

## **UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

### **4.1 INTRODUCTION**

The Utilities and Community Facilities Element is based on the statutory requirement for a compilation of goals, objectives, policies, programs, and maps to guide the future development of utilities and community facilities in Iron County such as sanitary sewer service, storm water management, water supply, solid waste disposal, on-site wastewater treatment, recycling facilities, parks, telecommunication facilities, power plants and transmission lines, cemeteries, health care facilities, child care facilities, police, fire & rescue, libraries, schools, and other government facilities.

Anticipated growth in permanent population, seasonal population, visitors, homes, and jobs will necessitate the need for additional facilities and services over the next 20 years. In addition, future land development frequently follows improvements to community utilities and facilities. Therefore, the recommendations for utilities and community facilities should be coordinated with other elements such as economic development, housing, transportation, and land use. To help ensure this coordination, this section:

- Inventories Iron County's current public/private utilities and community facilities
- Identifies needs and improvements for new and existing utilities and community facilities based on changes in the County's population and land use patterns
- Sets general priorities and timelines for utility and community facility expansions.
- Assists in identifying desirable locations for new or expanded utilities and community facilities.

The following section of the plan includes an analysis of some of Iron County's existing utilities and community facilities, and a general timeline for future improvements.

### **4.2 SANITARY SEWER SERVICE**

In Iron County, wastewater is treated either by public sanitary sewer systems or by on-site waste disposal systems. According to 1990 census data, approximately 40 percent of the county's housing units were connected to public sewer systems and 60 percent utilized private on-site septic systems. Most homes within the city limits of Hurley and Montreal and within the limits of sewer systems provided by Anderson Sanitary District No. 1, Town of Knight, Mercer Sanitary District No. 1, and the Saxon Sanitary District No. 1 are connected to public sewer systems. For more information on individual sanitary sewer systems, see appropriate town comprehensive plan.

### **4.3 WATER SUPPLY**

With the exception of the two incorporated communities and the four sanitary districts, most residents of Iron County depend on individual private wells for their water supply needs. These wells draw water from the upper aquifer, which can be susceptible to contamination. Therefore, Iron County, working with local units of government, should consider the following to protect groundwater resources:

- Minimize intensive developments in rural areas, as these areas have a low probability of groundwater pollution associated with on-site sewage systems where overall housing densities in an area are less than one house per two acres, and direct intense development to areas with municipal sanitary sewer systems.
- Minimize development in groundwater recharge areas
- Direct intense development to areas with municipal sanitary sewer systems
- Implement an effective inspection and required maintenance program for all private on-site waste disposal systems
- Work with state and local governments to clean up known contaminated sites

### **4.4 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**

The management and regulation of stormwater is divided among federal, state, county, and local governments, depending on the status of incorporation and size and the activities affecting stormwater. Additional runoff from development and roads will have negative impacts on lakes and streams as sediment and nutrient delivery increases. Managing stormwater to increase infiltration and reduce or eliminate direct delivery of runoff to surface waters (lakes, streams, wetlands) is one of the most important steps that can be taken to protect water quality. When reviewing new land use proposals, the county will need to pay close attention to the amount of new runoff generated. To protect water quality and neighboring landowners, such proposals should show that no net increase in runoff is being created.

Towns that have a population of less than 10,000 and are not included in a priority watershed are not required to obtain municipal stormwater discharge permits under Administrative Code NR 216. Iron County permits stormwater to drain through a series of ditches and culverts along town roadways. Iron County does not have a stormwater management plan in place.

### **4.5 SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING FACILITIES**

Solid waste management in Iron County consisted primarily of individuals hauling garbage to unsupervised open municipal dumps. Since that time, state and federal codes have become more restrictive and non-hazardous household wastes are landfilled only in licensed facilities. These old solid waste disposal sites or landfills are important potential sources of groundwater pollution. It was not until approximately 1990, when the costs to comply with state codes ultimately forced towns to close dumpsites that could not be upgraded. The municipal landfills in Iron County also closed around that time. It is likely that most town, village, or city disposal sites are contaminated to some degree because of inadequate methods of disposal and monitoring

techniques used at the time of operation. Table 4.1 shows information regarding disposal sites in Iron County.

**Table 4.1: Iron County Waste Disposal Sites**

Town/City	Facility Name	Legal Description	Status
Anderson	TN Anderson	NW NW S29 45N 01E	Inactive
Anderson	TN Anderson	N/A	Inactive
Carey	TN Carey	SE SW S20 44N 02E	Inactive
Carey	TN Carey	NW NW S14 45N 02E	Inactive
Gurney	TN Gurney	NW SE S05 46N 01W	Inactive
Kimball	AM	SW NW S02 46N 01E	Inactive
Kimball	Lakehead Pipeline	NW NE S02 46N 01E	Inactive
Kimball	City of Montreal LF	SW SE S21 46N 02E	Inactive
Kimball	TN Kimball	NW NW S06 46N 02E	Inactive
Kimball	City of Hurley	NE SW S22 46N 02E	Inactive
Kimball	Globe Industries Demo Landfill	SW NW S02 46N 01E	Specific Uses (demolition)
Knight	TN Knight	NW SE S11 45N 01E	Inactive
Mercer	Camp Nokomis	S19 42N 03 E	Inactive
Mercer	Campbell Debarking Co.	SW SE S36 43N 03E	Inactive
Mercer	Cedar Island Resort	S14 43N 04E	Inactive
Mercer	Flambeau Resort	NE SE S24 42N 02E	Inactive
Mercer	Midwest Timber Landfill	NE SE S17 42N 03E	Inactive
Mercer	TN Mercer	S08 42N 04E	Inactive
Mercer	TN Mercer	NE NW S32 43N 03E	Inactive
Mercer	TN Mercer-Fischer Lake Site	SE NW S03 43N 04E	Inactive
Mercer	TN Mercer-Flambeau Site	NW NE S29 42N 02E	Inactive
Mercer	TN Mercer-Mercer Site	NE NE S01 42N 03E	Inactive
Oma	Pardee Lake Dump	S24 44N 04E	Inactive
Oma	TN Oma – Long Lake Site	SW S24 44N 03E	Inactive
Oma	TN Oma – Mosinee Rd Site	SE NW S29 45N 03E	Inactive
Oma	TN Oma – Pine Lake Site	NE NE S31 44N 03E	Inactive
Pence	TN Pence	NA	Inactive
Pence	TN Pence	SE SW S32 46N 02E	Inactive
Pence	White Cap Mountain Resort	NW S05 45N 01E	Inactive
Saxon	TN Saxon	NW SW S01 46N 01W	Inactive
Saxon	Saxon Harbor County Park	SE SE S11 47N 01W	Inactive
Sherman	The Birch's Resort	S16 41N 03E	Inactive
Sherman	TN Sherman	NE NE S23 41N 03E	Inactive
Sherman	TN Sherman	NW NW S08 41N 04E	Inactive

Source: WDNR

Waste Management is the largest provider of both garbage and recycling pick-up services to residents and businesses in Iron County. Solid waste collection in the County is sent to either

Timberline Trails Landfill in the Town of Stubs in Rusk County WI or K & W Landfill located in Ontonagon, MI. County residents have their choice of garbage haulers.

The recycling program in Iron County consists of drop-off recycling sites. Drop-off sites are aimed at residents that do not have curbside garbage collection. There are currently five drop-off recycling centers in Iron County. These facilities are located in the communities of Hurley, Mercer, Oma, Saxon, and Sherman. Items accepted at these sites include plastics, glass, cardboard, newspaper, tin, waste oil, aluminum, and magazines. These items are separated from other solid waste materials.

#### **4.6 TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES**

Due to the increase in use of wireless communication, the construction of telecommunication towers is an issue that Iron County is addressing more often. Access to wireless communication facilities is becoming more and more important in the modern world. Under the Iron County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, placements of communication towers are permitted within all zoning districts, but are first required to obtain a conditional use permit from the County. Iron County supports and promotes the co-location of cellular towers.

As of this writing, there are three cell towers located in Iron County. They are located in the City of Hurley, Town of Mercer, and the Town of Saxon. Over time, as wireless communication companies look to expand their services, more cellular towers may be erected in the county. Some towns currently have adopted ordinances regulating cellular towers. As part of the planning process, Iron County and its towns should work together to determine acceptable locations for possible future tower locations. Map 4.1, Utilities, depicts current cell tower locations in Iron County.

CenturyTel, Inc. serves the county for local telephone communications. Multiple companies are available to provide long distance telephone and internet services. The quality of telecommunication services depends on the capacity of the network that services the area. The comprehensive plan will help guide decisions for installing and upgrading telecommunication facilities, which will be needed to provide quality services as the county's population increases.

#### **4.7 POWER PLANTS, SUBSTATIONS, AND TRANSMISSION LINES**

There are two (2) hydroelectric power plants, four substations, and two transmission lines located in Iron County.

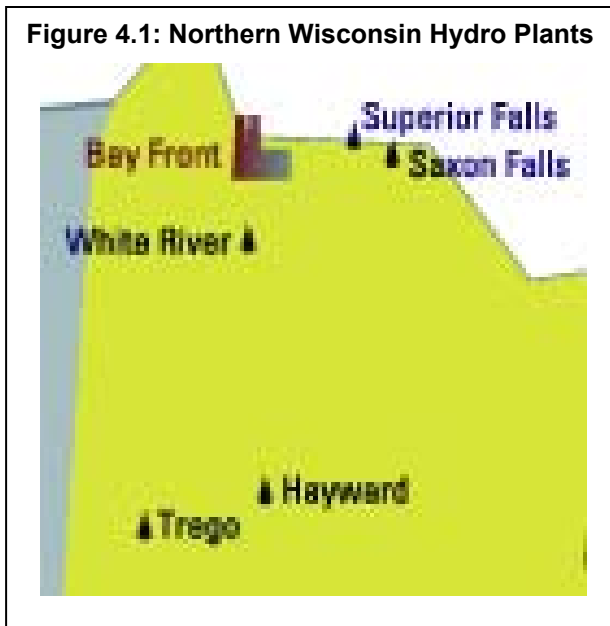
The Saxon Falls Hydroelectric and the Superior Falls Hydroelectric plants are both located in the Town of Saxon. See descriptions on the following page.

### Saxon Falls Hydro (1.2 MW)

Saxon Falls is located where the Montreal enters a deep picturesque canyon. The powerhouse is located in the rocky canyon and a 1,300-foot pipeline provides water to it. Opposite ends of the dam are in different states, while the powerhouse is situated on the Michigan side of the river. The dam was built in 1913 and reconstructed in 1940.

### Superior Falls Hydro (1.5 MW)

The northern-most hydro plant in the Xcel Energy system, Superior Falls is located at the mouth of the Montreal River on Lake Superior. The hydro is an unmanned plant that can be reached by a long, steep set of stairs. Every spring, during high water, kayakers and canoeists make use of excellent river conditions.



Substations are installations at which electricity is received from one or more power stations for conversion from alternating to direct current, reducing the voltage, or switching before distribution by a low-tension network. Currently, there are four substations in Iron County located in the Towns of Oma, Kimball (2), and the City of Hurley. Map 4.1 Utilities depicts substation locations in Iron County.

Transmission lines are the largest and most visible electric lines on the landscape. These lines generate the most public interest because they are the most noticeable electric lines and because of the potential human and animal health affects associated with them. Transmission lines transport electricity from power plants to substations and operate at several hundred thousand volts (typically ranging from 46,000 to 345,000 volts), stand anywhere between 60 and 100 feet tall, and serve several hundred thousand customers. The Public Service Commission (PSC) is the branch of Wisconsin State government with the overall responsibility of regulating electric utilities. Transmission lines are located in the Towns of Gurney, Saxon, Kimball, Pence, Carey, Oma, and Mercer. Transmission lines in Iron County are also shown on Map 4.1 Utilities.

## 4.8 ELECTRIC & GAS UTILITIES

Three electric companies serve Iron County. Xcel Energy, Bayfield Electric Cooperative, and Price Electric Co-op are the primary providers of electric services to the county. Map 4.1 depicts electric utility providers in Iron County.

- **Xcel Energy**- provides electrical service to residents in the Cities of Hurley and Montreal and in all or parts of the Towns of Anderson (Upson), Knight (Iron Belt), Pence, Mercer, Saxon, Gurney, Kimball, and Oma.

- **Bayfield Electric Cooperative**- serves rural portions of Iron County including the Towns of Anderson, Carey, Gurney, Kimball, Knight, Oma, Pence and Saxon.
- **Price Electric Co-op**- serves portions of the towns of Mercer and Sherman in Iron County.

In Iron County, either Xcel Energy or We Energies provide natural gas services. Xcel Energy supplies natural gas to businesses and residents in the Cities of Hurley and Montreal, to businesses and residences along STH 77 from Montreal to Pence, and in the unincorporated community of Saxon. Xcel Energy also extends natural gas services to residents and businesses on USH 2 from Hurley to the Credit Union in the Town of Kimball. We Energies offer natural gas utilities to businesses and residents along USH 51 and in Mercer town proper via a steel high-pressure natural gas main that runs from Watersmeet, MI. Any future extensions would depend on year-round home heating customers who would be willing to pay for the extension.

## 4.9 EDUCATION FACILITIES

Most of Iron County's school age children attend one of three public school districts in the county. They include the Hurley School District, Mercer School District, and the Park Falls School District. See Map 4.2 for district boundaries. Below is a brief description of each school district located in Iron County.

- **Hurley School District**- The Hurley K-12 School, located at 5503 W. Rangeview Drive is located on 40 acres in the Town of Kimball. The 140,000 square-foot, one level building was erected in 1991 and according to Wisconsin's Information Network for Successful Schools, the 2003-04 school enrollment was 763. Future enrollment projections indicate that in 2006 the district will be down by 50 students and in 2007 it will be down 30 students. The district serves residents in a 468 square mile area, including the cities of Hurley and Montreal, and the towns of Anderson, Kimball, Gurney, Kimball, Knight, Oma, Pence, and Saxon. Over the 20 year planning horizon, it is anticipated that the existing roof will be replaced.
- **Mercer School District**- The Town of Mercer is served by the Mercer School District. Mercer School is a K-12 facility located at 2680 Margaret Street in Mercer. The district reported a 2004 student enrollment of 198 with a pupil to licensed instructor ratio of 10.57 students to 1 instructor. The district boundaries cover only the Town of Mercer.
- **Park Falls School District**- The Town of Sherman is served by the Park Falls School District located in Price County. The district consists of a connected elementary (380 N 9<sup>th</sup> St.) and high school (400 N 9<sup>th</sup> St.), and the middle school (2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue N) in the City of Park Falls. The district reported a 2004 student enrollment of 827. The district boundaries cover all or portions of the towns of Esenstein, Fifield, Lake, Sherman, and the City of Park Falls. Over the 20-year planning horizon there are no plans for major improvements to Park Falls School District facilities.

- **Northwoods Christian Academy**- Northwood Christian Academy is a K-12 private school with a religious education curriculum along with regular academic programs. The school is located at 610 S. Hwy. 51 in the City of Hurley and enrolls approximately 30 students.

Post high school educational opportunities are available from several institutions/organizations near Iron County. They include:

- University of Wisconsin Superior – City of Superior
- Northland College – 1411 Ellis Ave., Ashland
- Wisconsin Indianhead Technical Collage (WITC) – 2100 Beaser Ave., Ashland
- Gogebic Community College – E4946 Jackson Road, Ironwood MI
- Nicolet Technical College – County Highway G, Rhinelander

Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is not anticipated that Iron County will engage in the development of public or private educational facilities. However, it is expected the county will participate in discussions and planning with both public and private schools providing or proposing facilities to ensure siting of these facilities is done in the best interest of the county and that local residents are afforded the best educational programs possible.

#### **4.10 LIBRARIES**

Iron County is served by three public libraries: Hurley Public Library, Mercer Public Library and the City of Montreal Public Library. In addition to these public library facilities, each of the local school districts operates library facilities.

- The Hurley Public Library serves Iron County and is located at 405 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North in Hurley. The library is part of the Northern Waters Library Service and has four computers with internet access available to the public. The library also provides the following services: check-out periods are two days for videos and two weeks for all other materials, a book drop off is available outside the library, library cards are available to all state residents, and out of state residents are required to pay a one-time fee of \$20.
- The Mercer Public Library serves the Town of Mercer, Oma, and Sherman and is located at 2648 W. Margaret Street in Mercer. The library is part of the Northern Waters Library Service. The library has access to approximately 30 other libraries for inter-library book loans. The Mercer Public Library has eight computers with internet access for public use.
- Residents of Iron County may also use the City of Montreal Public Library located at 53 Wisconsin Ave in the City of Montreal. This library is also part of the Northern Waters Library Service and has one computer with internet access available to the public. Typically, the City of Montreal Public Library serves City of Montreal residents.

## 4.11 LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Iron County Sheriff’s Department provides police service in all but the City of Hurley in Iron County. The Iron County Sheriff’s Department serves as the primary law enforcement agency to all towns in the county. The department’s administrative functions and jail facility are located at 300 Taconite Street in the City of Hurley.

The department currently consists of 20 full-time staff including one sheriff, one under sheriff, one lieutenant, two sergeants, eight patrol officers, four jailers, four dispatchers, and one secretary. At any given time, one to three patrol officers are on duty each with his/her own cruiser.

## 4.12 FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Seven fire departments provide fire protection in Iron County, and each gives mutual aid to neighboring departments. Information for each department is provided below in Table 4.2 and on Map 4.3. For more information on fire departments, see appropriate individual town comprehensive plans.

**Table 4.2: Iron County Volunteer Fire Departments**

Department	Address	Chief	District Coverage
City of Hurley	City Hall – Hurley, WI	Darrell Petrusha	Cities of Hurley & Town of Carey
City of Montreal	City Hall – Montreal, WI	Louis Laguna	Cities of Montreal, Anderson, Knight & Pence
Town of Kimball	5715W Center Dr. – Hurley, WI	Paul Stenroos	Town of Kimball
Town of Saxon	1428N Hwy 122 – Saxon, WI	Stacey Ofstad	Towns of Gurney & Saxon
Town of Oma	8001N Hwy 51	Dean Fudaley	Town of Oma
Town of Mercer	5721N Vaughn St. – Mercer, WI	Steve Altman	Town of Mercer
Town of Sherman	3065W Hwy 182 – Springstead, WI	Ron King	Town of Sherman

Source: Iron Count Emergency Management, 2004

## 4.13 AMBULANCE & RESCUE

Three ambulance services provide emergency medical transportation in Iron County. For more information on ambulance and rescue services see appropriate individual town comprehensive plans.

- The Mercer EMS District provides rescue services with facilities located alongside the Fire Hall at 5271N Vaughn Street. Facilities include two ambulances and a snowmobile w/rescue sled. Emergencies are dispatched from the Hurley Sheriff’s Department through the 911 emergency hotline to Mercer EMS units.

- The Beacon Ambulance Service Inc. provides rescue services with emergency facilities located at 101 East Cloverland Drive, Ironwood Michigan. Facilities include five ambulances, a rescue sled and nine full-time and 5-6 part-time employees. Emergencies are dispatched from the Iron County Sheriff's Department through the 911 emergency hotline to Beacon Ambulance located in Ironwood or Beacon can be called directly.
- Park Falls EMS, located at 98 Sherry Road in the City of Park Falls has three ambulances and provides rescue services to the western two-thirds of the Town of Sherman.

#### **4.14 FIRST RESPONDERS**

There are three first responder units in Iron County. The Saxon/Gurney EMT (Emergency Medical Technicians) Unit consists of a joint venture with five first responders and one paramedic who are paged or called to medical emergencies by the Iron County Sheriff's Department. The Mercer First Responder team consists of EMT's who staff the Mercer ambulance district. They provide emergency services to the Mercer area, the Town of Oma and the territory south of the town, beginning at Hwy. G, as well as a portion of Sherman, including Mirror Lake and all of the area east of the lake. The Sherman First Responder Unit, which covers the Town of Sherman, consists of nine first responders who are dispatched to medical emergencies by the Iron County Sheriff's Department. All three first responder teams typically provide assistance at the emergency scene, as ambulances are en route. All first responders are volunteers.

#### **4.15 MEDICAL FACILITIES**

##### **Hospitals**

There are no hospitals located in Iron County. Residents of Iron County receive medical services from four area hospitals.

- **Grand View Health System** - located at N10561 Grand View Lane in Ironwood, MI provides emergency and other health care services in Iron County. The hospital provides an array of general and specialty services to meet the needs of area residents, and operates facilities that are staffed 24 hours a day to respond to medical emergencies.
- **Memorial Medical Center** - located at 1516 Maple Lane in Ashland provides emergency and other health care services to some county residents. The hospital provides an array of general and specialty service to meet the needs of area residents, and operates facilities that are staffed 24 hours a day to respond to medical emergencies in Iron County and the surrounding area.
- **Flambeau Hospital** - located at 98 Sherry Avenue in Park Falls it operates a facility that is staffed 24 hours a day to respond to medical emergencies in southern Iron County.

- **Howard Young Medical Center** – This medical facility is located at 240 Maple St. in Woodruff, WI and operates a hospital that is staffed 24 hours a day to respond to medical emergencies in southern Iron County.

**Clinics**

There are three clinics in Iron County. Grand View Clinic, located at 501 Granite Street in Hurley, Marshfield Clinic-Mercer Center, located at 3181 Clinic St. in Mercer, and Grand View Clinic located at 5221 N. Hwy. 51 in Mercer. Each clinic provides a range of clinical services to Iron County residents.

**4.16 CHILD AND SENIOR CARE SERVICES**

Iron County Human Services maintains a list of certified and licensed day care providers in the county. As of February 2004, there were 16 childcare providers in Iron County. This list is continually updated. For the most up-to-date information, contact Iron County Human Services. Sky View Nursing Center and Villa Maria Health and Rehabilitation Center are currently the only senior care (nursing home) facilities in Iron County, and both are located in the City of Hurley.

**4.17 CEMETERIES**

Cemeteries are important community facilities that preclude any other type of development. Documenting Iron County’s cemeteries ensures that future developments be done in such a way so as to preserve an important part of the county’s past and future. Table 4.3 lists Iron County’s current cemeteries and their locations.

<b>Cemetery Name</b>	<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Section</b>
Greenwood	Anderson Township	18NE
Calvary	Anderson Township	18NE
Edgewood	Gurney Township	4S
Shaarei Zadek	City of Hurley	N/A
St. Mary’s	City of Hurley	25SE
Hillside	Knight Township	2N
Mercer	Mercer Township	36NC
Lake View	Saxon Township	2SW

Source: Cemetery Locations in Wisconsin, 1999

**4.18 PARK & RECREATION FACILITIES**

Iron County offers a variety of natural surroundings that other areas can only envy. Pristine waterfalls cascade through the colorful forests and the rugged Penokee Range towers over historic mining communities. Its abundant public lands make available a wide range of recreational uses possible. What follows is an inventory of park and recreation facilities within Iron County. Future needs for Iron County Parks are addressed in the Iron County Outdoor Recreation Plan maintained by the Iron County Forestry Department. Map 4.4 shows the location of existing parks and recreation areas in Iron County.

## **County Parks**

Gile Park on Gile Flowage - Gile Park is a county park located west of Hurley on Hwy. 77, left into Gile to Flowage. The park has a picnic area, tables, fireplaces, drinking water, pavilion, rest rooms, changing rooms, slide and swings, boat launching ramps, fishing, and camping only on islands.

Weber Lake – This county park is located west of Hurley off of CTH E in the Town of Anderson. The park consists of ten acres with a picnic area, tables, fireplaces, drinking water, pavilion, restrooms, changing rooms, boat launching ramps, fishing, camping (fee), and electricity.

Schromberg Park – Schromberg County Park is an 80-acre park located off Highway 51 in the Town of Oma. Facilities include a picnic area and a pavilion.

Saxon Harbor - This county park is at Lake Superior, north of U.S. 2 on Hwy 122. The harbor includes 52 slips for boats up to 38 feet long, five transient moorings (non-permanent docks), two boat launches, parking for 50 trailers, 1,000 gallons of 90 octane gas for sale, boat septic system tanks, water, and restroom facilities. Iron County has recently secured funding to double the size of the existing harbor.

Lake of the Falls - A 40-acre county park and campground (35 units) located at the beginning of the Turtle Flambeau Flowage 6 miles west of Mercer on CTH FF. Facilities include picnic area, tables, fireplaces, drinking water, rest rooms, swimming, boat ramp, fishing, pavilion, electricity, and caretaker.

Potato River Falls – Located two miles west of Hwy. 169 in the Town of Gurney. Facilities include trails, restrooms, picnic tables, pavilion, free camping, waterfalls, and trout fishing.

## **City Parks**

Al Riccilli Park – This five-acre community park is located at 805 Maple Street in the City of Hurley. Facilities include picnic tables, playground equipment, basketball court, pavilion and restrooms.

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

Albert C. Morzenti Sr. Memorial Park – The 10-acre park is located on Highway 77 in Montreal. The west fork of the Montreal River flows along this park near the picnic area. Facilities include picnic tables, grills, swing set, trash containers, a skating rink in the winter months, and a historical marker commemorating the site of the world’s deepest iron mine. Montreal baseball field is adjacent to this park.

Gile Park – This park, located on the Gile Flowage in Montreal, consists of a pavilion, new playground equipment, boat launch, restrooms, and a swimming area.

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

### **Town Parks**

Carow Community Park (Mercer) - This town park is located on CTH J on Grand Portage Lake. Facilities include picnic area, tables, fireplaces, pavilion, rest rooms, swimming, lifeguard, playground, and ballfield.

Upson Community Park - This town park is maintained by the Town of Anderson, and is located on the Potato River west of Upson. Facilities include picnic area, tables, fireplaces, pavilion, restrooms, overnight camping, firewood available, electrical outlets, waterfalls and trout fishing.

Kimball Park - The Kimball Town Park west of Hurley and south on Park Road on the Montreal River offers facilities including a picnic area, tables, fireplaces, pavilion, restrooms, overnight camping, waterfalls, trout and walleye fishing, education/walking trails, and other improvements.

Oma Town Park - This town park is located on CTH G on Pine Lake. Facilities include picnic area, tables, fireplaces, pavilion, rest rooms, swimming, lifeguard, and playground.

### **State Campgrounds**

Sandy Beach Campgrounds - This state campground is located on Powell Marsh Road in the northeastern corner of the Town of Sherman. Facilities include rustic campsites, toilets, tables, picnic area, fire rings, drinking water, swimming, and a boat launch.

Turtle Flambeau Flowage Islands - This state camping facility offers remote campsites on islands accessible by water only. Facilities include steel fire rings and open-air pit toilets. Camping is year round at no charge. Maps are available at the Mercer Ranger Station and the Mercer Area Chamber of Commerce.

### **Waterfalls**

Some of the most spectacular waterfalls in Wisconsin, both in height and surrounding scenery are found in Iron County. Visitors and residents can enjoy the waterfalls as natural now, as they were when they were discovered. Most of Iron County's many waterfalls are located off the beaten path and include the following:

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| ➤ <b>Superior Falls - 90 feet</b>     | Montreal River (Lake Superior/Saxon Area)          |
| ➤ <b>Potato River Falls – 90 feet</b> | Potato River (Gurney Area)                         |
| ➤ <b>Peterson Falls – 35 feet</b>     | East Branch Montreal River (Hurley Area)           |
| ➤ <b>Upson Falls – 18 feet</b>        | Potato River (Upson Area)                          |
| ➤ <b>Gile Falls – 15 feet</b>         | West Branch Montreal River (Gile Area)             |
| ➤ <b>Shay's Dam Falls – 15 feet</b>   | Turtle River (Mercer Area)                         |
| ➤ <b>Kimball Falls – 10 feet</b>      | West Branch Montreal River (Hurley Area)           |
| ➤ <b>Lake of the Falls – 10 feet</b>  | Turtle River (Mercer-Turtle Flambeau Flowage Area) |
| ➤ <b>Rock Cut Falls – 15 feet</b>     | West Branch Montreal River (Hurley Area)           |

- **Spring Camp Falls – 20 feet** East Branch Montreal River (Hurley Area)
- **Wren Falls – 15 feet** Tyler Forks River (Gurney Area)
- **Foster Falls – 25 feet** Potato River (Gurney Area)
- **Rice Lake Falls – 10 feet** Turtle River (Mercer Area)
- **Rouse Falls – 15 feet** Rouse Creek (Upson Area)
- **Little Balsam Falls – 8 feet** Tyler Forks River (Upson Area)
- **Saxon Falls – 78 feet** Montreal River (Lake Superior/Saxon Area)

### **Non-Motorized Trails**

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

MECCA Trail- The (Mercer Cross-County Association) MECCA Trail system is located in the Town of Mercer and consists of hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing trails. The MECCA Cross-Country Ski Club grooms 10 km for skating and 18 km for classical around Little Turtle Flowage. Most trails are on county land. The club maintains a warming house with a wood stove. The main trailhead is located 6 miles northwest of Mercer.

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

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

Montreal Nordic Ski Trails- This trail is located in and around the City of Montreal and includes just over nine miles of trails. Eight different sections, each with a different class (easiest, more difficult, most difficult), meander in and around the city. Trails are groomed by Penokee Ranger Volunteers.

Uller Trail- The Uller Trail is part of the Nordic Ski Trails system and is located in the Iron Belt/Montreal area. The trail's terrain is hilly and remote and is approximately 19 miles in length.

Pines and Mines Mountain Bike Trail System- This trail system offers 300 miles of marked and mapped mountain biking opportunities in the abundant public lands of Iron County and the nearby Ottawa National Forest.

Turtle Flambeau Flowage Interpretive Nature Trail- Located at Fisherman’s Landing in the Town of Mercer, this state nature trail is currently under construction. The trail will include a two-mile walking/hiking trail, and when finished in spring 2006, will include interpretive signage along the nature trail.

Downtown Mercer Biking/Walking Trail Project - The Town of Mercer is working toward the development of a pedestrian trail along portions of existing road right-of-ways and adjacent to a segment of abandoned railroad right-of-ways. The proposed trail would provide areas of the community with a safe walkable route to the central business district and would enhance tourism by connecting to neighboring communities such as Manitowish Waters and Winchester.

### **Motorized Trails**

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

Snowmobile Trails - Over 450 miles of well-groomed, uncrowded snowmobile trails traverse Iron County, including the famous “North Country Trail”. Unmatched beauty, with a unique microclimate, along with the most reliable snow in the Midwest (>200 inches/year) guarantees Iron County snow even when other areas do not have any. Iron County’s snowmobile trails connect and incorporate many of the county’s historic communities, transportation corridors, mining and lumbering sites, as well as plenty of forests and lakes. As with the ATV trails system, a variety of establishments offer food, beverages, gas and lodging along the way.

## **4.19 OTHER FACILITIES**

**The Historical Mercer Depot** – Located in the old Chicago & Northwestern Depot on Railroad Street in downtown Mercer, the depot was acquired by the Mercer Area Historical Society. It serves as a central place to preserve the history of the Mercer area

**Iron County Fairgrounds** – The Town of Saxon is home to the Iron County Fairgrounds. The Iron County Fair is held each year on the first weekend in August on 32 acres in the unincorporated area of Saxon. Other activities and events held at the fair grounds include the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival, which is sponsored by Saxon and the Town of Gurney.

The Iron County Historical Museum – 303 Iron Street, Hurley  
Iron County Farmers Market – 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue North of USH 51, Hurley  
Springstead Historical District – Hwy. 182, Stone Lake

## **4.20 UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS**

A set of recommended goals, objectives, and actions has been developed to assist the county in addressing utilities and community facilities. Actions identified within each objective are intended to assist the county with meeting the overall goal.

**Goal: Iron County supports the effective delivery of area utilities and community facilities through an active public participation process.**

Objective 1: Discourage the duplication of services, whenever possible, of community facilities in neighboring and overlapping jurisdictions.

Action: *Encourage the multi-purpose use of community facilities in order to maximize the public use of the facility.*

Action: *Seek state and federal grants to help defray the cost of utility and community facility projects and work the neighboring communities on common projects whenever appropriate.*

Action: *Encourage all units of government to develop capital improvement plans and share their plans with other units of government.*

Objective 2: Review the potential for public facilities such as campgrounds and marinas to generate revenue to help offset some or all of their operating costs.

Action: *Subject all future government facility expansion or new construction to a cost benefit analysis.*