



## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### MINNESOTA'S FAVORITE PLACE – GET OUTDOORS!

Crow Wing County has many great opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy the outdoors including over 300 acres of parks, 32 miles of non-motorized trails, 45 miles of groomed cross country ski trials, over 700 miles of snowmobile trails, and over 100,000 acres of public land.

Among the over 300 acres of parks is the newly updated Paul M. Thiede Fire Tower Park, located at 5230 County Road 11 in the City of Pequot Lakes. This park was first opened to the public in 2020 and includes a historic fire tower that is over 100 feet tall, built in 1935 and is open for climbing during the spring, summer and fall. The park also has numerous picnic shelters, a vaulted toilet, and 3 miles of walking trails with many interpretive signs along the way. Other County parks include Big Island on the Whitefish Chain of Lakes, Rush Lake located in the Whitefish Chain, Milford Mine Memorial Park just a few miles north of Crosby, and South Long Lake Community Park located at the south end of South Long Lake. Also, coming in 2024, the Little Emily Lake Park located on Little Emily Lake in Emily!

In addition to parks, the 1,000 plus miles of trail opportunities are diverse and cater to all including non-motorized uses such as hiking, horse riding, and mountain biking, as well as motorized uses such as ATV riding, off-highway motorcycle riding, and snowmobiling. The trails are monitored and maintained by both County Land Services staff and trail user groups.

- Off-highway (ATV/OHM) trails officially **closed November 1<sup>st</sup>** with the exception of the Hunter/Trapper exemption per Minnesota Statute 84.926
- Snowmobile and cross country ski trails officially **opened December 1<sup>st</sup>**.
- No walking, snowshoeing or horseback riding is allowed on groomed ski trails.
- No highway licensed vehicles or ATV's are allowed on snowmobile trails.
- Snowshoeing and walking is allowed year round at all county parks and non-motorized trails.

CWC Recreational Trails Website



Maps of all County trails are available in the Land Services building. A full list of all Crow Wing County parks, trails, and recreational opportunities can be viewed on the county website at <http://crowwing.gov/289/Recreation>. Scan the QR code to be directed to Crow Wing County's Recreational Trail website.

### Land Services Department

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**Our Vision:** Being Minnesota's favorite place.

**Our Mission:** Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

**Our Values:** Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.

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