Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood.

- FRED ROGERS -
I was doing flips at the playground!

I went snorkeling!

Me and dad caught frogs on the lake.

We went kayaking on Ottawa Lake.

History Buffs
Iron County is home to three remarkable museums. The Iron County Historical Museum boasts 10 acres of exhibits including a one-room schoolhouse, sugar shacks from the 19th Century, Native American Exhibits, and two art galleries. The Harbor House Museum in Crystal Falls and the Alpha Historical Museum also offer an incredible look at early life in Iron County. You can also visit the historic Iron County Courthouse which was stolen during a poker game. They offer a free tour up their clock tower and offer a history room that is full of interesting information and artifacts.

Exploring
Over half of Iron County is public forest land! Head out to the woods to find all kinds of animals and plants. Take a printout of animal tracks and see which ones you can find. Find plants that work together to live, called symbiotic relationships like lichen on trees and mushrooms on debris. At night, our skies are bright with stars and even, on occasion, the Northern Lights! Bring a star map and find yourself an open area to find different constellations, planets, and satellites.

Swimming
There are over 250 lakes and over 300 miles of navigable river in Iron County. Several beaches such as Sunset Lake, Runkle Lake, and Chicaugon Lake have playground equipment and rafts to play on as well as big open areas to fly kites, play football, or have a lively game of tag! If a pool and hot tub sounds more your style, visit Young’s newly renovated pool.

Sports
There are lots of parks in Iron County, many with basketball and tennis courts. You can also enjoy indoor sports at the Windsor Center where you can play pickleball, basketball, and much more! We also have a paved bike trail that spans 11 miles that’s challenging enough to be fun, but easy enough that mom and dad can do it! You can even rent bicycles at Pedalers and Paddlers as well as kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards.

Libraries
Two community libraries call Iron County home: the West Iron District Library in Iron River and the Crystal Falls Community Library in Crystal Falls. Both libraries often host family-friendly programs and events year-round. They also provide play areas and quiet reading areas for some down time with a good book for both parents and kids. The WIDL also hosts free lunchtime concerts in their outdoor atrium through the summer.

Parks
We have tons of parks for you and your family to enjoy! From quiet parks on a river like Nanaimo Park in Iron River to Bachman Park down the street that has tennis courts, a baseball diamond, and playground equipment, to Pentoga Park which sits on a sandy beach and houses a Native American burial ground, we have a park for everyone.

Finnley went sledding with us too!