



## **Iron County Outdoor Recreation Enthusiasts (ICORE)**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

May 8, 2026

### **ICORE and Hurley reach deal to purchase land for new trail, provided fundraising goal is met**

Iron County Outdoor Recreation Enthusiasts (ICORE) and the City of Hurley have reached a deal with Canadian National (CN) to purchase the former Soo Line railroad grade between Hurley and Montreal. On May 8, Hurley Mayor Joanne Bruneau signed and submitted a real estate sale contract wherein the City will purchase 37.2 acres of Canadian National (CN) property for \$175,000. The City has until November 15, 2026 to complete the purchase. ICORE provided a \$10,000 deposit on April 15, when the City Council approved the sale contract. ICORE already has another \$60,000 and is fundraising the remaining \$105,000 this year.

The land would mostly be used for a rails-to-trail project consisting of a 3-mile paved walking and biking trail between Hurley and Montreal. The trail would connect to the existing 10-mile Iron Belle Trail, linking five communities: Montreal, Hurley, Ironwood, Bessemer, and Ramsay.

Ian Shackleford, ICORE Vice President, discussed efforts to help the City of Hurley purchase the land from CN. "We are grateful to everyone who that has contributed to this project, including the Gogebic Range Health Foundation and Enbridge Inc. Currently, we need to raise another \$105,000 to complete the land purchase. Building the trail will of course cost much more, but if we can acquire the land, we are confident we could raise most of the funds we need for construction from State grants."

"In 2024, CN offered to sell their abandoned land to the City of Hurley for \$175,000," Shackleford said. "Since then, ICORE has been working with the City of Hurley on the details. We hired Coleman Engineering to survey the property, and Associated Title to prepare a title insurance policy. Although we still have much fundraising ahead of us, we look forward to providing Hurley with the full \$175,000 by November 15, 2026."

Shackleford emphasized the proposed route for the trail was developed in collaboration with motorized trail leaders. "We worked with Iron County Forestry & Parks, Iron County ATV Club, Iron County Rec Council, and White Thunder Riders to find a route that would provide a scenic trail and avoid conflicts

with motorized trails,” Shackleford said. “The CN land sale will also support motorized use, by acquiring a half mile of the Iron Horse Trail that currently runs on the Soo Line railroad grade.”

Hurley Mayor Joanne Bruneau commented on the trail project. “The Hurley Montreal Trail will be a welcome development for residents and visitors to the City of Hurley. I am grateful to all the volunteers and organizations like ICORE that dedicate their time and passion to make good things happen in our community.”

For more information, or to contribute to the land purchase, please visit the ICORE website at [www.ironcountyoutdoors.org/hurley-montreal-trail](http://www.ironcountyoutdoors.org/hurley-montreal-trail). Ian Shackleford, ICORE Vice President, may also be called at 906-285-4329.



Caption: The Hurley Overpass West bridge would become public property if ICORE and the City of Hurley are successful in completing the land purchase from CN. A paved trail would be built across the bridge, connecting to the existing Iron Belle Trail.