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# Le Sueur County, MN

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Board Meeting

## Item 4

**9:20am Don Reak - Parks Director**

*Grant for Geldner Saw Mill*

Staff Contact:



**National Trust for  
Historic Preservation**

*Save the past. Enrich the future.*

April 11, 2014

Don Reak  
Parks Director and Project Co-Coordinator  
Le Sueur County Parks Department  
88 Park Avenue So.  
Le Center, MN 56057

Dear Don:

It is a pleasure to inform you that your application for a National Trust Preservation Fund grant has been approved. We have allocated \$5,000 from the Virginia Sweatt Preservation Fund for Minnesota and the Jeffris Heartland Fund to match local funds to help support the Preservation Architect Services.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is very supportive of your worthwhile preservation activity. It was selected from a large number of qualified applicants competing for a very limited amount of funds. We hope that this letter of support and financial commitment will assist your organization in raising any additional funds needed for this historic preservation activity.

Please contact our office for any additional assistance. We are pleased to assist in your preservation project and trust that this grant will prove valuable to your effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N. Vann".

Nicky Vann  
Director, Administration, Grants, and Affinity Programs



## News Release

**MEDIA CONTACT: NTHP PUBLIC AFFAIRS, 202.588.6141, PR@SAVINGPLACES.ORG**

### National Trust for Historic Preservation Awards Le Sueur County A Preservation Grant Towards Geldner Saw Mill Restoration

Le Center, MN April 22, 2014 — Collaborating partners Le Sueur County and Le Sueur County Historical Society were awarded a \$5,000 grant by the National Trust for Historic Preservation made possible by the Virginia Sweatt Preservation Fund for Minnesota and the Jeffris Heartland Fund. These grant funds will be used to cover architect fees for creating an overall preservation work plan for the historic Geldner Saw Mill.

The 1870 Geldner Mill has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1975. It is the only remaining stationary, steam-powered saw mill of its kind in the state and a preserved example of the type of mill every Minnesota county had at one time. Between 1979 and 1984, a series of grants made it possible to complete a full restoration of the mill and its working components. It was dedicated into service as a historic site in October 1982. The 2014 preservation project involves replacing the boiler, structural stabilization, work on the building exterior and re-shingling the roof. Preservation partners, Le Sueur County Parks Department and Le Sueur County Historical Society have teamed up as they did 30 years ago to preserve the mill for future generations to learn from and enjoy.

"Collaborations like this help to ensure that communities and towns all across America retain their unique sense of place," said Stephanie Meeks, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "We are honored to provide a grant to help preserve an important piece of our shared national heritage."

Grants from the National Trust Preservation Funds range from \$2,500 to \$5,000 and have provided over \$15 million since 2003. These matching grants are awarded to nonprofit organizations and public agencies across the country to support wide-ranging activities including consultant services for rehabilitating buildings, technical assistance for promoting historic resources, and the development of materials for education and outreach campaigns.

#### **About Le Sueur County Parks Department**

Le Sueur County owns the Geldner Saw Mill and adjoining property on a lagoon south of Lake Jefferson. The 3-acre site is located at 46542 Beaver Dam Road, Cleveland, Minnesota and is offered as a county park for public use as a fishing and picnic area. The Parks Department maintains 12 public parks around Le Sueur County.

#### **About Le Sueur County Historical Society**

Le Sueur County Historical Society was established in 1965 and is a 501 c 3 nonprofit affiliated with the Minnesota Historical Society. The organization maintains five historic sites around Le Sueur County. The Society supports a volunteer Sawyer Team that brings the Geldner Mill to life on "Sawing Sundays" by offering public demonstrations of the milling process.

#### **About the National Trust for Historic Preservation**

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a privately-funded nonprofit organization that works to save America's historic places to enrich our future. The National Trust for Historic Preservation is committed to protecting America's rich cultural legacy and helping build vibrant, sustainable communities that reflect our nation's diversity. Follow us on Twitter @presnation. For more information on National Trust for Historic Preservation's Preservation Fund grants, visit: [www.PreservationNation.org/funding](http://www.PreservationNation.org/funding)

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The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a privately funded nonprofit organization, works to save America's historic places.

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