

# GOGEBIC COUNTY



## RECREATION PLAN 2013-2018

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Prepared for: Gogebic County Forestry and Parks Commission  
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## Introduction

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Recreational opportunities are an important aspect of the quality life in Gogebic County and are one of the primary reasons people choose to live and vacation here. For this reason, Gogebic County is committed to ensuring that quality recreational facilities are available to both residents and visitors. The 2013-2018 Gogebic County Recreation Plan has been written to guide future parks and recreation improvement activities for the County. The intent of this plan is to evaluate the County's existing recreation facilities, determine future needs, and establish a program of facility improvements.

The Gogebic County Forestry and Parks Commission has been responsible for planning, administration, and oversight of the County Parks and County Forest since 2001. Prior to that, the parks had been administered by the autonomous Gogebic County Road Commission. The parks, built in the 1920s and 1930s as federal Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps projects, had fallen into a state of disrepair in the intervening period due to budget limitations. The transfer of parks to the Forestry and Parks Commission, part of the County Government, enabled the parks to become a self-sustaining enterprise.

By developing this plan, Gogebic County and the Forestry and Parks Commission endeavor to create an affordable and achievable improvement program that will provide for current and future recreational needs. The Commission has been highly effective in its role: Since 2001, 29 of 47 capital improvement projects identified in the 2001-2005 and 2007-2011 recreation plans, in addition to at least 3 projects not identified in the plans, have reached completion. To date, all completed projects have been paid for with County financial resources.

An overview document of the Forestry and Parks Commission and its sites is **Appendix A**.

## Community Description

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### Location

Gogebic County is located in the extreme western part of Michigan's Upper Peninsula (see **Figure 1**). It is bordered by Ontonagon County and Lake Superior to the north, Iron County to the east, and the State of Wisconsin and the Montreal River to the south. The total land area of the County is 1,105 square miles. The greatest expanse of the County is northwest to southeast, a distance of nearly 80 miles. The County contains numerous lakes and streams, and over 90 percent of land is forested. Three percent of the total area (39 sq. miles) is surface water, in bodies of 40 acres or more. The largest inland lake in the County and State is Lake Gogebic, with half located in Gogebic County and half in Ontonagon County.

Established as a county in 1887, Gogebic County contains three incorporated cities



(Ironwood, Bessemer, and Wakefield) and six townships (Bessemer, Erwin, Ironwood [Charter], Marenisco, Wakefield, and Watersmeet). County operations are governed by a seven-member Board of Commissioners. The County Seat is the City of Bessemer.

**Figure 1. Gogebic County Location Map**



**Population, Housing, and Socio-Economic Characteristics**

Most of Gogebic County's population (81 percent) is concentrated on the west end of the County in the cities of Bessemer, Ironwood, and Wakefield and the adjacent townships of Ironwood, Bessemer, Wakefield, and Erwin. The other 19 percent is found in Marenisco and Watersmeet Townships, including the unincorporated communities by those names in the south-central and southeast parts of the County, respectively. The County's population declined by 5.4 percent from 2000 to 2010. See **Table 1** for details.

**Table 1. Area Population Levels**

GOGEBIC COUNTY (2010)	16,427	
Gogebic County (2000)	17,370	
Population Change (2000-2010)	-943 (-5.4%)	
Municipality	Total Persons (2010)	Percent of Total
Bessemer (City)	1,905	11.6%
Ironwood (City)	5,387	32.8%
Wakefield (City)	1,851	11.3%
Bessemer Township	1,176	7.1%
Erwin Township	326	2.0%
Ironwood Township	2,333	14.2%
Marenisco Township	1,727	10.5%
Wakefield Township	305	1.9%
Watersmeet Township	1,417	8.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The County population is 91.7 percent White, with a significant (4.1 percent) African-American population in Marenisco Township and a notable (2.4 percent) American Indian population located primarily in Watersmeet Township on the Lac Vieux Desert Indian Reservation.

At the time of the previous recreation plan (a current figure is not available), 24.5 percent of Gogebic County's population over age five had a disability as defined by the Census Bureau (physical, mental, or emotional). This is higher than the 2011 (American Community Survey) state average of 13.9 percent. Accessibility is taken into account in local recreation planning, and recreation facilities and sites are upgraded to meet universal design guidelines as improvements are made (see **Figure 2**).

The County's disability disparity with the state may be attributed partially to Gogebic County's relatively old population. Projections point to a gradual increase in the 75 years-and-older population, with increases in the 30-44 range and the 45-64 range. The younger age groups, 0-14 and 15-29, have both seen decreases. Although estimates show a continued decline in population, the population appears to be stabilizing, and there are signs that point to gradual growth. See **Table 2** for basic population characteristics.

### **Figure 2. Seven Principles of Universal Design**

1. **Equitable Use:** The design is useful and marketable to any group of users.
2. **Flexibility in Use:** The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.
3. **Simple and Intuitive Use:** Use of the design is easy to understand.
4. **Perceptible Information:** The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user.
5. **Tolerance for Error:** The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintentional actions.
6. **Low Physical Effort:** The design can be used efficiently and comfortably.
7. **Size and Space for Approach and Use:** Appropriate size and space is provided for approach and use

**Table 2. Population Characteristics**

<b>Population distribution</b>				
	<b>County</b>		<b>State</b>	
	<i>Persons</i>	<i>% of Total</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>% of Total</i>
Total	16,427		9,883,640	
Male	8,760	53.3%	4,848,114	49.1%
Female	7,667	46.7%	5,035,526	50.9%
Median Age	44.8		38.9	
Under 5 Years	765	4.7%	596,286	6.0%
5 to 19 Years	2,454	14.9%	2,052,599	20.8%
20 to 44 Years	4,586	27.9%	3,111,195	31.5%
45 to 64 Years	5,108	31.1%	2,762,030	27.9%
65 Years and over	3,514	21.4%	1,361,460	13.8%
White	15,059	91.7%	7,803,120	78.9%
Black or African American	678	4.1%	1,400,362	14.2%
American Indian and Alaska Native	394	2.4%	62,007	0.6%
Asian or Pacific Islander	38	0.2%	238,199	2.4%
Other single races	32	0.2%	147,029	1.5%
Two or more races	226	1.4%	230,319	2.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### **Economy**

The economy of Gogebic County is primarily based on three sectors: diverse manufacturing industries, forest products, and tourism. Industrial diversification introduced the precision tools, plastic molding, and fabric products industries to the area. Historically, Gogebic County's economy has been built around natural resources-based industries, including tourism.

The tourism industry is focused on the wealth of natural resources located within the county and focuses on the Ottawa National Forest/Sylvania Wilderness Area (hiking, camping, canoeing, snowshoeing, etc.), the Gogebic County Forest, four alpine ski hills/resorts, and miles of ski, snowmobile and mountain bike trails. Gogebic County is also home to the Black River National Scenic Byway and the North Country Trail, a hiking route that extends 4,600 miles from New York to North Dakota. The County also has a two-year community college, which provides employment as well as cultural amenities. At the east end of the County, the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa operates a gaming resort-casino.

The County has made efforts to seek new sources of revenue. Businesses are capitalizing on the great natural beauty of the County and its plentiful lakes, streams, forests, and snowfall to grow the tourist-based economy, but at the same time, efforts have been made to attract small, diversified industrial firms to the area. Tax-free development sites known as "Renaissance Zones" were created in the mid-1990s to attract investment to the area and are now home to several diversified industrial firms. Gogebic Community College has expanded and provides many jobs to the area, as well as educating and training county residents.

### **Transportation**

Gogebic County is served by three federal highways: U.S. Routes 2, 45, and 51. U.S. 51 joins with U.S. Route 2 in Hurley, Wisconsin less than one mile from Ironwood. Two major state highways also serve the County: M-28 and M-64. In addition, the County Road Commission and local governments maintain numerous local roads. The county has freight rail service. Gogebic County owns and co-operates an airport in Ironwood Township. The County owns the land the airport is situated on and shares the airport's operating structure with Iron County, Wisconsin. The airport is served through the federal Essential Air Service program

by Great Lakes Airlines, a commuter link to Delta Airlines via Minneapolis. Intercity bus service is provided by Indian Trails with daily connections through Escanaba to the Upper Peninsula, Michigan's Lower Peninsula, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Gogebic County Transit provides two fixed routes and local demand-response transit service within the county.

### **Land Use and Zoning**

Gogebic County land use is very diverse, ranging from industry to forestry. Most of the population and urban use (residential, commercial, etc.) is centered in the western end of the County around the cities of Ironwood, Bessemer, and Wakefield and in smaller pockets near Marenisco and Watersmeet. Zoning is in effect in all cities and townships, and long-established parks are recognized and protected within the local ordinances.

Federal, state, County, and private forestlands, along with state parks, make up the majority of land cover in the county. These are tremendous assets for recreational development. Land ownership throughout the County is represented in **Figure 3**. Gogebic County is home to the only County Forest program in the State of Michigan, and the program is completely self-sustaining. Though the forest provides obvious recreation opportunities, another important purpose is to provide for timber sales which are the primary funding source of the forestry program. The majority of the forest cover is harvestable land dominated by northern hardwoods, aspen, and coniferous trees.

At the time of the previous Recreation Plan, the Gogebic County Forestry and Parks Commission administered a total of 50,290 acres under its forest management program, with timber rights to an additional 374 acres. Of the total 50,664 acres, there are approximately 40,300 acres of productive or harvestable land. The same numbers generally still apply. The entire forest is now in a multi-year process of being re-inventoried, after which up-to-date exact numbers will become available.

Figure 3. Gogebic County Land Ownership Map



### **Topography**

Gogebic County contains two belts of undulating terrain. The first of these is the Gogebic Range, which consists of igneous formations and contains iron ore bodies extending from the Montreal River to Lake Gogebic. The second belt, the Gogebic Highlands, consists of steep-sloped clay bluffs extending from Little Girl's Point to the Porcupine Mountains.

### **Geology and Soils**

The various soil associations found in Gogebic County have been placed under six categories by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. They are upland areas dominated by 1) loamy soils, 2) loamy soils with associated rock outcrops, 3) loamy soils with associated sandy soils, 4) organic soils with associated wet loams, 5) heavy loamy soils, and 6) clayey, lacustrine soils. Within these categories, there are nine general soils associations. On-site inspection of soils, slope, and geology are essential when planning for development. For example, a particular site may have severe limitations for septic tank and drain field installation due to poorly drained soils, or bedrock near the surface may pose problems for construction of basements.

Lake Gogebic County Park and Little Girl's Point are both located in areas known to have moderate to severe limitations for recreational land use development. Therefore, a suitability analysis must be performed for each planned facility. Soils information, including slope, wetness, stoniness, and texture, helps to define the limitations imposed. Context-sensitive design concepts can help minimize the impact of facilities.

**Climatic Conditions**

The climate of the Gogebic County area is one of short, cool summers with long, cold winters. On average, the first date of temperature below 32 degrees Fahrenheit can take place anywhere from late August in the eastern part of the County to late September or early October in the western area along Lake Superior. The average date for the last freezing temperature in spring can take place from May in the western area along Lake Superior to early June in the eastern interior. **Table 3** provides climatic data for Ironwood in the west and Watersmeet in the east.



**Table 3. Gogebic County Climate**

Weather Characteristic	Ironwood	Watersmeet
Warmest Month	July	July
Avg. Maximum Temperature (° F)	76.1	78.0
Avg. Minimum Temperature (° F)	55.5	50.2 F
Coldest Month	January	January
Avg. Maximum Temperature (° F)	20.3	22.5
Avg. Minimum Temperature (° F)	2.9	0.7
Days Above 90° F	1.1	3.2
Days Below 0° F	38.0	45.2
Average Annual Precipitation (in.)	34.93	30.99
Average Annual Snowfall (in.)	188.2	Not Available

*Source: NOAA Climate Normals, 1981-2010*

### **Water Resources**

Gogebic County is traversed by numerous rivers and streams and is dotted with inland lakes. Notable rivers include the Montreal, Black, Presque Isle, and Ontonagon. Notable lakes include Lake Gogebic, Lac Vieux Desert, Cisco Chain of Lakes, Langford Lake, Presque Isle River Flowage,



*Island camp site located on McDonald Lake*

Pomeroy Lake, McDonald Lake, Black River Lake, Thousand Island Lake area, and numerous lakes of the Sylvania Wilderness in Watersmeet Township. The availability of groundwater is extremely variable depending upon the geology at any particular location. Yields from glacial deposits are generally fair, yielding 6 to 50 gallons per minute (gpm) at a well. Water supplies from bedrock wells are not prevalent due to low yields of 5 gpm or less.

The type of surface geology containing the smallest amount of groundwater supplies is the lake bed – clay type. This type of glacial geology is found along the Lake Superior shoreline in the County. The only type of glacial geology yielding abundant supplies of groundwater (over 50 gpm) is the glacial outwash in the eastern portions of the County (Watersmeet Township). Wells in bedrock north to northwest of the Keweenaw Fault have additional problems, such as low yields and large amounts of chloride (salt) due to mixing of waters from different geologic strata. This mixing is often due to improper well drilling practices, such as lack of grouting.

### **Vegetation and Wildlife**

Fifty-five percent of Gogebic County's overall forestland is of the Northern Hardwoods type (dominated by maple and birch). The second most extensive type of forest cover in the County is aspen. The County is also interspersed with numerous conifer swamps, containing tamarack, cedar, balsam, and white and black spruce. As earlier mentioned, these tree cover types are those which also dominate the County Forest itself. The Sylvania Wilderness has a notable stand of old-growth white pine.

Certain animal habitats in the county warrant special consideration. A deeryard, for example, is a gathering place for whitetail deer during the winter season when there is a shortage of food. The lures of a deeryard are reduced snow depth, which provides greater ability to find food, and the thermal cover given by the conifer canopy. Deeryards dwindle in number over the course of a winter, affecting the deer population accordingly. The county also contains Bald Eagle nesting areas which can also be utilized by osprey and great blue heron. There are scattered waterfowl nesting areas located in Marenisco, Bessemer, and Watersmeet Townships, which are frequented by ducks, geese, cranes, and kingfishers. Other wildlife known to inhabit the county include black bear, coyote, gray wolf, fox, beaver, rabbit, muskrat, squirrel, chipmunk, and lynx.

## Administrative Structure

Parks are administered by the Gogebic County Forestry and Parks Commission (appointed by the County Board of Commissioners) and the Forestry and Parks Director, who is responsible for day-to-day operations of the park system and the County Forest. (See **Figure 4**.) The Gogebic County Forestry and Parks Commission makes final decisions on the parks. The Forestry and Parks Commission meets the third Thursday of the month, and its meetings are open to the public.

The Forestry and Parks Commission and its operations are financially self-sustaining (with the exception of project-specific external grant funding). Revenues and expenditures in 2012 are shown in **Table 4**.

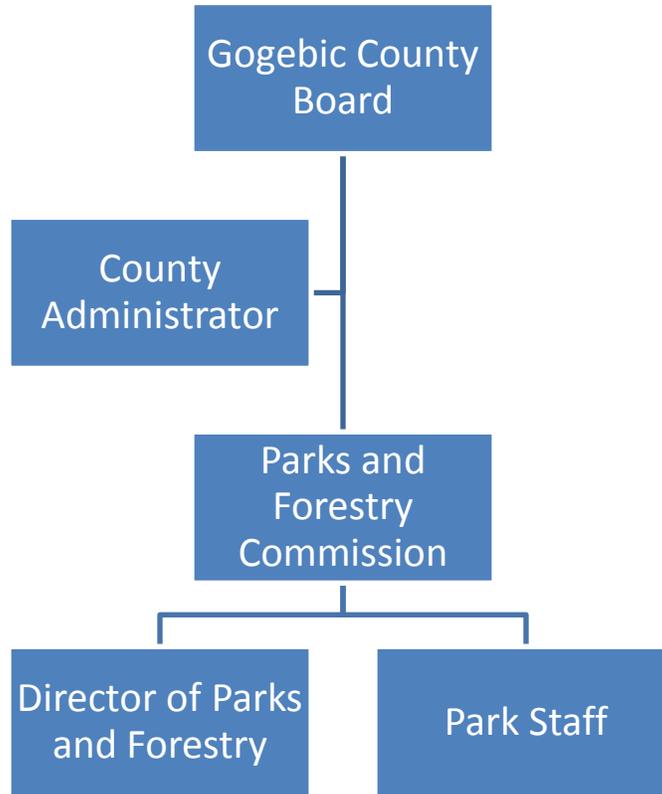
**Table 4. Forestry & Parks Commission Finances, 2012**

Component	Revenues	Expenditures	Net
Lake Gogebic County Park	51,848.00	40,435.09	11,412.91
Little Girl's Point & Lodge	54,631.34	69,173.76	-14,542.42
Forestry to Parks	10,000		10,000.00
<b>TOTAL PARKS</b>	<b>\$116,479.34</b>	<b>\$109,608.85</b>	<b>\$6,870.49</b>
<b>TOTAL FORESTRY</b>	<b>\$491,773.51</b>	<b>\$486,965.35</b>	<b>\$4,808.16</b>
<b>TOTAL COMMISSION</b>	<b>\$608,252.85</b>	<b>\$596,574.20</b>	<b>\$11,678.65</b>

Lake Gogebic County Park and Little Girl's Point both have seasonal park managers and conducts basic maintenance in-house, but major repairs are put out to bid. The primary source of income for the parks is camping fees, with annual income and expenditures slightly over \$100,000. The major source of income for the Forestry Department is timber sales, providing over \$400,000 in revenues.

Having a staffed Forestry and Parks Department, the Commission has rarely gotten volunteer assistance with recreation projects. In one instance a Boy Scout troop worked with the County on a project, and the opportunity for future collaboration is always there. The Commission has worked with the Gogebic Conservation District, Ottawa National Forest, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and Michigan State University – Extension.

**Figure 4. Forestry and Parks Organizational Chart**



## Recreation Inventory

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The County owns and operates two major parks: one located on Little Girl's Point on Lake Superior and the other at the southwest end of Lake Gogebic. The County also owns a park with a rustic campground on the north end of McDonald Lake and oversees a trail network in Ironwood Township. Finally, the County is in the process of acquiring portions of the Copper Peak Ski Complex, which is thus included here as a County-owned facility. In addition to these County-owned facilities and sites, a preexisting inventory of all known sites in the County, has been updated with input from numerous local governments (**Appendix B**). **Figure 5** shows the location of these facilities and others throughout the County.

### **Little Girl's Point County Park**

Little Girl's Point is a 271-acre facility with 31 campground sites, a Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) boat launch, restrooms, changing rooms, playground equipment, picnic sites, and access for swimming and fishing Lake Superior. The park is also home to "The Lodge" multi-purpose building. The Lodge is the location of numerous educational, recreational and social activities and programs, such as school outings, family reunions, and picnics. Campground occupancy has been near 100 percent since 2011, at which time it had risen from 40 percent five years prior.

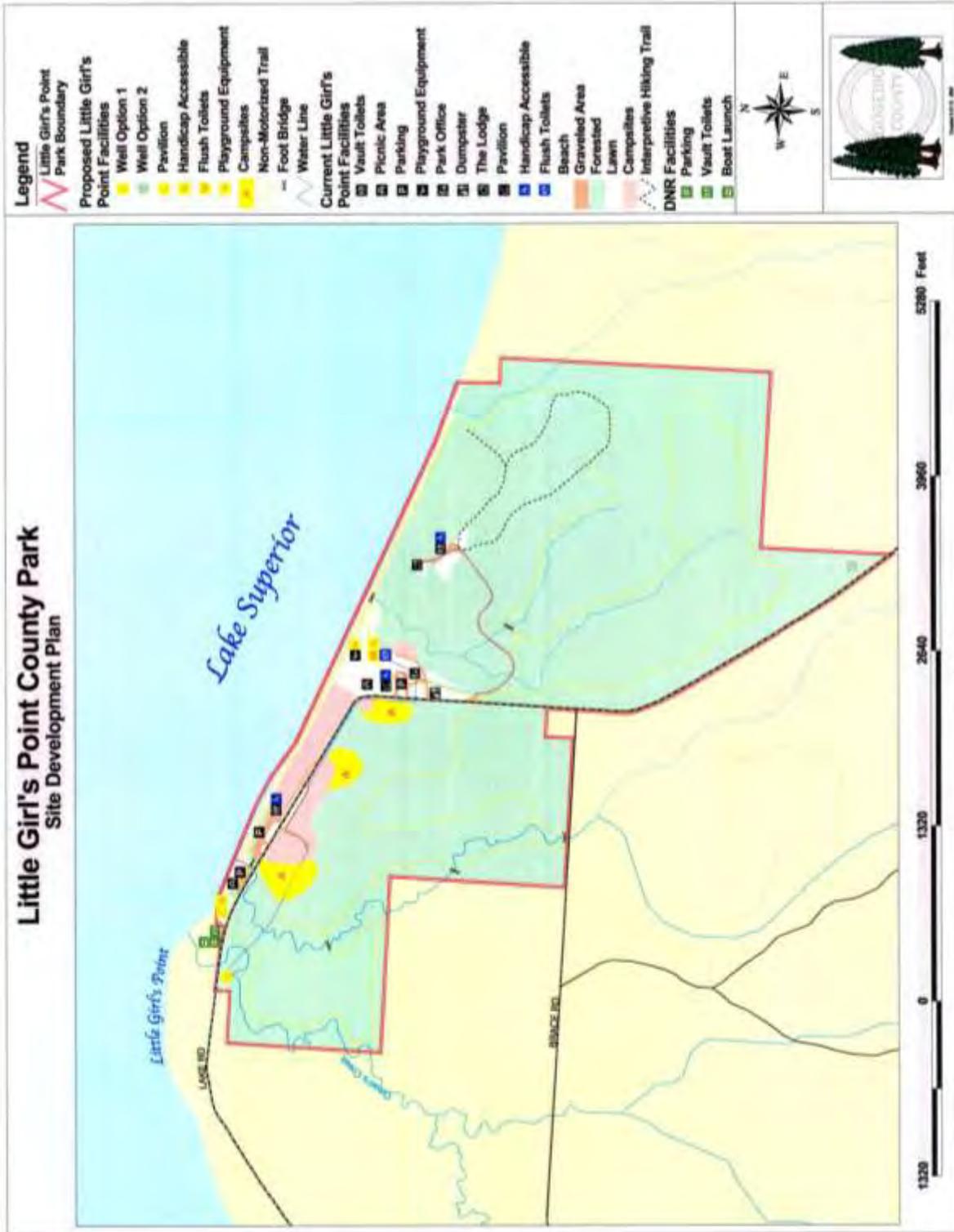
The Park's desirability and potential for use are increased further as a result of a DNR-funded grant, which is being used for the following amenities: playground equipment, a day use pavilion, upgraded restrooms, water system improvements, development of additional campsites, and a non-motorized trail system. Most of the park meets accessibility guidelines. **Figure 6** is a basic map of the park, and **Figure 7** is the park's current site plan.

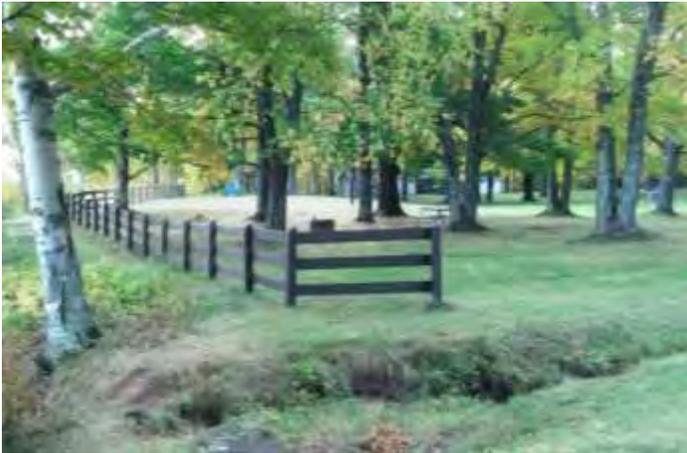


Figure 6. Little Girl's Point County Park Map



Figure 7. Little Girl's Point County Park Site Plan Map





### **Lake Gogebic County Park**

Lake Gogebic County Park is a 133-acre recreational facility providing access to one of Michigan's largest inland lakes. Recreation facilities include 53 camping sites, a boat launch, swimming beach, restrooms, play field, and playground area. Playground equipment includes a

swing, slide, merry-go-round, and horseshoe pits. Approximately half of the campsites are rented seasonally; a dozen monthly; and the remaining sites weekly or daily. The entire park meets accessibility guidelines. See **Figure 8** for a map.



### **McDonald Lake County Park**

McDonald Lake County Park is home to a rustic campground, making it unique from the other two County-owned parks. The park has six campsites, half of which are located at the northern end of the lake, with the other half located on islands in the lake. There is no fee to camp, and the sites are

rustic, designed for tent camping only. Each site has a picnic table. The three sites on the lakeshore have tent pads and fire rings, but the island sites do not. Most of the park's facilities (including the park bathroom) meet accessibility guidelines. See **Figure 9** for a map.

Figure 8. Lake Gogebic County Park Map



**Figure 9. McDonald Lake County Park Map**



### **Powers Road Recreation Area**

Located in the far northwestern part of Gogebic County, the 25-mile trail network was developed in cooperation with a local mountain biking group with the intention of connecting to regional trails in nearby parts of Upper Michigan and Northern Wisconsin. Area trail planning is conducted by the Gogebic Range Trail Authority. The trail allows multiple uses: non-motorized, ATV/ORV, and equestrian. None of the trail network meets accessibility guidelines. See **Figure 10** for a map of the system.

### **Copper Peak Ski Complex**

Copper Peak Ski Complex contains the world's largest ski jumping hill along with accessory facilities such as chair lifts, a visitor's center, restroom facilities, and parking. The ski jump is 26 stories in height, offering panoramic views of Lake Superior, the Porcupine Mountains, the Apostle Islands, and distances as far away as Minnesota. Copper Peak is the U.P.'s largest tourist attraction and a popular summer-time destination where guests can ride the chairlift from the parking area and visitor's center to the structure and then take an elevator ride to the top of the structure.

The complex sits on approximately 300 acres of land along the shoreline of the Black River and offers the potential for excellent year-round trail opportunities and many outdoor recreation activities. The complex is currently owned and managed by Copper Peak, Inc., a Michigan non-profit corporation, but plans to transfer ownership and control of portions of the complex to the County are being considered. Some parts of the complex meet accessibility guidelines.

**Previous DNR Recreation Grants**

DNR recreation grants previously received by Gogebic County are as follows:

Lake Superior Park Addition: #26-00178 of 1969, closed, in the amount of \$10,000

- Acquisition of 101 acres of land (complete)

Lake Gogebic Dock Rehabilitation: #TF93-267 of 1993, closed, in the amount of \$86,300

- Mobilization (complete)
- Removal of old dock (complete)
- Dock (steel pile type; remains in good repair)
- Miscellaneous (lighting, erosion; remains in good repair)

Lake Superior Park: #BF95-194 of 1995, withdrawn, in the amount of \$34,000

- Well
- Water lines to/from well

Lake Superior Observation Deck: #TF96-118 of 1996, withdrawn, in the amount of \$57,750

- Observation deck
- Beach access
- Paving of parking area
- Toilets

Little Girl's Point Improvements: #TF10-094 of 2010, active, in the amount of \$235,500

All in progress:

- Playground
- Pavilion
- Restroom improvements
- Utilities
- Campsite development
- Trail



### **Recreation in Gogebic County**

Recreation facilities in the county span a full spectrum of activities and uses: active and passive; athletic, natural resource-oriented, and casual; facility-based and land-based; and fixed and transient in location. Gogebic County's own Forestry and Parks Commission offers a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities with its abundance of public land and forested recreation sites. County-owned facilities include campgrounds, boat launches, and beaches. The State and Ottawa National Forest offer many similar amenities on a much larger land base. Local governments in the county offer such facilities as baseball fields, basketball courts, and playgrounds.

The county is also known for its abundance of recreational and competitive ski complexes and resorts, and most of these are owned and operated by the private sector. One complex, the Copper Peak Ski Complex, is currently being considered for partial conveyance to Gogebic County. Another complex, Mount Zion, is owned and operated by Gogebic Community College. Many of these complexes offer terrain parks and trails in the off-season, and potential exists for development of additional summer activities.

A variety of trail enthusiasts have discovered that the county and entire Western Upper Peninsula offer great opportunities for trail development. The most prominent of these has been the snowmobiling community, which has defined winter—and even year-round—tourism countywide for decades. More recently, all-terrain and off-road vehicle (ATV/ORV) enthusiasts have been brought into the motorized fold, along with subsets such as dirt-bikers.

Meanwhile, in concurrence with national trends, non-motorized trail activities have become increasingly popular. Such "route-based" activities, including hiking, biking, and



paddling, are being promoted through such campaigns as the Western U.P. Water Trail, recently developed by the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region, and

"The Wilds of Michigan," a Pure Michigan tourism campaign endeavoring to bring the region's motorized winter sports image more in line with a well-rounded four-season tourist economy in Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties. This transition is especially important in light of climate changes unfavorable to winter weather. While winter sports such as skiing (facilitated by trails and several area resorts) and snowshoeing continue to play an important role, other trail-based "quiet sports," such as hiking and biking, are an area of growth.

In response to the growing demand for trail facilities and tourist accommodations, local businesses, snowmobile clubs, all-terrain/off-road vehicle (ATV/ORV), cross-country skiing, and mountain biking enthusiasts formed the Gogebic Range Trail Authority (GRTA), which administers a trail system plan within the County. The system connects with existing regional trails and others planned or under development in Wisconsin and the western Upper Peninsula. Currently the primary function of GRTA is snowmobile trail grooming.

The Powers Road trail network was developed jointly between the Gogebic County Forestry and Parks Commission and a local mountain bike group. The Powers Road trail traverses thousands of acres of northern hardwood forest land and along the scenic Montreal River. This is a multi-use trail for mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking, and ATV use.

Another trail system is being constructed in the Watersmeet area. Wilderness Lakes Trails is a non-profit corporation developing a non-motorized closed-loop trail connecting the community of Watersmeet with Land O' Lakes, Wisconsin. The trail system traverses many different land ownerships, primarily the Ottawa National Forest, and is planned to be 40 miles long at completion. A 13-mile segment in Watersmeet Township will be completed by late summer 2013. Part of this segment is already completed and is paved and 10 feet in width. Wisconsin segments are separate from the road, whereas all segments in Michigan are concurrent with existing roads. Some segments, particularly those sharing existing routes, were developed as early as 2004. The entire network is scheduled for completion in 2016.

Both motorized and non-motorized networks are growing and playing a meaningful role in the economy, but on the ground the coexistence is not always peaceful. Some trails are happily shared by both types of users, whereas others are hotly debated as to who should be

able to travel where and when. Equestrian use is particularly controversial and often rejected by both motorized and other non-motorized interests. Thus, all parties must continually be engaged to keep an open dialogue to ensure equitable use of all lands and routes.

Long-standing means of recreation, such as campgrounds, water accesses, and athletic venues will remain as important as ever, but recreation is not a zero-sum game: Trail activities can grow and diversify, contributing to existing lands and facilities to serve diverse user groups.

## Planning Process

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This Recreation Plan was developed with assistance from the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region (WUPPDR). Planning was initiated with a meeting of the Gogebic County Forestry and Parks Commission on October 18, 2012, at which members proposed potential projects for the five-year action plan. Based on this information, a survey (**Appendix C**) was developed, approved by the Forestry and Parks Director, and publicized through a press release (**Appendix D**) to local media on November 1. An announcement of the survey is known to have been made on WUPM-FM Radio, Ironwood. The survey was open until December 3 at the WUPPDR website, and print copies were available at the Gogebic County Administrator's office and Forestry and Parks office for submission by December 3. The survey received 35 responses (**Appendix E**), which were taken into account for this plan.

A second Forestry and Parks Commission meeting was attended by WUPPDR on November 13, 2012. Based on survey results and input from the commissioners, items in the previous Action Plan were reviewed for status, with some eliminated and some maintained as projects to be included in the new plan. Goals and objectives were also reviewed and modified. Follow-up on more formulaic parts of the plan was made by WUPPDR with the Forestry and Parks Director. At a third Commission meeting (second attended by WUPPDR) on January 17, a plan draft was reviewed and approved (conditionally, with corrections) for public review. The one-month review-and-comment period was announced at the meeting, by press release, and in an Ironwood Daily Globe column (**Appendix F**) to begin on January 22 and conclude February 21. The draft was available at [www.wuppdr.org](http://www.wuppdr.org) and in print at the Forestry and Parks Commission Office and the Ironwood Carnegie Library. No comments were received.

Notice of the required public hearing, to take place at a regular meeting of the County Board of Commissioners on February 27, was published in the Ironwood Daily Globe on February 19, 2013 (**Appendix G**). Meanwhile, the Gogebic County Forestry and Parks Commission met on February 21 to recommend adoption of the plan to the County Board of Commissioners. At this meeting, the Forestry and Parks Commission heard a presentation by

Copper Peak, Inc., the non-profit organization owning and operating the Copper Peak Ski Complex in Ironwood Township, regarding future conveyance of part of the complex to Gogebic County. The group requested inclusion in the Recreation Inventory of County-owned sites as well as items in the Goals and Objectives and Action Program pertaining to trail development and improvements of ski facilities. The Forestry and Parks Commission passed a resolution (**Appendix H**) recommending adoption of the plan to the County Board conditioned upon these additions.

On February 27 at 5:00, the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing to take comments on the Recreation Plan before adoption. As indicated in the meeting minutes (**Appendix I**), no comments were heard. Following the hearing, the County Board unanimously passed a resolution to adopt the Recreation Plan (**Appendix J**).

## Goals and Objectives

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The overarching goal of the Gogebic County Forestry and Parks Commission is to maintain a variety of both developed and undeveloped sites and opportunities for recreation for both residents and visitors. This can be accomplished through an affordable and achievable capital improvement program that will increase use and user



satisfaction at County facilities. Though Gogebic County's recreation opportunities are offered by a diverse group of local governments and other providers, the County-owned facilities are the focus of this Recreation Plan.

The Forestry and Parks Commission's effectiveness at carrying out planned projects has been established over the course of the previous two recreation plans. For example, the County has greatly increased camping occupancy at Lake Gogebic County Park. Major upgrades in progress at Little Girl's Point will broaden use and interest in an already thriving facility. Future offerings of newly developed and improved existing County facilities will support a well-rounded parks operation. Most of the County's projects in the proceeding Action Plan (**Table 5**) are geared toward improvements to and expansion of existing sites and facilities.

As trail use for both motorized and non-motorized recreation continues to increase in the Upper Peninsula and nationwide, trail networks expand, leaving areas outside of those networks at a competitive disadvantage. The County has a goal to continue development and expansion of its trail network consistent with resident desires and trail group initiatives. The survey done for this plan indicated strong support for trail development in the Powers Road Recreation Area, where there is also a need for regional connectivity. Snowmobile trails have a similar need for connectivity, specifically between Ironwood and Wakefield (an issue being addressed by the Department of Natural Resources). The County has a good history of working with trail organizations to increase opportunities and will continue to do so.

The Copper Peak Ski Complex, with possible future partial ownership by Gogebic County, offers additional trail and outdoor recreation opportunities. With its status as the world's largest ski jumping hill, it is regaining national and international interest. A strong interest exists in bringing international ski jumping back to Copper Peak as soon as possible. Enhancements to the hill will be necessary to realize this vision and to fully benefit from the potential this complex offers. Planned improvements include lighting improvements, addition of plastic to allow for year-round jumping, accommodation of additional year-round trail use (for example, hiking and mountain biking in summer and cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in winter), snow-making capabilities, and safety fencing.

The end result of trail improvements will be a better quality of life for residents and economic prosperity derived from utilization by outside visitors. By working in tandem with initiatives such as The Wilds of Michigan and organizations such as Copper Peak, Inc., the Forestry and Parks Commission can produce a recreational end product greater than the sum of its parts.

Of 27 projects identified in the 2001-2005 Gogebic County Recreation Plan, 20 were completed, along with an additional 3 projects not in the plan. The total cost, \$594,755, was funded entirely by the County. Only in 2010 did the Forestry and Parks Commission first utilize outside funding from the DNR (notwithstanding pre-Commission grants awarded to the County) to undertake major improvements of a County facility, Little Girl's Point Park. Including this project, 9 of 20 projects in the 2007-2012 plan either have been accomplished or are in progress. This Recreation Plan update carries over some uncompleted projects from the previous plan and identifies several new ones in the proceeding Five-Year Action Plan.

## Action Program

### Capital Improvements Schedule

Recreation priorities were identified according to the current and projected needs of Gogebic County and have been addressed in the five-year capital improvements schedule.

**Table 5. Five-Year Action Plan**

Project	Location	Est. Cost	Funding	
<b>2013</b>				
1	Rehabilitate beach	Lake Gogebic	\$5,000	Local
2	Improve trail stairway at The Lodge	Little Girl's Point	\$7,500	Passport/Local
3	Improve trails to tenting sites	McDonald Dam	\$3,000	Local
4	Install fencing or barrier at Montreal River Gorge	Powers Road	\$5,000	Local
5	Acquire/install ski jump lighting	Copper Peak	\$300,000	MNRTF/Local
<b>2014</b>				
1	Upgrade and install new playground equipment near beach	Lake Gogebic	\$7,500	Local
2	Develop trailhead	Little Girl's Point	\$7,500	Passport/ Local
3	Improve wet sections of multiple-use trail	Powers Road	\$5,000	Local
<b>2015</b>				
1	Construct pavilion near beach	Lake Gogebic	\$25,000	Local
2	Hunter walking trail development	Powers Road	\$7,500	Passport/ Local
3	Install additional fencing throughout	Little Girl's Point	\$6,000	Local
4	Install plastic ski jump	Copper Peak	\$1,500,000	MNRTF/USDA-RD/ Local/Other
<b>2016</b>				
1	Initiate tree planting program	Lake Gogebic	\$2,500	Local
2	Improve tent pads	McDonald Dam	\$3,000	Local
3	Install new fire rings at tent sites	McDonald Dam	\$3,000	Local
<b>2017</b>				
1	Repair boat ramp and dock	McDonald Dam	\$5,000	Local
2	Construct additional docking facility	Lake Gogebic	\$15,000	MNRTF/Passport/ Local
3	Chip seal existing campground roads	Lake Gogebic	\$15,000	MNRTF/Passport/ Local
4	Year-round ski trail development	Copper Peak	\$100,000	MNRTF/Local
<b>2018: Reserved (no projects at this time)</b>				

**Potential Funding Sources**

A number of possible sources of public funding for recreation projects within Gogebic County are available, as shown in **Table 6**.

**Table 6. Potential Funding Sources**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Match*</b>	<b>Source</b>
County/Local Funds	N/A	Local
Community Foundation/Other (local service organizations and businesses)	N/A	Local
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) (\$15,000-300,000 grant for development projects)	75/25 grant	DNR
Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) (\$30,000-\$100,000 grant)	50/50 grant	DNR
Boating Infrastructure Grants (BIG)	75/25 grant	DNR
Waterways Program Grants	50/50 grant**	DNR
Recreation Passport Grants (\$7,500-45,000 grant in 2013)	75/25 grant	DNR
Off-Road Vehicle Trail Improvement Program	N/A	DNR
Snowmobile Trail Improvement Program	N/A	DNR
Recreational Trails Program	N/A	DNR
Law Enforcement Grants (Marine Safety, ORV, Snowmobile)	N/A	DNR
Coastal Zone Management (CZM)	50/50 grant	DEQ
Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)	Varies	MDOT
United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development (USDA-RD)	TBD	USDA
Miscellaneous Grants	N/A	Unknown

\* Local/non-local percentage

\*\* 50/50 default with requests of under 50 percent state assistance considered favorably

## Appendix

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- Appendix A:** Forestry and Parks Commission Overview
- Appendix B:** Countywide Recreation Inventory
- Appendix C:** Recreation Survey Form
- Appendix D:** Recreation Survey Press Release
- Appendix E:** Recreation Survey Results
- Appendix F:** Public Review Period Press Release and Column
- Appendix G:** Public Hearing Notice Affidavit
- Appendix H:** Forestry and Parks Commission Resolution
- Appendix I:** Public Hearing Meeting Minutes
- Appendix J:** County Board of Commissioners Resolution

**Appendix A:**

Forestry and Parks Commission Overview



## Mission Statement

*We have a responsibility and a longterm commitment to wisely use and improve the County Forest and Parks in such a way that helps sustain the economic health and quality of life in Gogebic County today while insuring that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to enjoy the benefits of our labor.*

### The Gogebic County Forest



*This 50,000 acre forest provides multiple use forest opportunities and benefits to the people of Gogebic County as well as the region. The County Forest program established in 1943 is the only one of its kind in Michigan! Its vast Northern Hardwood stands produce some of the finest Sugar Maple sawlogs and veneer in the world. Its scenic views along Lake Superior and the famous Montreal River are spectacular.*

### Lake Gogebic Park



*The park encompasses 133 acres and is located at the south end of Lake Gogebic. The park offers modern camping with 53 sites, a boat launching facility, and a public fishing dock. There is a day use area for swimming and picnicking, and also includes a playground and pavilion.*

### Little Girl's Point Park



*The 271 acre park is located on the shores of Lake Superior at Little Girl's Point in Ironwood Township. It offers 32 sites for camping, a mile of beach for swimming, sunbathing, agate collecting, and a day use area for picnicking with a pavilion. A D.N.R. boat launch is located at the west end of the park. This park is known for its unparalleled view of summertime sunsets on Lake Superior.*

### The Lodge at Little Girl's Point



*The Lodge is located within the boundaries of Little Girl's Point Park. It was built in the late 1930's and has been used for 4-H, Boy and Girl Scouts, and family activities since the 1950's. It is also home to Camp Superior, an outdoor educational program held each spring for area 6th graders. It offers a 40 bed dorm, modern kitchen facilities and a large dining room with a unique fireplace. The facility also has an outdoor barbecue cooking pavilion.*

#### COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Dan Siirila, Chairman  
 Mark Whitley, Vice Chairman  
 Don Bennetts, Commissioner  
 Kevin Haustein, Commissioner  
 Bob Orlich, Commissioner

#### STAFF:

Jim Maki, Director  
 Greg Ryskey, Assistant Director  
 Corey Magdziak, Forest Technician  
 Judy K. Kichak, Administrative Assistant

[www.gogebic.org/forestryandparks](http://www.gogebic.org/forestryandparks)

#### CONTACT:

Natural Resources Center  
 500 N Moore St.  
 Bessemer, MI 49911  
 Phone: (906) 663-4687  
 Fax: (906) 663-4058

**Appendix B:**  
Countywide Recreation Inventory

## Countywide Recreation Inventory

LOCATION	SIZE/ ACRE	OWNERSHIP	EXISTING FACILITIES
<b><i>City of Bessemer</i></b>			
A.D. Johnson High School Massie Field Complex	7	Bessemer School District	Football field, reg. ball diamond, track, tennis courts (2), gym (2 backboards)
Barber Field	4.6	City of Bessemer	Softball field
Bessemer City Hall	1	City of Bessemer	Gymnasium, stage
Bessemer Housing	4.6	Public-Housing Commission	Playground, basketball court
Bessemer VFW	<1	Private	Horseshoe pits
Bluff Valley Park	10.4	City of Bessemer	Pavilion, picnic area, playground, sand volleyball court, basketball & tennis courts, racetrack for remote controlled cars, ice rink
E.J. Oas Softball Field	5	City of Bessemer	Softball field
St. Sebastian Catholic School	<1	Private-School	Playground
Steiger Little League Field	3	City of Bessemer	Little league baseball field
Washington Elementary School	4	Bessemer School District	Football field, basketball court, gym (2,400 sq. ft. 2 backboards), swimming pool
<b><i>City of Ironwood</i></b>			
All Saints Catholic Academy	1	Marquette Roman Catholic Diocese School	Multi-purpose gym
Curry Park	9.25	City of Ironwood	Campsites (56; 9 full-hook-up, some electric), playground, picnic tables, grills, toilets, showers, laundry, dump station
Depot Recreation Park and Trailhead	---	City of Ironwood	Playground; pavilion; volleyball courts (2); walking path (0.2 miles); snowmobile, ATV, and non-motorized trail crossings; kiosk; toilet
Downtown Pocket Park	0.08	City of Ironwood	Garden, walkway, benches
Hiawatha Park	1.04	City of Ironwood	Playground, pavilion, picnic tables
Hiawatha Rotary Skateboard Park	1.2	City of Ironwood	Skateboard equipment, bicycle pump track
Ironwood Travel Information Center	10	State, MDOT	Picnic area, restrooms

John Krznarich Little League Field	2.75	City of Ironwood	Baseball field, playground, toilets, concession stand
Kiwanis Tot Lot (Mansfield Street)	---	Private-Public Use	Playground equipment
Kuitunen Park	0.5	City of Ironwood	Benches
L.L. Wright High School	14	Ironwood Area Schools	Reg. ball diamond, pickup ball diamonds (3), Football fields (2), tennis courts (3), gym (6 backboards), wall court, tennis courts (2)
Longyear Park	3	City of Ironwood	Playground, basketball court (lighted), walking track, picnic tables, band shell
Miners Memorial Heritage Park	?	City of Ironwood	Non-motorized trails, including 4-kilometer groomed cross-country ski loop
Mount Zion Overlook Park	40	City of Ironwood	Picnic tables, benches, toilets
Municipal Memorial Building	---	City of Ironwood	Pool, gym, auditorium
Newport Heights Historical Park	0.5	City of Ironwood	
Norrie Park	105	City of Ironwood	Playground, pavilion, swimming area, toilets, changing area, picnic tables, (2) tennis courts, horseshoe pits (2), volleyball, paved bike trail, walking paths, swimming area, accessible fishing platform, community gardens, grills
Norrie School	2	Ironwood Area Schools	Pick-up ball diamond, playground (1 background), tennis court, gym (2,400 sq. ft.), 3 backboards
Patterson Tennis Courts	0.77	City of Ironwood	Tennis courts (2), playground
Playground (Sleight School)	2.8	Ironwood Area Schools	Playground (2 backboards), pickup ball diamond, gym (2 backboards)
Randa Field	---	City of Ironwood	Softball field (lights, concession stand)
<b><i>City of Wakefield</i></b>			
Gabby Brunelle/Halberg Fields	5	City of Wakefield	Softball fields, pavilion, restrooms
Indian Statue Deck		City of Wakefield	Little league baseball diamonds, tennis courts
Motorized Trails		State/City	Snowmobile/ORV trails, ORV access on city streets

Robert Burns Little League Field	---	City of Wakefield	Little league baseball diamond, tennis courts
Southwest Park		City of Wakefield	Restroom, boat launch, lighted walking trail
Sunday Lake Camper Park	8	City of Wakefield	Campsites (78), water, sewer & electric hook-up, dump station, restroom/shower, fire rings, and picnic tables
Sunday Lake Eddy Park	42	City of Wakefield	Picnic area, fire rings/grills, tennis courts (2), volleyball court, swimming beach, change house/restrooms, boat launch and ramp, playground equipment, pavilions (2) with electric hook-up & lights, paved and wooded lighted walking trails
Wakefield-Marenisco School District	---	Wakefield Twp. Schools	Football field, gym, tennis court, baseball field off-site in Marenisco
<b><i>Bessemer Township</i></b>			
Blackjack Ski Resort	733	Private	Skiing, 32 km cross country skiing, snowboarding, terrain park
Chaney Lake	575*	MI DNR	Boat launch (large), toilets
Eel Lake		USFS	Boat launch (small)
Henry Lake		USFS	Boat launch (medium)
Memory Lane Roadside Park	---	State, MDOT	Picnic area, restrooms
Moraine Lake		USFS	Boat launch (small)
Ramsay Memorial Park	5	Bessemer Township	Playground, picnic tables, grills, keystone bridge, pavilion with kitchen facilities, fishing
Thrush Lake		USFS	Boat launch (medium)
<b><i>Erwin Township</i></b>			
ABR Ski Trails	---	Private	35 km skate and classic trails
Black River Lake	69	MI DNR	Boat launch (medium), toilets
Gogebic Country Club	160	Ironwood Club House Association (Elk's Club)	Club house, pro shop, golf course (9 holes)
McDonald Dam Park	380	Gogebic County Forest	Boat launch (small), dock, campsites (6), toilets
<b><i>Ironwood Township</i></b>			
Airport/Skyway Baseball Field	---	Ironwood Township	Baseball and football fields
Airport Soccer Park	---	Ironwood Township	Pavilion, walking trail, soccer fields
Big Powderhorn Mountain	403	Private	Skiing, sleigh rides, 30 km cross-

			country skiing, ice rink, terrain park
Black River Harbor Park	254	US Forest Service	Lake Superior boat launch (large), swimming, restrooms, campground (40 sites)
Copper Peak Ski Flying	---	Quasi-public	Ski flying, ski jumping, chalet, chair-lift rides
Curry Park (City Tourist)	9	City of Ironwood	Restrooms, laundry, showers, campground (56 sites), picnic tables, stoves, playground, spill station
Ironwood Township Community Building	---	Ironwood Township	Indoor gym, baseball field, basketball and tennis courts, playground equipment
Lost Lake Park	---	Ironwood Township	Day use, including picnic and fishing
Mount Zion	150	Gogebic Community College	Alpine skiing, snow tubing, snowboarding, cross country skiing, picnic area
Oman Creek		MI DNR	Lake Superior boat launch (large), toilets
Pat O'Donnell Civic Center	---	City of Ironwood	Skating, hockey, multipurpose center
Sunset Road Park	---	Ironwood Township	Playground; baseball, basketball, and tennis courts
Wolverine Ski Hill	---	Private	Ski jumping, cross-country skiing, mountain biking
<b><i>Marenisco Township</i></b>			
Bobcat Lake Campground	---	U.S. Forest Service	Boat launch (small), swimming, campground (12 sites), toilets
Community Center		Marenisco Township	
Dawn Lake		USFS	Boat launch (carry-down)
Don McKenzie Memorial Park	5	Marenisco Township	Tennis court, ice rink, skateboard area
Elbow Lake		USFS	Boat launch (medium)
Gaylord Lake	---	Private	Public access via private landing
Henry Lake Campground	20	U.S. Forest Service	Boat launch, toilets, campground (11 sites)
Kimberly Field	---	Private-Non-Profit	Softball Field, Playground
Lake Gogebic (East)	14,781*	MI DNR	Boat launch (large)
Lake Gogebic State Park	361	MI DNR	Admin. Bldg., restrooms, picnicking, hiking, playground, boat launch (large), cross-country skiing, camping (165 sites), swimming, fishing

Langford Lake Campground	10	U.S. Forest Service	Boat launch, fishing, day use, toilets, campground (11 sites)
Little Oxbow Lake		USFS	Boat launch (small to medium)
Moosehead Lake Campground	---	USFS	Boat launch (medium), toilets, campground (13 sites)
Ormes Lake		USFS	Boat launch (medium)
Pomeroy Lake Campground	40	USFS	Boat launch (medium), toilets, campground (13 sites)
Presque Isle River Flowage Dam	---	State, MDOT	Roadside park, picnic area, boat launch (medium), toilets
Redboat Lake		USFS	Boat launch (medium)
Shooting Range	---	Village of Marenisco	Firearm, archery activities
<b><i>Wakefield Township</i></b>			
Delmar's Campground	---	Private	Playground, recreation bldg., swimming, boat launch, fishing, campground (25 sites)
Indianhead Mountain Resort	363	Private	Tennis courts, sports court, horseback riding, downhill skiing, snowboarding, swimming pool, spa, terrain park
Porcupine Mt. State Park-Presque Isle River	10, 560	DNR State Park Division	Backpacking, picnicking, hunting, restrooms, admin bldg., fishing, cross country skiing, campground (88 sites) on Lake Superior
<b><i>Watersmeet Township</i></b>			
Allen Lake		MI DNR	Boat launch (medium)
Bass Lake		Watersmeet Township	Boat launch
Beatons Lake (North)		USFS	Boat launch (small to medium)
Beatons Lake (South)		USFS	Boat launch (carry-down)
Bond Falls		Private/US Forest Service	Picnic sites (40), trail, fishing
Burned Dam Campground	40	US Forest Service	Campground (6 sites), Meximine Falls trail, fishing, toilet
Cisco Lake	506*	MI DNR	Boat launch (large), toilets, accessible
Clearwater Lake		MI DNR	Boat launch (medium), toilets
Dinner Lake	110*	MI DNR	Boat launch (medium), toilets
Duck Lake	616*	MI DNR	Boat launch (large), toilets
Grass Lake		USFS	Boat launch (carry-down)
Imp Lake Campground	20	US Forest Service	Boat launch, fishing, swimming, toilets, day use campground (22 sites), One-mile accessible trail
Lac Vieux Desert	4,260*	DNR Waterways	Boat launch (medium to large),

		Division	toilets
Lac Vieux Desert Tribe			Indoor recreation and community center, multi-use event track
Lac Vieux Desert Resort			Casino, 18-hole golf course
Little Duck Lake		MI DNR	Boat launch (small to medium)
Marion Lake		USFS	Boat launch, fishing, day use, toilets, campground (39 sites), swimming
Middle Branch, Ontonagon River	40	DNR Waterways Division	Small boat & canoe launch, fishing
Moon Lake		MI DNR	Boat launch (large)
Robert Rigotti Roadside Park	---	State, MDOT	Picnic area, restrooms
Roy Greeman Roadside Park	---	State, MDOT	Picnic area, restrooms
Taylor Lake		USFS	Boat launch (small to medium), toilets
Thousand Island Lake	1,079	MI DNR	Boat launch (large), toilets
Township Ball Field		Watersmeet Township	Diamond, dugout, bleachers
Sylvania Visitor's Center	---	U.S. Forest Service Center	Paved interpretive trail, information center, restrooms
Sylvania Wilderness & Recreation Area	18,327	US Forest Service	Boat launches, fishing, day use, toilets, campground (40 sites), backcountry campsites, 26 miles non-motorized trails
Watersmeet Township School District	2	Watersmeet Township	Playground, ball diamond, gym (6 backboards), weight and fitness center
Wilderness Lakes Trail (in progress)	13 mi in Twp./40 mi total	Various; primarily US Forest Service	Multi-use trail between Watersmeet, MI and Land O'Lakes, WI
Wolf Mountain		US Forest Service	Trail, overlook

**Appendix C:**  
Recreation Survey Form

## Gogebic County Recreation Survey 2012

The Gogebic County Forestry and Parks Commission is seeking public input to help plan improvements to County recreation sites over the next 5 years. Please complete this survey and return it by **November 30** to one of the following:

- **Gogebic County Forestry & Parks, 500 N. Moore St., Bessemer, MI 49911**
- **WUPPDR, P.O. Box 365, Houghton, MI 49931**
- **Other location where you picked it up**

1. Are you a Gogebic County resident?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ (If no, please specify location of residence: \_\_\_\_\_)

If yes, where is your *primary residence*? (Check **only one**.)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> City of Bessemer  | <input type="radio"/> Ironwood Township   |
| <input type="radio"/> City of Ironwood  | <input type="radio"/> Marenisco Township  |
| <input type="radio"/> City of Wakefield | <input type="radio"/> Wakefield Township  |
| <input type="radio"/> Bessemer Township | <input type="radio"/> Watersmeet Township |
| <input type="radio"/> Erwin Township    |   |

2. Number of persons in your household by age: 0-5 \_\_\_ 6-12 \_\_\_ 13-19 \_\_\_ 20-39 \_\_\_ 40-64 \_\_\_ 65+ \_\_\_

3. Does anyone in your household have a disability or require specialized recreation? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Does anyone in your household use or take part in any of the following? (Check **ALL** that apply).

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Archery                      | <input type="radio"/> Fishing – shore or wading | <input type="radio"/> Skiing – cross-country |
| <input type="radio"/> ATV/ORV trails               | <input type="radio"/> Golf                      | <input type="radio"/> Skiing – downhill      |
| <input type="radio"/> Baseball fields              | <input type="radio"/> Hiking                    | <input type="radio"/> Sledding               |
| <input type="radio"/> Basketball courts            | <input type="radio"/> Hockey                    | <input type="radio"/> Snowboarding           |
| <input type="radio"/> Bicycling (mountain)         | <input type="radio"/> Horseshoes                | <input type="radio"/> Snowmobiling           |
| <input type="radio"/> Bicycling (path/road)        | <input type="radio"/> Hunting                   | <input type="radio"/> Snowshoeing            |
| <input type="radio"/> Bird watching                | <input type="radio"/> Ice skating               | <input type="radio"/> Soccer                 |
| <input type="radio"/> Boating/canoeing/kayaking    | <input type="radio"/> Picnicking                | <input type="radio"/> Softball fields        |
| <input type="radio"/> Camping – campgrounds        | <input type="radio"/> Playgrounds               | <input type="radio"/> Swimming               |
| <input type="radio"/> Camping – primitive          | <input type="radio"/> Running/jogging/walking   | <input type="radio"/> Tennis                 |
| <input type="radio"/> Fishing – boat               | <input type="radio"/> Shooting                  | <input type="radio"/> Volleyball             |
| <input type="radio"/> Other; please specify: _____ |   |  |

5. The following are park improvement projects that may be undertaken in the next five years. Please assign a level of importance to you for each potential project; **1** is LEAST IMPORTANT and **5** is MOST IMPORTANT. (This is not a ranking question – you may use the same number more than once for each facility. Leave blank if no opinion.)

### LAKE GOGEBIC COUNTY PARK (Off Highway M-64 at southern tip of lake)

	Least Important	←	→	Most Important
Beach rehabilitation	1	2	3	4 5
Installation of new playground equipment near beach	1	2	3	4 5
Construction of pavilion near beach	1	2	3	4 5
Tree planting program	1	2	3	4 5
Other: _____	1	2	3	4 5

**LITTLE GIRL'S POINT**  
**(On Lake Superior in Ironwood Township)**

	Least Important ←————→ Most Important				
Improvement of trail stairway at The Lodge	1	2	3	4	5
Installation of additional fencing throughout park	1	2	3	4	5
Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5

**McDONALD DAM RECREATION AREA**  
**(Erwin Township south of Bessemer)**

	Least Important ←————→ Most Important				
Improvement of trails to tent campsites	1	2	3	4	5
Improvement of tent pads	1	2	3	4	5
Installation of new fire rings at tent campsites	1	2	3	4	5
Repair of boat ramp and dock	1	2	3	4	5
Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5

**POWERS ROAD RECREATION AREA**  
**(Trails throughout western tip of county)**

	Least Important ←————→ Most Important				
New trail development	1	2	3	4	5
Improvement of wet sections of multiple-use trail	1	2	3	4	5
Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5

6. How many days per year do you use each of the facilities?

	Less than 1	1 to 5	6 to 20	Over 20
Lake Gogebic County Park	○	○	○	○
Little Girl's Point	○	○	○	○
McDonald Dam Recreation Area	○	○	○	○
Powers Road Recreation Area	○	○	○	○

7. Additional projects or comments/suggestions regarding recreation in Gogebic County:

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**Thank you! Your input is important to help identify and prioritize recreation projects throughout the County.**

Survey results will be included in the draft 2013-2018 Gogebic County Recreation Plan, which will be available for public review early next year, at least one month prior to a public hearing for its adoption. Notice of the draft's availability and the hearing will be publicized at the appropriate time.

**Appendix D:**

Recreation Survey Press Release



## Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Regional Commission

P.O. BOX 365, HOUGHTON, MICHIGAN 49931

906-482-7205 FAX 906-482-9032 ' E-MAIL: [info@wuppdr.org](mailto:info@wuppdr.org)

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Jerald Wuorenmaa, Planner

906.482.7205, ext. 319

[jwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org](mailto:jwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org)

November 1, 2012

### **Recreation Survey Available for Gogebic County**

The Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region (WUPPDR) is the in process of updating Gogebic County's five-year Recreation Plan update.

Those who would like a voice in planning for improvements to County recreation facilities over the next five years can take a brief survey. The survey is available at [www.wuppdr.org](http://www.wuppdr.org) (by clicking the "Surveys" button on the top menu bar). Paper copies are available in the County Administrator's Office in the Courthouse, 200 N. Moore St., Bessemer; and the Forestry and Parks Office, 500 N. Moore St., Bessemer.

Responses to the Gogebic County Recreation Survey will be accepted until December 3, 2012. For further information, please contact Jerald Wuorenmaa at 906.482.7205, ext. 319 or [jwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org](mailto:jwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org).

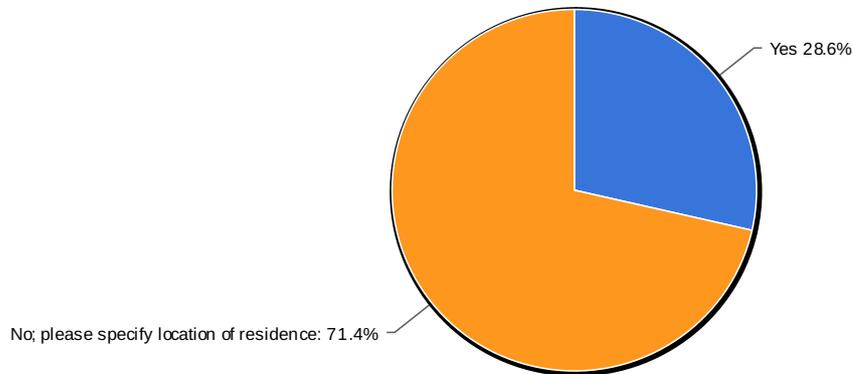
###

**Appendix E:**  
Recreation Survey Results

## Summary Report - FINAL 01172013

Survey: Gogebic County Recreation Survey 2012

### 1. Are you a Gogebic County resident?

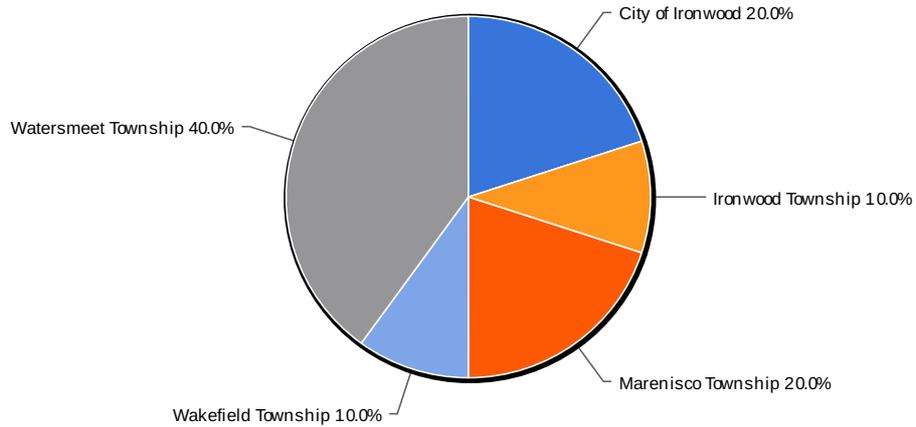


### 1. Are you a Gogebic County resident?

Value	Count	Percent %	Statistics	
Yes	10	28.6%	Total Responses	35
No; please specify location of residence:	25	71.4%		

Open-Text Response Breakdown for "No; please specify location of residence:"	Count
Left Blank	1
Ripon WI	1
Bergland MI - Ontonagon Cty	1
Hancock MI	1
Iron River, MI	1
L'Anse Michigan	1
Lapeer	1
Merriweather (in Ontonagon county)	1
Mi- TRALE member	1
Not a permit resident but own property in Gogebic County, Watersmeet Township	1
ONTONAGON	1
Omro, Wisconsin	1
Ontonagon co mi	1
Ontonagon	2
Outamie Co.	1
Perry, MI 48872	1
Trempealeau County, Wisconsin	1
Vilas County, WI	1
Waukesha wi	1
White Pine, Ontonagon County	1
elcho, wi	1
houghton	1
keweenaw county	1
ontonagon, county	1

If you are a Gogebic County resident, where is your primary residence?



If you are a Gogebic County resident, where is your primary residence?

Value	Count	Percent %
City of Bessemer	0	0.0%
City of Ironwood	2	20.0%
City of Wakefield	0	0.0%
Bessemer Township	0	0.0%
Erwin Township	0	0.0%
Ironwood Township	1	10.0%
Marenisco Township	2	20.0%
Wakefield Township	1	10.0%
Watersmeet Township	4	40.0%

Statistics	
Total Responses	10

2. Please specify the number of persons in your household by age::0-5

Count	Response
3	1
2	2
1	4

2. Please specify the number of persons in your household by age::6-12

Count	Response
3	1

2. Please specify the number of persons in your household by age::13-19

Count	Response
3	1
2	2

2. Please specify the number of persons in your household by age::20-39

Count	Response
2	1
3	2
1	39

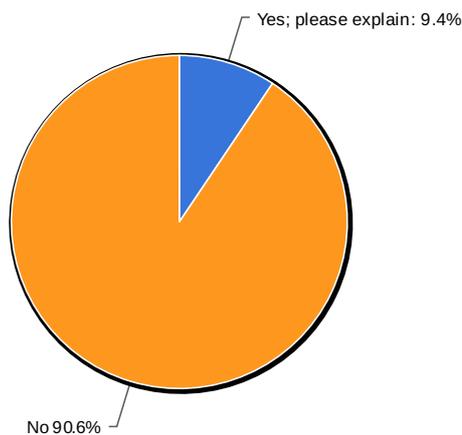
2. Please specify the number of persons in your household by age::40-64

Count	Response
7	1
16	2
1	52

2. Please specify the number of persons in your household by age::65+

Count	Response
4	1
5	2

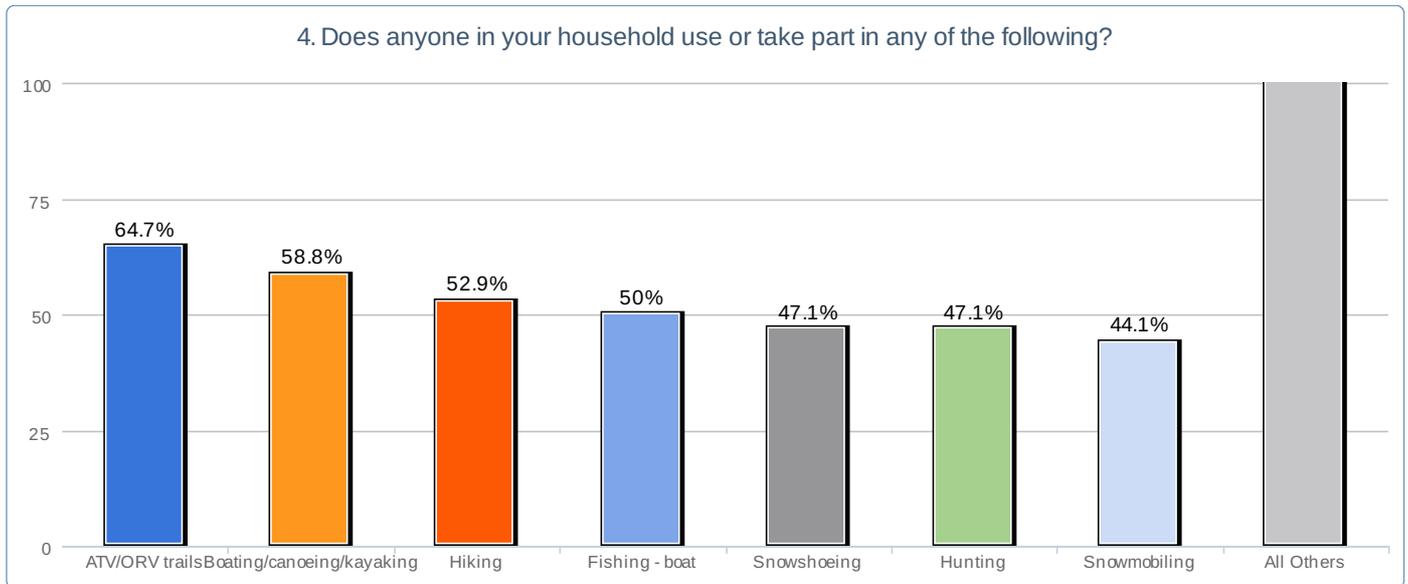
3. Does anyone in your household have a disability or require specialized recreation?



3. Does anyone in your household have a disability or require specialized recreation?

Value	Count	Percent %	Statistics	
Yes; please explain:	3	9.4%	Total Responses	32
No	29	90.6%		

COPD needs motorized transportation	1
daughter is with us who has had 4 major hip surgeries; on crutches for 19 months so far	1
failing hip and old age making extended hiking impossible.	1



#### 4. Does anyone in your household use or take part in any of the following?

Value	Count	Percent %
ATV/ORV trails	22	64.7%
Boating/canoeing/kayaking	20	58.8%
Hiking	18	52.9%
Fishing - boat	17	50.0%
Snowshoeing	16	47.1%
Hunting	16	47.1%
Snowmobiling	15	44.1%
Shooting	14	41.2%
Running/jogging/walking	13	38.2%
Fishing - shore or wading	13	38.2%
Camping - primitive	13	38.2%
Swimming	12	35.3%
Bird watching	12	35.3%
Camping - campgrounds	12	35.3%
Golf	11	32.4%
Picnicking	10	29.4%
Bicycling (path/road)	10	29.4%
Other; please specify:	9	26.5%
Skiing - downhill	9	26.5%
Archery	9	26.5%
Skiing - cross country	8	23.5%
Sledding	7	20.6%
Snowboarding	5	14.7%
Ice skating	5	14.7%
Bicycling (mountain)	5	14.7%
Horseshoes	5	14.7%
Playgrounds	5	14.7%
Soccer	3	8.8%
Volleyball	3	8.8%

Statistics	
Total Responses	34

Baseball fields	3	8.8%
Basketball courts	2	5.9%
Softball fields	2	5.9%
Tennis	2	5.9%
Hockey	1	2.9%

Open-Text Response Breakdown for "Other; please specify:"	Count
Bowling	1
Equestrian	1
ORV	1
ORV Riding opportunities	1
ORV riding	1
ORV riding opportunities	1
Roller Skiing	1
Toboggan hill - designed with straight track slope and long run-out area	1
motorcycle - trail	1

**5. The following are park improvement projects that may be undertaken in the next five years. Please assign a level of importance to you for each potential project; 1 is LEAST IMPORTANT and 5 is MOST IMPORTANT. (This is not a ranking question - you may use the same number more than once for each facility. Leave blank if no opinion.) LAKE GOGEBIC COUNTY PARK(Off Highway M-64 at southern tip of lake)**

	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Beach rehabilitation	10.0%	3.3%	46.7%	20.0%	20.0%	100%
	3	1	14	6	6	30
Installation of new playground equipment near beach	16.7%	26.7%	40.0%	10.0%	6.7%	100%
	5	8	12	3	2	30
Construction of pavilion near beach	6.7%	20.0%	43.3%	6.7%	23.3%	100%
	2	6	13	2	7	30
Tree planting program	10.0%	13.3%	36.7%	20.0%	20.0%	100%
	3	4	11	6	6	30
ORV access and day use	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100%
	0	0	0	0	1	1
ORV camping & day use facilities	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%
	1	0	0	0	0	1
ORV route/trail maintenance/expansion	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100%
	0	0	0	0	1	1
Open & provide facilities for Orv camping and day use	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%
	1	0	0	0	0	1
Open to ORV camping	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100%
	0	0	0	1	0	1
Orv trails	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100%
	0	0	0	0	1	1
Well-spaced campsites.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100%
	0	0	0	0	1	1
atv/orv use	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100%
	0	0	0	0	1	1
orv access for day use and camping	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100%
	0	0	0	0	1	1

**LITTLE GIRL'S POINT(On Lake Superior in Ironwood Township)**

	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Improvement of trail stairway at The Lodge	10.7%	7.1%	39.3%	25.0%	17.9%	100%
	3	2	11	7	5	28

Installation of additional fencing throughout park	12.0%	28.0%	44.0%	12.0%	4.0%	100%
	3	7	11	3	1	25
Sign on Hwy 2.	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%
	0	0	1	0	0	1
orv access for day use and camping	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100%
	0	0	0	0	1	1

### McDONALD DAM RECREATION AREA(Erwin Township south of Bessemer)

	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Improvement of trails to tent campsites	4.0%	12.0%	40.0%	28.0%	16.0%	100%
	1	3	10	7	4	25
Improvement of tent pads	12.5%	12.5%	50.0%	8.3%	16.7%	100%
	3	3	12	2	4	24
Installation of new fire rings at tent campsites	8.0%	12.0%	40.0%	16.0%	24.0%	100%
	2	3	10	4	6	25
Repair of boat ramp and dock	20.0%	4.0%	28.0%	28.0%	20.0%	100%
	5	1	7	7	5	25
Publicity and Latrines	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%
	0	0	1	0	0	1
orv access for day use and camping	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100%
	0	0	0	0	1	1

### POWERS ROAD RECREATION AREA(Trails throughout eastern tip of county)

	1	2	3	4	5	Total
New trail development	7.7%	3.8%	23.1%	19.2%	46.2%	100%
	2	1	6	5	12	26
Improvement of wet sections of multiple-use trail	12.0%	8.0%	24.0%	20.0%	36.0%	100%
	3	2	6	5	9	25
ATV trails	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100%
	0	0	0	0	1	1
Provide for ORV use	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100%
	0	0	0	0	1	1
Review use for ORV	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%
	1	0	0	0	0	1
Review use for ORVs	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	0.0%	100%
	1	0	0	1	0	2
Review use for orvs	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%
	1	0	0	0	0	1
Signage and Publicity	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100%
	0	0	0	0	1	1
orv access for day use and camping	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100%
	0	0	0	0	1	1

### 6. How many days per year do you use each of the facilities?

	Less than 1	1 to 5	6 to 20	Over 20	Responses
Lake Gogebic County Park	37.5%	53.1%	6.3%	3.1%	32
	12	17	2	1	
Little Girl's Point	35.7%	46.4%	17.9%	0.0%	28
	10	13	5	0	
McDonald Dam Recreation Area	55.6%	40.7%	3.7%	0.0%	27
	15	11	1	0	
Powers Road Recreation Area	58.6%	27.6%	13.8%	0.0%	29
	17	8	4	0	

### 7. Additional projects or comments/suggestions regarding recreation in Gogebic County:

Count	Response
-------	----------

1	ATV
1	Develop a toboggan slope
1	Great resources that could be expanded to help local economy
1	Interested in improved access and trails for ORV's in Gogebic area.
1	More orb trails
1	Open more atv/orv routes.
1	Pls connect the various ski / pedestrian / biking trails in the county - incl. into Wisc
1	Signs to and within facilities is needed. Publicity needed. The website needs to work!
1	Would love to see snowmobile trails opened back up around Big Powderhorn, Black River Road
1	atv/orv day use and camping access in parks
1	Review the opportunities to include managed ORV trails within the county. This is a growing sport that must be considered in this plan.
1	Review the opportunity to include managed ORV trails within the county. This is a growing sport that must be considered in this plan and especially necessary for those who are disabled.
1	We are not "residents" of Gogebic County but do own a business and reside a significant percentage of the year in the county. There is virtually nothing in these improvements that will impact or help our business, which is tourism and recreation. Would like to see more in the Watersmeet area.
1	expand opportunities for orv use - more trails and connectors between 'major' trails and recreation/camping areas.to
1	Additional ORV riding opportunities in the county. This sport is growing and is an economic stimulus to the county
1	It always seems like everything done always avoids us here in Watersmeet! We would like to see some improvements made in our area. Thank you.
1	most importantly to me is development of single track motorcycle/hiking trails. Or any ORV/Hiking trail development.

**Appendix F:**

Public Review Period Press Release and Column



## Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Regional Commission

P.O. BOX 365, HOUGHTON, MICHIGAN 49931

906-482-7205 FAX 906-482-9032 ' E-MAIL: [info@wuppdr.org](mailto:info@wuppdr.org)

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Jerald Wuorenmaa, Planner

906.482.7205, ext. 319

[jwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org](mailto:jwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org)

January 18, 2012

### **Gogebic County Recreation Plan to be Available for Review**

The Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region (WUPPDR) has recently completed updates to the Gogebic County Five-Year Recreation Plan.

The draft of the Gogebic County 2013-2018 Recreation Plan Update will become available Tuesday, January 22 for a one-month public review and comment period prior to a public hearing for plan adoption. The hearing is expected to take place at 5:00 pm at the February 27<sup>th</sup> Gogebic County Board meeting. Copies of the plan will be available for review at the Gogebic County Forestry and Parks Office, 500 N. Moore St., Bessemer, and at the Ironwood Carnegie Library, 235 E. Aurora St., Ironwood. The plan will also be available for viewing online at <http://www.wuppdr.org>.

Written comments must be received by February 21 and may be mailed to WUPPDR, P.O. Box 365, Houghton, MI 49931, or e-mailed to Jerald Wuorenmaa, Planner, at [jwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org](mailto:jwuorenmaa@wuppdr.org).

###

*Ironwood Daily Globe  
Sat. Jan. 19, 2013*

## **Updates to Gogebic County five-year recreation plan completed**

**BESSEMER** — The Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region has completed updates to the Gogebic County five-year recreation plan.

The draft of the Gogebic County 2013-2018 Recreation Plan Update will become available Tuesday for a one-month public review and comment period before a public hearing for plan adoption. The hearing is expected to take place at 5 p.m. at the Feb. 27 Gogebic County Board of Commis-

sioners meeting.

Copies of the plan will be available for review at the Gogebic County Forestry and Parks Office, 500 N. Moore St., Bessemer, and the Ironwood Carnegie Library, 235 E. Aurora St., Ironwood. The plan will also be available online at [wuppdr.org](http://wuppdr.org).

Written comments must be received by Feb. 21 and may be mailed to WUPPDR, P.O. Box 365, Houghton MI 49931, or emailed to Jerald Wuoremaa, planner, at [jwuoremaa@wuppdr.org](mailto:jwuoremaa@wuppdr.org).

**Appendix G:**  
Public Hearing Notice Affidavit

# DAILY GLOBE

Daily Globe, Inc.

118 E. McLeod Avenue ~ Ironwood, MI 49938

906-932-2211 Fax 906-932-5358

**\*\*\*PROOF OF PUBLICATION\*\*\***

**STATE OF MICHIGAN - COUNTY OF GOGEBIC**

Trish Roebuck

Trish Roebuck, being duly sworn says: I am the Legal Advertising Representative of The Daily Globe, a newspaper published and circulated in Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties. The Annexed is a printed copy of a notice which was published in said paper on the following date(s):

February 19, 2013

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 19<sup>th</sup> of February, 2013

Jennifer Louise Martilla

Jennifer Louise Martilla  
Gogebic County, Acting in Gogebic County

My commission expires 09-19-2013

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Gogebic County will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 27, 2013 at the Gogebic County Courthouse, District Courtroom, located at 200 N. Moore Street, Bessemer, beginning at 5:00 p.m. The purpose of the hearing is to receive final public comment regarding the **2013-2018 Gogebic County Recreation Plan** prior to a vote for adoption of the Plan by the County Board of Commissioners.

Dan Siirila, Chairman,  
Gogebic County Board of Commissioners

JENNIFER LOUISE MARTILLA  
Notary Public, State of Michigan  
County of Gogebic  
My commission expires Sept. 19, 2013  
Acting in the County of Gogebic

**Appendix H:**

Forestry and Parks Commission Resolution

**GOGEBIC COUNTY FORESTRY AND PARKS COMMISSION**

**A RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND ADOPTION OF THE  
GOGEBIC COUNTY RECREATION PLAN 2013-2018**

WHEREAS, the Gogebic County Forestry and Parks Commission is a semi-autonomous body administering County forestry and parks activities and resources under the purview of the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Forestry and Parks Commission has developed a Five-Year Recreation Plan which describes the County's physical and social features, existing recreation facilities, goals and objectives pertaining to recreation, and desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2013 and 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Forestry and Parks Commission has developed the plan for the benefit of the County as a document to assist in meeting the County's recreation needs; and

WHEREAS, following a one-month public review period and opportunity for public comment, the Forestry and Parks Commission held a regular meeting on February 21, 2013 at the Forestry and Parks Office, where it voted to recommend adoption of the Gogebic County Recreation Plan 2013-2018 by the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing and subsequent regular meeting of the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners were to be held beginning at 5:00 pm February 27, 2013 at the Gogebic County Courthouse to accept comment and vote for adoption of the Gogebic County Recreation Plan 2013-2018;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Gogebic County Forestry and Parks Commission hereby recommends adoption of the Gogebic County Recreation Plan 2013-2018 as a guidance document for improving recreation for residents within the County.

Yeas: 5      Nays: 0      Absent: 0

I, Dan Siirila, Chairman, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Gogebic County Forestry and Parks Commission at a regular meeting thereof held on February 21, 2013.

  
Dan Siirila, Chairman

**Appendix I:**  
Public Hearing Meeting Minutes

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Public Hearing Minutes  
February 27, 2013  
County Courthouse  
Bessemer, MI 49911  
5:00 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Gogebic County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 27, 2013 at the Gogebic County Courthouse, District Courtroom, located at 200 N. Moore St. Bessemer, Michigan, beginning at 5:00 PM. The purpose of the hearing is to receive final public comment regarding the 2013-2018 Gogebic County Recreation Plan prior to a vote for adoption of the Plan by the County Board of Commissioners.

Roll Call:

Present: (7) Gerovac, Jacobson, Kangas,  
Oliver, Orlich, Peterson, Siirila  
Absent: (0) None

At 5:00pm Chairman Siirila read the purpose of the Public Hearing for all in attendance. A motion was made by Gerovac, supported by Kangas and carried by unanimous voice vote to open the public hearing. Chairman Siirila asked three times for public comment on the proposed 2013-2018 Gogebic County Recreation Plan and heard none. A motion was made by Oliver, supported by Gerovac and carried by unanimous voice vote to close the public hearing.

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Dan Siirila, Chairman

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Gerry R. Pelissero, Clerk

**Appendix J:**

County Board of Commissioners Resolution

GOGEBIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE GOGEBIC COUNTY RECREATION PLAN 2013-2018

WHEREAS, the Gogebic County Forestry and Parks Commission is a semi-autonomous body administering County forestry and parks activities and resources under the purview of the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Forestry and Parks Commission has developed a Five-Year Recreation Plan which describes the County's physical and social features, existing recreation facilities, goals and objectives pertaining to recreation, and desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2013 and 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Forestry and Parks Commission has developed the plan for the benefit of the County as a document to assist in meeting the County's recreation needs; and

WHEREAS, following a one-month public review period and opportunity for public comment, the Forestry and Parks Commission, at its February 21, 2013 regular meeting voted to recommend adoption of the plan to County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on February 27, 2013 at the Gogebic County Courthouse to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on February 27, 2013 at the Gogebic County Courthouse, subsequent to the public hearing, where it voted to adopt said Recreation Plan;

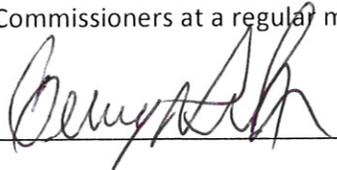
Now, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the Gogebic County Recreation Plan 2013-2018 as a guidance document for improving recreation for residents within the County.

YEAS: (7) Kangas, Oliver, Gerovac, Jacobson, Orlich, Peterson, Siirila

NAYS: (0) None

ABSENT: (0) None

I, Gerry R. Pelissero, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners at a regular meeting thereof held on February 27, 2013.



Gerry R. Pelissero, Gogebic County Clerk-Register