



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MILFORD MINE MEMORIAL PARK GRAND OPENING

Crow Wing County will host the grand opening of the Milford Mine Memorial Park on September 13, 2017 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the park. The public is encouraged to attend.

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.

In an effort to 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. Final work in 2017 includes a permanent outhouse, covered shelter, and canoe landing. The park recently achieved status as a park of regional significance from the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission and has been awarded two grants totaling \$339,000.

The Milford Mine Memorial Park is dedicated to those 41 miners who lost their lives that day. 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 public is encouraged to attend the grand opening. The Milford Mine Memorial Park is located at 26351 Milford Lake Drive Crosby, MN 56441, approximately four miles north of Crosby following State Highway 6.

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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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