

**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@cranelaketwp.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. Ineli gible** | **% Bene fits** | **# FTE** | **Class ified 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** |

### **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](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/map/93755647-e93.pdf)

#### ***Alternate Text for Visual Component***

Campground/Site Layout

#### ***Board Resolution or Letter***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title** | **File** |
| Resolution | [bf09c98f-af1.pdf](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/attachments/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