Recreation Plan

2027-2031

Iron County, Michigan

DRAFT



October 30, 2026

GEI Consultants

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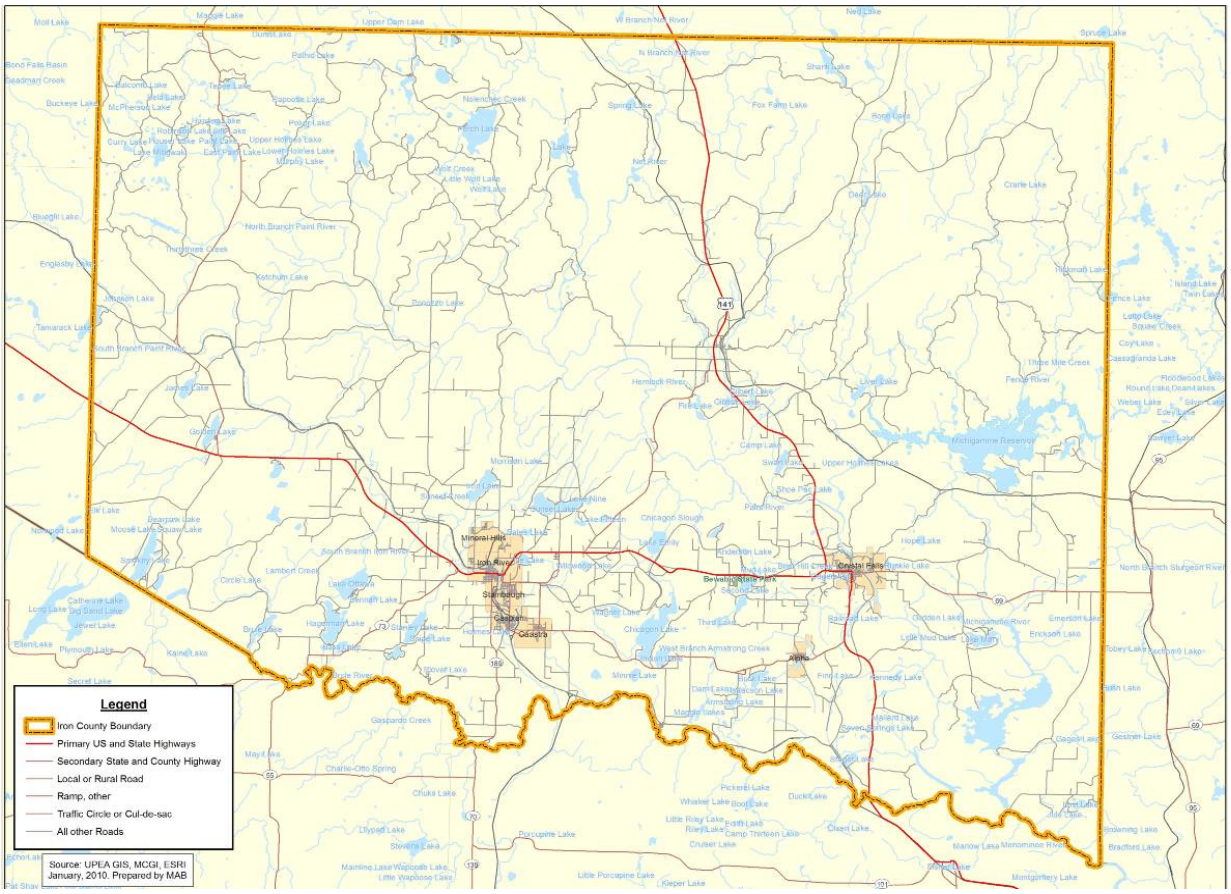
1. Acknowledgements

The Iron County Board of Commissioners and the Parks and Recreation Commission wish to thank the citizens of Iron County for their contributions to the new 5-Year Iron County Recreation Plan.

Board of Commissioners	**Parks & Recreation Commission**
Mark Stauber, Chair	Ean Bruette, County Commissioner & Chair
Jake Conery, Vice Chair	Jake Conery, County Commissioner
Ean Bruette, Finance Chair	Brock VanOss
Patti Peretto, Commissioner	Brian Fabbri
Pete Judd, Commissioner	Dan Germic
	Seth Miatech
	Tony Dallavalle
	Richard Sloat
	Ron Frailing

2. Description of the Community

For the purpose of this plan, the "community" is defined as the area encompassed by Iron County's political boundaries. Within these boundaries are the cities of Caspian, Gaastra, Iron River, Crystal Falls, Village of Alpha, Bates Township, Crystal Falls Township, Hematite Township, Iron River Township, Mansfield Township, Mastodon Township, and Stambaugh Township.



Iron County is located in the west central region of the Upper Peninsula and borders

Wisconsin to the south. Geographically, it is the fourth largest in the state by square miles, having a total of 1,166.36 square miles and population of 11,631 (2020 US Census). The average temperatures in the summer are a high of 79 and a low of 52; average winter temperatures are a high of 22 and a low of 1.

Primary sectors of the economy include forestry, tourism and long-time key manufacturers all centered around the bountiful resources within the County.

These resources include northern hardwood and pine forests, numerous lakes, rivers and streams and a dedicated workforce. A person in Iron County is never more than 2 ½ miles from a lake, river, stream, creek or pond.

The development of this plan was initiated by the Iron County Board of Commissioners by the creation of the Iron County Parks & Recreation Commission (the Commission). The Commission has endeavored to include all county municipalities in their planning process by inviting representatives to submit comments and to participate in the planning process by special invitation to planning sessions. The focus of this plan is to address current and projected needs for all types of recreational activities. Discussion primarily focuses on parcels currently owned by the County and set aside for recreation. The Commission has also investigated the feasibility of additional land acquisition for recreation use.

3. Administrative Structure

The Iron County Board of Commissioners established a ten member Parks and Recreation Commission that meets monthly according to a published schedule. The Parks and Recreation Commission is responsible for advising the County Board of Commissioners on items relating to upkeep, operation and expansion of the County's recreation facilities and programs. The recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Commission are acted on by the County Board of Commissioners. Day to day activities are performed under the direction of the County Administrative Assistant overseen by the Board Chair.

Funding for County recreation facilities and programs is through the County's General Fund in addition to user fees that are generated at Pentoga Park, Camp Batawagama, and the Iron County Historical Museum. For the 2026 budget year, the County's recreation budget is $239,870 (see Appendix B). Special projects are appropriated as necessary. The County's recreation projects also rely on the generosity of the many committed citizen volunteers. This applies to all County facilities and programs, except Camp Batawagama, which is supported by a four-year renewable millage. Camp Batawagama is a County-owned and operated facility with a unique administrative structure. The County employs a park manager and seasonal staff to run the camp. Funding for the camp comes through a millage that is up for renewal every four years. The Camp also has an independent group with a special interest in the Camp. Special projects are funded through the millage with financial help from the Friends of Camp Batawagama. Friends of Camp Batawagama are a group made up of former campers, staff, and citizens that view the camp as a special place. The mission of the group is to foster interest in the social, economic, and educational preservation of the Camp. Today, the group is responsible for marketing the camp and fundraising for special projects. Iron County also has one County-owned campground, Pentoga Park, which is located on Chicagoan Lake. The Park Manager at Pentoga Park is responsible for carrying out the day-to-day operations and maintenance at that facility. Funding for this park is provided by overnight camping fees along with the County's General Fund.

4. Recreation Inventory

Iron County provides a variety of recreational facilities and opportunities for its residents and visitors. Popular County Recreational properties are listed below and the location of each is shown in Figure 2 of Appendix A. A complete list of recreational facilities and properties located in Iron County is listed in Appendix D. These facilities and properties, although located in Iron County, are generally owned by other entities.

- **Iron County Heritage Auto Route.** This roadway route is designed to allow drivers to explore the rich history of Iron County. Designated by the Michigan Department of Transportation in 2000 as an historic route, the 36-mile loop connects 14 premier sites that provide visitors the opportunity to discover and enjoy Iron County historic and recreational resources. The historic sites include the Iron County Museum, Pentoga Park Indian Burial Grounds, the Alpha Circle Historical District, the Iron County Courthouse, Harbor House Museum, Historic Mansfield Location and Pioneer Church, the Amasa Museum, Fortune Pond, Bewabic State Park, Larson Park, the Apple Blossom Trail, Lake Ottawa Recreation Area & Campgrounds, Mile Post Zero & Treaty Tree, and Camp Gibbs Recreation Area. A route map and brochure are attached as Appendix A Figures 2 and 7. An evaluation of the route was not conducted as the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design area not applicable for a roadway route.
- **Iron County Bicycle/Non-Motorized Heritage Trail.** This bicycle/pedestrian trail has been developed in multiple phases with additional development planned in the future. The existing portions of the trail are shown on Figure 2 in Appendix A. The current western portion of the trail, known as the Apple Blossom Trail, links the cities of Iron River, Caspian, and Gaastra along with Stambaugh Township. The western trail begins in Iron River and currently ends at Pentoga Park located on Chicagoan Lake in Stambaugh Township. The eastern trail begins in the City of Crystal Falls and continues into Crystal Falls Township to Donahue Park on Fortune Lake. Future phases will include additional trail development to connect the western and eastern sections of trail together. An accessibility evaluation conducted by GEI resulted in an accessibility ranking of (4) in which all of the existing features meet the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.
- **Snowmobile/ORV Trails.** Iron County is home to 236 miles of snowmobile trials and 37 miles of ORV Trails. Of these 273 miles of trails, 21 miles are owned by Iron County. Maps showing the snowmobile and ORV trails in the County are shown in Figures 8-10 in Appendix A. An evaluation of the trail system was not conducted as there are no facilities associated with the trail system and the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design are not applicable for these types of trails.

- **Iron County Fairgrounds.** The Iron County Fairgrounds is a 30-acre site located in the City of Iron River, see Figure 5 in Appendix A. The grounds consist of a grandstand and arena, an upper horse arena, exhibition buildings, mud bog pit, and restrooms. An accessibility evaluation conducted by GEI resulted in an accessibility ranking of (2) in which some of the existing features meet the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.
- **Camp Batawagama.** Camp Batawagama is located on a 96-acre County owned parcel of land between Chicagoan and Indian Lakes, see Figure 4 in Appendix A. The Camp occupies about 28 acres of land on the shores of Indian lake. For the last 60 years the camp has been providing summer programs through the Iron County Youth Camp Program. The programs run for seven (7) weeks throughout the summer and typically serve youth from Iron County and across the Country. An accessibility evaluation conducted by GEI resulted in an accessibility ranking of (2) in which some of the existing features such as the dining hall meet the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.
- **Pentoga Park.** Pentoga Park is a 60-acre County Park and includes a 135-site campground, playground, swimming beach, boat launch, and Indian Burial Grounds, see Figure 3 in Appendix A. An accessibility evaluation conducted by GEI resulted in an accessibility ranking of (2) as only some of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines. Specifically, the Park has two (2) barrier-free campsites, an accessible restroom facility and vault toilet, and accessible paths to the playground area.
- **Iron County Historical Museum.** Located in Caspian, MI on 10 acres of County property that was a former mine site, the museum includes 26 buildings and over 100 major exhibits and two (2) art galleries. Many of the buildings are historic structures that have been relocated to the site to serve as exhibits. The museum was opened in 1968 and is run by a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving local history throughout the County. The location of the Museum is shown in Figure 6 located in Appendix A. An accessibility evaluation conducted by GEI resulted in an accessibility ranking of (2) as only some of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines.
- **Cooks Run Historical Property.** Located in Stambaugh Township, this 122-acre site is located off Cooks Run Road about 14 miles west of the City of Iron River. The property was deeded to Iron County in 1961, with the intention that the property be maintained for public use. The historic stie was added to the National Registry of Historic Places in 1983. The site was previously used as a trout feeding station and consists of rearing ponds, a small dam, several outbuildings, and a main caretaker cabin. The location of the site is shown in Figure 2 located in Appendix A. An accessibility evaluation conducted by GEI resulted in an accessibility ranking of (1) as none of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines.

- **Helgemo Game Preserve/Nature Area.** The Helgemo Game Preserve is an 80-acre portion of land that was donated to Iron County with the intent to provide access to residents for enjoyment of local natural resources. The location of the site is shown in Figure 2 located in Appendix A. An evaluation of the site was not conducted as there are no facilities at the site and the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design are not applicable.
- **Wagner Lake Property.** The County owns a 416-acre portion of land on the east side of Wagner Lake in Stambaugh Township. The undeveloped property is a great asset to the County and its residents and would provide a great location for development of hiking, biking, snow shoeing, and cross-country skiing trails, primitive camping, and other activities design to enjoy to local natural resources. The location of the site is shown in Figure 2 located in Appendix A. An evaluation of the site was not conducted as there are no facilities at the site and the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design are not applicable.

5. DNR Recreation Grants Inventory

- **Pentoga Park (26-00055)**
    - In 1964, Iron County received a $5,000 grant from the DNR to acquire 1.86 acres of land that was to be developed at part of the County's Pentoga Park. This project has been completed and the project status is closed.

- **Pentoga Park (26-00137)**
    - In 1968, the County received a $58,000 grant from the DNR to develop 56 campsites, construct campground roads, install underground utilities, construct a sewage dump station, septic system, and new service building, and install site lighting. The project has been completed and the project status is closed.

- **Iron County Pentoga Park Shelter (26-01029)**
    - A $25,277.09 grant was awarded to the County in 1978 to construct a new picnic area shelter at the County's Pentoga Park. The project included the development of 6 acres for the shelter building. This project has been completed and the project status is closed.

- **Iron County Fairgrounds Recreation Area (TF87-093)**
    - In 1987, the County received a $58,000 grant from the Michigan DNR's Trust Fund Grant Program. This grant was used to renovate the existing County grandstands at the Fairgrounds to make them barrier free. This project has been completed and the project status is closed.

- **Pentoga Park Campground Improvements (TF05-128)**
    - In 2005, the County received a $90,000 grant from the Michigan DNR's Trust Fund Grant Program for campground improvements at Pentoga Park. This project included the development of additional campsites, installation of new and updated utilities, campground roadway construction, a new fishing pier, and new walkways to provide access to Chicagoan Lake. This project has been completed and the project status is closed.

- **Iron County Heritage Trail (TF10-064)**
    - In 2010, the County received a $500,000 grant from the Michigan DNR's Trust Fund Grant Program for the development of a 7.85-mile trail connecting the existing Apple Blossom Trail in the City of Caspian to Pentoga Park. The trail is planned to be eventually continued to the City of Crystal Falls.

The construction of the trail consisted of a paved trail, boardwalks/bridges, guardrails and culverts, a Trailhead Kiosk and trial signage along with the associated site work. Construction activities started in the spring of 2015 and were completed later that fall. This project has been completed and the project status is closed.

- **Pentoga Park Boat Launch Improvements Project (TF22-0084)**
    - In 2022, the County received a $120,700 grant from the Michigan DNR's Trust Fund Grant Program for improvements to the County's Pentoga Park boat launch area. Improvements included replacement of the boat launch, the addition of a new vault toilet, paved ADA Parking spaces, and the additional of accessible trails. The accessible trails provided a connection to the County's Non-Motorized Heritage Trail which previously ended just outside of the Park along with accessible connector paths within the boat launch area. This project has been completed and the project status is closed.

6. Natural Resource Inventory

Iron County is largely forested with a vast number of rivers and lakes. The majority of the land can be categorized as:

1. privately-owned land enrolled in the Commercial Forest Act and open to the public for recreational purposes;
2. federally-owned land open to the public for recreational purposes; or
3. state-owned land open to the public for recreational purposes.

Consequently, thousands of acres are available for year-round outdoor recreation. Popular activities include fishing, hunting, camping, snowmobiling, biking, walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.

Iron County has more lakes per capita than leopards have spots. An alphabetical listing of named lakes is included below. It is noted that public access is not provided at all lakes.

1. Bass Lake
2. Bear Paw Lake
3. Bela Lake
4. Brule Lake
5. Buck Lake
6. Buddle Lake
7. Cable Lake
8. Camp Lake
9. Cedar Lake
10. Chicagon Lake
11. Clear Lake
12. Curry Lake
13. Dawson Lake
14. Dead Mans Lake
15. Deer Lake
16. East Mud Lake
17. East Paint Lake
18. East Paint Lake (Version 2)
19. Ebony Lake
20. Emily Lake
21. Erickson Lake
22. Fence Lake
23. Fern Lake
24. Fifteen Lake
25. Fire Lake
26. Fortune Lake Four
27. Fortune Lake One
28. Fortune Lake Three
29. Fortune Lake Two
30. Gasley Lake
31. Gibson Lake
32. Gilbert Lake
33. Glidden Lake
34. Golden Lake
35. Golden Lake
36. Hagerman Lake
37. Hannah Webb Lake
38. Harding Lake
39. Hehe (Jumbo) Lake
40. Ice Lake
41. Indian Lake
42. Iron Lake
43. James Lake
44. Jingle Lake

45. Kidney Lake
46. Killdeer Lake
47. La Crosse Lake
48. Lake 5
49. Lake Ellen
50. Lake Mary
51. Lake On 2
52. Lake Ottawa
53. Lake Robinson
54. Lake Seventeen
55. Lewis Lake
56. Light Lake
57. Little Ellen Lake
58. Little Maggie Lake
59. Little Smoky Lake
60. Liver Lake
61. Long Lake
62. Loon Lake
63. Lost Lake
64. Lower Holmes Lake
65. Madelyn Lake
66. Maggie Lake
67. Marten Lake
68. McPherson Lake
69. Minnie Lake
70. Mitchell Lake
71. Mitigwaki Lake
72. Nelson Lake
73. Nesbit (Little) Lake
74. Nesbit Lake
75. Norway Lake
76. Norway Lake
77. Ottawa (Pickeral) Lake
78. Paint Lake
79. Paw Lake
80. Perch Lake
81. Petrow Lake
82. Porter Lake
83. Railroad Lake
84. Robinson Lake
85. Round Lake
86. Runkle Lake
87. Silk Lake
88. Sixteen Lake
89. Skyline Lake
90. Smoky Lake
91. Spree Lake
92. Stager Lake
93. Stager Pond
94. Stanley Lake
95. Sunset Lake
96. Swan Lake
97. Tepee Lake
98. Timber Lake
99. Trap Lake
100. Upper Holmes Lake
101. Violet Lake
102. West Mud Lake
103. Winslow Lake

There are also a significant number of rivers and streams located in the County. A couple of major rivers include the Paint, Brule, Fence, Net, Deer, Cooks Run, Hemlock, Michigamme, Iron, Perch, and Tamarack. The location of these can be found in Figure 11 located in Appendix A.

7. Planning and Public Participation

The Iron County Parks & Recreation Commission acknowledges the importance of involving the public in planning the future improvements to the County's recreation facilities and have made efforts to involve their citizens in that process. There were multiple methods used to gather input for the Recreation Plan as outlined below.

- A survey was created and sent out to Iron County residents asking them to evaluate existing facilities and provide feedback on what is most important to them and what they would like to see added or improved in the County.
    - A copy of the survey results is included in Appendix E.
    - The results of this survey were used in the development of the Draft Recreation Plan.
- Multiple County Parks & Recreation Commission meetings were held prior to the drafting of the Recreation Plan. These meetings which were open to the public were used for gathering ideas and prioritizing the activities that are most desired by the public.
- The Draft Recreation Plan was posted at the Iron County Courthouse and available on the County's website for review and comment by the Public. Public comments can be sent to Mary Dalpra, Administrative Assistant, Iron County Courthouse, 2 S. Sixth St., Suite 7 Crystal Falls, MI 49920 by December 7 2026.

8. Goals and Objectives

Our goals and objectives are based on our abundantly available natural resources, our current inventory of recreational facilities, our inventory of potential sites for new facilities, and our population.

Iron County has experienced a decrease in population over the last several decades. This decline is in part due to the fluctuation of a natural resource-based economy. The current population of approximately 11,757 reflects a leveling off of the population decline due to the fact that Iron County has seen an influx of retirees as well as an increase in the support economy for the large number of seasonal residences.

Iron County Population

Year	Population	Increase/ (Decrease) #	% Change	Average Annual Change
1970	13,763			
1980	13,635	(128)	-0.93%	-13
1990	13,197	(438)	-3.21%	-44
2000	13,109	(88)	-0.67%	-9
2010	11,809	(1,300)	-9.92%	-130
2013	11,516	(293)	-2.48%	-98
2014	11,387	(129)	-1.12%	-129
2020	11,631	244	2.14%	41
2025	11,757	126	1.08%	25

Almost 17% of the County's population of 11,757 is under the age of 18 and almost 30% are over the age of 65. These facts highlight the importance of providing recreation activities that interest both young people and our aging population. Accommodating seniors can also serve to accommodate persons with disabilities and be an additional draw for tourists.

Quality of life is the single most important attribute that brings residents and visitors to Iron County. Our natural resources are a major part of the setting that makes the County a superior place to live, work, and recreate. Development and improvement of recreation facilities is important to maintaining this high quality of life.

Our goals and objectives include, but are not limited to, the following:

<u>Goal 1</u>: To provide a wide variety of year-round recreational opportunities to all residents of and visitors to Iron County.

Objective 1A: Develop and expand the various trail systems including the non-motorized trails, snowmobile and ORV trails, water paths, cross country skiing and/or snowshoeing trails, primitive camping, and motorized trails.

Objective 1B: Continue to invest in the County's existing recreational properties such as Pentoga Park, the Iron County Fairgrounds, and Camp Batawagama by making improvements.

Objective 1C: Take advantage of the vast natural resources and potential for outdoor activities at County-owned properties such as Cooks Run Historical Site, the Helgemo Game Preserve/Nature Area, and the Wagner Lake property.

<u>Goal 2</u>: To maintain and improve our existing resources and facilities.

Objective 2A: Make improvements to existing features at Pentoga Park such as an improved boat docking and fishing pier and parking area, new boat wash station, restroom/shower facilities, site improvements, road improvements, updated water, electric and sewer utilities, and other general site improvements.

Objective 2B: Improve and update facilities at Camp Batawagama to allow for year-round or extended season activities.

Objective 2C: Continued expansion of the County's non-motorized trail system including connecting two existing paths together, trail lighting, addition of parking/trail heads, and improved maintenance.

<u>Goal 3</u>: To develop facilities that enhance the cultural, historic, and natural characteristics of the area or site.

Objective 3: Make improvements to Cooks Run Historical Site to include a driveway and parking area, accessible restroom, interpretive signage nature trails, and primitive camping.

<u>Goal 4</u>: To develop facilities or to modify existing facilities to accommodate persons with disabilities to the extent possible given limited financial resources.

Objective 4A: Continue to update facilities to meet and exceed ADA standards such as restrooms and shower facilities at Camp Batawagama, Pentoga Park, and Cooks Run Historical Site.

Objective 4B: Provide new facilities when applicable that meet or exceed ADA Standards. This could include new ADA accessible launch sites along waterways that may tie into existing or proposed Water Paths.

<u>Goal 5</u>: Promote activities that protect all Iron County lakes, streams, and waterways from invasive species and other environmental concerns.

Objective 5: Work with other organizations to develop new or improve existing facilities such as boat wash stations, restrooms, and other facilities that promote the control of invasive species and other environmental contamination.

Meeting these goals will require partnering with local municipalities and private sector organizations as well as state and federal agencies. Collaborating with neighboring counties to enhance our facilities and services will also serve to avoid duplicity of services.

Preservation and restoration of historic sites is encouraged. Ongoing planning with regard to the maintenance of new facilities is essential. Costs analyses of all current and proposed facilities and programs are critical to their success. We believe visions are the first step to creating a positive recreational environment, but a realistic financial analysis and plan is the second step to making it happen and keeping it going!

9. Action Plan

Iron County Pentoga Park

- Upgrade the boat launch area to include improved boat trailer parking and in water boat docking locations. Upgrades would include a boat wash station to help control invasive species and diseases, and dock improvements, restrooms, and access road and parking improvements.
- Expand the parking area, develop a handicap accessible parking area and toilets, replace and upgrade the docks to include accessible kayak/canoe launches.
- Add additional handicap accessible features to the site, particularly the waterfront area including an accessible canoe/kayak launch, accessible fishing pier, and additional accessible walking paths to the waterfront and other site facilities.
- Improvements or upgrades to the existing restroom and shower facilities.
- Improvements to the existing campsite utilities such as improved campsite electrical and water service and full sanitary sewer connections.
- Improvements or upgrades to the general park water, electrical and sewer utilizes and dump station.

Funding Source:

- MNRTF / LWCF Recreation Grants
- Michigan Waterways Commission Grants
- Local Funding
- Park Fees
- Community Donations

Iron County Bicycle/Non-Motorized Heritage Trail

- Continue with the development of the proposed bicycle and pedestrian trail system. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities along the proposed Iron Belle Trail route.
    - Some property acquisition may be necessary to continue with the development of the trail system.
- Include additional signage and/or additional barriers along the roadway portions of the route, bicycle lanes, and shared use path.
- Trail lighting along heavily used portions of the trails near residential areas.
- Development of additional trail heads at significant locations along the existing and proposed path including the Iron County Medical Care Facility, Bewabic State Park,

Pentoga Park, and other locations. Trail heads may contain restrooms, pavilions, informational signage, parking and access areas, and other site amenities.

- The acquisition of some additional property along the route may be required for the development of trail heads and parking areas.

- This project is likely to be completed in phases.

Funding Source:

- MNRTF Recreation Grants
- MDNR Trail Fund Grants
- Local Funding
- Community Donations

Iron County Bicycle/Non-Motorized Heritage Trail Acquisition for Extension of Trails and Development of Connecting Trails

- Property acquisition as necessary to continue to develop the County non-motorized trail system to both connect the two existing trails.
- Property acquisition as necessary construct hiking/biking trail connecting existing County trails to nearby regional trails, such as Michigan's Iron Belle Trail, the Iron Ore Heritage Trail, Dickinson County Bicycle network and the North Country Trail.

Funding Source:

- MNRTF / LWCF Recreation Grants
- MDNR Trail Program
- MDOT Transportation Enhancement
- Local Funding
- Community Donations

County-Wide Water Path

- Acquire additional lands or work with the State to utilize State land for primitive campsites and waterway access particularly along water path routes with established launch sites such as the Paint River. Provide amenities such as, universally accessible toilets and landing/launching areas. Acquire land to develop a hut – to - hut canoe/kayak experience. A map showing the potential water paths highlighting the scenic rivers and lakes of Iron County as well as river access sites is included on Figure 11 of Appendix A.

Funding Source:

- MNRTF / LWCF Recreation Grants

- Local Funding
- Community Donations

Cooks Run Historical Property

- Improvements to the existing lodge including a new roof and repairs to the cabin's logs, windows, and doors.
- Development of the site to allow for enjoyment of the natural resources including the addition of hiking, biking, snowshoeing, and cross-country ski trails, primitive camping, along with site access and parking improvements, and the addition of other site facilities to enhance the development of the site such as restrooms, nature centers, or other structures.

Funding Source:

- MNRTF / LWCF Recreation Grants
- Local Funding
- Community Donations

Camp Batawagama

- Upgrade existing facilities to support an extended season and a potential Youth Conservation Corp. Upgrades would include ADA upgrades, site facilities improvements and upgrades, and winterizing key structures.

Funding Source:

- MNRTF / LWCF Recreation Grants
- Local Funding
- Community Donations

Iron County Fairgrounds Accessibility Improvements

- Accessibility improvements to provide accessible paths linking the Grandstand Area to the Fairgrounds Midway level.
- Development of additional ADA accessible restroom facilities and general site access and pathways.
- Improvements to the lighting and sound system in the Grandstand and Mud Bog areas.
- The addition of portable bleachers for use for Fair and Mud Bog areas.

Funding Source:

- MNRTF Recreation Grants
- Local Funding
- Community Donations

Iron County Snowmobile / ORV Trail Development / Acquisition

- Improve Trail Connections to surrounding communities and between existing trails for ATV's and Snowmobiles and improve the conditions of existing trails.
- Acquire property or easements as necessary to provide connections from surrounding motorized trail systems and to create additional trails.
- Construct new trail systems as necessary to create or improve access to downtown areas and to broader regional trail systems.

Funding Source:

- MDNR Snowmobile Trail Program
- Local Funding
- Community Donations

Iron County Historical Museum

- Improvements to the Iron County Historical Museum would include maintenance and improvements to stabilize and do all necessary maintenance on all outbuildings.

Funding Source:

- Local Funding
- Community Donations

Helgemo Game Preserve/Nature Area

- Development of the site to provide enhanced access to local natural resources. Improvements would provide better access and parking, nature trails and signage, picnic areas, restrooms, and general site improvements.

Funding Source:

- MNRTF Recreation Grants
- Local Funding
- Community Donations

Wagner Lake Property

- Development of the site to allow for enjoyment of the natural resources including the addition of hiking, biking, snowshoeing, and cross-country ski trails, primitive camping, along with site access and parking improvements, and the addition of other site facilities to enhance the development of the site such as restrooms, nature centers, or other structures.

- Development of trails, trailheads and access improvements to link this property with the nearby Iron County Bicycle/Non-Motorized Heritage Trail and Pentoga Park.

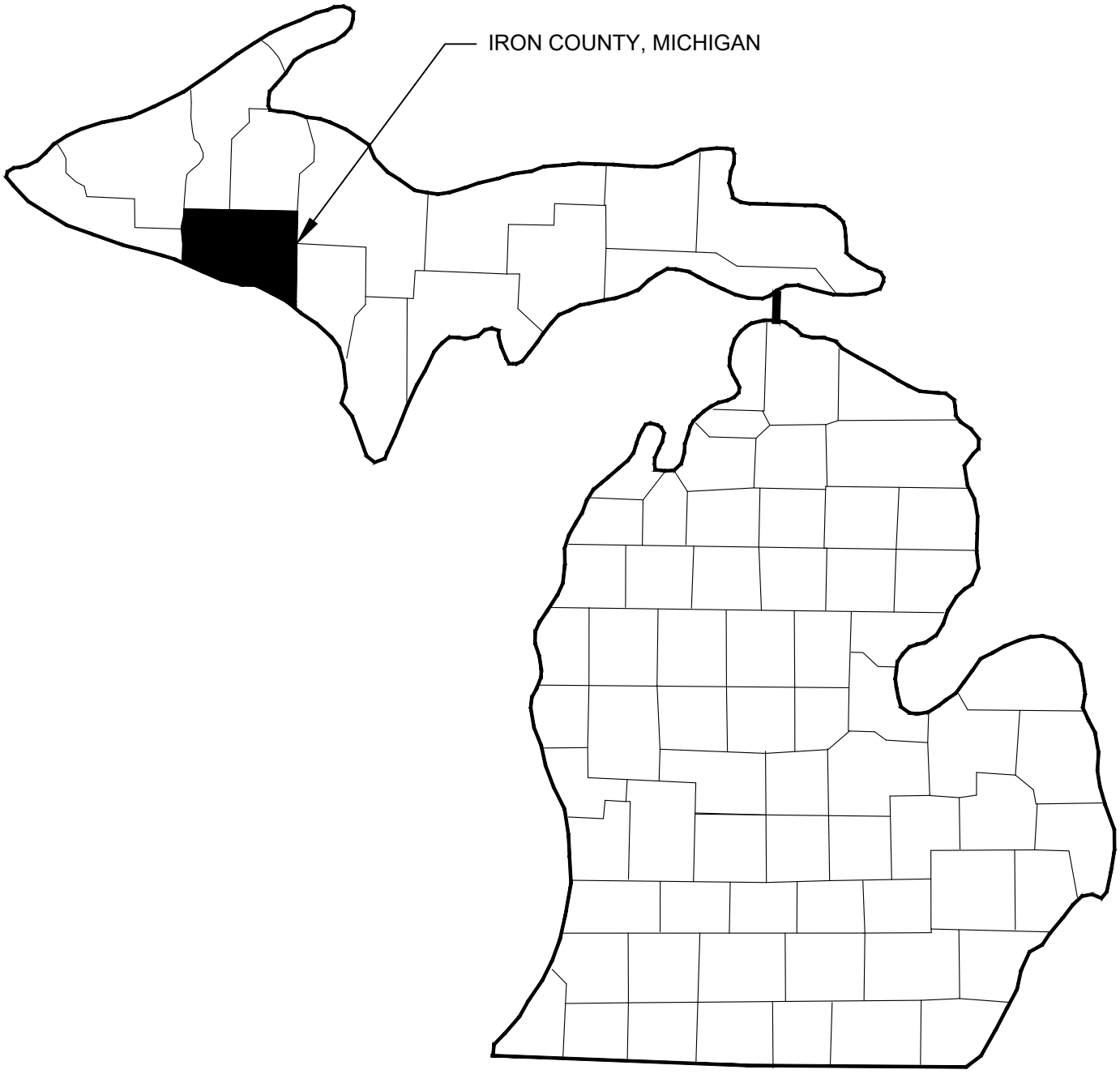
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Appendix A

Maps and Figures

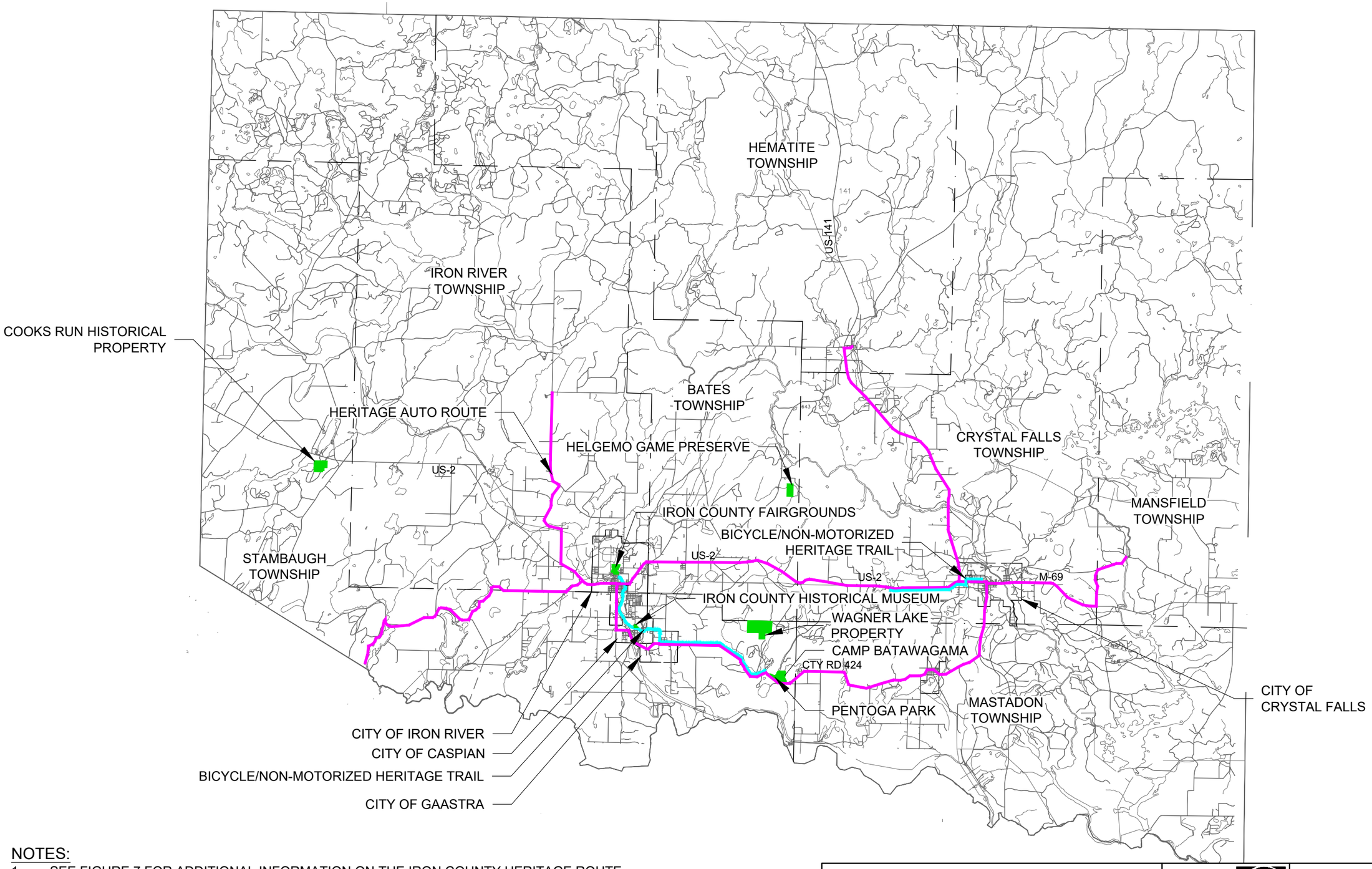
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STATE OF MICHIGAN

DNR Recreation Plan	GEI Consultants	LOCATION MAP
Iron County, Michigan		October 2026 Fig. 1

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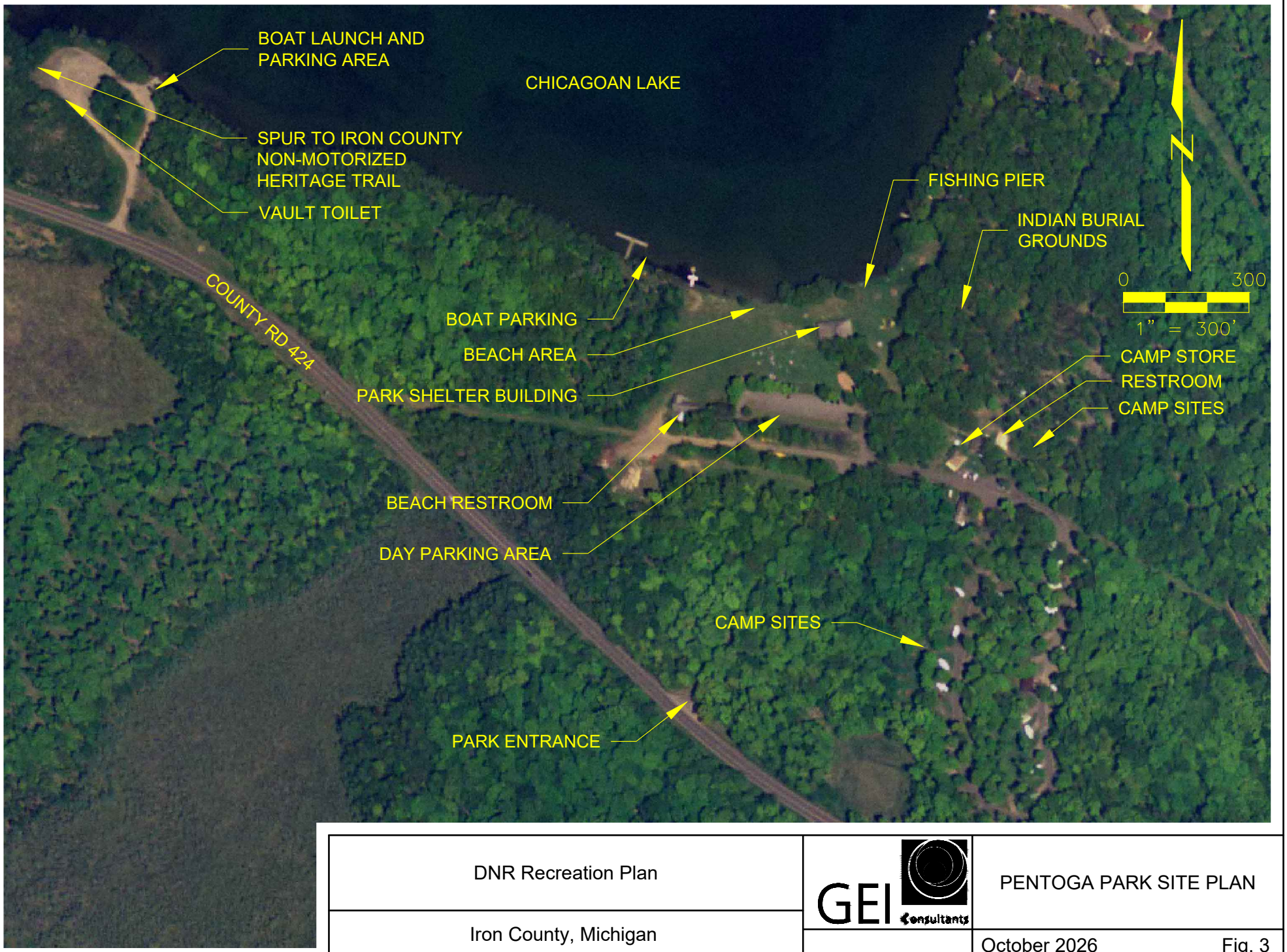


NOTES:

1. SEE FIGURE 7 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE IRON COUNTY HERITAGE ROUTE.
2. SEE FIGURES 6-10 FOR INFORMATION ON THE SNOWMOBILE AND ORV TRAILS IN IRON COUNTY.

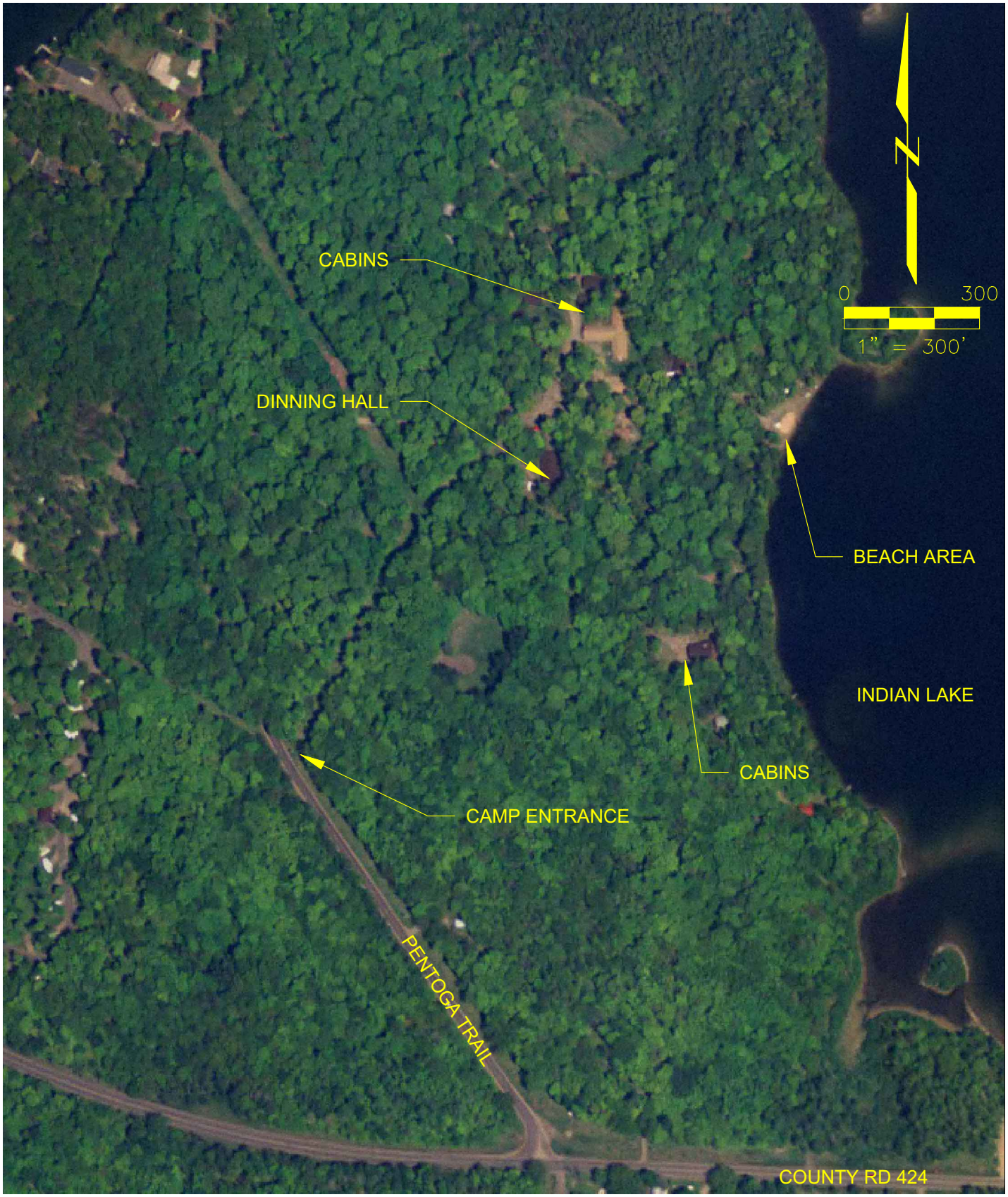
DNR Recreation Plan	GEI Consultants	RECREATION INVENTORY LOCATION MAP
Iron County, Michigan		October 2026 Fig. 2

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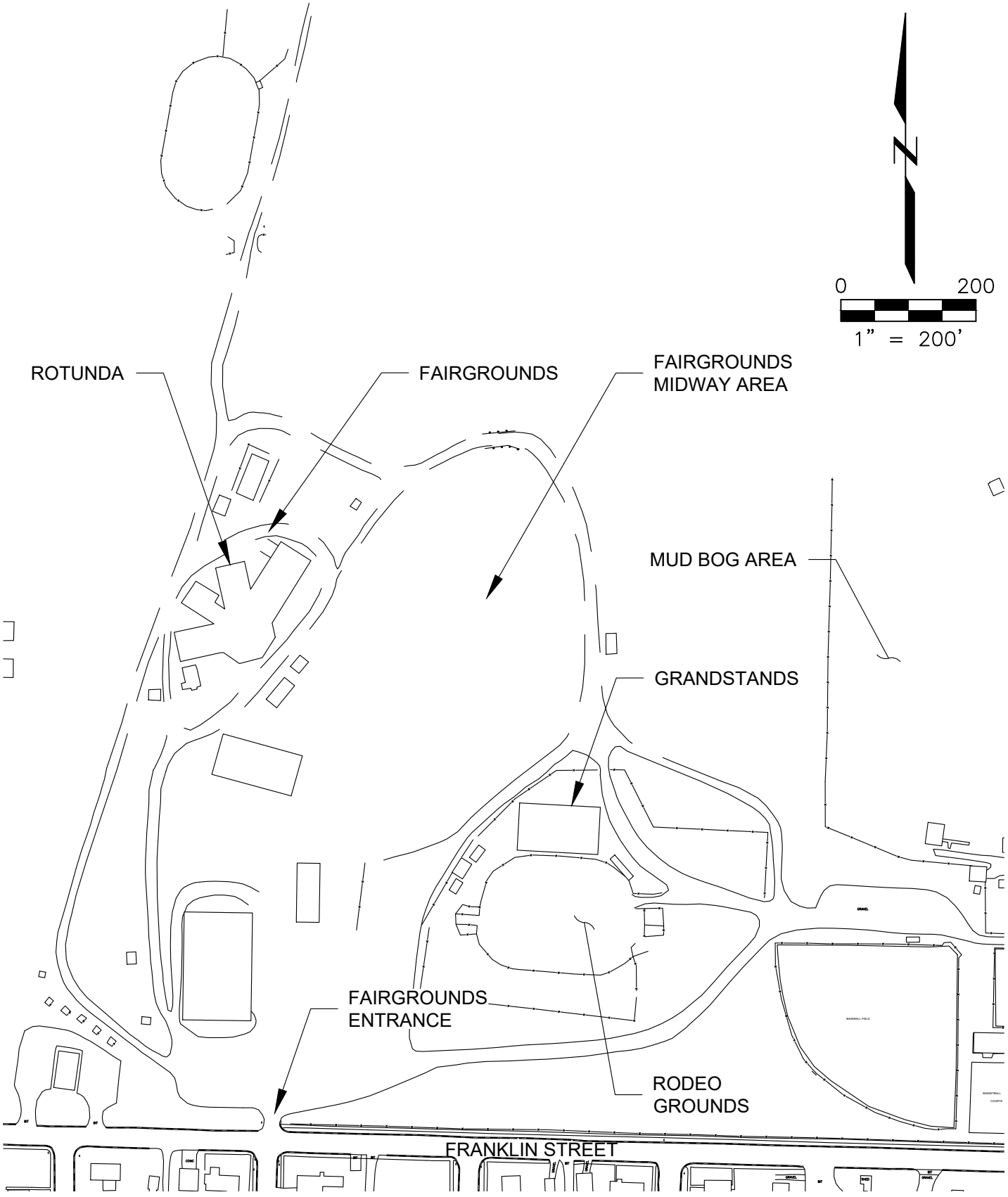
DNR Recreation Plan	GEI Consultants	PENTOGA PARK SITE PLAN
Iron County, Michigan		October 2026 Fig. 3

B:\Working\IRON COUNTY_General\Recreation_Plan\2026_Update\G2102887-IronCty_Rec_Plan_Site_Maps



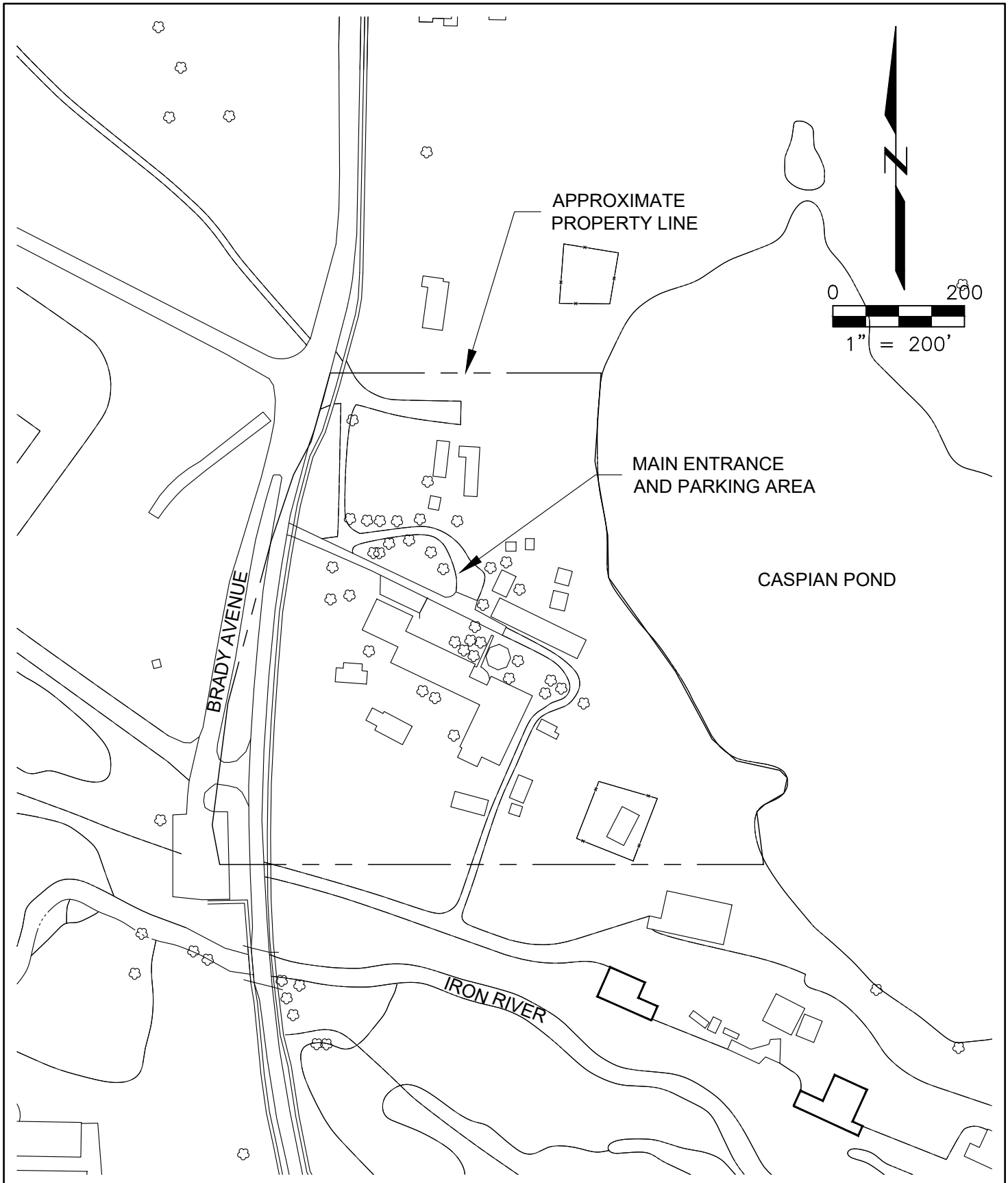
DNR Recreation Plan	GEI Consultants	CAMP BATAWAGAMA SITE PLAN
Iron County, Michigan		October 2026 Fig. 4

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DNR Recreation Plan	GEI Consultants	IRON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS SITE PLAN
Iron County, Michigan		October 2026 Fig. 5

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DNR Recreation Plan

Iron County, Michigan

GEI Consultants

IRON COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM SITE PLAN

October 2026 Fig. 6

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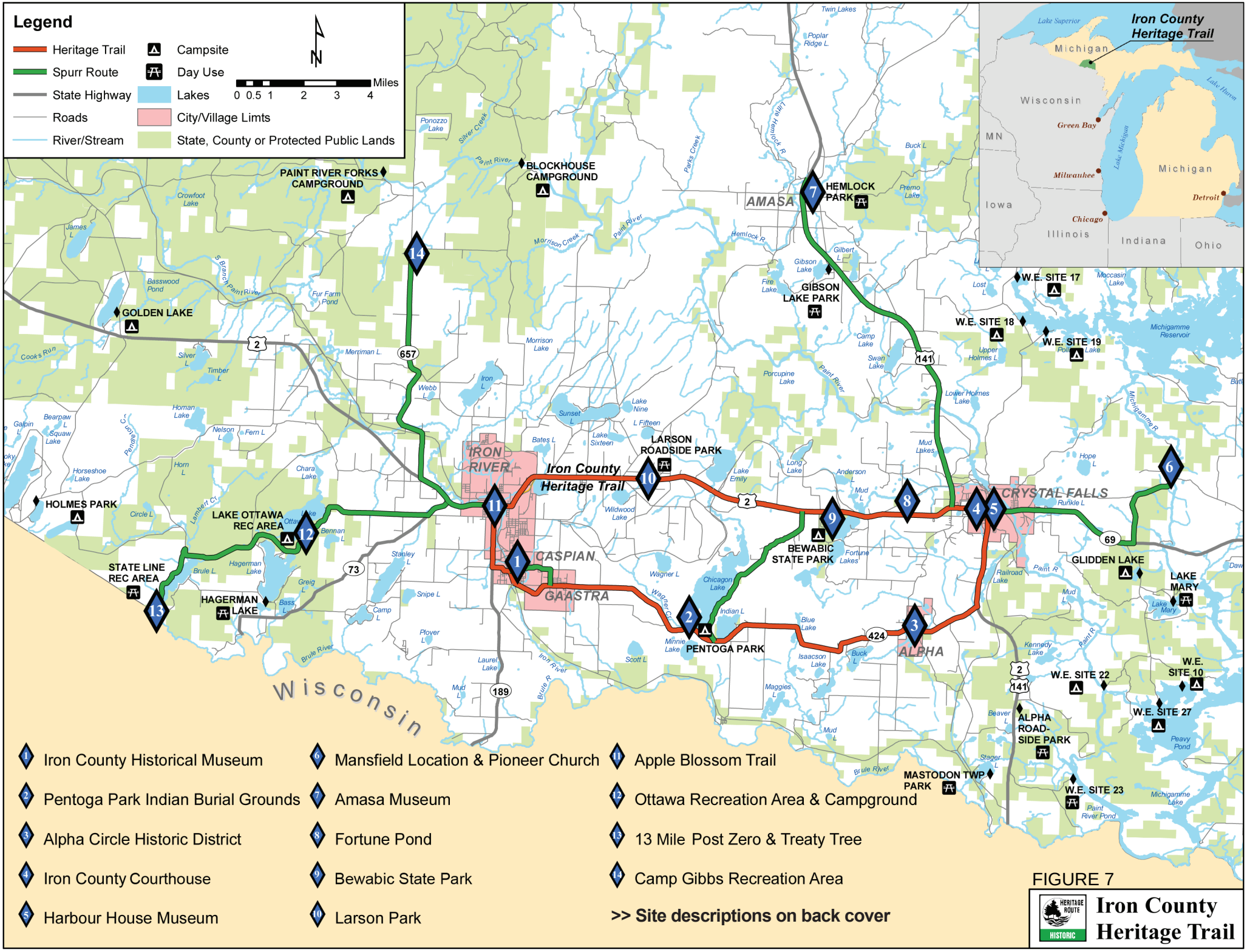
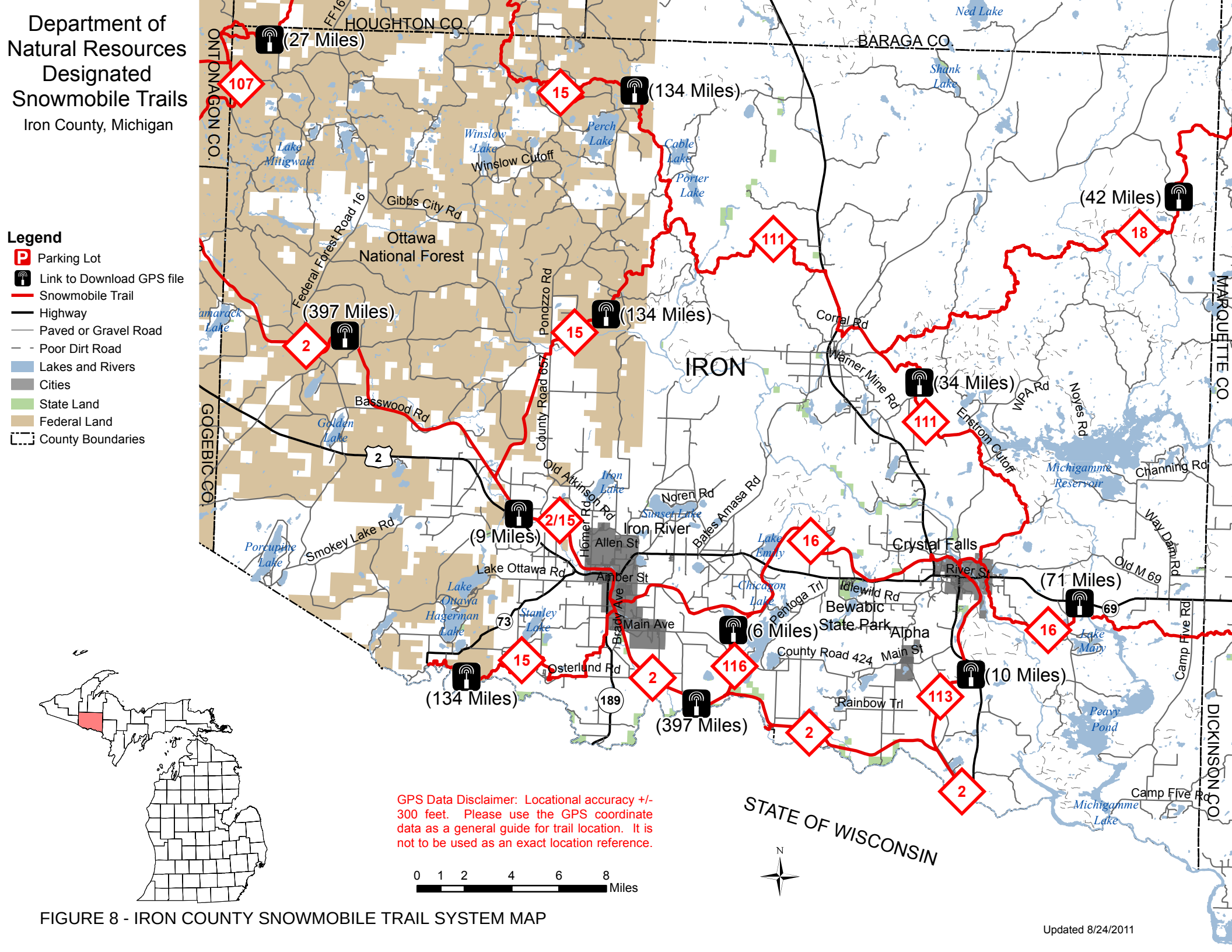


FIGURE 7

Iron County Heritage Trail

Department of Natural Resources Designated Snowmobile Trails

Iron County, Michigan



GPS Data Disclaimer: Locational accuracy +/- 300 feet. Please use the GPS coordinate data as a general guide for trail location. It is not to be used as an exact location reference.

FIGURE 8 - IRON COUNTY SNOWMOBILE TRAIL SYSTEM MAP

Updated 8/24/2011

Iron River-Marenisco Route East

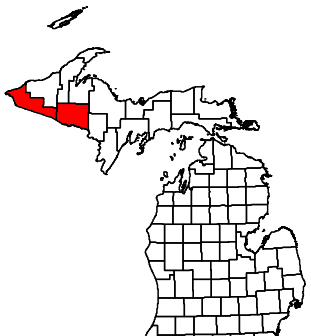
Gogebic & Iron Counties, Michigan



ORV Route – ORVs of all sizes including off-road motorcycles. ORV license and trail permit required unless licensed by the Secretary of State.

- Gas Stations
- Highway
- Gravel; Paved
- Poor Dirt
- Lakes and Rivers
- Ottawa National Forest
- State Land Forested
- County Boundary

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5 Miles



N

Advisory: Trails and Routes have two-way traffic.

Disclaimer: Trails shown on this map are an approximate representation of the trail system at the time of publication and may not reflect current ground conditions.

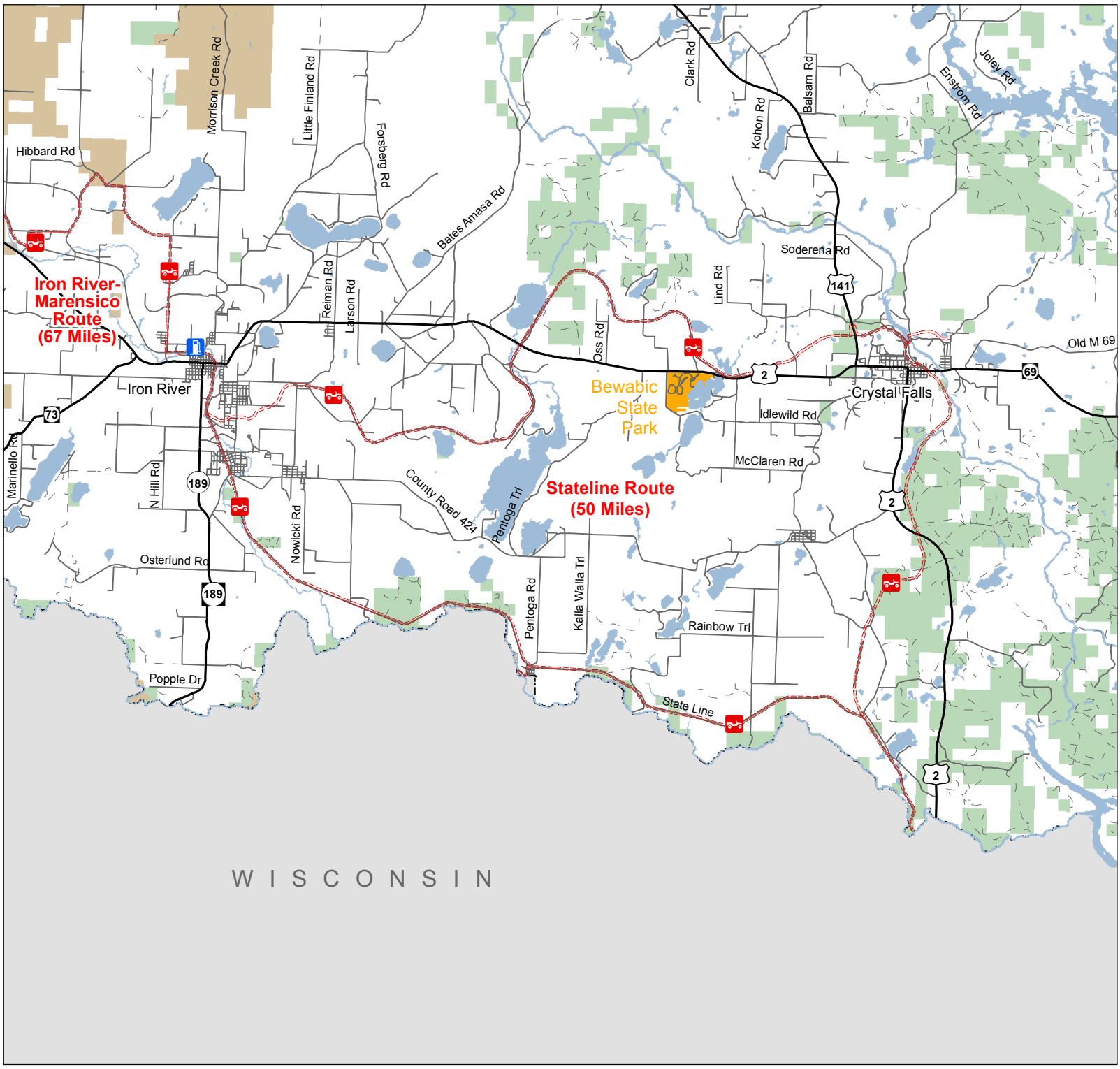
STAY ON SIGNED TRAILS ONLY!

FIGURE 9 - IRON COUNTY SNOWMOBILE TRAIL MAP

Updated 04/21/2014

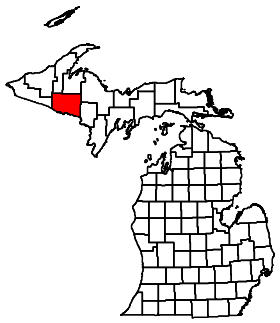
Stateline Route

Iron County, Michigan



ORV Route – ORVs of all sizes including off-road motorcycles. ORV license and trail permit required unless licensed by the Secretary of State.

- Gas Station
- Highway
- Paved or Gravel Road
- Poor Dirt Road
- Lakes and Rivers
- State Forest
- State Park
- Federal Land
- County Boundaries



N

0 1 2 4 Miles

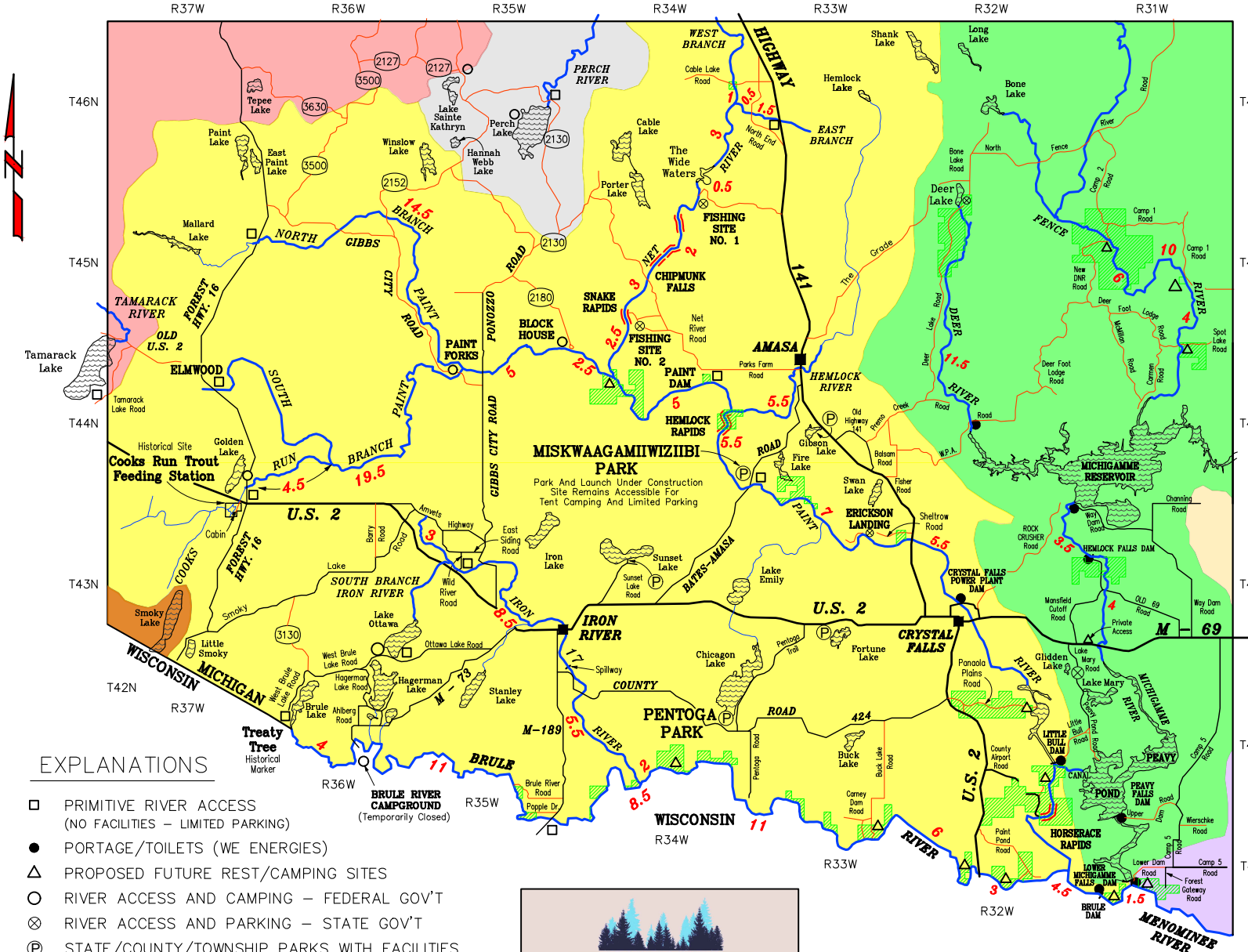
Updated 5/01/2014

Advisory: Trails and Routes have two-way traffic.

Disclaimer: Trails shown on this map are an approximate representation of the trail system at the time of publication and may not reflect current ground conditions.
STAY ON SIGNED TRAILS ONLY!

FIGURE 10 - IRON COUNTY ORV TRAIL MAP

IRON COUNTY MICHIGAN RIVER ACCESS SITES


R37W
R36W
R35W
R34W
R33W
R32W
R31W
T46N
T45N
T44N
T43N
T42N
T41N
R37W
R36W
R35W
R34W
R33W
R32W
WEST BRANCH PERCH RIVER
HIGHWAY 141
EAST BRANCH
NET RIVER
FISHING SITE NO. 1
CHIPMUNK FALLS
SNAKE RAPIDS
FISHING SITE NO. 2
BLOCK HOUSE
PAINT FORKS
PAINT DAM
AMASA
HEMLOCK RAPIDS
HEMLOCK RIVER
MISKWAAGAMIIWIZIIBI PARK
Park And Launch Under Construction
Site Remains Accessible For
Tent Camping And Limited Parking
ERICKSON LANDING
MICHIGAMME RESERVOIR
HEMLOCK FALLS DAM
CRYSTAL FALLS POWER PLANT DAM
CRYSTAL FALLS
U.S. 2
IRON RIVER
PENTOGA PARK
BRULE RIVER CAMPGROUND
(Temporarily Closed)
Treaty Tree
Historical Marker
Cooks Run Trout
Feeding Station
Historical Site
ELMWOOD
TAMARACK RIVER
OLD U.S. 2
FOREST HWY. 16
NORTH GIBBS CITY PAINT RUN BRANCH
SOUTH PAINT RUN BRANCH
PONOZZO ROAD
GIBBS CITY ROAD
COOKS RUN BRANCH
SOUTH BRANCH IRON RIVER
IRON COUNTY ROAD 424
BRULE RIVER
M-189
M-73
WISCONSIN
MICHIGAN
DEER RIVER
FENCE RIVER
MICHIGAMME RIVER
PEAVY POND
PEAVY FALLS DAM
HORSERACE RAPIDS
LOWER MICHIGAMME FALLS DAM
BRULE DAM
MENOMINEE RIVER
Tepee Lake
Paint Lake
East Paint Lake
Winslow Lake
Lake Sainte Kathryn
Perch Lake
Hannah Webb Lake
Mallard Lake
Tamarack Lake
Golden Lake
Cabin
Smoky Lake
Little Smoky
Lake Ottawa
Hagerman Lake
Brule Lake
Stanley Lake
Iron Lake
Sunset Lake
Lake Emily
Chicagon Lake
Fortune Lake
Buck Lake
Porter Lake
Cable Lake
The Wide Waters
Hemlock Lake
Shank Lake
Long Lake
Bone Lake
Deer Lake
Fire Lake
Gibson Lake
Swan Lake
Glidden Lake
Lake Mary
Panaola Plains Road
Ottawa Lake Road
West Brule Lake Road
Hagerman Lake Road
Ahlberg Road
Brule River Road
Popple Dr.
Wild River Road
East Siding Road
Barry Road
Amvets Highway
Sunset Lake Road
Pentoga Trail
Pentoga Road
Buck Lake Road
Carney Dam Road
Paint Pond Road
County Airport Road
Parks Farm Road
Net River Road
Cable Lake Road
North End Road
Old Highway 141
Fisher Road
Balsam Road
Sheltrow Road
Deer Lake Road
Bone Lake Road
Deer Foot Lodge Road
Camp 1 Road
Camp 2 Road
Camp 5 Road
Spot Lake Road
Tamarack Lake Road
Mansfield Cutoff Road
Way Dam Road
Channing Road
Rock Crusher Road
Private Access
Lake Mary Road
Little Bull Dam Road
Wierschke Road
Forest Gateway Road
Lower Dam Road
Upper Dam Road
Old 69 Road
Panola Plains Road
Parks Farm Road
Creek Road
W.P.A.

Appendix B

Recreation Budget

Fund 208 - PARKS FUND
Dept 000 - GENERAL

ESTIMATED REVENUES		
208-000-485.000	PARK STICKERS	100
208-000-644.000	SALE OF SUPPLIES	2,000
208-000-664.000	INTEREST EARNED	300
208-000-668.000	CONCESSION RENTAL & ELECTRICAL	700
208-000-668.020	PAD RENTAL	240,000
208-000-668.030	SHOWER / LAUNDRY	700
208-000-680.000	PAVILION RENT	500
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES		244,300
APPROPRIATIONS		
208-000-716.000	DEFINED CONTRIBUTION	4,500
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		4,500
NET OF REVENUES/APPROPRIATIONS - 000 - GENERAL		239,800

Dept 751

APPROPRIATIONS		
208-751-700.000	BANK SERVICE CHARGES	9,000
208-751-703.000	SALARY (WEST)	44,694
208-751-703.001	SALARY- DEPARTMENT HEAD	5,000
208-751-707.000	WAGES -TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES	56,600
208-751-709.000	FICA	8,090
208-751-718.000	HEALTH INSURANCE RELATED BENEFITS	12,925
208-751-724.000	LIFE INSURANCE	85
208-751-726.000	WORKMAN'S COMP	1,378
208-751-728.000	PRINTING & BINDING	400
208-751-742.000	GAS, OIL, GREASE	4,000
208-751-755.000	OPERATING SUPPLIES	500
208-751-776.000	JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	3,528
208-751-807.000	LEGAL FEES	1,200
208-751-809.000	ARCH/ENG SERVICES	3,000
208-751-850.000	TELEPHONE	900
208-751-901.000	ADVERTISING	200
208-751-920.000	UTILITIES	43,500
208-751-924.000	GARBAGE REMOVAL	5,250
208-751-930.000	BLDG/GRDS R&M	15,000
208-751-932.000	VEHICLE REPAIR AND MAINT	3,500
208-751-934.000	BLDG & GROUNDS VEHICLE R&M	1,400

208-751-935.000	PROPERTY & LIABILITY INSURANCE	4,150
208-751-960.200	INSPECTION FEE FOR HEALTH DEPARTMENT	2,000
208-751-964.000	REFUND / REBATE	6,000
208-751-965.500	FIDUCIARY FEE	2,000
208-751-977.000	EQUIPMENT	5,500
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		239,800
NET OF REVENUES/APPROPRIATIONS - 751 -		(239,800)
ESTIMATED REVENUES - FUND 208		244,300
APPROPRIATIONS - FUND 208		244,300
NET OF REVENUES/APPROPRIATIONS - FUND 208		
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		
ENDING FUND BALANCE		

Appendix C *(Will be included in Final Draft)*

Post Completion Self-Certification Checklists

1. Pentoga Park (26-00055)
2. Pentoga Park (26-00137)
3. Iron County Pentoga Park Shelter (26-01029)
4. Iron County Fairgrounds Recreation Area (TF87-093)
5. Pentoga Park Campground Improvements (TF05-128)
6. Iron County Heritage Trail (TF10-064)
7. Iron County Pentoga Park Boat Launch Improvements (TF22-0084)

Appendix D

Iron County Recreation Inventory

Iron County Recreation Inventory

AREA/PLACE	TYPE	OWNER	FACILITIES
Multi-Township			
Heritage Auto Route	Route	Public	Access to County historic resources (designated State Heritage Route)
Apple Blossom/Heritage Bicycle/Non-motorized Trail	Trail	City/Twps	Non-motorized paved pathway (~2.5 non-continuous miles), fishing piers, interpretive signage
Ottawa National Forest	National Forest	Federal	Varies (forest encompasses western half of County)
Snowmobile/ORV Trails	Trail System	State/County	Extensive network (21 miles owned by County*) Snowmobile Miles – 236 ORV Trails – 37
Bates Township			
Bates School	School	School	Playground, baseball field, gym
Block-House	Canoe Access	State (DNR Access)	Camp units (2), fishing, canoe access
Lake Sainte Kathryn	Campground	Federal	Camp units (25), picnic facilities, swimming, fishing
Norway Lake	Campground	Federal	Camp units (28), picnic facilities, swimming, fishing
Paint River Canoe Trail	Canoe Trail	Federal	Canoe Access
Paint River Access Site (Bates Amasa Road)/Miskwaagamiiwiziibi Park	Waterpath landing	Township	Accessible launch site with parking, trail, and dock. Hiking trails with cordwood huts for primitive camping
Perch Lake	Campground	Federal	Camp units (20), fishing, boat access
Sunset Lake Township Park	Local Park	Township	Camp site (12), boat access, baseball, bleachers, playground equipment, chalet, flush toilets, showers
Nesbitt Lake (Camp Nesbitt)	Local Park	State	Camping, swimming, canoeing (used by schools in the U.P.)
Chicaugon Lake	Township	Township	Fishing (fishing shacks are there in winter)
Larson Roadside Park	Roadside Park	State	Nations 1st Roadside park, restrooms, picnic areas
Crystal Falls Township			
Bewabic State Park	State Park	State	Swimming, picnic facilities, tennis, fishing, boating, boat access, camping, playground, 200 acres
Chicaugon Falls	Scenic	Private	Waterfalls
Deer Lake	Fishing Access	State	Fishing, picnic facilities, camping, 40 acres
Fire Lake	Fishing Access	State	Fishing, boat access
Gibson Lake Park	Local Park	Township	Swimming, picnic facilities, fishing, boating, restrooms, camping, playground, 20 acres
Glidden Lake Park	Local Park	State	Campground, swimming, boating, boat access
Michigamme River Canoe Trail	Canoe Trail	WI Electric	Access points, fishing, boating, boat access

Iron County Recreation Inventory

AREA/PLACE	TYPE	OWNER	FACILITIES
City of Crystal Falls			
Crystal View Golf Course	Golf Course	Private	Golf course (9-hole), Restaurant/bar, restrooms, 50 acres
Crystella Ski Hill	Ski Hill	Volunteer/City	Ski hill. Rope tows, restrooms
Forest Park Schools	School	School	Stadium, playground, multi-field, baseball diamond, tennis (2), archery range, nature area, restrooms, 20 acres
Lincoln Park Schools	School	School	Playground equipment
Riverwalk	Local Park	City	Barrier-free walkway, fishing piers, interpretive sign, benches
Runkle Lake Municipal Park	Local Park	City	Shelter, restrooms, picnic facilities, nature area, playground, baseball (lighted), tennis, horseshoe pits, swimming, fishing, boating, camp site (57), basketball court, 11 acre
Iron River Township			
Hemlock River	Local Park	Township	Picnic tables, fishing
Net River Canoe Trail	Canoe Trail	State	Access points, fishing
Baseball Field	Ballfield	Township	Concession stand, bleacher, slide
Camp Gibbs	Former CCC Camp	Private	Indoor and outdoor archery & rifle ranges, trap ranges (2)
Iron Lake Park	Local Park	Township	Fishing, boat access
Access Site	Access	Township	Boat access, fishing
Paint River Forks	Campground	Federal	Camp units (4), fishing, canoe access
Tepee Lake	Campground	Federal	Camp units (17), swimming, fishing, boat access
City of Iron River			
Forbes Field	Local Park	City	Softball field, playground
The Attic (City Hall)	Youth Center	City	Activity center (basketball, video games, etc.)
Bachman Park	Local Park	City	Ballfield, tennis courts (2), basketball courts (2), ice rink, playground, 3 acres
Ice Lake Park	Local Park	City	Shelter, restrooms, picnic facilities, multi-field, swimming, fishing, boating, scenic area, 6 acres
Iron County Armory	Indoor	State	Snack bar, restrooms, multi-room
Iron County Fairgrounds*	Fairgrounds	County	Grandstand, exhibition buildings, restrooms, 30 acres
Middle School	School	School	Gym, 1 acre
Nanaimo Park	Local Park	City	Bathrooms, playground
RV & Trailer Park	RV-Park	City	Camp sites (32), fishing
Hubby Holmes Field	Ice Rink	City	Fenced ice rink, restrooms, concession, 2.6 acre
High School/Elementary School	School	School	Playground, gym, multi-room
Nelson Field Complex	Stadium	City	Stadium, playground, multi-field, lighted tennis courts (3), snack bar, restrooms, picnic facilities, 14 acres
Senior Citizens Center	Indoor	City	Snack bar, restrooms
Skate Park	Local Park	City	Skate park, ramps, rails
Waterworks Skating Rink	Ice Rink	City	Restrooms, skating rink, 1.5 acres

Iron County Recreation Inventory

AREA/PLACE	TYPE	OWNER	FACILITIES
Hematite Township			
Amasa Ballfield	Ballfield	Township	3.5 acres site, softball/baseball field
Amasa Recreation Center	Recreation Center	Township	Rec center building for gatherings
Joe Mechon Memorial Park	Local Park	Township	Picnic facilities, playground, swimming, fishing access pier, basketball court, pavilion, parking area
Tennis Courts	Tennis Court	Township	4 acre site, tennis courts
Mansfield Township			
Dawson Lake Campground	Campground	Township	Campsite (18), swimming, boat access
Mansfield Township Park	Local Park	Township	Picnic facilities, playground, swimming, boating, fishing, boat access, camp sites (20), restrooms
Recreation Area M-69	Township	Township	Playground, basketball, tennis courts
Mitchell Lake	Local Park	Township	Swimming, fishing, boating, boat access (DNR), public access, church campground
Mastodon Township			
Horserace Rapids	Scenic	State (DNR)	Cliff- rapids below, fishing
Indian Lake	Youth Camp	State (DNR)	Boating
Buck Lake Park	Local Park	Township	Picnic area, fishing, boat access, campfires
Mastodon – Stager Lake Park	Local Park	Township	Playground, swimming, fishing, boating, boat access, bathhouse, picnic tables

Iron County Recreation Inventory

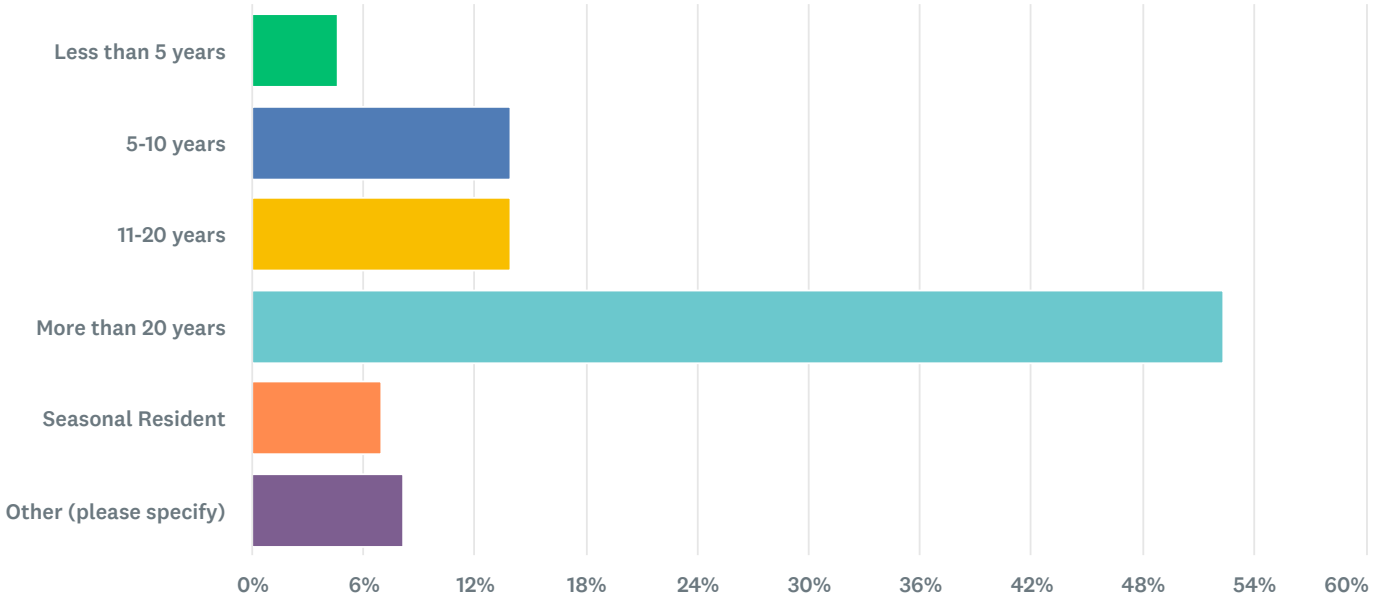
AREA/PLACE	TYPE	OWNER	FACILITIES
Stambaugh Township			
Bass Lake	Lake Access	Federal	Fishing and boating
Brule River Canoe Trail	Canoe Trail	Federal	Fishing, access points
Camp Batawagama*	Youth Camp	County	Youth camp facilities (lodging, swimming, etc.)
Hagerman Lake	Local Park	Federal	Day use – picnic area, beach, boat access, boating and fishing
Indian Lake	Local Park	State	Day use – picnic area, beach, boat access, boating, fishing
Carp Lake	Local Park	State	Boat access, fishing
Tamarac Lake	Local Park	State	Boat access, fishing
Stambaugh Lake	Local Park	State	Boat launch, fishing
James Lake	Local Park	Federal	Lavatory, fishing, boating
Stanley Lake	Local Park	State	Boat launch, fishing
Golden Lake	Campground	Federal	Camp units (22), swimming, fishing
Holmes Park	Local Park	Township	Picnic facilities, restrooms, swimming, fishing, boating, boat access, multi- purpose trail, camp sites (4), 31.5 acres
Pentoga Park*	County Park	County	Playground, fishing, swimming, boating, boat access, restrooms, camp sites (100), historic site (Indian burial grounds), 60 acres
Ottawa Lake Park	Federal Park	Federal	Swimming, fishing, boat access, camp sites (32), 551 acres
West Iron Co. School District School Forest	School Forest	School	School forest, nature trail
City of Gaastra			
Elmer "Swede" Anderson Memorial Park	Local Park	City	Ballfield, bleachers, soccer field, accessible parking and restrooms
War Memorial Park	Local Park	City	Memorial (no benches, but people take blankets to sit in park)
Children's Park	Local Park	City	Swings, basketball court, picnic tables, yard toys
City of Caspian			
Ballfield	Ballfield	City	Baseball field
Community Center	Community Center	City	Playground, tennis court, basketball court, indoor multi-room, meeting rooms, .5 acres. Run by Caspian Athletic Association
Indoor Ice Rink	Ice Rink	City	Indoor ice rink
Iron County Museum Park	Local Park	City	Horseshoe pits (8), restrooms, 5 acres
Ski Hill	Ski Hill	City	Rope tow, lodge

Appendix E

Public Input Process and Results – Recreation Survey Results

Q1 86 responses

How long have you lived in Iron County?



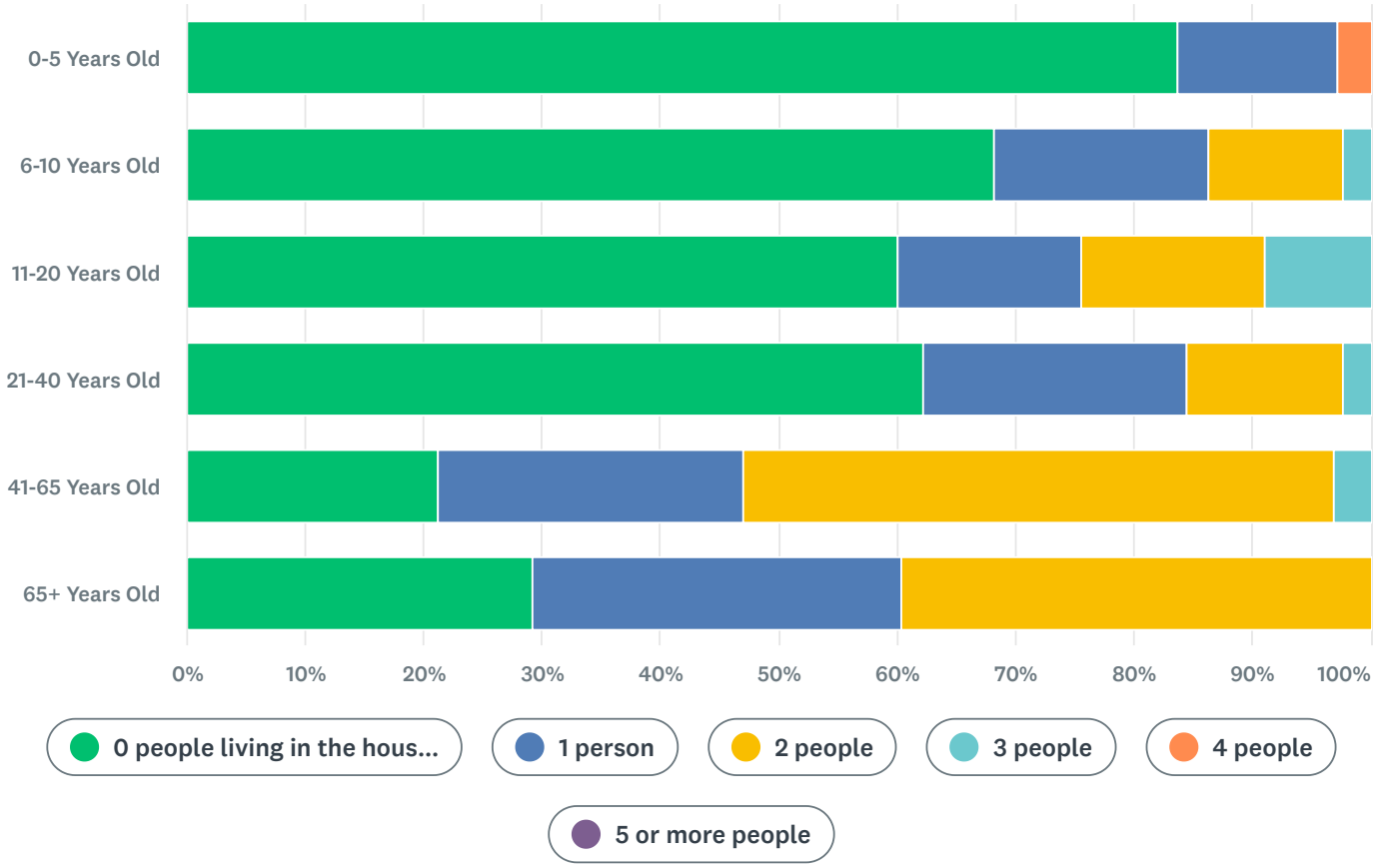
Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
Less than 5 years	4.65%	4
5-10 years	13.95%	12
11-20 years	13.95%	12
More than 20 years	52.33%	45
Seasonal Resident	6.98%	6
Other (please specify)	8.14%	7
Total		**86**

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Wad born and raised in Iron County and now have recreation and rental property and plan to move back permanently in the next 1-3 years.	10/7/2026 1:42 PM
2	Started 50 years ago and then became a seasonal resident.	10/7/2026 12:18 PM
3	Born and raised here. Left for work. Summer resident, own 2 properties	10/6/2026 9:44 PM
4	I was born and raised here.	10/6/2026 8:44 PM
5	70 years	10/6/2026 7:04 PM
6	70 years	10/6/2026 7:01 PM

7	Lifelong	9/21/2026 11:33 AM

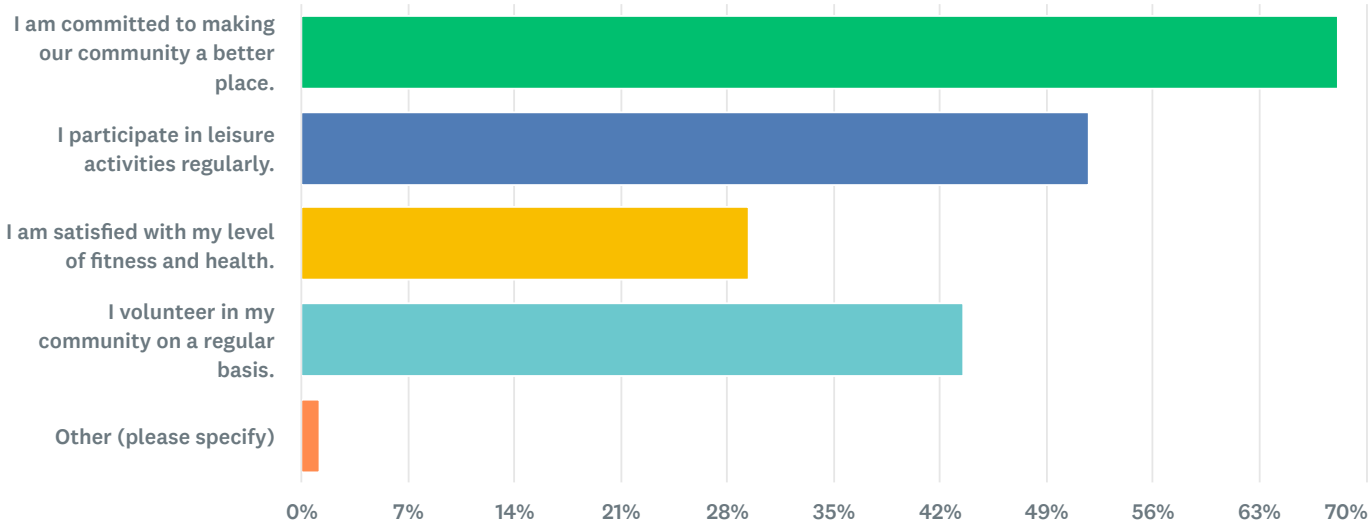
Q2 86 responses

How many people, including you, for each age shown live in your household?



Q3 85 responses

Please choose the statement that describes you and members of your household.

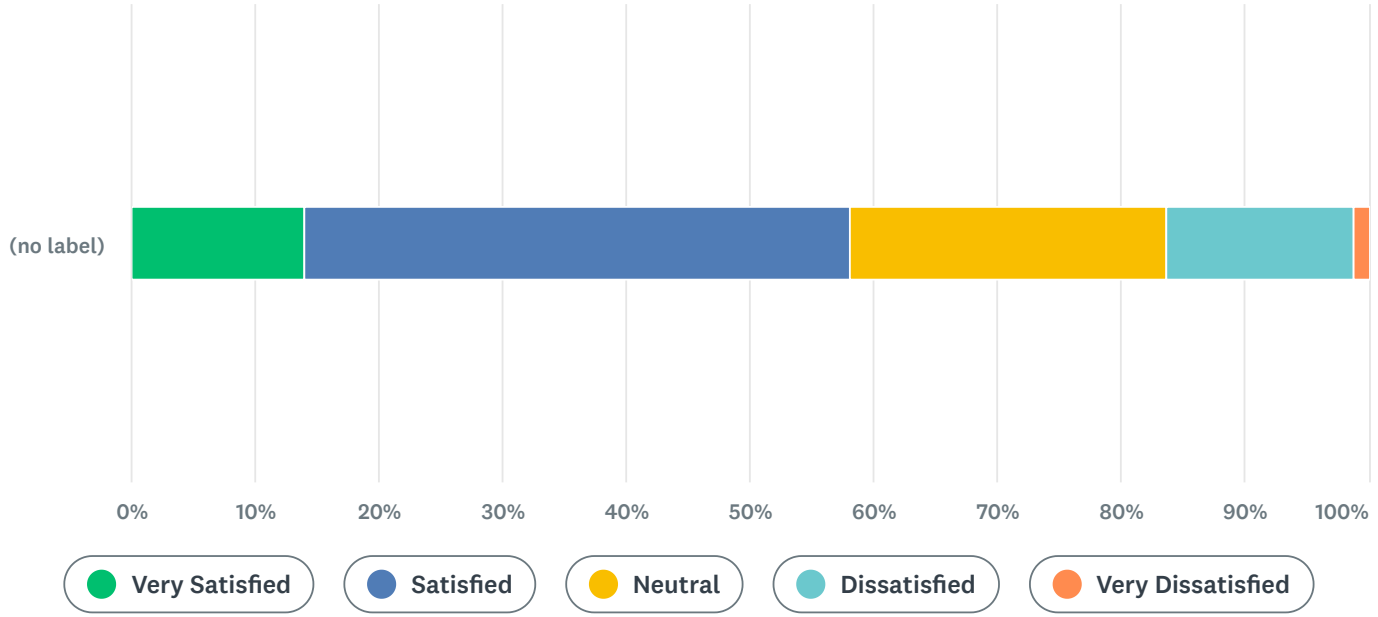


Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
I am committed to making our community a better place.	68.24%	58
I participate in leisure activities regularly.	51.76%	44
I am satisfied with my level of fitness and health.	29.41%	25
I volunteer in my community on a regular basis.	43.53%	37
Other (please specify)	1.18%	1
Total		**165**

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	I need more fitness and health related activities	10/7/2026 1:27 PM

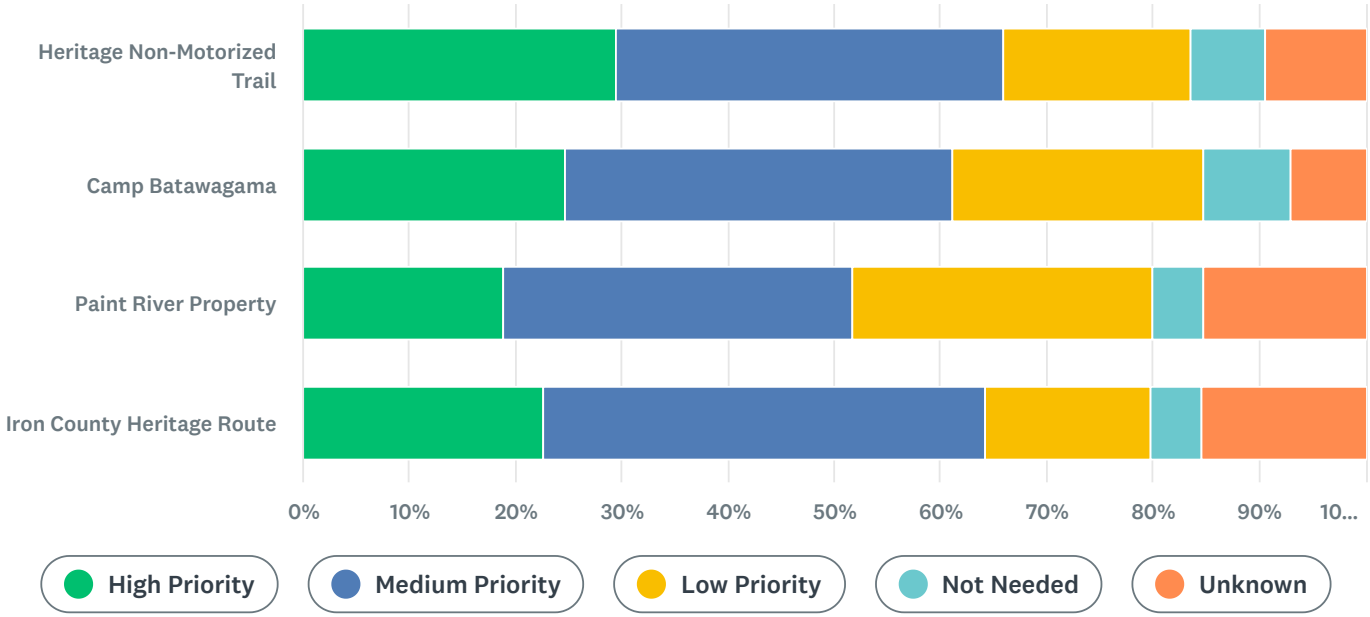
Q4 86 responses

Overall, how satisfied are you with the County's recreational opportunities?



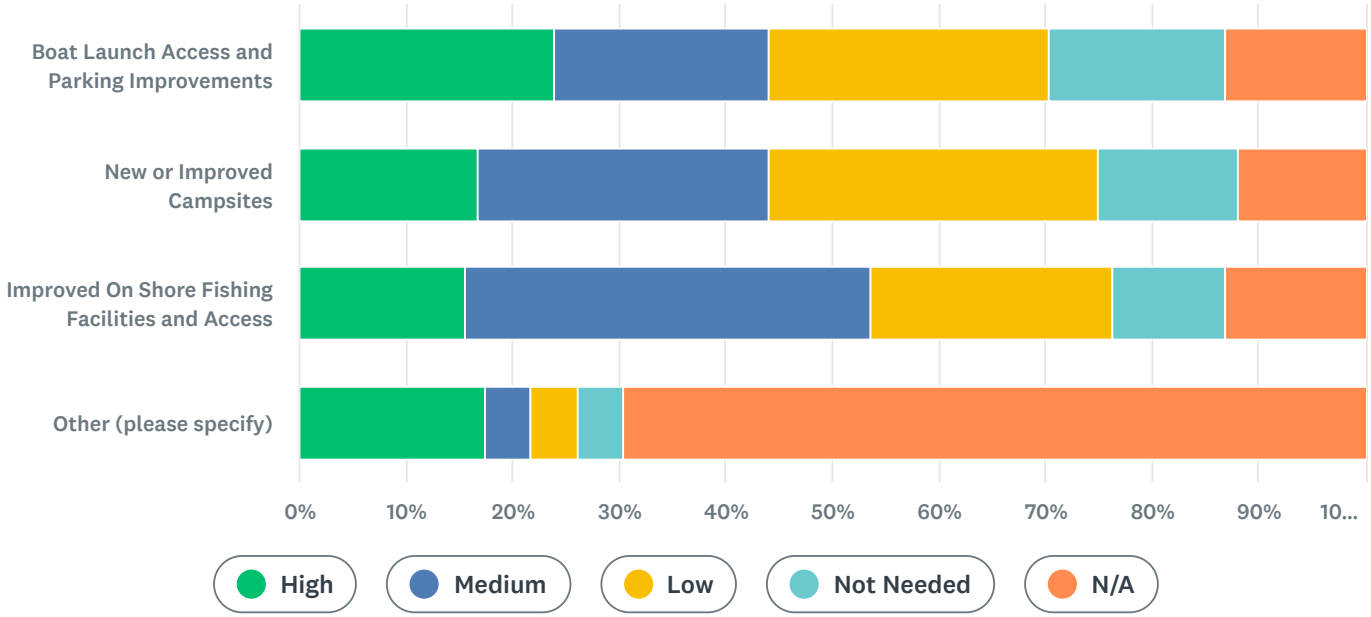
Q5 86 responses

How would you prioritize improvements to the County's existing parks and recreational opportunities?



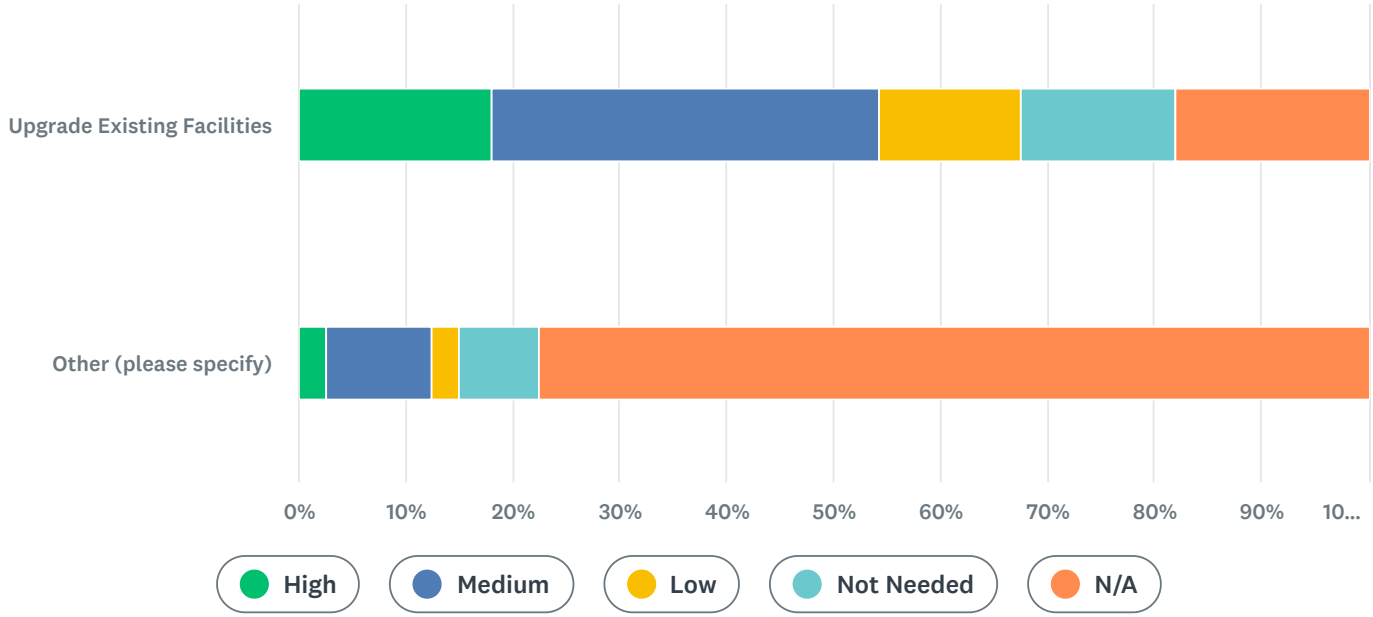
Q6 85 responses

In general, how would you prioritize the need for each of the following improvements at Pentoga Park?



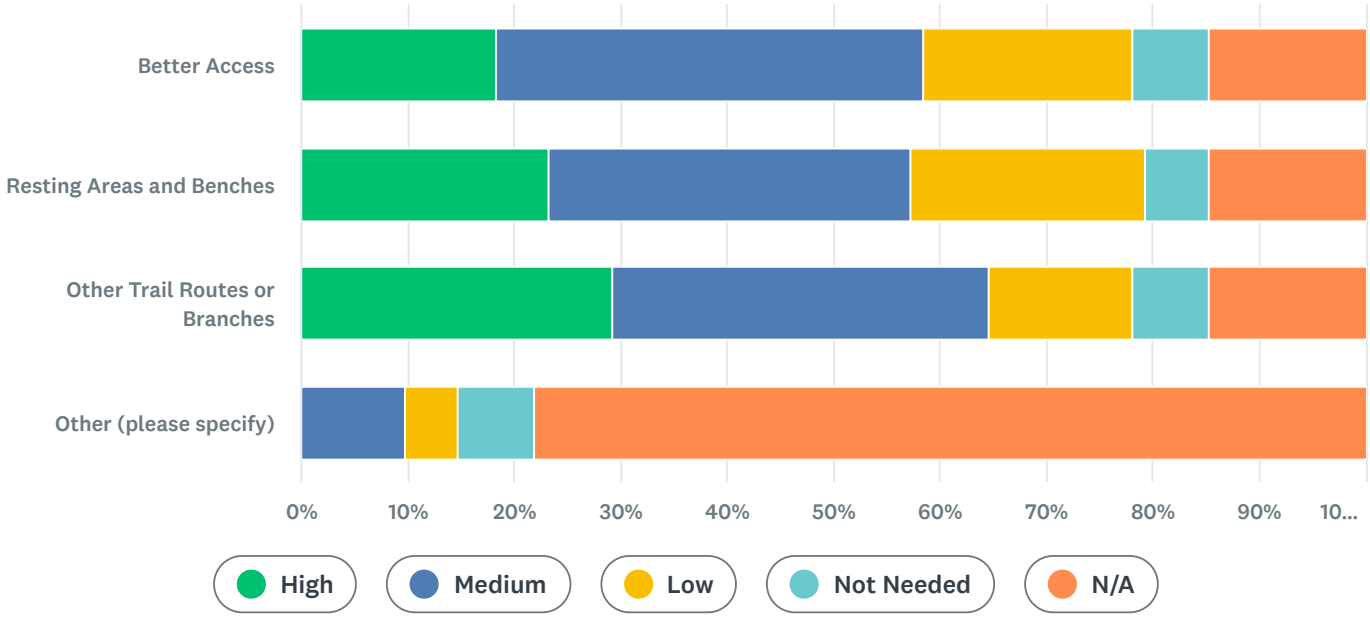
Q7 84 responses

In general, how would you prioritize the need for each of the following improvements at Camp Batawagama?



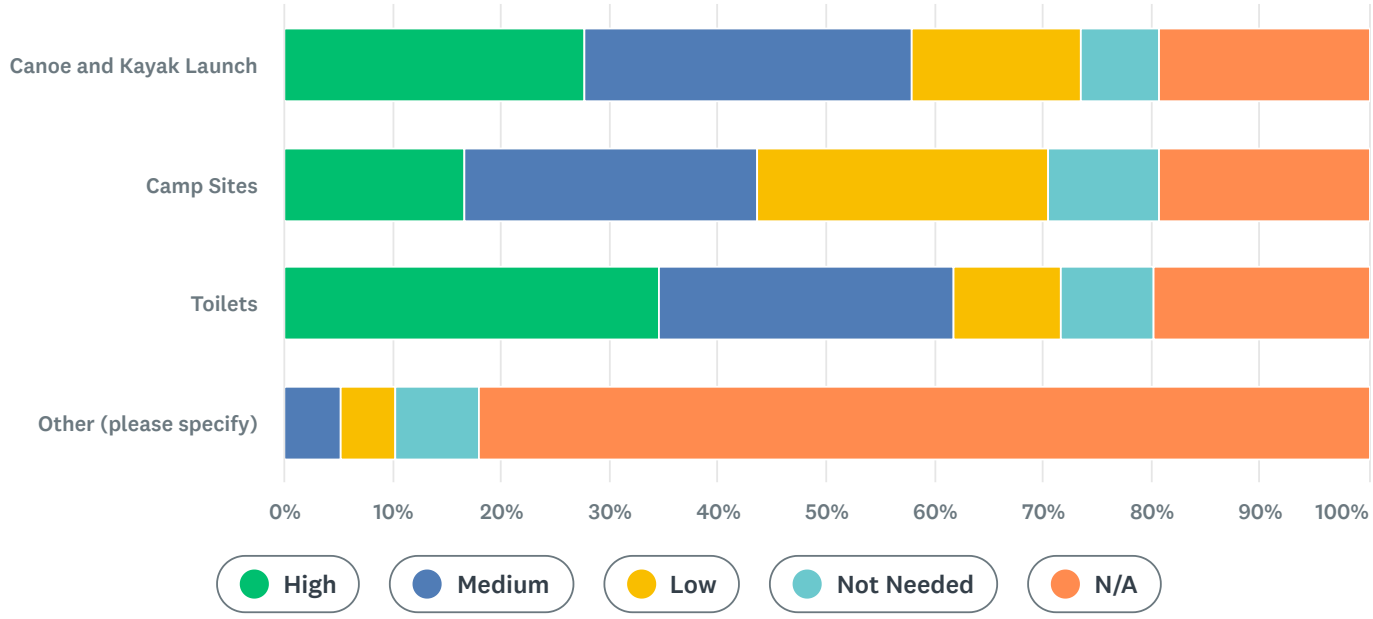
Q8 84 responses

In general, how would you prioritize the need for each of the following improvements for the Heritage Trail?



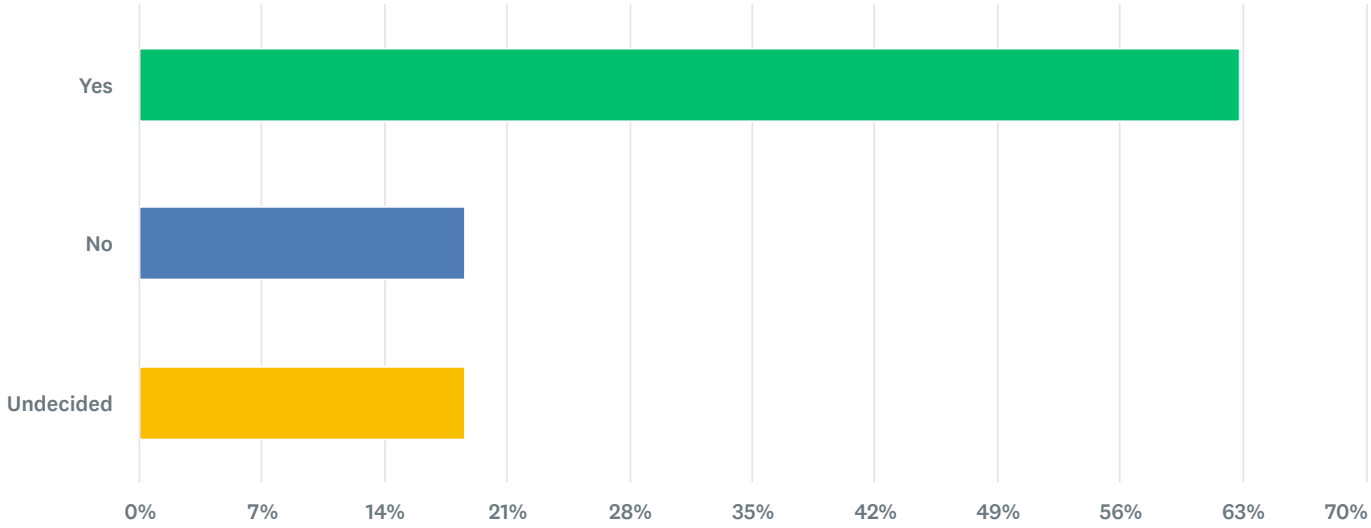
Q9 83 responses

In general, how would you prioritize the need for each of the following improvements at the County owned property along the Paint River – Me-squa-i-cum-e Park?



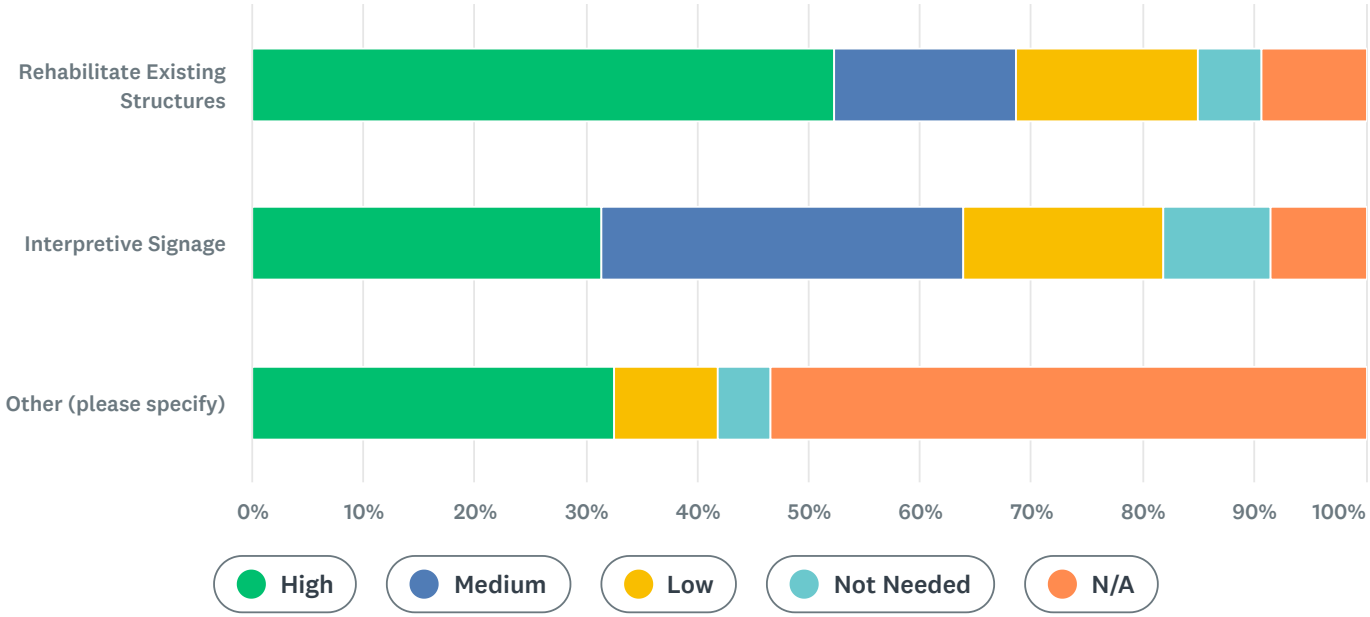
Q10 86 responses

Should the County play an active role in a project developing and improving the Cooks Run property to create additional recreational opportunities?



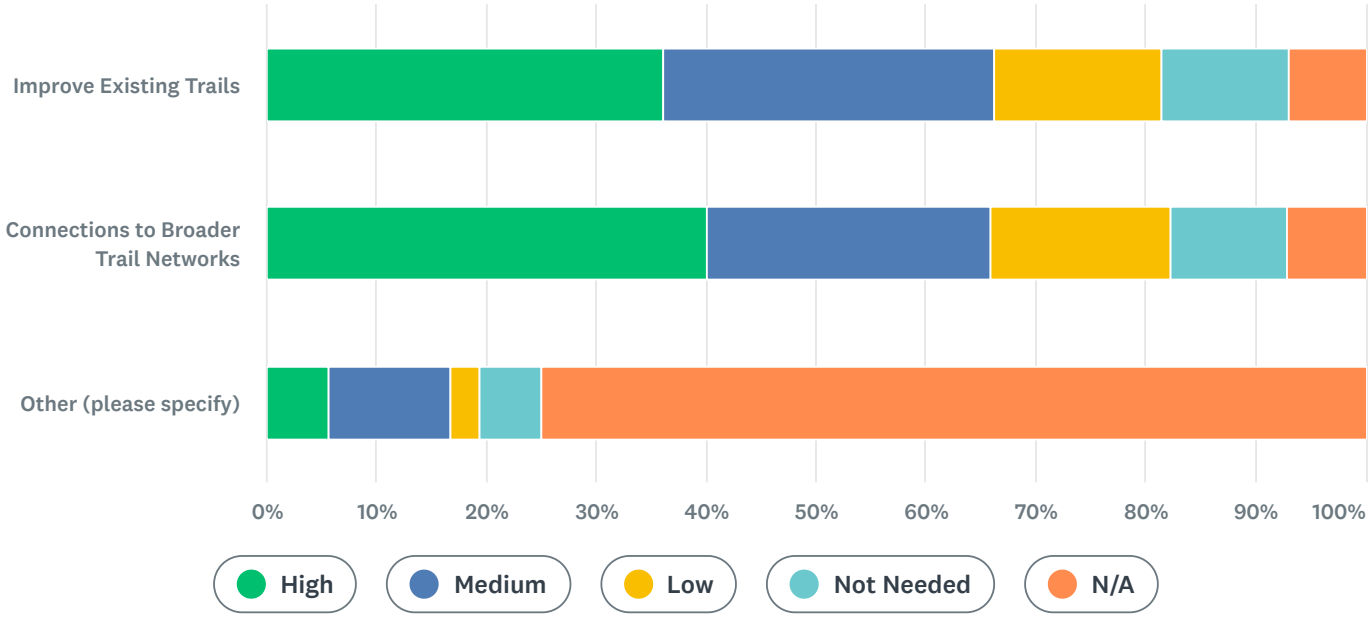
Q11 86 responses

In general, how would you prioritize the need for each of the following improvements at the County owned Cooks Run property?



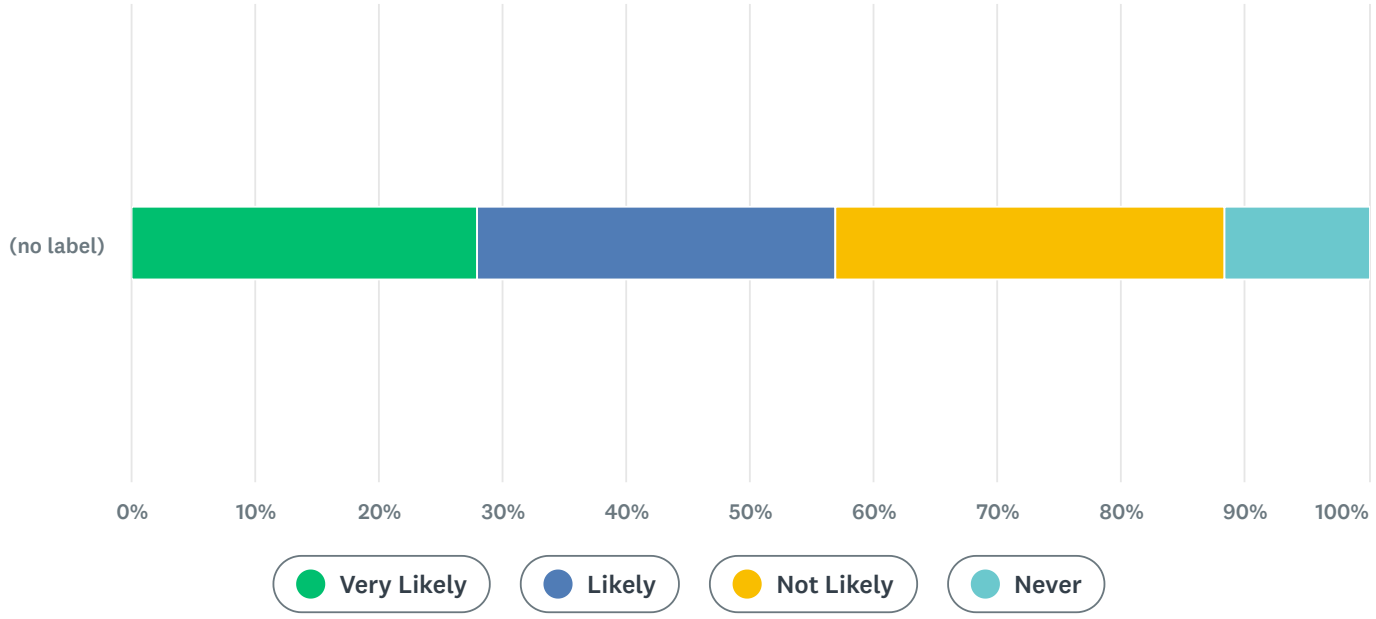
Q12 86 responses

In general, how would you prioritize the need for each of the following improvements to the County's Snowmobile and ORV Trails?



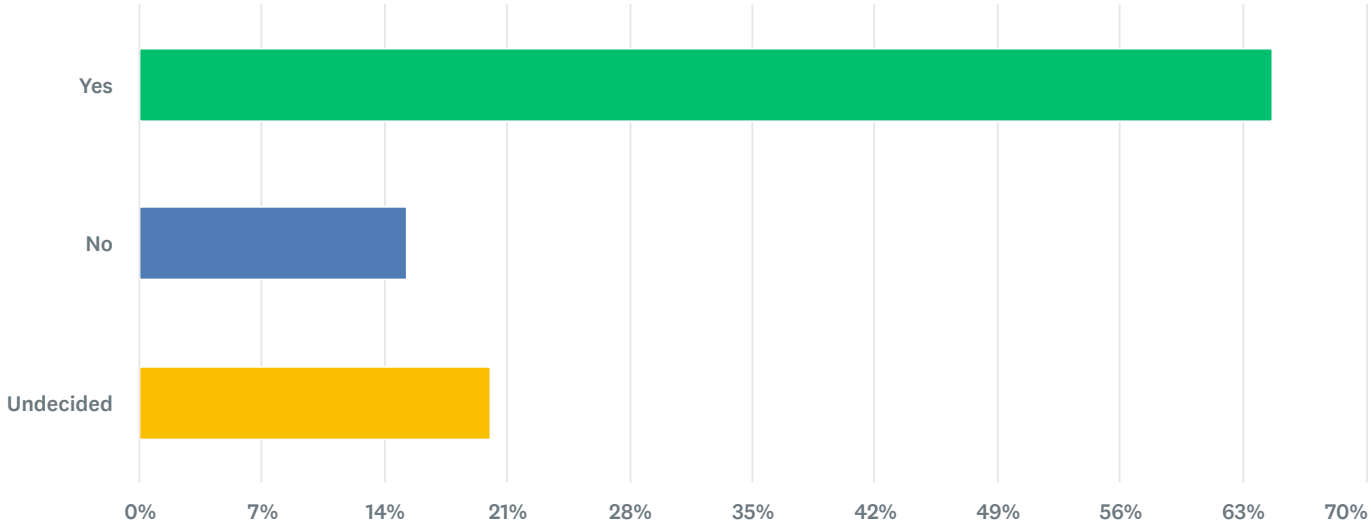
Q13 86 responses

If the County were to develop a Water Path (a water path that is developed with launch points, camping locations and points of interest for canoeists or kayakers), how likely would you utilize this feature?



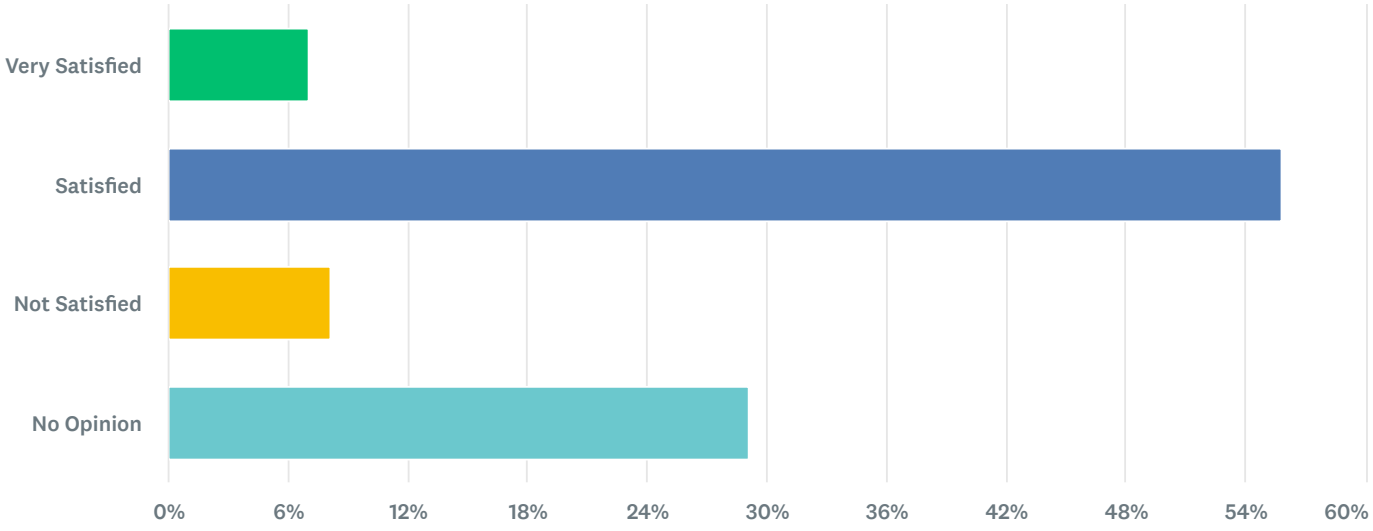
Q14 85 responses

Should the County play an active role in a project extending the Heritage Trail from Pentoga Park to Bewabic State Park?



Q15 86 responses

How satisfied are you with the non-motorized trails in the County, particularly, the Heritage Trail linking the City of Iron River to Pentoga Park?



Q16 Is there anything else you would like to recommend about our Community Parks and Recreational needs?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 47

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Need signs! Access points, etc. People need to know things exist, and where to go!	10/8/2026 7:23 AM
2	Improve the in town playgrounds and Ice Lake swim area. Test and post water safety results at Pentoga.	10/7/2026 6:50 PM
3	I am extremely supportive of linking up, the non-motorized paved bike trail from Pentoga to Bewabik. As a Crystal Falls resident, it’s difficult to use this trail as is because it’s a down and back and doesn’t actually go all the way to the state park.	10/7/2026 5:11 PM
4	Primitive camping	10/7/2026 4:14 PM
5	Updated and safe playground equipment is desperately needed at Pentoga Park.	10/7/2026 3:20 PM
6	Playgrounds and pickleball courts	10/7/2026 2:15 PM
7	Creation of a County Soccer Complex.	10/7/2026 1:58 PM
8	New signage for Heritage Trail. The signs are either non-existent or bleached out so they are unreadable. They need new posts to hold them too.	10/7/2026 1:56 PM
9	Runkle Lake Park needs an improved playground.	10/7/2026 1:51 PM
10	We need XC ski and mountain bike trails in town. Ge-Che trail is good- but needs investment by Ottawa after logging. Too rough now to utilize.	10/7/2026 1:51 PM
11	We need to work on our local beaches again. Clean up and refresh Ice Lake. Alot of kids and families cant get to Pentoga. Work with Bates township to fix Sunset Lake beach. We used to have great beaches for families to visit and enjoy. I hear a lot of people that come back say how much they miss those.	10/7/2026 1:42 PM
12	Keep walking trails further from the road. On Hwy 424 they are too close in many areas. Sand and debris accumulates quickly. Traffic too close, especially for kids. Possibly promote bringing in a YMCA to the area. Smaller gyms do not last and equipment/facility is outdated. Or like Eagle River, open WIC athletic facilities to the public... we do pay for it.	10/7/2026 1:27 PM
13	Need more things for kids to do	10/7/2026 1:20 PM
14	Continue to improve what we have and add recreation opportunities only if they can be maintained.	10/7/2026 1:16 PM
15	None	10/7/2026 12:18 PM
16	The Chicagoan Lake Boat launch needs a boat cleaning station. When we visited, there Eurasian Milfoil floating on the boat launch. Why do we keep giving the lake money every year, when nothing is being done proactively to keep out invasive?	10/7/2026 10:51 AM
17	Place the Cooks Run Fish Hatchery Project at the top of the list. Recommend accepting the Friends of Cooks Run Proposal.	10/7/2026 10:44 AM
18	Adopting a IC Visitor Center to welcome tourists & showcase county historical sights, recreation, businesses, restaurants, etc.	10/7/2026 9:01 AM
19	Better access and further development of walking and jogging trails are needed.	10/7/2026 8:49 AM
20	Maintain what we have, including the Cooks Run cabin and property, before it is so neglected that it is beyond repair. I am strongly in favor of doing something that benefits the entire county with Cooks Run before its too late. Whatever it is, no matter what organization is running it, it needs to be highly publicized that it is accessible to ALL in our county and not just members of said organization. Worry about additional projects once maintenance funding is guaranteed.	10/7/2026 7:21 AM

	Also, get more information out about all existing County parks and rec facilities. I've been here for 50+ years and am unaware of the Paint River property, its location or its availability to the public.	
21	Cooks Run is a treasure and needs careful and considered care. It is a great trout stream, the rearing station was an engineering marvel and the cabin SHOULD be a treasured work of art.	10/6/2026 9:44 PM
22	The county needs more paved bike trails from town to town, like northern wi has.	10/6/2026 8:55 PM
23	With regard to #13, serious consideration MUST be made regarding transfer of Aquatic Invasive Species, as comprimised waters outnumber pristine waters!	10/6/2026 7:52 PM
24	Logging the Cooks Run Hatchery area, if approved, MUST stay away from the water… no where even close to the watershed. No logging equipment anywhere near the water. We can't risk damage to this pristine watershed.	10/6/2026 7:04 PM
25	Do not log the wet areas close to the Cooks Run	10/6/2026 7:01 PM
26	No logging or timber harvesting at Cooks Run. This is a pristine location that should remain that way. Logging will destroy the existing habitat.	10/6/2026 6:40 PM
27	More trails would be great, but they don't all need to be paved and in town, such as rustic trails especially around the Cooks Run property and other more remote county land. I don't walk the heritage trail because it follows busy roads with little to no barrier protection at times and I don't want to see cars when I'm taking a relaxing walk anyways. That trail would be good for runners or road bikes and out of towners, but I'd love to see rustic trails far away from roads like 424 and hwy 2. I've lived in Iron River my whole life and I've never heard of Me-squa-i-cum-e Park - you should have provided the local nickname or actual location descriptions of what parks and trails you're talking about. So I guess I'd also recommend creating a page on the ironmi.org site that discusses the county-owned rec areas so we can be fully educated as we fill out your surveys.	9/25/2026 9:04 AM
28	Beach drainage and improvement at pentoga park	9/25/2026 8:34 AM
29	Raise prices at pentoga to fix it up	9/18/2026 7:59 PM
30	No	9/16/2026 11:59 AM
31	Pentoga park is in desperate need of updated bathrooms, electrical on camp sites.	9/16/2026 10:58 AM
32	Seasonal Boat Docking at Pentoga Park. A spot people can rent that is strictly theirs for the season.	9/16/2026 10:43 AM
33	Bathrooms, Electric and water issues Pentoga Park is GREATLY needed!	9/16/2026 10:05 AM
34	Better advertising of the recreation activities within our County. Signage and special events could possibly bring more usage from residents and tourists.	9/16/2026 8:16 AM
35	The existing parks need to be maintained better. We have beautiful parks that are falling apart and not being taken care of properly. A community ice rink would be a nice addition for children.	9/15/2026 9:51 PM
36	Updated playground equipment, pickle ball courts, and rest room facilities or porta John's.	9/15/2026 4:35 PM
37	Better advertising of recreational opportunities to include what activities are available and where to find. A brochure perhaps? A recreation map or kiosks located throughout the county would be great. Utilize the county airport with an air show or other event.	9/15/2026 4:15 PM
38	Continue to grow and improve what we already have. Connecting Pentoga to Bewabic would be a game changer for recreation, tourism, and Iron County connectiveness.	9/15/2026 4:14 PM
39	work on getting pickleball courts built across the county	9/15/2026 4:04 PM

Q17 What other activities or improvements not previously mentioned would you like to see in the County?

Answered: 29 Skipped: 57

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I would love to see more walking trails and paved, bike trails and other non-motorized trails. It's extremely difficult to walk for pleasure in Crystal Falls. Traffic is loud unobservant of pedestrians and both highways US two and 69 make it very difficult to get around on foot.	10/7/2026 5:11 PM
2	Gravel bike	10/7/2026 4:14 PM
3	No mention of playgrounds or pickleball courts. Both needed in Iron County	10/7/2026 3:20 PM
4	The playground at Pentoga needs updating or fixing as two of the slides are crooked and seem unsafe.	10/7/2026 2:54 PM
5	The park in Caspian was redone and is wonderful. Could we work on one in Iron River as well. I am not very familiar ilwith Crystal Falls parks but id they dont have an updated one they need one also. I also think we need better advertising with all of our local outdoor activities we offer. I have family who have never moved from Iron River who dont know what we offer anymore. We have a beautiful county let's remind folks what all we offer right at home.	10/7/2026 1:42 PM
6	Because of the importance I will mention again, promote bringing in a YMCA to the area. Smaller gyms do not last and equipment/facility is outdated. Or like Eagle River, open WIC athletic facilities to the public... we do pay for it.	10/7/2026 1:27 PM
7	Need more things for kids to do	10/7/2026 1:20 PM
8	Extra emphasis on connecting the Heritage trail from Crystal Falls to Iron River/Pentoga to Bewabic.	10/7/2026 1:16 PM
9	Repair well at goldenlake Forest camp ground.	10/7/2026 12:18 PM
10	Re: Cooks Run, ensure that the area is logged in only appropriate and science-backed methods.	10/7/2026 10:10 AM
11	More green spaces, interpretive signage on trails, historical plaques highlighting areas of the land, fat-biking rentals.	10/7/2026 9:01 AM
12	A recreation center with pool	10/7/2026 8:49 AM
13	Regular educational, conservation, nature presentations with knowledge speakers, possibly held at a location such as Cooks Run; additional hiking paths with signage and open/usable outhouses; coordination and communication to assure Federal, State, city, and township owned property is maintained and usable (example- The USFS Mile Marker Zero and Treaty Tree historical site is a mess, with blowdown blocking the path and falling onto signage and benches.) Public use property needs be kept up or it makes the the whole area look bad to tourists who may not return and will likely spread the word to others. Thank you for asking for public opinion and feedback.	10/7/2026 7:21 AM
14	Crystal Falls stole the courthouse, are you seriously considering letting them steal Cooks Run as well? Look at a map of Iron County. Where is the WESTERN border? How far is that from Crystal Falls? Logging the area likely would damage terrain and may ruin wonderful brook trout habitat. Think careful restoration, not exploitation. As for Batawagama I spent many birthdays there as a happy camper and Lou Fiske was a great swimming teacher.	10/6/2026 9:44 PM
15	A park with tennis courts and pickle ball and may be more	10/6/2026 8:55 PM
16	Continue to clean up the squaler, residents deserve to have thier properties seen as good investments!	10/6/2026 7:52 PM
17	Fund new nature trails at Cooks Run.	10/6/2026 6:40 PM

18	Maintained water routes for canoes/kayaks with marked put ins and pull outs, interpretive trails, mountain bike trails would be great	9/25/2026 9:04 AM
19	Ice trail	9/25/2026 8:34 AM
20	Bike trails	9/21/2026 11:33 AM
21	Fix pentoga park	9/18/2026 7:59 PM
22	We need more activities for young children, not just playgrounds like a splash pad or some other attraction for kids to be able to use year-round. Also, the playgrounds in the summer are sweltering. How can we improve that?	9/16/2026 11:10 AM
23	None	9/16/2026 10:58 AM
24	I would love to see the bike trail extend from Pentoga Park to Fortune Lake (and meet up with the other bike trail). That would be fantastic!! I use both bike trails regularly.	9/16/2026 10:43 AM
25	I would like to see more activities that cater to the younger generations. They have no outlets besides the limited sports and that can lead to issues. We need to engage with our youth.	9/16/2026 8:16 AM
26	utv trail improvement	9/16/2026 8:06 AM
27	Maintain the city parks so the community can safely enjoy them instead of investing in anything additional. Grass is not cut, equipment is falling apart, etc.	9/15/2026 9:51 PM
28	More awareness of, improvements and trail systems for hikers and bikers at Cooks Run. More access to different programs utilizing Camp Batawagama which is county owned. Fitness retreat for seniors location or a bird watching day camp with Batawagama as a staging location. Great facilities there are underutilized for our tax dollars.	9/15/2026 4:15 PM
29	None! I think this survey/list was pretty exhaustive to what I think is important for recreation here in Iron County.	9/15/2026 4:14 PM

Appendix F *(Will be included in Final Draft)*

Notice of Recreation Survey (Public Input) Availability
Notice of Recreation Plan Availability and Public Comment
Notice for Public Hearing
Meeting Minutes from Public Hearing containing Public Comments
Recreation Plan Resolution of Adoption
Meeting Minutes of Meeting Approving Resolution

Appendix G *(Will be included in Final Draft)*

Transmittal Letter to Planning Agency