



IRONWOOD
MICHIGAN | Find Your North

NEWSLETTER

2025

**CITY OF
IRONWOOD**

Ironwood, Michigan, find your north.

IN THE KNOW

The City of Ironwood is having another banner year. Through hard work and fiscal responsibility, the City is undergoing millions of dollars worth of grant funded improvements to many critical needs identified in the City's Capital Improvement Plan. Areas such as water, sewer, and street infrastructure are getting significant upgrades in addition to the previous upgrades over the past decade. Through extensive public feedback and comprehensive planning, areas such as parks, community facilities, neighborhoods, commercial districts, industrial districts, and economic development initiatives are in the forefront for improvements.

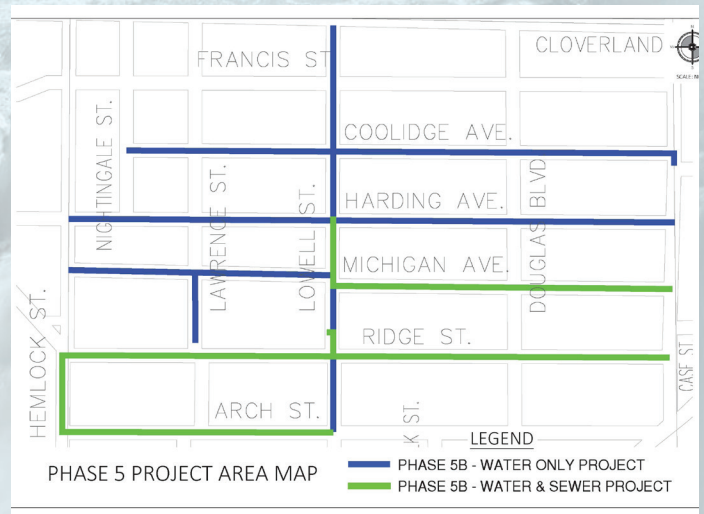
Phase 5 B Water & Sewer Project

Phase 5B water and sewer project design is complete with construction bidding expected to take place in March 2025. Construction will occur in 2025 and 2026. This is roughly a \$12M construction project that will be funded with a \$7M Michigan Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes, & Energy (EGLE) grant, a \$1.54M USDA Rural Development Loan, and a \$3.3M USDA Rural Development Grant.

Welcome New Businesses

Ann Marie Batiste | Marshalls | The Hive | Hobbs Painting Service | The Fire Station | Kleist Mechanic Service | Agate Surprise | Northwoods Concealed Carry | AJR Beauty | Iron Range Auto Repair | Levels | Ironwood Lumberjacks | Superior Sprouts | Northwoods Lawn Care & Snow Removal | Sole Purpose Reflexology | Ollie's Bargain Outlet | Downtown Bodega | Levitikus Ink | American Forest Management

Phase 5 Map



Wastewater Treatment

\$32 Million Treatment Plant Upgrades

The City is one of three members of the Gogebic-Iron Wastewater Authority (GIWA). GIWA has received \$32.2M of State funding (including a \$20M ARPA grant and a \$12.2M EGLE SRF Loan) to comply with the requirements, upgrade process deficiencies, and to increase overall efficiency. The improvement project is anticipated to reduce long-term operating costs while extending the useful life of the facility another 30+ years. C.D. Smith Construction has been awarded the project and has started the construction process. Construction will extend through 2025 and is anticipated to be completed by September 2026 due to long lead times. One of the key improvements is the creation of a storm mode operation utilizing the outer ring of the oxidation ditch to store an additional 0.955 million gallons of overflow capacity.

(906) 932-5050

213 S. Marquette St., Ironwood, MI 49938

ironwoodmi.gov

Water & Streets System

Lead Service Line Replacement

The \$3M Lead Service Line Replacement project with Jake's Excavating has been ongoing since 2023 and will be completed in 2026. To date, this project has replaced 253 galvanized / lead service lines with copper lines. The project is funded with 100% grant dollars from EGLE, and approximately \$1.3M of project grant funds remain. Another 163 lines were suspected to be galvanized but were found to be Copper.

Identifying Lead Service Lines

Jake's Excavating began working on the \$598K TMF grant in the fall of 2024. This 100% State of Michigan grant funded project is identifying material types of water services on ~520 unknown water services. To date, they have found 4 galvanized/lead lines out of the first 200 lines; the rest were copper. This is good news for our long-term liability of number of services that need to be replaced. Galvanized services will be replaced with the Lead Service Line Replacement Grant.

Phase 5 A Water Project

The Phase 5A water system project by Jake's Excavating is 95% complete and on hold for the winter season. Remaining work for next summer consists of restoration and paving the second lift of asphalt and other related work. The \$1.7M project was paid for with 100% grant dollars from EGLE. This project installed new water lines on Albany Street, Frederick Street, Lake Avenue and small portions of Lawrence and Nightengale Streets.

Superior Street Reconstruction

The City will receive \$385K of MDOT Small Urban grant funding to rebuild a portion of Superior Street in 2025. The City will self-fund water infrastructure replacement under the road. This project will also repave Curry Street from Ayer Street to the school and will chip seal portions of Greenbush Street north of US2, Frenchtown Road, Brogan Street, Penokee Road, South Suffolk Street, and Burma Road.

Bonnie Road Lift Station

Reform Electric will be installing a \$106K generator in early 2025. This project will provide electrical backup for our only sewer lift station during power outages.

Phase 1 & 2

Water Treatment Plant

\$11.5M **PHASE 1** of the water plant project is in the final steps of being completed by C.D. Smith Construction. This project replaces the 100-year-old pump station with a new building and high service pumps to pump water from the north Ironwood wellfields to the City's water customers. The project was funded by USDA Rural Development with a \$5.7M grant and \$5.8M Loan.

\$11M **PHASE 2** of the water plant was recently started by C.D. Smith Construction. Phase 2 will add water filtration via a sand filter system, a 250,000-gallon Clearwell, an infiltration basin for backwash water, and a garage. The water filtration plant is schedule to go online in the fall of 2026. This phase of the project is 100% grant funded with EGLE funds.

New water plant - south side.



3 New high lift pumps.



New water plant - west side.





IRONWOOD WELCOMES SEMI PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

Ironwood Agates Baseball
Summer 2025

Ironwood Lumberjacks Hockey
Summer 2024



Arts & Culture

Historic Ironwood Theatre Stage Rigging System

The Historic Ironwood Theatre Community Spaces grant project will be occurring in early 2025 for installing a new stage rigging system. This work is being done by Angelo Luppino, Inc. and a subcontractor that specializes stage rigging work. A \$250K grant was obtained from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity.



Education

Ironwood Carnegie Library Building Addition

The Ironwood Carnegie Library Community Spaces grant project is planned for construction in 2025 with completion in the spring of 2026 and will be built by Ruotsala Construction. A \$750K grant was obtained from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity to add a 1,000 square foot addition to the back of the existing library.

New Fire Truck

Ironwood Public Safety Department

Ironwood Public Safety will be taking possession of a new \$905K fire truck. Funding is coming from a \$481K Congressional Discretionary Spending grant from U.S. Sen. Peters and U.S. Rep. Bergman's office and the remaining \$424K from American Rescue Plan Act funding from the federal government for COVID response and public investment.

Planning

Comprehensive Plan

The City of Ironwood is currently working with HKGi consultants on our 10-year Comprehensive Plan update. The 2014 plan has reached the end of its life and it's time for the community to define its goals and ambitions for the next decade of evolution. The new Comprehensive Plan is expected to be completed in mid-2025.

Strategic Housing Plan

With a shortage of housing in the area due to positive trends in the area's economy, the City of Ironwood is in the middle of working with HKGi on a Comprehensive Housing Plan. The Housing Plan will lay out future housing needs, opportunities and spell out streamlined processes for developers to work on housing within the City of Ironwood.

Parks & Rec Curry Park



In the Fall of 2024, Curry Park Campground had upgraded electrical services to 32 campsites by Northland Electric. In addition, a new sign, site furniture, upgraded gravel parking pads, and improvements to the bathroom building were completed. The project was funded with a \$38K MDNR Trust Fund grant and \$88K of ARPA grant funds. The improvements will allow the City to provide additional amenities to all sites, thus bringing in additional revenue.

Copper Peak

Although not a City of Ironwood project, the City is excited that the Copper Peak Ski Flying Hill project in Ironwood Township is going to be starting construction in May 2025. The Copper Peak Board currently has \$20M from the State of Michigan to renovate the 1969 ski flying hill to meet current FIS regulations for summer ski jumping. The Board signed an agreement with a Minnesota based Contractor to build the landing hill portion of the project starting in May 2025. Copper Peak is currently seeking another \$15-20M to complete the entire project now that prices have significantly increased in the post Covid bidding culture. Once complete, the facility will bring significant tourism and publicity to the area during a series of up to 8 events per year during the winter and summer.

RECENT & CURRENT

Projects

	Cost	Grant/Other	Loan	City Funds
Phase 5 Water & Sewer Project	\$ 15,890,000	\$ 14,350,000	\$ 1,540,000	
Phase 1 Water Plant (pump station)	\$ 11,572,000	\$ 5,772,000	\$ 5,800,000	
Phase 2 Water Plant (filtration/treatment)	\$ 11,000,000	\$ 11,000,000		
GIWA Wastewater Project	\$ 32,000,000	\$ 20,000,000	\$ 12,000,000	
Lead Service Line Replacement Project	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000		
TMF Grant for identifying Lead Service Lines	\$ 598,000	\$ 598,000		
Curry Park Electrical and Site Upgrades	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000		
Hiawatha Park Playground Equipment	\$ 155,000	\$ 145,000		\$ 10,000
Miners Park Mountain Bike Trail Project	\$ 400,000	\$ 380,000		\$ 20,000
2023 Downtown Sewer Lining Project	\$ 448,000			\$ 448,000
Bonnie Rd Lift Station Generator	\$ 106,000			\$ 106,000
2024 Jessieville Tank Mixer and Lining	\$ 113,000			\$ 113,000
2024 Road Improvements Clemens St	\$ 261,000	\$ 250,000		\$ 11,000
2024 Asphalt Patching	\$ 22,000			\$ 22,000
2024 Concrete Patching	\$ 27,000			\$ 27,000
2025 Superior Street (Small Urban Funding)	\$ 800,000	\$ 385,000		\$ 415,000
2024 Culvert Order	\$ 18,000			\$ 18,000
2023 GCRC Road work partner project	\$ 196,000			\$ 196,000
2023 Hemlock St (Small Urban Funding)	\$ 1,703,000	\$ 375,000		\$ 1,328,000
2023 Margaret Street Culvert	\$ 50,000			\$ 50,000
2023 Pavement Markings	\$ 37,000			\$ 37,000
2024 Pavement Markings	\$ 28,000			\$ 28,000
Theatre Sidewalk Project	\$ 65,000			\$ 65,000
Van Buskirk Road Paving Project (Small Urban Funding)	\$ 436,000	\$ 385,000		\$ 51,000
Strategic Housing Plan	\$ 70,000	\$ 50,000		\$ 20,000
Comprehensive Plan Update	\$ 93,500	\$ 50,000		\$ 43,500
Civic Center Siding Repair	\$ 113,000	\$ 113,000		
DPW Crane Replacement	\$ 62,000	\$ 57,000		\$ 5,000
DPW Garage Lighting	\$ 25,000			\$ 25,000
Theatre Rigging Project	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000		
Library Community Spaces Addition	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000		
2024 Memorial Building Exterior Repairs	\$ 10,000			\$ 10,000
2024 Memorial Building Door Repair	\$ 12,000	\$ 6,000		\$ 6,000
2024 Memorial Building Locker Room and Gym Improvements	\$ 25,000			\$ 25,000
DPW Garage Column Repairs	\$ 8,400	\$ 8,400		
2024 Fire Truck Purchase	\$ 905,000	\$ 905,000		
2024 Grader Purchase	\$ 398,000	\$ 100,000		\$ 298,000
2023 Loader Purchase	\$ 237,000			\$ 237,000
2025 Mi Neighborhood - Housing Rehab Grant	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000		
2025 Mi Neighborhood - Longyear Park Upgrades	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000		
Demolitions - City/Gogebic County Land Bank	\$ 147,087	\$ 114,440		\$ 47,648
TOTAL	\$ 82,440,987	\$ 59,453,840	\$ 19,340,000	\$ 3,662,148

The City staff and City Commission have been hard at work to bring in over \$59 million of grants and outside funds into the area.