

## Story Ideas

### Whitefish Area Lodging

About: Celebrated as one of Minnesota's most stunning locales, the Whitefish Chain of Lakes provides a complete retreat. Spanning a 115-mile shoreline across 14 interconnected lakes, it features pristine waters, upscale accommodations, top-notch golf courses, outstanding dining, and a diverse array of activities for adventure enthusiasts and those seeking tranquility. Water enthusiasts can plunge into boating, water skiing, wake surfing, fishing, paddleboarding, kayaking, or jet skiing. For land lovers, the choices are plentiful—wander through quaint shops, trek or cycle scenic trails, camp beneath a star-filled sky, enjoy horseback riding, or spot wildlife such as deer, loons, and the occasional black bear.

- Minnesota Resort Story: The Whitefish Area Lodging Association (WALA) exists to promote tourism and lodging on the Whitefish Chain of Lakes. WALA is made up of more than 50 lodging facilities including resorts, hotels, townhomes, B&Bs, and home rentals in the City of Crosslake and Ideal Township.
  - Most resorts in the area are still “mom and pop” family owned and operated

Contact: Patricia Berg, [vacation@whitefish.org](mailto:vacation@whitefish.org), 651-248-6300

### US Army Corps of Engineers Cross Lake Recreation Area

About: The Pine River, a tributary of the Mississippi River, was once a creek connecting Cross Lake with Upper and Lower Whitefish lakes which are surrounded by 13 other natural lakes. The construction of the dam at Cross Lake raised the water level, making channels between these lakes and forming the Pine River Reservoir, which is better known as the Whitefish Chain of Lakes. This 13,660-acre body of water, with 119 miles of shoreline, provides dozens of interesting bays for pleasure boating and fishing.

The Cross Lake campground, nestled among tall pines, is best known for its picturesque sunsets, beautiful beaches, well-maintained campsites, clean restrooms, showers, group picnic shelters, handicap-accessible facilities, day use areas and much more. It is located just minutes from shopping and paved bike paths.

- Story ideas:
  - Tour of the Corp's Crosslake facility

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## National Loon Center

About: The National Loon Center in Crosslake aims to restore and protect loon breeding habitats, enhance responsible recreation, and serve as a national leader in advancing loon and freshwater research and education.

- Story idea: New center opening in 2026

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## Crosslake Community School

About: Crosslake Community School offers a program for students from kindergarten to 8th grade and an online program for grades kindergarten to graduation. Crosslake Community School focuses on more than just education, it focuses on high achievement, environmental learning and good stewardship.

- Story idea: Youth Fishing & Education Day with the DNR with Crosslake School

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## Lower Hay Lake Public Water Access Improvements

About: Along the shores of Lower Hay Lake lies a public water access that will soon be upgraded with funding from Get Out MORE (Modernize Outdoor Recreation Experiences), a historic, one-time investment of \$150 million to help ensure Minnesotans of all abilities and interests enjoy a world-class recreation system, whichever outdoor experience they choose.

- Story idea: Members of the news media are invited to visit the public water access and hear from representatives from Minnesota DNR. Visuals will include the existing public water access and imagery that will show the improvements planned for the area.

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