



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2021 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2021-329

Proposal Title: Voyageur National Park Crane Lake Visitors Center Project

Project Manager Information

Name: JoAnn Pohlman

Organization: Town of Crane Lake

Office Telephone: (218) 993-1303

Email: info@canelaketwp.com

Project Basic Information

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

Funds Requested: \$3,600,000

Proposed Project Completion: 2023-11-30

LCCMR Funding Category: Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation (G)

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

Narrative

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

Voyageurs National Park is 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 Northwoods lake and border country. Today, people explore the park by canoes, kayaks, houseboats, and motorboats. Water is the defining feature of Voyageurs National Park. 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 visitor center. It is time to fulfill that vision.

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

The Township of Crane Lake is requesting LCCMR funds to construct a 7,000 square foot Visitor Center that will include a visitor entrance area, theater, meeting room, gift shop, restrooms with showers, will include exhibit space for native wildlife and staff offices. The Visitor Center will be constructed on a recently purchased a 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. In addition to the new Visitor Center, this site will also include a full service campground, a new DNR boat landing, upgraded access roads, a modern playground and necessary infrastructure including water, sewer and electrical service (See Visual). The Township has been working very closely, and has the support of, the Minnesota DNR, the Superior National Park, the US Forest Service and the National Park. Through the cooperation and assistance from these entities, the Township updated their Community Plan in to include this project.

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:

Increased 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.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Project Construction

Activity Budget: \$3,240,000

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.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Project Bid Awarded	2022-05-31
Construction Start	2022-06-30
Project Completed	2023-11-30

Activity 2: Architectural and Engineering Design and Construction Administration

Activity Budget: \$360,000

Activity Description:

The project engineer and architect will be responsible for Visitor Center and Site design, project administration, construction administration, plans/specifications, bidding documents, survey, onsite observation, public meeting, permitting, staking and material testing.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Project Design Start	2021-08-31
Project Design Completed	2021-11-30
Construction Administration Completed	2023-11-30

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
General Contractor Hired Through A Competitive Bidding Process	General Contractor	Site And Building Construction	Yes
Engineering Firm	Engineering/Architectural Firm Hired Through A Qualifications Process	Project Management And Building/Site Design	Yes
US Forest Service Staff	US Forest Service	Site and Amenities Advisor	No
National Park Service Staff	National Park Service	Visitor Center Occupant/Funder/Leasee	No
MN DNR Staff	MN DNR	Site Development Advisor	No

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 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), NPS, State Bonding, municipal bonding, and other sources. The NPS has the ability to lease facilities over the long-term where there is a potential income stream and pay off the facilities over the long-term, even if the income stream is only a partial source for the lease payments and operational costs. Thus the campground is an important component of the large scale Visitor Center project from the NPS viewpoint.

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

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: JoAnn Pohlman

Job Title: Clerk-Treasurer

Provide description of the project manager's qualifications to manage the proposed project.

The overall project manager for this project will be Crane Lake Township governing board and staff in cooperation with the MN DNR and the National Park Service. Township staff includes JoAnn Pohlman -Town Clerk and Jerry Pohlman – Town Board Chair. Additional project management and over-sight will come from the consulting architectural/engineering team. All of these entities have been involved in the planning and development of all phases of this project. Crane Lake Township and its partners have successfully completed a master plan for the site, acquired the site and developed plans for all of the amenities on the site. Crane Lake Township and its management team have many years of project oversight and project funding administration.

Organization: Town of Crane Lake

Organization Description:

Crane Lake Township is literally at the end of the road where land transportation ends and water transportation begins. The closest convenience center is 30 miles away in Orr; the larger community of Cook with medical facilities and more extensive commercial enterprises is 50 miles away; befitting a community that is so oriented to lakes, a large amount of the privately owned land can only be accessed by water. Facilities within the community include year-round and seasonal residents, resorts, lodging facilities, eating establishments, a seaplane base, a post office, VNP ranger station and a US Homeland Security Office. The Township adjoins and is vitally impacted by the Voyageurs National Park, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and the Superior National Forest. Thousands of tourists are attracted to Crane Lake to visit these attractions on an annual basis.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
Architectural/Engineering Firm Hired Through A Qualifications Process	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Architectural/Engineering Firm Will Be Responsible For Design and Construction Administration				6		\$360,000
							Sub Total	\$360,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
		General Contractor Hired Through A Competitive Bid Process	General Contractor Will be Responsible For All Aspects Of Project Construction					\$3,240,000

							Sub Total	\$3,240,000
							Grand Total	\$3,600,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
Cash	Local Funds	Construction Cost	Pending	\$500,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$500,000
			Funds Total	\$500,000

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [6de8156d-610.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Visual Shows The Site Layout Including All Amenities

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Resolution	aad67d37-475.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

Does your project have patent, royalties, or revenue potential?

No

Does your project include research?

N/A

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No



Voyaguers National Park Visitor Center, Campground & Boat Landing

Crane Lake, Minnesota



