



CEDA



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Historic Mine Communities Tour





How did we get started?

- Community Brainstorm sessions within Itasca County created the idea to help drive additional traffic to communities while displaying communities story “history” and utilizing untapped resources “mine pits”.
- Looking for ways to provide a no cost, informative, family friendly or independent way to discover the area through an interactive user experience.
- We believe the idea is a positive regional driver to communities, history, and economic development.
- Collaborating with multiple organizations to bring this idea to life.



Partners

- Sarah Carling - CEDA (Community & Economic Development Associates)
- Megan Christianson - Visit Grand Rapids
- Beth Pierce - Iron Range Tourism
- IRRR
- Lilah Crowe - Itasca County Historical Society
- Charlie Moore - ARDC
- Ardy Nurmi-Wilberg - Club Mesabi & Great River Energy Mesabi Trail Tour



Goals and Products

- Help market and promote the mine areas to attract new visitors in NE Minnesota.
- Provided an interactive way to explore and learn about the active, inactive, and reclaimed mine areas
- The goal is to generate a positive economic impact through travel and tourism while highlighting interesting geological sites that contain history and culture of the NE Minnesota area.
- Highlight interesting things to do, trails to explore, and showcase businesses/amenities near the identified areas.
- New photo and video assets were created, and these can be used by all project funders and partnering communities to help attract new visitors.



Communities Impacted - 30

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- Crosby
 - Ironton
 - Cuyuna
 - Cohasset - Tioga
 - Arbo Township
 - Grand Rapids
 - Coleraine - Mt.Itasca & Longyear Park
 - Bovey - Canistio
 - Taconite
 - Marble
 - Calumet - Hill Annex
 - Nashwauk - LaRue & Hawkins
 - Keewatin – O'Brien & Keetac
 - Hibbing - Hull Rust
 - Chisholm - Discovery Center & Bruce Mine
 - Buhl - Stubler Pit
 - Mountain Iron -Locomotive Park
 - Virginia - FinnTown, Bridge View, Tom Rukovina Memorial Bridge
 - Eveleth - Leonidas Overlook
 - Gilbert - Lake Ore-Be-Gone
 - Biwabik - Giants Ridge/ Mine Lake
 - Aurora - St James Mine Lake
 - Hoyt Lakes - Skibo & Longyear Drill Site
 - Great Scott Township/Kinney - Kinney Lake
 - Ely - Pioneer Mine
 - Tower
 - Soudan - Soudan Underground Mine
 - Silver Bay
 - Babbitt - North Shore Mine
 - White Township



Where is the project today?

- Historical Narratives complete
- Historical Images collected
- Updated Video and Images created
- Interactive Map is in the final stages with hopes to launch mid Fall 2024



The Ranges

Cuyuna

[Cities:](#)

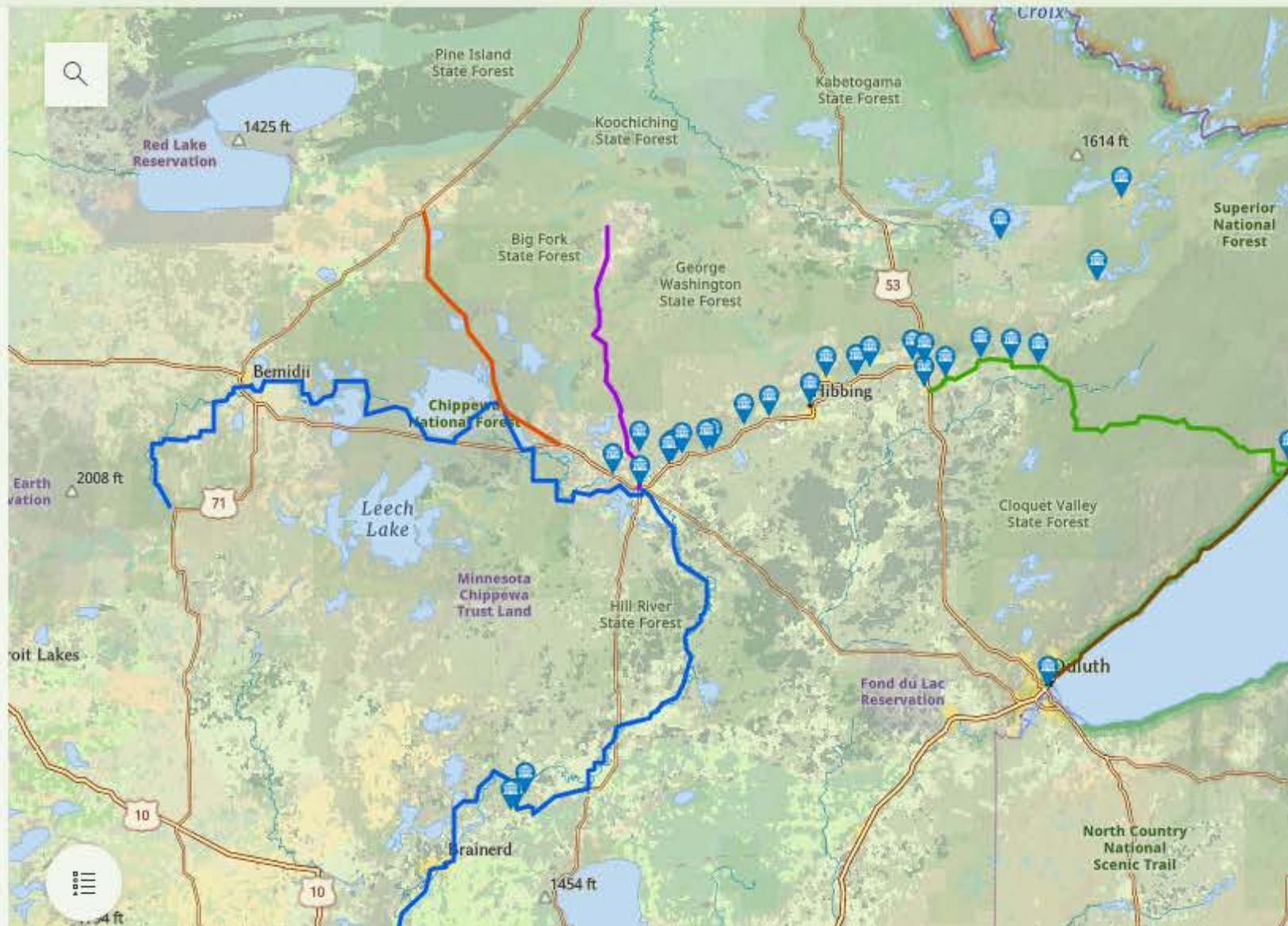
[Reclamation:](#)

[Attractions:](#)

Mesabi

[Cities:](#)

[Mines and Reclamation:](#)



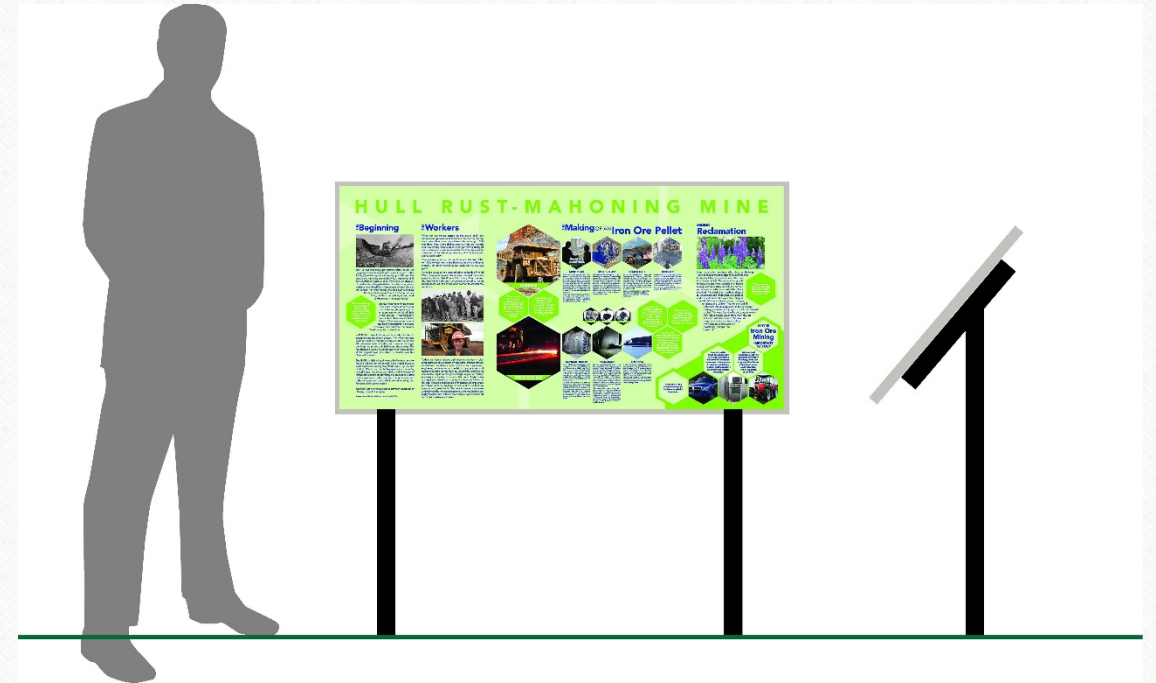


What is next?

- Interpretive Signs
- Marketing (need more funding)
- Natural Owner – share your ideas



Interpretive Signs (Example)





Natural Owner of Project

- What Our Commitment is Going Forward?
 - VGR and CEDA are committed to filling the deficit that remain
 - Help move the project forward and assist with marketing coordination of the project.
- Continued Commitment of VGR, CEDA & IRTB
 - Continued Communication, supportive resources, and outreach.
- Commitment from Natural Owner:
 - Act as Fiscal Agent for the project.
 - Continue to guide and drive the project
 - Map Maintenance
 - Oversee marketing and web hosting.



Draft Budget

<u>Item</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Cost</u>
ESRI Mapping	ARDC	\$2,500
Videography/Photography	Screen Door Productions	\$61,500
Misc. video	Models/ Misc.	\$1,793.35
Historical Narratives	Desiree Gerber	\$15,000
Interpretive Signage	TBD	\$95,000
Marketing & Print	TBD	\$130,000
Google Mapping	ARDC	<u>In Kind</u>
Est. Total (phase 1)		\$305,793.35
Way Finding Signs (phase 2)	MN DOT	\$94,500
Project total:		\$400,293.35



Q & A

THANK YOU