



Frequently Asked Troll Questions

Background about the Trolls:

Danish Recycle Artist Thomas Dambo is building six of his GIANT Trolls in the Detroit Lakes(DL) area in spring/early summer 2024. These whimsical Trolls are part of a themed art installation with a story focused on environmental awareness, the beauty that can be found in trash, and the joy of being outside.

The DL Trolls are part of Thomas Dambo's global Troll installation that now exceeds 130 sites across Europe, Asia, Australia, and the United States. You can learn more about Dambo and his Trolls at www.thomasdambo.com and www.trollmap.com.

Project 412, a nonprofit based in Detroit Lakes, is managing the build and sites associated with the Trolls in the Detroit Lakes and Frazee area! Project 412 is named with a nod to the 412 lakes within 25 miles of Detroit Lakes and has the goal of elevating the cultural and economic vibrancy of our beautiful region. Learn more about Project 412 at www.project412mn.org.

1. How was our region chosen for the Trolls and who is paying for this public art project?

Project 412 commissioned artist Thomas Dambo to bring his Trolls to our region. All the money was raised with generous donations from private businesses, foundations, and individuals to build the Trolls in DL!

2. Why is Project 412 doing this?

Art and being in nature is one of the best ways to enjoy our beautiful 412 lakes. Project 412 thought it would be magical to go BIG and invite Thomas Dambo to bring his Trolls to our area. Thomas Dambo was named #5 in the world for art installations in 2023 (by My Modern Met). People around the world have become passionate about being "Trollhunters" and finding all his installations. We anticipate this project will bring tourists and business to our area and shine a light on Becker County and the Highway 10 corridor of Minnesota as being one of the best places to live and visit!

3. Where will the Trolls be located?

This GIANT art project includes six sites in the Detroit Lakes and Frazee area plus three "portals" cleverly hidden in Fargo, Detroit Lakes, and Perham. Part of the magic is that you read a riddle provided by the artist, Thomas Dambo, and follow the clues to find the Trolls, so we cannot share exact locations. We recommend beginning your journey at Alexa the Elixer in Detroit Lakes City Park and use the kiosk to access the rest of the journey.



Project 412

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4. When and for how long will the Trolls be available to the public?

The Trolls will be constructed in May into the first part of June 2024. They'll be introduced to the public in mid-June. This is a permanent installation. While the Trolls are made of recycled materials, we plan to care for and maintain them long-term.

5. How can I help with the Trolls?

Yes, we'd welcome your help! It will take a small army of volunteers to build the Trolls along with Thomas Dambo's Danish crew. To sign up to volunteer to build the Trolls, please go to project412mn.org and a pop-up will link you to the sign-up page. We'll also be looking for a team of "Troll Huggers" to help with basic maintenance and caring for our Trolls after the build. If you're interested, please reach out to hello@project412mn.org.

6. What are the Trolls made of?

Each Troll is made of recycled materials including a combination of structural wood, used pallets, and found decorations including tree branches, stones and other organic material. Much of the wood came from trees/lumber rescued from the Highway 34 road construction project plus pallets, scrap pieces, donated wood, and other materials from local businesses and individuals. Of special note, the head, hands, and feet of each troll were built by the Dambo team in Denmark and then the bodies of the Trolls were built by 100s of volunteers working side by side with the Dambo crew.

7. Can the public touch and take photos of the Trolls?

Absolutely! Selfies are encouraged. Please remember to tag Project 412 and Thomas Dambo. The intention is for visitors to interact with the Trolls – hug, take photos, walk around them, but climbing is discouraged! We want to avoid injury and ensure the Trolls can be enjoyed for many years to come.

8. May I bring my dog to the Trolls?

Yes! Pets are welcome. They must be on a leash and please pick up after them.

9. Are the Trolls publicly accessible?

Yes! All the Trolls live on publicly accessible land with various types of trails (some paved, some more rugged). Some Trolls are easier to reach than others, and we encourage the public to enjoy the search and experience the beauty of our 412 Lakes Area while you look for the Trolls.

10. How long will the Trolls last?

We hope a long time! Part of that is up to you. Please help us care for the Trolls! Also, by the nature of the recycled materials and our Minnesota climate, the Trolls may weather some each year. We are committed to keeping the Trolls alive as long as possible and as long as the public enjoys them.

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