



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MILFORD MINE MEMORIAL PARK 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION

February 5th, 2024 will be the 100 year anniversary of Minnesota's deadliest mining disaster at the location of the Milford Mine Memorial Park. To commemorate the event, the Cuyuna Iron Range Heritage Network will be holding an even on February 5th at the Crosby-Ironton School. The event will take place at 7:00 PM.

Crow Wing County will also be hosting a grand opening of the Milford Mine Memorial Park Expansion in June. The County is currently constructing an additional 1.25 miles of walking trails that connect to additional historical features and scenic overlooks. Trails will incorporate new interpretive signage, over 1,000 feet of new boardwalk and 2 new picnic pavilions.

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. Final work in 2017 includes a permanent outhouse, covered shelter, and canoe landing.

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.

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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