The development of the new disc golf course in Iron River, Michigan, The Tailings, began in the spring of 2007 when Michigan State University’s Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation, and Resource Studies indicated a willingness to assist the local area with a grant application and course design. The Iron River Downtown Development Authority provided financial support, and the Iron County Chamber of Commerce agreed to sponsor the project. A committee was formed to support the project, and the committee has received technical support from veteran disc golf players including Dan Mangone, a Caspian native, who owns “Discovering the World” (dtworld.com) in Buena Park, California and is a member of the Disc Golf Hall of Fame.

As one of disc golf’s earliest promoters, Dan helped set the standard for tournament directing. His work as the course pro at California’s famous La Mirada Park and the programs he established helped to cultivate many of the world’s best players. The long successful running of the La Mirada Open and the U.S. Open are great achievements attributed to Dan. Dan continues to serve the disc golf community worldwide through his Discovering the World business.

Bruce Benkley serves as the committee chairman and brings a passion of the sport to the course as he has provided thousands of hours volunteering his time to complete the course for play in the summer of 2010.

Warren Rauhe, Director of Michigan State University’s Small Town Design Initiative, identified several lay-out options in the valley area along the Iron River. The committee chose a design that begins just south of the Klint Safford Memorial RV Park near South River Avenue.

Sponsors contributing financially to the purchase of the equipment include Dan Mangone of California, David and Janice Dwight of Wisconsin, Northstar Health Systems, Riverside Pizzeria/Dina Mia Kitchens, Iron County Alliance, all of which are now lifetime hole sponsors and Bigari Ace Hardware. Sponsors are still being sought. More information can be obtained through:

Iron County Chamber of Commerce
50 East Genesee Street
Iron River, Michigan 49935
Phone: 906-265-3822
E-mail: edc@iron.org
The Tailings is a new 18 hole disc golf course being completed in Iron River, Michigan and ready for play July 2010. This unique course is set along the Apple Blossom Trail and the Iron River which was once a busy railroad grade that provided iron ore shipments out of the community during the iron mining days. Play along the course reveals remnants of several mines that once thrived on the course grounds. Unique rock formations play a role in the difficulty of the course. The start and finish points parallel the Iron River with easy access from walking trail or ORV trail that is accessible from many part of Iron County. Camping in the Klint Safford Memorial RV park includes tent sites and full hookup with showers available in the Chamber of Commerce facility.

**Directions:** Take Highway US2 to River Avenue South crossing Genesee Street and west of the Klint Safford Memorial RV Park to the parking area at the intersection of the ORV Trail at the end of River Avenue. Holes 1 and 18 along with an information board are easily accessible from this spot. If walking from the Chamber of Commerce office, the course starts just before the foot bridge that crosses the Iron River on the Apple Blossom Trail.