



**DEPARTMENT OF IRON RANGE
RESOURCES & REHABILITATION**

Senate

Jobs & Economic Development Committee

Monday, March 4, 2024

Deputy Commissioner Al Becicka

About

Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation is a state of Minnesota economic development agency located in northeastern Minnesota. We are a Governor's cabinet level agency.

Our agency is 83 years old and was established in 1941 by Governor Harold Stassen and the Legislature.



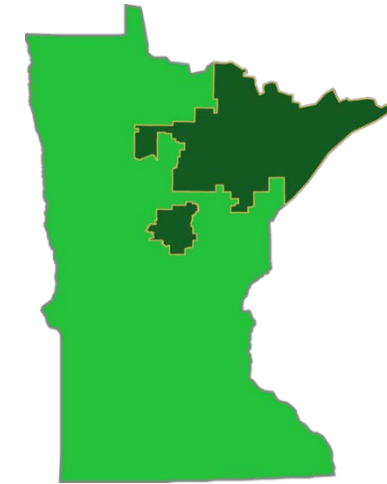
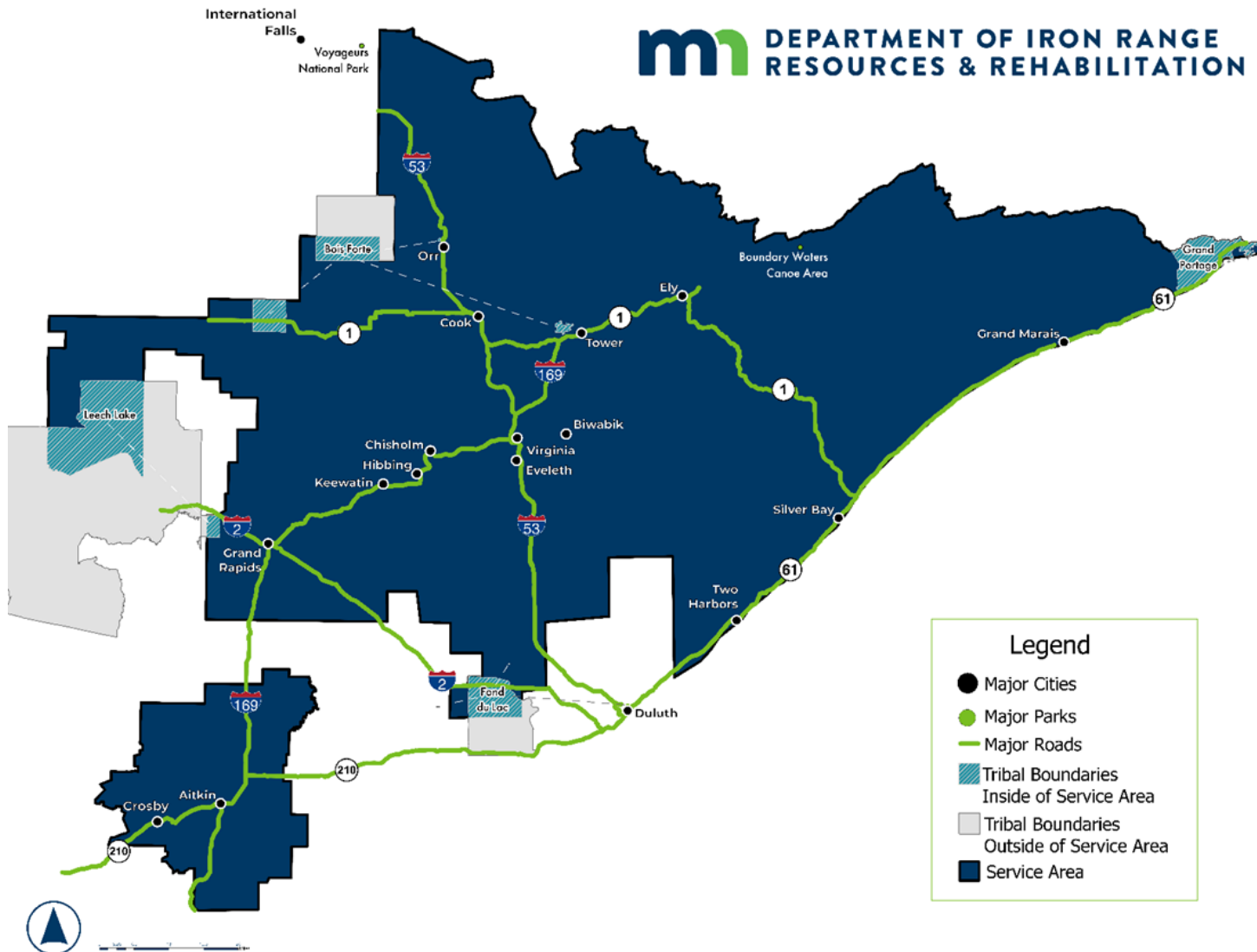
Mission

Invest resources to foster vibrant growth and economic prosperity in northeastern Minnesota.

- Enhance livable communities.
- Maximize collaborations and partnerships.
- Strengthen businesses and worker education.

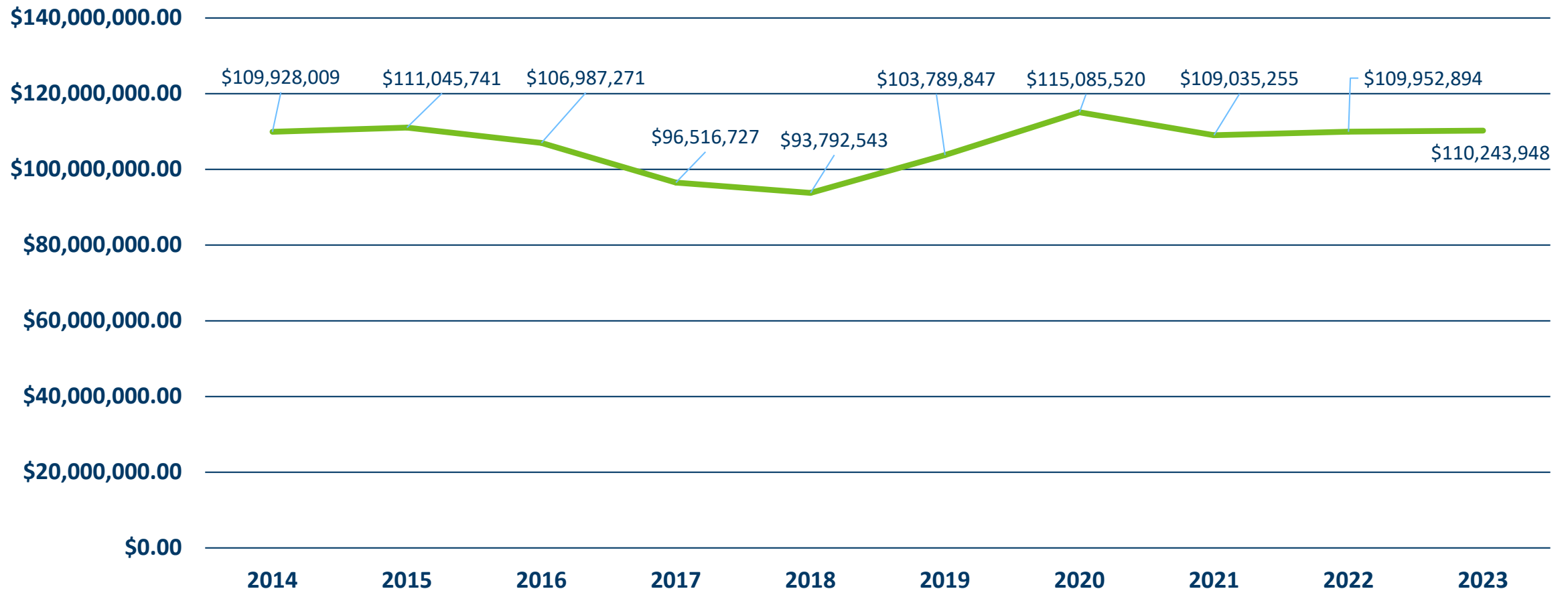


Service Area



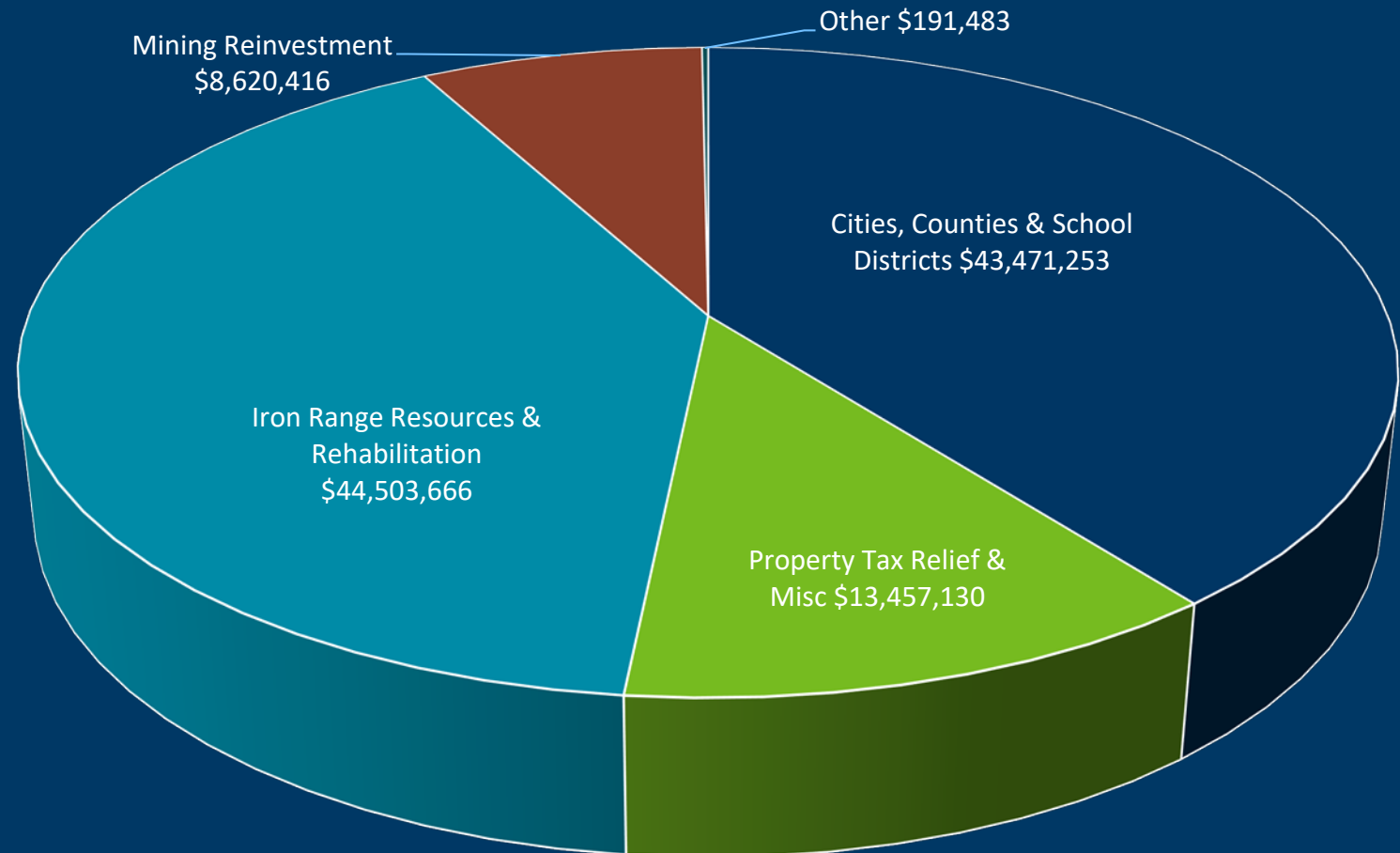
- 13,000 square miles
- 53 cities
- 134 townships
- 14 school districts
- 4 tribal nations

2014-2023 Taconite Production Tax



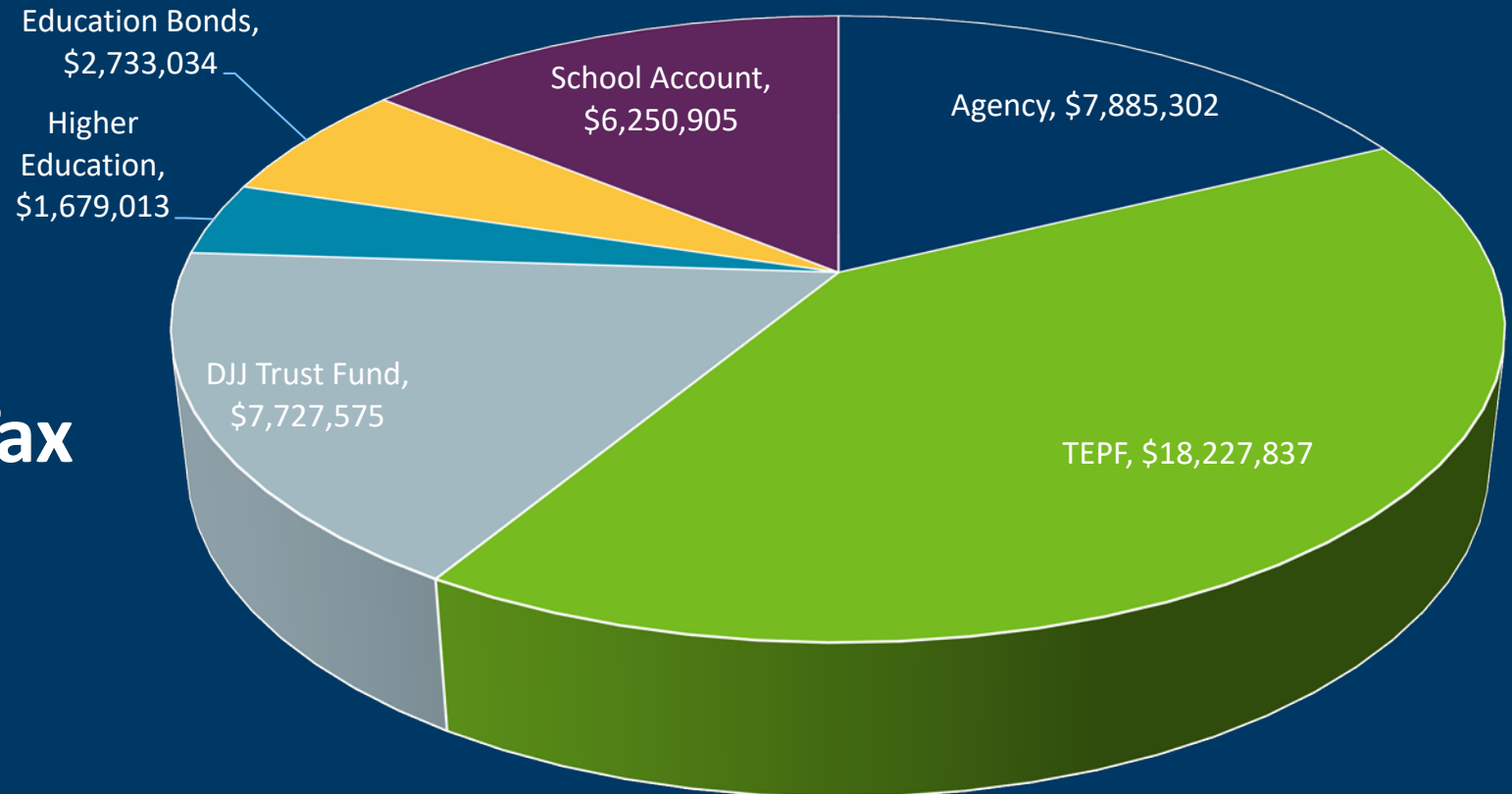
Taconite Production Tax Distribution

**2023 Distribution
of Taconite
Production Tax
\$110,243,948**



Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Taconite Production Tax

**2023 Distribution of
Taconite Production Tax
to Agency
\$53,124,082**



Advisory Board

Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Advisory Board



Senator Bobby Joe Champion
District 59



Representative Ben Davis
District 6A



Senator Justin Eichorn
District 6



Senator Robert Farnsworth
District 7



Senator Grant Hauschild
District 3



Representative Spencer Igo
District 7A



Representative Dave Lislegard
District 7B



Representative Roger Skraba
District 3A

Goal #1

Businesses invest in
northeastern
Minnesota.



Business Development



Business Loans

- Bank Participation Loans
- Direct Loans
- Loan Guaranties

Grant Programs

- Development Infrastructure
- Business Energy Retrofit
- Commercial Redevelopment
- Downtown Building Rehabilitation
- Workforce Development

FACT: Last year, the agency provided:
12 business loans totaling \$21.6 million for a total
project investment of \$136.8 million.

Business Development



Goal #2

Communities invest
in their foundational
and social assets to
ensure quality of life.



Community Development



Grant Programs

- Development Infrastructure
- Community Infrastructure
- Broadband Infrastructure
- Business Energy Retrofit
- Commercial Redevelopment
- Culture & Tourism
- Development Partnership
- Downtown Building Rehabilitation
- Mineland Reclamation
- Regional Trails
- Residential Redevelopment
- Workforce Development

FACT: Last year, the agency provided:
85 grants totaling \$38.6 million in over 70 communities
for a total project investment of \$275.2 million.

Community Development



Community Development

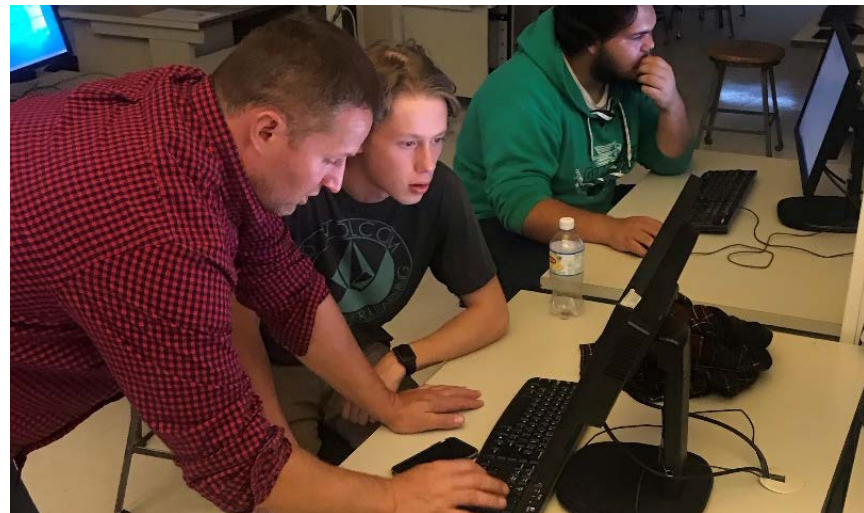


Goal #3

Workers have the education and training to meet business needs.



Workforce Development



Grant Programs

- Industry-based higher education programs that address regional workforce needs and gaps.
- Customized workforce training.
- Regional school district initiatives that increase availability and access to high quality education for our region's K-12 students. Emphasis on Career Pathways and project-based learning.

Workforce Development



Workforce Development



Leadership Priorities

- Diversify the economy
- Create and retain jobs
- Prepare communities for change and growth
- Invest in an educated workforce
- Improve the quality of life



The Ranger Newsletter

The Ranger - May 4



The Ranger

May 4, 2022

Nashwauk rehabilitating residential and commercial spaces

Like most communities on Minnesota's Iron Range, Nashwauk has a rich mining history. It was the first mining community to develop in Itasca County on the western Mesabi Range. The first iron shipment from Hawkins Mine occurred in 1902, and in 1903 Nashwauk was officially incorporated with a population of 220. The town quickly flourished with homes and businesses. The mine closed in 1962 after 60 years of mining and producing hundreds of thousands of tons of iron ore that were transported by rail to the rest of the nation for the growth of America.

Today Nashwauk is home to more than 20 businesses, 450 households and over 950 residents. The city recently embarked on rehabilitating its commercial and residential building inventory. Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation provided Nashwauk with a \$3,000 Application Fund grant to help pay for a grant writer to apply for state level funding to assist with building rehabilitation.



Nashwauk hired professional grant writer Richard Grabko of Community Resource Development, LLC. He successfully secured an \$816,500 grant from Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)'s Small City Development Program (SCDP) to help pay for owner-occupied housing and

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e.g. name@example.com

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Live and Work Where You Love to Play!

Our natural resources are the crown jewel of Minnesota, but there's so much more northeastern Minnesota has to offer. Please take a moment to explore the vast wealth of resources we have waiting for you.





**DEPARTMENT OF IRON RANGE
RESOURCES & REHABILITATION**

Thank You!

Deputy Commissioner Al Becicka

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