Knife River Village

MASTER PLAN

The Knife River Village idea is the culmination of the community design process with as much community feedback incorporated as possible into the final design proposal. During the course of the design work the campground location was sold and will continue to be operated as a campground. The design focus then shifted from the campground area to the rail authority land and the KRRC land.

These new parcels lent themselves well to the programs derived by the group but were removed from the scenic drive and had no visual access. Reworking the main intersection became a priority. With changes in paving pattern, new plantings, ballards, and sidewalks a variety of landscape features lead people up towards the marina, rest stop and boat building area (shown in perspective drawings, following pages). New connections have been made with the creation of an interpretive trail. This trail effectively accesses the historic rail underpass, river, rocky point (views of America's dock, KRRC, Rest Stop, and beach area). Kiosks would occur throughout the trail, offering historic, cultural, and environmental interpretation at key locations.

The Rest Stop uses a renovated historic Depot and service building. It also serves as a stop for the scenic train from Duluth to Two Harbors. This could become a new stop on the line bringing visitors into Knife River.

The KRRC land is developed as a space for the Crusader and new community boat building. This new structure could be used for a variety of community events and serve as a regional center for boat builders. Education, tours, sales, and other contact information could be housed here as this center would become a house and public face for the many speciality boat builders on the North Shore.
This diagram shows how the interpretive trail links the key features within Knife River. Some of these key locations are the locations of the new marina, rest stop, boat building KRRC land, and intersections taking people to the areas.
The Fisherman’s Park & Marina Key Location

This axonometric view depicts the Fisherman’s Park Area with a proposed Boat Building Center and port for the historic commercial fishing vessel the Crusader. The boat center is conceived as a place to conduct workshops on boat building, recreational boating, as a carry-in location for sea kayaking, and a centralized location for the dispersal of information pertaining to recreational boating and the regional resource for such activity. Swing or convertible space inside the facilities could support club meetings and facilities for outfitters. The setting is fitting with the return of the Crusader to Knife River and the open space park allows visitors prime beach access. The space is well connected to other Knife River amenities via a Boardwalk and viewing platforms over the Marina. Other important connections are provided by trails to the rest stop, and by local streets to Knife River itself. The boardwalk successfully creates separation from the public open space and the private areas of the marina while providing views into the marina and marina activity. The interpretive trail connects the KRRC land, Boat building, marina and rest stop. An interpretive Kiosk is located here and could provide historic and cultural information on the commercial fishing industry of Knife River.
Perspective Views of Key Locations

The Gateway Location
This view shows how this key intersection can be turned into a gateway that directs people to turn up to the rest stop, fisherman’s park, and the marina. The use of different paving patterns, timber bollards, signage, and new side walks leads visitors to the activity areas. Additional spruce planting is used to create a backdrop to heighten the impact of the improvements.
THE FISHERMAN’S PARK ENTRY & MARINA
A strong axial arrangement and continued signage leads visitors from the gateway intersection into the activity area. Notice how the details can be used to create the ambience of village or sea town.
Design Details

**INTERPRETIVE KIOSK FOR KNIFE RIVER**

The kiosk design is influenced from Scandinavian architecture. It reflects the cultural heritage of the people and founders of Knife River Village. The high pitched roof lines and wood detailing reflects structures typically seen in Norway and other Scandinavian ports. Using a cedar timber frame structure, the design also reflects the natural wood character of Lake Superior.
The Cairn Signs for the “All American Road” Scenic North Shore Drive

Cities, towns, and villages along the north shore can be tied together with the use of visual cues. These visual cues can be a form of prototype signage. This cairn sign reflects the character of Highway 61 as a trail through the natural landscape of Lake Superior’s North Shore. The sign serves as a marker for the various important locations along the highway and can serve to orient travelers to the various amenities and wayside points within each community.
A Prototypical Interpretive Information Board

This interpretive board depicts some of the information that would be seen at the commercial fishing kiosk. All boards would use the same graphic standards or conventions in order to create a sense of continuity throughout the interpretive trail system.