



**IRONWOOD**

MICHIGAN | *Find Your North*



PURE MICHIGAN





Crisp  
Air  
Clear  
Views

## Why *Ironwood?*

Ironwood provides you with raw, unrestricted access to the opportunities and adventures that matter most while preserving a quality of life that is personally fulfilling.

There are those who search to have it all and those who wish to preserve it. That is Ironwood, MI. Set in the wild of the Upper Peninsula, folks here come as they are to experience the unfettered nature and stay to discover the extraordinary.

## Michigan's Iron Belle Trail

## Why *You?*

Ironwood is for active artistic, adventurous people who take pride in authentic experiences and seek an honest living. Ironwood is the destination that provides you with unlimited access to nature and a vibrant community of diverse connections, making you feel the spirit of the city and joy of adventure, while creating a place to call home.

## *Find Your North*

What is it that you're truly looking for? You can find it here. Find a path yet to be taken. Find a new shop, a great restaurant, or a new favorite trail. Find a community group and make some new friends. Find an interest in history that this great city was founded on, and the arts that are breathing new life into it today. Find your purpose; your niche; your calling. Explore our place, discover your passion, find yourself.

ironwoodmi.gov  
Travelironwood.com

## Diverse Economy Industry

The Ironwood industrial park houses a diverse set of manufacturing companies in the sectors of: Engineering, Plastic Injection molding, Fabric Production, Wood Manufacturing & Production, Electronics Manufacturing. We are also home to the world famous Stormy Kromer. Industrial users enjoy, access to an airport, highway, fiber optic, UPS shipping, and quality workforce.

## Adventure North

Ironwood is the premier destination for recreation in the Midwest. With 4 major ski resorts, hundreds of kilometers of x-country ski trails, Copper Peak International Ski Jumping, thousands of miles of snowmobile and ATV trails, mountain biking, expert whitewater and sea kayaking on Lake Superior and anything that you can think of, Ironwood is the place to do it. With easy access you can explore any adventure that is just as unique as you!

## Arts & Culture

Arts & Culture have emerged as a driving force behind the downtown Ironwood resurgence. Downtown Ironwood has a new brewery, coffee shop, 2 upscale salons, an artisan bakery and a European food store as some of the new businesses calling downtown Ironwood home. The Historic Ironwood Theatre, Downtown Art Place, the new Downtown Art Park and 906 Boom, has created an atmosphere that is inviting artists from all over; downtown is truly becoming a premier arts district.

## Lake Superior

Ironwood is situated just 10 miles South of Lake Superior, the worlds largest fresh water lake. Millions of acres of forest line the beaches and cliffs of this unique destination. Find yourself on the beach after your backwoods adventure, and get out the paddleboard to enjoy life on the water!

#FindYourNorth



# Gateway Community

## Michigan's Western Gateway

Ironwood is the gateway for many metropolitan areas into the Upper Peninsula and to the rest of Michigan. We are situated in a location that funnels traffic to flow through our main highway corridor. Ironwood is located on the Michigan and Wisconsin border and is only 100 miles from Duluth Minnesota.

## Michigan's Iron Belle Trail

Michigan is completing a non motorized trail for both biking and hiking that will run from Ironwood to Belle Isle in Detroit. Ironwood and the Western UP are ahead of the game with over 10 miles of paved trail with 2 more to be completed. In connection with the Iron Belle, subsidiary trails that weave throughout town connect neighborhoods to commercial districts and to recreation destinations. Adventure right out of your front door.

# The Ironwood Draw

## Ironwood's Influence

Ironwood is centrally located as the economic center for many neighboring communities. With Minocqua and Park Falls to the South, Ashland to the West and Ontonagon and Lake Gogebic area to the East. Ironwood's commercial influence and market draw is a massive 60 mile area. Many companies choose to do business here.

## Business Investment

Ironwood has recently invested tens of millions of dollars into public highway improvements, including: Sidewalks, decorative lighting, water, sewer and buried fiber optic cable. As a result of this investment, we have seen businesses reinvest into their properties and many new businesses have started.

*Find Your Northern Lights*

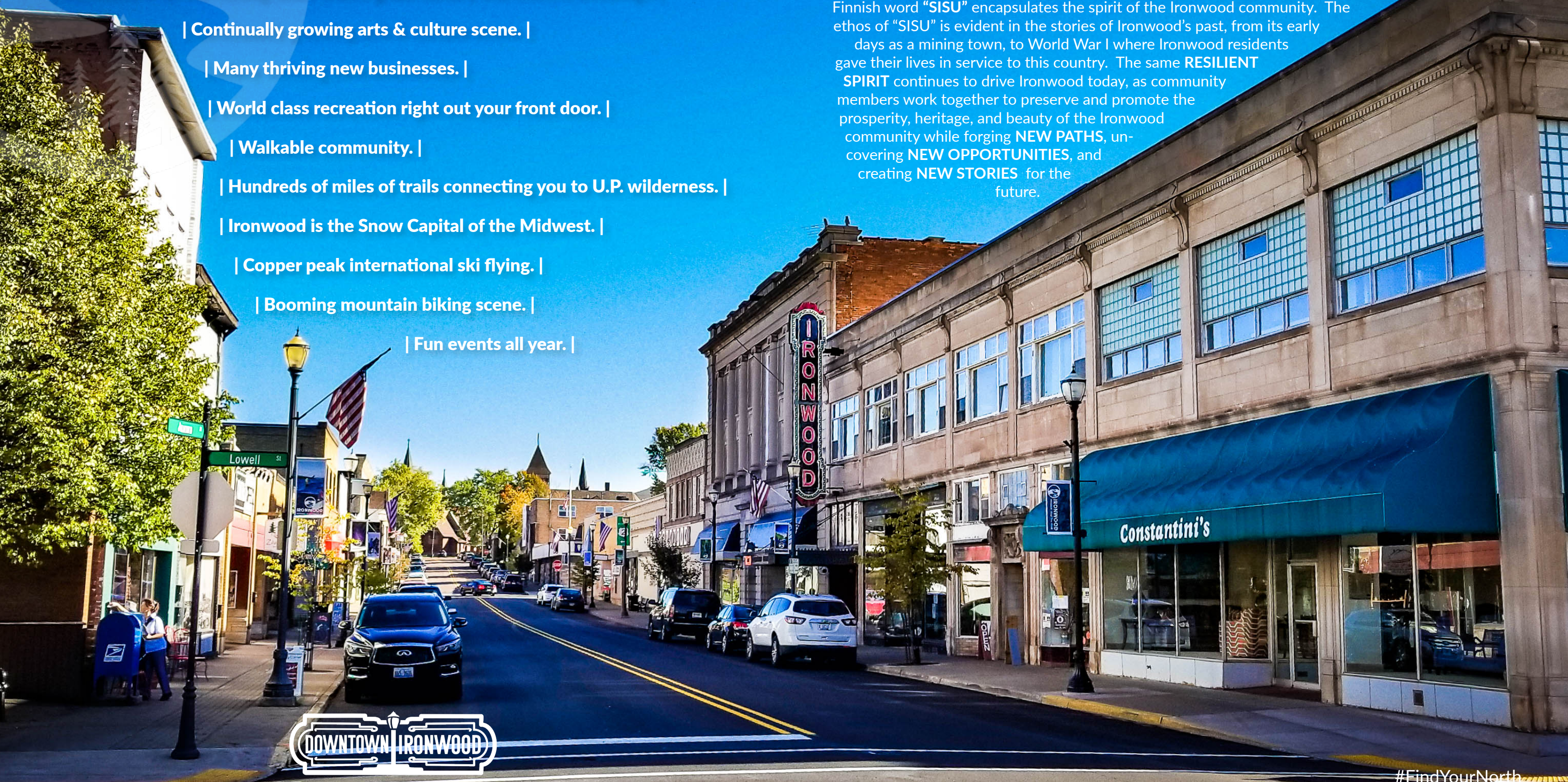


# Urban Appeal in the *Untamed* Western U.P.

- | Downtown living with immediate access to the wilderness around you. |
- | Ironwood is an old mining town with a great history and historic buildings. |
- | Continually growing arts & culture scene. |
- | Many thriving new businesses. |
- | World class recreation right out your front door. |
- | Walkable community. |
- | Hundreds of miles of trails connecting you to U.P. wilderness. |
- | Ironwood is the Snow Capital of the Midwest. |
- | Copper peak international ski flying. |
- | Booming mountain biking scene. |
- | Fun events all year. |

Nestled in the wilds of Michigan and “Big Snow Country” Ironwood is a **YEAR-ROUND DESTINATION** that attracts residents and visitors alike. With **WORLD-CLASS RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES** (from traditional activities like skiing and biking to emerging and innovative adventure sports); vibrant civic spaces and cultural institutions; thriving businesses; intriguing historical attractions; and a welcoming, safe, and collaborative atmosphere. Ironwood is a vibrant and unique small town where people come to enjoy the **Quality of Life**.

Loosely translated as “strength of will” and “courage in the face of adversity,” the Finnish word “**SISU**” encapsulates the spirit of the Ironwood community. The ethos of “**SISU**” is evident in the stories of Ironwood’s past, from its early days as a mining town, to World War I where Ironwood residents gave their lives in service to this country. The same **RESILIENT SPIRIT** continues to drive Ironwood today, as community members work together to preserve and promote the prosperity, heritage, and beauty of the Ironwood community while forging **NEW PATHS**, uncovering **NEW OPPORTUNITIES**, and creating **NEW STORIES** for the future.





## Ironwood, Michigan, embrace your wild.

Unplug and reconnect with the wild and untamed nature that defines Ironwood, Michigan. You can find Ironwood within the ancient Penoque Range of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Fulfill the longing for adventure with high views on dramatic bluffs, to the deep gorges cutting ancient paths on the Black River and spilling out into Lake Superior. Surround yourself by the peaceful sounds of the Upper Peninsula forests. Be adventurous, or just take it all in, there is something for every adventurer.

### ADVENTURE HOT SPOTS

- Big Powderhorn Mountain, Snowriver Mountain Resort, Whitecap Mountains, Mt. Zion
- Black River Harbor Scenic By-Way & Beach
- Little Girls Point Beach
- Lake Superior
- ABR Ski Trails
- Wolverine Ski Trails
- Montreal Ski Trails
- Miners Memorial Heritage Park
- Downtown Ironwood
- Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park
- Copper Peak
- Historic Ironwood Theatre
- Theatre North
- Superior Falls
- Presque Isle State Park
- Gile Flowage



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SPRING



FALL

WINTER



SUMMER







## Youth Programs

- SISU Endurance Team - Iron County youth program open to all area youth, aimed at getting young people engaged in year round outdoor sports, through cross country skiing, mountain biking, and trail running.
- AYSO Youth Soccer.
- Team Z youth Downhill Ski Race Team.
- POP Warner Football.
- Little League Baseball and Softball.
- Gogebic County MSU Extension & Iron County UW Extension 4-H.
- 906 Adventure Team - Youth program designed to seek mountainbiking adventures.
- Ironwood Carnegie Library - Book Clubs, Reading Groups, Baby & Toddler programming.
- Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts

## School Extracurricular Programs

- Athletics - Soccer, Football, Baseball, Softball, Volleyball, Tennis, Basketball, Golf, Downhill Skiing, Track & Field, Cross-Country, Hockey.
- Art & Theatre - Awkward Stage Drama Club, Accent, Concert Band, Choir, Downtown Art Place youth art classes.
- Theatre North & Historic Ironwood Theatre have an active theatre community that produces plays, musicals and various productions throughout the year.
- Ice Crystals Ice Skating & Polar Bear Youth Hockey.

## Adventure Clubs

- SISU Dirt Crew - Tuesday night mountain bike rides.
- Superior Riders - Wednesday night bike rides.
- Superior Snow Shoe - Tuesday night snow shoe walks.
- Ironwood Nordic Skiers - Training club.
- Easy Striders Running Club.

## Trails & Outdoor Adventure Parks

- Copper Peak Mountain Bike Trails - 7 Miles.
- Active Backwoods Retreat (ABR) Ski Trails - 100 Km.
- Wolverine Ski & Bike Trails - 25 Km.
- Miners Memorial Heritage Park (MMHP) Hiking & Biking- 167 Acres. - 10 Miles MTB Trails.
- Big Powderhorn Mountain Bike Trails - part of Wolverine Bike Trails.
- Michigan's Iron Belle Trail - 9 Miles paved.
- Uller Ski Trails - Cross-Country and Back-Country Ski Trails 30 Km.
- Hundreds of miles of snowmobile trails.
- Mt. Zion Cross Country Ski Trails & MTB Trail.

## Local Food

- Farmers Markets - Depot Park Farmers & Artisans Market (Downtown Ironwood), Ironwood Township Farmers Market, Iron County Farmers Market.
- Local Farms - Whitney Creek Farm, Taiga Farm & Vinyard & Food Share, Powderhorn Farm, True North Berry Farm
- Northwind Natural Food Co-op.





# Public and Private Investment

## Public Investment

Over \$40M in 10 years which include:

- \$10M Hwy US2 reconstruction
- \$12M in local street reconstruction (95% local streets in good or excellent conditions).
- \$1.4M in downtown enhancements
- \$500K in new playground, parks and non motorized paths (over \$5M in non motorized paths regionally).
- \$600K in housing rehabilitation and blight demolition.
- Award Winning City of Ironwood Comprehensive Plan.
- \$9M water treatment facility.
- \$1.7M Downtown City Square.
- \$4M New Civic Center & Ice Rink on Gogebic Community College Campus

## Private Investment

The City of Ironwood has had increased private investment in the past 10 years as a result of the relentless public infrastructure investment. We have seen a new interest in highway commercial, downtown commercial and industrial properties. Highway commercial properties and owners are reinvesting into their properties to reflect the new enhancements. A number of enhancements are Super One Foods, Dunham's Sports, Tractor Supply, Burger King, AmericInn, Walgreen's, Shoe Sensation, to name some of the major improvements.

Downtown Ironwood has seen many new businesses open in the last year with many notable businesses such as Contrast Coffee, Cold Iron Brewing, European Treats, Zak's Realty, Stem's Flower Shop, Integrity Salon, About the Hair, Holm's Hobby, Suffolk Street Eatery, The White Rabbit, UP-N-Smoke BBQ, and more.

The City's industrial park has expanded and has filled up and is being considered for an expansion project. New additions to the park are Xcel Energy, expansion of Keweenaw Land Associates, and Ottawa Forest Products.

## Regional Private Investment

Aspirus Ironwood has invested tens of millions of dollars into a new clinic, and complete upgrades on all of their existing buildings. Highland Copper north of Ironwood will begin in the next 5 years and will employ a large amount of highly skilled people. San Fransisco based tech company Expensify recently opened up in Ironwood and now employs over 200 contracted workers.

Copper Peak the worlds largest international ski flying jump is receiving a \$20 million face-lift and is set to become the national training grounds for USA Nordic. Other investments at this site include Red Bull sponsored events such as the Red Bull 400 and Copper Peak Trails Fest mountain bike race.



# Why Ironwood?

## Notable Stats

- US2 has over 10,600 cars that travel per day in the City of Ironwood, making US2 the second busiest road in the Western UP.
- Over 25,000 residents travel to Ironwood for groceries.
- The Ironwood area can support up to 5,000 over night tourists at a single time.
- Many UP residents go through Ironwood to get to Duluth, Minneapolis, and many other major metropolitan areas.
- Ironwood is the Western Gateway into Michigan and the UP.
- The Ironwood area has hundreds of miles of motorized and non motorized trails, access to world class recreation and outdoor areas, 4 major ski resorts; all of which are uniquely set in thousands of acres of forest and Lake Superior shoreline, making Ironwood the premier outdoor adventure destination in the Midwest.
- Copper Peak is set to be the International ski training grounds for the US Olympic team and will begin hosting meets and other events like the Red Bull 400, which draws thousands of visitors per event.
- The Porcupine Mountains draw over 600,000 visitors per year; visitors mainly stay in the Ironwood area.
- Ironwood has hundreds of miles of cross country ski trails, hundreds of miles of snowmobile trails, new mountain bike trails at Copper Peak, Mt. Zion and Miners Memorial Heritage Park.
- Average of 188" of annual snow fall.



Find Your Northern Lights



# Demographics and Statistics

## City of Ironwood Demographics

- Population - 5,054
- Avg. HH Income - \$49,792
- Bachelors Degree - 22%
- Unemployment Rate - 5.6%

## Area Services

- Airline - Denver Air. Flights to Minneapolis and Chicago.
- Bus - Indian Trails Coach
- Local Bus - Award Winning Gogebic County Transit
- Police - Ironwood Public Safety Dept., Gogebic County Sheriff (Bessemer), Michigan State Police (Wakefield).
- Fire - Ironwood Public Safety Dept.
- Emergency Service - 911
- Television - Dish Network, DirecTV, Spectrum
- Telephone & Internet - Spectrum, AT&T
- Cell phone - Verizon, Spectrum, AT&T
- Fiber Optics - Merit Network, Spectrum
- Water/Sewer - City of Ironwood
- Gas & Electric - Xcel Energy
- Hospitals & Clinics - Aspirus Ironwood Hospital & Clinics.
- Ambulance - Beacon Ambulance
- Ironwood Carnegie Library
- Pat O'Donnell Civic Center & Ice Rink

## Largest Employers

- Aspirus Ironwood Hospital - 400
- Expensify - 200
- City of Ironwood - 51
- Snowriver Mountain Resort - 179
- Ironwood Plastics - 170
- Jacquarts Fabric - 136
- Walmart - 240
- Burton Industries - 75
- Ottawa Forest Products - 44
- Waupaca Foundary - 45
- Gogebic Community College - 70
- Gogebic Range Bank - 41
- Other Large Area Employers - Big Powderhorn Mountain Resort, Gogebic County, Bessemer Plywood, Extreme Tool & Engineering, Highland Copper, Precision Tool & Mold, Ironwood Area Schools, Pisani Distributing, Bretting Manufacturing (Ashland), Ottawa National Forest, Hautala Distributing, Super One Foods, Xcel Energy, Enbridge, Snow Country Hardwoods, Snowbelt Hardwoods, Northstar Beverage, UPS.



# Education

## Luther L. Wright K-12 School

Recently remodeled and enlarged to include elementary students. The new K-12 school has consolidated services and has increased efficiency of facilities to be the top school in the area. Ironwood has boasted a small class size with a group of teachers that care for their students.

Luther L. Wright offers a five-year program so that students can obtain their high school degree while also obtaining an associate degree from Gogebic Community College.

Luther L. Wright offers many advanced placement classes, and collaborates with the Gogebic-Ontonagon Intermediate School District to provide more classes such as welding, programming, IT, Nursing, Agriculture, and more.

## Gogebic Community College

With record enrollments in a number of their programs, GCC maintains a rare student-to-faculty ration of 15:1, with an average of 1300 - 1500 students per year. New programs, services, and faculty education continue to keep offerings current for today's workforce and to address our world's ever-changing needs. GCC embraces partnerships with key local businesses and initiates discussions on new programming to help area employers fill job openings.

GCC offers five degrees all of which include varying levels of general education core requirements: Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Associate of Applied Science, Associate of Applied Business, and Associate of Applied Technology.

GCC offers technical curriculum including: Automotive Technology, Building Trades & Construction Technology, Cosmetology, Manufacturing, Ski Area Management, & Welding.





# Fe

Western U.P. & Northern WI  
Community Calendar

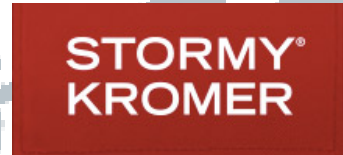
[www.FeLiveLife.org](http://www.FeLiveLife.org)



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## COMMUNITY ASSETS



### Important Links

[Ironwood Residential TMA](#)

[Ironwood Retail TMA](#)

[Ironwood's Award Winning Master Plan](#)

[Ironwood Zoning Ordinance](#)

[Business Assistance Flyer](#)

[Business Incentives Flyer](#)

[Ironwood Realtors](#)

Click on pictures above to visit their websites.

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