



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Midwest Regional Office

601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, Nebraska 68102-  
4226

402-661-1532 phone  
402-661-1737 fax

---

## Midwest Region News Release

For Release: June 30, 2008  
Contact: Patty Rooney  
Phone: (402) 661-1532

### **Michael M. Ward selected as Superintendent for Voyageurs National Park**

OMAHA, Neb. – Michael M. (Mike) Ward, currently Superintendent at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site (NHS) in St. Louis, Mo., has been selected as the new Superintendent at Voyageurs National Park in International Falls, Minn. Ward will report for this new assignment on August 17<sup>th</sup>, replacing Kate Miller, who retired from Federal service earlier this year.

“Mike has proven himself to be an effective leader and will be a real asset at Voyageurs,” said Ernest Quintana, Regional Director of the National Park Service’s (NPS) 13-state Midwest Region. “Mike has had the unusual experience of seeing a new park enter the system and move to completely developed and operational during his tenure at the Grant site. His strong background in park planning and developing park partnerships will serve him well in this new assignment.”

“I am honored to have the opportunity to work at such an incredible national park full of fabulous resources and opportunities to experience these wonders,” said Ward of this new assignment. “My family and I look forward to becoming new members of the community at International Falls and the surrounding area and I look forward to working along side those communities towards our common goals.”

Ward’s first experience working for the NPS came through participation in the Youth Conservation Corps at Lincoln Home National Historic Site (NHS) in Springfield, Ill., in 1983. His interest sparked, he served as a seasonal employee at the park until he landed his first permanent assignment as a Maintenance Worker at Ulysses S. Grant NHS in 1992. He became Site Manager at the park in 2002, and was promoted to Superintendent in 2005.

(more)

Ward...page 2

While working at Ulysses S. Grant NHS, Ward developed, trained, and led a maintenance/restoration team which performed work on four historic structures at the park and on projects throughout the Midwest Region, most notably at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve and Nicodemus National Historic Site in Kansas, and at Harry S Truman National Historic Site and Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in Missouri. His efforts led to his being named a co-recipient of the Director's Cultural Resources Award in 2000. During his tenure at Ulysses S. Grant NHS, Ward was also named co-recipient of the 2002 John Wesley Powell Prize for Preservation from the Society for History in Federal Government. The restoration of Whitehaven, Grant's home at the site, was judged to be an outstanding contribution to furthering history in the Federal Government.

Of his work at Ulysses S. Grant NHS, Ward said, "Today, visitors to Ulysses S. Grant NHS have the opportunity to experience a real life setting combined with a world class museum that tell the Grant's story within their time period of American History. We achieved this through a combined effort of the Park Service staff and assistance from partners across the nation and from within our local community."

An Illinois native, Ward studied political science and architecture before embarking on a career of public service. He and his wife, Betsy, have two children, Connor and Libby. They enjoy outdoor activities, sports, music, culture and the arts. All are looking forward to experiencing the great outdoors at Voyageurs.

Authorized in 1971, Voyageurs National Park is located in northern Minnesota, along the U.S./Canadian border. The border between the two nations and 55 miles of the park's northern boundary was a portion of the historic water route of 'voyageurs,' French-Canadian canoe-men involved in fur trade. The park represents some of the oldest exposed rock formations in the world. Bedrock has been shaped and carved by at least four periods of glaciation, and the topography of the park is rugged and varied; rocky outcrops are interspersed between bogs, beaver ponds, swamps, more than 500 islands, small lakes, and four large lakes. In the years since the last glaciation, a thin layer of soil has been created which supports the boreal forest ecosystem of Voyageurs National Park.



-NPS-