

CITY OF IRONWOOD, MICHIGAN
2011-2015 Park & Recreation Plan



"Live Where You Play"

Submitted By: The City of Ironwood
213 S. Marquette Street
Ironwood, MI 49938

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**CITY OF IRONWOOD, MICHIGAN
PARK & RECREATION PLAN
2011 – 2015**

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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

The 2011 - 2016 City of Ironwood Park & Recreation Plan is designed to guide future parks and recreation development and related activities within the City. The intent of this Plan is to establish recreational goals, review the condition(s) of existing facilities, and establish an agenda for future facility improvements.

An essential component of this plan is public participation. A citywide recreation survey has been conducted to provide information about the community's park and recreation needs and priorities (see Attachment A). A key element of this plan is to design a systematic, objective approach to parks and recreation decision making that will respond to the interests of city residents.

Park and recreational opportunities are recognized as increasingly important elements of community life and health, as well as economic development. Park and recreation facilities provide positive leisure time activities for all age groups within the City, and assist in improving the quality of life for all residents and visitors.

This Plan proposes a range of park improvements in the City that will require financial assistance from various state and federal grant programs, as well as private donations and fund raising. The City of Ironwood is not currently in the financial position to entirely fund this program. Because of this fact, innovative funding strategies will be required from as many sources as possible.

Chapter 2

COMMUNITY LOCATION & DESCRIPTION

The City of Ironwood is located at the western end of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, as shown in Attachment B. It is located approximately 15 miles south of Lake Superior on the Michigan-Wisconsin border. The City encompasses 5.8 square miles, or roughly 3,700 acres. The City, along with its neighbor Hurley, Wisconsin, acts as a regional hub for services, retail and commercial resources.

LAND USE

The City's land use is predominantly residential. Within the residential areas there are various public and institutional uses such as schools, parks, playgrounds, churches and government and public transportation facilities. This Plan is designed to support parks and recreational opportunities in close proximity to residential areas, in order for the facilities to be as accessible and as user friendly as possible.

Commercial, retail and service land uses are located in the historic Downtown District and along the U.S. Route 2 corridor.

Industrial development is primarily located in the City's Industrial/Business Park found at the northeast end of the City. Smaller industrial facilities are located in other parts of the city.

Two railroad grades bisect the city. Both of these grades are abandoned and the tracks removed. A project is underway to bring both grades, one motorized and the other non-motorized, in to full public, recreational use. These facilities, once fully in place, will help complete and connect a larger regional trail system.

Land Use Issue/Opportunity: The city's population has decreased steadily from a high in the 1920 Census of 15,734 persons down to 5,387 in 2010. This population decline parallels the steady deterioration of a local economy built around resource extraction, mainly ore mining and the timber/wood products industry. The loss of industry, and resulting job and population loss has, in turn, created a downward spiral in the quality of housing and commercial building stock, and, as buildings are torn down, more open space. One of the interesting issues confronting a "de-developing" or "shrinking" city like Ironwood is: How can we creatively make use of the emerging empty space?

Many cities struggle to maintain or create open space as they grow. Ironwood's curse and blessing, as it shrinks, is an over-abundance of open space. How do we most effectively inventory, map, analyze plan, regulate and optimize our use of this resource? This issue/opportunity will be addressed when the city updates its 1982 Comprehensive Plan. The Parks and Recreation Committee should play a pivotal role in this community discussion.

ZONING

Zoning designations with the City closely match the existing land use pattern. The majority of the City is zoned for residential purposes. (See Attachment C.) Commercial districts are located in the Downtown District and along the US Route 2 corridor. Industrial districts are, for the most part, located in the Industrial Park and near abandoned mining sites in the central part of the City. The City of Ironwood recently updated their Zoning Ordinance and will soon begin the process of updating their 1982 Comprehensive Plan. Recreation will play a major role in the City's plans for future development.

TOPOGRAPHY AND DRAINAGE

The topography of the City is gently rolling to the north and steep to very steep to the south. The elevation ranges from 1420 feet above sea level at its northwest corner to 1,750 feet on the top of Newport Hill near its eastern boundary. There are plenty of existing and emerging opportunities for winter and summer outdoor recreation utilizing the hilly terrain located in the City.

The City's soils are generally well drained and appropriate for recreational development. Some of the City's soils are low and poorly drained, and not suitable for active recreational development, but may be excellent sites for wildlife viewing areas, nature trails, and interpretive and educational activities. Some areas, particularly in the Open Land District – the former mining area located in the center of the city – are suited for recreation and designated as such in the City's Comprehensive Plan.

In the Gogebic County Soil Survey, the larger Ironwood area is generally characterized by the Gogebic-Cathro-Rock Outcrop Association. (See Attachment D.) This soil association consists of rock outcrop and nearly level to steep, very poorly drained to moderately well drained soils on bedrock-controlled moraines and till plains. These soils formed in loamy and mucky materials. They have moderate to low natural fertility and a moderate to high water-holding capacity and are moderately to highly susceptible to ground-water contamination. From the Soil Survey:

Setting

Landform: Bedrock-controlled moraines and till plains

Slope range: 0 to 100 percent

Composition

Extent of the soils in the association:

Gogebic—72 percent

Cathro—7 percent

Rock outcrop—3 percent

Soils of minor extent—18 percent

Soil Properties and Qualities

Gogebic

Drainage class: Moderately well drained

Parent material: Loamy material

Texture of the surface layer: Fine sandy loam and silt loam

Slope: 1 to 35 percent

Cathro

Drainage class: Very poorly drained

Parent material: Organic material over loamy material

Texture of the surface layer: Muck

Slope: 0 to 1 percent

Rock outcrop

Slope: 0 to 100 percent

Soils of Minor Extent

- The somewhat poorly drained, loamy Tula soils on low slopes
- The well drained, loamy Michigamme soils, which are moderately deep to bedrock
- The poorly drained, loamy Gay soils in drainageways and depressions

Use and Management

Major uses: Forestland, recreation, wildlife habitat

Management concerns: Equipment limitations, windthrow hazard, slope, seedling mortality

WATER RESOURCES

The Montreal River serves as the City's (and State of Michigan's) western boundary. The river flows from the south, through the City and eventually terminates at Lake Superior. The shores of the Montreal River contain fascinating topography, vegetation and wildlife. The Montreal River has excellent potential for recreational uses along its shoreline. Future uses may include trails, natural areas, interpretive areas, camping, fishing and boating access, although generally low water conditions may limit boat use. Fishing is currently limited to young brook trout, rainbows and pan fish.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS & TRENDS

NOTE: Although population counts for cities, including Ironwood, have been released for the 2010 Census, detailed demographic, housing, economic, etc data and analysis will not be available, at the earliest, until May 2011. This additional information can be added to the plan when it becomes available. In the meantime, the 2000 Census data will suffice.

Based on Census results, the number of City residents declined from 6,293 in 2000 to 5,387 in 2010, a decrease of 906 persons or 14.4 percent. As shown in Attachment E., the city's population peaked in the 1920 Census when over 15,000 persons lived in Ironwood.

Subject	Number	Percent
Total population	6,293	100.0
SEX AND AGE		
Male	2,966	47.1
Female	3,327	52.9
Under 5 years	353	5.6
5 to 9 years	380	5.7
10 to 14 years	419	6.7
15 to 19 years	434	6.9
20 to 24 years	330	5.2
25 to 34 years	681	10.8
35 to 44 years	803	12.8
45 to 54 years	793	12.6
55 to 59 years	314	5.0
60 to 64 years	265	4.2
65 to 74 years	615	9.8
75 to 84 years	646	10.3
85 years and over	280	4.4
Median age (years)	42.2	(X)
18 years and over	4,897	77.8
Male	2,269	36.1
Female	2,628	41.8
21 years and over	4,618	73.4
62 years and over	1,705	27.1
65 years and over	1,541	24.5

SOURCE: U.S. Census 2000

The City's population is aging. The median age is 42.2 years, compared to the State of Michigan average of 35.5. Twenty-five percent of the City's residents are 65 years of age and over. Future parks and recreation planning must take this into account to meet this population's recreation needs. Park improvements should include walkways, benches and other more passive recreational uses in order to serve this age group.

There is still, however, a sizable young population in need of various recreational opportunities. Over twenty-six percent of the City's residents are under 21 years of age. In addition, over 50% of the population is between the ages of 18 and 64. To cater to these and other population groups, more active recreational activities and resources serving the entire family must be pursued.

There are more females than males in Ironwood with 53 percent of residents being females. Interestingly, 24 percent of the City's population has never married. This is in line with national levels. The City's population is predominantly white (99.2%).

The City's ethnic origins vary with the greatest number of ancestries reported in the 1990 Census: Finnish (1,996), German (1,267), Italian (1,145), Swedish (932) and Polish (907).

DISABILITY STATUS OF THE CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONALIZED POPULATION	COUNT	%
Population 5 to 20 years	1,327	100.0
With a disability	175	13.2
Population 21 to 64 years	3,062	100.0
With a disability	729	23.8
Percent employed	43.9	(X)
No disability	2,333	76.2
Percent employed	75.0	(X)
Population 65 years and over	1,390	100.0
With a disability	581	41.8

SOURCE: U.S. Census 2000

A fair number of city residents have disabilities. The special needs of this population group must also be considered when designing park facilities. All facilities should be fully accessible.

Work Force: In Gogebic County, with a potential labor force 16 years of age and over of 7,417, over 6,500 of these persons were employed as of January 2011. 876 persons were unemployed. This produces an unemployment rate for the county of 11.8 percent. The 2000 Census offers an Industry of Employment breakdown (below) showing mining and manufacturing at a combined low of 16.1 percent, educational, health and social services constituting the largest employment category at 22.7 percent of the total, followed by arts, entertainment, recreation, lodging and food services at 13.4 percent and retail at 13.1 percent of employment. The 2009 American Community Survey suggests that manufacturing and mining employment may have increased as a proportion of total employment in recent years, while the total number of those employed in the labor force has declined. The 2010 Census will give us a clearer trendline of changes in the structure of local employment.

INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYMENT	COUNT	%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	25	1.1
Construction	142	6.0
Manufacturing	355	15.0
Wholesale trade	56	2.4
Retail trade	310	13.1
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	93	3.9
Information	52	2.2
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing	126	5.3
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services	64	2.7
Educational, health and social services	539	22.7
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	317	13.4
Other services (except public administration)	153	6.5
Public administration	138	5.8

SOURCE: U.S. Census 2000

School Enrollment and Education: In 2000, there were 1,521 city residents three years of age and older enrolled in local and non-local schools. According to estimates produced via the 2005 – 2009 American Community Survey, this number declined by 23 percent in more recent years. Again, the 2010 Census will provide a more dependable figure.

Over 86 percent of persons 25 years of age and over in Ironwood have received at least a high school diploma, a bit higher than the same statistic statewide. In contrast, 21.8 percent of Michigan residents as a whole have received a bachelor's degree or higher, while 16.3 percent of the local population has achieved this same level of education.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	COUNT	%
Population 25 years and over	4,395	100.0
Less than 9th grade	154	3.5
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	454	10.3
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	1,660	37.8
Some college, no degree	1,019	23.2
Associate degree	390	8.9
Bachelor's degree	466	10.6
Graduate or professional degree	252	5.7
Percent high school graduate or higher	86.2	(X)
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	16.3	(X)

SOURCE: U.S. Census 2000

Commuting to Work: The mean commute time for Ironwood residents is 15.5 minutes, far below the statewide mean of 24 minutes or national mean of 25.5 minutes. This, and Census Place of Work data, suggest that many local workers live relatively close to their place of work, an indicator that park development, Complete Streets and other initiatives that make the City more walk and bike friendly have good potential to improve community quality of life.

Chapter 3

PARKS & RECREATION INVENTORY

This section identifies the existing parks and recreation facilities in the City at this time. Each of the City's park areas is listed below along with a recent analysis of deficiencies and opportunities for improvement conducted by the City's Parks and Recreation Committee. Most facilities are accessible to some degree to handicapped persons.

Curry Park – Amenities includes picnic tables and grills, 56 camp sites, 9 full service hook-ups, showers, laundry, and sanitary dump station.

Location: West end of U.S. 2 Highway

Size: 9.25 acres

Type: Campground

Analysis:

- Maybe fewer campsites.
- Out-of-date electrical hookups; need to be updated with 50 amp hookups

Patterson Tennis Courts – Two (2) tennis courts, small playground and a parking lot.

Location: Ridge and Hemlock Streets

Size: 0.77 acres

Type: Recreation Facility

Analysis:

- Degraded court surface.
- No lights.
- Only courts left in City and townships. Hurley's are in good shape.
- Playground equipment out-of-date

Longyear Park – Includes walking track, lighted basketball court, band shell and children's playground equipment.

Location: Arch and Hemlock Streets

Size: 3.22 acres

Type: Community Park

Analysis:

- Lack of special needs equipment
- Porta-potties are available

Kuitunen Park – Features fountains, benches and various forms of native vegetation.

Location: Lowell and Frederick Streets.

Size: 0.5 acres

Type: Neighborhood Park

Analysis:

- Opportunity to include in an expanded Depot Park; remove street
- Water fountain is an attraction

Little League Field – Regulation Little League Field including spectator seating, concession stand and restroom facilities, and playground.

Location: Day and Vaughn Streets

Size: 2.75 acres

Type: Recreation Facility

Analysis:

- Adding second field
- Newer playground equipment
- A busy field during the season

Kiwanis Tot Lot – No playground equipment for young children.

Location: Burma Road

Size: 0.4 acres

Type: Neighborhood Park

Analysis:

- Abandoned

Hiawatha Park – World's tallest fiberglass Native American statue. Includes a pavilion and playground equipment.

Location: Burma Road

Size: 1.04 acres

Type: Neighborhood Park

Analysis:

- The playground equipment is outdated, limited.
- The park needs an upgrade

Randa Field – Lighted softball field with spectator seating.

Location: Burma Road and Houk Street

Size: 1.4 acres

Type: Recreation Facility

Analysis:

- The facility is in pretty good shape

Norrie Park - Norrie Park Road. Picnic tables and grills, restrooms, walking trails, open space, two (2) horseshoe pits, pavilion, playground equipment and ADA compliant fishing platform.

Size: 105 acres

Type: Community Park

Analysis:

- Playground equipment is dangerous, out-of-date
- Electric service not modern; needs upgrade
- Needs a 2nd barbecue grill
- A community garden is located there

City of Ironwood Snowmobile, ATV and Non-Motorized Routes

Location: Varies

Size: 2.3 miles of ATV/Snowmobile trails. 1 mile hiking trail (Cemetery Trail) not counting trails in other parks.

Type: Recreation Facility

Analysis:

- Dust issues and potential conflicts with Depot Park expansion and improvement plans

Municipal Memorial Building – Historic, unique Beaux Artes civic building constructed in 1923. Includes a Gymnasium and Auditorium. The Auditorium features stained glass and extensive murals. Historic displays are found on the 2nd floor. The facility is used regularly by the community – youth sports teams, Bingo, American Legion Fish Fry, voting, etc.

Location: 213 Marquette Street

Size: N/A

Type: Recreation/Culture Facility

Analysis:

- The rest rooms in the Gymnasium need improvement.
- The electrical system and the acoustics in the Auditorium should be addressed.
- Ongoing maintenance and repair issues.

Local Un-Named Park – Playground equipment for younger children, small basketball hoop, and concrete pad.

Location: Lake and Ayer Streets

Size: 0.4 acres

Type: Neighborhood Park

Analysis:

- In good shape

P.J. O'Donnell Civic Center – Ice Arena. Hockey and other skating programs.

Location: Jackson Road by the Gogebic Community College campus

Size: 30,000 Square Feet

Type: Recreation Facility

Analysis:

- Need to pave parking lot.
- The Civic Center Board has developed a Capital Improvement Plan for next five years with a focus on upgrading the facility's ice-making capacity.

Mt. Zion Overlook Park – Scenic viewing, summit of downhill ski facility.

Location: Mt. Zion Road

Size: 1.0 acre

Type: Neighborhood Park/Recreation Facility

Analysis:

- Needs major upgrade with improvements to scenic overlook, guardrail, and signage to get travelers to park. Address garbage cans, rest rooms, benches and picnic tables.

Hiawatha Rotary Skate Park

Location: On Suffolk Street between the Downtown District and the Hiawatha Statue

Size: 1.2 acres

Type: Recreation Facility

Analysis:

- In good shape
- Adding Pump Track for biking

Bulinski Park

Location: On the corner of Bulinski Boulevard and Oak Street

Size: 0.4 acres

Type: Recreation Facility

Analysis:

- Playground equipment is out-of-date

Miners Memorial Heritage Park – City-owned open space. The park will feature recreational trails and mining history displays.

Location: Central part of the city; once the locations of iron ore mines

Size: 168 acres

Type: Community Park/Recreation Facility

Analysis:

- The facility is under development; established as new City Park in 2010 by resolution of the Ironwood City Commission
- Friends of the Miners Memorial Heritage Park will work closely with the Parks and Recreation Committee and other partners to plan and develop the park
- Priorities for park planning and development include:
 - Work with City to secure permanent park status
 - Make mine shafts safe
 - Identify resources supporting park planning and development
 - Address motorized and non-motorized recreation issues and opportunities
 - Develop and adopt a first-rate Park Master Plan
 - Establish trailhead parking area on Bonnie Street

Downtown Ironwood Pocket Park – Award-winning, city-owned facility in the heart of the Downtown. Includes garden, walkway and benches.

Location: At the corner of Suffolk and Aurora Streets

Size: 0.08 acres

Type: Pocket Park

Analysis:

- This facility has issues with deterioration of the walkway and other physical aspects.
- The wall along the north edge of the park needs attention to structure and aesthetics.

Ironwood Historic Depot Park & Historic Depot Building – Located on the north edge of the Downtown, the Depot Park and the adjacent Kuitunen Park features the old Chicago and Northwest Railroad Depot/Museum (on the National Historic Register), playground equipment, green space, and two trails running east and west from the park.

Location: Bounded by Suffolk Street, Frederick Street, Lowell Street, and the Ironwood Post Office/

Size: 3.3 acres

Type: Community Park & Historical Site

Analysis:

- The building, though in need of an upgrade, is in good structural condition. The facility is not open year-round.
- More playground equipment is needed.
- Public restroom not available
- Lack of facilities to handle events.

Chapter 4

PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process used in the creation of this Park and Recreation Plan places a great deal of emphasis on public participation. The plan was initially drafted by the City of Ironwood Recreation, Cultural and Life Enrichment-Committee. This Committee was created by resolution of the City Commission with the express purpose of drafting and updating a Parks and Recreation Plan.

The Parks and Recreation Committee carried out a recreation survey. In order to limit costs and other resources, a "random sample" of the city's 2,700 households was used, instead of distributing to all households. Results from a properly conducted random sample can be generalized to the larger population. 240 completed questionnaires from the random sample were returned.

The purpose of the recreation survey was to learn the public's priorities as they relate to parks and recreation opportunities.

The complete survey results are included in Attachment A.

On April 18, 2011, the Parks and Recreation Committee of the City of Ironwood approved the DRAFT 2011 – 2015 Park and Recreation Plan and recommended to the City Commission that the plan be formally adopted. (See Attachment G for a copy of all meeting minutes and the resolution of Plan Adoption).

On <_____,> The City Commission adopted a resolution formally adopting the plan as the city's Parks and Recreation Plan

Chapter 5

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The following goals and objectives are based on data and analysis presented earlier the plan, Parks and Recreation Committee discussions, and results of the 2010 Park and Recreation Survey.

GOAL #1: Plan and develop a city environment, infrastructure and recreation system that supports active, healthy lifestyles.

OBJECTIVES:

- Work with partners to analyze community health and wellness.
- Address parks, recreation and open space needs in all relevant city policies, plans and regulations.
- Support the incorporation of Complete Streets policies and resources into city planning and development, and Parks and Recreation programming.

GOAL #2: Given available resources, address the recreational needs of all age groups in the city.

OBJECTIVES:

- Upgrade all city park and recreation facilities with playground equipment and other amenities to meet the needs of young children.
- Building on the success of the Skateboard Park, develop park and recreation projects to meet the recreational needs of teens and young adults.
- Address the recreational needs of the city's older residents, now 25 percent of the total population, ensuring that facilities are close by and easily accessible to this group.

Chapter 6

BASIS FOR ACTION PROGRAM

The 2011 – 2015 Ironwood Parks and Recreation Plan is a realistic plan based on the results of the community recreation survey, numerous public meetings and citizen involvement. It is also largely based on continuing the improvements that have been made to the park system since the adoption of the original Recreation Plan.

The Action Program intends on building on the success of the past to create enhanced park opportunities in all of the City's parks. Based on the survey results, the City of Ironwood will continue to meet the community's recreation needs by investing funding (private, local and grants) in the areas that were deemed a high priority by the community.

Chapter 7

ACTION PROGRAM

This Section details the five-year action program for the City of Ironwood. The action program is based on considerable public input including the Community Recreation Survey. The action program calls for a focus on improvements to the current park system, as well as the development of additional facilities in order to more fully meet the community's needs. Funding for this program is intended to come from a variety of sources including; state and federal grants, donations, fund raising, foundations and City contributions. The program is outlined in the table below.

Survey respondents' recommendations for potential future park and recreation improvements provide some guidance for the Parks and Recreation Committee. The following potential improvements garnered the broadest support showing over 75 percent aggregate importance in order of scoring: Longyear Park Permanent Restrooms, Outdoor Skating Rink, Signs describing local history, Downtown Pavilion, and Playground on North Side of Highway 2

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

YEAR	PROJECT	COST	FUNDING SOURCES
2011	Purchase Railroad Grades	\$200,000	1, 2, 6
	Norrie Park Playground Equipment & Improvements	\$40,000	1, 3
	Dog Park	\$5,000	6
	Implement Bike Lanes on City Streets	\$2,500	1, 4, 5
	Establish Community & Flower Gardens	\$1,500	4, 5, 6
	Develop and Adopt Trail Master Plan	\$15,000	1, 2, 5, 6
	Identify/Purchase Location for Park North of US Rte 2	\$5,000	1, 4, 6
	Upgrade Civic Center Ice-Making Capacity & Other	\$300,000	1, 3, 4, 5, 6
	Plan for River Walk Trail System/Montreal River	N/C	
	Develop and Adopt Basic Master Plan for 2 Parks	N/C	
2012	Depot Park Area Improvements	\$429,000	1, 2, 5, 6, 8
	Purchase Railroad Grades	\$200,000	1, 2, 6
	Longyear Park Permanent Restrooms	\$50,000	1, 3, 6
	Develop Non-Motorized Trails in the City	\$5,000	1, 2, 5, 6, 8
	Develop River Walk Trail System/Montreal River	\$50,000	1, 2, 4, 5
	Dog Park	\$5,000	6
	Implement Bike Lanes on City Streets	\$2,500	1, 5
	Establish Community & Flower Gardens	\$1,500	4, 5, 6
	Mt Zion Park Improvements	\$10,000	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
	Create an Outdoor Skating Rink	\$10,000	1, 3, 4, 5
2012	Install Signs Describing Local History	\$5,000	3, 5, 6
	Build Playground on the North Side of US Rte 2	\$30,000	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

	Upgrade Civic Center Ice-Making Capacity, Other	\$100,000	1, 4, 6
	Install Sign for each City Neighborhood	\$7,500	5, 8
	Develop & Adopt MMHP Master Plan	\$20,000	1, 5, 6
	Develop and Adopt Basic Master Plan for 2 Parks	N/C	
	Resurface Patterson Tennis Court	\$10,000	1, 3
	Upgrade Electric System at Curry Park Campground	\$7,000	1, 4, 5
2013	Purchase Railroad Grades	\$200,000	2
	Develop and Improve Trails & Trailheads	\$360,000	1, 2
	Depot Park Area Improvements	\$200,000	1, 2, 5, 6, 8
	Develop Non-Motorized Trails in the City	\$5,000	1, 2, 5, 6, 8
	Develop River Walk Trail System/Montreal River	\$50,000	1, 2, 4, 5
	Implement Bike Lanes on City Streets	\$2,500	1, 5
	Establish Community & Flower Gardens	\$1,500	4, 5, 6
	Mt Zion Park Improvements	\$10,000	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
	Install Signs Describing Local History	\$5,000	3, 5, 6
	Install Sign for each City Neighborhood	\$7,500	5, 8
	Explore Feasibility of Children's/Nature Museum	\$15,000	5, 6
	Upgrade Civic Center Ice-Making Capacity, Other	\$100,000	1, 3, 4, 5, 6
	Plan for US 2 Non-Motorized Corridor Enhancements	\$50,000	1 - 6
	Develop and Adopt Basic Master Plan for 2 Parks	N/C	
	Longyear Park Improvements and Trail Head Improvements \$100,000	\$100,000	1, 4, 6
2014	Purchase Railroad Grades	\$200,000	2
	Develop and Improve Trails & Trailheads	\$360,000	1, 2
	Develop Non-Motorized Trails in the City	\$5,000	1, 2, 5, 6, 8
	Develop River Walk Trail System/Montreal River	\$50,000	1, 2, 4, 5
	Lighted X-Country Ski Trail in MMHP	\$40,000	1, 3, 6
	Implement Bike Lanes on City Streets	\$2,500	1, 5
	Establish Community & Flower Gardens	\$1,500	4, 5, 6
	Install Signs Describing Local History	\$5,000	3, 5, 6
	Install Sign for each City Neighborhood	\$7,500	5, 8
	Implement US 2 Corridor Enhancements	\$170,000	1 - 6
	Develop and Adopt Basic Master Plan for 2 Parks	N/C	
2015	Purchase Railroad Grades	\$200,000	2
	Develop and Improve Trails & Trailheads	\$360,000	1, 2
	Develop Non-Motorized Trails in the City	\$50,000	1, 2, 5, 6, 8
	Develop River Walk Trail System/Montreal River	\$50,000	1, 2, 4, 5
	Implement Bike Lanes on City Streets	\$2,500	1, 5
	Establish Community & Flower Gardens	\$1,500	4, 5, 6
	Install Signs Describing Local History	\$5,000	3, 5, 6
	Install Sign for each City Neighborhood	\$7,500	5, 8

Implement US 2 Corridor Enhancements	\$170,000	1 - 6
Develop and Adopt Basic Master Plan for 2 Parks	N/C	

Funding Source:

1. City of Ironwood
2. Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
3. Recreation Passport Grant
4. Land and Water Conservation Fund
5. Other State or Federal Programs
6. Private Sources (fund raising, donations, recreation association, & foundation grants)
7. Neighborhood Preservation Program (MSHDA)
8. MDOT

RECREATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Recreation clubs can be formed at little to no cost and give residents a chance to participate in an activity that gets them out of the house and in shape. Perhaps these clubs would meet weekly. Club Examples: Walking, Running, Book, Biking, Snowshoeing and Cross Country Skiing. Explore establishing "Friends of" organizations for various parks.

A website, perhaps a blog, could be set up to initiate and trade club ideas. Partner organizations, such as local fitness centers, ski trails or the Carnegie Library, could make users aware of club opportunities.

Educational programs should be explored including bringing speakers to Gogebic Community College.

IMPLEMENT BIKE ROUTES ESTABLISHED BY COMMITTEE

In January 2011, the Parks and Recreation Committee established bike routes on City streets where lanes could easily be added as part of an infrastructure upgrade project, or independent of any public works project. (See Attachment F.) The city is exploring the feasibility of developing a Complete Streets program. Continue working with area schools on Safe Routes to Schools program.

PARKS AND RECREATION POLICY & BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

The Committee should discuss and make recommendations addressing the following parks and recreation policy areas that may require guidance, clarity and/or leadership from the City:

- Litter in parks and rest of the City.
- Cleaning up after dogs in parks, trails and rest of the City.
- Adding more discretionary funding to the Parks & Recreation budget.
- Define the scope of parks and recreation. What is recreation?
- Look for ways to communicate and collaborate more effectively with the Downtown Ironwood Development Authority, and provide support for Downtown Blueprint implementation.

- Effective code enforcement as it relates to park and recreation facilities.
- Brainstorm challenges of tighter funding, more municipalities chasing fewer dollars for park and recreation projects.

Chapter 8

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

In 1987, the Ironwood City Commission created and appointed a Recreation, Cultural and Life Enrichment Committee. The purpose of this advisory committee is to:

- Analyze, plan, and recommend procedures affecting the recreational, cultural, and life-enrichment aspects of community life;
- Maintain the city's Recreation Plan; and
- To help coordinate activities of the various groups working in this area so as to encourage initiative, but also to make the best use of the limited resources available, bearing in mind the needs of the residents and the appeal of the activities to tourists and other visitors to the area.

The committee makes recommendations to the City Commission regarding park and related capital improvements. The committee name was changed to Parks and Recreation. All Parks and Recreation Committee meetings are open to the public, and are advertised in the local media.

The City Commission has final decision-making authority as it pertains to parks and recreation funding decisions, but values and considers input and recommendations from the Parks and Recreation Committee, Planning Commission, staff and the residents of the community.

Parks and playgrounds are maintained by City crews. During the summer months, the Parks and Recreation Director is in charge of summer youth workers responsible for additional park maintenance. Routine park and cemetery mowing services are contracted out to local businesses. The Parks & Recreation budget is small with very little discretionary funding.

Volunteers from local organizations regularly assist the City with maintenance, especially at the four ball fields, the Civic Center, Norrie Park, the Pocket Park, and the Miners Memorial Heritage Park. Various organizations have donated a considerable amount of time and money over the past several years to park and recreation improvements and programming.

The City of Ironwood Parks and Recreation Committee communicates and collaborates with:

- Downtown Ironwood Development Authority;
- Ironwood Planning Commission;
- Ironwood City Commission;
- Gogebic Community College;
- Ironwood Area School District; and
- Local civic, community and recreation groups.

**CITY OF IRONWOOD
2010 PARK & RECREATION SURVEY**

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

KEY FINDINGS

Important findings of the survey include:

- Large majorities of survey participants believe that recreational opportunities are limited for children, teenagers, senior citizens and special needs recreationists.
- Weekend afternoons are overwhelmingly the preferred time to offer park and recreation events and activities.
- The three main factors limiting citizen participation in recreational activities are lack of interest from others in their age group, lack of money, and their health.
- The Daily Globe, friends, and WUPM FM are respondents' favorite sources of information about local park and recreation events and activities.
- Although all city neighborhoods are represented in the survey data, the heaviest responses came from Norrie Location, north of the railroad corridor, and the area north of U.S. Route 2.
- Respondents listed their park and recreation activity preferences. Here is a sampling of top listings:
 - Sports: golf, cross-country skiing, and indoor basketball
 - Motorized Sports: ATV/dirt bike, snowmobiling, and motorcycling
 - Special Events: Festival Ironwood, Gogebic County Fair, and the Jack Frost Parade/Festival
 - Active Outdoor Sports: hiking/trails, dog walking, and canoeing/kayaking
 - Facility Activities: watching local sports, the Gogebic Community College Walking Track, and bowling
 - Passive Outdoor Pursuits: walking/trails, gardening, and camping
 - Nature Activities: nature walking, bird watching, and nature activities/programs
 - Parks Activities: picnics, dog walking, and playing in park
 - Indoor Activities: reading, music playing, arts and crafts
- While some survey participants never use the city's various parks and facilities, all parks and facilities get some use. The most used facilities in the city are Norrie Park, Longyear Park and Bandshell, and the Carnegie Library.
- Respondents' recommendations for potential future park and recreation improvements was another topic explored in the survey. The following potential improvements garnered the broadest support of over 75 percent aggregate importance: Longyear Park Permanent Restrooms, Outdoor Skating Rink, Signs describing local history, Downtown Pavilion, and Playground on North Side of Highway 2

The typical respondent to the city's 2010 Park and Recreation Survey is an older resident dependent on social security or a pension for their income. He or she is likely to have lived in Ironwood more than 20 years. Never-the-less, the larger group of household members they spoke for is broadly representative of the city's population when compared with 2000 Census data. The Parks and

Recreation Committee should take the survey output seriously, while continuing to encourage more input from young adults and renters.

SURVEY METHODS

In order to limit costs and other resources, a “random sample” of the city’s 2,700 households was used, instead of distributing to all households. Results from a properly conducted random sample should be generalized to the larger population. 240 completed questionnaires from the random sample were returned.

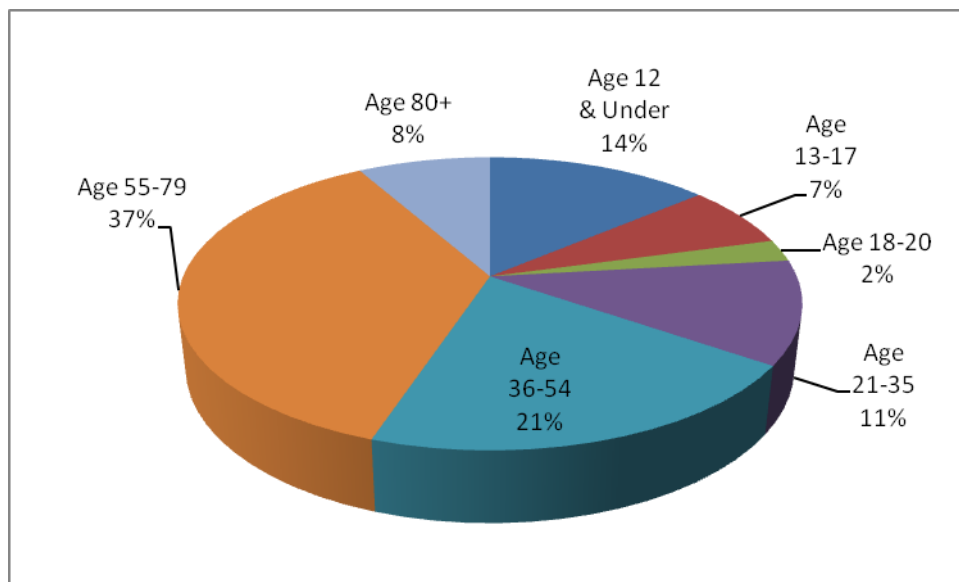
The survey timeline is as follows:

- October 2010: First distribution of questionnaires; inadequate number of returns
- December: Follow-up mail survey results in adequate number of returned questionnaires
- January 2011: Database design, survey coding sheet, electronic data entry forms, and training materials completed
- February: Data from survey entered by local youth and city staff
- March: Draft survey report delivered to Parks & Recreation Committee
- April & May: Survey report finalized
- May: Target month for recommending plan adoption to City Commission

SURVEY RESULTS

The number of household members in each age category.

	Age 12 & Under	Age 13-17	Age 18-20	Age 21-35	Age 36-54	Age 55-79	Age 80+	Totals
Count	74	37	13	61	110	196	44	535
Percent	14%	7%	2%	11%	21%	37%	8%	100%



Total Household Response Count: 240

Survey respondents were asked if they believe that the City of Ironwood provides enough recreational opportunities for different local groups.

	Yes		No		Total
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	HH Count
Children	88	42%	120	58%	208
Teenagers	52	25%	158	75%	210
Senior Citizens	82	39%	127	61%	209
Special Needs	46	24%	144	76%	190

Generally, when would be the best time to offer park and recreation events and activities? Respondents were encouraged to check only one, single best answer.

	Count	Percent
Weekday Mornings	7	4%
Weekday Afternoons	24	13%
Weekday Evenings	22	12%
Weekend Mornings	20	11%
Weekend Afternoons	97	51%
Weekend Evenings	20	11%
Totals	190	100%

What is the single most important factor that prevents you or members of your household from participating in recreational activities? Respondents were encouraged to check only one answer.

	Count	Percent
Health	40	20%
Knowledge/Skills	2	1%
Money	50	24%
Safety	8	4%
Transportation	2	1%
Lack of interest from others in the same age group	56	27%
Other (See below.)	47	23%
Totals	205	100%

Respondents checking "Other" made the following comments:

- lack of time (9)
- too busy, work too much (8)
- unaware of activities (4)
- lack of activities (3)
- lack of respect by young teens
- kids' park too small
- something to do in spare time
- hunting, fishing, camp
- learn of event after over

have own interests
 family attends other activities
 already busy with recreation
 involved in volunteer activities
 grandparent/grandchild programs
 homebound; do not participate
 police harass too much
 lack of activities close to home
 lack of non-motorized trails
 handicapped/wheelchair
 no recreation for seniors
 i use parks; nothing prevents
 nothing
 roads need work
 should allow activities for everyone
 time and priorities
 lack of bathrooms and facilities
 nothing really; golf, walk, cross-country ski
 depends on our interest in activities
 age amost 90

How do you find out about local events and activities? Survey respondents were encouraged to check all sources that apply.

	Count	Percent
Daily Globe	182	31%
North Country Sun	58	10%
Superior Chronicle Website	17	3%
City of Ironwood Website	15	3%
WUPM, 106.9 FM	72	12%
WIMI, 99.7 FM	56	9%
Carnegie Library	26	4%
Your Friends	136	23%
Other	30	5%
	592	100%

Respondents checking "Other" sources made the following comments:

WJMS 590 (9)
 ironwoodinfo.com (4)
 family (2)
 info sources lacking
 word of mouth
 classic motor inn sign
 don't care
 school notices
 church bulletin
 WHRY

doctor
 Iron County & school info
 Gogebic Community College
 flyers/bulletin boards
 co-workers
 Chamber website
 sports events

Using a map included with the questionnaire, survey respondents indicated the City of Ironwood neighborhood or location in which your household is located.

	Count	Percent
Aurora Location	13	6%
Downtown	19	8%
Jessieville	20	9%
Newport	5	2%
Norrie Location	50	22%
North of the Highway (U.S. Route 2)	45	20%
North of Railroad	50	22%
South of Railroad	24	11%
Totals	226	100%

Respondents were asked to check all the park and recreation activities in of your household participate. The number next to each activity indicates the total number of checks for that activity.

SPORTS	OTHER SPORTS LISTED
Golf = 53	snowshoe (23)
Skateboarding Count = 8	snowboard (6)
Soccer County = 15	
Football = 14	
Volleyball = 18	
Baseball/Softball = 23	
Tennis = 21	
Racquetball = 1	
Basketball (Outside) = 22	
Basketball (Indoors) = 24	
Hockey = 7	
Ice Skating = 35	
Curling = 2	
Downhill Skiing = 40	
Cross Country Skiing = 52	

MOTORIZED SPORTS	OTHER MOTORIZED LISTED
ATV/Dirt Bike = 52	Utility Task Vehicle
Moto-Cross = 5	Moped
Snowmobiling = 40	
Motorcycling = 21	
SPECIAL EVENTS	EVENTS OTHER
SISU SkiFest = 26	band concerts at longyear park

Festival Ironwood = 138	library events
Jack Frost Parade/Fest = 116	
Gogebic County Fair = 129	
Snowmobile Races = 25	
ATV Rally = 25	
Renaissance Faire = 39	

ACTIVE OUTDOOR PURSUITS	OTHER OUTDOOR
Running/Jogging = 29	hunt (11)
Hiking/Trails = 86	view wildlife
Dogwalking = 77	detect metal
Biking = 62	Air soft
Mountain Biking = 18	
BMX = 2	
Fishing = 103	
Canoeing/Kayaking = 30	
Swimming = 78	
Water Skiing = 4	
Frisbee Golf = 5	
Rock Climbing = 6	
Paintball = 4	
Shooting Range = 27	
Horseback Riding = 6	
Sledding/Tubing = 51	
Geocaching = 13	

FACILITY ACTIVITIES	OTHER FACILITY ACTIVITIES
Weight Lifting = 23	need new clean exercise facility
Exercise/Aerobics = 41	Hockey
Yoga/Pilates/Tai Chi = 8	
Karate = 2	
CCC Walking Track = 57	
Dancing = 12	
Swimming = 38	
Darts = 18	
Billiards (Pool) = 22	
Bowling = 44	
Watching Local Sports = 60	

PASSIVE OUTDOOR PURSUITS	OTHER PASSIVE OUTDOOR
Walking/Trails = 127	
Camping = 80	
Gardening = 92	
RC Model Planes = 5	
Other Radio Control Models = 5	

NATURE ACTIVITIES	OTHER NATURE ACTIVITIES
Bird Watching = 55	photography (2)
Nature Walking = 94	restore streams; gardens
Nature Activities/Programs = 27	environmental activities

PARKS	OTHER PARKS
Play In Park = 57	music in park (3)
Picnics = 73	meeting place (2)
Dog Walking = 65	skate park
Playground Use = 50	
Leisurely Visits = 81	

INDOOR ACTIVITIES	OTHER INDOOR ACTIVITIES
Reading = 161	knit, crochet, needle point (3)
Scrapbooking = 25	computer, internet (3)
Quilting = 9	play cards (3)
Sewing = 44	watch TV (3)
Painting/Drawing = 29	movies (2)
Arts/Crafts = 58	wood working (2)
Ceramics/Pottery = 9	puzzles (2)
Music Playing = 85	history, genealogy
Board Games = 56	read bible
Bingo = 19	cook, bake
Video Games = 52	flower arrangements
	family pets, casinos, puzzle, library events, casinos, weave baskets, architectural design

Survey participants were asked which parks and recreational facilities did members of their household use for recreational and cultural activities and approximately how often? The table immediately below shows the PERCENT of responses for each category of use.

PARK/FACILITY USE – RESPONSES BY PERCENT	Use Daily	Use Weekly	Use Monthly	Use Yearly	Never Use	Total Count
Norrie Park	2%	10%	18%	36%	33%	183
Longyear Park & Bandshell	2%	14%	15%	27%	42%	179
Park at corner of Lake & Ayer Streets		4%	7%	5%	83%	165
Park at Shamrock & Bulinski Streets		1%	1%	4%	94%	159
Hiawatha Park	1%	4%	8%	25%	62%	167
Kuitunen Fountain Park	1%	2%	10%	13%	75%	165
Norrie School Playground		1%	2%	5%	92%	159
Sleight School Playground		2%	5%	6%	87%	161
Old Newport School Playground			2%	4%	94%	159
All Saints Academy Playground	1%	1%	3%	10%	85%	163
Depot Park		4%	5%	35%	56%	170
Downtown Pocket Park		7%	12%	24%	57%	169
Rotary Hiawatha Skate Park	2%	3%	1%	5%	89%	159
Randa Softball Field		6%	2%	14%	78%	163
Little League Field/Park	1%	4%	2%	8%	85%	163
Curry Trailer Park (by Fairgrounds)	1%	1%	2%	9%	87%	165
Mt. Zion Overlook Park		4%	8%	33%	55%	169
Patterson Tennis Courts (by Cemetery)	1%	4%	3%	8%	84%	158
GCC Lindquist Center	8%	14%	13%	14%	51%	175
Pat O'Donnell Civic Center	1%	3%	7%	39%	50%	176
Depot Museum	1%		5%	36%	58%	166
Historic Ironwood Theatre		2%	16%	49%	33%	179
Theatre North	1%	1%	7%	42%	49%	180
Memorial Building	1%	5%	19%	29%	46%	182
Library	4%	12%	17%	23%	43%	180

The surveyees were asked how they rate the importance of a list of potential future parks and recreation improvements within the City of Ironwood?

POSSIBLE PARK/RECREATION IMPROVEMENT – RESPONSE BY PERCENT	Extremely Important	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Total Count
Longyear Park Permanent Restrooms	23%	22%	25%	17%	13%	194
Outdoor Skating Rink	12%	20%	30%	21%	17%	193
ATV/Snowmobile Parking Near Downtown	12%	13%	24%	22%	29%	188
Pave Downtown Depot Part of Motorized Trail	7%	8%	23%	22%	40%	180
Additional ATV/Snowmobile Trails	13%	15%	16%	21%	35%	191
Additional Walking/Hiking Trails	19%	20%	26%	18%	17%	193
Additional Bike/Mountain Bike Trails	15%	16%	21%	22%	26%	188
Mountain Bike Skill/Obstacle Park	6%	8%	19%	26%	41%	181
Tennis Court Improvements	7%	11%	23%	27%	30%	188
Outdoor Basketball Courts	8%	12%	27%	27%	26%	190
Outdoor Volleyball Courts	6%	11%	25%	27%	31%	185
Signs describing local history	17%	17%	31%	17%	18%	189
ATV Scramble Area	7%	11%	16%	24%	42%	179
Downtown Pavilion	11%	14%	25%	26%	24%	188
Downtown Playground	12%	14%	21%	23%	30%	186
Dog Park	12%	15%	21%	20%	32%	192
Neighborhood Community Gardens	10%	16%	22%	23%	29%	187
Playground on North Side of Highway 2	9%	18%	25%	24%	24%	190

The person filling out the questionnaire was asked to provide the following demographic information.

Type of Residency:

	Count	Percent
Year-Round	227	97.0%
Seasonal	6	2.6%
Non-Resident	1	0.4%

Total Count: 234

Type of Occupancy:

	Count	Percent
Own Home	209	89.7%
Rent Home or Apartment	24	10.3%

Total Count: 233

Length of Residence in Ironwood:

	Count	Percent
Less than one year	5	2.2%
1 - 4 years	17	7.3%
5 - 10 years	17	7.3%
11 - 14 years	22	9.5%
15 - 20 years	21	9.1%
More than 20 years	150	64.7%

Total Count: 232

Age of Survey Respondent:

	Count	Percent
Age 12 and Under	1	0.4%
Age 13 – 17	0	0.0%
Age 18 – 20	0	0.0%
Age 21 – 35	23	9.8%
Age 36 – 54	59	25.2%
Age 55 – 79	121	51.7%
Age 80+	30	12.8%

Total Count: 234

Primary Source of Household Income:

	Count	Percent
Construction	9	4.1%
Manufacturing	16	7.3%
Transportation & Utilities	4	1.8%
Wholesale/Retail Trade	16	7.3%
Education Services	10	4.6%
Social Security	75	34.4%
Pension	31	14.2%
Dividends, Interest & Rent	1	0.05%
Local/State/Federal Government	11	5.0%
Tourism Industry	6	2.8%
Other	39	17.9%

Total Count: 234

Survey respondents were invited any other constructive comments, suggestions or opinions they might have about city Park and Recreation issues and facilities.

- more signs so it is easier for people to find things.
- don't use tax money on parks & recreation until roads are repaired
- I filled out before hand no one came to get it, so tossed it
- Cooperation! Interest in curling
- fix sidewalks; walking thru caves unimportant
- homeowners cannot afford more millages
- fix roads, sidewalks; cave trails a waste of money; open use of area
- no ATVs or snomos in city or caves; more educ/arts programs
- norrie park tennis court nets & fencing
- clear snow off sidewalks near the schools
- dirty parks from pets; need more indoor play; share rink better
- need signage for trails and former mining sites
- more activities for young adults; better advertise events, activities
- pave shortland ave; paint houses, clean yards, eyesores
- supports MMHP & SISU; Dntn merchants should support SISU
- websites & adventure Guide need more detail; what's in parks
- maintain & repair parks; keep Rt 2 sidewalk open; swim facilities
- most important thing now is jobs in the area
- we should worry about our streets more
- bring back norrie park swim area; improve picnic areas
- police ruin the area for the kids
- improve norrie park by restoring swim area, improving picnic area
- more equipment at the parks for little ones
- enhance depot park & locate festivals, activities there
- more winter activities for tourists; shows at theatre after skiing
- more people should benefit, not just those who benefit the most
- not all ATVers are troublemakers; we ATV as a family activity
- improve longyear, norrie park equipment; make safe for young kids
- you all are doing a great job
- Cleanup LY Park, More Music in Band Shell, Mural @ Pocket Park.
- paved biking/hiking trails would add to the community
- downtown public restrooms
- keep up this type of work; thank you
- advertise natural beauty to visitors
- redo road by hiawatha; embarrassing
- need more places for 18-20 yr olds to hang-out; thank you
- no more dogs in the parks; they scare the children
- improve what is now; we do not recommend the cemetery walk
- coordinate multiple activities
- similar size city offers many resources, amenities
- need sprinkler park & pet zoo for kids; hangout place for teens
- parks are great but invite problems, especially juveniles at night
- need teen center, hold dances, karaoke
- would like new playground in Newport School area
- need improvements at Curry Park campground
- dog park where dogs can run free
- improve access to non-motorized trails; improve handi-cap access

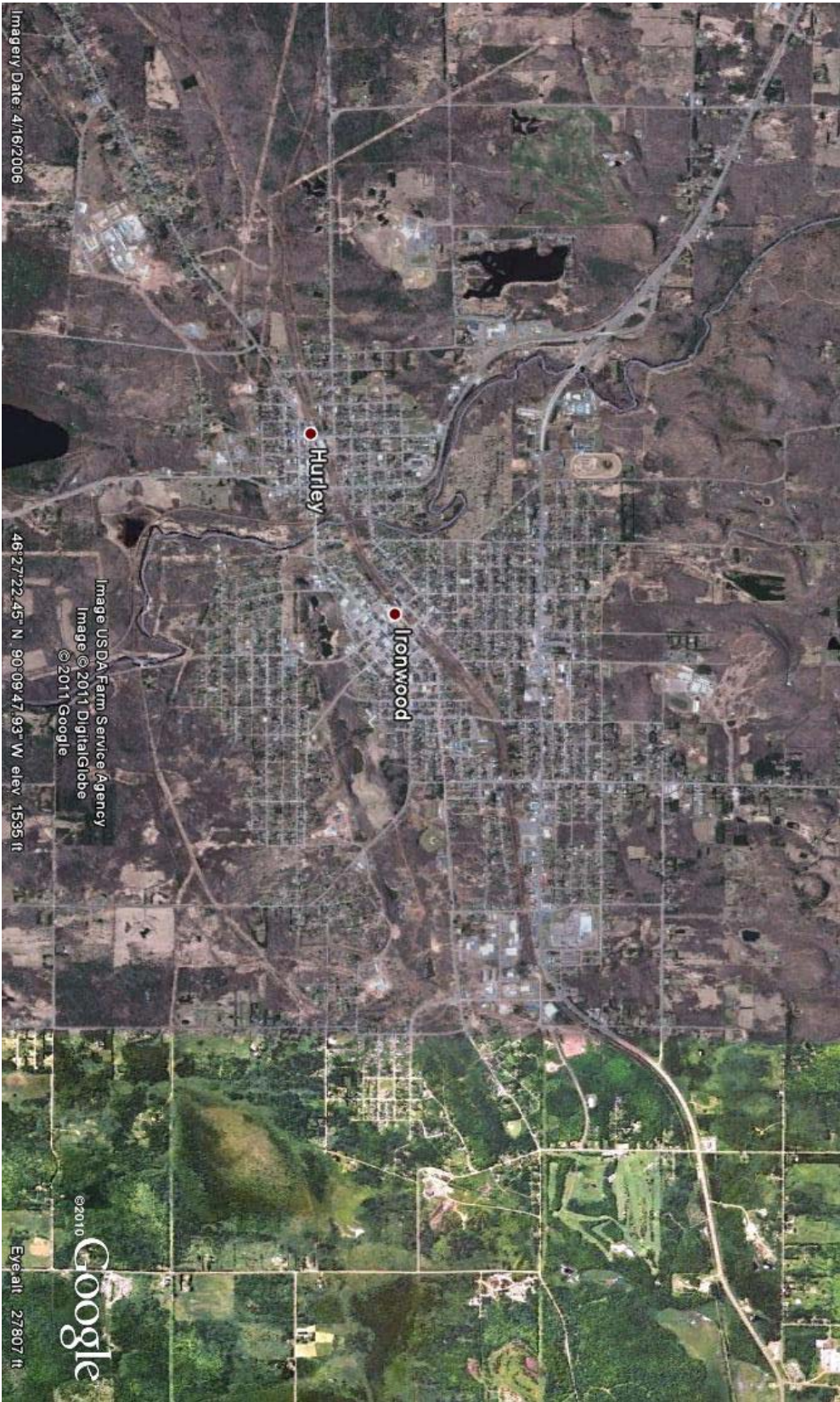
- stop the petty issues and share the cause
- roads need a lot of work
- enforce ATV/Snowmobile on streets only from home to US2/Trail
- rebuild norrie dam fixup park without added taxes
- rename cemetery trail - riverview / riverside
- keep Hiawatha grounds in good condition, mow lawn, good benches
- sand volley ball court
- use norrie park more, enclosed pavillon, fire place for winter
- many unsupervised kids in parks
- use grants or other means to make ironwood more like ashland
- more free activities for single people over 55
- parks need to be maintained and need bathrooms
- walking areas
- plenty of room for both motorized and non-motorized sports
- Ironwood is a great place to live! Parks are necessary for visitors
- take care of what we have before adding new
- Ironwood should work together to improve current parks not make more
- great job thank you
- pursue Miners Memorial Heritage Park and non motroized trails
- Do what you want!
- addressing teen, young adult activities most important
- city must embrace ATV, snowmobile access, development; go forward
- bullying, drug selling make skate park an unsafe place for children

SPECIAL THANKS

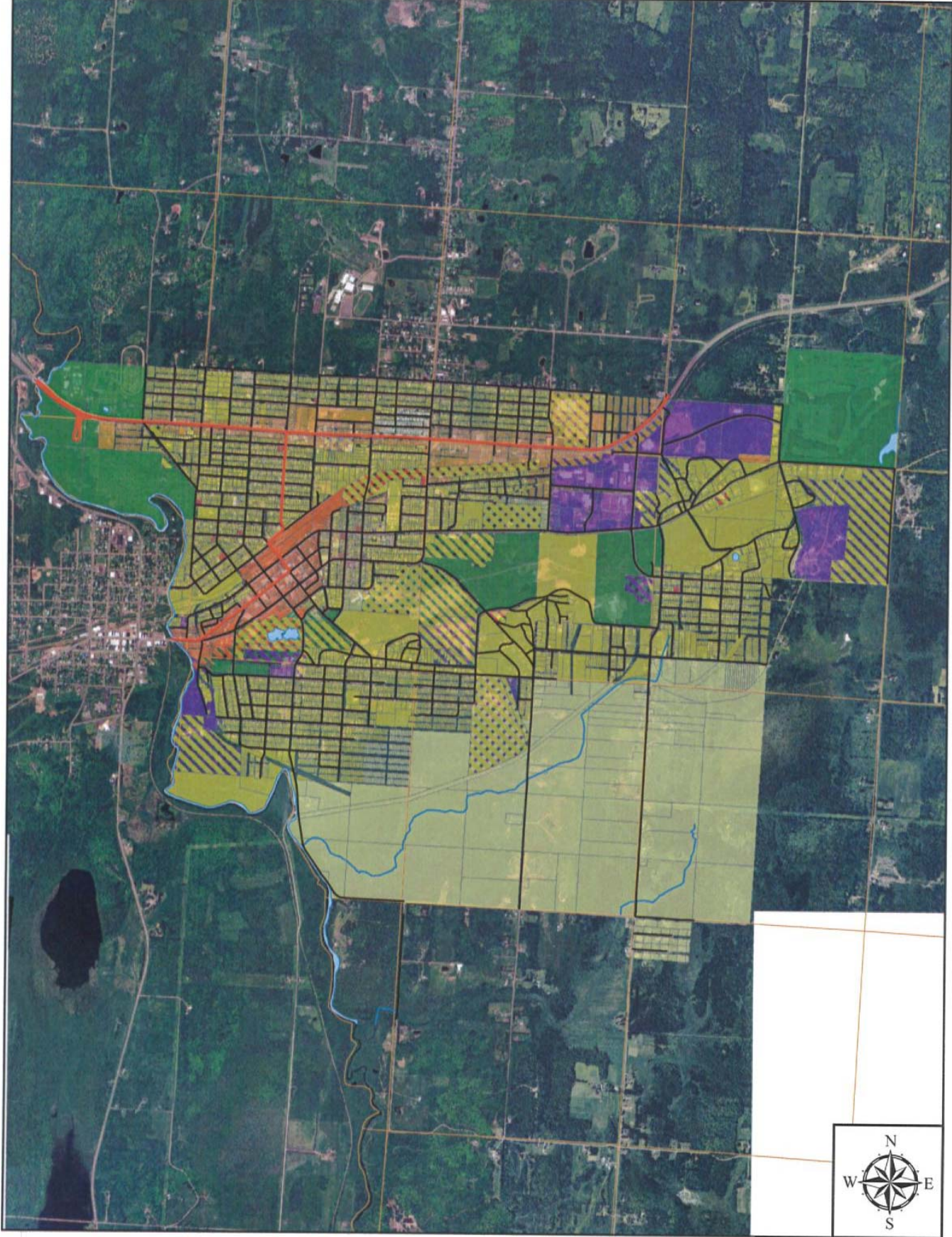
The city is grateful to the following groups for playing instrumental roles in carrying out the city's 2010 Park & Recreation Survey:

- Cadets, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, Luther L. Wright High School (Advisor: David Maki)
- Ms. Wuorinen and her Business Education Students, Luther L. Wright High School
- Boy Scout Troop 323, Hurley-Ironwood
- Survey Subcommittee, Parks & Recreation Committee, City of Ironwood
- Memorial Building Staff

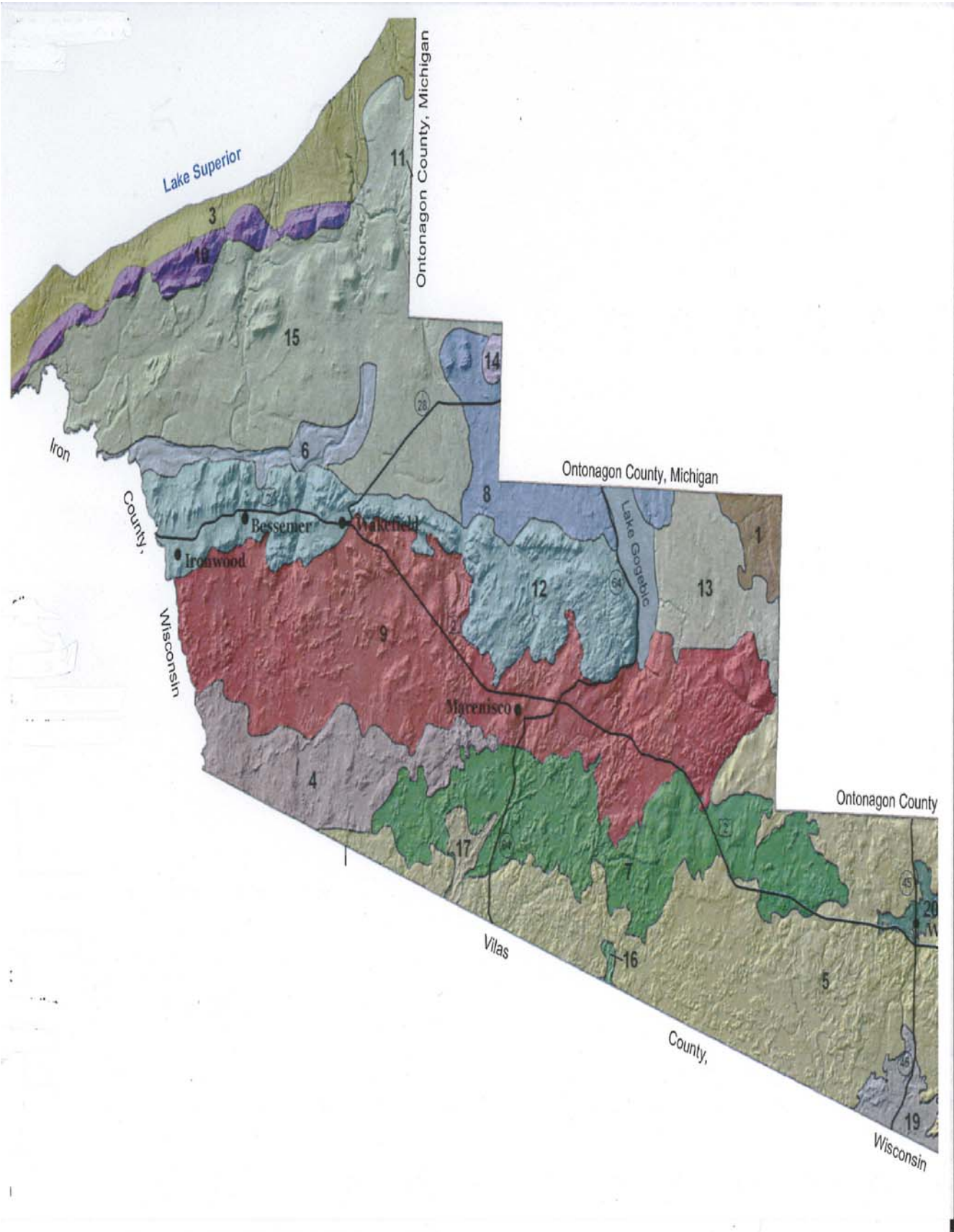
ATTACHMENT B. LOCATION MAP



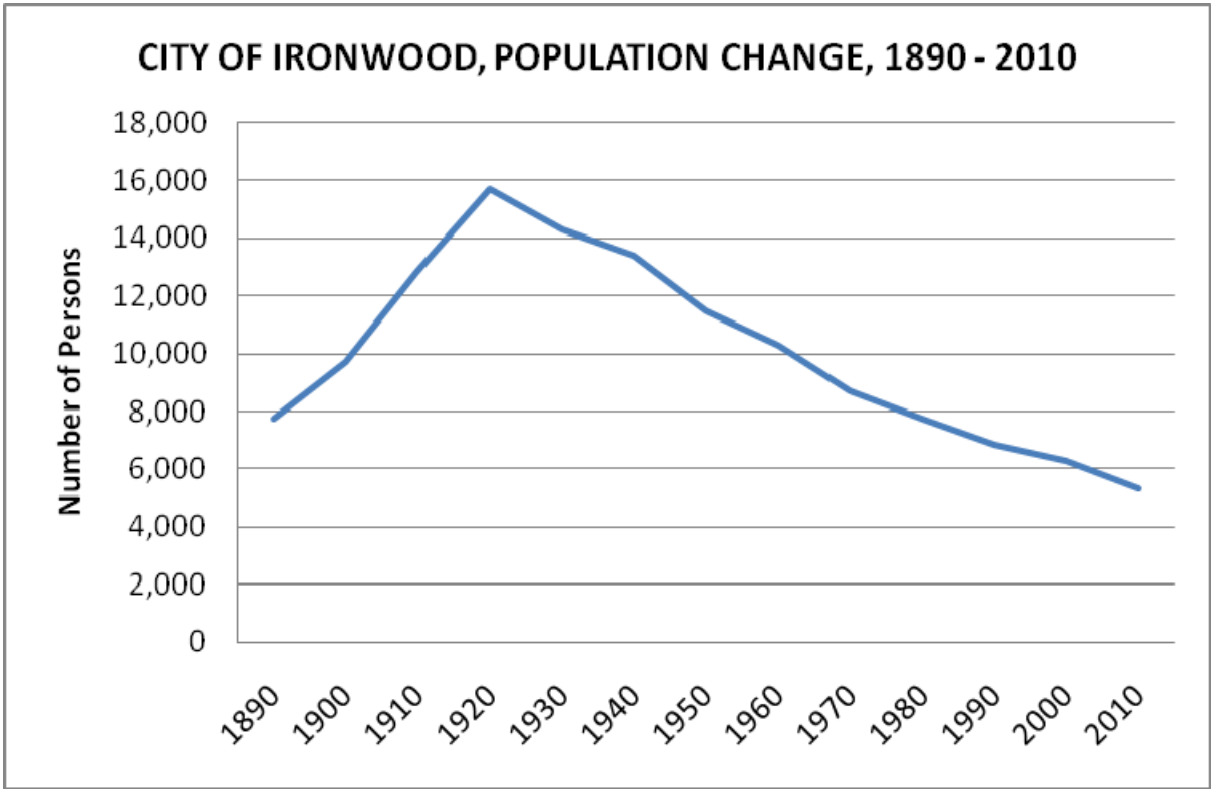
ATTACHMENT C. ZONING MAP



ATTACHMENT D. SOILS MAP



ATTACHMENT E. POPULATION TRENDS



F. PROPOSED BIKE LANES MAP

