

1999 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2001

TITLE: Interpretive Boat Tours of Hill Annex Mine State Park.

PROJECT MANAGER: John Strohkirch

ORGANIZATION: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Rec.

ADDRESS: 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4039

FUND: Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 1999, chapter 231, section 16, subdivision 4(k)

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$ 60,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The project included the purchase of a tour boat and associated docking facility at Hill Annex Mine State Park. This project has allowed state parks to add interpretive tours of the Hill Annex open pit mine via boat excursions as an option to the existing bus tours. Interpretive tours by boat will give visitors a better perspective of the size and unique geology of the Hill Annex Mine. Due to rising water levels in the mine pit some of this perspective has been lost.

FINAL REPORT

Date: July 1, 2001

LCMR FINAL WORK PROGRAM REPORT

JUL 28 2001

LCMR Work Program 1999

I. Project Title: Interpretive Boat Tours of Hill Annex Mine State Park.

Final: \$60,000

Appropriation Language:(K) Interpretive Boat Tours of Hill Annex Mine State Park \$30,000 the first year and \$30,000 the second year are from the Trust Fund to the Commissioner of Natural Resources to add interpretive boat excursion tours of the mine. The project will include purchase and equipping of a craft and development of a landing.

Project Manager: John Strohkirch

Affiliation: State Park Development and Acquisition Manager

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Total Biennial Project Budget:

\$LCMR	\$60,000	Match:N/A
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\$LCMR spent	\$ 60,000	
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\$LCMR balance	\$ 0	
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A. Legal Citation: M.L. 1999, chapter 231, section 16, subdivision 4(k)
Interpretive Boat Tours of Hill Annex

B. Status of Match N/A

II. Project Summary and Results: Add interpretive tours of the mine via boat excursions as an option for visitors to Hill Annex Mine State Park. The project will include purchase of a craft and getting it properly equipped, certified, and licensed. Develop landing loading and unloading area for visitors. Alternate energy sources for the boat will be investigated.

III. Project Work Program Update Summary: The boat has been purchased and delivered to the park. The dock system and all equipment associated with the landing area have been purchased and delivered to the park. Contracts have been let to grade the landing area and install the docking system. This will be completed in August 2001 with park funding. The slight delay in installing the dock system is due to the need to rehabilitate the mine pit pumping system which keeps the pit at a constant level. Installation of the dock prior to the rehabilitation of the pumping station would cause flooding of the dock.

IV. Outline of Project Results: This project will result in the purchase or contract for rental and operation, of a boat capable of conducting water tours of the abandoned Hill Annex Mine Pits. A

docking site with a loading and unloading area will be developed along with associated parking. This effort will add a new dimension to the park users visit and increase their understanding of the mining industry. Park interpreters will accompany visitors, giving them insight into the geology of this historic area.

Result 1: Docking system

LCMR Budget: \$ 20,000

Balance \$ 0

Completion Date: June 30, 2001

Result 2: Boat acquisition.

LCMR Budget: \$ 40,000

Balance \$ 0

Completion Date: June 30, 2001

V. Dissemination: NA

VI. Context:

A. Significance: Current focus of the park is bus tours of the historic open-pit iron ore mine. We also offer fossil hunting tours. Interpretive tours via boat would give visitors a better perspective of the size and the unique geology of the Hill Annex Mine. Some of this has been lost to bus tours because of the rising water levels.

B. Time: The project will be completed by June 30, 2001.

C. Budget History: 1994-1998

1. LCMR Budget History:
2. \$ Non-LCMR Budget History: \$235,000 per year for operations (including pumping and labor) For Hill Annex and Schoolcraft State Park combined from General Funds provides for operations, maintenance and basic interpretive efforts of both state park facilities.

VII. Cooperation:

VIII. Location: Hill Annex Mine State Park near Calumet, Minnesota.

IX. Reporting Requirements: Semi-annual six month work program update reports will be submitted December 1999, July 2000, December 2000 with a final report July 2001.