



IRON COUNTY

OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2016-2020



TABLE OF CONTENTS

PURPOSE	2
PROCESS DOCUMENTATION	2
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN INTEGRATION	2
VISIONING FRAMEWORK	2
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	3
DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING REGION	6
SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS	6
PHYSICAL SETTING	6
POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	7
POPULATION PROJECTIONS	9
RECREATION AND COUNTY ECONOMICS	9
ECONOMY	11
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS	12
TOPOGRAPHY	12
BEDROCK GEOLOGY	13
GLACIAL GEOLOGY & SOILS	12
WATER RESOURCES	13
CLIMATE	13
LAND OWNERSHIP	14
SUPPLY	15
OUTDOOR RECREATION INVENTORY	15
COUNTY PARKS	16
CITY PARKS	17
TOWN PARKS	18
PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS	19
STATE CAMPGROUNDS	19
WATERFALLS	20
NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS	21
MOTORIZED TRAILS	24
FISHING	25
BICYCLING	26
GOLF	26
SCENIC SITES/POINTS OF INTEREST	27
PUBLIC ACCESS LANDS	28
STATE OWNED AND MANAGED PROPERTIES	29
WAYSIDES/PICNIC AREAS	32
LOCAL EVENTS/FESTIVALS	33
SHOOTING RANGES	34
PADDLESPORTS	35
RUSTIC ROADS	36
OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT	37
PUBLIC INPUT ASSESSMENT	37
PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY	38
COMMUNITY INPUT	42

TOWN & MUNICIPAL PARKS AND RECREATION ASSETS PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENTS 2016-2020	45
TOWN & MUNICIPAL INPUT ON COUNTYWIDE AND LOCAL RECREATIONAL PLANNING ISSUES	46
CLUB/ORGANIZATIONAL INPUT	48
CLUB/ORGANIZATIONAL RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS	50
PLAN IMPLEMENTATION	52
IRON COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	52
COUNTY PARKS	53
NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS	54
MOTORIZED TRAILS	56
BOAT LANDINGS	59
NON-COUNTY MANAGED FACILITIES	59

FIGURES

FIGURE 1: IRON COUNTY: POPULATION 1990-2010	7
FIGURE 2: IRON COUNTY POPULATION PYRAMID	8
FIGURE 3: GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT BY INDUSTRY	10
FIGURE 4: COUNTY PARKS	16
FIGURE 5: CITY PARKS	17
FIGURE 6: TOWN PARKS	18
FIGURE 7: PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS	19
FIGURE 8: STATE RESOURCES	19
FIGURE 9: WATERFALLS	20
FIGURE 10: NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS	21
FIGURE 11: HUNTING ACCESS	23
FIGURE 12: ATV/UTV TRAILS	24
FIGURE 13: SNOWMOBILE TRAILS	24
FIGURE 14: BOATING/FISHING ACCESS	25
FIGURE 15: BIKE ROUTES	26
FIGURE 16: GOLF COURSES	26
FIGURE 17: SCENIC SITES/POINTS OF INTEREST	27
FIGURE 18: PUBLIC LANDS	28
FIGURE 19: FOREST TAX LAW LANDS	28
FIGURE 20: PICNIC AREAS/WAYSIDES	32
FIGURE 21: PUBLIC EVENTS	33
FIGURE 22: SHOOTING RANGES	34
FIGURE 23: PADDLESPORTS	35
FIGURE 24: RUSTIC ROADS	36

TABLES

TABLE 1: IRON COUNTY DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE, 2000-2010	8
TABLE 2: POPULATION PROJECTIONS	9
TABLE 3: EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, 2015	9
TABLE 4: ANNUAL AVERAGE WAGES BY INDUSTRY DIVISION	11
TABLE 5: LAND OWNERSHIP	14
TABLE 6: INVENTORY OF EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	15
TABLE 7: IRON COUNTY LAKES WITH PUBLIC BOATING ACCESS	25

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This plan was prepared by the Northwest Regional Planning Commission, under the guidance and direction of the Iron County Outdoor Recreation Planning Committee.

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this plan rewrite is to investigate Iron County's existing outdoor recreation resources, anticipate future demands and to identify recommendations for county-administered outdoor recreation facilities. Submission of this report to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) maintains eligibility for the County and local units of government for a variety of Federal and State Aids to purchase land and to add facilities to existing outdoor recreation lands. Preparation of this plan will be conducted in accordance with guidance found in Wisconsin Statute 23.30 Outdoor Recreation Program and the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

PROCESS DOCUMENTATION

The Iron County Outdoor Recreation Plan was developed over a seven-month period from July of 2015 through January of 2016. During plan development, the Iron County Outdoor Recreation Planning Committee convened three times, on September 16th, October 28th and December 29th, 2015. Meeting Agendas and sign-in sheets are included in **Appendix A**. In order to solicit public feedback on recreation issues within Iron County, an online outdoor recreation survey was developed in July of 2015. The survey became active on August 8th, 2015 and remained active for a period of 30 days. Survey results are included in **Appendix B**.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN INTEGRATION

At the time of the development of this Outdoor Recreation Plan, Iron County was engaged in a process to revise its long-range comprehensive plan. The Iron County *Asset Based Community Development Plan (ABCD)* will replace the 2008 Comprehensive Plan as the county's official framework for future growth, development and investment in Iron County. This plan will serve as an addendum to the ABCD plan and will also serve to inform and guide recreation-based strategies within the ABCD process.

VISIONING FRAMEWORK

Iron County prepared a number of goals and objectives to address the outdoor recreational needs of the residents. The goals and objectives are intended to assist the County Board and other community leaders in implementing actions deemed important and in the best interest of the County. It is imperative that the goals and objectives in this plan are implemented.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL

The Outdoor Recreation Plan shall serve to meet their varied recreation needs of Iron County residents and visitors while at the same time protecting, conserving, and enhancing the County's natural, historical, and cultural resources.

FACILITIES

OBJECTIVE 1.0:

Provide high quality recreation facilities for all users.

Policy 1.1

Improve and maintain existing facilities.

Policy 1.2

Develop new recreational facilities that will expand recreational opportunities for all residents and visitors.

Policy 1.3

Park and recreation facilities shall provide opportunities for all persons regardless of race, creed, age, sex, or economic status.

Policy 1.4

Develop, improve and maintain recreational facilities according to the Americans with Disabilities Act standard.

Policy 1.5

Encourage communities and local school districts to cooperate in the development of community recreational and playground facilities.

Policy 1.6

Measure the economic impacts provided by high quality recreation facilities in Iron County.

Policy 1.7

Include an educational component with recreational facilities, where appropriate.

OPPORTUNITIES

OBJECTIVE 2.0:

Provide a network of parks and recreation areas that offer a diversity of high quality recreational opportunities.

Policy 2.1

Explore alternatives to expand recreational opportunities and programs throughout Iron County.

Policy 2.2

Expand recreational opportunities by proactively developing partnerships with public agencies and private entities.

Policy 2.3

Ensure balance of use, enjoyment and separation where appropriate between motorized and non-motorized modes of recreation.

Policy 2.4

Encourage/coordinate the multiple uses of recreational land, areas or facilities.

Policy 2.5

Measure the economic impacts of recreational opportunities and programs in Iron County

Policy 2.6

Include an educational component with outdoor recreational opportunities and programs, where appropriate.

RESOURCES**OBJECTIVE 3.0:**

Protect, conserve and enhance natural, historical, and cultural resources.

Policy 3.1

Minimize recreational impacts to natural, scenic and historical resources.

Policy 3.2

Provide an appropriate level of access to publicly-owned areas unique in natural, historical or cultural resources.

Policy 3.3

Partner with communities, area school districts and other organizations to achieve a high level of educational benefits from the county's unique natural, historical and cultural resources.

Policy 3.4

Promote economic sustainability through natural, historical, and cultural resources protection.

PROMOTION**OBJECTIVE 4.0**

Promote outdoor recreation in Iron County.

Policy 4.1

Improve funding opportunities for outdoor recreation

Policy 4.2

Focus on developing and maintaining partnerships to promote outdoor recreation in Iron County.

Action: *Partner with communities and school districts to promote outdoor recreation in Iron County.*

Policy 4.3

Improve public access to data and information about outdoor recreation in Iron County.

Policy 4.4

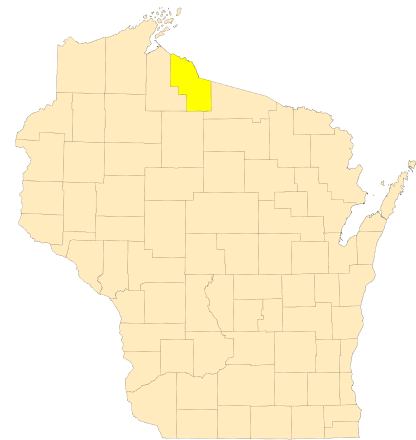
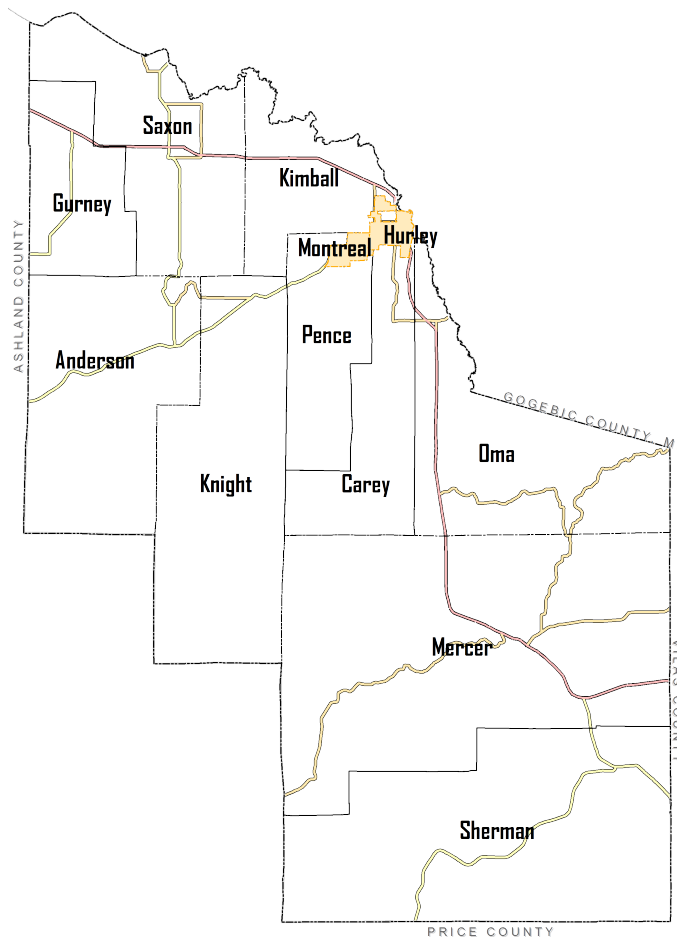
Promotional efforts should include an educational component, where appropriate.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING REGION

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

PHYSICAL SETTING

Iron County is located in northern Wisconsin and borders the south shore of Lake Superior and the Upper Peninsula of the State of Michigan. Iron County borders the counties of Ashland, Price, and Vilas in Wisconsin, and Gogebic County in Michigan. Iron County is 757.23 square miles in size and had a 2015 estimated population of 6,297. Local units of government within Iron County include ten civil towns and two cities. The City of Hurley is the largest municipality in the county and is the county seat.



2015 Population: 6,297

Median Age: 52.6 Years

Land Area: 757.23 mi²

Water Area: 162.01mi²

Percent Public: 52.6%

Percent Private: 47.4 %

County Forest: 174,159 Acres

State Land: 84,310 Acres

**Private Lands Open to
Public Recreation:** 64,205
Acres

Public Land Per Capita: 37
Acres/person
(Statewide 1.2 Acres/Person)

Number of Lakes: 494

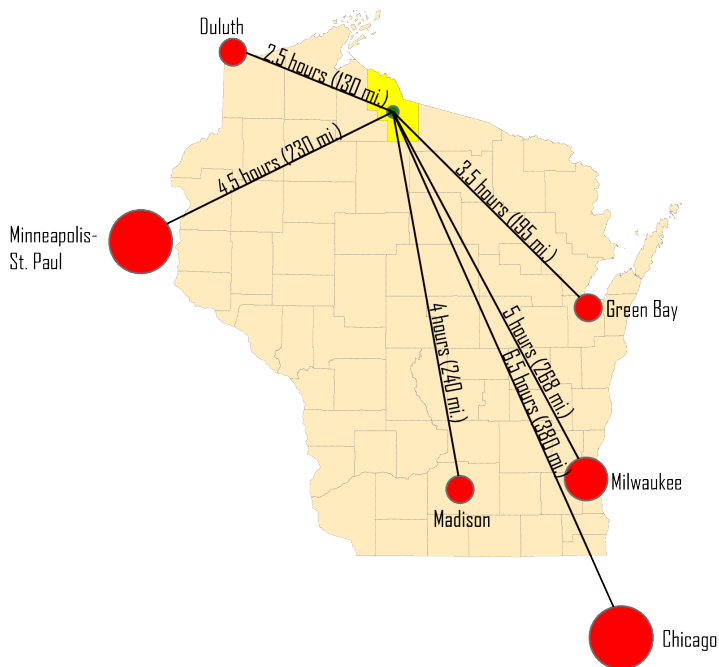
Miles of Shoreline: 740

Miles of Streams: 633

Miles of Trout Streams: 304

**Direct Visitor Spending
(2014):**
\$19 million (64th of 72 Counties)

**Tourism Employment
(2014):**
264



Situated in the remote northern tier of Wisconsin, Iron County is one of the least densely populated counties in the state. Iron County is generally 4 or more hours, by vehicle, to major regional population centers.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Since the creation of Iron County from Ashland and Oneida Counties in 1893, the county's population has been quite erratic. The population increased the most in the ten years from 1910 to 1920, gaining 1,955 people, and sustained its greatest loss from 1940 to 1950, losing 1,335 residents. Recent data suggests the county's population has stabilized.

Figure 1: Iron County: Population 1990-2010

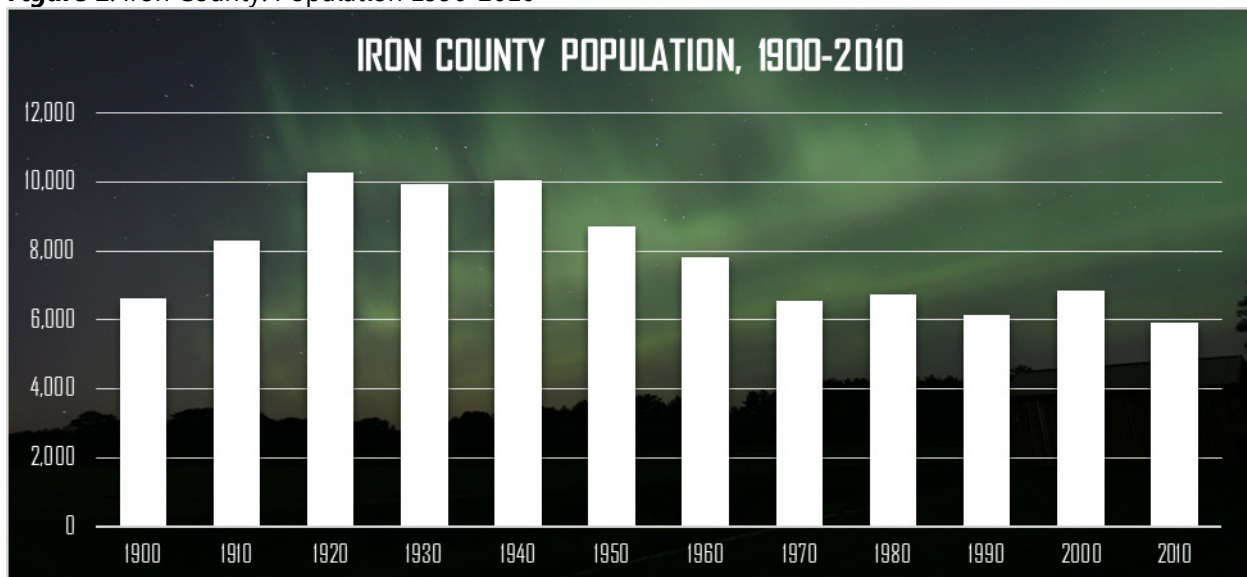
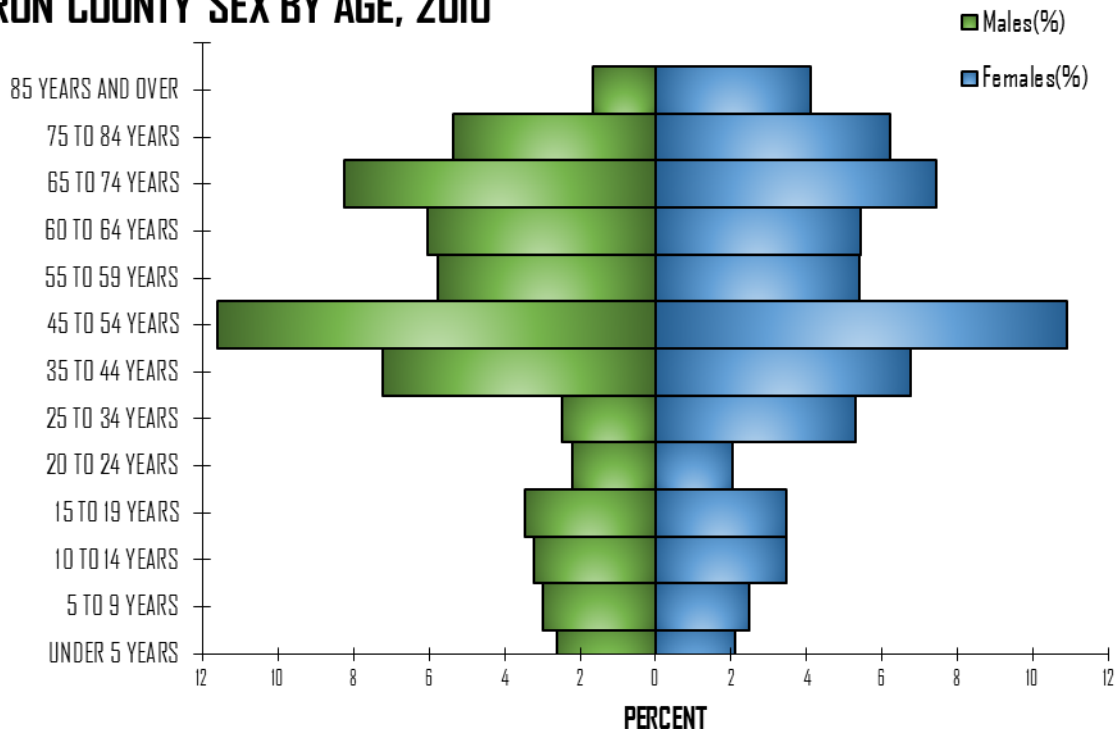


Figure 2: Iron County Population Pyramid

IRON COUNTY SEX BY AGE, 2010



The population distribution of Iron County residents across age classes is reflective of many rural counties in northern Wisconsin. The graphical depiction of sex by age reveals a top-heavy structure, indicative of an aging population. A classic pyramidal shape is indicative of a young, rapidly growing population.

Table 1: Iron County Demographic Change, 2000-2010

Age Category	Absolute Change: 2000-2010	Percent Change: 2000-2010
Under 5	-61	-22.3%
5 to 14	-237	-30.1%
15 to 24	-171	-25.2%
25 to 34	-1241	-73.3%
35 to 44	-439	-40.8%
45 to 54	48	4.9%
55 to 64	170	19.8%
65 to 74	-92	-11.4%
75 to 84	-47	-8.2%
84 and over	50	23.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder

The recreational needs of all Iron County age groups will be represented in this plan. Generally speaking, older residents are interested in more passive recreation, such as enjoying scenic views through the provision of seating and benches that allows for the enjoyment of nature trails and paths. Younger people tend to enjoy more active recreation, such as fishing and fitness trails and motorized recreation. Families often enjoy a broad range of activities such as camping and picnicking as well as motorized recreation.

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Table 1.2 shows population projections for Iron County from 2010 to 2030. These projections are based on past and current population trends and are intended to be a baseline guide for county decision makers. The projections indicated that Iron County will experience a slow decline in population over the next 25 years. Although Iron County is “projected” to decline in population over the next 25 years, many feel that the county will actually increase in population like it has over the last decade.

Table 2: Population Projections

Year	Iron County
2020	5,680
2030	5,970
2040	5,420
Absolute Change 2010-2040	-496

Source: <http://www.doa.state.wi.us/Divisions/Intergovernmental-Relations/Demographic-Services-Center/Wisconsin-Population-Projections/>

RECREATION AND COUNTY ECONOMICS

In 2015, there were 1,945 jobs in Iron County (EMSI, 2015). A total of 648 (33.3%) jobs fall within the tourism and recreation-related categories of retail trade, accommodation and food services, real estate and rental/leasing, and arts entertainment and recreation. This means that one out of every three jobs in Iron County is either partially or wholly dependent upon tourism and recreation.

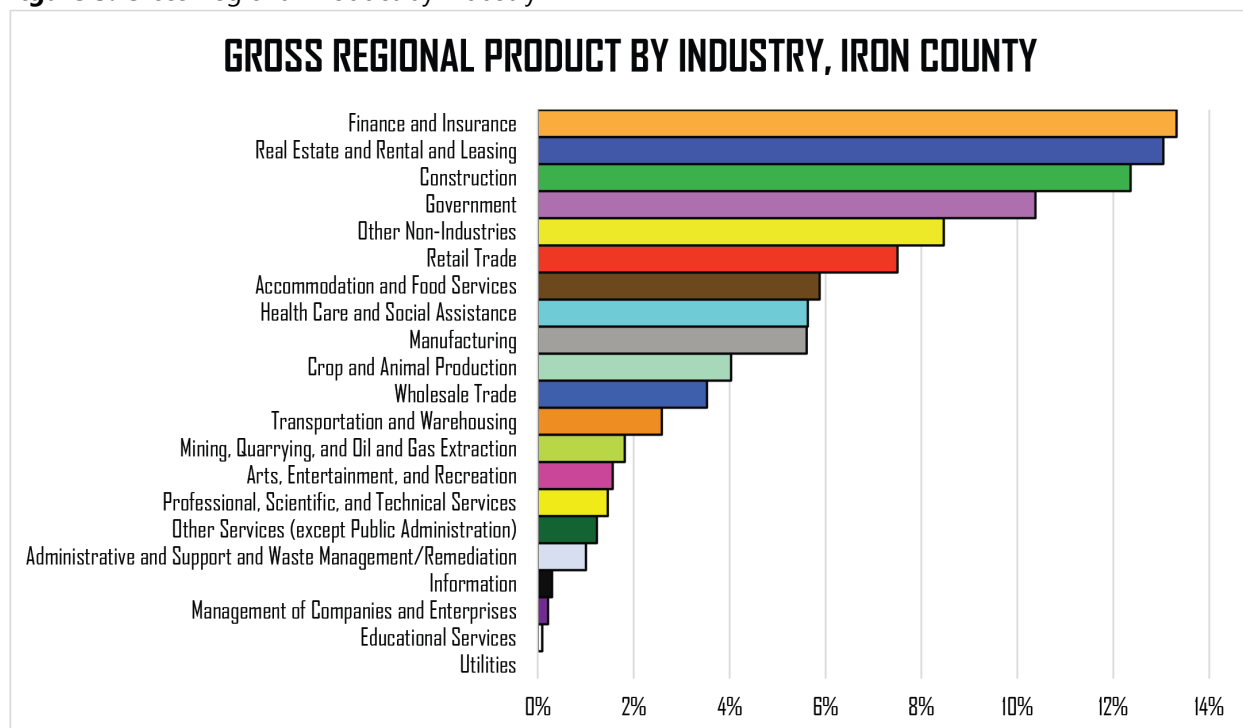
Table 3: Employment by Industry, 2015

Industry	2015 Jobs
Government	347
Retail Trade	261
Accommodation and Food Services	245
Health Care and Social Assistance	231
Construction	210
Manufacturing	183
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	90
Wholesale Trade	60
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	52
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	50
Transportation and Warehousing	49
Other Services (except Public Administration)	42
Finance and Insurance	35
Administrative and Support/Waste Management and Remediation	33
Crop and Animal Production	20
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	16
Information	11
Management of Companies and Enterprises	<10
Educational Services	<10

EMSI, 2015

Gross Regional Product (GRP) is a measurement of total economic output. GRP is defined as the market value of all final goods and services produced by all firms in a regional economy. In 2013, the total GRP for Iron County was \$207.1 million, resulting in \$129 million in earnings, \$15.2 million in taxes on production and \$63 million in property income. The total GRP for tourism-related categories was \$58 million, or 28% of total county GRP.

Figure 3: Gross Regional Product by Industry



According to the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, direct visitor spending was \$19 million in 2014. Total business sales related to recreation and tourism were \$26.1 million, while the total labor income was \$4.7 million. State and local tax revenue generated by tourism was \$2.4 million.

In Iron County, forestry is the largest employer in the county, providing 15.4% of all jobs. Forestry and logging account for \$3.3 million in output and \$1.3 million in value-added economic impacts. Sawmills and wood products provide \$77.7 million in total output and an additional \$18.5 million in value added impacts.

County forests are essential to Wisconsin's forest products industry and economy. Each year, these lands generate anywhere from \$25 to \$30 million in timber revenues for counties and towns. Statewide, approximately 16,000 jobs and \$4.6 billion in forest products production result from the timber harvested from county forests. County forests also provide many recreation and tourism opportunities.

In 2014, Iron County Forest and Parks generated \$3.1 million in revenue. Most of this revenue (82%) was attributable to direct timber harvesting on County Forest lands (stumpage sales). Timber sale acreage on county forest lands has increased significantly

over the past decade, from slight more than 1,000 acres in 2005 to over 4,000 acres in 2014.

Revenues from county forest lands is an important part of the county's annual budget portfolio. Under Wisconsin's Severance Tax Law, 10% of the gross revenue generated by timber sales on County Forest must be paid to towns. These individual payments are based on the acreage of county forest within each town.

ECONOMY

In addition to having one of the highest unemployment rates in the state, Iron County also has some of the lowest incomes in the state. As shown in Table 1.7, annual average wages earned by workers in Iron County in 2007 fell short of the statewide average for all industry sectors. Workers employed in the industry sectors of Manufacturing, Financial Activities, and Professional & Business Services received less than 60 percent of the State of Wisconsin average for workers in those same fields. Workers in the Construction industry sector earned the highest annual wage followed by the Public Administration industry.

Table 4: Annual Average Wages by Industry Division

	Iron County Average Annual Wage	State Average Annual Wage	Percent of State Average
All Industries	\$26,162	\$41,985	62.3%
Construction	\$32,035	\$51,670	62.0%
Education & Health Services	\$33,379	\$43,781	76.2%
Financial Activities	\$21,827	\$58,493	37.3%
Information	ND	\$56,015	NA
Leisure & Hospitality	\$12,868	\$15,221	84.5%
Manufacturing	\$27,968	\$52,413	53.4%
Natural Resources	\$57,579	\$33,047	174.2%
Other Service	ND	\$23,598	NA
Professional & Business Services	\$26,668	\$49,451	53.9%
Public Administration	\$33,011	\$42,198	78.2%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	\$23,361	\$35,946	65.0%

Sources: Wisconsin Dept. of Workforce Development-Iron Co Workforce Profile 2012. ND = Non Disclosable—data do not meet BLS or State agency disclosure standards

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

TOPOGRAPHY

Iron County is divided by the Penokee-Gogebic Range, two parallel ridges running southwesterly from Hurley, that separate the Lake Superior lowlands to the north from the Northern Highland Peneplain to the south. This geologic feature is part of a large regional landscape that extends eastward to the Keweenaw Peninsula in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Ore deposits were mined extensively in these highlands from the 1880's through the 1960's. The northern third of Iron County slopes generally downward from the Penokee Range northward to Lake Superior, forming a large coastal plain. Numerous rivers and streams bisect this area. To the south of the range, the northern rim of the Northern Highland Peneplain begins its gradual rise. This region contains undulating gravelly pitted outwash containing many lakes and wetlands. The highest elevation found in Iron County is approximately 1,877 feet above sea level at the former Pleasant Lake Lookout in Section 34, T44N-R1E in the Town of Knight. The lowest elevation of 603 feet above sea level is found at the Lake Superior coast in the Town of Saxon. Information related to topography was obtained through the United States Geological Survey.

GLACIAL GEOLOGY & SOILS

With the exception of the outcrop areas, all of Iron County is covered with a variety of glacial deposits. Clay deposits cover most of the northern end of the county and ground and end moraine glacial till deposits cover most of the center of the county. Pitted outwash covers the southern part of the county, and outwash is found in narrow areas, primarily stream beds. The clayey deposits consist of mostly clayey till, covered by a thin layer of clayey lake deposits in a few areas. The ground and end moraine till deposits consist of a mixture of sand, gravel, boulders, silt and clay. Most of these deposits in the county have a high proportion of sand except for end moraine deposits in the far northern part of the county which are mostly clayey till.

Soil survey interpretations are provided for specific soil uses. Interpretations for each soil use are based on a set of interpretative soil properties. Soil suitability ratings are usually made on the basis of restrictive soil interpretative properties such as slope, occurrence of internal free water, and texture of surface horizons. A rating of "very limited" indicates that the soil has one or more features that are unfavorable for the specified use. A rating of "moderately limited" indicates that the soil has features that are moderately favorable for the specified use. These limitations can be sometimes be overcome through special designs or planning.

Camp areas require site preparation, such as shaping and leveling the tent and parking areas, stabilizing roads and intensively used areas, and installing sanitary facilities and utility lines. Camp areas are subject to heavy foot traffic and some vehicular traffic. The ratings are based on the soil properties that affect the ease of developing camp areas and the performance of the areas after development. Slope, stoniness, and depth to bedrock are the main concerns affecting the development of camp areas.

In general, soil limitations for camping areas and trails in Iron County are primarily due to wetness and ponding (wetlands), slope, and sandiness.

BEDROCK GEOLOGY

Iron County is underlain by three general bedrock formations. Sedimentary rocks, which include sandstone, shale and conglomerate, are found under the extreme northwest corner of the county. Under the area along and to the north of the Gogebic Range are lava flows, formed mostly of basalt and crystalline rocks consisting of steeply dipping and complexly faulted layers of slate, iron formation and dolomitic marble. The remainder of the county is underlain by undifferentiated crystalline rocks. Numerous bedrock outcrop areas exist in the county, especially along streams, in the Hurley-Montreal area along the Gogebic Range, in the Saxon Harbor area and in an area west of Mercer. Depths to bedrock vary widely in the county from over 400 feet in the northwest corner to less than 50 feet in and around the Gogebic Range and other areas.

WATER RESOURCES

Water resources are an important component of the natural landscape. These dynamic resources provide many benefits to both humans and wildlife. Lakes, rivers, streams, waterfalls, wetlands and floodplains are part of a natural cycle and provide many outdoor recreational opportunities. These resources not only provide direct recreational opportunities, such as fishing and boating, but they also enhance wildlife habitat that offer wildlife hiking, viewing and hunting activities.

CLIMATE

The climate of Iron County is separated into two general classifications: a *lake modified continental* climate along the Lake Superior shoreline area and a continental climate throughout the rest of the county. The continental climate is generally characterized by hot summers and cold winters. This pattern is modified along the Lake Superior coast by the cold lake waters that serve to moderate summertime temperatures and increase wintertime temperatures. Average temperatures in Iron County range from 13° F in January to 67° F in July. Average temperatures along the lakeshore can be as much as 10-15° cooler in the summer and slightly warmer during the winter months.

Average annual precipitation varies from about 36 inches in the Penokee highlands of north central Iron County, to 32 inches along the lake and in the far southern part of the county. Average annual snowfall ranges from 160 inches at Hurley to 80 inches in the southwestern part of the county. Lake enhanced winter storms produce generally higher snowfalls across northern Iron County, particularly in areas of high elevation.

LAND OWNERSHIP

Land ownership has a significant impact on the natural resource base by influencing development patterns, land use, management, policy, and public use/access.

Table 5: Land Ownership

Total Area	513,169 acres
County*	174,159 acres
Federal	22 acres
State	63,136 acres
Total Public Land	234,092 acres
Total Private	230,582 acres
Surface Water	29,836 acres
Tribal Lands	18,658 acres

Sources: Wisconsin Stewardship GIS Data, *Iron County Forestry

SUPPLY

OUTDOOR RECREATION INVENTORY

Table 6: Inventory of Existing Recreational Facilities

	TABLE	TRASH CAN	GRILL	SHELTER	DOCK	LANDING	TOILET	PLAYGROUND	SHOWER	CAMPING	SWIMMING
COUNTY PARKS											
Lake of the Falls	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	32	✓
Schomberg Park	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	14	
Weber Lake	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		11	✓
Saxon Harbor	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	43	✓
Potato River Falls	✓	✓		✓			✓			7	
CITY PARKS											
Al Riccelli Park	✓			✓			✓	✓			
Veteran's Memorial Field		✓					✓				
Cary Road Park							✓	✓			
Albert C. Morzenti Sr. Memorial Park	✓	✓	✓					✓			
Slugger Baron Park	✓							✓			
Gile Park on Gile Flowage	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Dan Young Park								✓			
TOWN PARKS											
Carrow Community Park	✓			✓			✓	✓			✓
Upson Community Park	✓			✓			✓			✓	
Kimball Park	✓			✓			✓	✓		✓	
Kimball Town Baseball Field							✓				
Oma Town Park	✓			✓			✓	✓			✓
STATE CAMPGROUNDS											
Sandy Beach Campgrounds	✓					✓	✓			37	✓
Turtle Flambeau Flowage Islands	✓			✓			✓			✓	
PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS											
Frontier Bar Campgrounds	✓						✓	✓		✓	
Loon Lagoon Campground										✓	

There are many recreational facilities owned and managed by the towns, county and state that are available to residents and visitors of Iron County. In addition to the maintained recreational facilities, county forests and bodies of water also provide countless recreational opportunities. In addition to the campgrounds, the public is allowed to set up and camp on the County Forest for up to two weeks in the same location.

COUNTY PARKS

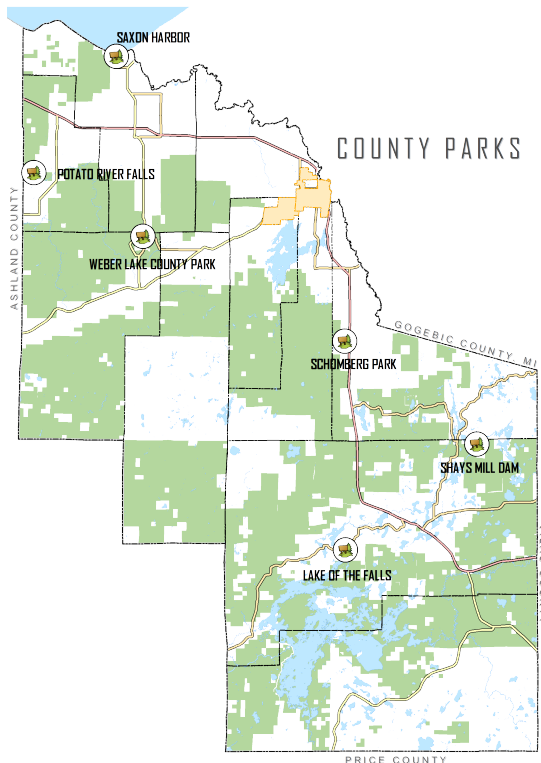


Figure 4: County Parks

Lake of the Falls

A 40-acre county park and campground (32 units) located at the beginning of the Turtle Flambeau Flowage, 6 miles west of Mercer on County Road FF. Facilities include picnic area, tables, fire rings, drinking water, restrooms, showers, swimming area, boat ramp, fishing, pavilion, electrical hookups, dumpstation, and a caretaker.

Schomberg Park

A 160-acre county park and campground (14 units) located off Highway 51 in the Town of Oma along Layman's Creek. Facilities include a restrooms and showers, pavilion and picnic area, tables, fire rings, electrical hookups, drinking water, dump station, ATV wash station, ATV trail access. Schomberg Park also has a 1.7 mile snowshoe trail loop with parking available in the winter.

Weber Lake

This County Park and campground (11 units) is located west of Hurley off County Road E in the Town of Anderson. The park consists of ten acres with a picnic area, tables, fire rings, drinking water, pavilion, restrooms, changing rooms, boat ramp, fishing, swimming area and electrical hookups.

Saxon Harbor

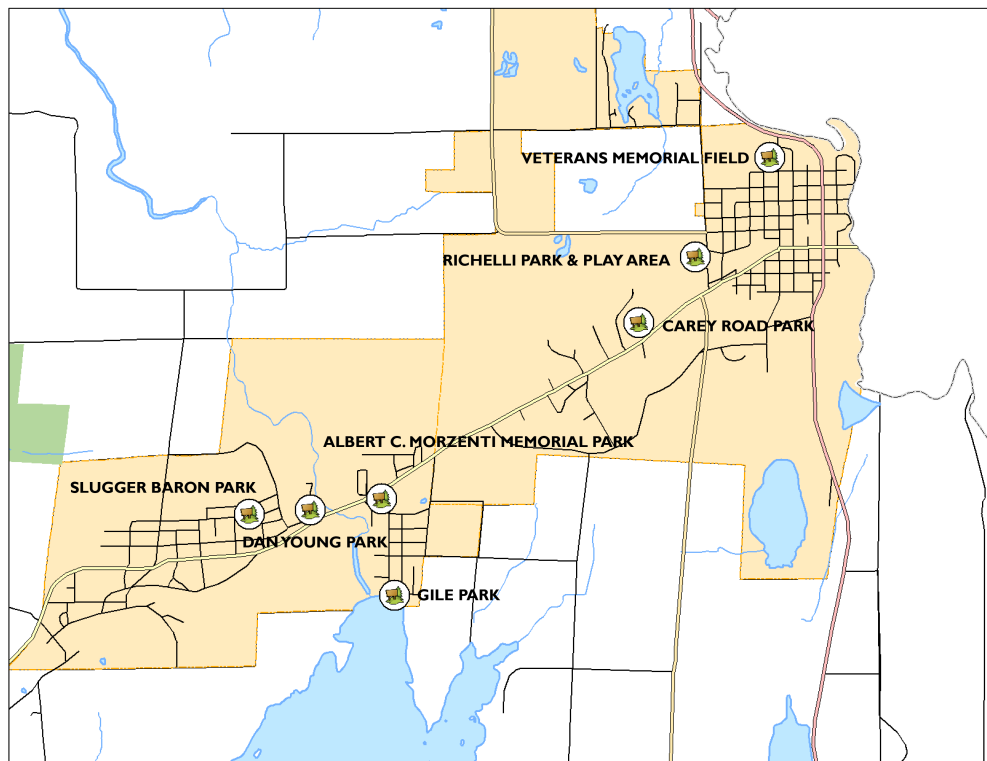
This County Park and campground (43 units) is at Lake Superior, north of U.S. 2 off Highway 122 and County Road A. The Harbor includes 91 slips for boats up to 40 feet long, 12 transient moorings, three boat launches, parking for 50 trailers, gas for sale, boat septic system pump out, water, boat-lift, restroom and shower facilities and dump station. Picnic tables, a pavilion, playground, fire rings, electrical hookup and swimming area are available. ATV trail access. In 2009 a bridge across Oronto Creek and 5 walk-in campsites were built. Each campsite contains a tent pad, fire ring and picnic table.

Potato River Falls

Located two miles west of Highway 169 in the town of Gurney, rustic campsites (7 units) and fire rings are available at Potato River Falls. Hiking/biking trails, restrooms, picnic tables and a pavilion surround the waterfalls and trout fishing possibilities.

CITY PARKS

Figure 5: City Parks



Al Ricelli Park

This five-acre community park is located at 805 Maple Street in the City of Hurley. Facilities include playground equipment, picnic tables, basketball court, pavilion and new restrooms constructed in 2009. Little League fields are located adjacent to Ricelli Park, which includes bleacher seating and a concession stand.

Veteran's Memorial Field

Located on Fifth Avenue in Hurley, Veteran's Memorial Field offers opportunity for various forms of recreation. A football field with two large sets of bleachers offers a location for home football games in the fall accompanied by concession stands, restrooms and locker room facilities. Also at Veteran's Memorial Field, there are newly sealed basketball and tennis courts for public use.

Cary Road Park

This park is located off Highway 77 in the City of Hurley. Facilities include a softball field, volleyball court, horseshoe pits, bocce ball court, playground equipment, combination concession stand/restrooms and a paved walking trail.

Albert C. Morzenti Sr. Memorial Park

This 10-acre park is located on Highway 77 in the City of Montreal. The west fork of the Montreal River flows along this park near the picnic area. Facilities include picnic tables, grills, swing set, trash containers, and a historical marker commemorating the site of the world's deepest iron mine. Montreal baseball fields are adjacent to this park.

Slugger Baron Park

Located on Ohio Avenue in the City of Montreal, this park consists of picnic tables and new playground equipment.

Gile Park of Gile Park Flowage

Gile Park is a park owned by the City of Montreal, located west of Hurley on Hwy 77, left into Gile to Flowage. The park has a picnic area, tables, fireplaces, drinking water, pavilion, restrooms, changing rooms, slide and swings, swimming, boat launching ramps and fishing.

Dan Young Park

Located in the City of Montreal. The park includes a local softball field, swing sets and other play equipment.

TOWN PARKS

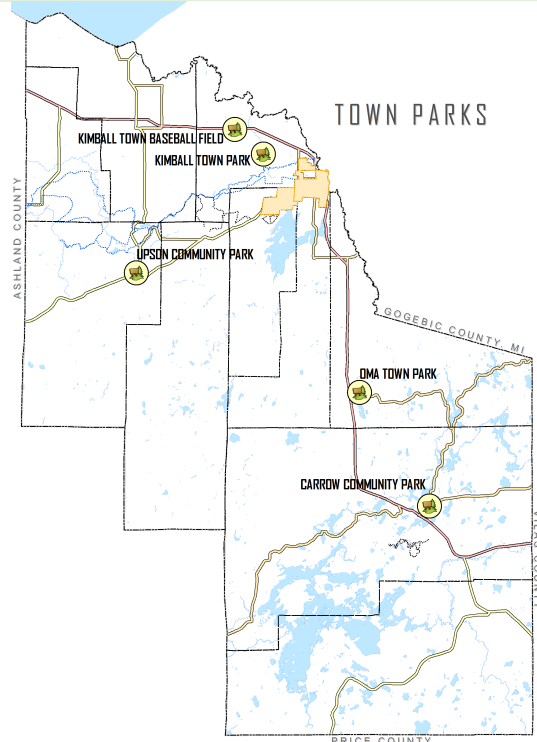


Figure 6: Town Parks

Carrow Community Park

This town park is located on County Road J on Grand Portage Lake in Mercer. Facilities include a picnic area, tables, fireplaces, pavilion, and restrooms, swimming area, new playground equipment, bike racks, ball field and paved walking track.

Upson Community Park

This town park is maintained by the Town of Anderson, and is located on the Potato River west of Upson. Facilities include picnic area, tables, fireplaces, pavilion, restrooms, overnight camping, electrical hookups, waterfall and trout fishing.

Kimball Town Park

The Kimball Town Park west of Hurley and south on Park Road on the Montreal River offers a beautiful view of Kimball Falls. Other facilities include a picnic area, tables, fire rings, pavilion, restrooms, overnight camping, trout and walleye fishing, walking trails, and kayak options.

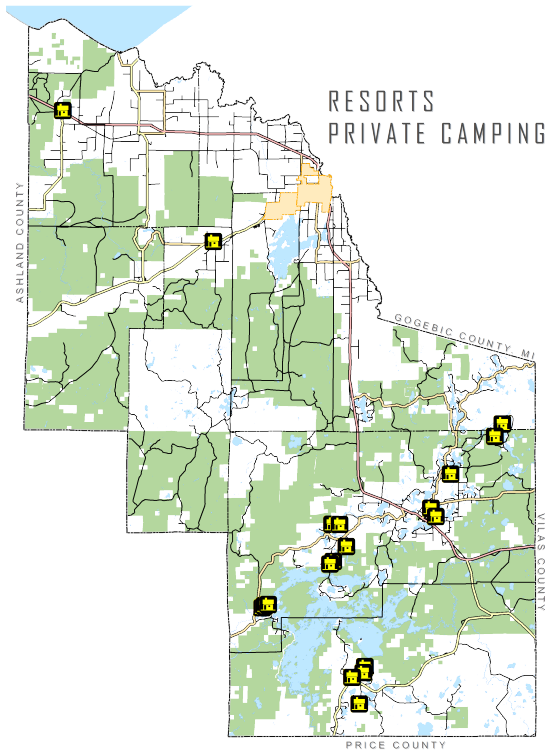
Kimball Town Baseball field

The Town of Kimball owns a baseball field situated on US Highway 2. This facility includes fences and an outhouse. This field has been neglected over the years and is in need of maintenance before any future use.

Oma Town Park

This town park located on County Road G is found on Pine Lake. Facilities include picnic area, tables, fireplaces, pavilion, restrooms, swimming and a playground.

PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS



Frontier Bar Campgrounds

Camping options can be found just behind the Frontier Bar in Cedar off Highway 2. Facilities include fireplaces, drinking water, restrooms, picnic area and tables. Sewer, electrical, water, Laundromat and pull thru sites are available to RVs. Easy access to ATV trail 2.

Loon Lagoon Campground

Located two blocks east of Highway 51 in Mercer, Wisconsin, on the outlet of Grand Portage Lake. It is an open, grassy park within walking distance of stores and restaurants. The grounds are centrally located for day trips and fishing in historic Iron County. Camping on Grand Portage Lake can be found at 2580 Margaret St., Mercer.

Figure 7: Private Campgrounds

STATE CAMPGROUNDS



Sandy Beach Campgrounds

This state campground is located on Powell Marsh Road in the northeastern corner of the Town of Sherman. Facilities include rustic campsites, toilets, tables, picnic area, fire rings, drinking water, swimming and a boat launch. Maps are available at the Mercer Ranger Station and the Mercer Area Chamber of Commerce or by visiting the DNR web site. (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/turtleflambeau/>) Boat launches are available in several locations.

Turtle Flambeau Flowage Islands

The Turtle Flambeau Flowage offers excellent fishing, canoeing and kayaking opportunities. Six group sites on Big Island are available by reservation only. There is a fee for these sites. Reservations can be made by contacting Reserve America or the WDNR website.

Figure 8: State Resources

WATERFALLS

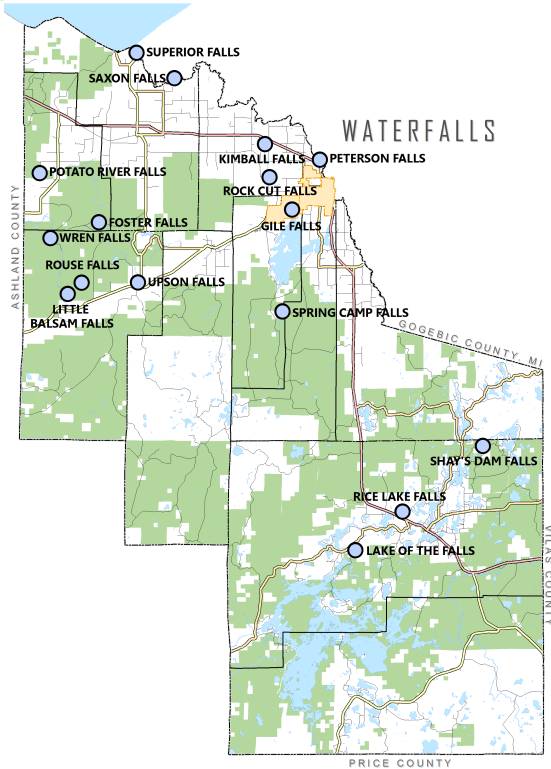


Figure 9: Waterfalls

Superior Falls - 90 feet
Montreal River (Lake Superior/Saxon Area)

Potato River Falls – 90 feet
Potato River (Gurney Area)

Peterson Falls – 35 feet
West Branch Montreal River (Gile Area)

Upton Falls – 18 feet
Potato River (Upton Area)

Gile Falls – 15 feet
West Branch Montreal River (Gile Area)

Shay's Dam Falls – 15 feet
Turtle River (Mercer Area)

Kimball Falls – 10 feet
West Branch Montreal River (Hurley Area)

Lake of the Falls – 10 feet
Turtle River (Flambeau Flowage Area)

Rock Cut Falls – 15 feet – (No Public Access)
West Branch Montreal River (Hurley Area)

Spring Camp Falls – 20 feet
East Branch Montreal River (Hurley Area)

Wren Falls – 15 feet
Tyler Forks River (Gurney Area)

Foster Falls – 25 feet
Potato River (Gurney Area)

Rice Lake Falls – 10 feet
Turtle River (Mercer Area)

Rouse Falls – 15 feet
Rouse Creek (Upton Area)

Little Balsam Falls – 8 feet
Tyler Forks River (Upton Area)

Saxon Falls – 78 feet
Montreal River (Lake Superior/Saxon Area)

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS

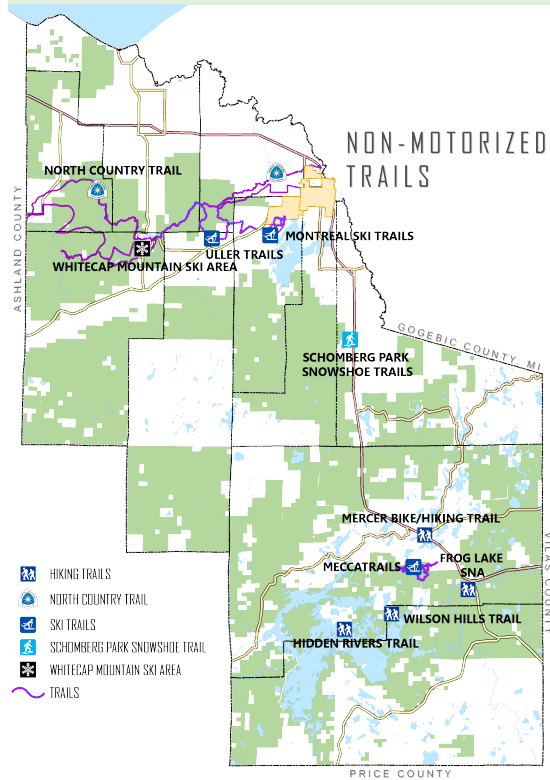


Figure 10: Non-Motorized Trails

Non-motorized recreational facilities in Iron County include scenic hiking and walking trails, off-road biking, cross country ski trails, and canoe routes. What follows is a listing and descriptions of current and proposed non-motorized trails in Iron County.

MECCA Trail

The MECCA (Mercer Cross-Country Association) Trail system is located in the Town of Mercer and consists of hiking, biking and cross-country ski trails. These trails also serve as hunter walking trails in the fall. MECCA grooms 20 km for skiing through the woods and around the Little Turtle Flowage. Most trails are on Iron County Forest and State lands. The club operates a log chalet at the main trailhead 2 miles off Hwy 51 on the south side of Mercer, via Beachway Street.

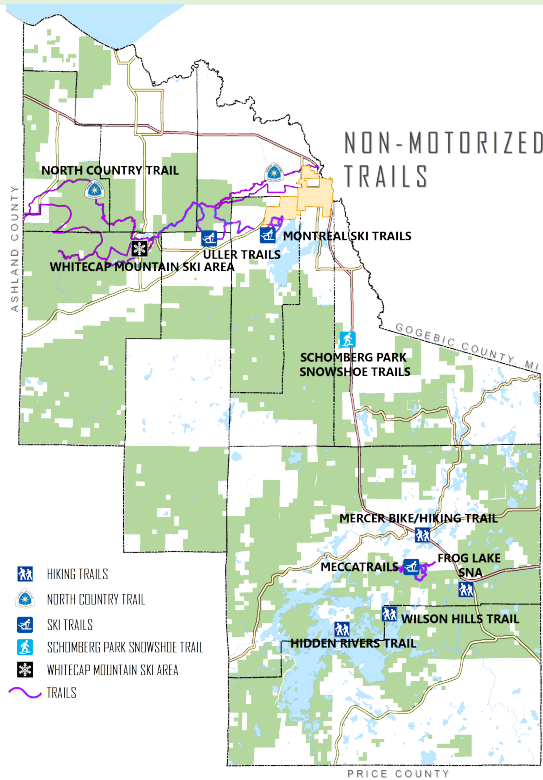
Flambeau Trail

The Flambeau Trail was the key transportation route for Native Americans long before European exploration. Later, the trail hosted voyagers, fur traders and settlers during their journeys throughout the region. The Flambeau Trail crossed the Continental Divide linking the Lake Superior and Mississippi watersheds. Today, the Flambeau Trail is used as an auto tour highlighting historic sites along the trail.

North Country Trail

The North Country National Scenic Trail is a premier footpath that stretches more than 4,000 miles to link communities and wilderness areas across seven northern states. Wisconsin has the smallest distance of any of the seven states the North Country Trail crosses, and the second smallest amount of trail developed to date. The trail crosses from Michigan on the US-2 Bridge from Ironwood into Hurley. A few miles west of Hurley, the Uller Trail, a 7-mile trail on Iron County Forest land is also used.

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS CONT...



Montreal Nordic Ski Trails

This trail is located in and around the City of Montreal and includes just over nine miles of trails. Eight different sections, each with a very different class (easiest, more difficult, most difficult), meander in and around the city. Interpretive signing describes the mining activity in the area. Penokee Ranger volunteers groom trails.

Uller Trail

The Uller Trail is part of the Nordic Ski Trails system and is located along the Penokee Range from Pence and Iron Belt to Weber Lake. The trail's terrain is hilly and remote and is approximately 19 miles in length. Penokee Ranger volunteers groom the trail.

Pines and Mines Mountain Bike Trail System

This trail system offers 300 miles of marked and mapped mountain biking opportunities in the abundant public lands of Iron County and the nearby Ottawa National Forest.

Hidden Rivers Nature Trail

This interpretive trail is located at Fisherman's Landing on the Turtle Flambeau Flowage in the Town of Mercer. The trail is two miles long and includes signage describing the history and resources of the Flowage.

Downtown Mercer Biking/Walking Trail Project

A paved hiking/biking trail has been constructed along County Road J from Margaret Street to Scheels Road. The Town of Mercer continues working toward the development of pedestrian trails along portions of existing road right-of-ways and adjacent to a segment of abandoned railroad right-of-ways. The proposed trails would provide areas of the community with a safe, walking and biking route to the central business district and would enhance tourism by connecting to neighboring communities such as Manitowish Waters and Winchester.

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS CONT...

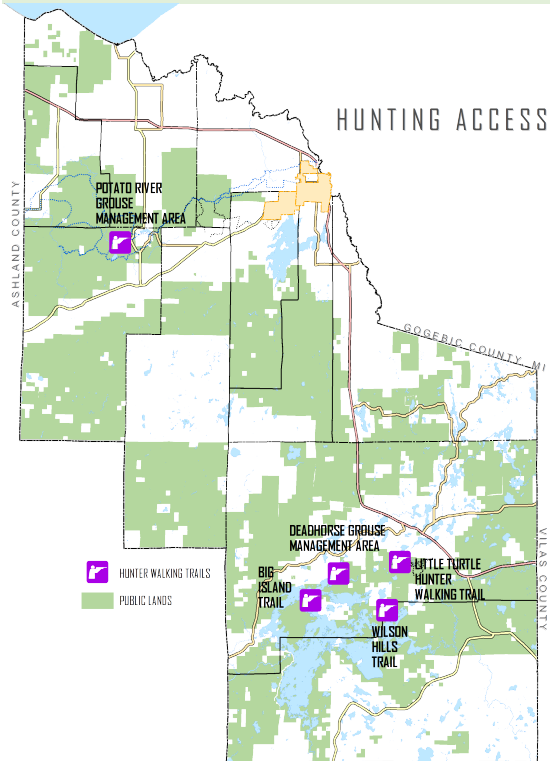


Figure 11: Hunting Access

Schomberg Park Snowshoe Trail

Two loops totaling 1.7 miles of snowshoe trail has been developed and marked in cooperation between the Iron County Forestry Department and the Iron County Economic Development Committee. Future plans include interpretive signing by the Iron County Land and Water Conservation Department and expansion of the trail. This trail may also be used as a hiking trail in the summer.

Hunter Walking Trails

The Iron County Forestry Department has received a grant from the Ruffed Grouse Society to map and print hunting trails throughout Iron County on the County Forest. This project began in 2009 and continues on.

Deadhorse Trail

This hunter walking trail is located off of Popko Circle West in the Town of Mercer. The trail includes interpretive and informational signs about grouse habitat management and a deer/hare enclosure. It is managed in cooperation with the Ruffed Grouse Society.

MOTORIZED TRAILS

ATV Trails

Iron County boasts Wisconsin's largest ATV system starting in the Hurley area, with more than 250 miles of trails and routes to take riders deep into the heart of Iron County. Along the routes, motorists will find a variety of pit stops offering food, beverages, gas, lodging and scenic outlooks. For maps on Iron County's ATV trails, contact the Iron County Development Zone Council or the Hurley and Mercer Chamber of Commerce.

The Iron County Forestry Department, along with the Iron County ATV Association and Mercer Dusty Loons, maintains 118 miles of ATV trails throughout the County. The Forestry Department also contracts with the White Thunder Riders and Mercer SnoGoers to maintain 165 miles of winter ATV trails.

Snowmobile Trails

Over 300 miles of well-groomed, uncrowded snowmobile trails traverse Iron County. Unmatched beauty, with a unique microclimate, along with the most reliable snow in the Midwest guarantees Iron County snow even when other areas are without hence Governor Doyle's designation of Iron County as the Snow Capital of Wisconsin in 2009.

Iron County's snowmobile trails connect and incorporate many of the county's historic communities, transportation corridors, mining and lumbering sites, as well as plenty of forests and lakes. As with the ATV trail system, varieties of establishments offer food, beverages, gas and lodging along the journey. Experienced riders may visit scenic outlooks.

The Iron County Forestry Department contracts with the White Thunder Riders and the Mercer SnoGoers to maintain 303 miles of snowmobile trails throughout the County.

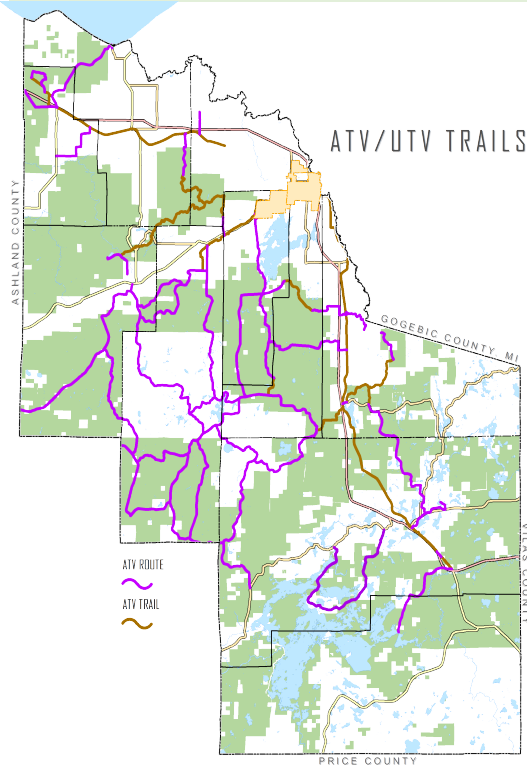


Figure 12: ATV/UTV Trails

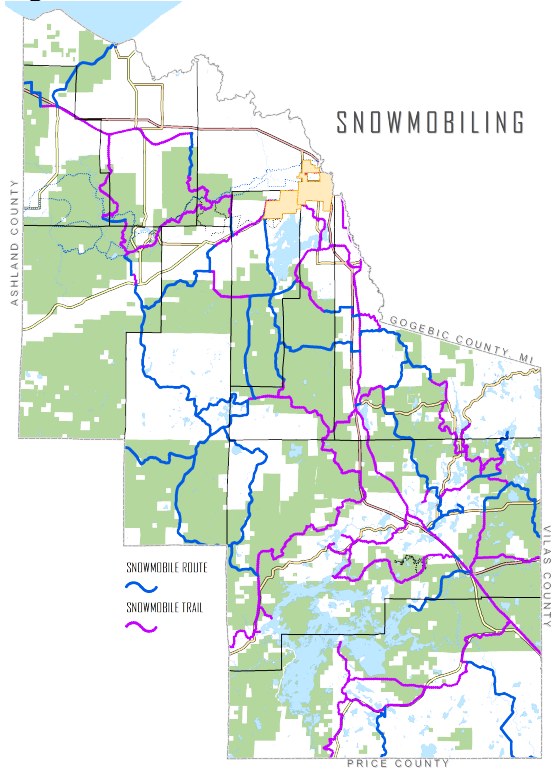


Figure 13: Snowmobile Trails

FISHING

Boat Landings

There are a number of boat landings found within Iron County. Many are county and state owned, offering access to spectacular lakes as large as Lake Superior and as small as Lake Obadash. The number of landings located at each lake is listed. Depending on the lake, landings may be paved or rustic and vary from powerboat use to canoe.

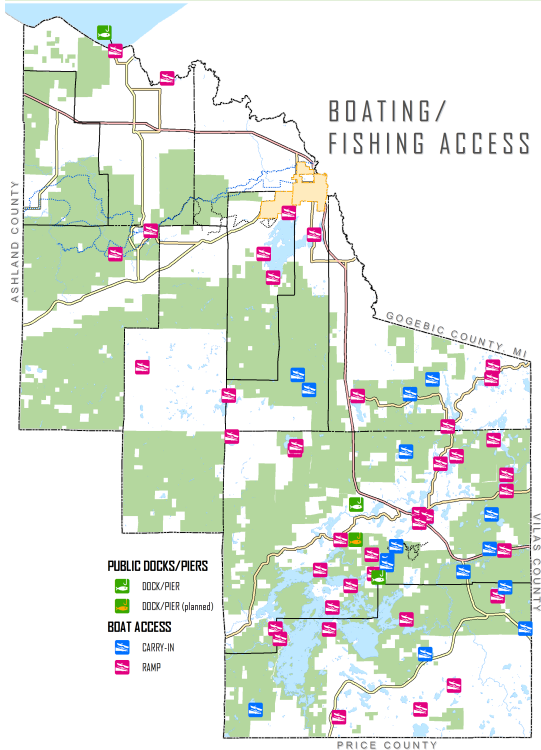


Figure 14: Boating/Fishing Access

Table 7: Iron County Lakes with Public Boating Access

Lake	Lake	Lake
Bass Lake	Lake Obadash	Randall Lake
Bearskull Lake	Lake of the Falls	Sandy Beach Lake
Beaver Lake	Lake One	Saskatoon Lake
Brandis Lake	Lake Six	Saxon Falls
Cedar Lake	Little Moose	Saxon Harbor
Deer Lake	L. Turtle Flowage	Shay's Dam
Deer Tail Lake	Long Lake	Shirley Lake
Du Page Lake	McDermott Lake	Spider Lake
Echo Lake	Mercer Lake	Tamarack Lake
Fisher Lake	Moose Lake	Trude Lake
Fox Lake	Mud Lake	Turtle Flambeau
Gile Flowage	North Bass Lake	Twin Lakes
Grand Portage Lake	One Man Lake	Upson Lake
Hewitt Lake	Owl Lake	Weber Lake
Island Lake	Pike Lake	Wilson Lake
Lake Evelyn	Pine Lake	
Lake O'Brien	Plunkett Lake	

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 2016. Statewide inventory of public boat access and fishing sites. *Note:* Public access data may not be complete and additional access points may exist.

BICYCLING

Bike Routes

The Wisconsin State Bike Map, published and distributed through the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin, identifies and classifies state and county roads in terms of their bicycling conditions. The bicycle map for Iron County can be accessed on the WisDOT web site at <http://wisconsindot.gov/Documents/travel/bike/bike-maps/county/iron.pdf>

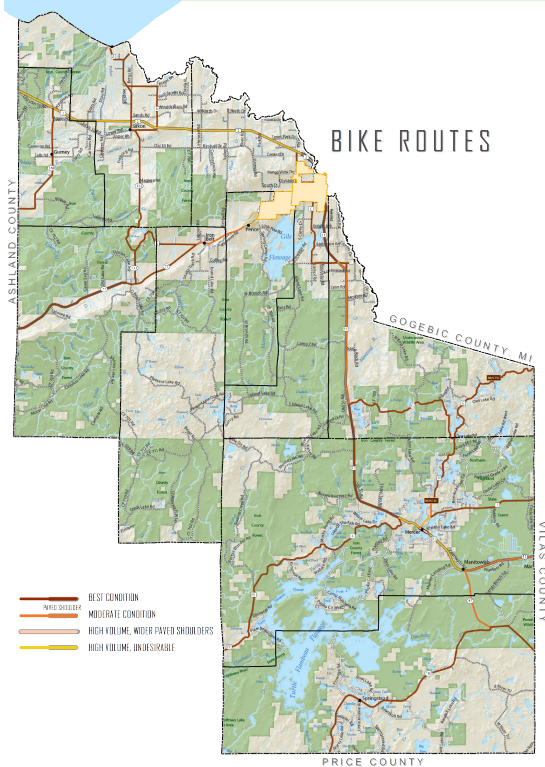


Figure 15: Bike Routes

GOLF

Eagle Bluff Golf Club

Public, 18-hole golf course located in Hurley. The course features 5,870 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 70.

Skye Golf Course

The 18-hole "Whitecap Skye" course at the Skye Golf in the Whitecap Mountains facility in Upson, features 5,320 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 70.

Tahoe Lynx Golf Course

This 9-hole public golf course in Mercer opened in 1994 and measures 2606 yards from the longest tees. The course features 3 sets of tees for different skill levels.

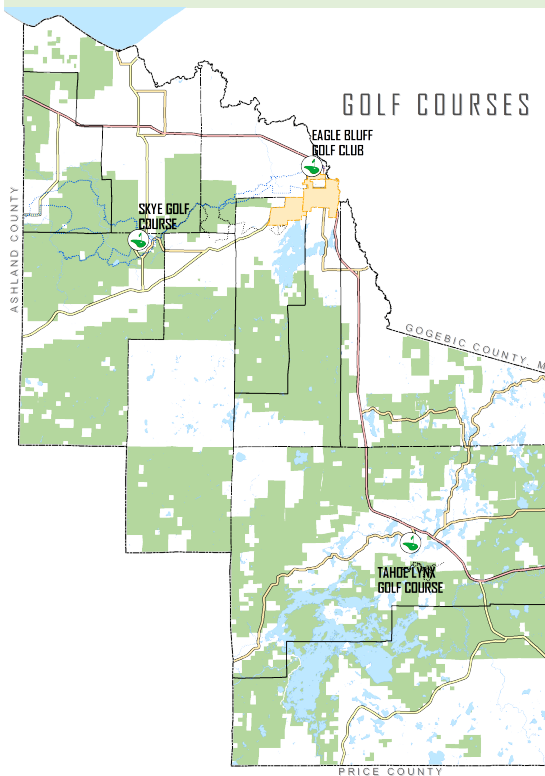


Figure 16: Golf Courses

SCENIC SITES/POINTS OF INTEREST

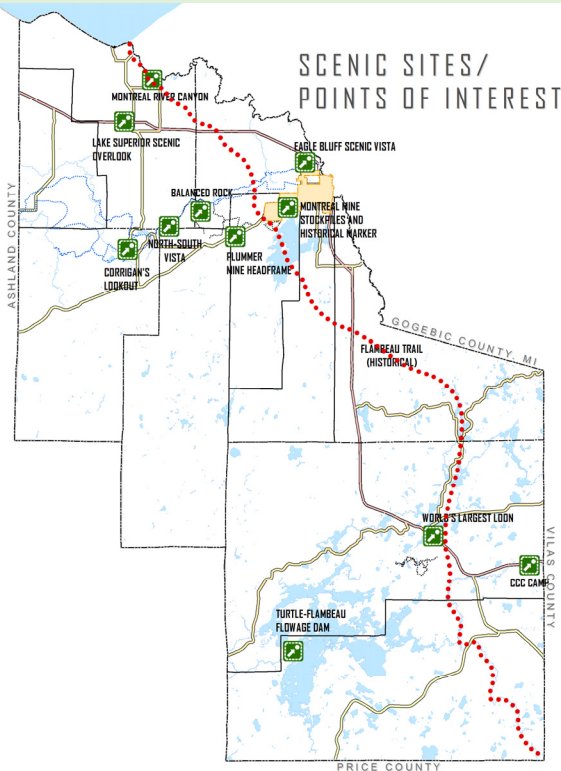
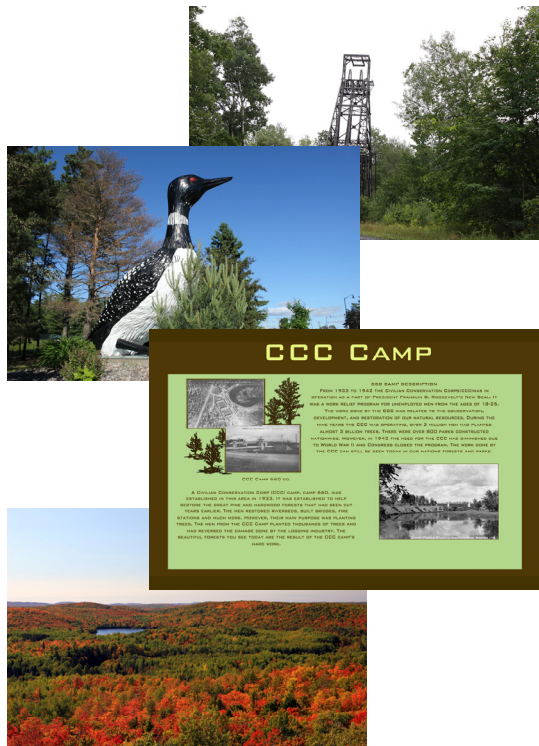


Figure 17: Scenic Sites/Points of Interest



Montreal River Canyon

Scenic and remote canyon on the Montreal River in northern Iron County. The canyon's contains high sheer rock walls straddle whitewater rapids (class II – class V) and boulder gardens which make this a destination for adventurous whitewater rafters. Located on private property.

Lake Superior Scenic Overlook

WisDOT overlook and rest area along US Highway 2.

Corrigan's Lookout

Rock outcrop overlooking Upson Lake and the Penokee Hills. Located on Iron County Forest lands, near Upson.

North-South Vista

Scenic views of the Penokee Hills landscape. ATV & snowmobile access via Trail 6.

Balanced Rock

Natural geologic feature located near the midpoint of the Uller Trail. ATV & snowmobile access via Trail 6.

Plummer Mine Headframe

The Plummer Mine Headframe is the last standing headframe in Wisconsin, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Eagle Bluff Scenic Vista

A spectacular vista of two states and Lake Superior. South of U.S. 2 on County D at the Eagle Bluff Golf Club, one mile west of Hurley.

Montreal Mine Stockpiles and Historical Marker

Neat white frame houses, gently curving streets, and gracious landscaping mark the City of Montreal—the only planned mining company town in Wisconsin.

World's Largest Loon

Statue of Claire d'Loon", the world's largest loon, in front of the Mercer Chamber of Commerce.

Turtle-Flambeau Dam

Dam constructed in 1926 on the Flambeau River which created the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage.

Flambeau Trail

Historical travel trade route trips from La Pointe, on Madeline Island, to Lac du Flambeau, 90 miles to the south.

CCC Camp (Mercer Trail)

Historical site of former Civilian Conservation Corp camp 660 established along the Manitowish River in the Town of Mercer.

PUBLIC ACCESS LANDS

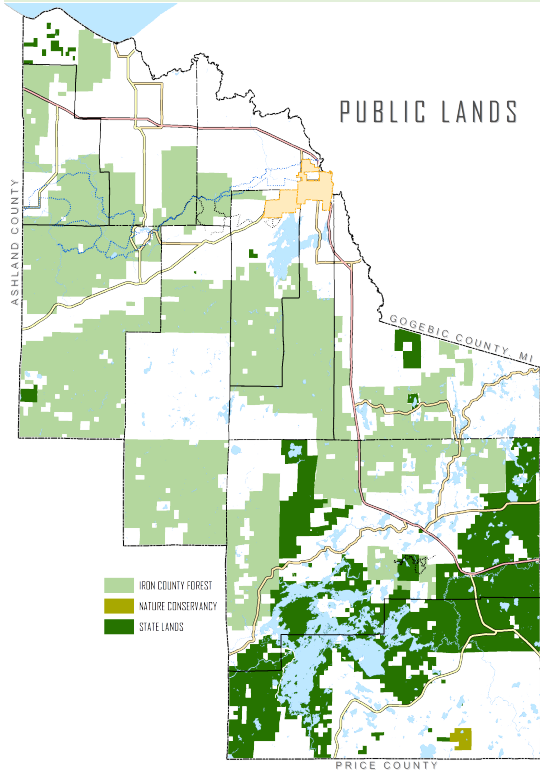


Figure 18: Public Lands

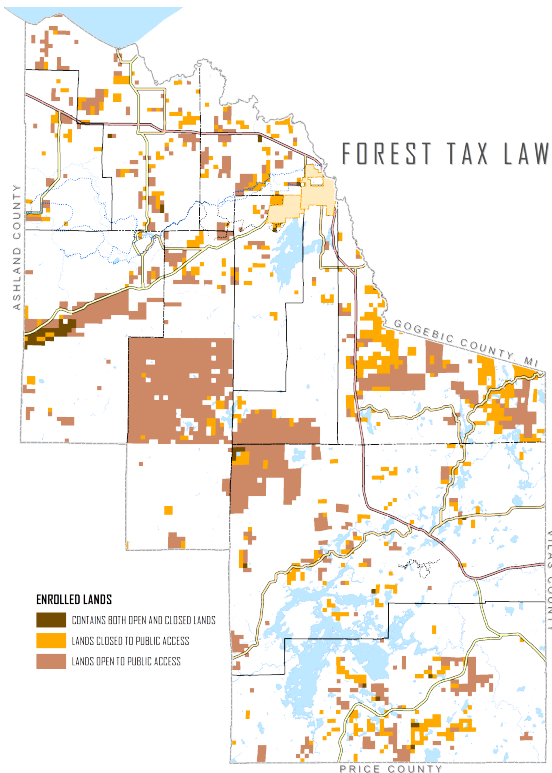


Figure 19: Forest Tax Law Lands

Iron County Forest

Encompassing over 174,000 acres, the Iron County Forest is an actively managed, working forest that provides tremendous recreational opportunities, jobs and timber products.

State Forest

The State of Wisconsin owns and manages over 84,000 acres of public access lands in Iron County, including the 35,500 acre Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area.

Nature Conservancy Lands

The Bass Lake Preserve in southern Iron County contains a diversity of trees, including aspen, sugar and red maple, yellow and white birch. This area was designated as a State Natural Area in 1986.

Forest Tax Law

Approximately 64,000 acres of privately-owned lands enrolled in Wisconsin's Forest Tax Law programs are open to public access and recreation. These programs encourage sustainable forest management on private lands by providing a property tax incentive to landowners. Two different forest tax law programs currently exist: the Managed Forest Law (MFL) and the Forest Crop Law (FCL).

STATE OWNED AND MANAGED PROPERTIES

Underwood State Wildlife Area (SWA)

Located in the Town of Oma, the Underwood State Wildlife Area is a 1,600 acre state-owned tract managed primarily for wildlife species such as ruffed grouse, deer, woodcock, bears, and wolves. Habitat types found within this area include forested uplands and cedar swamps.

Hay Creek-Hoffman Lake Wildlife Area (SWA)

This SWA encompasses portions of Ashland and Iron Counties. Within Iron County, the Wildlife Area is found within the Town of Sherman and a small portion of the Town of Mercer. The total acreage of this SWA is 13,424 acres, with 7,412 acres in Iron County. This SWA provides habitat for a wide range of wildlife species including ruffed grouse, deer, woodcock, bears, loons, waterfowl, beavers, otters, fishers, coyotes, bobcat, muskrats, ospreys, eagles, and timber wolves.

Moose Lake State Natural Area (SNA)

The Moose Lake SNA encompasses 1,113 acres within the Town of Mercer. This area contains a high quality forest with several patches of old-growth hemlock forest. This SNA also contains rare plants and an important warbler breeding area. Frog Lake and Pines State Natural Area (SNA) This 192-acre SNA located in the Town of Mercer features an undisturbed wilderness lake surrounded by old-growth northern dry-mesic forest in a large lowland bordering the Manitowish River. This SNA is located entirely within the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest.

Bass Lake Preserve State Natural Area (SNA)

This 30-acre preserve is located within the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest in the Town of Sherman. This property features a wilderness type lake, conifer swamp and bog and northern hardwoods forest.

Lake Evelyn State Natural Area (SNA)

The Lake Evelyn State Natural Area encompasses 26 acres in Section 23, T44N R3E, in the Town of Oma. This SNA features an undeveloped soft-water seepage lake surrounded by wetlands and upland forest.

Caroline Lake State Natural Area (SNA)

The Caroline Lake SNA is located in T44N-R1W, Section 19, in the Town of Anderson. This SNA encompasses 518 total acres of northern hardwoods, conifer, wetland, and mixed forest. Caroline lake also forms the headwaters of the Bad River and contains unique plant communities and forested wetlands.

Springstead Muskeg State Natural Area (SNA)

The Springstead Muskeg SNA is a large peatland featuring an extensive undisturbed bog located at the headwaters area of the South Fork of the Flambeau River. This SNA encompasses 200 acres in Section 28 of the Town of Sherman.

Powell Marsh Wildlife Area (SWA)

This SWA lies within the boundary of the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest on the western edge of the Town of Sherman. Since 1980, management activities in this SWA have focused on enhancing habitat for waterfowl and sharp-tailed grouse. Total acreage of this SWA within Iron County is approximately 105 acres.

Turtle-Flambeau Flowage State Natural Area (SNA)

This 3,145 SNA is found in the Towns of Mercer and Sherman in Iron County. The Flowage was created in 1926 by the inundation of lowland wetlands and contains numerous unique and varied plant and animal communities.

Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area

The Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area contains several thousand state-owned acres of water and miles of undeveloped shoreline. The Flowage itself is a 19,000-acre reservoir with 212 miles of predominantly wilderness shoreline. This area is a popular recreation destination for those seeking fishing and wilderness camping experiences. This area includes the once separate Boot Lake State Wildlife Area.

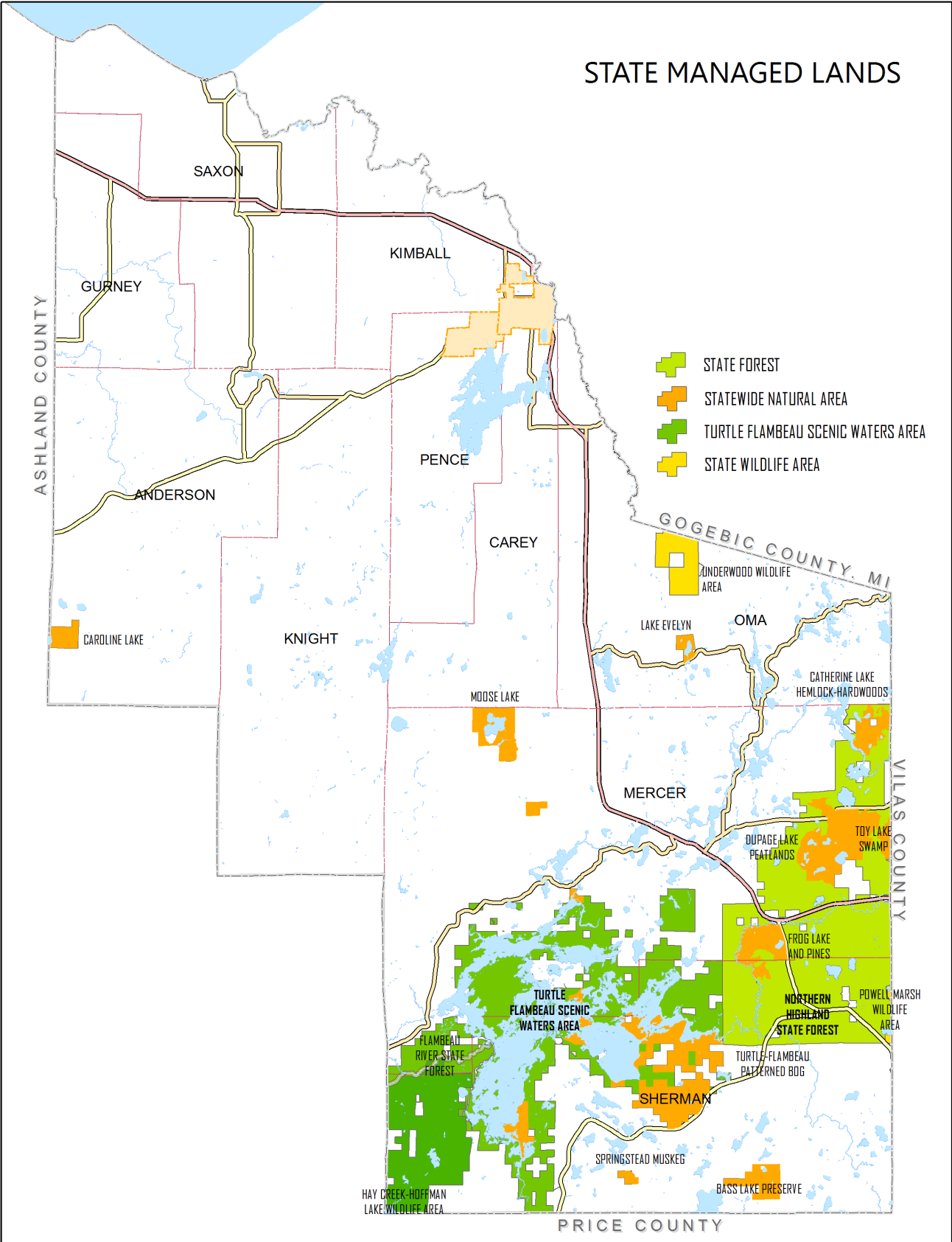
Northern Highland American Legion State Forest

This state forest was established in 1925 to protect the streamflow at the headwaters of the Wisconsin, Flambeau and Manitowish Rivers. The NHAL State Forest is the largest in Wisconsin, encompassing over 222,000 acres in Vilas, Oneida and Iron Counties. Within Iron County there are approximately 30,000 acres of land within the NHAL State Forest.

Flambeau River State Forest

The Flambeau River State Forest was established in 1930. This forest occupies a total of 90,000 acres of land surrounding the North and South Forks of the Flambeau River. Within Iron County, this forest occupies about 335 total acres.

STATE MANAGED LANDS



WAYSIDES/PICNIC AREAS

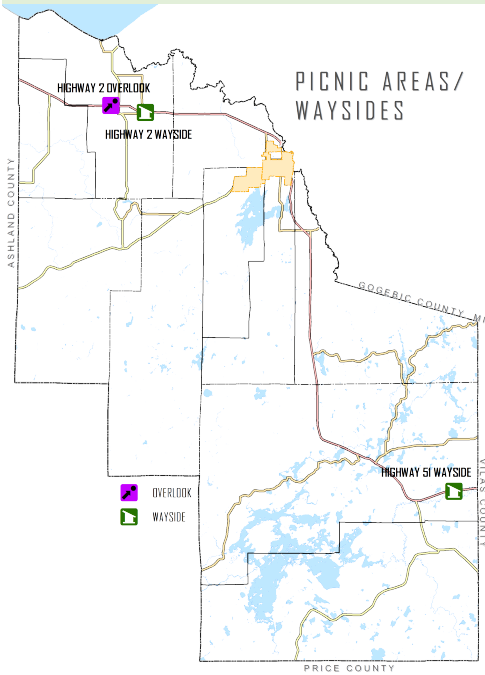


Figure 20: Picnic Areas/Waysides

Highway 2 Overlook (Apostle Islands)

WisDOT overlook along US Highway 2 in the Town of Saxon. No facilities.

Highway 2 Wayside

WisDOT wayside along US Highway 2 in the Town of Saxon. Interpretive signage and limited day-use facilities are present.

Highway 51 Wayside

WisDOT wayside along US Highway 51 in the Town of Mercer.

LOCAL EVENTS/FESTIVALS



Figure 21: Public Events

Iron County Fair

The Iron County Fair is one of the best small county fairs in Wisconsin. Located in the town of Saxon, the fair offers a multitude of activities for every age. Activities include, agricultural exhibits, animals, rides, food, entertainment, midway rides and games, and other fun.

Paavo Nurmi Marathon

Named for the Finnish winner of nine Olympic gold medals in the 1920s, this marathon draws about 300 participants annually. It starts in Upson, WI and finishes in downtown Hurley. It was established in 1969 and is considered to be the oldest running marathon in Wisconsin.

Loon Day

An annual art & craft show in Mercer with more than 250 exhibitors. Loon calling contest (trophies awarded), food, music, dancing, demonstrations, sidewalk and bake sales, face painting for kids and a flea market

Snowmobile Olympus (Ironwood, MI)

One of the premier snowmobile oval races in all of North America.

SISU Ski Fest (Ironwood, MI)

XC Ski races and snowshoe events, held annually.

Festivale Italiano

Annual family fun event held in Hurley celebrating Italian heritage.

Heritage Festival

Two weeks of events to celebrate Iron County's rich cultural heritage. Held annually.

Musky Fishing Challenge

A catch and release musky fishing tournament that allows the use of both artificial and live bait. Held annually in Mercer

Lupine Junefest

Annual festival held in Mercer, featuring bike/hike tours, live music, arts/crafts, silent auction, photography, informational booth and classic car show.

CanYak Fishing Tournament

Fishing, Trade Show, Demos, and Live Music. Held in Mercer

Saxon Harbor Fishing Tournament

Annual spring fishing tournament on Lake Superior.

SHOOTING RANGES

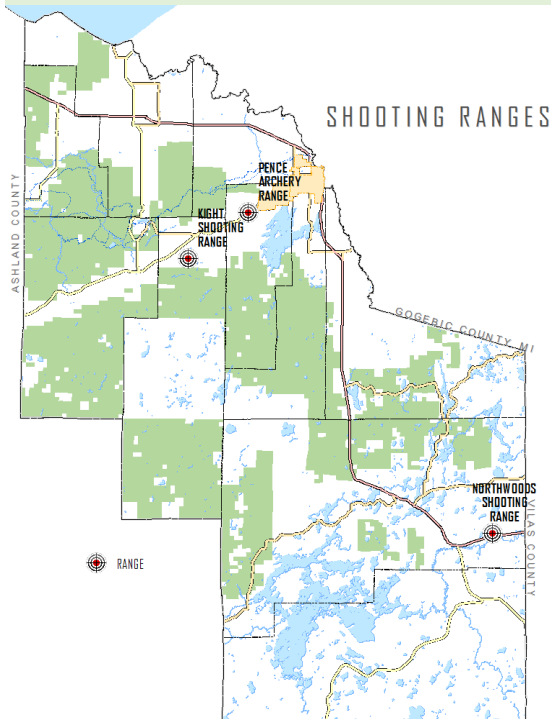


Figure 22: Shooting Ranges

Northwood's Shooting Range

The Northwood's Shooting Range is maintained by the Northwood's Wildlife & Wetlands Club and is open to the public from April 1 to November 30. The range is located five miles south of Mercer, just off Hwy 51 on Range Road. The facility includes a 200-yard rifle and 100-yard pistol range and field course. Shooting events are held weekly throughout the summer.

The Knight Shooting Range

The Knight Shooting Range is a rifle only range. It is located on Snake Track Road, two miles southwest of Iron Belt. This range is open to the public, and shooting benches and target backstops are provided.

Pence Archery Range

The village of Pence now has an archery Range on the north side of Hwy77. Practice targets and a field range are provided.

PADDLESPTS

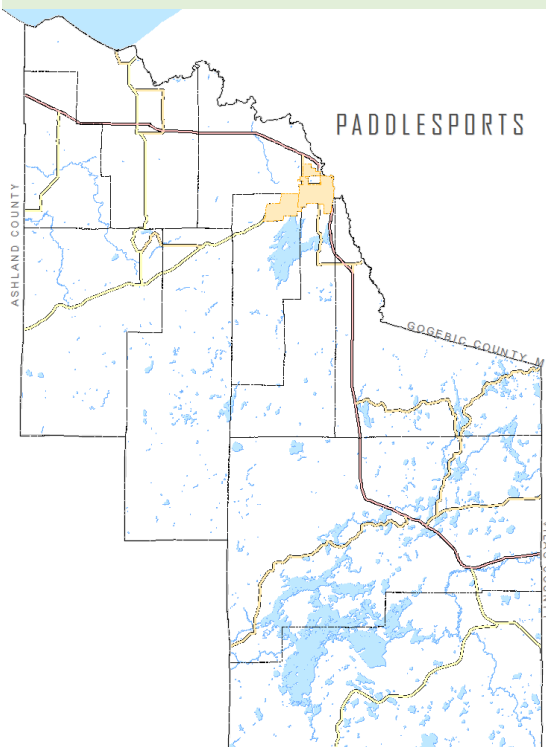


Figure 23: Paddlesports

Inland Lakes and Streams

Iron County has 217 named inland lakes along with 277 smaller, unnamed lakes totaling 29,902 acres of surface water. The county also has 724 miles of perennial streams.

Turtle River Trail

The 27-mile Turtle River Trail connects 17 different lakes. There are many put-in and take-out possibilities on the Turtle River offering a wide variety of trips

Bear River

This trip is tranquil and unspoiled by development. Only one low hazard rapids, better described as a "riffle," will be encountered at the second bridge crossing. The usual put-in is below the outlet of Flambeau Lake. This makes for a 25-mile paddle to the Murray's landing take-out.

Manitowish River

This 20-mile route is a continuation of the popular Manitowish trip that begins at High Lake (Vilas County) at the river's origin on County Road B east of Presque Isle.

Gile Flowage

Gile Flowage, a 3,380-acre lake in northern Iron County, is the last large underdeveloped "Laurentian Shield" lake in Wisconsin. Most of the shoreline is ancient exposed bedrock and the flowage is dotted with bedrock islands reminiscent of the Boundary Waters and Quetico canoe- country region of northern Minnesota.

Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area

The Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area encompasses over 38,000 acres with its star attraction being the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage. A voluntary quiet area has been established on approximately the eastern one-fifth of the Flowage.

Montreal River – West Branch

Expert-only paddle route which includes high hazard Class V rapids, dams and inaccessible canyon-like areas.

Lake Superior Water Trail (LSWT)

The LSWT is a network of mapped access points and recreational resources along Wisconsin's Lake Superior south shore. The water trail provides a framework for a wealth of environmental, historical, and cultural experiences accessible along the Lake Superior coastline.

RUSTIC ROADS

Rustic Road 100

A 13.5 mile designated Rustic Road extending from County Highway G from the Michigan/Wisconsin border, continuing south along County Highway H to Mercer. This route along part of the historic Flambeau Trail is Wisconsin's 100th designated Rustic Road.

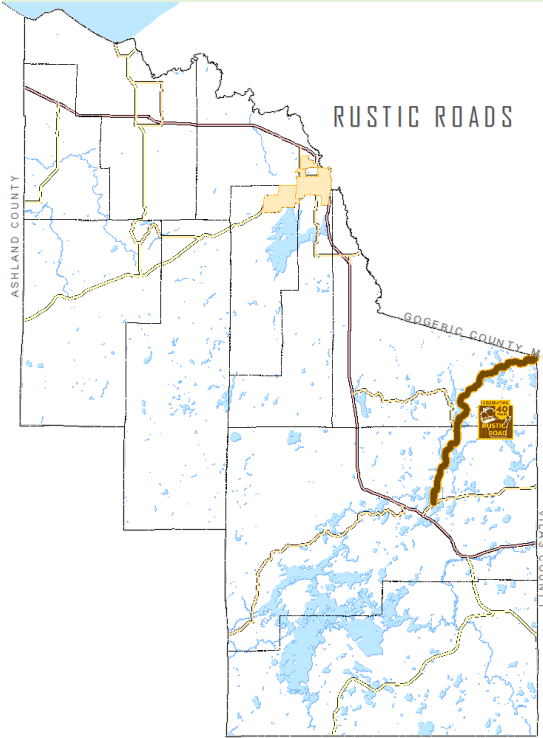


Figure 24: Rustic Roads

OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

To ensure that the needs of the public are served by this plan, a significant amount of time has been expressed gaining public input into the plan development. Gaining public input and support is a critical element to assessing the needs, development and implementation of this outdoor recreation plan.



















RECREATION NEEDS STANDARDS

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) identify standards for designing recreation facilities. The NRPA suggests that a park system, at a minimum, be composed of a “core” system of parklands, with a total of **6.25 to 10.5 acres** of developed open space per **1,000 population**. The size and amount of “adjunct” parklands will vary from community to community, but must be taken into account when considering a total, well-rounded system of parks and recreation areas.

While not classified as parks *per se*, public lands including county and state forestlands provide many of the same park functions in terms of providing open space for a wide range of outdoor activities. Using the NRFA definition, Iron County would need between 37.0 and 59.1 acres of parks to satisfy the demands of county residents. Considering that Iron County has more than 230,000 acres of public recreation land available, the resource is more than sufficient to meet current and projected demands for residents and visitors alike.

PUBLIC INPUT ASSESSMENT

An online survey was developed requesting information from the public regarding their personal interest in the development and maintenance of outdoor recreation in Iron County. On August 6th, 2015, a press release was also submitted and published in the Ironwood Daily Globe and Iron County Miner. Social media was also used to distribute the survey link and solicit comments. The online survey became active on August 8th, 2015 and remained active for a period of 30 days. A total of 654 unique responses were recorded. A letter was mailed to city and town elected officials on September 22nd, 2015, requesting community input in the recreation plan (see appendix). A similar letter of was sent to the following key recreation stakeholders, school districts and interest groups in Iron County.

-  Bad River Tribal Council
-  Eagle Bluff Golf Course
-  Fat Tire Bike Club
-  Friends of the Gile Flowage
-  Frontier Campground
-  Hurley Area Chamber of Commerce
-  Hurley School District
-  Iron County ATV Association
-  Iron County Development Zone
-  Iron County Outdoor Recreation Enthusiasts
-  Iron County Recreation Council
-  Iron County UW-Extension
-  Lac Du Flambeau Tribal Council
-  Loon Lagoon
-  MECCA Ski Club
-  Mercer Area Chamber of Commerce
-  Mercer Dusty Loons
-  Mercer School District

- ✚ Mercer SnoGoers
- ✚ North Country National Scenic Trail
- ✚ North Country Trail Association
- ✚ Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest
- ✚ Penokee Rangers

- ✚ Saxon Harbor Boating Club
- ✚ Turtle Flambeau Flowage Association
- ✚ White Thunder Riders
- ✚ WhiteCap Kayak
- ✚ Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

Recreation Uses

In terms of user participation, hiking, fishing, boating, kayaking and snowshoeing were among the most popular recreational activities identified by survey respondents. Summer sports participation rates exceeded winter participation rates by a margin of greater than 2:1.

1. Hiking (Top annual participation)
2. Fishing
3. Snowshoeing
4. Boating
5. Kayaking
6. Cross Country Skiing
7. Road Biking
8. Camping
9. ATVing/UTVing
10. Other water sports
11. Mountain Biking
12. Playgrounds
13. Other
14. Snowmobiling
15. Downhill Skiing
16. Horseback Riding (Lowest annual participation)

Key "other" identified recreational uses included hunting/nature activities, running, motorcycling, driving (touring), watersports (SUP, canoe, swimming) and organized sports.

Facilities Demand

In terms of county-owned and managed facilities, the most visited/used facilities identified in the survey include Saxon Harbor, boat landings, Lake of the Falls County Park and the Potato River Falls. Developed county parks also tended to receive much higher usage/visitation rates than minimally developed or primitive sites. The most popular boat landings included those on the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage, Gile Flowage and Lake of the Falls.

Local waterfalls, Montreal Trails, the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage and the Gile Flowage were the most popular non-county-owned or managed facilities or resources in Iron County.

Facilities Satisfaction

In terms of overall satisfaction with the condition of county-owned and managed facilities, 86 percent of survey respondents said they were either very or somewhat satisfied.

Public Water Access

More than 90 percent of survey respondents indicated that Iron County currently has adequate public water access. Less than 10 percent of respondents stated that there are additional needs for public water access in the county. When asked where additional public access was needed, respondents identified the following:

1. Turtle Flambeau Flowage and many smaller lakes
2. Saxon Harbor
3. Lake of the Falls
4. Rice Lake, Echo Lake
5. Fox Lake, Pike Lake
6. Boot lake, Springstead Lake
7. Sturgeon Bay
8. French Lake and Boot Lake
9. Gile Flowage
10. Tyler's Forks
11. Lake Superior
12. Build canoe and kayak accesses to Iron County rivers along roadsides.
13. Bad River
14. Turtle Flambeau Flowage
15. Island Lake. Crystal Lake (Oma)
16. Montreal River

When asked what improvements were needed at public boat landings and water access points, survey respondents indicated issues related to bathrooms, general maintenance, addition/repair or improvement of docks, piers and slips, concerns with the condition of the boat landing itself and parking.

Campgrounds

The majority of survey respondents (71.6%) felt that the number of campground facilities in Iron County was adequate. Nearly a quarter of respondents felt that improvements are needed to existing facilities. Improvements needed most frequently cited included improving/expanding facilities, providing more utilities such as electric and Internet access and general maintenance concerns. When asked where additional camping facilities are needed, respondents listed the following (in priority order):

1. Gile Flowage
2. Hurley Area
3. Remote
4. Saxon Harbor
5. Turtle-Flambeau Flowage
6. Mercer Area
7. Penokee Hills
8. Waterfalls
9. Lake Superior
10. Lake of the Falls

When asked what general concerns they had about county-owned campgrounds, survey respondents most often cited issues related to the camping experience (noise, privacy, visual), need for expanding opportunities (adding additional sites, backcountry opportunities, adding trails, etc.) and the condition of existing facilities (cleanliness, parking, restrooms).

Snowmobile Trails

Nearly 90 percent of survey respondents felt that Iron County has an adequate number of miles of snowmobile trails. A small proportion of respondents (15%) felt that specific improvements were needed to existing trails. The need for additional signage was the most frequently expressed concern, followed by trail maintenance, expanding trails into new areas and grooming.

ATV/UTV Trails

Nearly 80 percent of survey respondents felt that Iron County has an adequate number of ATV/UTV trail miles. Nearly 17 percent indicated that specific trail improvements are needed. The most frequently expressed improvements needed included better signage, trail maintenance (rock removal, widening) and a need for grading to fix rough trails. When asked to provide other concerns regarding ATV/UTV trails, respondents cited adding or expanding trails and allowing multi-use on exiting trails (motorcycles), among other concerns.

Ski Trails

Nearly 64 percent of survey respondents felt that Iron County has an adequate number of kilometers of cross-country ski trails. Nearly 10 percent of respondents indicated that improvements were needed to existing trails, while roughly one-third of respondents indicated more trails were needed. Cited improvements needed include better/more frequent grooming, better signage and general trail maintenance. When asked to provide other concerns regarding ski trails, respondents cited the need to expand trails and develop new trails, improve trail promotion and adding additional facilities, among the previously cited concerns.

Expanding Recreational Opportunities

Survey respondents were asked to identify recreational opportunities which the county should explore or investigate for possible future development. The most cited opportunity was the expansion of biking across the county, including the development new of trails for both mountain and road biking (paved). Another highly cited activity was the expansion of walking/hiking opportunities, including the development of new hiking/walking trails. Increasing opportunities for dual sport motorcycling was also highly cited. This activity involves motorcycles that are designed for both on and off-road use, which are currently not-permitted on the ATV/UTV trail system. A number of other recreational opportunities were identified including development and/or expansion of:

1. ATV/UTV
2. Other Recreation (swimming, dogsledding, jeep trails, etc.)
3. XC Skiing
4. Motorcycling
5. Horse Trails
6. Non-motorized Recreation
7. Nature/Birding
8. Disc Golf
9. Camping
10. Snowshoe
11. Shooting Range
12. Snowmobile
13. Zip line
14. Hunting
15. Canoe/Kayak
16. Boating
17. Improving Recreation Access

Biking/Walking

Most survey respondents (63.1 percent) indicated that they would bike/walk more frequently if there were biking/walking trails in Iron County. Slightly over 15 percent indicated that they would bike/walk the same as they currently do and 21.5 percent stated they would not use biking/walking trails.

COMMUNITY INPUT

TOWN & MUNICIPAL PARKS AND RECREATION ASSETS (2010-2015 PLANNING SUMMARY)

MCD	PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES			
	NAME	TYPE	AMENITIES AVAILABLE	IMPROVEMENTS MADE (LAST 5 YEARS)
TOWNS				
TOWN OF ANDERSON	Upton Town Park	Campground	Picnic Tables, Pit Toilets, Grills, Electric, Drinking Water	Picnic Tables, Added (1) Toilet, Painted
TOWN OF KIMBALL	Kimball Town Park	Park	Picnic Tables, Pit Toilets, Handicap Toilet, Grills, Fire Pits, Basketball Court, Playground Equipment, Handicap Fishing Deck, Pavilion, Electrical Power, Walk-in Accessible	
	Softball/Volleyball Field	Field Area		
TOWN OF MERCER	W.S. Carrow Park	Park	Basketball courts, Baseball diamond, beach, grills, picnic tables, volleyball area, pavilion with water and electricity, restrooms, snack shack, playground, tennis court, paved walking oval, paved ADA walking path to beach, beach shelter.	Second basketball court, native plantings on eroding hill, new pier at beach
	ATV & Snowmobile Trails	Trails	Cleared and maintained trails, mapping	Trail extensions and modifications
	Boat Landing	Other	Upgraded and maintained, Handicapped fishing deck on Mercer Lake	Add and upgrade, as needed

MCD	PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES			
	NAME	TYPE	AMENITIES AVAILABLE	IMPROVEMENTS MADE (LAST 5 YEARS)
TOWN OF OMA	Oma Town Park	Park, Boat Landing	Boat Landing on Pine Lake, swimming, Pier, Open space, Pavilion, Picnic Tables, Grills Playground, Paved Parking, Pit Toilets	New roofing on Pavilion, renovated pit toilets, new pier at boat landing, refurbished picnic tables
	Oma Community Forest	80 acres of undisturbed woodland recreation area	Unimproved road access adjacent to US Hwy 51	None
TOWN OF SAXON	Iron Horse Trail	Trail	None	None
TOWN OF SHERMAN	Snowmobile Trail	Trail	None	none
CITIES				
CITY OF MONTREAL	Gile Park/Gile Flowage	Park	Pavilion, Toilets, Picnic Tables, Playground, Beach, Boat Launch/Dock	None
	Slugger Baron Park	Park	Playground, Picnic Tables, Basketball Court	
	West End Ball Field	Ball Field/Park	Baseball Field, Basketball Court, Playground	
	City Hall Ball Field	Park/Playground	Baseball Field, Tennis Court	
CITY OF HURLEY	Riccelli Park	Park	Tables, Pavilion, Grills, Playground, Flushable Restrooms	Add swings, Repair merry-go-round, Remove dead trees
	Cary Road Ball Park	Park	Tables, Grills, Playground, Bocce Ball Courts, Volley Ball Courts, Walking Trail, Restrooms, Drinking Water	
	Eagle Bluff Golf Course	18 Hole Golf Course	Club House, Cart Rentals, Storage Sheds	

MCD	PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES			
	NAME	TYPE	AMENITIES AVAILABLE	IMPROVEMENTS MADE (LAST 5 YEARS)
	Little League Field	Ball Field/Park	2 Baseball Diamonds, Electronic Scoreboards, Concession Buildings, Restrooms	
	Range Trail	Non-Motorized Trail	Tables, Bike Rack, Information Board	

**TOWN & MUNICIPAL PARKS AND RECREATION ASSETS PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENTS
2016-2020**

FUTURE OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS DESIRED FROM JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2020. (SUCH AS PLANNED TRAILS OR OTHER NEW RECREATION SITES).	
TOWNS	
TOWN OF ANDERSON	New construction of vault toilets in campground
TOWN OF KIMBALL	Interstate and Peterson Falls viewing area. Plan to provide a parking area and hiking trails.
TOWN OF MERCER	Trails: Install concrete walk/bike trail from school to Carow Park, Complete 7-mile non-motorized trail to Vilas County line, Install ballards into existing walk/bike trail along US Hwy 51, Initiate grant applications for funding for non-motorized trail with along County Hwy J from Carow Park to County line, or along, County Hwy H from County Hwy J to County Hwy G, or along County Hwy FF. Carow Park: Redoing the tennis courts, new posts for new cyclone fence, remove basketball casings and install new basketball equipment and supports, upgrade grills, Remodel bathroom facilities. With improved town road improvements, add additional property to Lake of the Falls Park
TOWN OF OMA	Residents of Oma have not communicated a desire for the Town to make significant expansions to the existing recreation sites beyond maintenance and general upkeep. The Oma Community Forest is an 80 acre parcel located 1.5 miles south of Schomberg Park along US Hwy 51. No established motorized trails are nearby. This area is a completely undisturbed upland forest that is available for recreation. Access is via a short unimproved road. No amenities are available. The timber is managed by the Iron County Forestry Department and due for logging in 2030. With grant funding and inter-governmental cooperation with Iron County Forestry and Parks Department, this area has potential to support quiet-outdoor recreation.
TOWN OF SAXON	Would like Iron Horse Trail to be paved between 122 & B.
TOWN OF SHERMAN	Biking/hiking/cross country ski trails. (Possibly various locations. Some residents have expressed significant interest in such a trail alongside the Flowage Road in Springstead). Possible outdoor skating rink in Winter.
CITIES	
CITY OF MONTREAL	Work with local groups to get walking/biking trail to Montreal's west end.
CITY OF HURLEY	We want to expand the non-motorized trail to meet Cary Road Park and someday to Montreal Wisconsin. Add another trail head park with all amenities.

TOWN & MUNICIPAL INPUT ON COUNTYWIDE AND LOCAL RECREATIONAL PLANNING ISSUES

MCD	WHAT ARE THE TOP THREE RECREATIONAL ISSUES FACING IRON COUNTY?	HOW SHOULD THE COUNTY RECREATION ISSUES IDENTIFIED BE SATISFIED?	WHAT ARE THE TOP THREE RECREATIONAL ISSUES FACING YOUR COMMUNITY?	HOW SHOULD THE LOCAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BE SATISFIED?
TOWN OF MERCER	<p>Focus on improving all silent sport recreational opportunities along with improved PR and mapping</p> <p>Improved signage and mapping for outdoor recreational areas</p> <p>Funding for all trails: motorized and non-motorized</p>	<p>Grant awards, Use organizations and governmental entities to focus on improving all of the above.</p>	<p>Same as countywide</p>	<p>Again with governmental bodies and organizations working in union to address all of the above. Funding and participation are imperative.</p>
TOWN OF OMA	<p>Signage to existing trails, waterfalls, and hiking areas.</p> <p>Non-motorized winter recreation with maintained trails and available parking</p>	<p>Install better signage to existing recreation areas. Example: It is very difficult to find the trailhead at Saxon Falls. Many examples of this throughout the county. Iron County has numerous areas that can be used for quiet outdoor winter recreation. After a timber sale on county land the logging contractors build wonderful roads that could be maintained as non-motorized snowshoe trails, especially in select-cut timberlands. For minimal investment in trailhead parking areas (that are plowed in the winter), signage, and trail maps there could be miles of quiet outdoor recreation on county land.</p>	<p>The Town of Oma, being centrally located between Hurley and Mercer, does not have any identifiable recreational issues. The main concern for the community is the overall economic health of Iron County. Having a comprehensive county-wide balance between motorized and non-motorized recreational areas is key to the long term economic stability of the county.</p>	

CITY OF MONTREAL	Maintenance of existing facilities/amenities and creation of new opportunities	Work with governing bodies, community and volunteers to maintain and create recreational facilities to the best that can be done		
CITY OF HURLEY	Expand trail system, both non-motorized and motorized. Showers and restrooms at Lake of the Falls Campground. Flushable toilets and showers at Weber Lake	Apply for grant money to cover costs	Non-Motorized trail access	Apply for any type of grant available
TOWN OF SHERMAN	Communication to outlying communities far from Hurley (e.g.: Springstead has postal service out of Park Falls, a different county, so residents don't receive information about iron County activities, including the Iron County Fair.) Size of county	Provide information to the Park Falls Miner...have mailings go to residents in Springstead/Town of Sherman, which much of it is out of Park Falls post office	Ability to pay for staff to maintain trails, parks, activity areas	County funding and reimbursement for staffing of and maintenance of new recreational spots
TOWN OF KIMBALL	Speed limit for both snowmobiles and ATVs Getting routes and trails off of roads			

CLUB/ORGANIZATIONAL INPUT

WHAT ARE THE TOP THREE RECREATIONAL ISSUES FACING IRON COUNTY?				
CLUB/ORG.	ISSUE 1	ISSUE 2	ISSUE 3	HOW SHOULD RECREATION ISSUES BE STAISFIED?
HURLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	An alternate trail route, for recreational vehicles, needs to be determined from Hurley to Saxon through Kimball.	Lack of funding for Silent Sports to maintain trail use in winter. (Example: cross country trails)		Meeting with the town board members in Kimball to resolve trail route issues.
IRON COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION ENTHUSIASTS (ICORE)	Lack of non-motorized trails (hiking and biking), both regional trails connecting communities and trail systems/loops.	Poor non-motorized access to water bodies (lakes, rivers, waterfalls)	Poorly maintained non-motorized trails (signage, mapping, parking, grooming, plowing)	
LOONY PADDLERS	Lack of toilets at boat landings	Difficulty of finding description of hiking trails	Lack of scenic hiking trails	<p>Portable toilets would help protect our likes and the landowners adjacent to the boat landings and rid us of unsightly toilet paper debris.</p> <p>The county could focus on the development of silent sport trails in the lake-rich southern third on public lands bordering streams and lakes. Volunteers might be recruited to help with clearing and maintaining walking trails.</p> <p>A silent sports trail map, similar to the Vilas County piece, could be developed, to include trails both on county, state and federal lands.</p>

WHAT ARE THE TOP THREE RECREATIONAL ISSUES FACING IRON COUNTY?

CLUB/ORG.	ISSUE 1	ISSUE 2	ISSUE 3	HOW SHOULD RECREATION ISSUES BE STAISFIED?
MERCER DUSTY LOONS	ATV/UTV Trails-Combo Trails.	Hunting - DNR problem/wolves.	Fishing - DNR problem/Regulation takes too long.	Need to help fight the state land now used by motorized vehicles. Get active on State Laws.
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MERCER	ATV trails too narrow and bumpy.	People are not considerate on trails.	Speed limits on trails are too high.	Grade the trails every two years or less. Have someone check the trails and fix washboards. Lower speed limit especially at night. Enforce trails better. Have volunteer groups teach people about trail rules and being considerate.
WHITE THUNDER RIDERS	Shortage of funding to adequately maintain/rehab ATV trails.	Distance in/development of a long range strategic trail plan for the county.	Finding ways to promote Iron County as a year round "Destination" for recreation.	Pursue grants to leverage funds to supplement state funds and hire a consultant to assist with plan development.

CLUB/ORGANIZATIONAL RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

	DESIRED IMPROVEMENTS AT COUNTY MANAGED FACILITY OR TRAILS		NEW RECREATION FACILITIES OR TRAILS DESIRED AND FUNDING SOURCES	
CLUB/ORG.	FACILITY OR TRAIL	IMPROVEMENT NEEDED	NEW FACILITIES OR TRAILS	FUNDING SOURCES
HURLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	ATV/UTV Snowmobile Trails	Improved Signage	Trails to Saxon Harbor providing better access for recreational vehicles	Grants, private funds, fundraisers, etc.
IRON COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION ENTHUSIASTS (ICORE)	Gateway Regional Trail Trails to Waterfalls ULLER	Extend from Hurley to Montreal. Signage, mapping, parking and plowing of trailheads. Improve trail maintenance, parking and grooming.	Create backcountry experiences, such as campgrounds and cabins along lakes and trails. Provide enhanced access to scenic views, provide parking, signage, maintenance and mapping. Connect Hurley and Mercer with non-motorized hiking and biking trails. Enhance non-motorized access to lakes and streams. Develop brochures for birding opportunities.	
MERCER DUSTY LOONS		Open up County Road FF for ATV/UTV use from Popko circle to Swamp Creek Rd. to make a loop to Hurley and Mercer	ATV/UTV in Mercer	Combo trails on some of our state land. Put our state land to better use by more than tree huggers. If we get to use state land we would build our own trails.
LOONY PADDLERS	Schomberg Park	Improve the snowshoe trail so that it is easier to negotiate in the non-snow season, too.	Walking/snowshoe trails along streams or lakeshores.	

		DESIRED IMPROVEMENTS AT COUNTY MANAGED FACILITY OR TRAILS		NEW RECREATION FACILITIES OR TRAILS DESIRED AND FUNDING SOURCES	
CLUB/ORG.	FACILITY OR TRAIL	IMPROVEMENT NEEDED	NEW FACILITIES OR TRAILS	FUNDING SOURCES	
WHITE THUNDER RIDERS	<p>Keep up with rehabilitation and maintenance of ATV trails as they get blown out.</p> <p>Better signage to points of interest (falls, overlooks, etc.) from snowmobile and ATV trails.</p> <p>Designate more sites/areas for dispersed camping opportunities. Especially near natural attractions.</p>	<p>Hurley to Ashland motorized trail.</p> <p>Outhouse at B-47 crash site memorial.</p>	<p>Finding ways to promote Iron County as a year round "destination" for recreation.</p>	<p>Grants, state funding, county recreation budget</p>	
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MERCER	<p>The Railroad Grade.</p> <p>Trail by Cranberry Inn.</p> <p>Trail from Mercer to Cramer Lake Rd.</p> <p>Lake of the Falls Walking Trail.</p>	<p>Grade it, add gravel, widen in spots.</p> <p>Rocky rough, riding sideways needs to be fixed.</p> <p>Roots sticking up in trail need removed.</p> <p>Has poison ivy everywhere around trail.</p>	<p>Mountain bike trails around Mercer</p>		

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Findings from the surveys of Iron County citizens, recreation users and outdoor recreation interest groups clearly show a high level of interest in outdoor recreation in Iron County, as well as the need to invest in the development, improvement and maintenance of facilities.

With finite resources available for outdoor recreation, it is critical to prioritize needs across the county. However, funding alone is not the answer. Active partnerships are also essential to meeting the outdoor recreation needs of county residents and visitors. At the core of the county's parks and recreation system are local, state and nonprofit agencies and organizations which can provide the resources and support that will be necessary to continue to grow and maintain the recreation system.

The Iron County Outdoor Recreation Plan Steering Committee, with input from the county's outdoor recreation stakeholders and communities, has identified one overall goal and four supporting objectives which serve as the vision to guide the management and development of Iron County's outdoor recreation base over the next five years. The plan's goals and objectives are implemented through a series of related policies, which guide future decision-making, and specific programs and actions which identify the priorities and outcomes for the next 5-year planning cycle.

IRON COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Iron County Forestry Department (ICF) will continue maintenance of existing facilities. Iron County Forestry will increase promotion of recreation opportunities on the Iron County Forest via website, social media, Chambers, maps & brochures. ICF will also explore opportunities to promote outdoor recreation through outreach with local schools. ICF will also continue to assess the need to offer WIFI at the campgrounds as it becomes available. Funding for these activities continue to come from user fees set and assessed by the Forestry Committee annually, grant opportunities when applicable and Iron County.

RESOURCE	ACTIVITY	COST	SOURCE
COUNTY PARKS			
Lake of the Falls	Install drain field for Side 3 restroom/shower building.	\$20,000	County Park Budget
	Construct and install dock at boat landing on Side 1	\$5,000	Grant Funding via WDNR Conservation Aids
	Explore new water supply and add electrical service to sites for Side 2. Install parking area for boaters and day use on Side 1	Est. \$7,000	To Be Determined
	Assess the need for campground expansion and additional restroom/shower buildings, plan & build if needed.	To Be Determined	Grant funding from WDNR Recreational Boating, Stewardship, Xcel Energy or any other eligible opportunities.
Schomberg Park	Plant trees within campground	Est. \$750	To Be Determined
Weber Lake	Continue to assess the need for flush toilet/showers. Work in partnership with an organized friends or interest group for additional upgrades within the park.	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Saxon Harbor	Install floating docks and sidewalk to complete remaining south side of north basin	2016 - \$165,000	2016 Saxon Harbor Budget
	Engineer, plan and install floating docks and sidewalk throughout the remainder of north basin. Engineer, plan and construct new parking lot on north side of north basin	Est. for north side of north basin & parking lot \$500,000	WDNR Rec. Boating, Forestry/Saxon Harbor Budget
	Repair transient docking wall on east side.	To Be Determined	Seek grant funding through, USACE, Coastal Management, WDNR Recreational Boating, Conservation Aids, or Stewardship, or any other eligible opportunities. Seek matching funds contribution in cooperation with Saxon Harbor Boating Club.
	Overstory removal to open up campsites 39-43. Upgrade beach access. Continue improvements of Harbor and Campground in partnership from Saxon Harbor Boating Club.	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

RESOURCE	ACTIVITY	COST	SOURCE
Potato River Falls	Additional signage on Hwy 169 and trails within park. Tree and brush removal around viewing platforms.	Est. signing & brushing \$3,000	Unknown
	Seek and construct better viewing areas and trails where needed.	Unknown	Unknown
Waterfalls	Continue maintenance of trails and viewing areas. Increase signage in cooperation with Iron Co Development.	Unknown	Unknown
NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS			
MECCA	Continue to work in cooperation with MECCA Ski Club in maintaining the MECCA trails by assisting in grant funding opportunities.	Unknown	Grant Funding Opportunities
	Explore mountain bike trail opportunities within the trail system, assist with development and funding opportunities.	Unknown	Grant Funding Opportunities
Uller Trail	Continue to work with Penokee Rangers in maintaining the Uller Trail by providing some labor and equipment and continue to seek grant funding opportunities.	Unknown	Grant Funding Opportunities
	Assist in installing bridges over small creeks.	\$9,600	Funding already secured from WDNR-RTA funds
	Explore options for mountain bike, snowshoe and fat bike use in partnership with organized interest groups. Consider adding loops of trail so trail users can begin & end at the same point.	Unknown	Unknown
North Country Trail	Continued cooperation with the North Country Trail Association in expansion of certified portions of NCT. Assist in the development of a walking bridge over Tyler Forks at Wren Falls.	Unknown	Funding sources from North Country Trail.
Schomberg Park Snowshoe Trail	Continue maintenance. Install footbridges over drainages. Explore opportunities to utilize trails for Fat Bikes (winter use).	Unknown	Unknown

RESOURCE	ACTIVITY	COST	SOURCE
Hunter walking trails	Continue to maintain the Potato River Grouse Management Area in Saxon/Upson. Continue to improve and develop additional hunting opportunities in cooperation with Ruffed Grouse Society and other interest groups. These trails may also be an opportunity for winter Fat Bike and snowshoeing use.	Unknown	Unknown
Other Projects/Activities	Work with organized interest group to assess the need for mountain bike trails and fat tire bike trails (winter use). Help to plan and develop a trail system within Iron County Forest.	Unknown	Assist in seeking grant funding from WDNR and other sources
	Work with interested groups to continue expansion of Gateway Trail.	Unknown	Assist in seeking grant funding from WDNR, Coastal Management, WDOT and any other sources.
	Work with organized interest group to assess the need for horseback riding trails on County Forest. Help to plan and develop a trail system.	Unknown	Assist in seeking grant funding from WDNR and other sources.
	Promote wilderness/rustic camping on County Forest Land.	Unknown	Unknown
	Assess locations of scenic/historic sites throughout the County Forest, their accessibility, create and promote them as destinations for recreation enthusiasts.	Unknown	Unknown
	Cooperate with interest groups and Chambers on special events and races with the use of County Forest for resources and event locations.	Unknown	Unknown

RESOURCE	ACTIVITY	COST	SOURCE
MOTORIZED TRAILS			
ATV/UTV Trails	Continue maintenance of existing ATV trails in cooperation with the Iron County ATV Association, Mercer Dusty Loons, Mercer Sno-Goers and White Thunder Riders by providing grant administration, labor, equipment and supplies.	Unknown	Funding from WDNR ATV/UTV maintenance and development grants.
	Develop a plan and work to implement to provide improved signage throughout the system.	Unknown	Funding from WDNR ATV/UTV Maintenance grants.
	Provide trail location assistance, easement acquisition, engineering and development, construction, funding opportunities and administration of required ATV trail relocations with priority of placement on public lands where possible.	Unknown	Unknown
	Continue assessment of existing trails and bridges and assist clubs in engineering, construction, funding opportunities and administration of rehab projects needed on existing ATV trails.	Unknown	Unknown
	Assess the need and feasibility of additional ATV trails throughout the County with first priority of placement on public lands. Assist in grant opportunities through WDNR, construction and maintenance on any new trails due to expansion. Clubs will continue to seek feasible ATV trail opportunities considering economic need, soil conditions and social issues. Easements for new trails will be sought from private landowners by club members.	Unknown	Grant opportunities through WDNR, construction and maintenance on any new trails due to expansion.

RESOURCE	ACTIVITY	COST	SOURCE
ATV/UTV Trails	Assess the feasibility of corridor expansion to Ashland County into Mellen and Bad River and Vilas County to Lac Du Flambeau. Continue to cooperate with non-motorized groups to assess the feasibility of acquiring Canadian National railroad grade from Hurley to Mellen. Provide engineering and development where needed.	Unknown	Funding opportunities to be sought from WDNR, Coastal Management and other sources.
	Trail 15 relocation from Trail 77 to Cary Mine will be constructed in 2016.	\$27,760	Funding secured by WDNR ATV & Snowmobile grants, total cost.
	New decking and railings to be constructed on Layman's Creek Bridge (Oma)	\$8,696	Funding secured from WDNR Snowmobile & ATV Program.
	Arrowhead Bridge (Mercer)	\$12,206 on Trail 17 in 2016	Funding secured from WDNR Snowmobile & ATV Program.
	Search for a trail location on County Forest Property for ATV and Snowmobile use to get riders from the Island Lake area to Ashland County trails with minimal use of road routes in cooperation with ATV and Snowmobile Clubs.	To be determined	WDNR ATV and Snowmobile Grant Funds
Snowmobile Trails	Continue maintenance of existing snowmobile trails in cooperation with the Mercer Sno-Goers and White Thunder Riders by providing grant administration, labor, equipment and supplies.	Unknown	Funding from WDNR Snowmobile grants.
	Develop a plan and work to implement to provide improved signage throughout the trail system.	Unknown	Funding from WDNR Snowmobile Maintenance grants.
	Provide trail location, engineering, development, construction, easement acquisition and funding opportunities and administration of required Snowmobile trail relocations with priority of placement on public lands where possible.	Unknown	Unknown

RESOURCE	ACTIVITY	COST	SOURCE
Snowmobile Trails	Continue to assessment of trails and bridges and assist clubs in engineering, construction, funding opportunities and administration of rehab projects, including trails and bridges, needed on existing Snowmobile trails.	Unknown	Unknown
	Assess the need and feasibility of additional Snowmobile trails throughout the County with first priority of placement on public lands. Assist in grant opportunities through WDNR, construction and maintenance on any new trails due to expansion or relocation. Clubs will continue to seek feasible Snowmobile trail opportunities considering economic need and social issues. Easements for new trails will be sought from private landowners by club members.	Unknown	Assist in grant opportunities through WDNR
	Assess the feasibility of corridor expansion to Ashland County into Mellen and Bad River. Continue to cooperate with non-motorized groups to assess the feasibility of acquiring Canadian National railroad grade from Hurley to Mellen. Provide engineering and development where needed.	Unknown	Funding opportunities from WDNR, Coastal Management and other sources.
	Trail 15 relocation from Trail 77 to Cary Mine will be constructed in 2016.	\$27,760	Funding secured by WDNR ATV & Snowmobile grants
	New decking and railings to be constructed on Layman's Creek Bridge (Oma)	\$8,696	Funding secured from WDNR Snowmobile & ATV Program.
	Arrowhead Bridge (Mercer)	\$12,206 on Trail 17 in 2016	Funding secured from WDNR Snowmobile & ATV Program.
	Construction of 180' bridge over wetland on Trail 17 on NHAL property between Hwy 51 intersection and Sandy Beach.	Partial funding (\$29,000) Total project estimate \$84,000.	Partial funding received from WDNR Snowmobile grants and remaining funding will continue to be applied for through the WDNR Snowmobile program.

RESOURCE	ACTIVITY	COST	SOURCE
Snowmobile Trails	Search for a trail location on County Forest Property for ATV and Snowmobile use to get riders from the Island Lake area to Ashland County trails with minimal use of road routes in cooperation with ATV and Snowmobile Clubs.	To be determined	WDNR ATV and Snowmobile Grant Funds
BOAT LANDINGS			
Boat Landings	Continue to monitor, maintain and repair Iron County owned boat landings throughout the County.	Unknown	Seek funding through WDNR Recreational Boating and Conservation Aids or other sources when needed.
	Install dock at Lake of the Falls boat landing.	\$5,000	Funding secured through WDNR Conservation Aids with local match
NON-COUNTY MANAGED FACILITIES			
Non-County Managed Facilities	Economic Development and Chambers will continue water route mapping for paddlers. Promote and make materials available.	Unknown	Unknown

APPENDIX A

PLANNING PROCESS DOCUMENTATION

Iron County Outdoor Recreation Plan Update Meeting

Forestry Conference Room, 607 3rd Ave N, Hurley, WI 54534.

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

6:00 PM

1. Call meeting to order
2. Discuss process, timeline, meeting schedule
3. Discuss outdoor recreation survey
4. Discuss community outdoor recreation plan questionnaire
5. Discuss data needs for plan update
6. Public comment
7. Adjourn

Iron County Outdoor Recreation Plan Update Meeting 2

Forestry Conference Room, 607 3rd Ave N, Hurley, WI 54534.

Wednesday, October 28th, 2015

4:00 PM

1. Call meeting to order
2. Outdoor recreation survey update. Review community and organizational questionnaires.
3. Set goals, objectives and policies for outdoor recreation.
4. Review recreational facilities and opportunities mapping.
5. Public comment
6. Adjourn

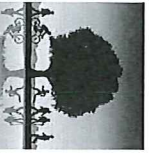
Iron County Outdoor Recreation Plan Update Meeting 3

Forestry Conference Room, 607 3rd Ave N, Hurley, WI 54534.

Wednesday, December 9th, 2015

4:00 PM

1. Call meeting to order
2. Review community and organizational questionnaires/response summaries
3. Develop outdoor recreation implementation strategies
4. Public comment
5. Adjourn



Iron County Outdoor Recreation Plan - October 28, 2015

Name	Affiliation	Phone	Email Address
Kelly Klein	Iron Co. Executive	715/561-2822	kelly@ironcountyrain.com
Eric Peterson	Iron Co Forest Admin	561-2697	10Admin@ironcountyforest.org
Lynsey Erickson	Iron Co Rec Council	561-4834	LEERICKSON@ironcountyrain.com
Tara Hall	Iron Co Forestry	561-2697	Tara@ironcountyrain.com
Tom Bergman	Iron Co Zoning	561-5414	ZoningAdmin@ironcountyrain.com

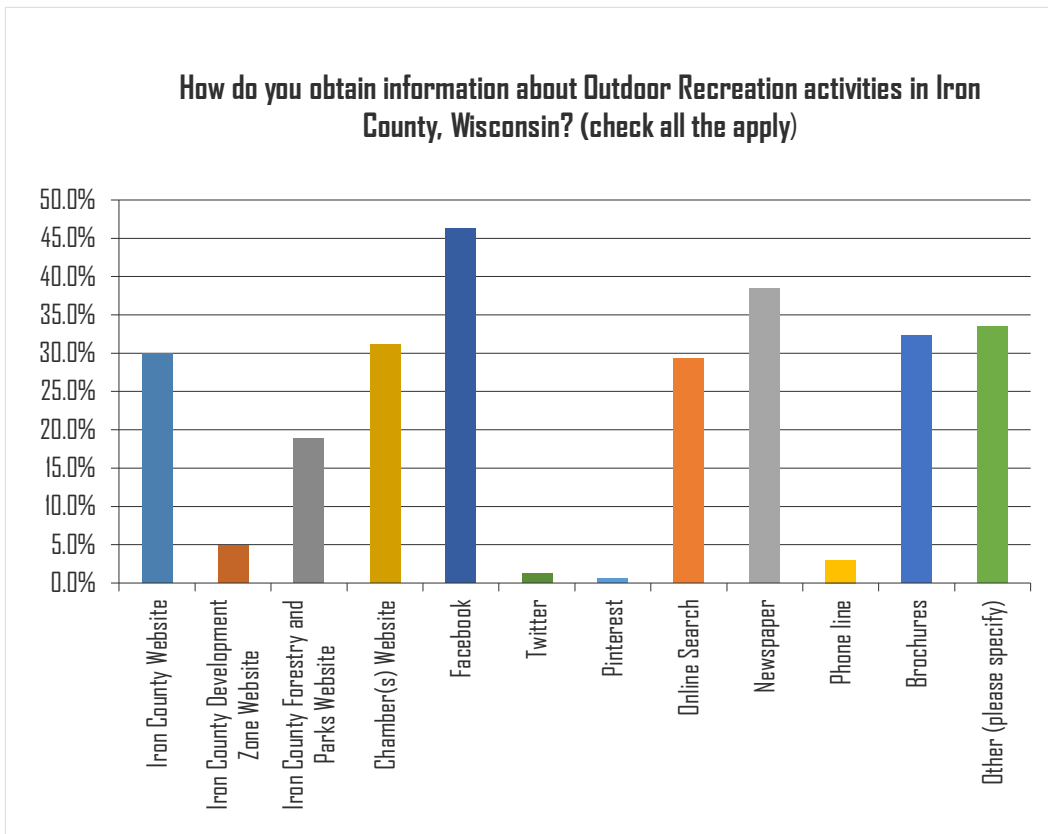
Name	Affiliation
JASON LAUMANN (CFAC)	NWAPC
LARRY ERICKSON	Ice Rec Council
Kelly Klein	Iron Co Econ Dev
Will Andersen	Iron County UW - Extension
Jara Kral	Iron County Forestry
Lous Berman	Iron Co zoning
Terry Dakota	citizen
Pete Santini	Iron County APV

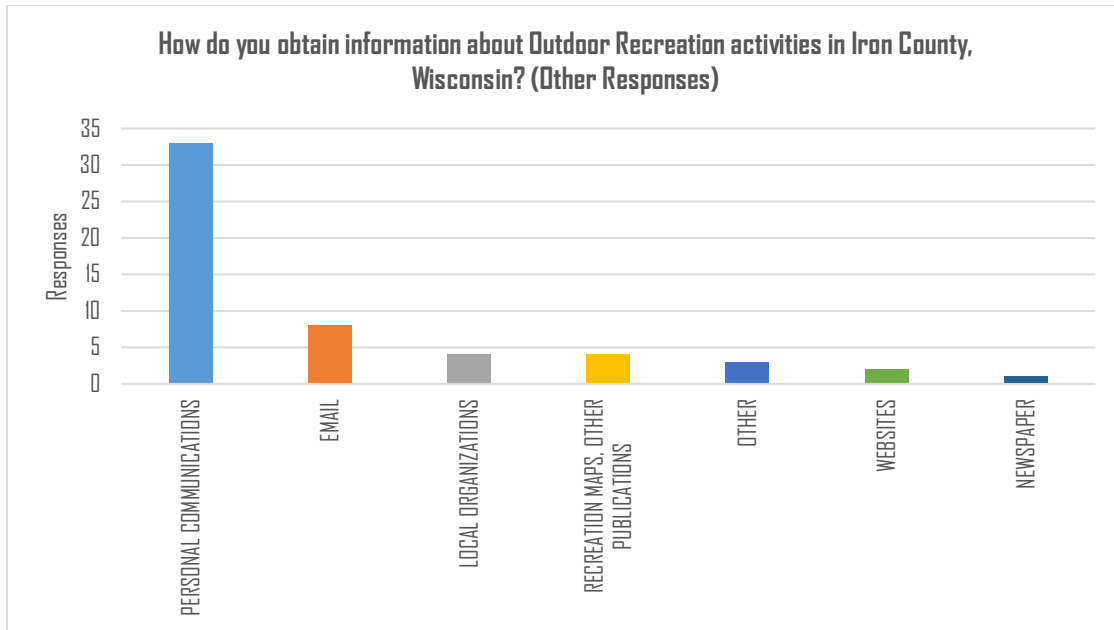
APPENDIX B

RECREATION USER SURVEY RESULTS

Q1. How do you obtain information about Outdoor Recreation activities in Iron County, Wisconsin? (check all the apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Iron County Website	29.9%	49
Iron County Development Zone Website	4.9%	8
Iron County Forestry and Parks Website	18.9%	31
Chamber(s) Website	31.1%	51
Facebook	46.3%	76
Twitter	1.2%	2
Pinterest	0.6%	1
Online Search	29.3%	48
Newspaper	38.4%	63
Phone line	3.0%	5
Brochures	32.3%	53
Other (please specify)	33.5%	55

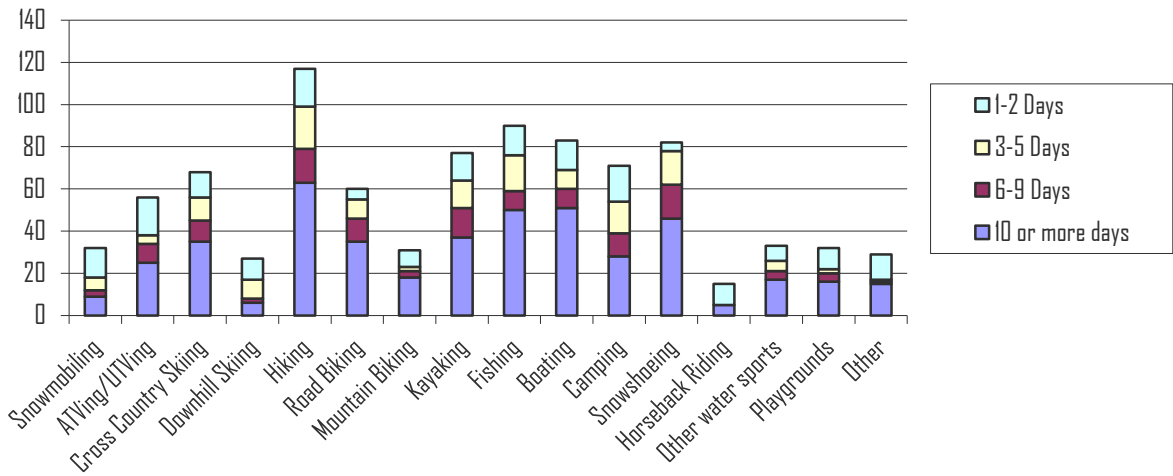




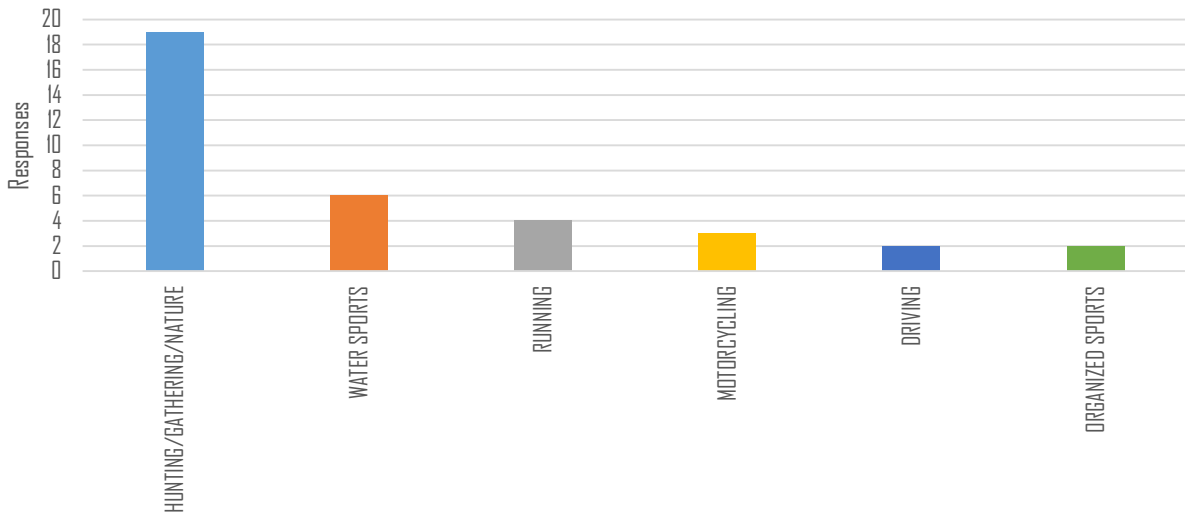
Q2. How many days have you participated in the following Outdoor Recreation activities in Iron County, Wisconsin in the past 12 months?

Answer Options	1-2 Days	3-5 Days	6-9 Days	10 or more days	Response Count
Snowmobiling	14	6	3	9	32
ATVing/UTVing	18	4	9	25	56
Cross Country Skiing	12	11	10	35	68
Downhill Skiing	10	9	2	6	27
Hiking	18	20	16	63	117
Road Biking	5	9	11	35	60
Mountain Biking	8	2	3	18	31
Kayaking	13	13	14	37	77
Fishing	14	17	9	50	90
Boating	14	9	9	51	83
Camping	17	15	11	28	71
Snowshoeing	4	16	16	46	82
Horseback Riding	10	0	0	5	15
Other water sports	7	5	4	17	33
Playgrounds	10	2	4	16	32
Other	12	1	1	15	29
Please Specify Other Activity					41

How many days have you participated in the following Outdoor Recreation activities in Iron County, Wisconsin in the past 12 months?

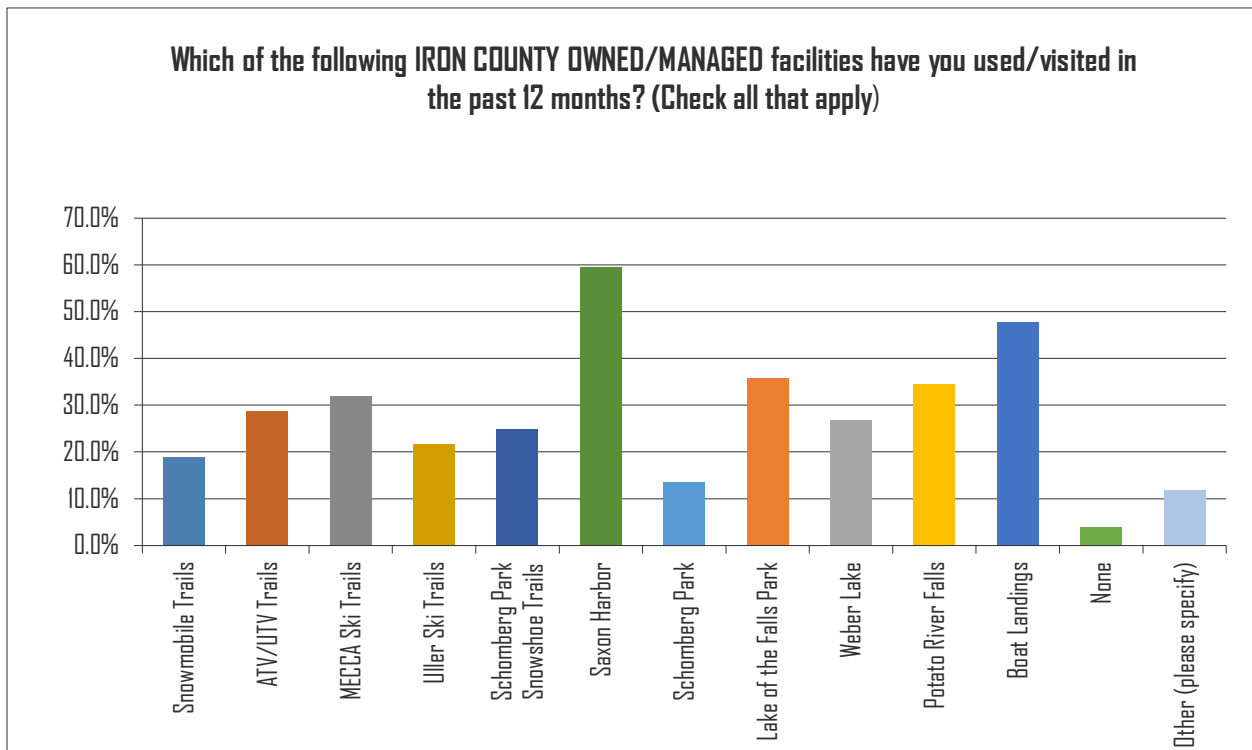


How many days have you participated in the following Outdoor Recreation activities in Iron County, Wisconsin in the past 12 months? (Other Activities Identified)



Q3. Which of the following IRON COUNTY OWNED/MANAGED facilities have you used/visited in the past 12 months? (Check all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Snowmobile Trails	19.0%	29
ATV/UTV Trails	28.8%	44
MECCA Ski Trails	32.0%	49
Uller Ski Trails	21.6%	33
Schomberg Park Snowshoe Trails	24.8%	38
Saxon Harbor	59.5%	91
Schomberg Park	13.7%	21
Lake of the Falls Park	35.9%	55
Weber Lake	26.8%	41
Potato River Falls	34.6%	53
Boat Landings	47.7%	73
None	3.9%	6
Other (please specify)	11.8%	18

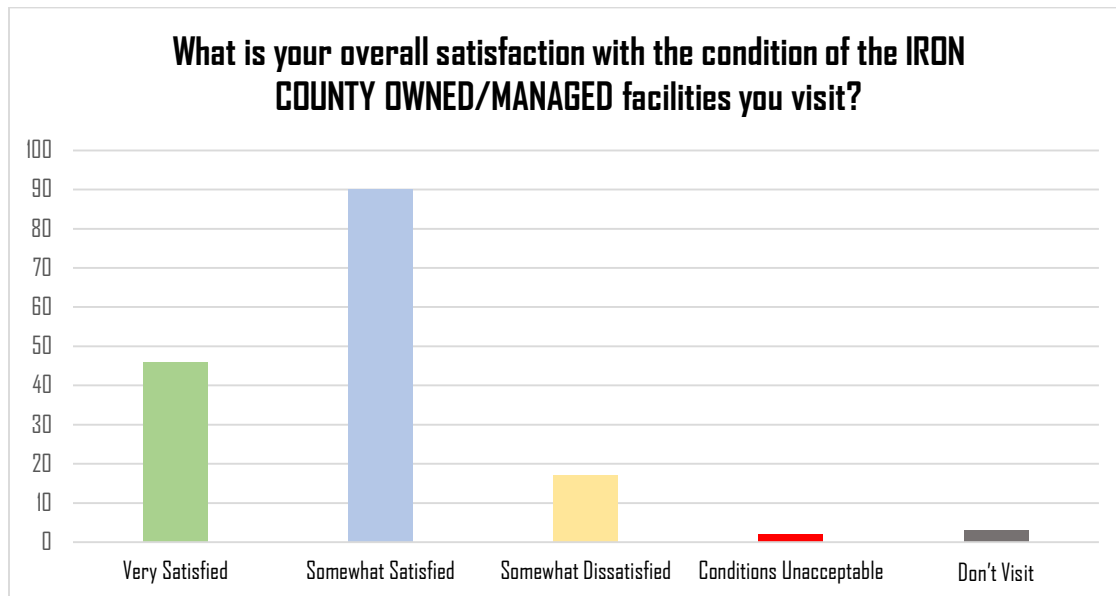


- biking county roads
- Corrigan's lookout, other waterfalls, walking on woods roads away from motorized vehicles
- County land off Moore Park Road.
- Forest land
- Gold Mine, Wren Falls

- County Forest Trails.
- Iron County Forest - hunting
- Montreal Ski Trails
- Natural settings
- Penokee hills (2)
- Rouse Falls, Tyler Forks, Foster Falls, Wren Falls, OBrien Lake
- Several other falls
- Utilized ATV trails for biking and running
- Waterfall hikes, need better facilities at falls
- Waterfall tours; Corrigan's Look-out
- Wilderness areas
- Wren Falls, Foster Falls, gold Mine, Tyler Forks, Upson Park, Corrigan's Lookout

Q4. What is your overall satisfaction with the condition of the IRON COUNTY OWNED/MANAGED facilities you visit?

Answer Options	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Conditions Unacceptable	Don't Visit	Rating Average	Response Count
	46	90	17	2	3	1.90	158
Comments							22



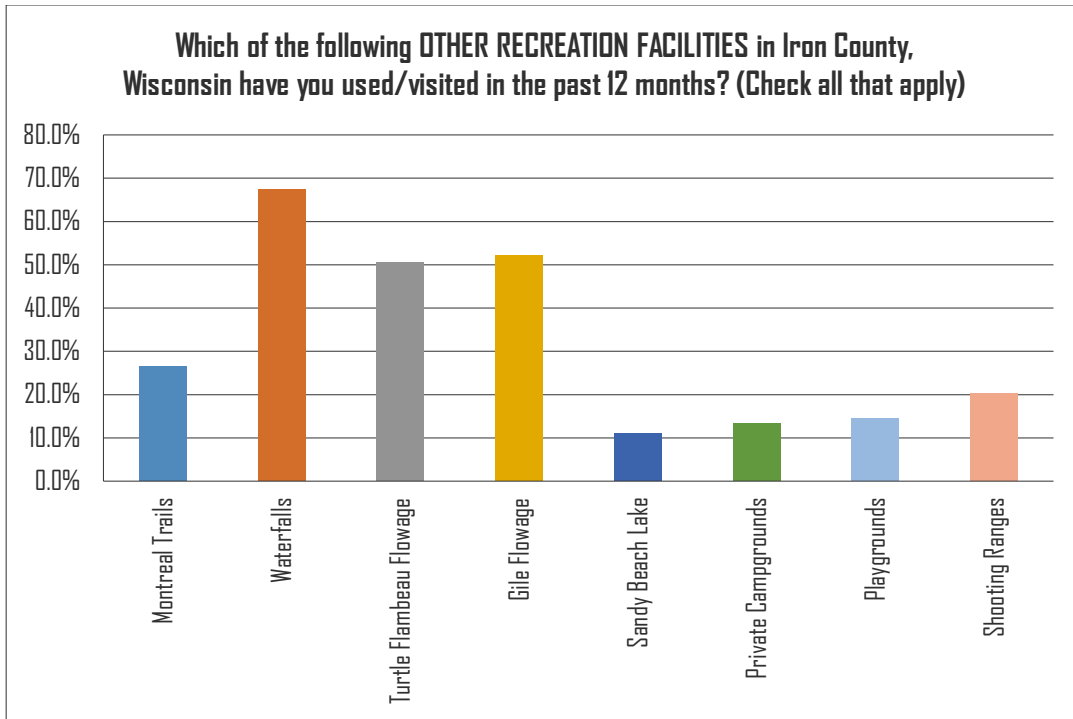
COMMENTS

- ATV's ruin the common snowmobile/ATV trails
- Beautiful natural setting. Great fishing.
- I think it would be wonderful to have more silent sports trails--i.e. for hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, etc.
- I ATV up there two years ago. I thought the trail system was poor. I ATV Jackson, Clark, Marinette, Forest, Florence and Landglade Counties every year. Iron County trail system is poor compared to them.
- I love the wilderness and the quiet places, the clear clean waters and lands. Tend to be out and about vs. visiting facilities so if Iron County manages by keeping the area wild, free of industry and polluters, I'll be very, very happy
- Many facilities need maintenance

- Silent sports trails could be better taken care of
- Some boat launch docks (where present) could be replaced, would be nice to have docks at more launches
- Some places not clearly marked, no info on sites at the sites
- Tend to be silent sports, family recreation with picnic, or stopping to eat in town
- The Saxon Harbor boating club is full of very friendly and helpful people I have ever met and the marina and camp grounds are number 1 in our books.
- There are many hiking trails in which ATV's have rutted them up so badly it's difficult to hike. It's really discouraging!
- Toilets at the Sportsman Boat Landing
- Too bad you trashed all the forests at the waterfalls. NO longer too inviting
- Too much focus on motorized vehicle users. If you created some shelters and even pit toilets for other users you would recognize how many visit the area and likely increase the number of visitors. Even improve some of the trails to the scenic views with walking access board walks across wet areas to Corrigan's and smaller water falls.
- Trails are too improved!
- Uller ski trails could use some work but very beautiful
- Very satisfied as long as Iron County leaves these areas as natural as possible.
- We need more options for a family to ride bikes on. Something like the trail in Ironwood that extends west through iron county (2).
- We need more toilet facilities at boat landings - Porta-potties or latrines.
- What we have is very well maintained...however we need additional facilities for parking etc. at waterfalls

Q5. Which of the following OTHER RECREATION FACILITIES in Iron County, Wisconsin have you used/visited in the past 12 months? (Check all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Montreal Trails	26.5%	157
Waterfalls	67.4%	399
Turtle Flambeau Flowage	50.5%	299
Gile Flowage	52.2%	309
Sandy Beach Lake	11.0%	65
Private Campgrounds	13.3%	79
Playgrounds	14.4%	85
Shooting Ranges	20.3%	120



Q6. Which Iron County boat landings have you used in the past 12 months?

Answer Options

Response Count

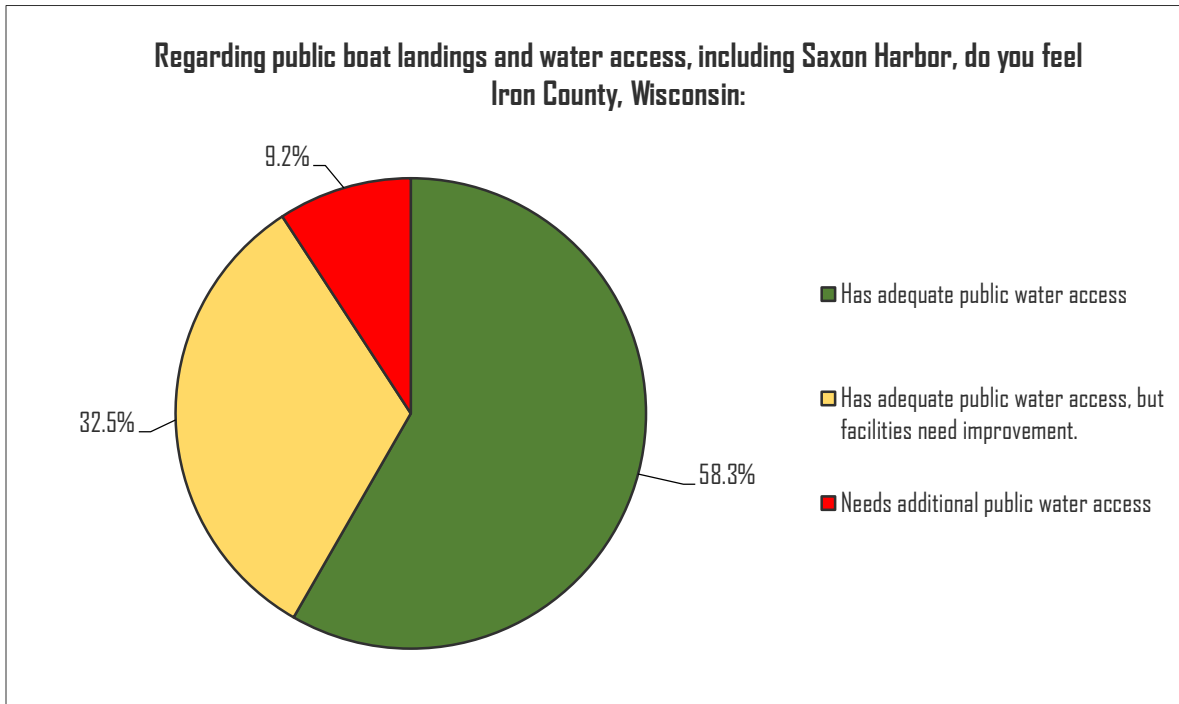
365

Turtle Flambeau Flowage	17	Long	2
Fisherman	16	Moose	2
Sportsman	14	Obadash	2
Gile Flowage	13	O'Brien,	2
Murray	10	Oma	2
Lake of the Falls	6	pence	2
Fischer	6	Pike	2
Robinson	6	PRIVATE	2
Turtle Flambeau Flowage	6	Springstead	2
CTH C	5	Spider	2
Manitowish	5	Sucker	2
Shay's	5	Upton	2
Springstead	5	Beaver	1
Bass	4	Brandt	1
Oxbo	4	Brant	1
Portage	4	Caroline	1
Saxon	4	Deer	1

Trude	4	Hewitt	1
Spring Camp	3	Pine	1
Cedar	3	Sturgeon	1
Echo	3	Lake of the Falls	1
Hole	3	Mcdermott	1
Turtle Flambeau Flowage	3	Mill	1
Mercer	3	Montreal	1
Owl	3	Pleasant	1
Pine	3	Plunkett	1
Ruggers	3	Randall	1
Sturgeon	3	Rapids	1
Turtle	3	Rice	1
Weber	3	Sandy	1
Bear	2	Sherman	1
Bearskull,	2	Spring	1
Evelyn	2	Tank	1
Island	2		

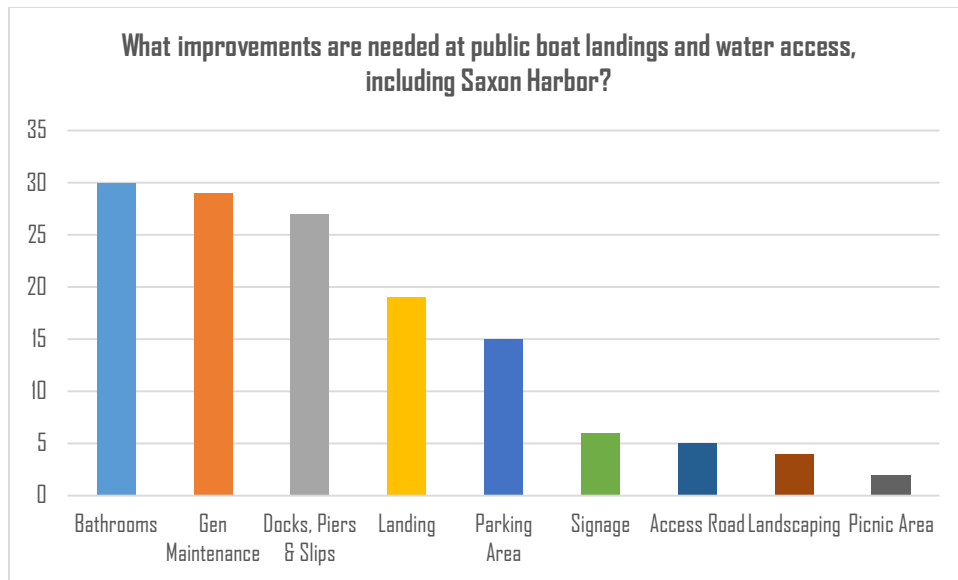
Q7. Regarding public boat landings and water access, including Saxon Harbor, do you feel Iron County, Wisconsin:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Has adequate public water access	58.3%	267
Has adequate public water access, but facilities need improvement.	32.5%	149
Needs additional public water access	9.2%	42



Q8. What improvements are needed at public boat landings and water access, including Saxon Harbor?

Answer Options	Response Count
	110



Q9. Where is additional public water access needed? (please list lakes and rivers)

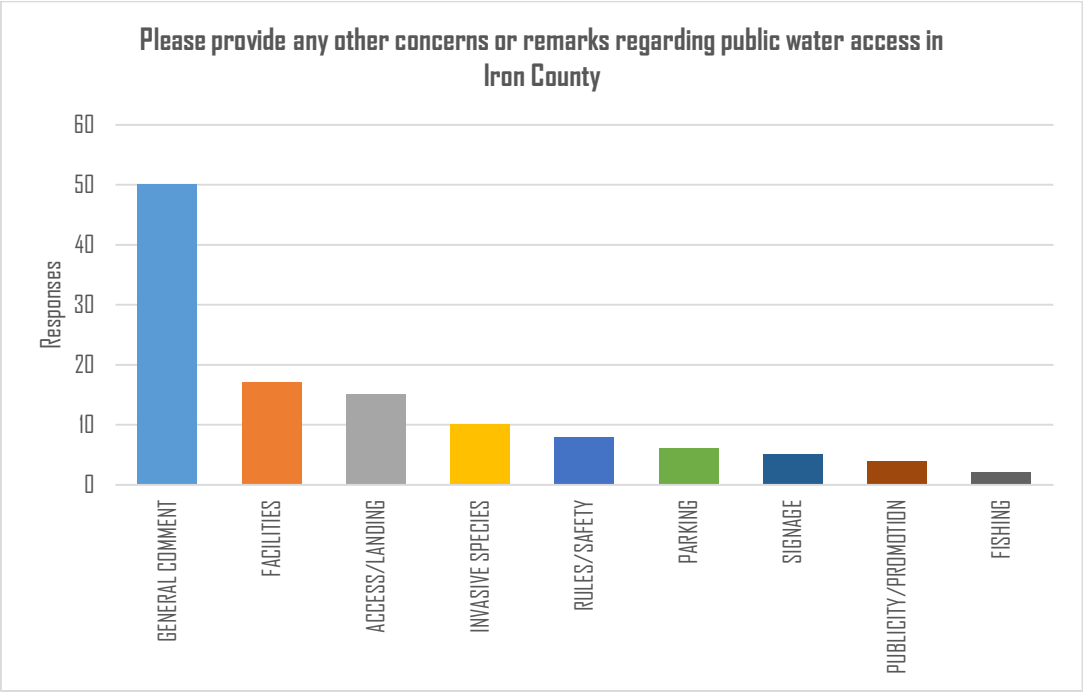
Answer Options	Response Count
	21

- Turtle Flambeau Flowage and many smaller lakes
- Saxon Harbor
- Lake of the Falls
- Rice Lake, Echo Lake
- Saxon Harbor
- Fox Lake, Pike Lake
- Boot lake, Springsteen Lake
- Sturgeon Bay
- French Lake and Boot Lake
- Gile Flowage
- Tyler's Forks
- Lake Superior

- Build canoe and kayak accesses to Iron County rivers along roadsides.
- Bad River
- Turtle Flambeau Flowage
- Island Lake. Crystal Lake.(Oma)
- Montreal River

Q10. Please provide any other concerns or remarks regarding public water access in Iron County.

Answer Options	Response Count
	120

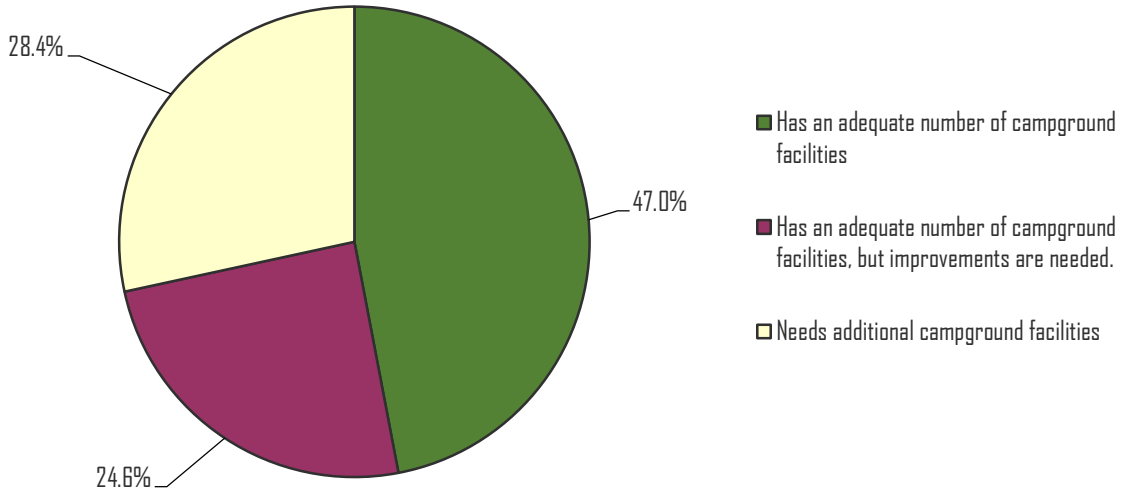


*25 location-specific comments

Q11. Regarding Iron County Campgrounds, including Saxon Harbor, do you feel Iron County, Wisconsin:

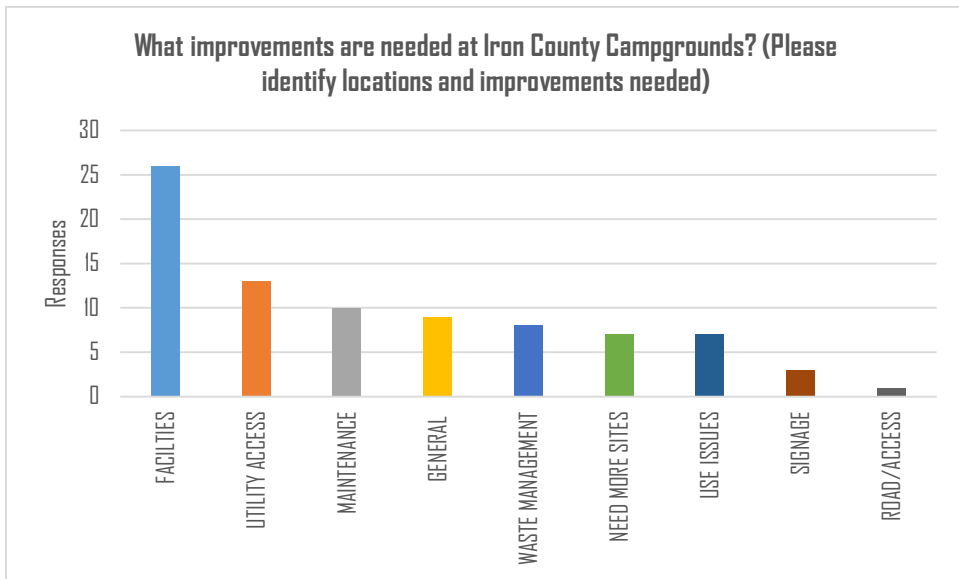
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Has an adequate number of campground facilities	47.0%	218
Has an adequate number of campground facilities, but improvements are needed.	24.6%	114
Needs additional campground facilities	28.4%	132
<i>answered question</i>		464
<i>skipped question</i>		193

Regarding Iron County Campgrounds, including Saxon Harbor, do you feel Iron County, Wisconsin:



Q12. What improvements are needed at Iron County Campgrounds? (Please identify locations and improvements needed)

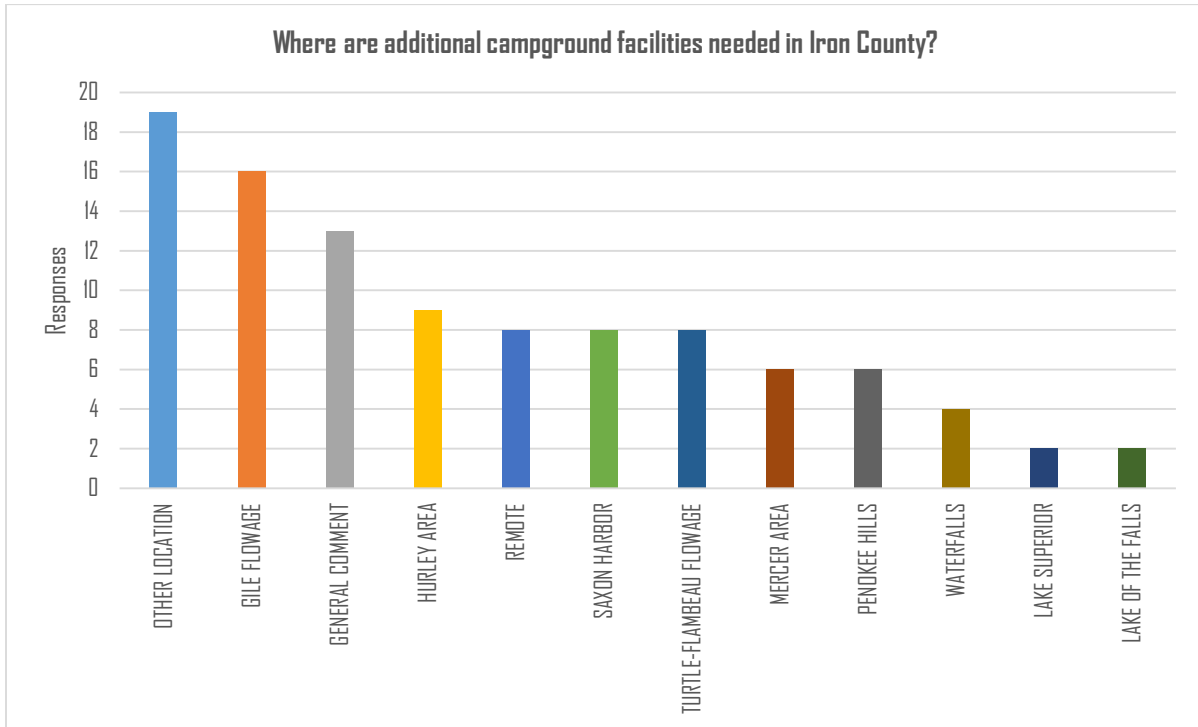
Answer Options	Response Count
	72



*23 location-specific comments

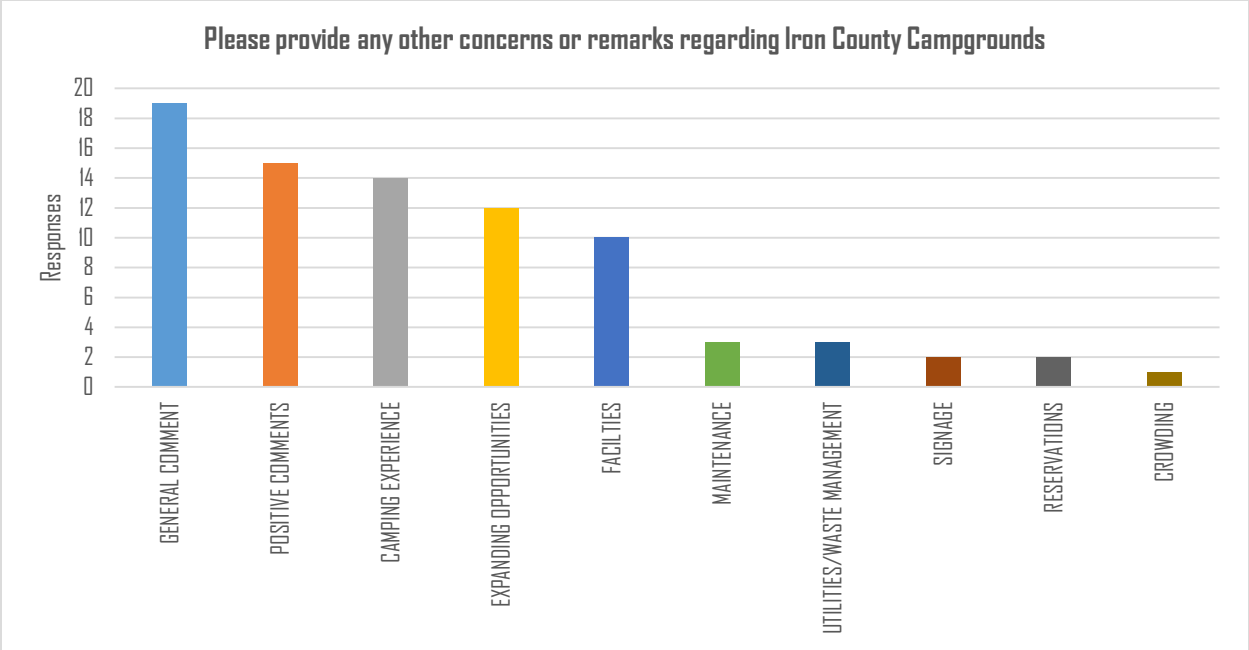
Q13. Where are additional campground facilities needed in Iron County?

Answer Options	Response Count
	90



Q14. Please provide any other concerns or remarks regarding Iron County Campgrounds:

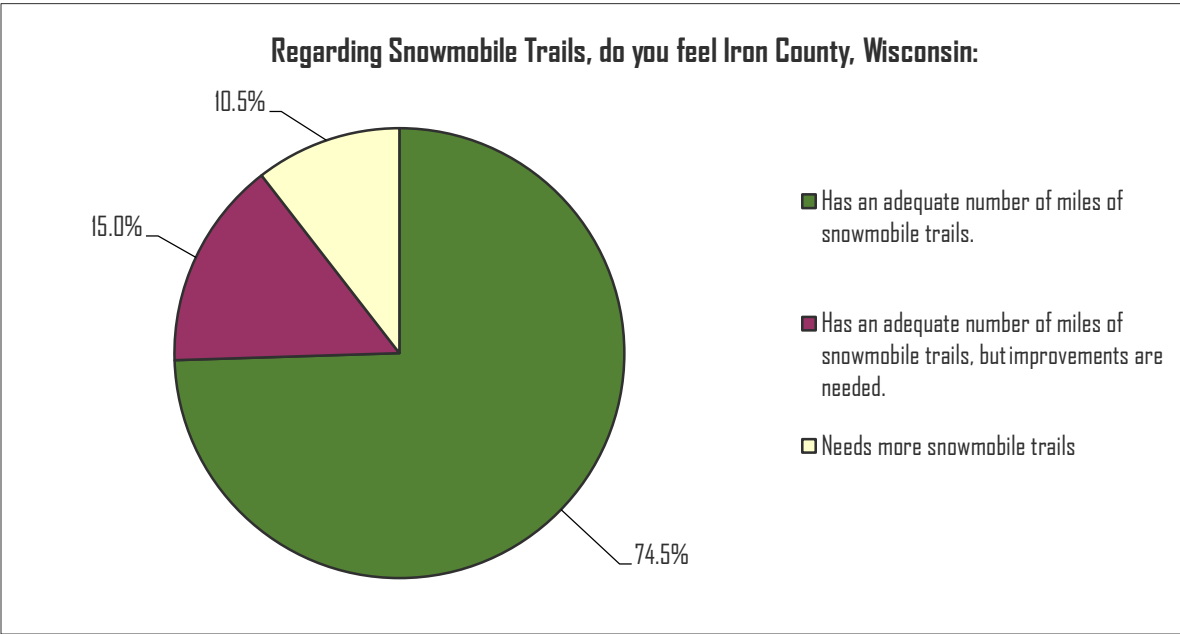
Answer Options	Response Count
	102



*24 location-specific comments

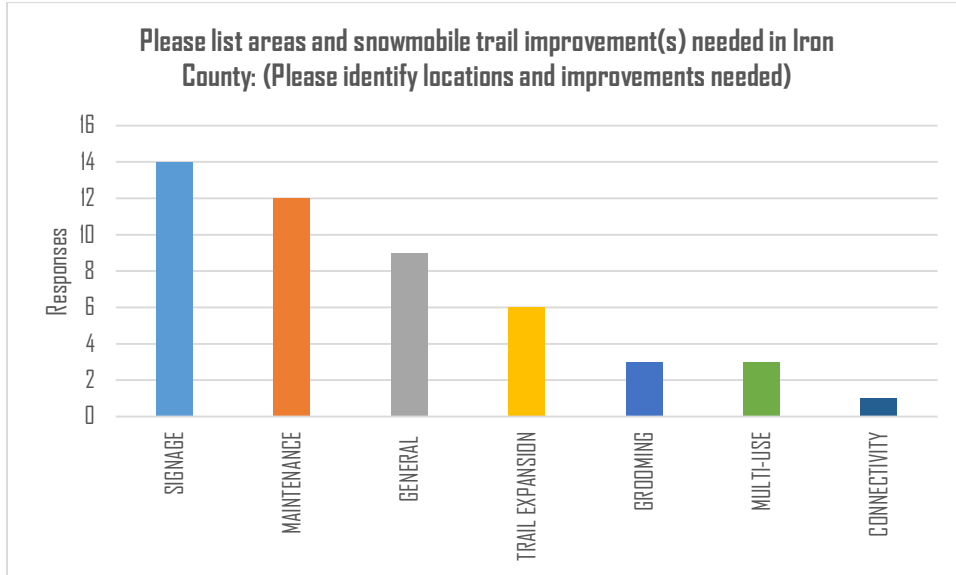
Q15. Regarding Snowmobile Trails, do you feel Iron County, Wisconsin:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Has an adequate number of miles of snowmobile trails.	74.5%	363
Has an adequate number of miles of snowmobile trails, but improvements are needed.	15.0%	73
Needs more snowmobile trails	10.5%	51



Q16. Please list areas and snowmobile trail improvement(s) needed in Iron County: (Please identify locations and improvements needed)

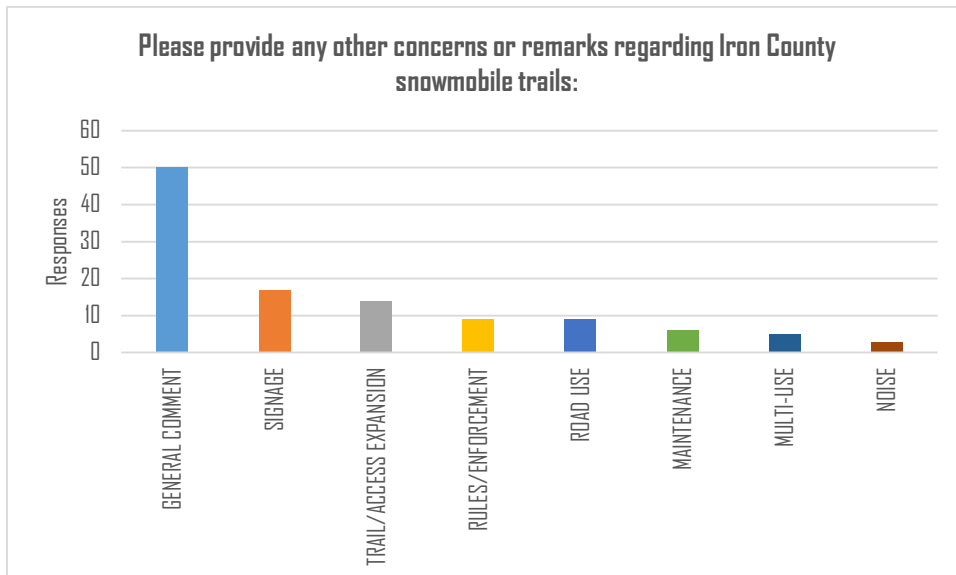
Answer Options	Response Count
	53



*14 location-specific comments

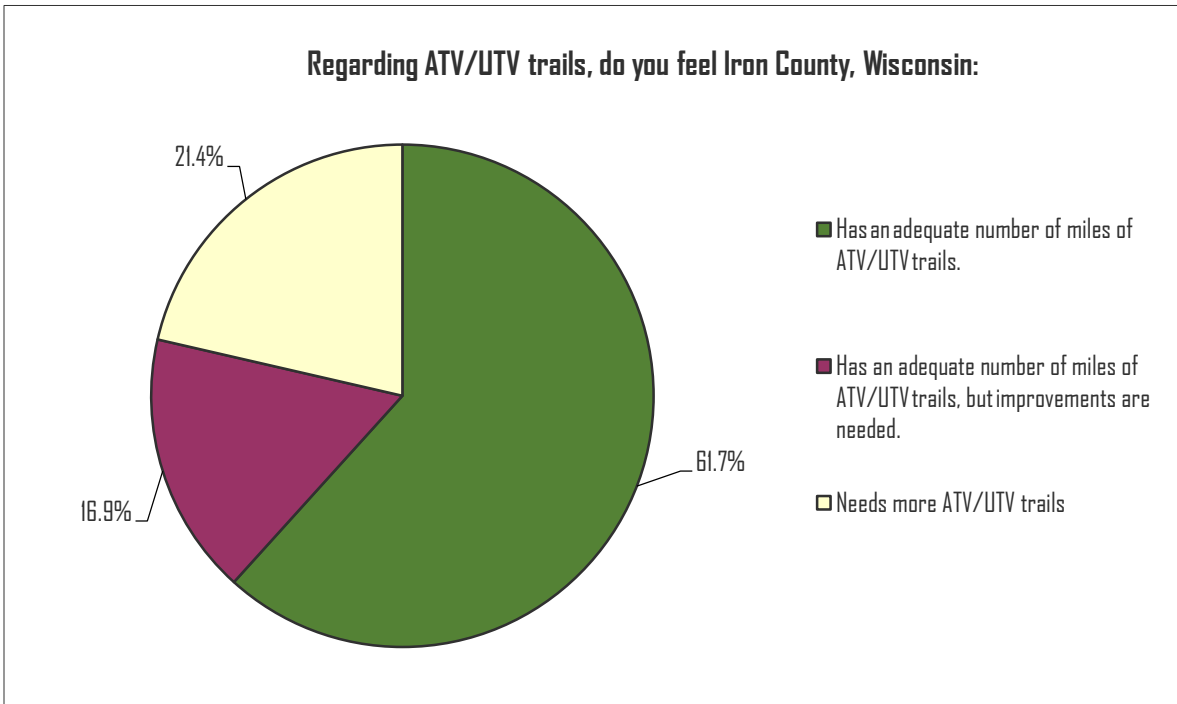
Q17. Please provide any other concerns or remarks regarding Iron County snowmobile trails:

Answer Options	Response Count
	130

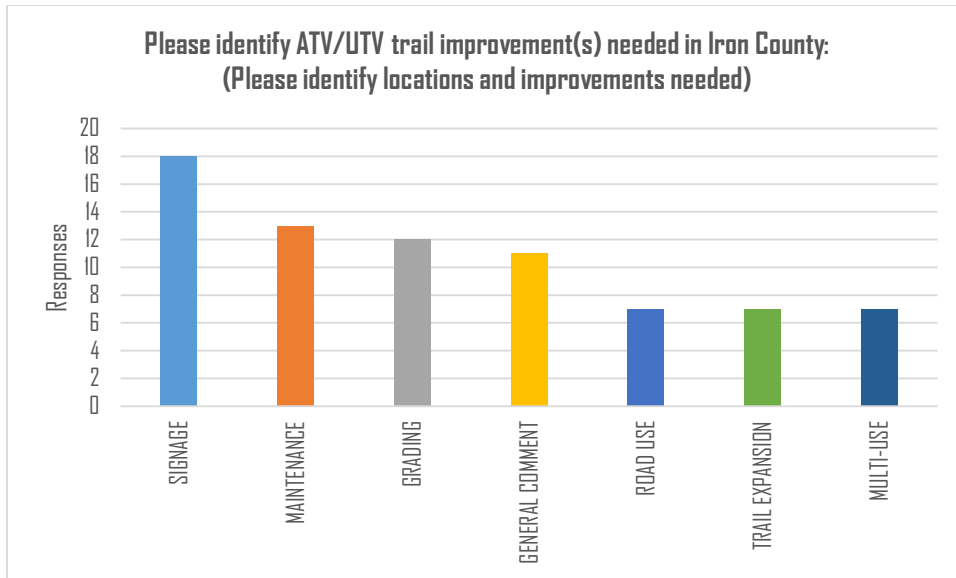


*3 location-specific comments

Q18. Regarding ATV/UTV trails, do you feel Iron County, Wisconsin:		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Has an adequate number of miles of ATV/UTV trails.	61.7%	303
Has an adequate number of miles of ATV/UTV trails, but improvements are needed.	16.9%	83
Needs more ATV/UTV trails	21.4%	105



Q19. Please identify ATV/UTV trail improvement(s) needed in Iron County. (Please identify locations and improvements needed)	
Answer Options	Response Count
	70



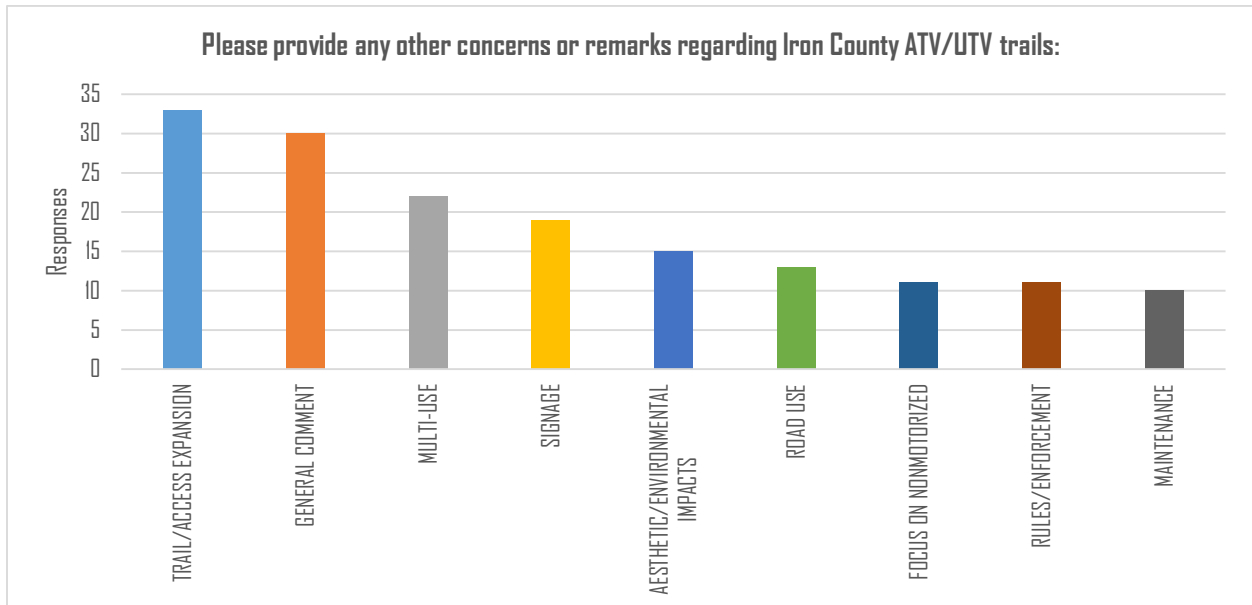
*20 location-specific comments

Q20. Please provide any other concerns or remarks regarding Iron County ATV/UTV trails:

Answer Options

Response Count

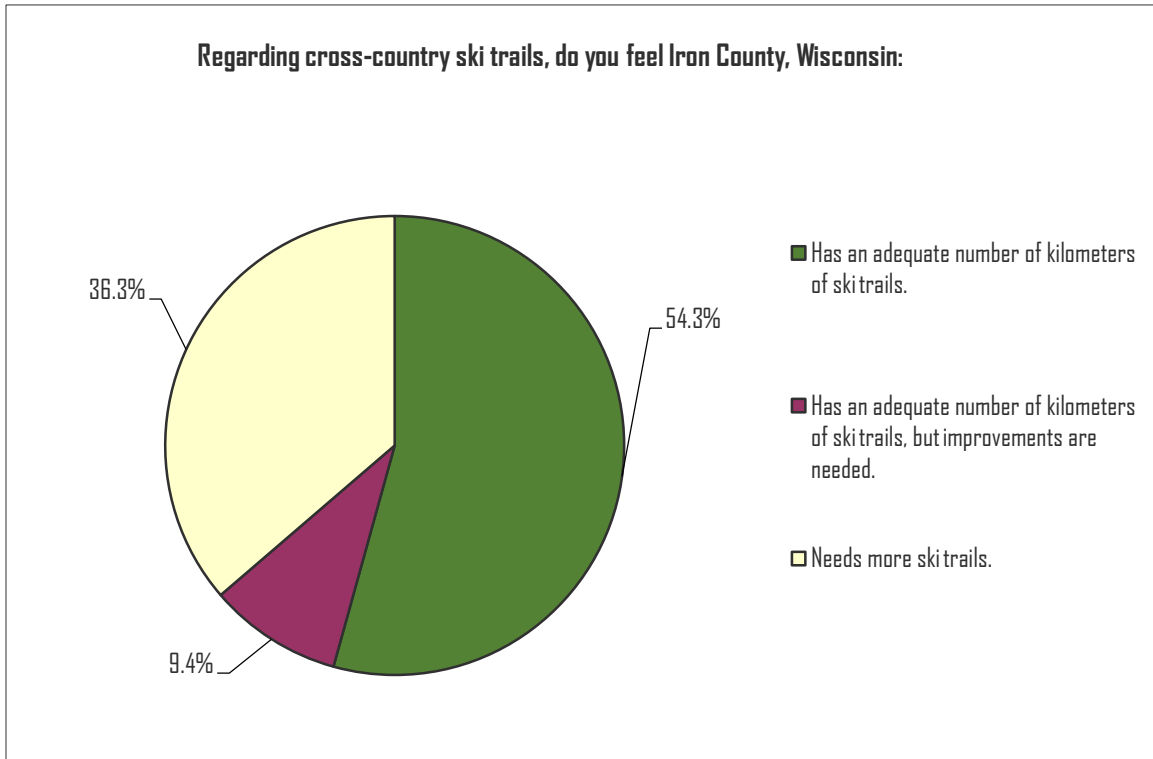
177



*14 location-specific comments

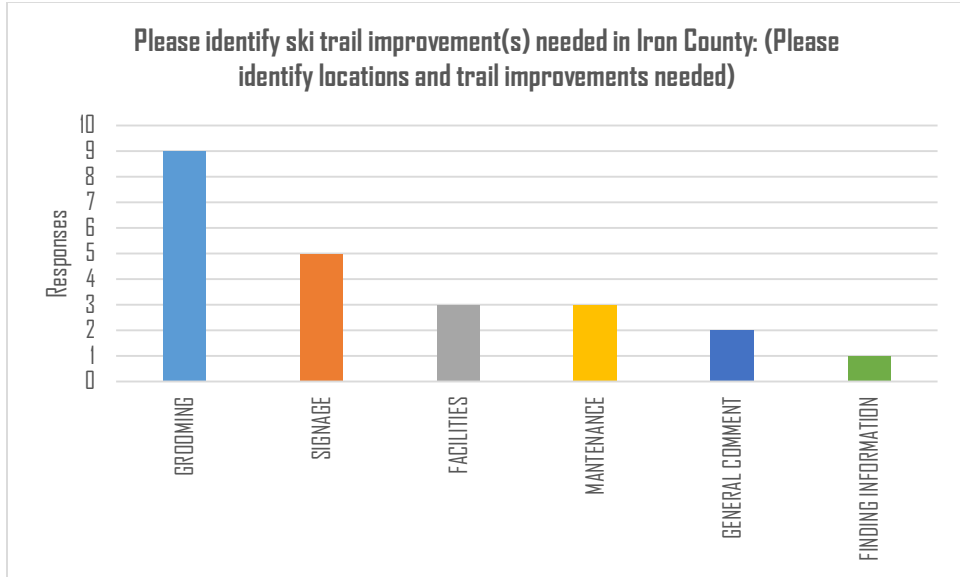
Q21. Regarding cross-country ski trails, do you feel Iron County, Wisconsin:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Has an adequate number of kilometers of ski trails.	54.3%	196
Has an adequate number of kilometers of ski trails, but improvements are needed.	9.4%	34
Needs more ski trails.	36.3%	131



Q22. Please identify ski trail improvement(s) needed in Iron County: (Please identify locations and trail improvements needed)

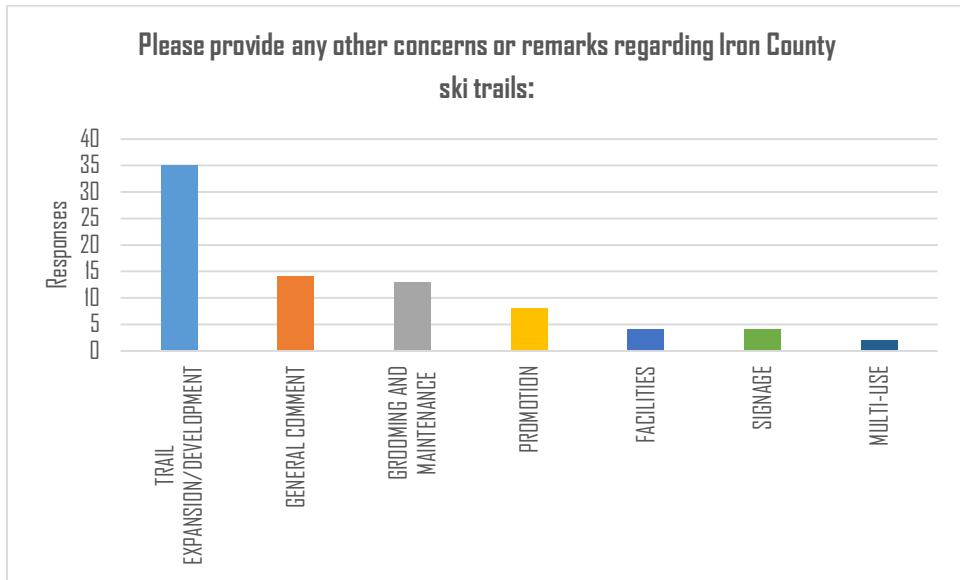
Answer Options	Response Count
	27



*8 location-specific comments

Q23. Please provide any other concerns or remarks regarding Iron County ski trails:

Answer Options	Response Count
	89

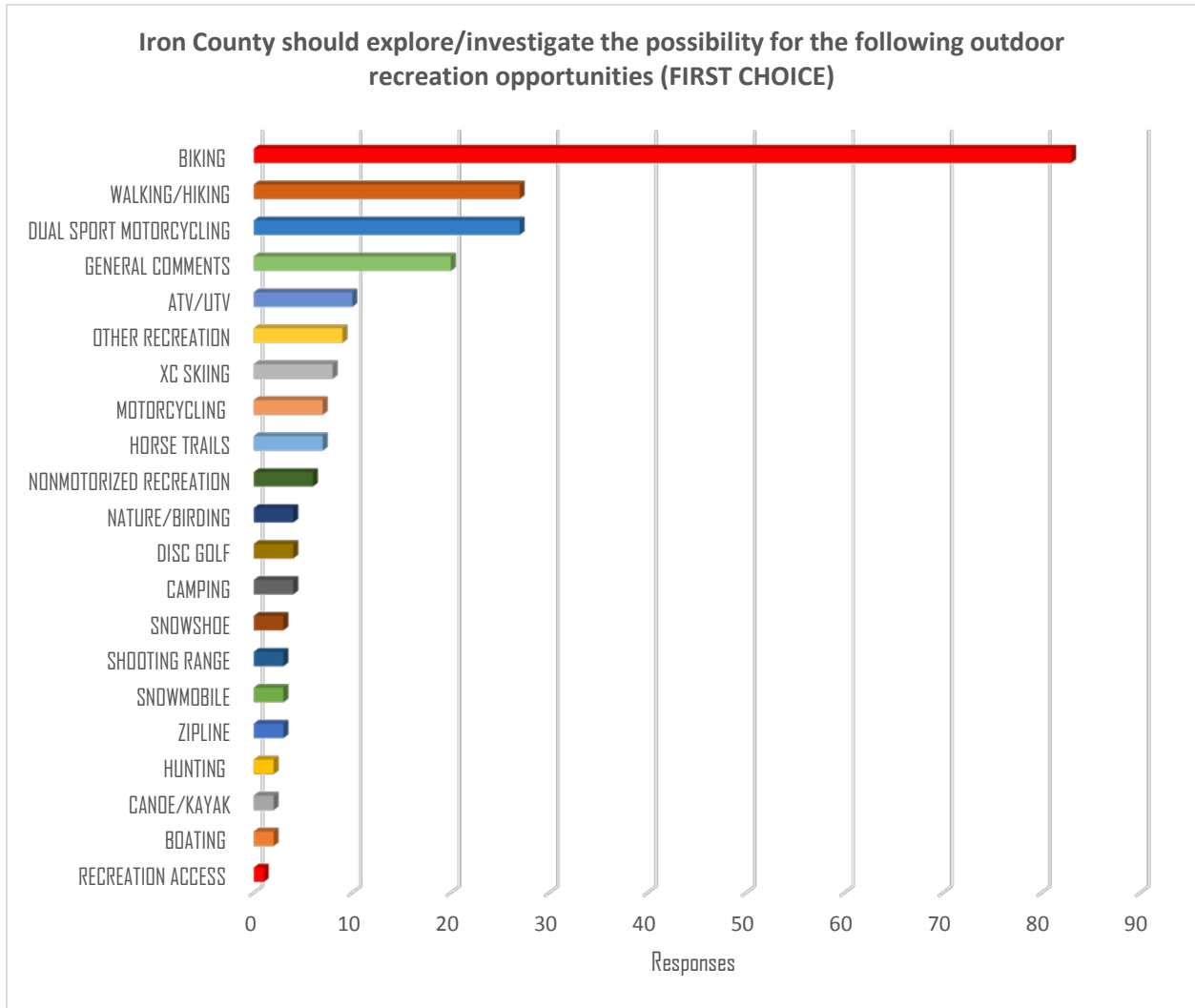


*20 location-specific comments

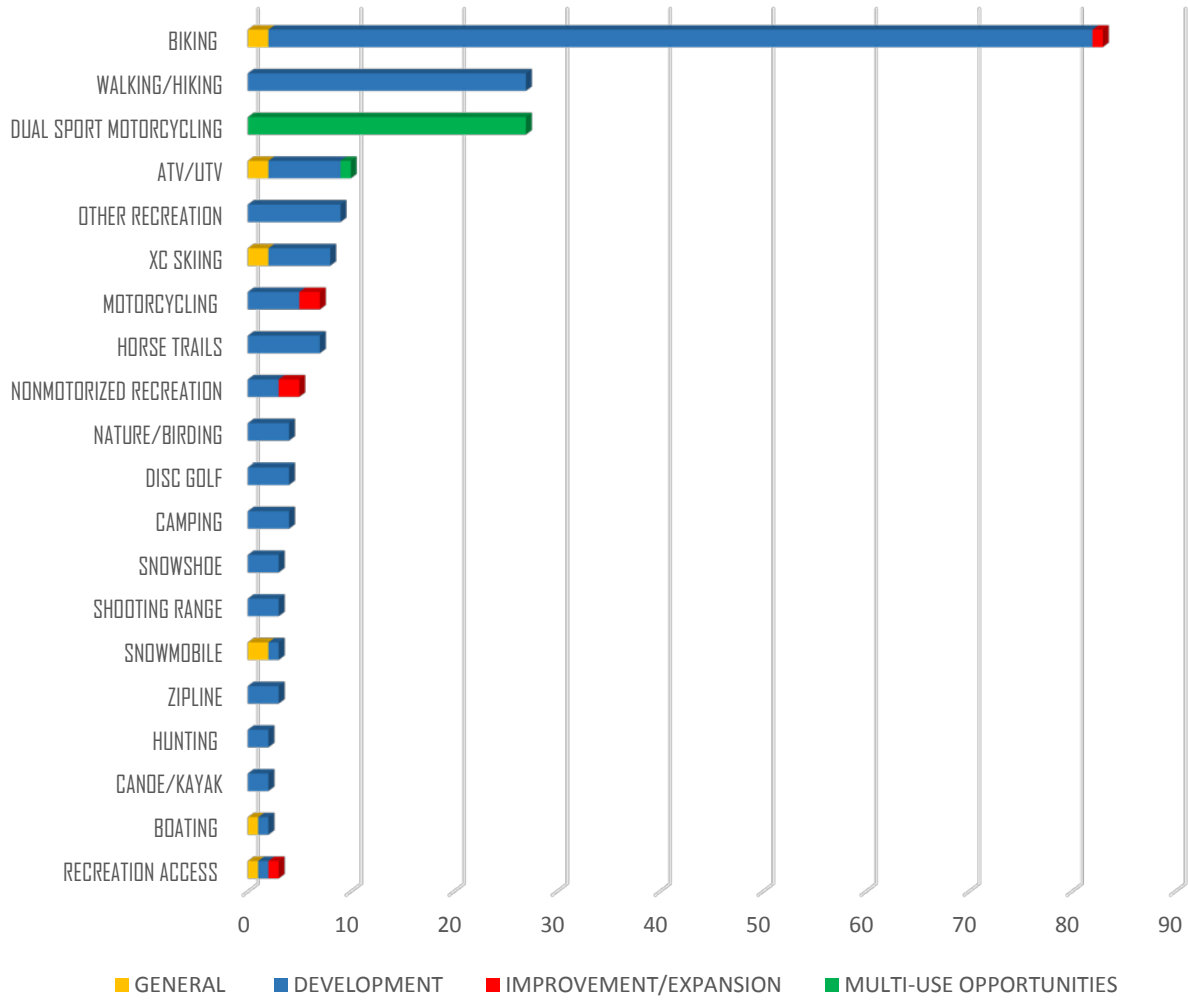
Q24. Iron County should explore/investigate the possibility for the following outdoor recreation opportunities. (please list and include location)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
1.	100.0%	220
2.	53.2%	117
3.	31.8%	70
4.	16.4%	36
5.	9.1%	20

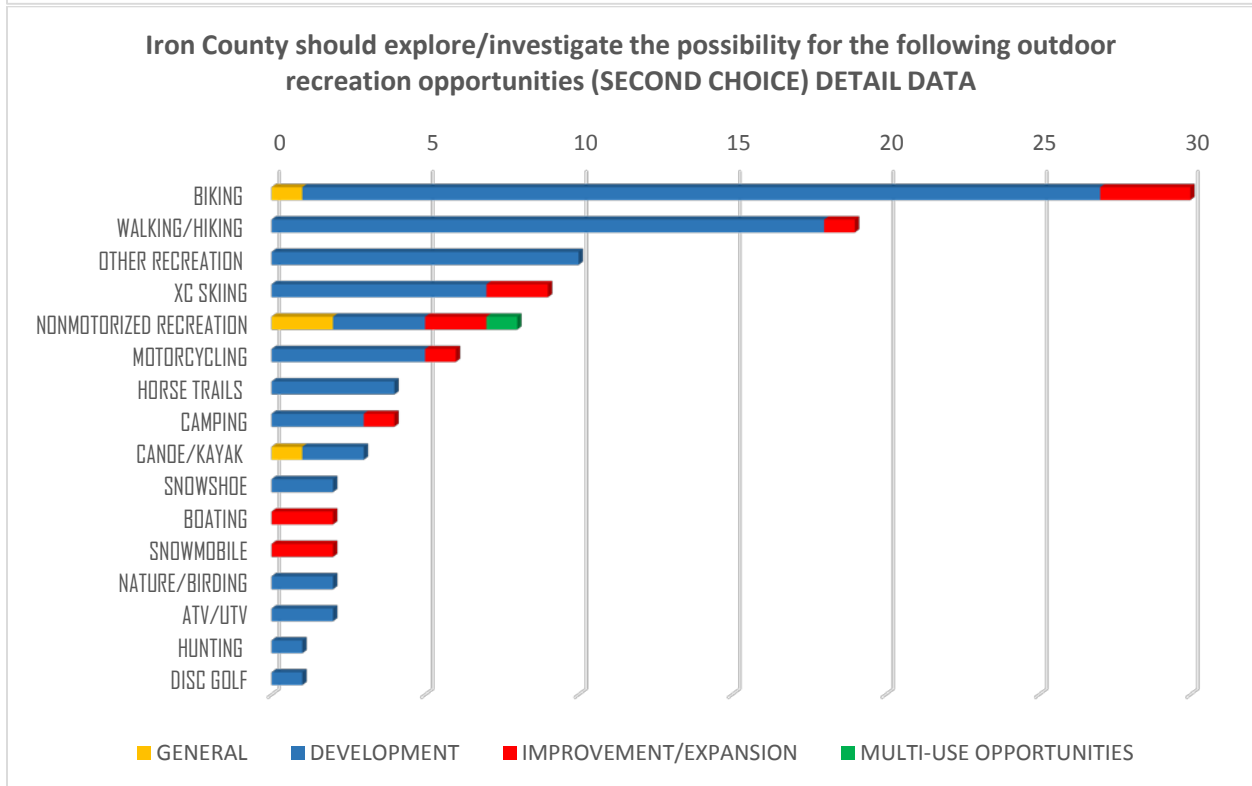
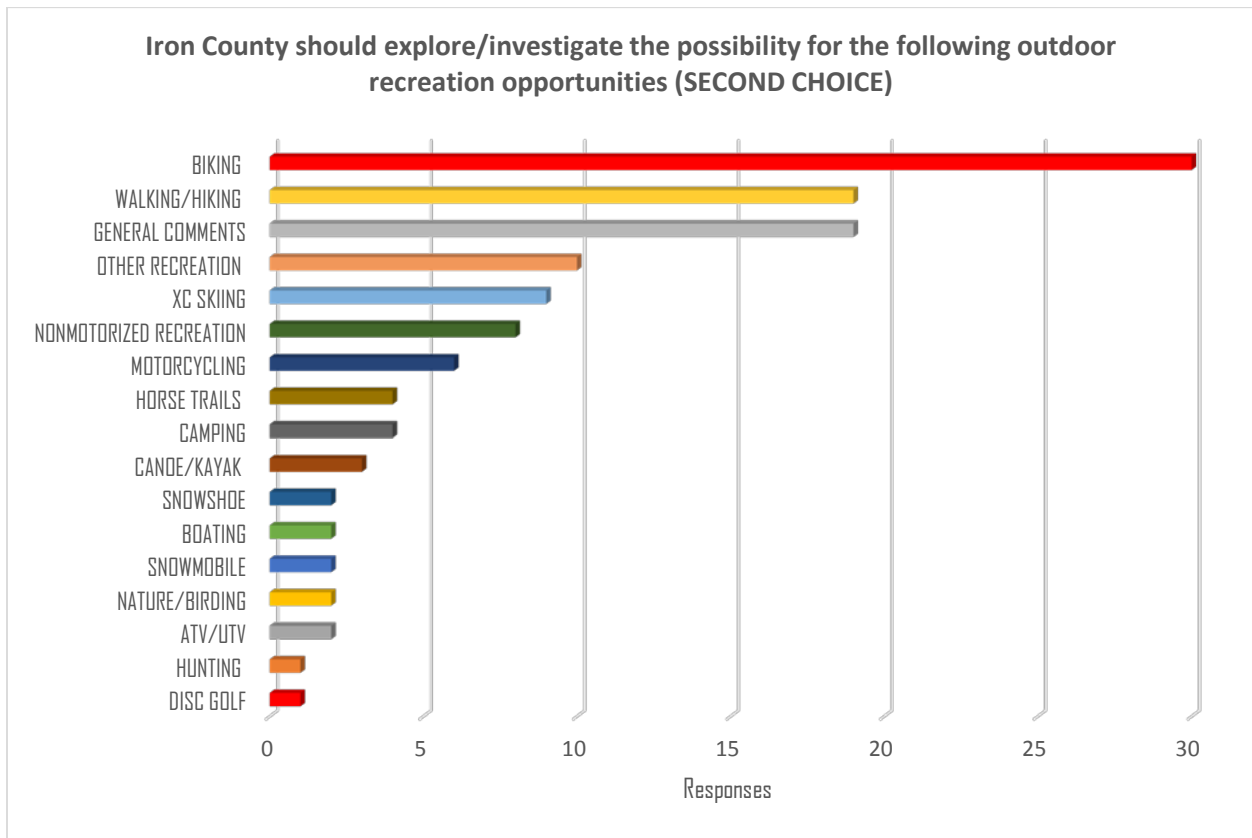
FIRST CHOICE



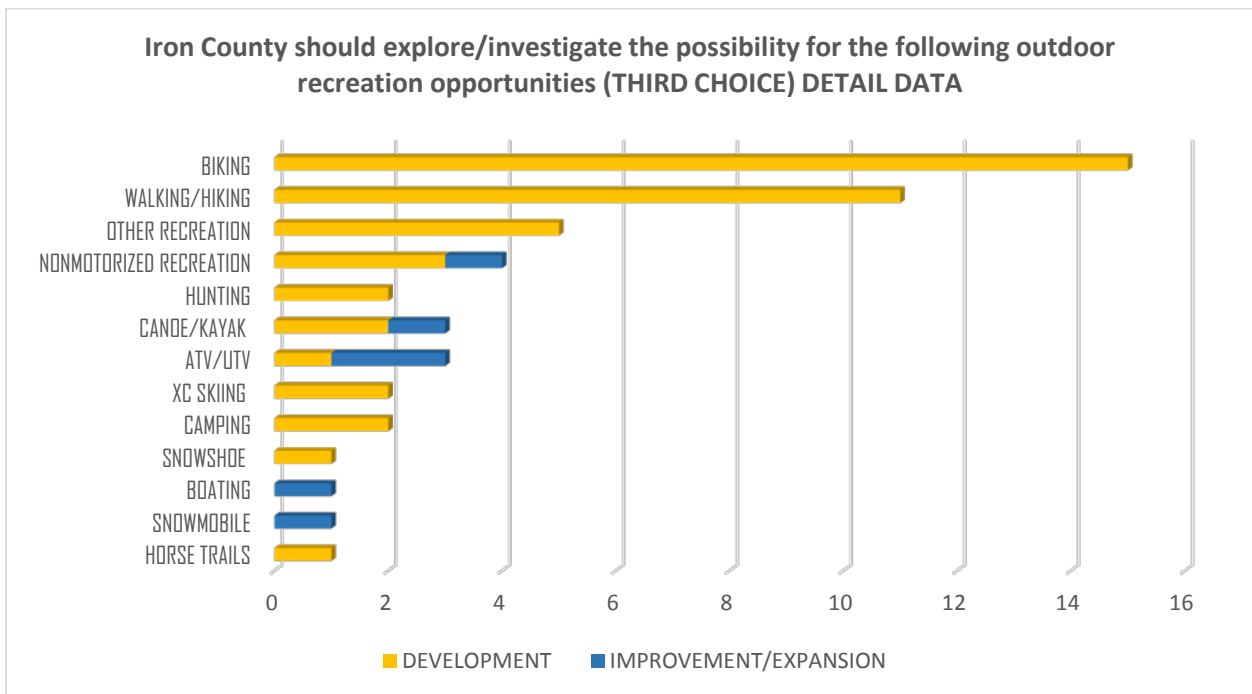
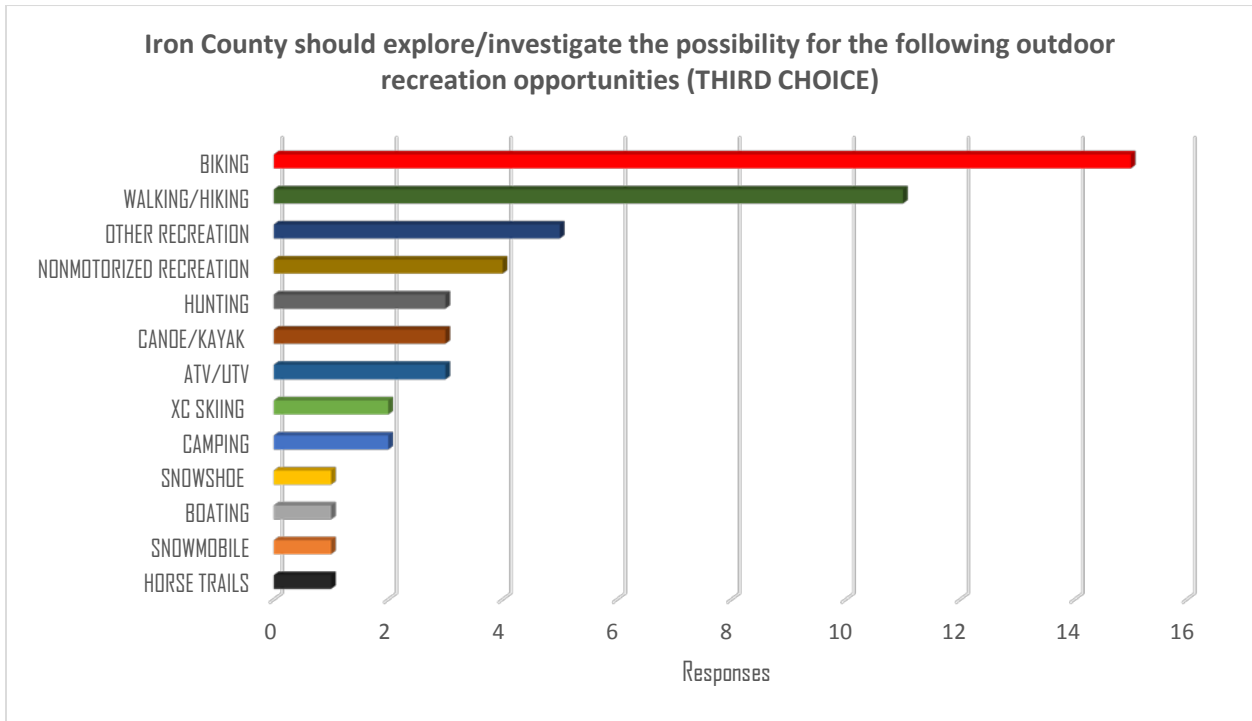
**Iron County should explore/investigate the possibility for the following outdoor recreation opportunities (FIRST CHOICE)
DETAIL DATA**



SECOND CHOICE

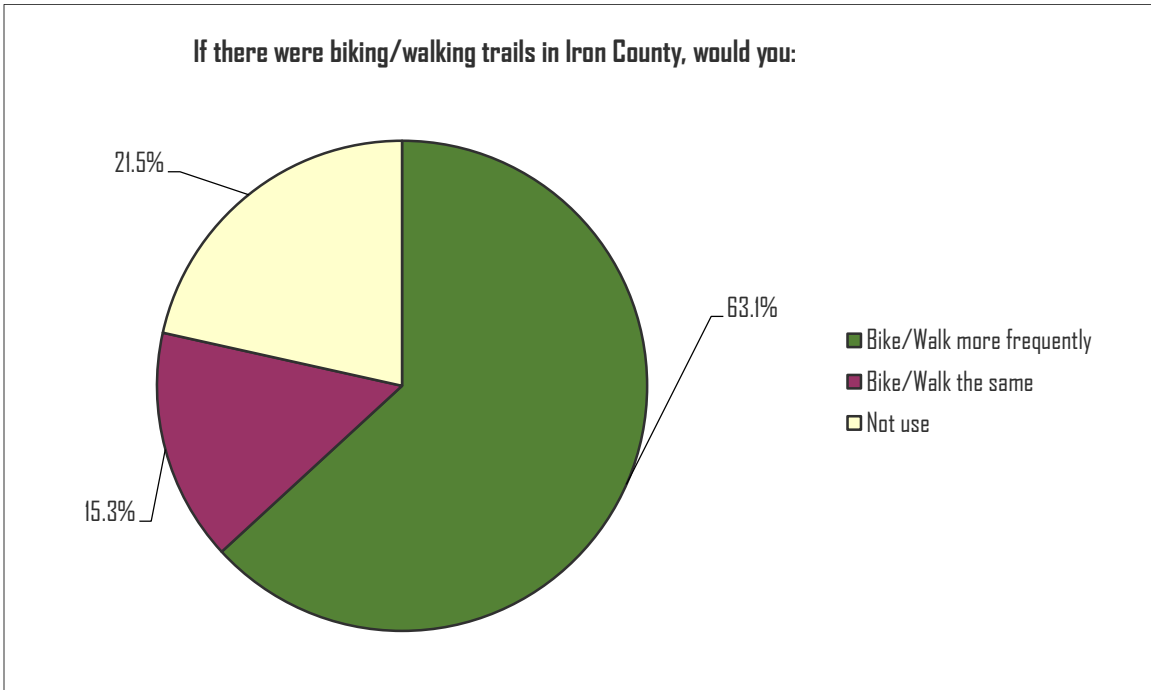


THIRD CHOICE



Q25. If there were biking/walking trails in Iron County, would you:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Bike/Walk more frequently	63.1%	317
Bike/Walk the same	15.3%	77
Not use	21.5%	108
Comments		57



Q26. Please provide any other comments to help us improve Outdoor Recreation opportunities in Iron County, Wisconsin.

Answer Options	Response Count
	127
<i>answered question</i>	127
<i>skipped question</i>	530

RAW DATA

1. Keep up the good work

2. I have been snowmobiling there for 25 and ATVing for 15. My family has been going to Hurley since my mom was a little girl. My family spends 2 weeks a year there and I spend a couple more weeks than that myself. We have dumped 10s of thousands of dollars up there over the years. We are from Neenah. So with all that mine [REDACTED] we thought about looking to spend our money someplace else. Those operating engineer signs rubbed me the wrong way. It said we live here we are not on vacation. Well fine and dandy, but my money was fine over the last 25 years [REDACTED].
[REDACTED] Also did not like seeing people not so concealed carrying in the bars. The atmosphere is not what it used to be. We have been spending more time in the UP, Ashland, and Bayfield because of it. Not so welcoming to tourists any more. I do know many local people and my mom had family that lived there until a few years ago. I am a public employee and those people know it. After all the Scott walker [REDACTED] telling everybody public employees are bad I had people up there tell how bad I was causing all their problems. So there is a motel I used to stay at when by myself that I won't go to anymore and a few bars and restaurants I stay away from. I love the area, but not so much the people anymore.

3. The county needs to work closer with the local communities, especially Mercer, as it has many different recreational opportunities to offer. There should be more cooperation between the county and towns. Maybe quarterly meetings with the county and town board and/or chamber of commerce would help?

4. Revamp the Mercer SnoGoers club.

5. As a whole Iron County is really behind on silent sports. Look at Duluth, Wausau, Marquette, Hayward, Woodruff. They are all thriving from silent sports not power sports. Iron County has the most important resource which is terrain. Use it to make more Mountain Biking trails and cross country ski trails. The payoff will come as this is what the younger generation that spends money looks for today not ATV AND SNOWMOBILE TRAILS.

6. More silent sport areas are needed that don't have to listen to ATV users

7. I am interested in helping with this planning, but Mercer is too far to drive for meetings. Thanks [REDACTED] for keeping me in the loop.

8. Tear down [REDACTED] and place a Paavo Nurmi Finish Line park. Complete with a stage for outdoor live music.

9. We have numerous trails in Iron County, we do not need to create more. I consider the people riding ATVs in summer and snowmobiles in winter on those trails more of a nuisance than a resource for the community. Please work with law enforcement to enforce the laws regarding the noise and speed violations these people commit when they ride their machines.

10. Good idea to do a survey to get ideas from people that actually recreate in the county that they live in

11. Continue public awareness of the facilities available, locations etc...I think if people aren't able to participate in outdoor activities they take pride knowing that there are opportunities available to others where they live. Happy that you are moving forward to provide continued improvements to the recreation here in Iron County. Working with Gagebic County recreation people will help coordinate interests.

12. [REDACTED] get serious about helping the deer herd to recover. [REDACTED]

13. [REDACTED] an excellent officer--- [REDACTED] very good at providing education and point people in the correct and safe manor. Thank you [REDACTED] for being out there on patrol!

-
14. It would also be nice to have one central location to get information about the trails and conditions, a website with updates and weather, bug conditions etc.
-
15. Advertise more, no one really knows what you all have to offer.
-
16. Better signage and access to our fabulous waterfalls
-
17. Can't people think of outdoor activities on their own without putting the burden of cost on the tax payers?
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] Get real jobs in this area that pay good wages with benefits and people will create their own activities without anyone's help!!
-
18. Your snowmobile, ATV, boating and fishing clubs are great.
-
19. Get rid of the wolves. That would greatly help the outdoor experience.
-
20. There is a lot of clean water and biological diversity in Iron County and these could be attractive to a lot of people. Ideally they would be done in a way that would not destroy what attracts people. What is going to happen to Whitecap? I never heard of it before 2013, and it is a beautiful area that could be upgraded and used for retreats for groups and some snowing/ski boarding in the winter. Public transportation from the south to northern Wisconsin needs to be improved.
-
21. I think Iron County does a great job in providing Outdoor Recreation opportunities!
-
22. Need to construct NCT Bridge near Wren Falls.
-
23. Very Nice Area...Will Return again
-
24. Let's make sure we include good publicity and out-reach and make use of every opportunity to include education (EE)
-
25. Build on the great work you have done so far
-
26. Do not accept grants or other funding that places restrictions on land use such as limiting use to "silent sports"
-
27. Please have more paved biking trails because a lot of county roads are used by loggers, trucks etc. too intimidated to ride on these at the same time.
-
28. We have most of the elements to offer a wide variety of vacation options, but vacationers are on their own to find what opportunities exist here. What we're missing is "destination" vacation options. E.g., we have hundreds of miles of hunter walking trails, but most people can't find most of the trails. We have lots of public land (county, town, MFL, etc.), but again there's no simple source saying, "So you're in Mercer...here's exactly how you get to woodlands or waters that are open to the public." We have the ability to create hundreds of miles of hiking/skiing/biking trails and I believe this should be a priority. Such trails can mostly be "rustic" in nature. If they existed, they would be used. The problem is really how to get them started.
-
29. Snowmobiling and ATV numbers continually are declining. The demographic it brings detracts from the natural beauty of the area. Very small minority will trailer up to ATV. A much larger demographic will and do travel up to bike, ski, hike, kayak/canoe and explore the history of the Penokee Range. The mining history of the Montreal and Cary along with the Ottawa are sites that should be developed fully to capitalize on Heritage Tourism. The Montreal Trails are an unbelievable industrial heritage site. The Keweenaw National Historic Park should be a template for developing the Penokee/ Gogebic Range. Making Hurley a hub for non-motorized would vastly improve the quality of life for residents both young and old. 10,000 visitors a day at the Apostle Islands ice caves many who drove through Hurley, but gentleman's clubs attract how many. How about crushed limestone to the Rock Cut. Home owners do not want ATV trails anywhere near their property even if they own an ATV/snowmobile. ATV trails decrease property value while a non-motorized trail increases property values. The geology, topography and history of Iron County is totally unique and rivals anywhere in the Midwest.
-
30. Dual sport and adventure motorcycle access to ATV/UTV trails would raise my visitation to the county for recreation.
-
31. Looking forward to the trail being expanded to tie into the Michigan trail system....
-
32. Love the county. Really would love to see dual-sport motorcycle trail access.
-
33. We have the best waterfalls, lakes, and wild areas in the state. People have no clue. Even locals. Start by appreciating our area. Way too much complaining about [REDACTED] people and [REDACTED] jobs [REDACTED] Drop it and start some positive discussions going.
-

-
34. Adventure motorcycle riding is a growing activity and connecting ATV trails between counties will bring tourism without adding cost. I ride dual sport motorcycles in other counties with my family (wife and 4 daughters) all of which prefer motorcycles but some are forced to ride ATV's due to regulations. We also look for single track riding which is scarce in Wisconsin but easy to build trails with minimal maintenance. We ride year round (ice race, snowmobile) so we travel almost every weekend and spend a lot of money in each place we ride!
-
35. Develop a plan for preserving and mapping the historic Flambeau trail. Develop a usage policy for the North Country Trail. Any bridges built across major rivers should be open to multi use. Other segments should be hiking only
-
36. Whatever improvements are made, if there are not rules that can be enforced, it will be hard to keep the County in its pristine condition.
-
37. The development of dockminiums and/or keyhole lots will reduce the quality of water sports in Iron County and should not be allowed.
-
38. Adding the growing sport of off-road and/or dual sport motorcycles will greatly increase tourism.
-
39. Would really like to see more opportunities for dual sport and adventure motorcycling that involve the existing ATV trail system.
-
40. Please keep the ATV's out of the TFF area. There are plenty of other areas for ATV'ers to go. Thank you.
-
41. Pedestrian/bike links to the regional trail system in Michigan, and to Mercer.
-
42. North Country Trail has some ambitious ideas and is nationally funded we might make mention of it more at the County level, who knows what people want to see, look what happened at the ice caves. We have limited Lake Superior shoreline and may want public access to as much as possible either through federal/state/county efforts. The Whitecap/Weber Lake location could become a key for the future, example Lutsen/Gunflint Trail/Grand Marais MN. Very similar to our situation at Saxon Harbor.
-
43. Maps showing old logging trails would be nice. Haven't found a site showing these. Since this is a snow belt, promote cross country skiing and snowshoeing, not just snowmobiling. Open more trails to back country skiing and hiking.
-
44. Advertise on the [REDACTED] Radio [REDACTED]
-
45. More newer hotel lodging
-
46. Get our hunting back in shape
-
47. I think Iron County is on the right track, but need to put more support into the Silent sports since there is an increasing number of people who are opting for these kind of sports. Most people doing these types of activities are looking for an area to enjoy year round, and Iron County has the area to expand on it.
-
48. More focus on biking trails and silent sports would be a great help to Iron County.
-
49. Waterfalls: perhaps better directions and labeling key. Some are hidden gems, but should they be so difficult to find? Better descriptions of the trails would be nice, too, so varied users can decide appropriate choices. Examples: how hard & long of a walk, wheelchair accessible viewing.
-
50. Let's get ATV access throughout the county
-
51. Recreation in Iron County is great, and with a few improvements, such as those that I listed above, the recreation can be amazing and attract more tourists!
-
52. More 5k running races
-
53. Promote southern Iron County more
-
54. Impeach [REDACTED]. Why do the Vilas County lakes on the chain get to manipulate the water levels at their discretion, leaving wildlife and Iron County taxpayers too high, or too low, below the dam on the Manitowish River?
-
55. Don't try to do something that is against the better judgement for the future or Iron County...stay strong
-
56. Maintain and upkeep what we currently have
-
57. More public information like Minocqua has but smaller scale. Loved their snowman and really cheerful during winter to find a way to embrace the cold and snow!!
-
58. Snowmobile sign and distance to towns or area need to be bigger and reflect for night riding and safety.
-
59. Please read my comments I didn't keep them in any order as this survey is just a little long. Thank you again please consider my comments as productive. I enjoy using and respecting all the work that is required for the subject of this survey. Thank you.
-

-
60. Non-Motorized recreation is the way of the future, and Iron County has virtually limitless opportunities to grow in this direction. 4 season recreation could really help improve the economy, and draw people from all over to enjoy the beautiful resource we have. This sustainable tourism can be realized for generations, and its value should not be underestimated. Now is the time. Act now!
-
61. I would encourage capitalizing on the trail system now coming in from Ironwood, and continue to increase miles of trails, connecting the trail from town to town and linking trails already in existence.
-
62. I understand more and better trails increases revenue, but it also invites trouble. If people want to have paved trails in abundance they should go to Minocqua. I like the serenity of Iron County. The world is running out of darkness. Please leave Iron County the way it is!! [REDACTED]
-
63. I feel that silent sport enthusiasts should pay a fee for trail usage in all of Wisconsin.
-
64. Improve the health outcomes by promoting activities other than riding motorized vehicles from bar to bar, especially an extensive bike trail.
-
65. Connect Mercer with a paved bike path to Manotowich Waters Trails
-
66. Primarily visit during winter months for snowmobiling.
-
67. I've been coming to Iron County for 15 years and it's getting old riding the same ATV trails again and again and again. Some new connector trails between routes would be nice. Additionally, trails like 6 and 8 offer a wide range of scenery and terrain that are very picturesque. More trails like this would enhance the riding experience of Iron County. While the county may not much influence with the local business establishments, I have noticed that local restaurant and bar owners seem much less enthused about tourism than in years past, which means we don't stay as long and don't spend as much as we once did... [REDACTED] is a notable exception which is always welcoming and friendly to ATV riders.
-
68. Please keep the ease of access simple and the cost to use low because timber harvesting and taxes are what the county makes money on. Tourism is what local businesses make money on and if we make it easy and cheap for the tourists to come and stay they will be more apt to spend their dollars at these businesses.
-
69. How about something for motor bikes?
-
70. Silent sport opportunities. Too much emphasis is placed on ATV and snowmobiling. I would like to ride my bike from one end of the country to the other on safe roads and trails. Something like the Bear skin trail in Minocqua. Or the trails in Sparta that connect to each other.
-
71. Biking, Birdwatching and other silent sports are on the rise. We need paths and campgrounds to accommodate them in the future. Don't let our southern counties steal these opportunities from us.
-
72. Your new registration system should be interesting
-
73. White Thunder Riders does an awesome job. Keep maps updated - provide trail updates more frequently via Facebook and chamber web so businesses can advise customers. Update data to digital map providers as future will go electronic - future idea not critical. Monitor signage at junctions what sign refers to what? People turn signs. Extend bike and running lanes. Gile Loop?
-
74. ATV trails could be marked better. In some locations the ATV trails are not really marked. Bayfield County is a good example of well-marked trails.
-
75. I'd like to make campground reservations online.
-
76. Advertise, make your county a destination...not a glimmer.
-
77. Fix up the Plummer Mine area. It's a mess, disgrace, and dangerous. I cannot believe that it is considered an "interpretive" park.
-
78. Non motorize trails for walking and biking
-
79. Update ATV map
-
80. A few more signage or something talking about the history of Iron County, along trails.
-
81. I think there is a missed opportunity in the county and actually the entire state of Wisconsin. Look at Minnesota state and county parks for horse trails and camping. They are all over, there is nothing like it in Wisconsin and Iron County could really draw a huge number of horse campers because of the beauty of the area and the wilderness. It's what horse people want and need in the state. Could be a great draw for the county and tourism.
-
82. Better signs on ATV trails
-

83.	Limit the activities related to the "bar scene". Encourage healthy life choices. Close down the lower block strip clubs. Promote a positive image for Hurley.
84.	More non-motorized trails, including hiking, mountain biking and skiing. This would be good for local residents and also for tourism, business development and job creation.
85.	The entire county needs to be included. At the same time, all opportunities may not exist equally throughout the county. To a large degree it will be based on where the county owns land and who it fits with other local land use. Maybe the county could consider another small campground or two in the Town of Mercer (Deer Lk, Fisher Lk, Spider Lk) where they can't provide ATV trails.
86.	More lifetime aerobic sports opportunities (biking, walking, Nordic skiing). Trails needed and the labor to maintain them.
87.	I have been coming here for over 50 years. I love the quiet and the peace I have found here. Over the years this has changed and I understand that other needs for recreation have to be met, however, noise carries, ATV's can create havoc in the wetlands, public safety on the roads where ATV's can ride has become a worry, When do we say they have enough? When does my voice for quiet and wildlife count. I hope here. Thanks
88.	Iron County has an adequate amount of motorized trails. Some areas of the County are not conducive to ATV use. Sometimes you have to go to the area where your type of recreation is allowed or permitted, not always out your back door.
89.	There should be more resources spent on developing and promoting silent sport opportunities, because they are healthier for our kids and our environment. They are an often overlooked source of revenue, because participants don't "wear" their sport, ie. Helmets or dust, when they walk into a bar or restaurant.
90.	It is very sad to live in such a beautiful area and not be able to bike or walk with children without worrying about the traffic. We have so much to offer with our waterfalls and beautiful area that we should have paved trails to be able to experience this area.
91.	It's critical for county planners to think about the impacts of mountain biking and other biking in our community. Other communities around Iron County are proving the success of investment in mountain biking, and biking/walking trails that connect people to places. We need trails with a purpose. Iron County also has countless, unique outdoor assets in which could be built upon. For example, Whitecap is a gem in the rough. It has potential to be a mecca for outdoor enthusiasts and a great economic driver for our area. I encourage county leaders to think creatively and locally about developing a healthy, vibrant community for all ages.
92.	Promote us as a destination for silent sports.
93.	Change the focus from motorized to non-motorized sports
94.	Get rid of the lower block strip clubs. Have less emphasis on alcohol related events.
95.	Iron County could be a vibrant outdoor recreation area for families if it would understand and recognize the popularity of Silent Sports. This is where the future of outdoor recreation is going. Bicycling, kayaking x-country skiing, snowshoeing and paddle boarding is growing at phenomenal rates. We have already nicely accommodated those people who enjoy motor sports (ATV and snowmobiling). It is time for expanding the opportunities to include a very fast growing population who enjoy Silent Sports. Data supports the fact that the demographics for silent sports enthusiasts is above average wage earners who travel to find solitude and beauty to enjoy the outdoors. Let's attract them to Iron County! Thank you!
96.	Keep the CAFO's and Iron mines OUT. Put moratoriums on BOTH until you can come up with a plan to make it so damn miserable for them to operate that they go away. Tax them. Make them clean the pollutants from the water they use...ie discharging only CLEAN TREATED WATER anywhere in Iron County with a full scale water treatment plant...just like the cities in the area have to. Regulate them to death. They are not needed. Tourism is a major industry. It must be protected as must all waters that flow into Lake Superior.
97.	Natural settings are more preferable to developed sites
98.	Help preserve the Penokee Hills in their current undisturbed by mining and other extraction industries practices.
99.	Iron County is a gateway to connecting recreational opportunities with other counties and the UP of MI. Providing these "links", will bring tourists to our area which will help economically. This area has so much natural beauty that could be tapped into to make coming here more desirable.
100.	Keep it wild and rugged. Pristine wilderness areas are the best thing you have.

-
101. When deciding on trails please keep in mind the welfare of our shorelines, wetlands, wildlife, and water.
-
102. We have such a large county for more expansion for recreation, I think with more effort we all can contribute ideas to increase activities and income for the area residents. The cost and risk of a Mine and Hog factory is much too high, let's keep the area as beautiful, pristine and welcoming as it has always been. As I have always said clean air and water starts HERE!
-
103. You need to start thinking about the impact of activities on the environment more. It is also necessary to fund enforcement of regulations, not just implementing a regulation. This means having more police presence!
-
104. I'd like to see a comprehensive guide to the silent sports activities in Iron County including accurate maps and signage. Also, continue to explore any and all opportunities to expand silent sports in Iron County. Boulder Junction is a perfect example of the economic advantages of bike trails and silent sports activities in a community or region. This is an exciting time for Iron County to take its place as an outdoor recreation haven for the Midwest. The county has great potential for becoming a silent sports mecca, and since silent sports are on the rise, we have a golden opportunity to take advantage of the social climate and our beautiful natural resources.
-
105. Keep it natural
-
106. Rare beauty and wildlife there, but we have had some bad experiences with people running their dogs while we are camping with ours, and with [REDACTED] partying. If you invested in oversight, people will come. Winter misleading availability would be a big deal too.
-
107. Trails to waterfalls, skiing and hiking trails need to be protected from destruction by logging.
-
108. Iron County needs more handicapped accessible camping, fishing piers, etc.
-
109. We bike, and always go into Vilas County, because nothing is here
-
110. We have a very active community and having more outdoor activities such as paved trails will allow people of this community to be more active and healthy. This will also increase tourism and bring money into our area.
-
111. Use Facebook to even let locals know of what we have or what is in the works. Look how successful and popular the Ironwood paved trail is.
-
112. Please do not allow open pit mines in Iron County it will ruin the beauty of the country side.
-
113. Silent sports are really making a comeback and if people have trails to use they will use them. A great example would be the walking trail in Ironwood. It continually has people on it steady running, walking, and biking. If it's there people will use it. We could even use more marked snowshoe trails it's a cheap thing to do and when the trail is marked like Schoenberg Park, it gets a lot of traffic in the winter. Also another great asset would be to have mountain bike trails. The ones in Michigan get used all the time and people from our area go over there to use there's because we don't have marked trails. Please start grooming the rest of the cross country ski trails in Montreal that are marked on the map.
-
114. Keep up the good work, keep the momentum rolling!
-
115. Unfortunately, the deer population has been decimated by a perfect storm of wolves, bears, cougars and [REDACTED] too many permits a few years ago. I have stopped hunting in Wisconsin and have bought a piece of land in Illinois, which is where I now hunt. My neighbor had been coming up for many years to hunt in Iron County, but he also purchased a piece of land in Illinois and will not be coming up here to deer hunt in the future. Most of my neighbors who hunt are very frustrated with the current situation. I am concerned that the decline in hunting opportunities will lead to a decline in the employment and lifestyle opportunities in Iron County. It is important that Iron County find ways to expand and diversify its recreational opportunities to help put its economy on a sustainable and growing footing. The loss of the mine and some other businesses in the county make it imperative that we focus on doing whatever is necessary to enhance recreational tourism.
-
116. Why has there been so much logging around the falls? Seems like we should keep these areas in older forests, which better protect water quality and are generally more attractive to visitors.
-
117. Silent sports are very popular in the county and across the country. Need to promote and provide more trails.
-
118. I am involved with the North Country Trail and was recently involved with building a new backpacking campsite near the Gold Mine. I believe the NCT in Iron County has a great potential to become one of the best backpacking corridors in the Midwest. I have hiked the whole Ice Age Trail in Wisconsin and most of the Superior Hiking Trail in Minnesota. The SHT is a very popular backpacking trail. There is no reason Iron County cannot be like that. The NCT already goes from Wren Falls
-

to Upson Lake. From there it is planned to go north past Foster Falls, Potato Falls and eventually Superior Falls. Plus, to the west it will connect from Wren Falls to Copper Falls State Park. When completed it will be the premiere hiking trail section in Wisconsin. Backpacking campsites are inexpensive to build and attracts people who are real outdoor enthusiasts. Right now, only Newport State Park is the only place in Wisconsin that is well known for backpacking campsites. I just checked their website. They have 13 backpacking campsites and they are 90% reserved for the next two weeks, including completely filled on the weekends.

119. Iron County would benefit from an expansion of their mindset as a motorized recreation area.

120. Outdoor recreation is what we are all about, an incredibly important aspect of our community which will help grow our economy. More events promoting these sports would help--gravel road bike races, kayak events, etc.

121. We have perhaps the most diverse landscapes in the Northwoods, from inland lakes and rivers to Lake Superior and the Penokees. We should work to promote this diversity and the wild country experiences folks can have. Imagine any other county where you could come for a week and see such a variety, from fishing the TFF to hiking the North Country Trail and visiting waterfalls, to Lake Superior's shores at Saxon Harbor. Not to mention paddling the Manitowish River, visiting very remote lakes like Moose Lake, paddling the Flambeau below the TFF Dam.

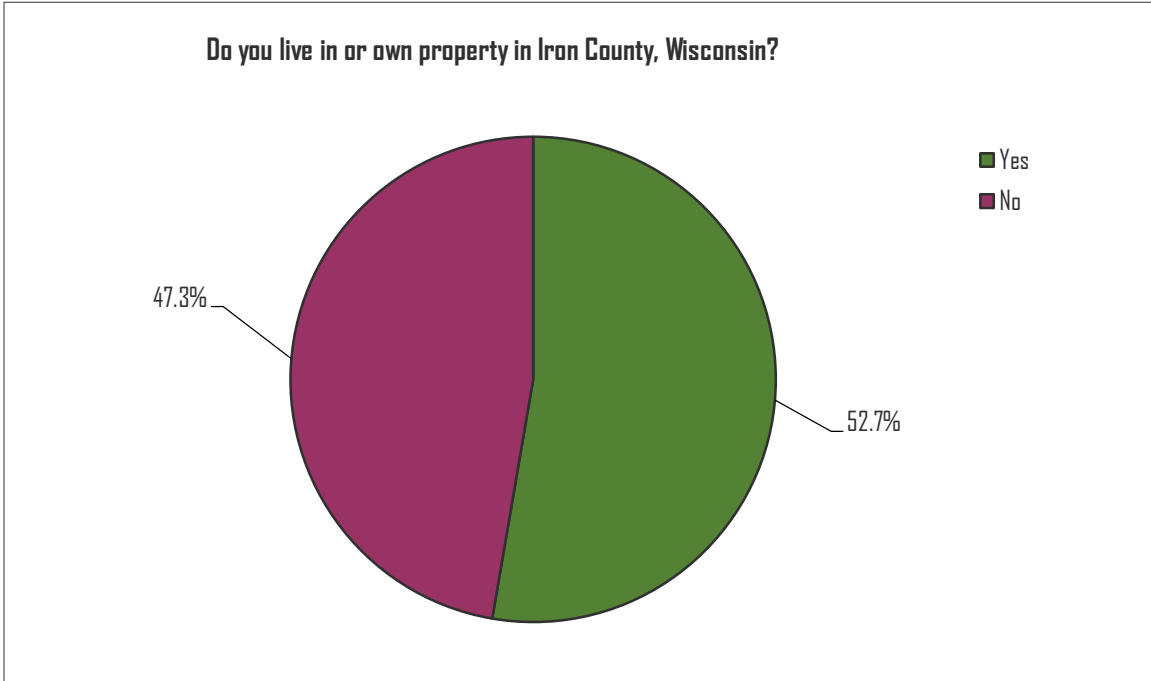
122. You're doing well. Money is tight. More landings and force foresters to make logging roads that are looped or connected to enhance upland hunting opportunities. We have the aspen. Let's use it.

123. The reputation of Hurley as a hard drinking, brawling, strip club place is a major turn off for respectable people and families.

124. I think it would be helpful for Iron County to look at the tourist and economic impact that the CAMBA Mountain Biking Trail system has had on Bayfield, Sawyer and Ashland Counties. There is a big opportunity for development in our area with all the public land.

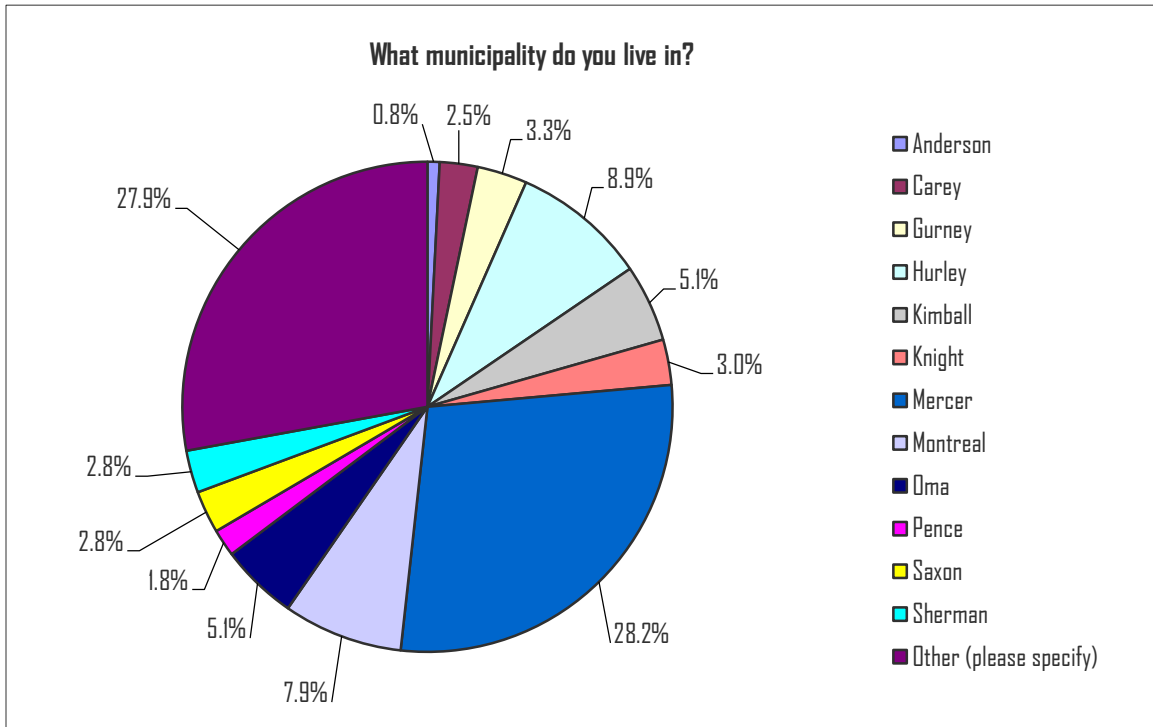
Q27. Do you live in or own property in Iron County, Wisconsin?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	52.7%	294
No	47.3%	264



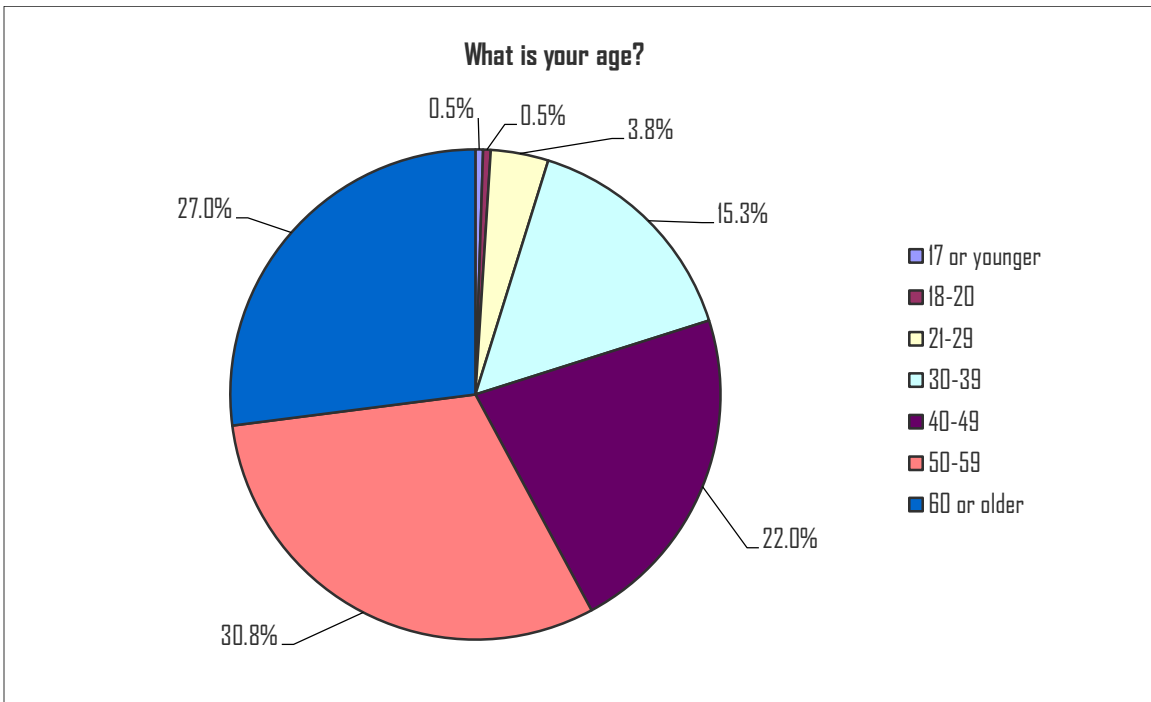
Q28. What municipality do you live in?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Anderson	0.8%	3
Carey	2.5%	10
Gurney	3.3%	13
Hurley	8.9%	35
Kimball	5.1%	20
Knight	3.0%	12
Mercer	28.2%	111
Montreal	7.9%	31
Oma	5.1%	20
Pence	1.8%	7
Saxon	2.8%	11
Sherman	2.8%	11
Other (please specify)	27.9%	110

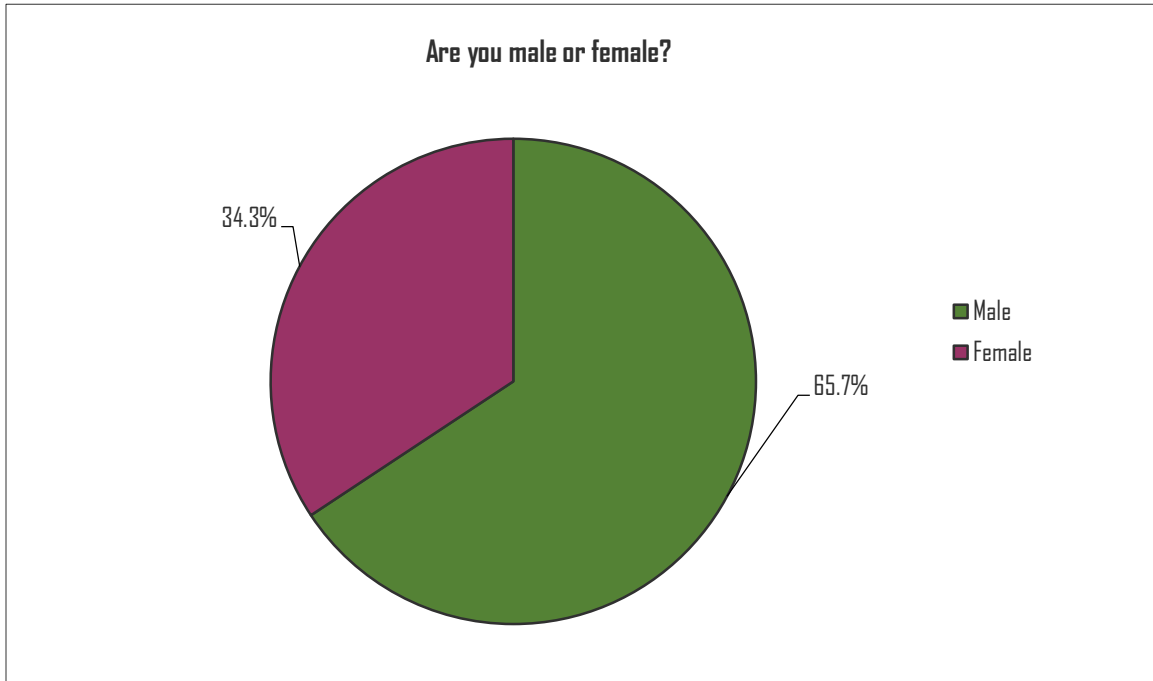


Q29. What is your age?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
17 or younger	0.5%	3
18-20	0.5%	3
21-29	3.8%	21
30-39	15.3%	85
40-49	22.0%	122
50-59	30.8%	171
60 or older	27.0%	150



Q30. Are you male or female?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Male	65.7%	364
Female	34.3%	190



If you would like more information about Iron County Outdoor Recreation opportunities, please provide your name and email or mailing address:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Name	93.1%	134
Address	79.9%	115
Email Address	94.4%	136