



Culture & Tourism Grant Report

Purpose	Supports strong arts, culture, heritage and recreational activities to enhance the quality of life in the region and attract visitors.
Strategic Plan Alignment	Business Development Community Development ✓ Workforce Development

What did we do?	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Budget	\$350,000			
Grants	28			
Agency Investment	\$342,774			
Total Project Investment	\$1,277,640			
Leverage	2.7 : 1			
Key Impact Measures	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Tourism Projects	14			
Parks & Recreation Projects	7			
Arts, Culture & History Projects	7			
Communities Served	20			
Funding Partners	71			

What were the results?
<p>FY20: The grants improved and added facilities and amenities that increase the quality of life for residents and provide additional attractions for tourists. The grants were far-reaching across the service area with projects in almost every geographical location within northeastern Minnesota. Project examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade campground electrical hookups to accommodate modern RVs and campers: Warba. • Construct new splash pad: Aurora. • Renovate flooring, lighting and fixtures in downtown art gallery: Grand Rapids. • New community entry sign for increased tourism at lakeside campground development: Babbitt. • New ice maintenance equipment at curling club: Two Harbors. • Capital improvements to Lyric Center for the Arts: Virginia. <p>COVID-19 Global Pandemic: Northeastern Minnesota was significantly impacted by COVID-19 including the closure of schools, businesses, community centers, clinics, public recreation and parks, and government buildings. Budgetary constraints resulted in the public and private sectors. The pandemic impacted agency-funded projects: some projects were delayed or canceled, some lost funding from other resources. However, many projects were completed and able to benefit the region at a time when community, economic and quality of life growth was greatly needed.</p>

Fiscal Year 2020 Grants			
Grantee	Description	Agency Investment	Total Project Investment
American Bear Association	Marketing campaign and equipment	\$11,249	\$22,499
American Legion Post 432 Auxiliary	Upgrade campground	\$12,997	\$25,995
Bigfork Valley Community Foundation	Mapping project	\$5,544	\$13,065
Caring for the Kids Community	Construct splash pad	\$20,000	\$234,805
Coalition of Recreational Trail Users	Create trail map	\$20,000	\$50,000
Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust – Arts in Ely	Purchase equipment	\$20,000	\$48,458
Ely Chamber of Commerce	Upgrade ADA accessibility	\$9,530	\$19,060
Ely Folk School	Marketing campaign, workshop programming and map production	\$9,066	\$45,183
Ely's Historic State Theater	Purchase equipment	\$20,000	\$45,860
Friends of Sax Zim Bog	Construct pool/garden and signage	\$4,500	\$11,000
Hoyt Lakes Chamber of Commerce	Upgrade entrance sign	\$20,000	\$40,000
International Wolf Center	Marketing campaign	\$15,000	\$30,000
Iron Range Off-Road Cyclists	Purchase equipment	\$3,253	\$6,647
Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability	Marketing campaign	\$2,500	\$6,350
Iron Range Tourism Bureau	Marketing campaign	\$20,000	\$76,400
Itasca County Agricultural Association	Replace rafter and upgrade electric	\$12,000	\$71,400
Itasca Economic Development Corporation	Marketing campaign	\$20,000	\$67,500
Laurentian Arts and Culture Alliance	Upgrade doors and install sprinkler system	\$20,000	\$209,040
Lion's Club of Babbitt	Upgrade entrance sign	\$6,692	\$13,385
MacRostie Art Center	Renovate gallery shop	\$8,000	\$28,531
Mesabi Musical Theatre	Marketing campaign and purchase equipment	\$3,000	\$24,650
Orr Recreation & Resource Center, Inc.	Repair roof	\$18,193	\$36,386
Range Trail Committee, Inc.	Purchase equipment	\$15,000	\$30,000
Ranger Snowmobile and ATV Club	Replace bridge	\$10,000	\$20,000
Reif Arts Council	Marketing campaign	\$12,000	\$40,000
Tourist Center Senior Citizens, Inc.	Renovate floor and bathroom	\$14,250	\$33,483
Two Harbors Curling Club	Purchase equipment	\$5,000	\$15,943
Visit Grand Rapids	Mapping project	\$5,000	\$12,000