

History of a Natural Treasure

American Indians, voyageurs and fur traders of the 1700s viewed it as an awesome sight... a 120-foot waterfall, thundering rapids, cliffs and rocky terrain that was impossible to cross. Travelers and traders had to go around it. The trek became known as "the Grand Portage" and gave this area its name.

This natural treasure, once held in Ojibwe ownership, was lost through tax forfeiture and sold to a private individual who, in turn, sold some of the property and donated the balance to the Minnesota Parks and Trails Council in 1988. Discussions between the Band and the DNR led to plans for the future of this area which resulted in a proposal to the Minnesota Legislature that the land be set aside as a state park. After park status and funding was established by the Legislature, the Parks and Trails Council sold the combined property to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for use as a state park.

The DNR then proceeded to return the land to the Grand Portage Band by deeding the property to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to be held in trust for the Band. The Band, in turn, leases the land to the DNR for use as a state park. This process made Grand Portage the first and only state park not owned by the state of Minnesota and the only state park in the nation to be jointly managed by the state and an Indian band.

We now celebrate the official completion of trust documents that return Grand Portage State Park land to the Grand Portage Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa.



You are Invited to Celebrate the "Homecoming" of Grand Portage State Park

Thursday, December 14, 2000
Gitchi Onigaming Community Center,
Grand Portage

The Grand Portage Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa and the Minnesota DNR invite you to celebrate the return of a Minnesota landmark. Be our guest Thursday, December 14 to witness the signing of the trust agreement that returns Grand Portage State Park land to the Grand Portage Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa. We have come full circle as we celebrate the "homecoming" of a Minnesota resource treasure. Following the program, join us for a celebration feast hosted by the Grand Portage Band.

This event celebrates the ongoing partnership of more than a decade between the Grand Portage Band and the DNR Division of Parks and Recreation to jointly manage Grand Portage State Park and provide cultural and historic information about the area to the park's many visitors.

Agenda

- 10 – 11 a.m. Guests are invited to visit Grand Portage State Park, weather permitting.*
- 11:30 a.m. – Celebration Program & Deed Signing at Gitchi
12:30 p.m. Onigaming Community Center.
- 12:30 – Luncheon at the Gitchi Onigaming Community
2:30 p.m. Center hosted by the Grand Portage Band of
 Lake Superior Chippewa.

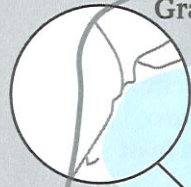
** Travel to and from the park is on your own. Naturalists from Grand Portage and other state parks will be on site to assist you during your visit.*

Grand Portage State Park



Highway 61

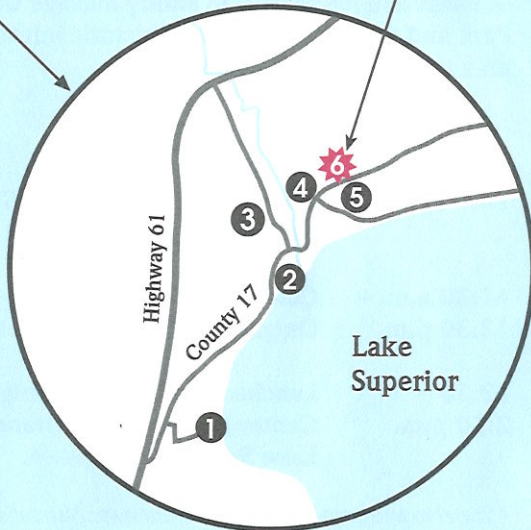
Grand Portage



inset map

*Celebration program and luncheon
will be held at the Gitchi Onigaming
Community Center*

- 1 Grand Portage Lodge & Casino
- 2 Grand Portage National Monument
- 3 Trading Post
- 4 Catholic Church
- 5 Historic Log School
- 6 Community Center



Grand Portage State Park

Welcome Home!

*Celebrate
the return
of a
Minnesota
landmark*

