

Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on April 1, 2026

M.L. 2021 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2025

Project Title: Crane Lake Voyageurs National Park Visitor Center - Continuation

Project Manager: Jim Janssen

Affiliation: Town of Crane Lake

Mailing Address: Box 402

City/State/Zip: Crane Lake, MN 55725

Phone: (218) 993-1303

E-mail: jjanssen55725@gmail.com

Website: <https://cranelaketwp.com/>

Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

Legal Citation: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 09n and M.L. 2024, Chp. Sec. 2, Subd. 18

Appropriation Amount: \$2,700,000

Amount Spent: \$2,700,000

Amount Remaining: -

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

The Crane Lake Visitor Center enhances public access to Voyageurs National Park, supporting conservation and stewardship of Minnesota's water, land, and wildlife. The facility provides educational exhibits, safe recreation, trails, and sustainable infrastructure, fostering environmental awareness, community engagement, and long-term protection of natural and cultural resources.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The Crane Lake Visitor Center project has been successfully completed, providing a new gateway to Voyageurs National Park and enhancing both public access and local tourism. Prior to the project, visitors to Crane Lake had limited infrastructure for recreation, education, and Park engagement. The new facility addresses these gaps by offering a highly visible visitor entrance area, theater, multi-use meeting space, offices for Park and Township staff, and public educational exhibits highlighting local natural and cultural resources, including dark skies, northern lights, and Indigenous history. The exterior walls also provide educational information, creating opportunities for learning even

outside the building.

The project has enhanced day-use access into Voyageurs National Park from Crane Lake and provides easy water access for private boaters via public docking. Supporting infrastructure includes improved roads, parking, water and electrical utilities, trails, and nearby land-based camping. Adjacent to the Visitor Center, a new RV campground, also funded in part by LCCMR, opened in summer 2025, offering ADA-accessible sites with water, sewer, and electrical connections. These features collectively facilitate safe day-use, public lakeshore recreation, and expanded overnight stays, increasing visitor engagement with Minnesota's natural resources.

Since opening, the Visitor Center has welcomed 8,656 visitors, demonstrating strong public use. Local design, engineering, and construction firms were engaged, supporting regional economic growth and workforce development. Trails connect the facility to surrounding communities, further expanding recreational and educational opportunities.

Overall, the project strengthens long-term sustainability, fosters responsible recreation, and ensures equitable access to Minnesota's natural and cultural resources, creating lasting benefits for residents, visitors, and the environment.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Project results and LCCMR acknowledgement were shared through a public grand opening on June 6, 2025, and the Crane Lake Visitor Center website (<https://www.nps.gov/voya/getinvolved/crane-lake-visitor-center-project.htm>), which recognizes LCCMR funding. The Visitor Center hosts two to four National Park staff daily Memorial Day through Labor Day, permit stations for the US Forest Service, educational exhibits on fire safety, DNR programs, and fish and wildlife, signage on local resort history, US Coast Guard boater safety classes, and community meetings. These activities engage the public, promote environmental education, and support stewardship of Minnesota's natural and cultural resources.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2021 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: April 13, 2026

ID Number: 2021-329

Staff Lead: Michael Varien

Project Title: Crane Lake Voyageurs National Park Visitor Center - Continuation

Project Budget: \$2,700,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Jim Janssen

Organization: Town of Crane Lake

Office Telephone: (218) 993-1303

Email: jjanssen55725@gmail.com

Web Address: <https://cranelaketwp.com/>

Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: April 1, 2026

Reporting Status: Project Completed & Additional Update Approved

Date of Last Action: April 1, 2026

Project Completion: June 30, 2025

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 09n and M.L. 2024, Chp. Sec. 2, Subd. 18

Appropriation Language: \$2,700,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Crane Lake to design and construct an approximate 4,500 to 7,000 square-foot visitor center building to serve as an access point to Voyageurs National Park. A fiscal agent or fiscal management plan must be approved in the work plan before any trust fund money is spent. A copy of a resolution or other documentation of the city's commitment to fund operations of the visitor center must be included in the work plan submitted to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources. and (a) The availability of the appropriations for the following projects is extended to June 30, 2025: (20) Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 6, article 6, section 2, subdivision 9,

paragraph (n), Crane Lake Voyageurs National Park Visitor Center - Continuation;

and \$2,700,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Crane Lake to design and construct an approximate 4,500 to 7,000 square-foot visitor center building to serve as an access point to Voyageurs National Park. A fiscal agent or fiscal management plan must be approved in the work plan before any trust fund money is spent. A copy of a resolution or other documentation of the city's commitment to fund operations of the visitor center must be included in the work plan submitted to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources. Net income generated as part of this appropriation may be reinvested in the project if a plan for reinvestment is approved in the work plan.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2025

Narrative

Project Summary: Crane Lake Township is applying for LCCMR funds to construct up to a 7,000 square foot Visitors Center to serve as an access point to the Voyageurs National Park.

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

Water is the defining feature of Voyageurs National Park(VNP). The remoteness of the Park calls for the best effort by Park officials to provide access that enhances the visit of guests to the Park. Access and tourism expansion was the long-term promise that the Park would provide increasing economic opportunities for local residents while preserving a national treasure and developing recreational and educational opportunities for our citizens and guests. In three of the entrance points, a quality Park Service visitor center exists, enhancing the entrance point to the Park, providing safety and instruction, boat ramps and access, and educational displays and programs. The only entrance point without a Park presence is the gateway site at Crane Lake. When the Park was developed decades ago, the community of Crane Lake was promised a center. It is time to fulfill that vision. Crane Lake Township received a previous \$950,000 LCCMR grant to acquire the land for the Visitors Center and amenities. In 2020 the Township was awarded a \$3.1 million LCCMR grant to construct a campground. The land has been acquired and the 2020 award is waiting for Legislative approval.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

The Township of Crane Lake is requesting LCCMR funds to construct up to a 7,000 square foot Visitor Center that will include a visitor entrance area, theater, meeting room, gift shop, restrooms with showers, parking, infrastructure (roads, water, electrical, etc.) and will include exhibit space for native wildlife as well as Township/National Park Service/Staff and other potential offices. ENRTF funds are not being spent for purposes of environmental compensation and liability under chapter 115B and response actions under chapter 115C, which are statutorily-prohibited uses for ENRTF.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

The successful outcomes this initiative/project will include the following:

The construction of the new Visitors Center will increase level of visitation into Crane Lake and at resorts, guest houses, campers, houseboats and VNP. Enhanced day-use access into VNP from Crane Lake. Easy water access for private boaters. New land-accessed camping for VNP and area visitors. Public lakeshore recreation for residents and visitors. Community center with public docking, highly visible from entry to town. Year-round point of contact for VNP visitors in Crane Lake. Capacity to link these functions by trails to other communities. Physical solutions that benefits all parties.

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Region(s): NE

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Architectural and Engineering Design and Construction Administration

Activity Budget: \$257,554

Activity Description:

The project engineer and architect will be responsible for Visitor Center site design, project administration, construction administration, plans/specifications, bidding documents, survey, onsite observation, public meeting, permitting, staking, landscaping, environmental review, archeological evaluation and material testing. ARI was the architectural lead designer on the project. SEH was the lead civil engineer. Both ARI and SEH are completing construction administration.

ENRTF funds are not being spent for purposes of environmental compensation and liability under chapter 115B and response actions under chapter 115C, which are statutorily-prohibited uses for ENRTF.

Pre-design plans need to be submitted to Dept. of Admin for approval. Pre-design materials must be sufficient to define the purpose, scope, cost, and schedule of the project. This is done in part as a safeguard to all parties prior to construction funds being spent to ensure the project will be consistent with the relevant statutes, including Minnesota Statutes, sections 16B.325, 216B.241, 216C.19, and 216C.20, and rules adopted under those sections. Then Town will consult with the State Historic Preservation Office per M.S. 138.40, subd. 3; M.S. 138.665, subd.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Consultation with SHPO on project design	October 31, 2021
Architect Selected Through a Qualifications Process	October 31, 2021
Draft site design, architectural plans and construction administration plan and completion of design and plans.	January 31, 2022
Submission of predesign materials to Department of Administration according to Statutes	March 31, 2022
Begin Oversight and Construction Administration	June 30, 2022
Construction Administration Completed and Work Approved by the Township	December 31, 2023

Activity 2: Construction of the Visitors Center

Activity Budget: \$2,440,946

Activity Description:

General contractor will be responsible for site preparations, parking areas, utility extensions, center construction, road access, ADA requirements and coordination with the engineering/architectural firm and the Township Board. The Township of Crane Lake intends to construct up to a 7,000 square foot Visitor Center that will include a visitor entrance area, theater, meeting room, gift shop, restrooms with showers, parking, infrastructure and will include exhibit space (Indoor or Outdoor Funded Locally) for native wildlife as well as Township/National Park Service/Staff and other potential offices. ENRTF funds are not being spent for purposes of environmental compensation and liability under chapter 115B and response action under chapter 115C, which are statutorily-prohibited uses for ENRTF. Construction is being completed by Max Gray Construction.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Funds sufficient to pay for construction are legally obligated per statutes	March 31, 2022
Contractor Selected and Project Bid Awarded to Construct the Visitor Center	April 30, 2022

Begin the Construction of the Visitor Center	June 30, 2022
Provide LCCMR documentation of resolution of all environmental issues	December 31, 2022
Visitor Center Completed and Approved by the Township	December 31, 2023
Visitor Center Opens to the Public	April 30, 2024

Activity 3: St. Louis County will Serve as the Fiscal Agent

Activity Budget: \$1,500

Activity Description:

St. Louis County will hold all financial documentation, pay and receive all money related to the LCCMR grant on behalf of Crane Lake Township. All fiscal documentation will be available by request. St. Louis County will only be reimbursed for time spent on this project.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
St. Louis County Will Be The Fiscal Agent Throughout The Project	December 31, 2023

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
US Forest Service Staff	US Forest Service	Site and Amenities Advisor	No
Bob DeGross - Superintendent - Contact 218-283-6606, degross@nps.gov, 360 Hwy 11 East, International Falls, MN 56649	Voyageurs National Park (National Park Service)	Visitor Center Occupant/Funder/Leasee	No
St. Louis County Staff	St. Louis County	Fiscal Agent	Yes

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.

Description: Upon receipt of a signed grant agreement, the Township will issue a press release announcing the project, the plans for the construction of the Visitors Center, and will include special thanks and acknowledgement to the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund for their assistance.

Crane Lake Township shall use their web site to disseminate project updates through commentary, photos of progress of project, and status updates. On the webpage, an acknowledgement will be located at the bottom of the page that states "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)".

At the project site, in at least two (2) locations, signage will be constructed approximately 30 days prior to construction and shall remain until completion of the project in order to identify project name, scope, and parties that funded the project. Permanent signs/plaques will be designed and erected at the Visitors Center acknowledging the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. These signs will include the verbiage "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)" as well as the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund logo.

St. Louis County will hold all financial documentation, pay and receive all money related to the LCCMR Grant on behalf of Crane Lake. All fiscal documentation will be available by request.

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?

It is anticipated that additional funding, if needed, will be sought to complete this project including from these potential sources: United State Department of Agriculture (USDA), United State Forest Service (USFS), National Park Service(NPS), State Bonding, municipal bonding, and other sources. Crane Lake will use the funds to maintain the campground and visitor center.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Land Acquisition for Voyageurs National Park Crane Lake Visitors Center	M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 09i	\$950,000

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
Personnel										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Contracts and Services										
ARI is the Architect/SEH is the Engineer	Professional or Technical Service Contract	ARI was the architectural lead designer on the project. SEH was the lead civil engineer. Both ARI and SEH are completing construction administration. Engineering Firm Will Serve as the Project Manager of the Project on the Township's Behalf. Engineering Firm Will Oversee/Complete Environmental/Archeological/Permitting Tasks.				6		\$257,554	\$257,554	-
Max Gray has been selected as the general contractor for the construction.	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Max Gray Will Be Responsible For All Aspects Of Project Construction				18		\$2,440,946	\$2,440,946	-
St. Louis County	Professional or Technical Service Contract	St. Louis County will be the Fiscal Agent for this Project		X		2		\$1,500	\$1,500	-
							Sub Total	\$2,700,000	\$2,700,000	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Capital Equipment										
							Sub Total	-	-	-

Acquisitions and Stewardship											
							Sub Total	-	-	-	
Travel In Minnesota											
							Sub Total	-	-	-	
Travel Outside Minnesota											
							Sub Total	-	-	-	
Printing and Publication											
							Sub Total	-	-	-	
Other Expenses											
							Sub Total	-	-	-	
							Grand Total	\$2,700,000	\$2,700,000	-	

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Contracts and Services - St. Louis County	Professional or Technical Service Contract	St. Louis County will be the Fiscal Agent for this Project	Crane Lake (Population 100) does not have the staff or infrastructure to manage large sums of money therefore we have contracted with St. Louis County to have their auditors assist in administering these funds.

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
State						
Cash	DEED Clean-up Funds - See Attached Contract	Will Be Used to Pay for Soils Correction Encountered on the Site	Secured	\$87,240	\$87,240	-
Cash	Iron Range Resources - See Attached Contract	Funds will be used for Construction, Contaminated Soil Cleanup and Construction Administration and Observation	Secured	\$664,880	\$664,880	-
			State Sub Total	\$752,120	\$752,120	-
Non-State						
Cash	Crane Lake Township - Township Funds	Contaminated Soil Corrections	Secured	\$20,000	\$20,000	-
			Non State Sub Total	\$20,000	\$20,000	-
			Funds Total	\$772,120	\$772,120	-

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [7e658c31-818.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Visual Shows The Visitors Center Layout Including All Amenities...

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Resolution	aad67d37-475.pdf
Additional Resolution	e7801aa3-e1e.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
SLC Fiscal Agent Contract	c276b4bf-fef.pdf
LCCMR Background Check	c15b3f43-39c.pdf
DEED Grant	5cb3cf5e-b89.pdf
IRRRB Grant	deb52bbb-8fb.pdf
MPCA RAP Approval	6557119d-4f0.pdf
Voyageurs RAP	1dc15f6d-6b8.pdf
ARI Add 2	eb455d07-124.pdf
ARI Add 3	0c013a70-bdf.pdf
Tab Sheet	d043b53e-dae.pdf
Combined Funding Summary Center, Clean Up, Campground	8fb57167-3fc.pdf
Visitor Center Budget Summary	8fbec1c1-0b9.pdf
Contaminated Soil Budget Summary	6c3b332e-e7a.pdf
Visitor Center Specs	3476649a-a93.pdf
Visitor Center Drawings	557f96ff-8c1.pdf
Visitor Center Construction	8937a3a5-79e.jpe
Visitor Center Construction	f5ac9cec-3a0.jpe
Visitor Center Construction + ENRTF logo	2bf178b4-7d8.jpe
Visitor Center Construction + ENRTF logo	5ccf140c-e0d.jpe
Visitors Center 1	2129ed57-050.jpe
Preconstruction Photo	25ee95df-f78.jpe
Visitors Center 2	fb894998-92a.jpe
Visitors Center 3	9bebd84-e8c.jpe
Aerial Image of Site	b2127943-107.jpe
LCCMR Sign	f57b6b81-082.jpe
RAP letter from MPCA	c9c142ff-4f5.pdf
Recorded Easement	0f375973-6fe.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Changes were made to activities 1 & 2 to reflect the actual LCCMR award. Budget was adjusted to reflect the actual LCCMR award. Dissemination portion of this work plan was completed. All changes made as directed in the Comments and Revisions Section. Staff comment 416 -Visual Updated and attached. 742 - St. Louis County has agreed to be the

Fiscal Agent. Crane Lake resolution is attached. 743 - Originally we thought there would have enough money to do the site work, however as we have more detailed cost estimates, we will need all of the money for the Campground - Remember the original cost estimate goes back to 2019 and costs have gone up. Also remember that we did ask for \$3,600,00 but the award was cut. 745 - This will be one bid. The general contractor will have subcontractors as needed for some of the tasks. On Wednesday, June 22, 2021 the work plan was revised to make changes to include everything in the comments and revisions section. Additional changes/recommendations were made that were identified in LCCMR's Michael Varien in his work plan suggestions emailed on June 1, 2021. Additional changes were made on July 9, 2021 related to changes with the fiscal agent being paid from the LCCMR funds. On July 14, 2021 changes were made to comply with staff recommendations. On August 4, 2021 all changes were made to comply with staff recommendations. On October 6, 2021, all changes recommended by LCCMR staff have been made.

Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?

N/A

Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

N/A

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

Yes

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

Yes

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF? If so, describe here (1) the source and estimated amounts of any revenue and (2) how you propose to use those revenues:

Yes, Potential revenue will be generated from the NPS lease, space rental, and campground. Revenues will be reinvested only for maintenance of the campground and visitor center. Revenues will not be used for expansion purposes or to otherwise fund city or county general operations.

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

Yes, St. Louis County

Work Plan Amendments

Amendment ID	Request Type	Changes made on the following pages	Explanation & justification for Amendment Request (word limit 75)	Date Submitted	Approved	Date of LCCMR Action
1	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrative • Activities and Milestones 	This amendment is requested because ENRTF funds are not being spent for purposes of environmental compensation and liability under chapter 115B and response actions under chapter 115C, which are statutorily-prohibited uses for ENRTF.	September 8, 2022	Yes	September 8, 2022
2	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities and Milestones • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed • Attachments 	Additional State and Local Funds Were Secured Due to Project Cost Increases. Funds were secured from the Department of Employment and Economic Development, Iron Range Resources and Local Funds Provided By the Town of Crane Lake.	August 18, 2023	Yes	September 28, 2023
3	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed 	This request is simply to update the project manager info including a new email address for Jim Janssen. Jim's mobile phone number was also added to the system. Thank you.	November 3, 2023	Yes	November 3, 2023
4	Completion Date	<p>Previous Completion Date: 06/30/2024</p> <p>New Completion Date: 06/30/2025</p>	There were delays in awarding and the project start date. Delays were associated with project rebidding, supply chain issues, CIC Termination, and securing additional DNR and IRRRB funds. We have exhausted all options within completing the project within the original deadline.	November 3, 2023	Yes	April 5, 2024
5	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Attachments 	Minor budget adjustments made to overall project for project completion. This includes reallocating budget from the St. Louis County administration fee to the budget for construction contract with Max Gray Construction.	September 26, 2024	Yes	October 14, 2024
6	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities and Milestones • Budget - Professional / Technical 	Amendment request is for minor budget adjustments were made for overall project	November 14, 2025	Yes	November 25, 2025

		Contracts • Attachments	completion in conjunction with final invoicing review with Saint Louis County who is the fiscal agent for the Visitors Center Project.			
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Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update August 5, 2025

Date Submitted: March 27, 2026

Date Approved: March 31, 2026

Overall Update

The Crane Lake Visitor Center project has been completed, with the grand opening held on June 6, 2025. Using funding from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, the project constructed a Visitor Center with offices, a multi-use auditorium, educational exhibits, and public spaces highlighting local natural and cultural resources, including dark skies, northern lights, and Indigenous history. Infrastructure improvements included roads, parking, water and electrical utilities, public docking, trails, and land-based camping. The final easement was recorded, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency approved the Response Action Plan, ensuring the site met environmental requirements.

Since opening, the Visitor Center welcomed 8,656 visitors, providing enhanced water access, safe day-use opportunities, public lakeshore recreation, and a year-round point of contact for Park visitors. Trails connect the facility to nearby communities, expanding recreational and educational opportunities. Local design, construction firms, and subcontractors were utilized, supporting regional jobs and economic growth.

This project protects, conserves, and enhances Minnesota's natural and cultural resources by improving public access to Voyageurs National Park, fostering environmental education, and providing sustainable infrastructure. It demonstrates measurable impact, strong community involvement, and lasting benefits, serving as a model for responsible recreation and resource stewardship.

Activity 1

Activity 1, Architectural and Engineering Design and Construction Administration, has been successfully completed. The project team, led by Architectural Resources, Inc. (ARI) for architectural design and SEH for civil engineering, completed all site design, plans, specifications, and construction administration for the Crane Lake Visitor Center. Pre-design materials were submitted to the Department of Administration and approved, ensuring compliance with Minnesota Statutes. Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office, environmental review, and archeological evaluation were completed.

Design and construction administration are now fully complete. The final easement has been recorded and is included in the attachments. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency approved the Response Action Plan, and no further action is required. Construction oversight included on-site observation, material testing, and public engagement, ensuring adherence to project specifications.

Cumulative progress includes completion of the Visitor Center, associated infrastructure, and the adjacent campground. All milestones, from drafting plans to construction administration and approvals, were met on schedule. This work enabled the broader project outcomes, including increased visitation, expanded educational and recreational opportunities, improved water access, and regional economic growth. All Activity 1 outputs, including final design documents, construction records, easement documentation, and administration reports, are complete and submitted. *(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)*

Activity 2

Activity 2, Construction of the Visitor Center, has been completed. Several local contractors were responsible for site

preparation, utility extensions, parking, road access, and construction of the 5,100-square-foot facility, including offices, a multi-use auditorium, restrooms, and exhibit spaces. The project ensured full compliance with ADA requirements and closely coordinated with the architectural and engineering firms throughout construction.

All project milestones were met on schedule. The construction contract was awarded and legally obligated, site work and building construction were completed, and the Township formally approved the finished facility. Environmental requirements were fully addressed: the final easement was recorded, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency approved the Response Action Plan, confirming no further action was needed.

This activity successfully delivered the intended infrastructure, providing a safe, accessible, and functional facility for public use. By completing construction on time and in compliance with all regulations, the project established a foundation for long-term visitor engagement, operational use, and community benefit while supporting local workforce participation.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 3

Activity 3, St. Louis County serving as the fiscal agent, has been fully completed. St. Louis County managed all financial aspects of the LCCMR grant on behalf of Crane Lake Township, including receiving, holding, and disbursing funds in accordance with the approved budget. All payments to contractors, consultants, and vendors were processed through the County, ensuring compliance with grant requirements and proper accounting procedures.

Financial documentation for the project has been maintained and is available upon request, providing a complete record of expenditures, reimbursements, and project-related transactions. St. Louis County's administrative costs were limited to time spent managing the grant, in accordance with the approved budget.

By fulfilling these responsibilities, St. Louis County ensured that funds were properly managed, timely disbursed, and fully compliant with state statutes and LCCMR requirements. This activity supported the overall success of the Visitor Center project by enabling secure, transparent, and accountable financial management, allowing the Township and contractors to focus on construction, site improvements, and program delivery. All fiscal obligations associated with the grant have now been completed.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

Crane Lake Township shared project results and LCCMR acknowledgment through a public grand opening on June 6, 2025, and via the Crane Lake Visitor Center website (<https://www.nps.gov/voya/getinvolved/crane-lake-visitor-center-project.htm>), which prominently recognizes LCCMR funding. The Visitor Center hosts two to four National Park staff daily Memorial Day through Labor Day, provides permit stations for the US Forest Service, and features educational exhibits on fire safety, DNR programs, and fish and wildlife. Signage highlights local resort history, and the site offers US Coast Guard boater safety classes and community meetings. These dissemination efforts engage visitors, promote environmental education, and foster stewardship of Minnesota's natural and cultural resources while ensuring public visibility of LCCMR support.

Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update August 14, 2025

Date Submitted: November 14, 2025

Date Approved: November 25, 2025

Overall Update

All of the construction is substantially complete, and the project is in punch list phase. Final project completion is anticipated in June or July 2025. Grand Opening scheduled for June 6, 2025.

Activity 1

All of the construction is substantially complete, and the project is in punch list phase. Final project completion is anticipated in June or July 2025.

Activity 2

All of the construction is substantially complete, and the project is in punch list phase. Final project completion is anticipated in June or July 2025.

Activity 3

St. Louis County continues hold all financial documentation, pay and receive all money related to the LCCMR grant on behalf of Crane Lake Township. All fiscal documentation will be available by request. St. Louis County will only be reimbursed for time spent on this project.

Dissemination

Crane Lake Township is using their web site to disseminate project updates through commentary, photos of progress of project, and status updates. On the webpage, an acknowledgement will be located at the bottom of the page that states "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)". At the project site construction signs are in place. Permanent signs/plaques will be erected at the Visitors Center acknowledging the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. These signs will include the verbiage "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)" as well as the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund logo.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update June 1, 2025

Date Submitted: November 14, 2025

Date Approved: November 25, 2025

Overall Update

All of the construction is substantially complete, and the project is in punch list phase. Final project completion is anticipated in the coming month. Grand Opening scheduled for June 6, 2025.

Activity 1

Construction Administration and project management is nearing completion with the project in the punchlist phase. Final completion is anticipated in the coming month.

Activity 2

All of the construction is substantially complete, and the project is in punch list phase. Final project completion is anticipated in the coming month.

Activity 3

St. Louis County continues hold all financial documentation, pay and receive all money related to the LCCMR grant on behalf of Crane Lake Township. All fiscal documentation will be available by request. St. Louis County will only be reimbursed for time spent on this project.

Dissemination

Crane Lake Township is using their web site to disseminate project updates through commentary, photos of progress of project, and status updates. On the webpage, an acknowledgement will be located at the bottom of the page that states "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)". At the project site construction signs are in place. Permanent signs/plaques will be erected at the Visitors Center acknowledging the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. These signs will include the verbiage "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)" as well as the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund logo.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update December 1, 2024

Date Submitted: November 14, 2025

Date Approved: November 25, 2025

Overall Update

All of the construction is substantially complete, and the project is in punch list phase. Final project completion is anticipated in the coming months.

Activity 1

Construction Administration and project management is nearing completion with the project in the punchlist phase. Final completion is anticipated in the coming months.

Activity 2

All of the construction is substantially complete, and the project is in punch list phase. Final project completion is anticipated in the coming months.

Activity 3

St. Louis County continues hold all financial documentation, pay and receive all money related to the LCCMR grant on behalf of Crane Lake Township. All fiscal documentation will be available by request. St. Louis County will only be reimbursed for time spent on this project.

Dissemination

Crane Lake Township is using their web site to disseminate project updates through commentary, photos of progress of project, and status updates. On the webpage, an acknowledgement will be located at the bottom of the page that states "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)". At the project site construction signs are in place. Permanent signs/plaques will be erected at the Visitors Center acknowledging the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. These signs will include the verbiage "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)" as well as the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund logo.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update June 1, 2024

Date Submitted: September 26, 2024

Date Approved: October 14, 2024

Overall Update

Construction has proceeded over the summer. The building is constructed as well as the site features exterior of the building. The building contractor is working on finalizing electrical work and interior finishings within the building. Exterior landscaping is complete along with the parking lot and access walkways. Turf has been established along with landscape plantings. exterior signs and site lighting is currently under installation.

The project is currently in the punch list phase, with owner occupancy anticipated this fall.

Activity 1

Construction Administration is ongoing with construction progress meetings twice per month and processing of monthly payment applications to the general contractor.

Activity 2

Construction has proceeded over the summer. The building is constructed as well as the site features exterior of the building. The building contractor is working on finalizing electrical work and interior finishings within the building. Exterior landscaping is complete along with the parking lot and access walkways. Turf has been established along with landscape plantings. exterior signs and site lighting is currently under installation.

The project is currently in the punch list phase, with owner occupancy anticipated this fall.

Activity 3

St. Louis County continues to act as the fiscal agent for approval and disbursement of funds.

Dissemination

Project sign is installed, and project website is operational. ENRTF acknowledged in all.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update December 1, 2023

Date Submitted: November 3, 2023

Date Approved: November 3, 2023

Overall Update

Max Gray (Contractor) continues with work at the site. During the past reporting period, all contracts have been signed and executed and work has commenced. Additionally, the CIC has been abandoned and the RAP associated with contaminated soils has been formalized.

The current focus of the Contractor is to get the building enclosed prior to heavy winter snow so that work may proceed inside the building through the winter months. SEH and ARI continue to support construction activities as described below.

Work associated with contaminated soils is substantially complete. This work is being funded by outside sources.

An amendment request has been submitted to extend the project completion date. A description of the reasoning for this extension is included in the amendment request.

Activity 1

Milestones 1-4 have been completed in prior updates.

Construction administration efforts continue by ARI (who has since changed their company name to Widseth) as the Architect and SEH as the Engineer. Construction oversight and administration will continue for the remainder of the project duration. This includes observation and documentation of activities in and around the site, review of shop drawings, processing of change orders, review and processing of applications for payment, and providing general guidance for the Contractor.

Activity 2

Milestones 1-4 have been completed.

Construction is ongoing. Work completed during the prior period includes placement of the building foundation, installation of building utilities within the building footprint, framing of walls, and installation of infrastructure for a vapor mitigation system. Work will continue through the winter as conditions allow.

Activity 3

Ongoing support and coordination with St. Louis County as fiscal agent continues. The project team meets with the County at least monthly to confirm that payments are being processed from the correct funding source and that all of the necessary information / paperwork is provided in advance of payment being released.

Dissemination

Crane Lake Township uses their project web site to disseminate project updates through commentary, photos of progress of project, and status updates. On the webpage, an acknowledgement is located at the bottom of the page that states "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)".

At the project site, project signage has been installed and shall remain until completion of the project in order to identify project name, scope, and parties that funded the project.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update June 1, 2023

Date Submitted: August 18, 2023

Date Approved: September 28, 2023

Overall Update

The design of the Visitors Center design complete and Department of Administration approval has been secured. Bidding has been completed, and a general contractor has been selected. The CIC document has been fully executed and is being routed to St. Louis County for recording. The county is backed up with their overall recording process, but we will send the formal recorded document when available. The environmental process has proceeded and the Town has a remedial action plan (RAP) in place and approved by MPCA. This provides framework for methods of dealing with potentially contaminated soils during excavation. This will be further measured and evaluated during the construction process through onsite monitoring. All funding needed for all aspects of the Visitor Center have been secured. The total cost of the Visitor Center is \$3,472,120. See attachments for funding sources and amounts. Total cost of soils clean up is \$120,820. Sources of funds are: IRRRB - \$13,580, DEED - \$87,240, Township - \$20,000. We have reached out to St. Louis County (fiscal agent) to confirm that they have a complete understanding of the budget. We anticipate a response during the week of August 21, 2023.

Activity 1

Design phase has been completed and finalized. Construction administration and project observation phases will continue through the construction phase and to project completion. Construction Administration and observation will be completed by both ARI and SEH.

Activity 2

The construction contract has been awarded to Max Gray construction (see attached contract and bidding documents), with a summer 2023 start of construction and a spring 2024 completion date. Max Gray Construction is anticipated to start work soon. LCCMR Funds awarded for the Visitors Center construction activities have not been expended yet. There has been ongoing engineering, architectural, and County administrative support activities preparing for the start of construction. Legal work has also been ongoing for the termination of the CIC. IRRRB Funds are being utilized for initial site preparation and relocation of underground infrastructure.

Activity 3

St. Louis County Purchasing Department has been engaged by the Town to manage the bids and consultation with the Town Engineer. The Town has reviewed the bids for the Visitors Center and upon the recommendation of the low bid from the County and the Engineer it has awarded the construction contract to Max Gray. The contractor is obligated to meet all local, state, federal, and funding requirements. The number of bids, bid amounts, and low bidder are available the attached bid tabulations.

The Town has responded to an official request by the NPS for a Visitors Center lease, parking, and campground space. The Town has officially been awarded the lease. The Town and the NPS are entering into negotiations to finalize the contract for the above items. The Town and NPS have been passing a draft lease agreement for the Center back and forth to each other for review and changes. Once a final executed lease agreement is completed, a copy will be sent to the LCCMR.

Dissemination

The project website and signage will be set up upon commencement of construction activities. The Township, engineering team, architectural team, St. Louis County staff and oversight team have been meeting on a regular basis.

Public meetings will be scheduled prior to construction activities begin and after the finalization of the MPCA and Department of Administrations approvals are secured.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update December 1, 2022

Date Submitted: December 1, 2022

Date Approved: December 12, 2022

Overall Update

The design of the Visitors Center design is substantially complete. The Architect is now preparing a submittal for the Department of Administration for the Visitors Center building. Through a recent LCCMR board decision, we are now able to move forward with formal abandonment of the CIC. This is being processed by the Town Attorney with support from the Engineer / Surveyor. The environmental process has proceeded and the Town has a remedial action plan (RAP) in place and approved by MPCA. This provides framework for methods of dealing with potentially contaminated soils during excavation. This will be further measured and evaluated during the construction process through onsite monitoring.

Activity 1

Construction has not commenced. Due to unforeseen environmental and land rights delays, the bidding is anticipated in this winter 2022/2023. Construction completion is still planned for the end of 2023. Bidding for the campground is planned to proceed in the coming weeks. The bidding for the Visitors center is planned to proceed pending the finalization of the Department of Administration process.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

The design consultants have presented the Township with final design documentation. Final acceptance is planned by the end of 2022. Permits have been submitted to the Department of Labor and Industry, MPCA, and Department of Health. Permits have been approved for St. Louis County. Through a recent LCCMR board decision, we are now able to move forward with formal abandonment of the CIC. This is being processed by the Town Attorney with support from the Engineer / Surveyor. The environmental process has proceeded and the Town has a remedial action plan (RAP) in place and approved by MPCA. This provides framework for methods of dealing with potentially contaminated soils during excavation. This will be further measured and evaluated during the construction process through onsite monitoring.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 3

St. Louis County has been engaged by the Township and the engineering consultant is preparing for the upcoming bidding activities.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

The project website and signage will be set up upon commencement of construction activities. The Township, engineering team, architectural team, St. Louis County staff and oversight team have been meeting on a regular basis. Public meetings will be scheduled prior to construction activities begin and after the finalization of the MPCA and Department of Administrations approvals are secured.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update June 1, 2022

Date Submitted: September 8, 2022

Date Approved: September 8, 2022

Overall Update

The design of the Visitors Center design is approximately 90% completed and will be completed this summer (2022) and the bids will be let this fall (2022). The Township has secured critical St. Louis County variance approvals to allow the project to proceed while meeting it's originally planned goals and outcomes. Design has been finalized and the Architect is now preparing a submittal for the Department of Administration for the Visitors Center building. Through a recent LCCMR board decision, we are now able to move forward with formal abandonment of the CIC. This is being processed by the Town Attorney with support from the Engineer / Surveyor. The environmental process has proceeded and the Town has a remedial action plan (RAP) in place and approved by MPCA. This provides framework for methods of dealing with potentially contaminated soils during excavation. This will be further measured and evaluated during the construction process through onsite monitoring.

Activity 1

Construction has not commenced. Due to unforeseen environmental and land rights delays, the bidding is anticipated in this fall 2022. Construction completion is still planned for the end of 2023. Bidding for the campground is planned to proceed in the coming weeks. The bidding for the visitors center is planned to proceed pending the finalization of the Department of Administration process.

Activity 2

The design consultants have presented the Township with 90% design documentation. Final review is planned by the end of June 2022. Additional state efforts are planned for completion during the summer of 2022. Design has been finalized and the Architect is now preparing a submittal for the Department of Administration for the Visitors Center building. Permits have been submitted to the Department of Labor and Industry, MPCA, and Department of Health. Permits have been approved for St. Louis County. Through a recent LCCMR board decision, we are now able to move forward with formal abandonment of the CIC. This is being processed by the Town Attorney with support from the Engineer / Surveyor. The environmental process has proceeded and the Town has a remedial action plan (RAP) in place and approved by MPCA. This provides framework for methods of dealing with potentially contaminated soils during excavation. This will be further measured and evaluated during the construction process through onsite monitoring.

Activity 3

St. Louis County has been engaged by the Township and the engineering consultant is preparing for the upcoming bidding activities.

Dissemination

The project website and signage will be set up upon commencement of construction activities. The Township, engineering team, architectural team, St. Louis County staff and oversight team have been meeting on a regular basis. Public meetings will be scheduled prior to construction activities begin and after the finalization of the MPCA and Department of Administrations approvals are secured.