

Manistee County-Wide Park & Recreation Plan Update

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.

Maple Grove Township

Item 1 - DNR-Funded Projects

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires all parks and recreation plans to list projects that it has funded. Please provide any and all updates or additional projects that have taken place since 2016.

Project #	Applicant	Title	Year	Amount	Status	Description

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:

Lumbering activity in Maple Grove Twp. began in the 1850's. Much of the land had significant marketable timber and much of the land was purchased by outside timber investors. Homesteaders moved into much of the area of the Township following the American Civil War period.

The Township came into existence in October of 1878. Population grew slowly in the Township, and the primary early income was through timber operations. A significant boom occurred in 1888 when two railroads were built through the Township.

By the turn of the century lumbermen in the area began marketing cut-over lands through the New York National Land Company. One of the sites was the location of the crossing of the two railroads, known as Manistee Crossing, located in Maple Grove Township. This location became the company's first major development. The community planned especially for Finnish Immigrants with a central village named "Kaleva" after the epic poem Kalevala.

Maple Grove Township through the years experienced agricultural activity which mainly ceased over time due to poor soils, but these same sandy soils filtered abundant groundwater through the many wetlands of the area which fed local cold-water streams. These streams overtime were stocked with species of trout and salmon and led to an abundant fishery in the area.

Portions of land within the Township were held by the State of Michigan and became portions of the Pere Marquette State Forest. These forested lands offer recreational opportunities for locals and visitors alike.

Maple Grove Township provides recreational opportunities on State and School Forest land holdings within the Township. The three identified recreation sites within the Township each provide access to water resources, which displays the importance of allowance for access to water.

Two of the recreation sites are located adjacent to each other along Bear Creek and a Beaver Creek, a tributary of Bear Creek. One site owned by the State of Michigan along Bear Creek has been identified by the DNR as an important access to Bear Creek. The other site located on property owned by the Kaleva Norman Dickson (KND) School System, has frontage on Beaver Creek and is immediately adjacent to the State land. Each of these sites are important access points for small stream water access, and each is utilized primarily for fishing access.

The Lemon Lake access is an important location for water access during both the summer and winter months. With the largest amount of use during the winter for ice-fishing.

The Township has worked closely with the Village and the KND school system when planning for recreation. This established relationship is important to successfully implementing recreation activities and planning site improvements for the whole of the community, and Manistee County.

Trail segments which cross the Township and converge in the Village of Kaleva, should be looked upon for additional connections to communities to the south and west.

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.

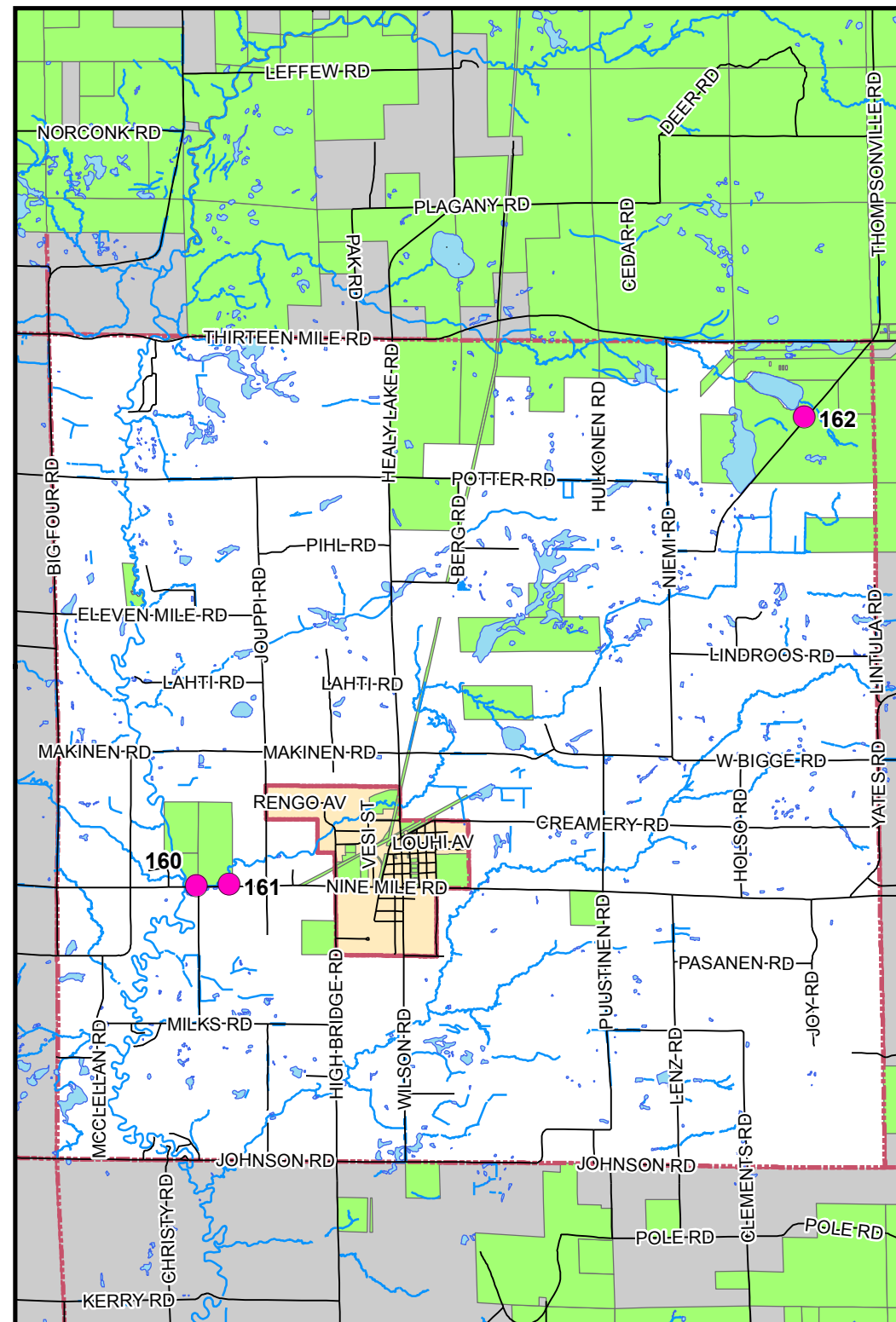
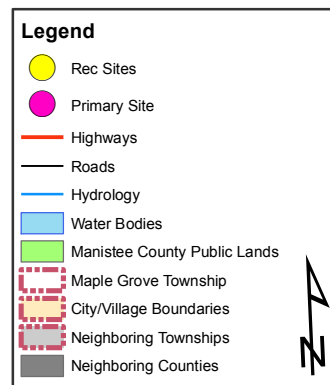
Primary

- Bear Creek Access
- Lemon Lake Access Road
- School Forest Access

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.

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	County-wide Primary	Park Type	ADA Access (Low, Mod., High)	Explore the Shore Nominee	Dark Sky Candidate	Parking Availability	Water Access	Canoe/Kayak Access
160	Bear Creek Access	State	1	•	NRA	L	•		1	•	
162	Lemon Lake Access Road	State	1	•	NRA	L		•	2	•	•
161	School Forest Access	School	1		NRA	L			1	•	



Manistee County-Wide Park & Recreation Plan Update

Administrative Structure – Maple Grove Township

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.

[illegible]

Manistee County-Wide Park & Recreation Plan Update

Worksheet for Local Stakeholders

Instructions

Thank you for helping in this important effort to update the Manistee County-Wide Park & Recreation Plan.

Maple Grove Township

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: Create access to Bear Creek that is built to ensure natural resources stewardship and the health of the river

PROJECT:

Site Improvement on Bear Creek:

- Create site improvements at Bear Creek utilizing sites #160 and/or #161.

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

PROJECT:

County-Wide Trail System Collaboration:

- Continue to work collaboratively in developing the County wide trail system

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

PROJECT:

Way-finding Committee:

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

4. Goal: Work with the Kaleva Norman Dickson School District to utilize their vacant land for community wide recreational opportunities.

PROJECT:

40 Acre parcel Section 29:

- Improve the KND property for multi use trails, snow shoeing, restroom facilities, shelter, parking, and to harvest the timber for revenue.

160 Acre Parcel Section 19:

- Improve the KND property for multi-use trails, restroom facilities, parking, fishing placed-based learning opportunities, bird watching and events.