



A NEW CHAPTER FOR A BELOVED NORTHWOODS RESORT

White Iron Lake • Farm Lake • Ely, Minnesota

Silver Rapids Lodge has been a gathering place for families, anglers, paddlers, and outdoor lovers for over a century. After listening carefully to community feedback over the past 18 months, we're bringing forward a thoughtfully revised plan to modernize and reinvest in this special property—one that respects the natural setting, reduces impacts from the previous proposal, and ensures Silver Rapids remains a vibrant part of the Ely area for generations to come.

What We're Proposing

CLEANING UP AND STARTING FRESH

The first order of business is removing what no longer serves the property or the shoreline. That means tearing down the aging main lodge, five older cabins, the maintenance and sauna building, the bath house, and a storage facility. The RVs and mobile homes currently on the property will also be removed entirely, replacing a cluttered shoreline with a cleaner, more natural waterfront.

UPDATING WHAT'S ALREADY THERE

Seven existing cabins, the motel, the garage, and the fish cleaning house will all be renovated and updated. These familiar structures will get a fresh look and improved amenities while maintaining the resort's character.

A NEW HEART FOR THE RESORT

A new main lodge will become the centerpiece of Silver Rapids. It will bring together everything guests need in one welcoming place:

- A central check-in area
- A bar and restaurant open to the public
- A gift shop
- An indoor pool, sauna, and spa

44 NEW OWNERSHIP CABINS

The redevelopment will add 44 new cabins available for purchase as quarter-fractional to full-share ownership—meaning each cabin can be shared by up to four owners who use it at different times of the year. When an owner isn't using their cabin, it can be placed into a professionally managed rental pool, making more accommodations available to visiting guests. This model supports ongoing resort operations while giving buyers a genuine stake in the property.

The cabins are designed to fit the natural setting and complement the architecture of the new main lodge.

MARINA AND WATERFRONT IMPROVEMENTS

The marina along the Farm Lake and White Iron Lake shorelines will be improved incrementally as each phase of development is completed. The total plan includes 52 mooring sites, allocated as follows:

- 2 slips for resort rentals
- 33 slips for cabin owners (roughly one per cabin)
- 17 transient slips for visiting boaters and restaurant guests

Improved and safer boat launch facilities will also be part of the waterfront work.

How We're Building It

The redevelopment is planned in three phases, which allows construction impacts to be spread out over time and gives the community a chance to see results before the next phase begins.

Phase 01 FOUNDATION WORK (STARTING BEFORE END OF 2027)

- Demolition of older structures and thorough site cleanup
- Major utility upgrades and reconfiguration of interior roadways
- Installation of an above-ground fuel tank
- Construction of 15 new quarter-fractional ownership cabins

Phase 02 CONTINUED GROWTH

- 17 additional quarter-fractional ownership cabins

Phase 03 COMPLETION

- 12 more quarter-fractional ownership cabins, bringing the total to 44 new units

What This Means for the Community

This project is a meaningful reinvestment in a resort that has been part of the Ely-area economy for over 100 years. Here's what we expect it to deliver:

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- More visitors spending money in Ely and the surrounding area
- New year-round and seasonal jobs
- Increased demand for local contractors, suppliers, restaurants, and outfitters
- A stronger local tax base through significant private investment

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

- Cleanup of contaminated soils currently on the property
- Removal of aging RV sites and mobile homes from the shoreline
- Shoreline restoration and naturalization to reduce visual clutter and improve the waterfront's natural character
- A more organized, environmentally thoughtful site layout in place of the current patchwork

BETTER EXPERIENCE FOR EVERYONE

- Safer and improved boat launch facilities
- Better pedestrian pathways and safer road crossings within the resort property
- A public-facing bar and restaurant at the new main lodge
- A cleaner, more cohesive waterfront environment



GOOD NEIGHBOR PRACTICES

We've designed this project with the surrounding area in mind. Steps taken to minimize impacts on neighbors and nearby properties include:

- Phased construction to reduce noise, traffic, and disruption at any one time
- Improved internal roads and site circulation to better manage traffic flow
- Professional on-site management and operations oversight
- Landscaping, natural vegetation buffers, and thoughtful building placement
- Continued operation as a recreational resort—consistent with what this site has always been



The Bigger Picture

Silver Rapids Lodge has always been more than a business—it's a destination. Families have made memories here for generations. Anglers have launched boats from these shores. Paddlers have set out for the Boundary Waters from nearby lakes.

This redevelopment is not about changing what Silver Rapids is. It's about making sure it's still here—better, cleaner, and more welcoming—for the next hundred years.

We've heard the community. We've learned from the process. And we're committed to being a good steward of this land and a good neighbor to everyone who loves this part of Minnesota.

**I SUPPORT THE
REDEVELOPMENT OF
SILVER RAPIDS LODGE.**



**QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?
FIND US AT SILVER RAPIDS LODGE ON FACEBOOK
OR STOP BY THE RESORT.**