

BRIEF

Napoleon awarded funding for water infrastructure project

BISMARCK — The State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs, jointly administered by the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality and the North Dakota Public Finance Authority, awarded 10 loans to support critical water infrastructure in June and July.

Among those receiving a loan was Napoleon, which was granted a \$975,000 DWSRF loan to install new water main and connect 11 properties currently served by wells to the city water distribution system. Once linked to the rural water system, the community will reduce reliance on groundwater in an area with elevated manganese levels. Residents will benefit from a safe and reliable drinking water supply.

Also receiving loans for

projects in North Dakota were Colfax, Elgin, Fargo, Grand Forks and Mapleton.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides part of the SRF programs' funding, which offers below-market interest rate loans to political subdivisions for financing projects authorized under the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act. SRF programs operate nationwide to provide funding to maintain and improve the infrastructure that protects our vital water resources.

Loans are awarded to projects listed on the project priority list based on project eligibility determined by the Department of Environmental Quality and the Public Finance Authority's review of repayment ability.

State leaders break ground on \$78M military museum in Bismarck

BY PEYTON HAUG
Forum News Service

BISMARCK — Next month, a plot of land next to the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum in Bismarck will be hollowed out to house a new Military Museum Gallery.

"We're committed to making North Dakota the most military-friendly state in the country, and this gallery marks another significant step towards that goal," Gov. Kelly Armstrong said at a ceremony on Thursday, July 10, where veterans, state agency leaders and tribal officials broke ground on the project.

Bill Peterson, director of the State Historical Society of North Dakota, said that although bidding is still underway, the cost of the museum's construction is expected to come in under the \$78 million budget. Construction is set to begin in August, he said.

Part of the cost is covered by nearly \$40 million in state funds, a taxpayer contribution approved by the Legislature during the 2025 and 2023 lawmaking sessions. The rest is being matched by private donations.

The building itself will be attached to the south side of the Heritage Center & State Museum on the Capitol grounds in Bismarck.

At 67,000 square feet, it will include the gallery, "immersive" exhibits, an event space, a North Dakota National Guard Regimental Room and an amphitheater, according to the State Historical Society.

The North Dakota National Guard is partnering with the State Historical Society to spearhead the gallery's curation. People representing state agencies and North Dakota tribes are working alongside the two entities to decide what the museum will hold.



Peyton Haug / Forum News Service

North Dakota Gov. Kelly Armstrong speaks Thursday, July 10, at the Military Museum Gallery groundbreaking in Bismarck.


One of the groups helping "shape the story" of the gallery is a Native American advisory committee, Armstrong said. He noted Indigenous individuals serve in the U.S. military at a higher rate than any other ethnicity in the country.

"With this new gallery, we will educate the public about the military's role around the world and actions of North Dakotans in service, and inspire future generations to understand the importance of military service and how it has helped shape the greatest nation in the history of the world," Armstrong said.

The museum will be completed sometime in 2027, according to Brian Berg, an architect for Zerr Berg Architects, which led the facility's design.

"A project like this is like an aircraft carrier, it takes a lot to get it going and once it's going, it has a lot of momentum," Berg said.

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7/18

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5	3	6	4	7	1	9	8	2
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4	1	2	8	3	9	7	6	5

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