



Facility Datasheet

Giants Ridge, located in Biwabik, Minnesota, stands as one of the premier four-season recreation destinations in the Upper Midwest. Surrounded by the Superior National Forest, the resort offers a unique blend of natural beauty, year-round outdoor experiences and regionally significant amenities. Giants Ridge is approximately three hours north of the Twin Cities metropolitan area and one hour north of Duluth.

Owned by the Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation (IRRR), Giants Ridge plays an important economic, cultural and recreational role in northeastern Minnesota. Through decades of investment and development, the resort has evolved into a multifaceted destination featuring nationally recognized golf courses, extensive alpine and Nordic ski terrain, family-friendly attractions, comprehensive lodging options, retail and dining venues and a broad range of summer and winter programming. Giants Ridge continues to serve not only as a recreational hub, but also as an anchor for tourism and workforce vitality throughout the Iron Range region.

The facility is currently operated under a management contract that is set to expire in April 2027. In anticipation of this, IRRR is seeking qualified, experienced and capable responders to assume responsibility for operating all aspects of Giants Ridge.

Winter Details

- 200 acres of skiable terrain
- 65,000 winter recreation visits per year
- 35 alpine ski runs with 500 feet of vertical drop
- Five aerial chairlifts (one high-speed express)
- Two conveyors servicing the beginner terrain
- Two terrain parks, one of which has a high-speed rope tow
- Snow tubing park with associated tow lift
- One retail shop in the Event Center
- One full-service restaurant and one food court
- 63 kilometers of world-class Nordic trails
- Newly constructed Pool and Sauna Haus
- Mountain Sports School

- Other activities: lift-served winter fat biking, snowshoeing and hosting premier public and private events
- Rental facility and operation to support all winter activities

Summer Details

- Two 18-hole highly rated championship golf courses
 - The Legend: Ranked #8 among public golf courses in Minnesota
 - The Quarry: Ranked #1 among public golf courses in Minnesota
- 35,000 golf visits per year
- Golf lesson programs offered at both courses
- Two full-service restaurants, one small grill and beverage carts at both golf courses
- 12 lift-served downhill mountain bike trails
- Approximately 10 miles of purpose-built cross-country mountain bike trails
- Newly constructed Pool and Sauna Haus
- One retail shop in the Event Center, two golf retail/pro shops
- Access to the paved 165-mile Mesabi Bike Trail
- Approximately 8.5 miles of hiking trails
- Rental facility and operation to support all summer activities
- Other activities: children's playground, climbing wall, scenic chairlift rides, summer bike camps and hosting premier public and private events

Recent Capital Investments

Over the past 10 years, IRRR has made significant investments at the facility including:

- Construction of a new Event Center (2016): Total Investment = **\$12.8 million**
- Replacement of two chairlifts (2017): Total Investment = **\$6 million**
- Construction of cross country and downhill mountain bike park (2019-2022): Total Investment = **\$3 million**
- Construction of a new valve house to support snowmaking operations (2023): Total Investment = **\$750,000**
- Complete overhaul of the snowmaking system to include automation (2024): Total Investment = **\$16 million**
- Construction of a Pool and Sauna Haus (2025): Total Investment = **\$11.8 million**
- Upcoming renovation of the Legend golf course (2027): Total Investment = **\$14 million**

Plans for Future Investment

IRRR recently collaborated with Giants Ridge to create a roadmap for investment in the future. This includes consulting with SE Group to update and develop the following documents:

- Giants Ridge Master Plan (2023)
- Giants Ridge Base Area Concept Plan (2024)
- Giants Ridge Mountain Operations Assessment (2024)

Historic Financial Support

IRRR provides financial support to Giants Ridge for operations, capital projects and contributions to a long-term deferred maintenance account. See table below for a snapshot of financial support:

Giants Ridge	FY27 Budget	FY26 Budget	FY25 Budget	FY24 Budget	FY23 Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 8,019,019.00	\$ 8,125,689.00	\$ 7,068,955.00	\$ 7,335,482.00	\$ 6,375,000.00
Total Expense	\$ 20,869,545.00	\$ 19,200,367.00	\$ 18,629,586.00	\$ 18,822,215.00	\$ 20,518,381.00
Total Investment	\$ 12,850,526.00	\$ 11,074,678.00	\$ 11,560,631.00	\$ 11,486,733.00	\$ 14,143,381.00