

St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Croix Health Holds Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Health Campus in St. Croix Falls

ST. CROIX FALLS, WISC. —

St. Croix Health officially broke ground on its new health campus with a ceremony celebrating the beginning of a project that demonstrates its commitment to the health and well-being of the community now and into the future.

Held on the future campus site, the ceremony took place in what will one day become a parking lot, with guests facing what will be the exterior wall of the clinic. Community members, employees, elected officials, project partners, and supporters gathered to celebrate a vision years in the making.

"This is more than the start of a construction project," said Mike Youso, CEO of St. Croix Health. "It is a commitment to our community, our providers, our partners, and our employees."

A key milestone in making the project possible was the approval of a \$105 million low-interest loan through USDA Rural Development. Andrew Iverson, Wisconsin State Director for USDA Rural Development, recognized the years of planning and collaboration that brought the project to this point and encouraged those in attendance to imagine the countless lives that will be touched inside the future facility.

"As you sit here today," Iverson said, "think about all of the incredible moments that will happen in the hospital that will one day stand where you're sitting." Following his remarks, Iverson presented Youso with a certificate recognizing the work and dedication that have brought the project to this milestone.

St. Croix Health Governing Board Chair Trudy Canine reflected on both the history of the land and the future it represents.

"This was once a farmer's field that more than likely fed people and cows," Canine said. "Now it will feed us, providing for the community."

She described the groundbreaking as the moment "where vision becomes reality," adding, "We are not simply building a hospital, a healthcare center, or a clinic. We are building a future container for healing, for comfort, birth, recovery, grief, science, and compassion for generations to come."

Dr. Jill Ties, Chief of Staff at St. Croix Health, spoke about what the new campus will mean not only for providers but also for patients, families, and the community she proudly calls home.

"The pride and the care we provide is palpable," Ties said. "When rural hospitals thrive, rural communities do as well."



Representing project architect Kahler Slater, Design Leader Melinda Pogwizd shared the inspiration behind the design of the new campus, highlighting the intentional planning that has gone into creating a welcoming, patient-centered environment designed to serve the region for decades to come.

The ceremony concluded with a ceremonial turning of the soil featuring Youso, Iverson, Canine, Ties, Pogwizd, Louise Johnson, who recently celebrated 50 years of service at St. Croix Health, and Dr. Arne Lagus, who cared for patients in the community for 55 years. Their participation symbolized the generations of leadership, service, and commitment that have shaped St. Croix Health and its future.

Following the ceremony, guests gathered at Dancing Dragonfly Winery for a reception where they viewed architectural renderings of the interior and exterior of the new campus, along with a video showcasing how patients, visitors, and staff will experience the facility.

St. Croix Health extends its appreciation to Market & Johnson, the project's general contractor, for its partnership and assistance in preparing the groundbreaking site.

The new campus will replace the existing Critical Access Hospital in downtown St. Croix Falls and will provide hospital care and many outpatient services in a modern, purpose-built facility. The campus will address long-standing parking challenges, provide room for future expansion, and feature an emergency department approximately twice the size of the current department, helping meet the growing healthcare needs of the region for generations to come.

Construction is underway, and the new St. Croix Health campus is expected to open in the spring of 2028.

St. Croix Health is a not-for-profit healthcare organization that includes a critical access hospital in St. Croix Falls and five community clinics located in Balsam Lake, Frederic, St. Croix Falls, and Webster, WI and Lindström, MN.

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