



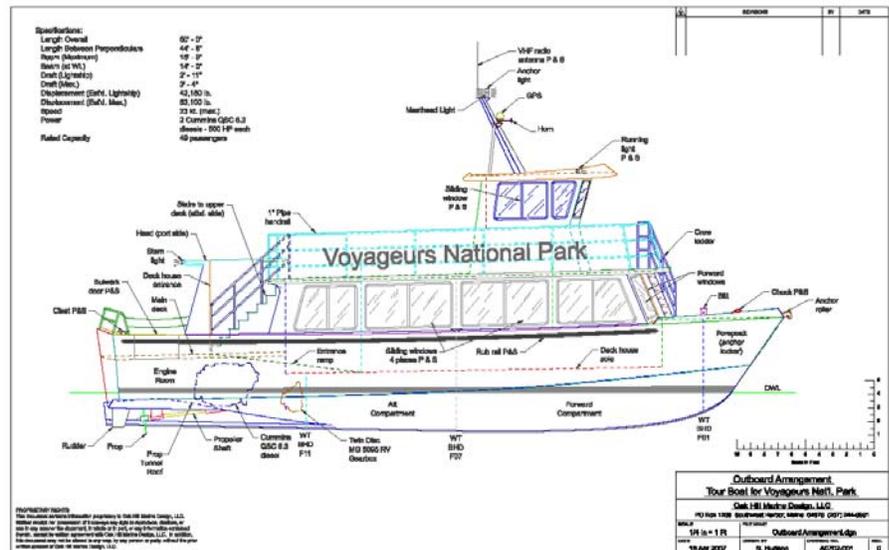
# The Voyageur Messenger

## Park's New Tour Boat Under Construction

The park's new 49-passenger tour boat is under construction at Armstrong Marine, Inc. in Port Angeles, Washington.

The design of this vessel is expected to be ideal for the waters of Rainy Lake and should easily navigate the lake's large expansive bays or shallow and narrow back channels.

This new "flag ship" for the area has a welded semi-planing aluminum hull, a main deck with an enclosed all-weather cabin with 9 large windows, and an upper viewing deck with captain's pilot house. The main deck has a galley, head, and enclosed seating that meets accessibility standards. The vessel is 59 feet long, has a beam of 16 feet, drafts 3' 6" of water, has a lightship displacement of 43,000 pounds, and is powered with twin Cummins QSM-11 diesel 600 hp engines. Propulsion is with two inline propeller shafts and circular tunnel/prop drives that offer top speeds of 28 mph under fully loaded conditions. A bow thruster will aid in docking and steering. An 80/20 biodiesel fuel blend will power the vessel.



The vessel will come with the newest navigation, communication, and safety technologies. The vessel is being built in accordance with all applicable United States Coast Guard regulations and will be identified as the "VOYAGEUR." Cost for the vessel is \$1.4 million and delivery to the park is expected before June 2010.

Anyone interested in the boat's construction can view the progress at a web site hosted by Armstrong Marine, Inc. at [www.armstrongmarine.com](http://www.armstrongmarine.com).

- click on Login- top right below the search box
- enter user name: vpns
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## Kab- Ash Trail

The Kab/Ash trail, a 26-mile trail system that links the communities of Kabetogama and Ash River, is the longest land based trail in Voyageurs National Park.

Trail clearing started in 2000 as a cooperative project between park staff and the Minnesota Conservation Corps. Funding from the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources, Public Land Corps, Quetico Superior Foundation, Voyageurs National Park Association (VNPA) and Voyageurs National Park made this trail possible. The trail was dedicated in August of 2002.

Since the trail opened, it has been maintained by park staff and Minnesota Conservation Crews funded through the Public Land Corps program. In addition, VNPA has organized volunteer trail clearing events to help maintain the trail. The park appreciates the time volunteers have donated to help keep this trail in prime condition.



Once again, this summer, the park will host a 7-week Minnesota Conservation Crew. The crew will focus its efforts on the west end of the trail between Salmi Road and the trailhead access on the Ash River Trail. This portion of trail is approximately 7 miles long. It will be brushed and windfalls will be removed to improve the hiking experience for park visitors.

## Historic Properties Benefit from Recent Funding

Several historic structures in the park are finally receiving long-awaited funding for preservation. Many of the sixteen historic properties in the park are also designated as Visitor Destinations and will eventually be developed with picnic facilities and interpretive exhibits.

- Last summer, park staff and a crew from the NPS' Historic Preservation Training Center in Maryland replaced deteriorated logs and constructed a new foundation at the Casareto cabin on Crane Lake. The log cottage was built by the Casareto family in the 1930s as a summer recreational cabin. Crews will continue work on the cabin and on installing picnic facilities this year.
- Northstar Contracting of Virginia started rehabilitation of the Kabetogama Ranger Station last fall. The ranger station was constructed in 1935 by the Civilian Conservation Corps for use by the Minnesota Forest Service and

then the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Today it continues to serve a government function as housing for the park's Namakan District Ranger and family. It is anticipated that work will be completed by July.

- Park crews will start work at the I.W. Stevens historic property this summer. Ingvald Walter Stevens, or "Steve" as he was known, was a colorful character who lived year round on Namakan Lake from 1931 to 1979. The work will focus on repairs to Steve's home.
- Six historic structures at the former Hoist Bay Resort which operated on Namakan Lake from the late 1930s to the late 1970s will undergo major rehabilitation later this year.
- Plans are underway to rehabilitate the historic Ingersoll cabin on Sand Point Lake. The cabin is an early pre-fabricated Hodgson House erected by Canton, Illinois philanthropist William P. Ingersoll in 1928.



Kabetogama Lake Ranger Station, Fall 2008

# Day Use and Campsite Construction

In 2007 the park's Campsite Committee developed a plan to implement the recommendations of the General Management Plan (GMP 2001) regarding the construction of visitor recreation facilities. The Committee recommended the number and location of day use sites, small and large campsites, and houseboat sites to be developed.

In 2008, the park constructed several of the planned sites and opened them for public use. The sites include four houseboat sites on Rainy Lake (two in Harrison Bay, one near Arden Island and one in Hitchcock Bay), one large campsite on East Rainy in the Three Sisters area, one day use site on Crane Lake at the Casareto cabin, and another day use site on Sand Point Lake on Grassy Bay Island.

This summer the park hopes to construct several more sites on Rainy Lake, including a day use site in Harrison Bay, on Drywood Island, and a universally accessible day use site on



Little Cedar Island. Several other day use, houseboat and camping sites may be constructed throughout the park if funding allows.

Currently, most park day use sites do not have docks. In response to visitor, neighbor and business interest comments, the park will construct docking facilities at certain day use sites throughout the park to improve access for visitors who find it difficult to get in and out of today's larger boats. The park will also install larger fire rings at

some day use sites to accommodate the needs of the classic shore lunch experience.

The Campsite Committee is in the process of developing a plan to better serve visitors who travel in the park by canoe or kayak because the needs of the paddling visitor are somewhat different than that of the motor boating visitor. The plan will address campsites specific to paddlers, suggested paddle routes, special launch sites, and interpretive media that informs paddlers about the uniqueness of the Voyageurs paddling experience.



Kabetogama Lake Group Campsite



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Voyageurs National Park was authorized by an Act of Congress in January 8, 1971 (84 Stat. 1971) "to preserve, for the inspiration and enjoyment of present and future generations, the outstanding scenery, geological conditions and waterway system which constituted a part of the historic route of the Voyageurs who contributed significantly to the opening of the Northwestern United States." The park was established in 1975.

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Newsletter Title: During the fur trade, the Hudson's Bay Company transported mail in packet boxes from London by ship and then overland to fur trade posts. **Messengers** – often a voyageur – distributed the packets from fur trade posts to their destination.

## Rainy Lake Visitor Center Bike Trail is now in the Design Phase

Plans are continuing for the construction of a 2-mile section of new bike trail that would connect International Falls' existing 11-mile bike path adjacent to Highway 11 to the park's Rainy Lake Visitor Center. Site survey work and preliminary trail design drawings have been completed.

Over the past few years, Koochiching County and Voyageurs National Park have partnered together to try to obtain \$1.5 million to build this important connector trail link.

This section of bike trail will provide safe access to the visitor center from the Highway 11/County Road 96 intersection. Once constructed, bikers and walkers will not have to share the park's narrow roadway with vehicle traffic. This will eliminate potential safety conflicts and provide a more scenic park experience for all users.

The trail will be 8-foot wide with an asphalt surface. The trail will meander through the forested area on the north side of the visitor center entrance road. Trail design specifications will meet National Park Service and Minnesota bike trail safety guidelines.



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

**Voyageurs National Park**  
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The Voyageur Messenger is produced bi-annually by the staff of Voyageurs National Park.

**What's coming in the Fall/Winter Issue?**

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 Sturgeon Research

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## Did You Know....?

In the fall of 1893 a prospector by the name of George W. Davis camped on Little American Island on Rainy Lake. During his stay he prospected for and found a few flakes of gold - enough to fill a tea cup. He took the gold to Duluth, Minnesota where it was assayed and found to be worth 25 cents.

It did not take long for word to spread about the gold discovery on Rainy Lake. By the spring of 1894, mine shafts were dug on Little American Island and other nearby islands. Rainy Lake City was founded 1894 for the mass of people who prospected this area.

During the Rainy Lake gold rush, a load of ore was placed on the Rainy Lake City dock which

later collapsed; \$10,000 worth of gold fell to the bottom of Black Bay. The Rainy Lake gold rush lasted only seven years but it helped establish the current City of International Falls.

Little American Island is one of the park's 15 Visitor Destinations and is open to the public.



**Wheel belonging to winch on Little American Island**