



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

M.L. 2020 ENRTF Work Plan (Main Document)

Today's Date: January 2, 2020

Date of Next Status Update Report: April 1, 2021

Date of Work Plan Approval:

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2023

Does this submission include an amendment request?

PROJECT TITLE: Crane Lake Voyageurs National Park Campground & Visitors Center

Project Manager: Jim Janssen

Organization: Town of Crane Lake

College, Department, or Division:

Mailing Address: PO Box 402

City, State, Zip Code: Crane Lake Township, MN, 55725

Project Manager Direct Telephone Number: 219-993-1303

Email Address: info@canelaketwp.com

Web Address:

Location: Northeast Region, St. Louis County, Crane Lake Township, Voyageurs National Park

Total Project Budget: \$3,100,000

Amount Spent: \$0

Balance: \$3,100,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2020, Chp. xx, Sec. xx, Subd. xx

Appropriation Language:

PROJECT STATEMENT:

Crane Lake Township is requesting \$3,100,000 from the ENRTF for the design and construction of the new Crane Lake Voyageurs National Park Campground and for site preparation/permitting/engineering/design for the new Crane Lake Voyageurs National Park Visitor's Center. The Campground and Visitor Center will be constructed on a recently purchased 29 acre parcel of land that was the site of the former Borderland Resort. Crane Lake Township received \$950,000 from the ENRTF to purchase this property. The Campground will include RV sites, tent sites, restroom and shower facilities, and RV pump out facilities, parking lot and kiosk. When completed with other funding, the Visitor Center and site will include an outside gathering area, Township offices, potential USFS offices, NPS offices, County offices, a large meeting room, restrooms, other partner space, and a visitor retail and display area.

Voyageurs National Park (VNP) is Minnesota's only national park and the nation's only water-based national park, consisting of more than 84,000 acres of water and 134,000 acres of land. The interconnected waterways of the park provide an unparalleled opportunity for citizens to explore the Northwood's lake and border country. You must leave your car and take to the water to fully explore and experience the lakes, islands, and shorelines of the park. Nearly 200 years ago, voyageurs paddled birch bark canoes full of animal pelts and trade goods through the park on their way to Canada. Today, people explore the park by canoes, kayaks, houseboats, and motorboats.

Water is the defining feature of VNP. Access and tourism expansion was the long-term promise of the park—increasing economic opportunities for local residents while preserving a national treasure and developing recreational and educational opportunities for our citizens.

The overall goal is to create a Visitor Center operated by the Department of Interior's National Park Service (NPS) and coordinated with the DNR's new boat ramp and entrance point while combining all with a new campground and public space. The purchase of this key property was a one-time opportunity to fully develop the final entrance point of the original four planned entrance points to the park.

The campground would be owned and built by Crane Lake Township. The next phase Visitor Center will also be owned by the Township and built partially to NPS specifications and will be leased back to the NPS, along with other partners, under long term leases. The NPS, the DNR, and the Township of Crane Lake have worked cooperatively to complete a master plan and will work together to complete the federal National Environmental Policy Act process to determine the number of sites, specifications of the sites, and camping fee rate schedule along with the size, scope and design of the Visitors Center and additional development which will be determined by these partners. The net revenues generated through these fees will be used to support the campground and the Visitor Center. It is not anticipated that there will be any excess fees or profits generated from the campground beyond paying operational costs and a portion of the debt service/lease payments.

The facilities and the campground are designed to enhance the guest experiences for folks visiting the VNP, the BWCAW, the Superior National Forest, the Kabetogama State Forest, and other area amenities. It is clear that not enough revenue will be generated from the campground to pay for its operation and to retire the long-term capital costs to build the adjacent Visitors Center and the campground. It is not anticipated that there will be any excess revenue from the campground and all income will be directed to support the campground and the project.

The DNR will be an important partner in the planning, development, and operations of these facilities because of their adjacent development of a new boat ramp, restroom facilities, parking, and other recreational uses at Crane Lake. It is planned to have both a walking and vehicle connection to the two parcels, integrating their uses for a seamless, quality guest experience for visitors.

The Township of Crane Lake is in discussions with the private owners of a site on the attached core development proposal map. This connection between the DNR boat ramp site (seven acres) and the 29 acre acquisition will be used as a future road connector and pedestrian access between the DNR site and the NPS Visitor Center/campground site.

II. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

First Update April 1, 2021

Second Update October 1, 2021

Third Update April 1, 2022

Fourth Update October 1, 2022

Fifth Update April 1, 2023

Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2023

III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1 Title: National Park Campground

Description: Design and Construction of the Campground and necessary amenities. The object of this activity is to evaluate the current site, secure permits, campground design, bidding, construction of the campground and project management and construction administration. This work will be provided by a private contractor and engineering firm hired through a competitive bidding/qualifications process. Amenities in the campground include RV sites, tent sites, restroom and shower facilities, RV pump- out facilities, access road, parking lot and an informational kiosk. The engineering firm/township will be responsible for evaluating all work performed by the contractors. The completion of this project will enable more people throughout the country to access and enjoy the Voyageurs National Park.

ACTIVITY 1 ENRTF BUDGET: \$2,800,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Completion of plans and specifications/design review/bidding documents	<i>May 2021</i>
2. Construction Start	<i>July 2021</i>
3. Construction Completed	<i>November 2022</i>

First Update April 1, 2021

Second Update October 1, 2021

Third Update April 1, 2022

Fourth Update October 1, 2022

Fifth Update April 1, 2023

Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2023

ACTIVITY 2 Title: National Park Visitors Center

Description: Site Preparation/Permitting/Engineering/Design. The object of this activity is to evaluate the Visitors Center site including soil borings, survey, permitting, design, bidding and construction of the site (clearing, grubbing, fill and soil compaction) in preparation for the completion of the Visitors Center. This work will be undertaken by a private contractor and engineering firm hired through a competitive bidding/qualifications process. Completing this activity will allow for the architectural design and eventual construction of the Visitors Center. The engineering firm/township will be responsible for evaluating all work performed by the contractors. \$300,000 is budgeted as a preliminary estimate for partially completing the above tasks. If there is surplus money from Activity 1, it will be dedicated to further work on Activity 2.

ACTIVITY 2 ENRTF BUDGET: \$300,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Completion of design and permitting	May 2021
2. Site Preparation Construction Start	July 2021
3. Site Preparation Construction Completed	November 2022

First Update April 1, 2021

Second Update October 1, 2021

Third Update April 1, 2022

Fourth Update October 1, 2022

Fifth Update April 1, 2023

Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2023

IV. DISSEMINATION:

Description:

We will post information about this project on social media, specifically on our Crane Lake website and will update all progress at our Township Board Meetings.

The Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) will be acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo or attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage, and other communications per the [ENRTF Acknowledgement Guidelines](#).

First Update April 1, 2021

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Fourth Update October 1, 2022

V. ADDITIONAL BUDGET INFORMATION:

A. Personnel and Capital Expenditures

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000:

The expenditures greater than \$5,000 for this project will include the design and construction of the campground and for the site preparation, permitting, and design of the visitor's center. Entities receiving these funds will be a general contractor and an engineering firm.

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: Not Applicable

Total Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation:

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours for entire duration of project: Not Applicable.	Divide total personnel hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = TOTAL FTE: Not Applicable.
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Total Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation:

Enter Total Estimated Contract Personnel Hours for entire duration of project: 7500	Divide total contract hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = TOTAL FTE: 3.61
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VI. PROJECT PARTNERS:

- A. Partners outside of project manager's organization receiving ENRTF funding
General Contractor for the construction and an engineering firm for the design, permitting, plans and specifications, bidding documents, construction administration and project construction.
- B. Partners outside of project manager's organization NOT receiving ENRTF funding
MN DNR, Federal Department of Interior, National Park Service, Members of Congress, U.S Forest Service, Township of Crane Lake Board and Crane Lake Community Members.

VII. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

The first priority for the LCCMR grant is for the construction of the campground to serve guests visiting the Voyageurs National Park, Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Superior National Forest, Kabetogama State Forest, and other areas. As the campground site is on the same site as the future VNP Visitor Center, any remaining funds from the LCCMR grant will be used for preliminary site preparation for the Visitor Center. It is anticipated that additional funding will be sought to complete the site preparation for the Visitor Center and the MN DNR Boat Ramp area adjacent to the site. Potential sources include the following: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), United States Forest Service (USFS), the National Park Service (NPS) through the General Services Administration (GSA), Minnesota state bonding, municipal bonding, and other sources. It is anticipated that debt incurred for a portion of the capital needs of the project beyond grants received for construction would be paid off through lease payment agreements with potential partners, including NSP/GSA, USFS, St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department, the Voyageurs National Park Association (VNPA) and related partners, the Town of Crane Lake, the Crane Lake Water and Sanitary District, and others. The VNP is

very supportive of this project as is the VNPA. The requested funds from the LCCMR will not complete the construction of the VNP Visitor Center nor the adjacent DNR Boat Ramp. The construction of the VNP Visitor Center and the DNR Boat Ramp will proceed when adequate funding is secured from the above named sources to complete the projects. Any funding that may remain from the LCCMR after construction of the campground is completed will be used only for the preliminary site preparation for the VNP Visitor Center. The VNP Visitor Center and the DNR Boat Ramp will not be constructed using this current LCCMR funding.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

- Project status update reports will be submitted April 1 and October 1 each year of the project
- A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2023

IX. SEE ADDITIONAL WORK PLAN COMPONENTS:

A. Budget Spreadsheet

B. Visual Component or Map

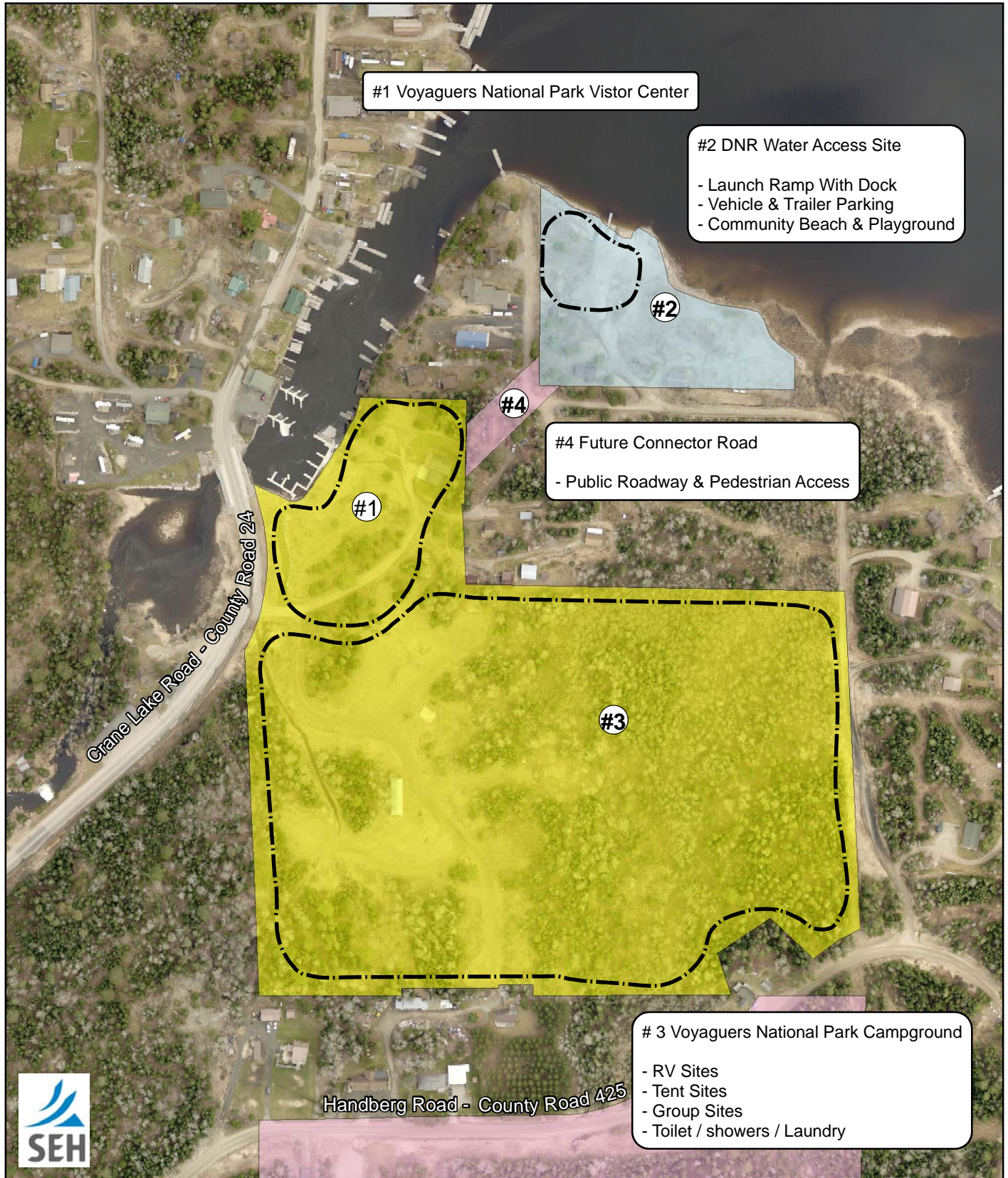
C. Parcel List Spreadsheet – N/A

D. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements – N/A

E. Research Addendum

Today's Date: **January 2, 2020**

Crane Lake Core Development Proposal



Legend

- Development Areas
- Parcel Bounds - Ownership Type**
- Private
 - State
 - Township

- Core Development Proposal -

Crane Lake, Minnesota



0 150 300
Feet