

(Neb.)-Property Taxes, State Parks Eyed In Nebraska Budget

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LINCOLN, Nebraska (AP) - Property owners could get a tax break, state parks could get new cabins, and Nebraska could see new flood- and drought-mitigation projects if a series of budget bills become law.

The Legislature's Appropriations Committee is expected to finish its work this week on changes to the state budget. The tentative package includes \$25 million for the state's property tax credit fund, \$17.5 million for deferred park maintenance and \$32 million for water projects by the middle of next year.

Sen. Heath Mello, the committee chairman, says lawmakers are working to balance the different state priorities. Lawmakers have avoided tapping the cash reserve for anything other than one-time expenses. Mello says he wants to end the current budget year with at least \$643 million in the emergency fund.