NATIONAL LOON CENTER

HELP US ANSWER THE CALL OF THE LOON

Launching the National Loon Center

The National Loon Center (NLC) in Crosslake, Minnesota was established in 2017 as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to restoring and protecting loon breeding habitats, promoting responsible recreation where loons thrive, and serving as a national leader in advancing loon and freshwater research and education. Upon its inception, the NLC launched exciting plans to build a world class educational facility and visitor attraction that is projected to welcome 200,000 guests annually to Minnesota and the Brainerd Lakes Area. The family-friendly amenity will celebrate and protect the clean lakes that are home to the beloved loon, our state bird and the star subject of the NLC's educational efforts.

Economic Development & Environmental Stewardship

- The NLC will be a significant national visitor attraction, infusing millions of dollars into the Minnesota economy in tourism spending as well as design and construction work. It will also bring dozens of valuable, permanent jobs to the local economy.
- The NLC will incorporate diverse educational initiatives to engage many audiences including the Ojibwe tribe and other underrepresented communities in metro and rural Minnesota. Our shared pride in loons and lakes will be reflected in the welcoming nature of the facility and organization.
- Among many renowned attractions and recreation opportunities in northern Minnesota, the NLC will add to the region's appeal as a tourism destination in much the same way that the National Eagle Center has contributed to the economy in southeastern Minnesota. Our state can make good on its promise to promote its natural gifts to the nation.

200,000
visitors annually

$17.6m
project cost

$8.65m
bonding bill request
HF 976 & SF 1092

The National Loon Center restores and protects loon breeding habitats, promotes responsible recreation where loons thrive, and serves as a national leader in advancing loon and freshwater research and education.

Timeline

2019 The NLC received a $4 million grant from the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) to launch the project.

2021 Installation of docks, boardwalks, outdoor exhibits and shoreline restoration is completed at project site. The NLC received a $355,000 grant from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund's Conservation Partners Legacy program to permanently preserve loon habitat in Fifty Lakes, MN.

2024 Architectural design and plans for this net zero energy building are underway. The grand opening for the building is anticipated in spring of 2024.

List of Supporters

U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar, U.S. Senator Tina Smith, Congressman Pete Stauber, Former Governor Mark Dayton, Former Congressman Rick Nolan, State Senator Foung Hawj, State Senator Nick Frentz, State Senator Sandy Pappas, State Senator Justin Eichorn, State Senator Karin Housley, State Representative Sydney Jordan, State Representative Jamie Long, State Representative Josh Heintzeman, State Representative Ben Davis, State Representative Leon Lillie, US Army Corps of Engineers, Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council's Conservation Partners Legacy Program, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Audubon Minnesota, National Eagle Center, University of Minnesota - Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, City of Crosslake, MN, Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce, Brainerd Lakes Area Economic Development Corporation, Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation, Whitefish Area Property Owners Association, Pelican Lakes Association, Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District, Pine River Watershed Alliance

Building Features

- 15,000 square feet
- 3 inspiring levels
- Sustainable design
- Immersive exhibits
- Dimensional Innovations' World Class Exhibit Design
- Classrooms
- Boardwalk
- Bird sanctuary
- Media center
- ADA accessibility
- Gift shop
- Outdoor exhibits
- Research institute

Our Conservation Impact 2021-2022

167
loons banded

132
loon territories studied

2,000
loon pontoon passengers

CONTACT

Jon Mobeck, Executive Director
jon@nationallooncenter.org
(970) 418-0043