

CAPITAL MAINTENANCE FUND REPORT

FY 2024 – 2025



The Capital Maintenance Fund made possible improvements to the 1909 Officers' Quarters, known as "The Bricks," and other lodging options at Fort Robinson State Park. Improvements ranged from refinished floors to new kitchen cabinets, improved electrical and new gutters.

JUSTIN HAAG, NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

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CAPITAL MAINTENANCE FUND

AN OVERVIEW

In 2014, the Nebraska Legislature established the Capital Maintenance Fund to preserve Nebraska's public outdoor recreation facilities and vibrant statewide park system, a network of more than 75 park venues and trails managed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for the people of the state and beyond.

In 2021, the CMF legislation was modified, adding an additional five years of funding, with the requirement that Nebraska Game and Parks report electronically a list of each project that received funding from the Capital Maintenance Fund for the most recently completed fiscal year, as well as a list of projects that will receive such funding during the current fiscal year. The report is due on or before Dec. 1, each year through 2027, to the Clerk of the Legislature and the Revenue Committee of the Legislature.

The investment from the Legislature has enabled Game and Parks to launch an aggressive and much-needed capital maintenance plan for state parks and facilities, ensuring these spaces are maintained into the future, improving safety and functionality of core infrastructure (such as water systems, utilities and sanitation systems), and meeting the growing demand for new experiences by Nebraskans and visitors alike. \$76 million will be spent on parks, fisheries, roads, trails, facilities and access improvements during the span of this legislation; aging infrastructure will be brought up-to-date — and up to code — and increasing accessibility to meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards will be a priority.

Capital Maintenance Fund dollars are spent on improvements at agency facilities statewide, and accomplishments to date have produced numerous positive comments.



New wastewater treatment ponds were built in the Weigand Area at Lewis and Clark Lake State Recreation Area utilizing Capital Maintenance Fund dollars. ERIC FOWLER, NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

BUDGET

Fund Source	FY 2024-2025 Expenditures	FY 2025-2026 Estimated
Capital Maintenance Fund	\$5,092,325	\$16,491,694*
Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$945,701	\$4,678,954
Nebraska Outdoor Recreational Development Act	\$366,139	\$2,371,575
Park Cash and Other Sources	\$617,935	\$500,000
TOTAL	\$7,022,100	\$24,042,223

*Includes \$2,701,060 million encumbered funds from fiscal year 2023-2024

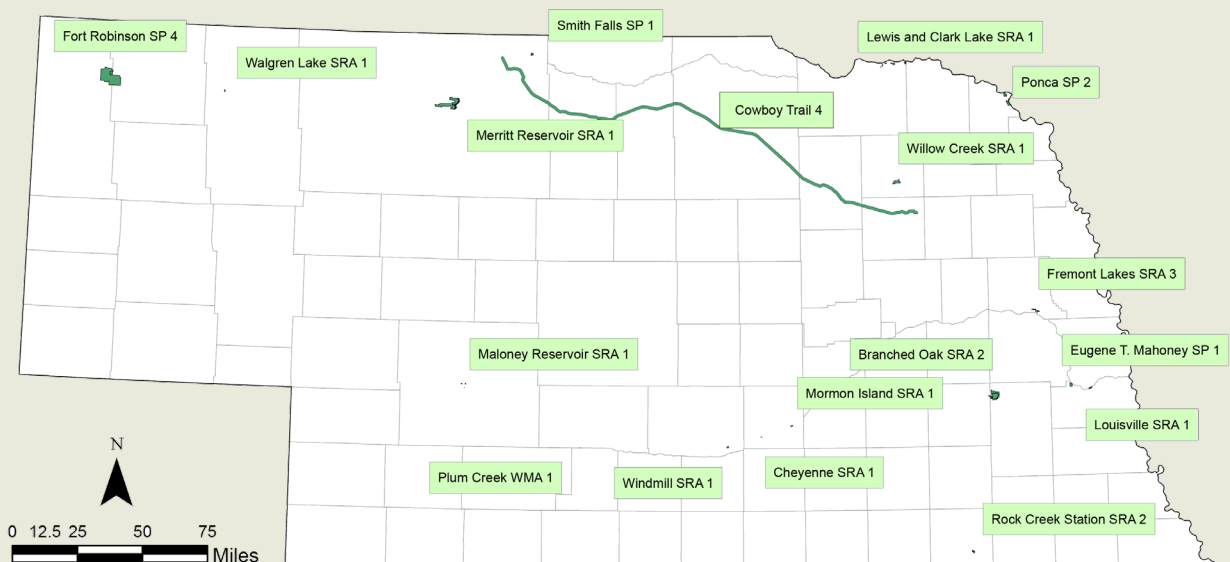
PROJECT REPORT

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

More than \$7 million in Capital Maintenance Funds was spent or contracted for park and facility improvements at Game and Parks managed locations statewide for the fiscal year 2024-25. The following tables highlight those projects that received Capital Maintenance Funds for improvements. Other funding sources used for these projects included the agency's Park Cash Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Title 28 (Bureau of Reclamation), Federal Emergency Management Agency funding, and donated funds.

Projects were selected based on need, with priority assigned by mandates to meet state and federal safety and/or Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility requirements. Significant progress has been made in improving facilities and access for all.

Completed Capital Maintenance Fund Projects for FY 2024-2025



COMPLETED PROJECTS – FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

Branched Oak State Recreation Area campground concept at Area 11

Branched Oak State Recreation Area fish-cleaning station upgrade

Cheyenne State Recreation Area campground upgrade

Cowboy Trail erosion-control at Neligh, Highway 275

Cowboy Trail erosion-control work at the Norfolk, Bridge 147

Cowboy Trail flood repair between Norfolk Bridge and east Long Pine State Recreation Area

Cowboy Trail flood repair at Long Pine State Recreation Area

Eugene T. Mahoney State Park sewer system improvement

Fort Robinson State Park electrical upgrades to the 1874 cabins

Fort Robinson State Park Officers Quarters upgrades

Fort Robinson State Park campus tuck-pointing and masonry repairs

Fort Robinson State Park lodge updates and repairs

Fremont Lakes State Recreation Area shower facility replacement

Fremont Lakes State Recreation Area dump station replacement

Fremont Lakes State Recreation Area electrical upgrades at Pathfinder and Victory Lake campgrounds

Lewis and Clark State Recreation Area wastewater treatment facility constructed

Louisville State Recreation Area angler access project

Maloney Reservoir State Recreation Area campground concept

Merritt Reservoir State Recreation Area Cedar Bay Campground expansion

Mormon Island State Recreation Area vault toilet replacement

Plum Creek Wildlife Management Area boat ramp fishing node removal

Ponca State Park Eric Wiebe Shooting Complex electrical service installation



Fremont Lakes State Recreation Area saw its electrical grid updated at Pathfinder and Victory Lake campgrounds thanks to the Capital Maintenance Fund.

JENNY NGUYEN-WHEATLEY, NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION



A new culvert was installed to carry water beneath the Cowboy Trail west of Long Pine. The trail washed out during historic flooding in March 2019.

ERIC FOWLER, NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

COMPLETED PROJECTS – FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 *(Continued)*

Ponca State Park pool entrance concrete replacement	Smith Falls State Park ADA-compliant boardwalk
Rock Creek Station Recreation Area vault toilet replacement	Walgren Lake State Recreation Area campground design
Rock Creek Station State Recreation Area campground electrical upgrade	Willow Creek State Recreation Area fishing piers
	Windmill State Recreation Area new playground installation



Channel widening of Center Lake, shown here, at Bridgeport State Recreation Area is be completed for the safety of boat traffic. The project utilizes Capital Maintenance Fund dollars.

JUSTIN HAAG, NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

IN-PROGRESS PROJECTS – STARTED IN FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

Bluestem State Recreation Area campground electrical upgrades	Eugene T. Mahoney State Park Peter Kiewit Lodge entrance compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act
Bluestem State Recreation Area ADA-compliant showerhouse upgrades	Eugene T. Mahoney State Park cabin 44 remodel and window replacement
Bridgeport State Recreation Area center lake channel widening	Eugene T. Mahoney State Park waterway design concept
Conestoga State Recreation Area electrical upgrades and ADA-compliant campsites design	Fort Atkinson State Historical Park northeast barracks log replacement
Cowboy Trail flood repair at Oakdale, Bridge 211 design concept	Fort Robinson State Park Aquatic Habitat Rehabilitation phase 2
Cowboy Trail culvert design at Valentine	Fort Robinson State Park bakery reconstruction design
Eugene T. Mahoney State Park Peter Kiewit Lodge guest room HVAC upgrade	Fort Robinson State Park cabin floor upgrades

IN-PROGRESS PROJECTS – STARTED IN FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 *(Continued)*

Fort Robinson State Park 1887 Adobe Kitchen upgrades	Platte River State Park Crawdad Creek and Lake well repair design
Fort Robinson State Park 1887 Enlisted Mens' Barracks reconstruction design concept	Ponca State Park mini-lodge bedroom and great room expansion
Fort Robinson State Park gutter and column repairs to the lodge, Comanche Hall and cabins	Rock Creek Station State Recreation Area lagoon repairs design concept
Indian Cave State Park motorboat access improvement	Sandy Channel State Recreation Area well system installation
Lewis and Clark State Recreation Area Burbach Campground expansion	Wildcat Hills State Recreation Area campground expansion design concept
Lewis and Clark State Recreation Area South Shore sediment removal	Willow Creek State Recreation Area campground electrical upgrade design concept
Niobrara State Park playground installation	Willow Creek State Recreation Area fish-cleaning station design concept
Niobrara State Park road seepage and pond work design	Windmill State Recreation Area Aquatic Habitat Project

BENEFITS OF VIBRANT PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Nebraska's state parks, considered among the best in the nation, are a pillar of our state's tourism industry and help the Department of Economic Development recruit new business into the state.
- State parks have an annual economic impact of more than \$455 million, supporting \$313 million in retail sales and more than 4,600 jobs.
- The Commission has paid more than \$7.8 million in sales and lodging taxes in the past five years. Lodging tax proceeds support community-based recreation and activities with the intension to boost tourism, the third largest industry in Nebraska. Our parks and fisheries are key to this industry acting as travel destinations for domestic and international travelers.
- State parks and recreation areas provide important access and opportunity for boaters and anglers. Nebraska's nearly 80,000 recreational boaters have an annual economic impact of \$1.1 billion, according to the National Marine Manufacturers' 2023 Boating Economic Impact Study. At the same time, 405,900 anglers spent \$270 million while fishing in Nebraska, creating an economic output of \$423 million, according to a 2021 report by the American Sport Fishing Association and Southwick and Associates Research. Each year, the Commission stocks millions of fish in Nebraska waters from one end of the state to the other.

FISCAL YEAR 2025-26

More than \$24 million in capital maintenance spending is planned for the fiscal year 2025-26 including an estimated \$16.5 million from the Capital Maintenance Fund, along with other agency, state, and federal funding sources. This includes over 30 projects carried forward from 2024-25 as well as 10 new projects scheduled to begin construction in 2025-26.

PROJECTS TO BEGIN FISCAL YEAR 2025-26

Branched Oak State Recreation Area new showerhouse facility

Conestoga State Recreation Area electrical upgrades and ADA-compliant campsites

Eugene T. Mahoney Activity Center ice rink replacement

Fort Robinson State Park aquatic facility construction

Grove Trout Station Fish Hatchery well-drilling and service

Lake McConaughy State Recreation Area Martin Bay campground and dump station upgrades

Lake Minatare State Recreation Area LakeView Showerhouse replacement

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission headquarters roof replacement

Niobrara State Park pond installation

Rock Creek Station State Recreation Area lagoon repairs



The flooring at Eugene T. Mahoney State Park ice rink is beyond repair and is scheduled to be replaced in fiscal year 2025-'26 with a new synthetic flooring intended to last longer and require less maintenance.

JEFF KURRUS, NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS

The mission of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission is stewardship of the state's fish, wildlife, park, and outdoor recreation resources in the best long-term interests of the people and those resources.



Park guests may be familiar with the sign above, which is posted on or near projects completed with Capital Maintenance Fund investments.

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