

4.0 OUTDOOR RECREATION

4.1 PUBLIC LANDS

Public lands provide a wide range of recreational opportunities and are considered a valuable community asset. There may be seasonal and/or other use restrictions for specific activities on some of the public lands in Bayfield County. Common recreational uses include hunting, hiking, horseback riding, skiing, fishing, photography, berry harvesting, biking, and various forms of motorized recreation. Bayfield County is the second largest county in Wisconsin in area and contains approximately 966,000 acres with landscape that varies greatly. Bayfield County has an abundance of publicly owned and managed forestlands and natural areas. Approximately 48 percent of the county is in some form of public ownership. Publicly managed lands in Bayfield County are depicted in Map 4.1.

National Parks

- Apostle Islands 6,028 Acres
- National Scenic Rivers 49 Acres

National Forest Service

- Chequamegon National Forest 271,697 Acres

US Fish and Wildlife Service

- Whittlesey Creek NWR 100 Acres¹

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

- State Parks & Natural Areas 7,905 Acres
- Fish and Wildlife Lands 10,290 Acres

Bayfield County

- County Parks and Forests 167,281 Acres
- Community, School 683 Acres

- **Total Parks and Public Lands 462,481 Acres**

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

4.2 COUNTY PARKS

County parks are publicly (county) owned and operated parks, which provide access to natural resources, recreational opportunities, and accommodations for camping and picnicking.

- Big Rock Park (Campground)
- Twin Bear Park (Campground)
- Delta Lake Park (Campground)
- Atkins Lake Park

¹USFWS authorized to acquire 880 acres

Map 4.1 Publicly Managed Lands

4.3 CAMPGROUNDS - COUNTY

Public campgrounds in Bayfield County range from improved sites designed for recreational vehicles, trailers, and tents to primitive sites. County owned and operated campgrounds include:

- Big Rock Campground
Town of Bayview (15 campsites)
- Twin Bear Park Campground
Town of Iron River (50 campsites)
- Delta Lake Campground
Town of Delta (25 campsites)

4.4 CAMPGROUNDS – CITY AND TOWN

- Dalrymple Campground, City of Bayfield – 30 campsites
- Herbster Campground, Herbster – 35 campsites
- Little Sand Bay, Town of Russell – 16 campsites
- Memorial Park, City of Washburn – 51 campsites
- Moon Lake Park, Town of Iron River – 29 campsites
- Thompson West End Park, City of Washburn – 45 campsites

4.5 CAMPGROUNDS & PICNIC AREAS – CHEQUAMEGON NATIONAL FOREST

The Chequamegon National Forest has five developed, lakeside campgrounds in Bayfield County. These sites provide opportunities for boating, fishing, hiking, and hunting in addition to camping. National Forest sites include suitable sites for tents or trailers, include picnic tables and fire grates, and provide a source of drinking water. The US Forest Service operates and manages these campgrounds, and a fee is charged for use. There are also several designated picnic areas within the national forest.

Campgrounds

- Namakagon Lake, Town of Grand View – 34 campsites
- Birch Grove, Town of Washburn – 16 campsites
- Wanoka Lake, Town of Keystone – 20 campsites
- Perch Lake, Town of Drummond – 16 campsites
- Two Lakes, Town of Drummond – 94 campsites
- Horseshoe Lake– 11 campsites

Picnic Areas

- Lake Owen Picnic Area, Town of Drummond
- Long Lake Picnic Area, Town of Washburn
- Horseshoe Lake Picnic Area, Town of Washburn
- Lake Owen Boat Landing Picnic Area, Town of Drummond
- Namakagon Lake Picnic Area, Town of Grand View

4.6 CAMPGROUNDS – PRIVATELY OWNED

In addition to the camping opportunities provided by public facilities, eight privately owned and operated facilities exist in Bayfield County offering an additional 291 campsites.

4.7 HIKING

Bayfield County has an extensive trail network, including a portion of the North Country National Scenic Trail.

Hiking Trails in Bayfield County

- North Country Trail (28.0 miles)
- Chequamegon National Forest
- Forest Lodge Trail
- Apostle Islands National Lakeshore
- Raspberry River Trails
- Beaver Lake Trail (0.3 miles)
- Bass Lake Interpretive Trail (1.5 miles)
- Long Lake Interpretive Trail (1.0 mile)
- Birch Grove Interpretive Trail (1.0 mile)
- Bayfield County Hiking Trails (county forest, 96.0 miles)
- Waterfront Trail
- Drummond Woods Nature Trail (1.0 mile)
- Anderson Grade (4.0 miles)
- Beaver Lake (0.1 miles)

Hunter Walking Trails (96 miles)

- Everett Lake (2.0 miles)
- Star Lake A – Drummond (5.4miles)
- Star Lake B – Drummond (3.1 miles)
- Pigeon Lake – Drummond (7.9 miles)
- Grass Lake (10.1 miles)
- Henkins (10.0 miles)
- Flag River/ William Hepner/ South Flag (20.0 miles)
- Big Sand Bay (2.0 miles)
- Ahmeek Lake (2.0 miles)
- Spring Creek (20.0 miles)

4.8 SKIING/SNOWBOARDING

Excellent opportunities for both downhill and cross-country skiing exist in Bayfield County. The largest cross-country ski race in North America, the American Birkiebeiner, begins at Mt. Telemark near Cable.

Downhill/Snowboarding

- Mt. Ashwabay
- Mt. Telemark

Cross-Country

- Mt. Valhalla (27.5km)
- Mt. Ashwabay (38.5km)
- Drummond Ski Trails (9.0 miles)
- Namakagon Ski Trail (7.0km)
- Rock Lake Trail (42.4km)
- Telemark Ski Trails (85.0km)
- American Birkiebeiner Trail (19.0km)
- North End Trails (10.0km loop, 2 shorter segments)

Ski trails in Bayfield County are groomed for Nordic, freestyle, or in some cases, both types of skiing. In addition to the groomed trails, county forest and Forest Service lands are also open to skiing.

4.9 SNOW SHOEING

Bayfield County has approximately 36.2 miles of designated snowshoe trails with unlimited backcountry snowshoeing in county and national forest lands.

- North End – Cable (9.9 miles)
- Rainbow Lake Wilderness – Drummond (6.4 miles)
- Telemark (6.0 miles)
- Porcupine – Drummond (6.9 miles)
- Diamond Lake – Grand View (7.0 miles)

4.10 SNOWMOBILING TRAILS

Bayfield County has nearly 550 miles of groomed snowmobile trails. Extensive networks of groomed trails, as well as several miles of ungroomed forest fire lanes exist within the county. A large portion of the trail network is found within the public lands of the Chequamegon National Forest and the Bayfield County Forest; although many trail segments also traverse privately owned lands. The former C&NW railroad right-of-way in the City of Washburn runs from Thompson Creek and Bigelow Street northeasterly to Memorial Park.

- Wildcat (11.8 miles)
- Moquah Spur (3.8 miles)
- Iron River (18.5 miles)
- Sugarbush (2.1 miles)
- Bear Paw (13.2 miles)
- Totogatic (4.6 miles)
- Buckskin (11.5 miles)
- Lenawee (12.0 miles)
- Battleaxe (4.2 miles)
- Delta (4.3 miles)
- Bayfield (2.0 miles)
- Valhalla (15.3 miles)
- Ridgetop (1.1 miles)
- Tower (0.7 miles)

4.11 ATV (ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES) TRAILS

Bayfield County has an extensive network of designated ATV trails. The trail network extends through the Chequamegon National Forest, Bayfield County lands, and some private properties. The former C&NW railroad right-of-way, in the City of Washburn, can also be used for ATV's.

- Battleaxe Trail (15.0 miles)
- Deep Lake (12.0 miles)
- Oulu Connector (1.0 mile)
- IR to TCC Connector (2.8 miles)
- Barnes (20.0 miles)
- Almstead (6.0 miles)
- U.S. Forest Service Trails (54.0 miles)

4.12 BICYCLE TRAILS

Premier bicycling opportunities are available throughout Bayfield County whether along rural roadways or on marked off-road trails. Bicycle enthusiasts can enjoy rides along the Tri-County Corridor and CAMBA trail system, or on forest roads within the Chequamegon National Forest and Bayfield County Forest. Below is sampling of local bicycle trails in Bayfield County.

Cable Cluster

Cable School Trail Head

- Short and Fat (15.1 miles)
-

Telemark Resort Trail Head

- Esker Trail (6.7 miles)
- Out & Back Trail (2.2 miles)
- Sleigh Trail (9.5 miles)
- Spring Creek Trail (10.2 miles)
-

Delta Cluster

Twin Bear Lake Park Trail Head

- Twin Bear Trail (18.9 miles)

Delta Lake Park Trail Head

- South Fork Trail (8.7 miles)
- West Fork Trail (11.3 miles)

Tail Pines Trail Head

- Tall Pines Trail (12.4 miles)
- Wilderness Lake Trail (10.8 miles)

Wanoka Lake Trail Head

- Delta Hills Trail (15.8 miles)

Drummond Cluster

Drummond Park Trail Head

- Cisco Lake Trail (4.6 miles)
- Horse Pasture Trail (18.2 miles)
- Pigeon Lake Trail (11.4 miles)
- Reynard Lake Trail (14.8 miles)
- Star Lake Trail (11.6 miles)

Drummond Ski Trails Trail Head

- Antler Trail (3.9 miles)
- Boulevard Trail (7.8 miles)
- Jack Rabbit Trail (5.2 miles)

Namakagon Cluster

Namakagon Town Hall Trail Head

- Namakagon Trail (10 miles)
- Patsy Lake Trail (12.5 or 8.6 miles)

Rock Lake Trail Head

- G;acoer Trail (10 miles)
- Rock Lake Trail (9.9 miles)

4.13 WATER RECREATION

Bayfield County has 962 inland lakes covering nearly 23,000 acres, which provide a wide array of water-related recreational opportunities such as: swimming, boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, and personal watercraft. In addition, the vast waters of Lake Superior provide additional opportunities for water recreation. The river and stream network provides fishing, touring, and adventure for those seeking solitude and serenity.

In addition, the Lake Superior Water Trail winds through the Apostle Island National Lakeshore and around Madeline Island.

4.14 HUNTING & FISHING

Hunting and fishing are important recreational and social activities in Bayfield County. The abundance of public land coupled with extensive surface water resources provides outstanding

opportunities to pursue a wide range of fish and game. These activities are also economically important to the county, with local revenue generated from license sales and participant expenditures. These expenditures and the local impact are reflected as a component of the overall tourism economic impact in the **Tourism** section (4.15) of the Bayfield County Land Use Plan.

4.15 TOURISM

Economic Impact

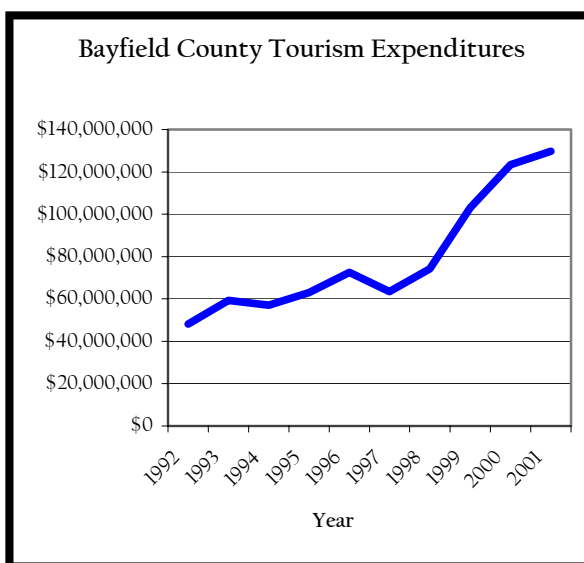
The economic impact^a of tourism on Bayfield County is substantial. In the year 2001, tourist expenditures in Bayfield County exceeded \$129 million, the highest of all four of Wisconsin's Lake Superior counties. These expenditures equate to \$44,927,000 in resident income^b and an additional \$10,992,000 in state revenue^c. The local revenue^d generated by tourism expenditures was \$5,989,000 in the year 2001. Additionally, 3,736 jobs were supported by tourism expenditures in Bayfield County.

Over the period 1992-2001 tourism expenditures has increased by nearly 170 percent in Bayfield County.

Figure 4.1

Tourism Expenditures 1992-2001

1992	\$48,168,863
1993	\$59,316,852
1994	\$56,964,105
1995	\$63,031,196
1996	\$72,496,547
1997	\$63,526,655
1998	\$74,186,461
1999	\$103,037,036
2000	\$106,217,094
2001	\$129,811,550



Source: Wisconsin Department of Tourism, 2001

^a Figures represent the total estimated expenditures made by all travelers, as calculated by the *Davidson-Peterson Associates, Inc.* proprietary economic impact model, based on survey data.

^b Figures represent the estimated dollar amount of resident income that is generated by these full-time equivalent jobs that are supported by total estimated traveler expenditures. These income figures include resident wages, resident salaries, and resident proprietary income.

^c Figures represent the estimated dollar amount of state government revenues that are collected as a result of the total estimated traveler expenditures. State government revenues collected include lodging, sales and meals taxes as well as any other sources of government income collected as a result of the total estimated traveler expenditures throughout the state.

^d Figures represent the estimated dollar amount of local government revenues that are collected as a result of the total estimated traveler expenditures. Local government revenues collected include property taxes as well as any additional sources of county or city government income (additional regional sales taxes, lodging taxes, etc. that are collected at or returned to the local level).