



2021 Annual Report



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Since listening to Dr. Anton Treuer speak at our Spring Thaw event, I've been thinking a lot about our connection to place and to the future. Dr. Treuer encouraged us to always make decisions while keeping in mind the next seven generations. How will the actions we take today impact our grandchildren's grandchildren — their ability to look up and see the stars, to eat the fish they catch, to hear the warblers arrive in the trees in June, or to enjoy a paddle or boat ride through miles of vast waterways? This past year, I welcomed my first son; now more than ever I hold this commitment firmly in my heart.

Thank you for being a community of supporters who understand the importance of connection — to place, to the past, and to the future — and our role in stewarding wild places like Voyageurs National Park. As you review our 2021 Annual Report, I hope you feel proud of the important projects and programs you helped make possible. From launching our new education and Field Fellows programs, to funding on-the-ground projects like the Jun Fujita cabin restoration, it was a busy year expanding our impact.

Let's continue to ensure Voyageurs National Park is a place where we all can connect to the past and future — for generations to come.

See you on the water,

Christina Hausman Rhode **Executive Director** 

## Your Dollars at Work: **2021 Highlights**



The Conservancy funded reseeding efforts to restore native vegetation along an additional 10 acres of previously cattail-invaded shoreline habitat. In Summer 2021, wetland restoration activities were focused in Olson, Cranberry, and Lost Bays. The multi-year westland restoration project with the National Park Service and many partners provides critical habitat for waterfowl, fish, and native vegetation such as wild rice.





In Fall 2021, the Voyageurs Conservancy funded youth preservation crews to restore and preserve Jun Fujita's cabin. This project with the Northern **Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps** addressed nearly \$50,000 in deferred maintenance. Funding from the Conservancy and National Park Foundation helped the park address major safety and structural concerns, ensuring the Jun Fujita cabin's legacy is preserved and shared with visitors.

Jun Fujita was a talented photojournalist, actor, and poet. Through his lens, he captured monumental moments including Al Capone and the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. Fujita sought refuge among the boreal forests and wildflowers in what is now Voyageurs National Park. His photos were used by conservationist Ernest Oberholtzer to prevent a series of dams from being built within the Rainy Lake watershed and to preserve the precious ecosystems of the north woods.



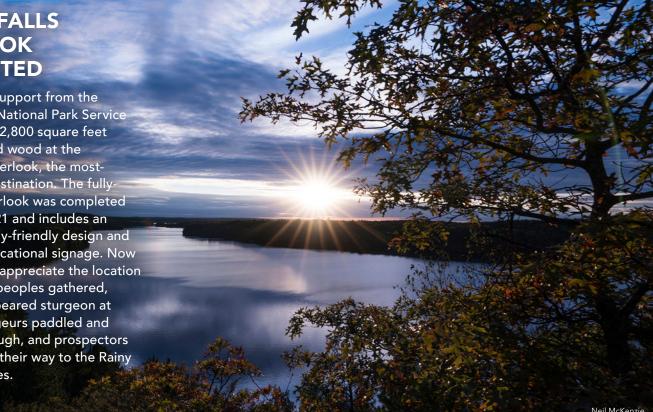


The Voyageurs Conservancy awarded Voyageurs National Park an additional grant for wayside signs at the new Rainy Lake Fishing Pier and hosted a grand-opening event. The Rainy Lake Fishing Pier was funded in partnership with the Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club and the Conservancy. This fully-accessible pier allows visitors of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities angling opportunities on the outstanding waters of Rainy Lake.





With funding support from the Conservancy, National Park Service staff removed 2,800 square feet of deteriorated wood at the Kettle Falls Overlook, the mostvisited park destination. The fully accessible overlook was completed in Summer 2021 and includes an environmentally-friendly design and revitalized educational signage. Now all visitors can appreciate the location where Native peoples gathered, hunted, and speared sturgeon at the falls, voyageurs paddled and portaged through, and prospectors traveled to on their way to the Rainy Lake gold mines.





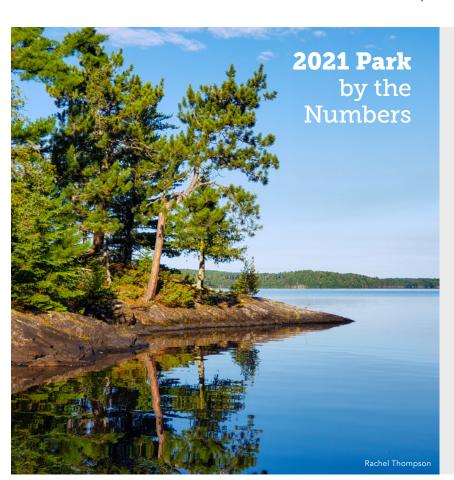
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# **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

### Women of the Water / Mukooda Hiking Trail

Voyageurs Conservancy and NPS partnered with Women of the Water, a Crane Lake community boating club for a service project on Mukooda Lake. Volunteers built monofilament recycling stations that keep dangerous waste such as fishing line, hooks, and tackle off park shorelines.



**243,042** Park Visits

**4,816** Camping Reservations

**2,059** Houseboat Permits

**4.917** Volunteer Hours at the Park

**36** Acres of Wetlands Treated for Invasive Species

**34,350** Visitor center visitors

**2,428** New Junior Rangers

**30** Muskellunge tagged in Little Shoepack Lake as part of a population assessment project

10 park wetlands monitored for amphibian calling and water depth

Water quality monitored in 15 lakes

### **NEXT GENERATION**

## Voyageurs Classroom Initiative Led by New Education & Outreach Director

The Conservancy hired its first Education & Outreach Director, Breanna Trygg. New staff serve as a catalyst for community, tribal, and education partnerships to increase programming that connects youth and families to their national park. The Voyageurs Classroom Initiative is a joint program with Voyageurs National Park that includes a suite of education programs, field trips, and opportunities.

Major funding for the Voyageurs Classroom Initiative comes from the Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

Our education coordinator served 506 elementary students and our education field fellow piloted dark sky education programs to 169 third and fifth grade students.



# 1,659 youth and community members served in 2021 through in-person and virtual programming



## First-ever Voyageurs Field Fellows

The Voyageurs Field Fellows program increases accessibility and professional development opportunities at Voyageurs National Park. The fellowship offers students and recent graduates a stipend-paid internship to engage in real world, hands-on work at the park.

The aquatic ecology program hosted the park's first Voyageurs Conservancy Field Fellow. Reece Banta helped the park carry out funded research projects, she gained experience in studying coldwater fish habitats, cyanotoxins, and muskie populations and completing annual water quality, mercury, and invasive mussel-monitoring programs.

Sarah Bransford served as an Environmental Education Field Fellow and enhanced Conservancy education programs through an equity and inclusion lens. She implemented these improvements by leading the National Park Teen Ambassador Program. Additionally, she delivered virtual field trips to over 150 students to inspire young explorers to protect dark skies.

## Conservancy Sponsors Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Youth Corps

Youth crews from Northern Bedrock Preservation Corps embarked on multiday "hitches" to restore aspects of the historic Jun Fujita Cabin on Rainy Lake. This project introduced young adults to historic preservation and trade skills in the outstanding outdoor classroom of Voyageurs National Park.

## National Park Teen Ambassadors

Over 160 Teen Ambassadors were served from the Twin Cities, Duluth, and local gateway schools through canoeing, camping, and outdoor leadership trips in Voyageurs National Park.

For the first time ever, the Conservancy partnered with the National Park Service and Wilderness Inquiry to host single-day park field trips with local gateway schools. The Conservancy has provided scholarships for Minnesota high school students to experience their national park since 2012.

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## **Financials**

#### **Statement of Financial Position**

as of December 31 (unaudited):

ASSETS	2021	2020
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$215,182	\$196,233
Legacy Fund Investment	\$408,707	\$430,452
Fixed Assets, Land	\$58,000	\$58,190
Other Current Assets	\$285	\$285
Total Assets	\$682,174	\$685,160
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Accounts Payable	\$ -	\$ -
Other Liabilities	\$35,299	\$56,794
Equity	\$646,875	\$628,366
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$682,174	\$685,160

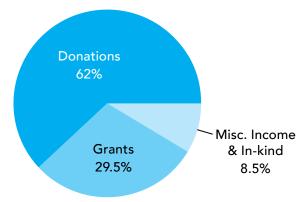


## **Statement of Activities**

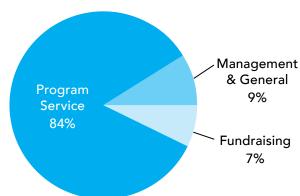
for the year ended December 31 (unaudited):

SUPPORT & ASSETS	2021	2020
Grants	\$129,981	\$117,303
Donations	\$275,139	\$182,699
Investment Income	\$41	\$172
Miscellaneous Income & In-kind	\$37,032	\$52,420
Total Support & Revenue	\$442,193	\$352,594
EXPENSES		
Program Service	\$357,648	\$259,040
Land Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -
Management & General	\$38,319	\$29,676
Fundraising	\$29,804	\$29,731
Total Expenses	\$425,771	\$318,447
Revenue over Expenses	\$16,422	\$34,147

## **2021 Revenue by Source**



## **2021 Expenditures by Purpose**



## **Thank You 2021 Supporters**

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"There's no way that the National Park Services can care for these special places all by ourselves. I want to thank all of you as Voyageurs Conservancy supporters from the National Parks Services team. We are so grateful for our partnership and we look forward to all of the great things we can do in the future."

—Bob Degross, Voyageurs National Park Superintendent

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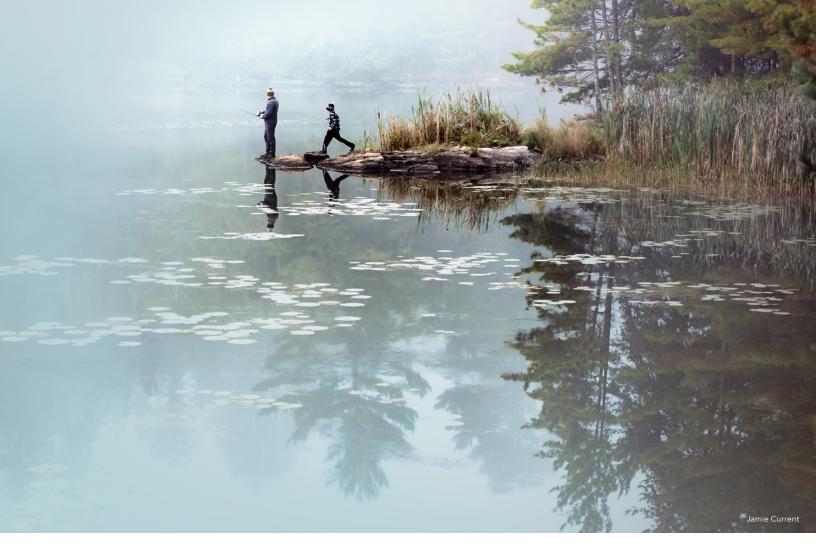
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