: 2022 - 2024

## **Other Considerations**

The Minnesota Discovery Center is one of Chisholm's largest employers and generates more than \$2.5 million to the local and regional economy via our annual operating budget and payroll. The project is located in an economically distressed part of our state. The project attracts more tourist to our region, creates more jobs, and helps diversify employment opportunities for the regional workforce. Additionally, the MDC 's attractions draw in more than 50,000 guests each year and that number is anticipated to increase by an additional 30,000 guests a year due to the Redhead Mountain Bike Park. This project will help better accommodate the additional influx of tourist to our region and maximize opportunities for additional spending. The project will also promote healthier and more sustainable communities on the Iron Range and throughout the state.

- The Minnesota Discovery Center has up to \$400,000 to contribute toward the project to cover the cost of design fees above and beyond the \$7.1 million.
- This funding request is part of a 2 phase \$18 million project.
- By obtaining \$7.1 million in state funds, we can leverage additional public and private investment of up to \$20 million for additional development.
- In 2020 alone, the Minnesota Discovery Center's Research Center served more than 2,400 individuals from 48 states and 17 countries. Additionally, we served requests from military APO's and Washington, D.C.

## **Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

Completing this project will reduce staffing costs by eliminating the need to transition between two seasonal entrances and having to move our entire gift shop between those two entrances. Furthermore, this project will provide for energy efficient buildings that reduce expenses related to operations. The project also provides the opportunity to significantly increase revenue by creating spaces that we can rent out, host events and workshops, and accommodate more educational programming with the schools within our service area.

## **Description of Previous Appropriations**

NA

## **Project Contact Person**

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