



## Hurley Young Professional Panel Discussion

### What drives you to stay and create a career/life here in the Gogebic Range/Northwest Wisconsin?

- Coming back as an adult seeing community in different light
- Getting involved in outdoor recreation groups and churches
- Work - supportive co-workers
- Recreational groups create such a POSITIVE environment
- Colleagues understand and want to see growth
- Community - lots of support from employers
- Acquaintances have gotten them involved in opportunities
- Getting involved in theater, young professionals
- Growth seen with downtown businesses (Ironwood) - New coffee shop, brewery, art classes

### What are some of the things the community could do to encourage young people to come back or stay?

- Locals not very welcoming or don't know how to meet new people
- Shy people may find it hard to get involved or get out of comfort zone
- Hearing negatives - change mindset that we do have a special area and why wouldn't a person want to come back
- More trails
- Bring back the beach at Norrie Park
- Create more outdoor areas
- Pools
- Expand nightlife of theater - Bars - Bonfire - ski hill (music)
- Locals that stayed vs people that came back have a different view of our area
- Some locals don't see the area in a positive light like the people that came back
- More music in the park opportunities

### How would you encourage/persuade your friends to relocate or open a business here?

- Tell them to contact City officials to discover any incentives
- Make them aware of the low housing costs
- Sell them on the idea that they could be a part of growth of the area (big fish in a smaller pond)

Do you feel “boxed in” in your current profession in this rural area and do limitations exist if you were to lose your job?

- There would be many “side-job” options or seasonal employment outdoors
- Teach options - comfortable with career choice in the area considering there are multiple school districts
- As a human resources professional, there would not be many options and relocating would likely occur

How often do you travel/commute to do things - socially or recreationally?

- Trips to Duluth occasionally to see a movie/have a nice dinner
- Biking trips
- Camping trips
- Don't really travel too far out of area often

What challenges do you face living in a rural community?

- Everyone knows who you are - can be seen as a positive or negative
- Internet is important - if living in outside of the City in the more rural areas, options for internet use and the convenience it brings for shopping, etc. are limited
- Online classes to further education are necessary because of distance to higher education
- In more rural communities, young people struggle with decisions being made the same way they always have been. Communities need to adapt, break the mold, and try new things - including new ideas from young people - welcome them to the table.

What are the top amenities that you enjoy about your community?

- Options for shopping
- Restaurants
- Outdoor (trail) recreation including hiking in parks, snow recreation
- Walkable downtown area, trails, place to meet friends - for all ages, brewery is a great place to go
- Housing is so affordable
- Safe neighborhoods - friendly neighbors
- Buying a home is cheaper than renting
- Changing of seasons
- Proximity to Lake Superior
- Can enter into management role vs. starting at entry level in a more urban area
- Commute and lack of traffic

How engaged are you in planning festivals or other social events in your community?

- Would not be willing to start the effort, but would definitely be happy to help
- Would be willing to network and “spread the word” to promote as needed
- Lots of the opportunities that exist to be involved in the planning efforts occur during the day when younger people are required to be working - more options with time that works in the evenings would likely see more participation
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