

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2020 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 284-G

Crane Lake Voyageurs National Park Campground & Visitors Center

Category: G. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Sub-Category:

Total Project Budget: \$ 3,600,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: June 30, 2023 (3 yrs)

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; the gateway to the -Voyageurs National Park.

Name: Jim Janssen

Sponsoring Organization: Town of Crane Lake

Job Title: Chairman

Department: _____

Address: PO Box 402

Crane Lake Township MN 55725

Telephone Number: (218) 993-1303

Email info@craquelaketwp.com

Web Address: _____

Location:

Region: Northeast

County Name: St. Louis

City / Township: Crane Lake Township

Alternate Text for Visual:

The visual shows the site for the campground and visitors center.

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ TOTAL	_____ %



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

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

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.

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. The purchase of this key property is a one-time opportunity to fully develop the final entrance point of the original four entrance points to the park.

The campground and visitor center would be owned and built by Crane Lake Township to NPS specifications and will be leased back to the NPS under a long term lease. 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 NEPA 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. The plan will include RV pump out facilities at either the DNR or the Visitor Center sites, or both. 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. 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.



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
2020 Main Proposal Template**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 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 proposed in this document will be used as a future road connector and pedestrian access between the DNR site and the NPS Visitor Center/campground site.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1 Title: National Park Campground

Description: *Design and Construction of the Campground and necessary amenities.*

ENRTF BUDGET: \$2,400,000

Outcome	Completion Date
<i>1. Completion of plans and specifications/design review/bidding documents</i>	<i>May 2021</i>
<i>2. Construction Start</i>	<i>July 2021</i>
<i>3. Construction Completed</i>	<i>November2022</i>

Activity 2 Title: National Park Visitors Center

Description: Site preparation/permitting/engineering/design.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$1,200,000

Outcome	Completion Date
<i>1. Completion of design and permitting</i>	<i>May 2021</i>
<i>2. Site Preparation Construction Start</i>	<i>July 2021</i>
<i>3. Site Preparation Construction Completed</i>	<i>November2022</i>

II.PROJECT PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS:

Partners and collaborators include: 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

IV. LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

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. A similar structure was developed by the City of International Falls, which built the VNP Headquarters and leased it to the NPS under a long-term agreement.

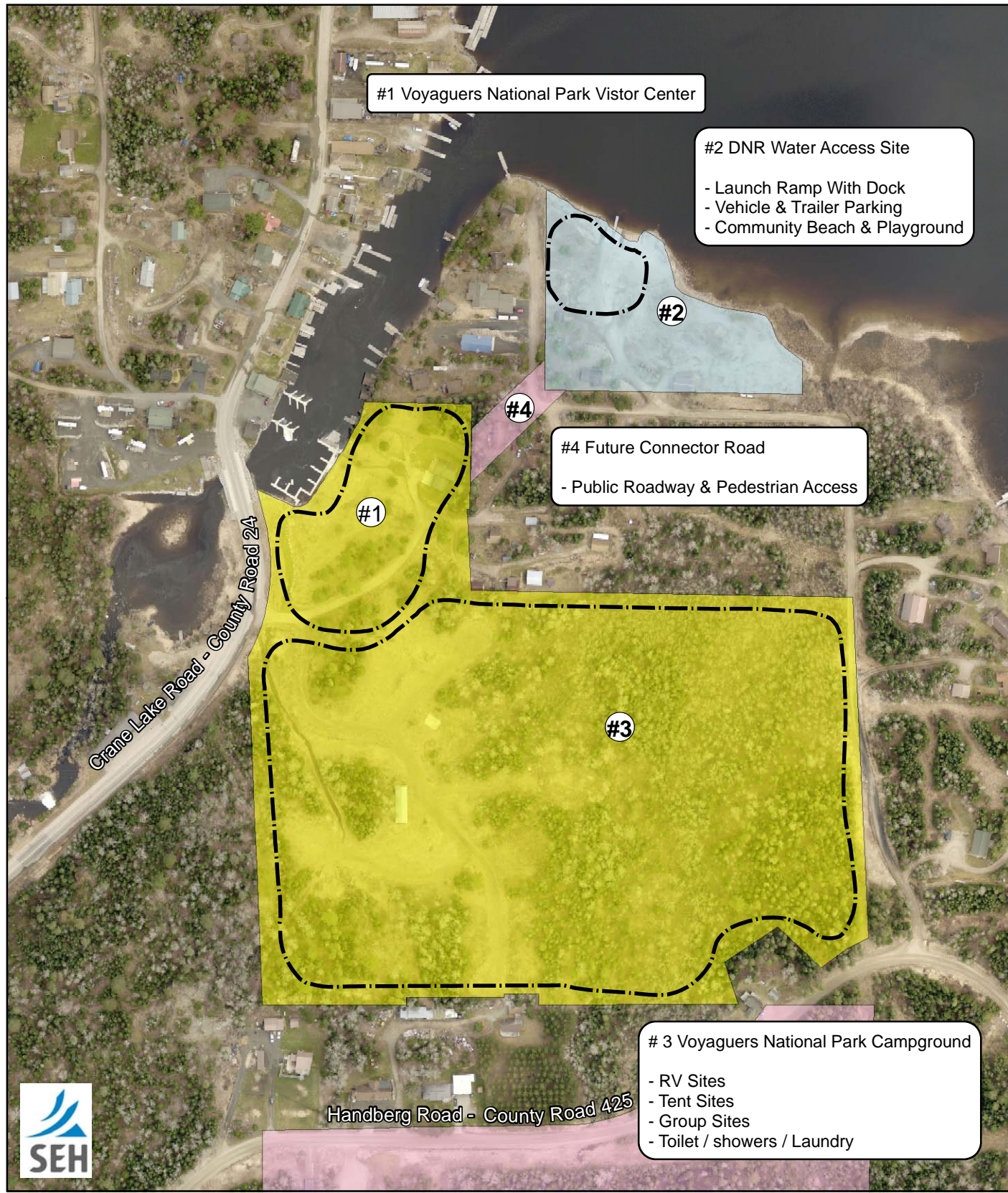
Attachment A: Project Budget Spreadsheet
 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
 M.L. 2020 Budget Spreadsheet



Legal Citation:
 Project Manager: Jim Janssen
 Project Title: Crane Lake Voyageurs National Park Campground/Visitor Center
 Organization: Crane Lake Township
 Project Budget: \$3,600,000
 Project Length and Completion Date: 3 years - June 2023
 Today's Date: March 13, 2019

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET		Budget	Amount Spent	Balance
BUDGET ITEM - Professional/Technical/Service Contracts				
Campground Design/Permitting/ Engineering and Construction Administration - Firm Selected Through A Qualifications Process		\$ 440,000	\$ -	\$ 440,000
Campground/Amenities Construction General Contractor Selected Through a Competitive Bidding Process		\$ 1,960,000		\$ 1,960,000
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Visitor Center Site Preparations General Contractor Selected Through a Competitive Bidding Process		\$ 900,000		\$ 900,000
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Visitors Center Site Permitting/Design/Engineering/Construction Administration - Firm Selected Through a Qualifications Process		\$ 300,000		\$ 300,000
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
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COLUMN TOTAL		\$ 3,600,000	\$ -	\$ 3,600,000
SOURCE AND USE OF OTHER FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT				
	Status (secured or pending)	Budget	Spent	Balance
Non-State: Federal - National Park Service (Visitor Center Construction)		\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
State:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
In kind:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Non-State: Township		\$40,000	0	\$40,000
Other ENRTF APPROPRIATIONS AWARDED IN THE LAST SIX YEARS				
	Amount legally obligated but not yet spent	Budget	Spent	Balance
2017 Award - Land Acquisition		\$ 950,000	\$ 950,000	\$ -

Crane Lake Core Development Proposal



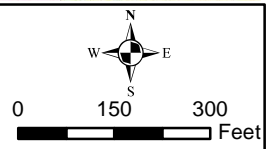
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- Legend**
- Development Areas
 - Parcel Bounds - Ownership Type**
 - Private
 - State
 - Township

- Core Development Proposal -

Crane Lake, Minnesota



Project Title: Crane Lake Voyageurs National Park Campground and Visitor Center

Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description

Project Manager Qualifications

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 Jim Janssen – Town Board Chair. Additional project management and over-sight will come from the consulting 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.

Organizational 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.