



## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### MILFORD MINE MEMORIAL PARK 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION

Crow Wing County will be hosting a grand opening of the Milford Mine Memorial Park Expansion on August 26<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:30am. The grand opening will be held near the pavilion next to the main parking lot of the Milford Mine Memorial Park located at 26351 Milford Lake Drive in Crosby MN. The grand opening will feature 1.25 miles of newly constructed walking trails that connect to additional historical features and scenic overlooks. Trails incorporate new interpretive signage, over 1,000 feet of new boardwalk and 2 new picnic pavilions. The construction of trails was made possible with non-levy dollars including the sale of timber from Tax-Forfeited Land and grant assistance from the Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board.

Following the grand opening and the ribbon cutting, The Cuyuna Iron Range Heritage Network will have a presentation of the Milford Mine Disaster at the Crosby-Ironton Highschool starting at 7pm. The public is encouraged to attend the grand opening at the park and presentation at the high school.

On February 5, 1924, 48 miners were working on the 165-foot and 175-foot levels of the Milford Mine. About 15 minutes before the end of the day shift, water and mud flooded into the mine at such a rapid rate that all the levels including the 200-foot-deep shaft were filled to within 15 feet of the surface in less than 20 minutes. Only seven of the 48 miners made it to the surface and survived Minnesota's worst mining disaster.

To remember and honor the miners, the County Board approved the Milford Mine Memorial Park concept in December of 2007. Phase 1 of the project was completed in 2010 and included an access road, parking area and walking path construction. In 2011, the Minnesota Historical Society listed the Park as a site on the National Registry of Historic Places. Projects included in 2012 were a sign at the entrance, a picnic shelter with three picnic tables and two cooking grills, small-lakeside picnic area, benches, and a bike rack. Work in 2016 included a boardwalk, trails, kiosk construction and interpretive displays. In 2017 a permanent outhouse, covered shelter, and canoe landing were added. The site has been transformed into a natural and man-made habitat – a place of recreation, reflection, and community to be enjoyed by families, residents, and future generations.

The Milford Mine Memorial Park is open year-round, sunrise to sunset, and is free to the public. Trail maps are available for pickup up at the Land Services Building in Brainerd or can be viewed at <https://www.crowwing.gov/289/Recreation>

#### Land Services Department

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**Our Vision:** Being Minnesota's favorite place.

**Our Mission:** Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

**Our Values:** Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.

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