



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2021 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2021-420

Proposal Title: Crane Lake Voyageurs National Park Campground & Visitors Center

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: This project consists of the design and construction of a new campground and site preparation/permitting/engineering/design for a new Visitors Center in Crane Lake.

Funds Requested: \$3,600,000

Proposed Project Completion: 2022-11-30

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?

Region(s): NE

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 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 Voyageurs National Park. 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 and coordinated with the DNR's new boat ramp and entrance point while combining all with a new NPS campground and public space.

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.

Crane Lake Township is requesting \$3,600,000 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 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. The Campground will include RV sites, tent sites, restroom and shower facilities, RV pump out facilities at either the Campground, DNR or the Visitor Center sites, parking lot and kiosk. In addition to the campground amenities, Handberg Road and Bayside Drive will be paved to provide access to the campground and to meet ADA requirements at the campground. The Visitor Center and site will include an outside gathering area, Township offices, a large meeting room, restrooms and a visitor retail and display area.

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: National Park Campground

Activity Budget: \$2,400,000

Activity Description:

Design and Construction of the Campground and Necessary Amenities

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Bidding Documents	2021-05-31
Construction Start	2021-07-31
Construction Completed	2022-11-30

Activity 2: National Park Visitors Center

Activity Budget: \$1,200,000

Activity Description:

Site Preparation/Permitting/Engineering Design

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Completion of Design and Permitting	2021-05-31
Site Preparation Construction Start	2021-07-31
Site Preparation Construction Completed	2022-11-30

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
National Park Service Staff	National Park Service	Project Advisor	No
MN DNR Staff	MN DNR	Potential Funder/Project Advisor	No
General Contractor	General Contractor Hired Through A Competitive Bidding Process	Responsible For All Aspects Of Project Construction	Yes
Engineering Firm	Engineering Firm Hired Through A Qualifications Process	Project Design and Construction Administration	Yes

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 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								
Engineer Hired Through A Qualifications Process	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Campground Design/Permitting/Engineering and Construction Administration				-		\$440,000
Engineering Firm Selected Through a Qualifications Process	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Visitors Center Site Permitting/Design/Engineering/Construction Administration				4		\$300,000
							Sub Total	\$740,000
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 Process	Campground/Amenities Project Construction					\$1,960,000
		General Contractor Selected Through A Competitive Bidding Process	Visitors Center Site Preparations Construction					\$900,000
							Sub Total	\$2,860,000
							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	Township	Project Development	Secured	\$40,000
Cash	National Park service	Visitors Center Construction	Potential	\$2,000,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$2,040,000
			Funds Total	\$2,040,000

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [93755647-e93.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Campground/Site Layout

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Resolution	bf09c98f-af1.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

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

No

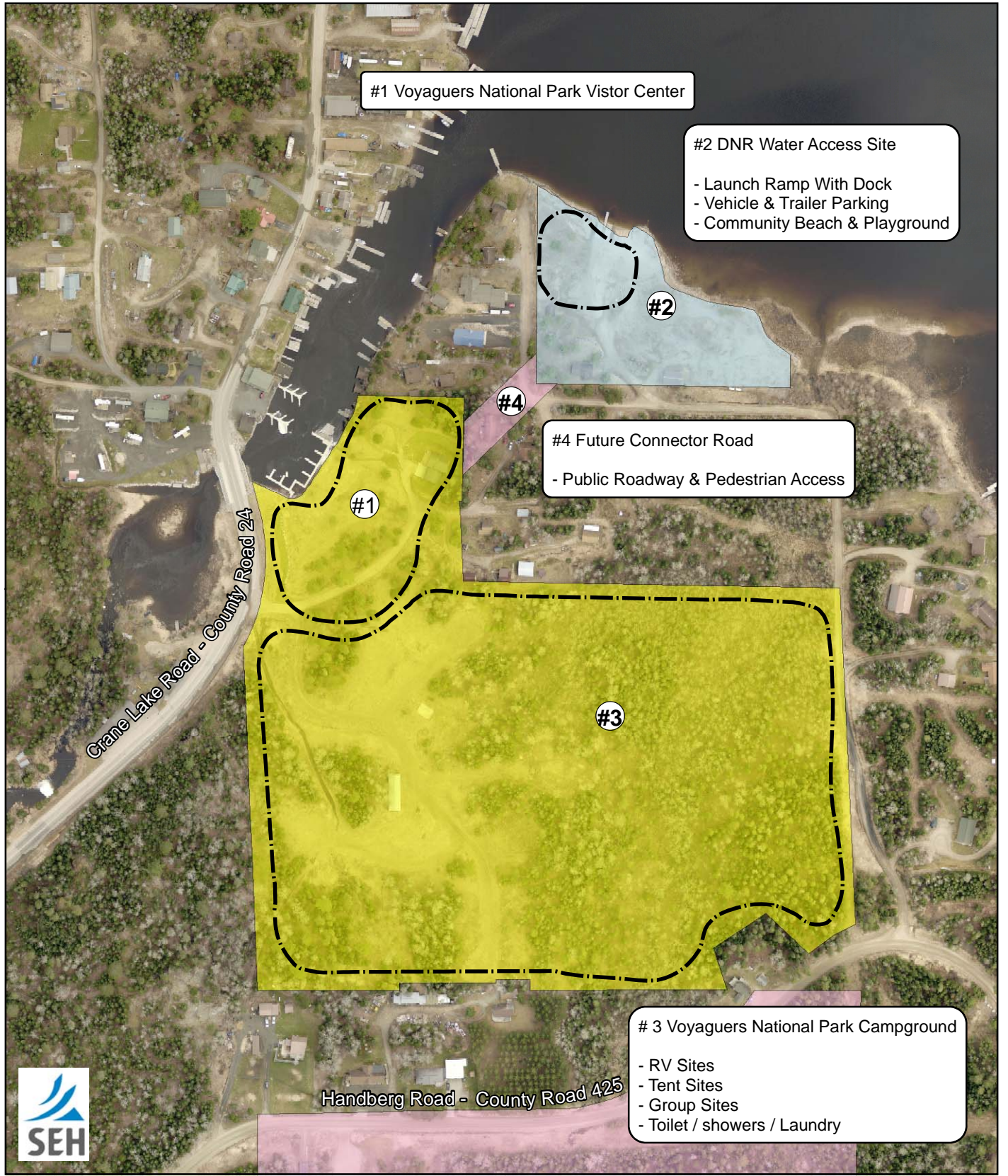
Does your project include research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Crane Lake Core Development Proposal



#1 Voyageurs National Park Vistor Center

- #2 DNR Water Access Site
- Launch Ramp With Dock
 - Vehicle & Trailer Parking
 - Community Beach & Playground

- #4 Future Connector Road
- Public Roadway & Pedestrian Access

- # 3 Voyageurs National Park Campground
- RV Sites
 - Tent Sites
 - Group Sites
 - Toilet / showers / Laundry

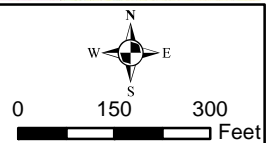


Legend

	Development Areas
Parcel Bounds - Ownership Type	
	Private
	State
	Township

- Core Development Proposal -

Crane Lake, Minnesota



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