

# Manistee County-Wide Park & Recreation Plan Update

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## Worksheet for Local Stakeholders

### Instructions

Thank you for helping in this important effort to update the Manistee County-Wide Park & Recreation Plan. This worksheet and the subsequent discussion with Networks Northwest regarding the responses to each section will help to ensure that the county-wide plan accurately describes the direction the community is seeking to go.

Please read each section's directions, review the information provided and detail updates that will go into the 2022-2026 plan. This worksheet should be completed by either an individual or group that is very knowledgeable about parks and recreation in your municipality.

### Charter Township of Filer

#### Item 1 - DNR-Funded Projects

Below is a list of projects from the 2016-2020 county-wide plan that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has funded. The DNR requires all parks and recreation plans to list projects that it has funded. Please review the table and provide any and all updates or additional projects that have taken place since 2016.

Project #	Applicant	Title	Year	Amount	Status	Description
TF390	Filer Charter Township	Magoon Creek	1980	\$150,000.00	Closed	Acquisition of 97 acres with approximately 2,200 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline for fishing and other passive recreation.

#### Item 2 - Community Description

This community description was provided by a local official from your municipality during the previous park and recreation planning process. Please look over this description and make sure that it accurately answers the following questions:

- What is your community known for, both internally (to residents) and externally (to visitors)?
- What in your community are residents most proud of?

- What recreation opportunities are present in your community? (please mention parks, trails, water access, camping, etc.) – you do not need to note every recreation site in your municipality. A table will note each site in the final plan. Please provide a narrative that describes recreation generally in your community.

#### **Description from previous plan:**

The Charter Township of Filer provides residents with a high quality of life in a varied four-season climate. The township is located on the shores of Lake Michigan in Manistee County's southwest corner. Filer Township consists of 16.5 square miles, including four miles of shoreline on Lake Michigan and two miles on Manistee Lake. The township's natural beauty is a product of the glaciers, resulting in some of the finest fresh water recreation opportunities in northwestern Michigan.

Magoon Creek Park offers 97 acres on the shores of Lake Michigan. Visitors can enjoy stunning views from the shoreline bluffs, picnicking, hiking trails and swimming in a beautiful park setting. Nearby Sundling Park provides a 66 foot easement to a pristine swimming beach on Lake Michigan.

Two small parks located in the Oak Hill and Filer City neighborhoods offer playground equipment. Our Recreation Center is used for exercise classes and community meetings. It can also be rented for family reunions, wedding receptions, parties and other activities.

Filer Township partners with Manistee Area Public Schools to support the Community Pool and the Manistee Recreation Association which offers a wide variety of recreational activities. Partially paved road shoulders used by bicyclists and pedestrians connect Filer Township to her adjacent neighbors.

The US-31 Commercial Corridor has many businesses offering a variety of retail, banking, medical services and leisure activities to the community.

Our Lakefront Industrial Area has been able to adapt to the changing economy, improve its environmental footprint, while employing hundreds of residents in secure and well-paid positions.

Filer Township rests between Lake Michigan and the southern arm of Manistee Lake. The Township provides access to Lake Michigan through two recreation sites, Magoon Creek and Sundling Park. Magoon Creek is a primary site with various amenities such as restrooms, picnic areas and shelters. Beach access is had by following various trails to the water which wind through the park or by driving to the Beach Parking Lot and taking the short trail to the beach below the bluffs to enjoy the sandy beach and spectacular northern Michigan sunsets. Sundling Park is a largely undeveloped site with a beautiful swimming beach a small parking area and picnic table.

Access to Canfield Lake via a DNR boat launch provides additional water access within the Township.

Trail systems within the Township include the localized trails of Magoon Creek and also the on-road bike facility along Red Apple Road which extends north to the City of Manistee along Cherry St. There is a desire to see further trail development and regional connections, with the possibility of snowmobile trail connections. These efforts are supported by the community and should remain a priority for future park and recreation improvements.

### **Item 3 - Primary, Secondary & Tertiary Sites**

In the 2016 park and recreation plan, local stakeholders worked with the planning team to categorize their recreation assets in terms of their importance to the community. These sites were designated primary, secondary or tertiary. Please review the list of sites shown below and confirm that these designations are correct or if one or more of these sites should be changed.

#### Primary

- Magoon Creek Natural Area

#### Secondary

- Sundling Park
- Oak Hill Park
- Filer Twp. Recreation Center

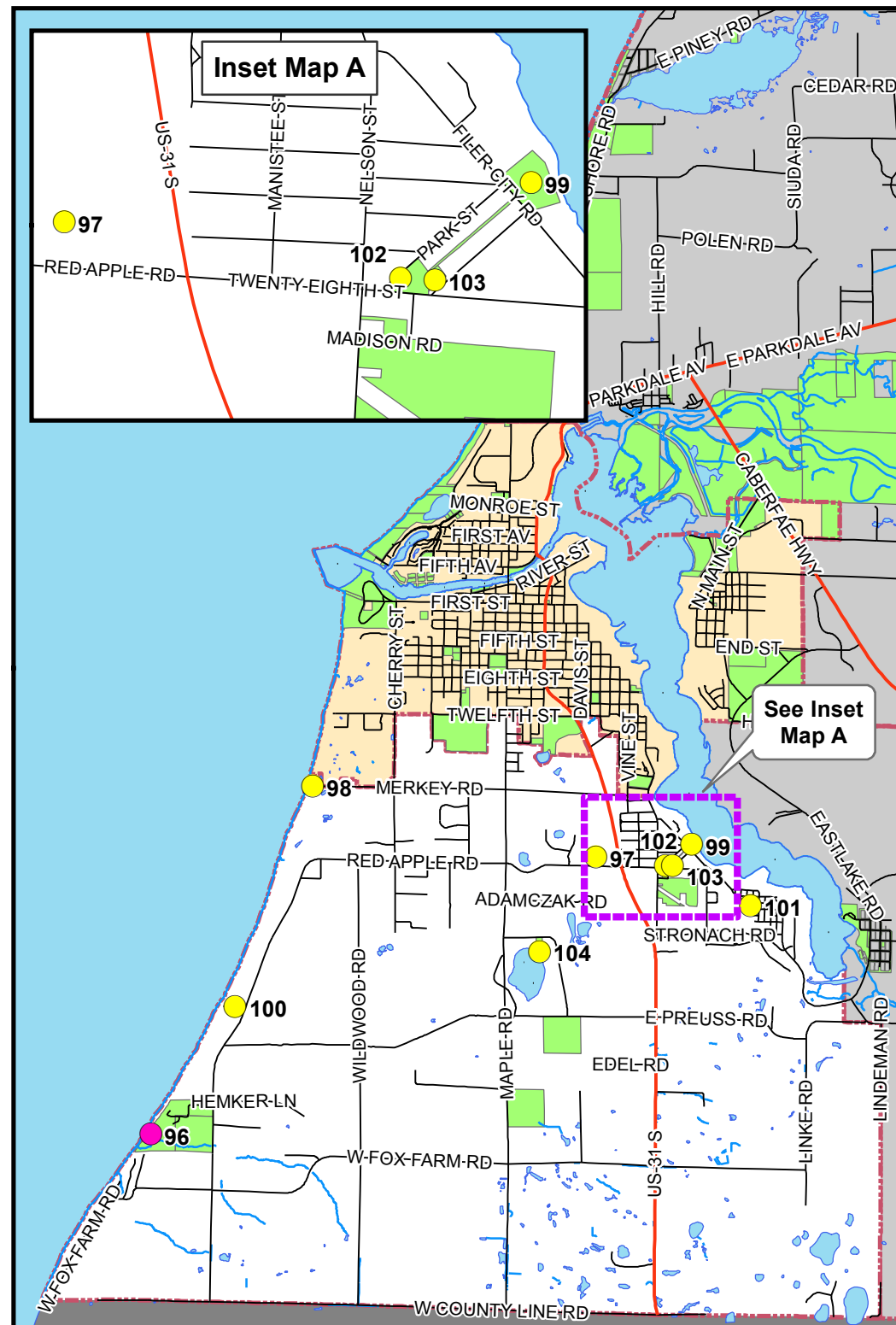
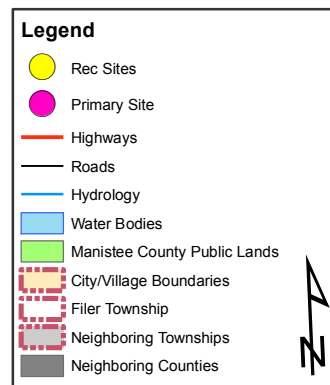
#### Tertiary

- USFS Manistee Administration Office
- Merkey Rd Access-MI
- Filer Twp. Hall
- Filer City Park
- Canfield Lake Boat Launch

### **Item 4 - Recreation Site Amenities**

Please review the attached table of recreation sites in your municipality. This table displays all of the amenities at each site. If amenities have been added or taken away at a particular site, please note this change for the eventual discussion your stakeholder group will have with Networks Northwest.





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## Administrative Structure – Charter Township of Filer

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requires park and recreation plans to describe the administrative structure of the jurisdiction submitting a plan to be on file with the state. The following language is directly from the DNR’s Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks and Recreation Plans:

“Planning for and providing park and recreation services and open space for a community requires staff (or volunteers) and funds to purchase recreation land and open spaces and to develop, operate, and maintain them. In this section, describe how the park and recreation functions are carried out in your community, and include descriptions of the following as they apply to your community:

- The park and recreation commission, committee, board of directors, or advisory board. Include the enabling act under which it was established (see Appendix A). For multi-jurisdictional plans, the working relationship among the participating communities and school districts.
- Your parks and recreation department, staff, or authority. Define who has the authority to commit funds for parks and recreation, accept grants and purchase land on behalf of the community.
- The current year and projected annual budgets for parks operation and maintenance, recreation programming, and capital improvements.
- The sources of funding for the park and recreation budget.
- The volunteers involved in park and recreation programs and what they do. Describe any partnerships you have formed with private organizations to maintain or operate any of your park or recreation programs.
- Relationships with school districts and other public agencies involved in recreation.
- For regional authorities, describe the relationship between the authority and the recreation departments of the participating communities. Provide the Articles of Incorporation for the authority.”

**On the next page is a table with two rows of information. The first row shows the information for your jurisdiction as it appeared in the 2016-2020 county-wide plan. The second row is for you to fill in.**

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## Charter Township of Filer

### Goals & Objectives

Prior to your community's discussion with Networks Northwest, please review the goals and projects from the previous plan. Please note any projects that have been completed or are no longer sought by the municipality. Also make note of any projects that members of the public are seeking to implement in the next 5-10 years (please note that any goals and projects listed in the draft plan will be reviewed during a public hearing at the end of the planning process).

#### 1. Goal: Improve parks

PROJECTS:

Specific Park Improvements:

- See the Filer Township Park Improvements 2016 table for specific park improvements. The park improvements listed are improvements that need to be taken to improve the specific park mentioned. (See Table 7.2)

#### 2. Goal: Develop multi-use trails that are connected to a County wide trail system

PROJECTS:

Separate Pathway From Roadway:

- Create a separate bike path from the roads

Safe Pedestrian Crossings:

- Improve safety by creating safe crossing areas across large roads

Railroad:

- If the existing railroad is relocated or other old railroad beds become available (Indian Trail), utilize the land for trails.

Paved Road Shoulder Loop Trail:

- Create a looped paved road shoulder trail loop that connects Red Apple Road, Fox Farm Road, and Wildwood Roads.

Connect Trail to School Facilities:

- Create a trail connection throughout the community to school facilities.



**3. Goal: Create a system of way-finding to help people navigate throughout the community in order to connect them with recreational opportunities**

PROJECTS:

Way-finding:

- Form a Way-finding Ad Hoc Committee that will work with the Planning Commission, DDA, and Township Board to create an unified system of signage throughout the community