

VILLAGE OF KALEVA – Updates for the 2022-2026 Manistee County-Wide Park & Recreation Plan

Administrative Structure

Municipality	Governing body responsible for rec. planning	Governing body authorized to commit funds	Budget	Sources of funds	Volunteers	Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements	Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)	Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center	Contribute to Manistee County Baseball League
Village of Kaleva	Village Council	Village Council	???	General Fund	100 volunteers who coordinate joint recreational activities with the Lions Club, Fireman’s Association, Historical Society	Kaleva, Norman, Dickson School District partnership to maintain recreational facilities at the old school building; Joint recreation committee with Village of Kaleva; joint Planning Commission	No	No	No

Site Categorization

Primary

- Kaleva Village Roadside Park & Campground
- Kaleva Library
- Historic Log Cabin
- Kaleva Railroad Depot Museum & Engine
- Centennial Walkway
- Maple Grove Township Community Center (Kaleva Norman Dickson School Playground AND Maple Grove Twp. Park)

Secondary

- Kaleva Bottle House Museum
- Kaleva State Bank
- Maple Grove Fire Hall

Community Description

The Village of Kaleva is located in the heart of Manistee County. Kaleva was established in 1900 by Finnish immigrants who with hard work and 'sisu', a Finnish word meaning perseverance, built a quaint community surrounded by some of the best nature Michigan has to offer. Many of the village's street names, and the name Kaleva itself, are taken from the Finnish epic poem, "The Kalevala". The Bottle House and Railroad Depot Station Museums are important historic attractions in the community.

Kaleva has a civically active citizenry. Social organizations such as the Lions Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Historical Society, Beautification Team, Relay for Life, Manistee-Benzie Snowbirds Club and Big Bear Sportsman's Club can be found in the village. Two churches, one Baptist and one Bible, also call Kaleva home.

Kaleva is a hub for year-round recreational activities, with nearby access to the Manistee National Forest and numerous fresh water streams and lakes. During the warmer months, there are plentiful opportunities for hunting, fishing, hiking and swimming. During the winter months outdoor activity continues with ice-fishing, skiing and snowmobiling. The Village of Kaleva lies along one of the county's most heavily utilized snowmobile trails. With Kaleva's current position as a trail hub and connector, continued support for additional trail development, both motorized and non-motorized, can link this population center with other communities to the south and west.

The Kaleva Village Roadside Park and Campground hosts community events throughout the year: Kaleva Days on the 3rd weekend in July, reunions and picnics. Overnight camping spots are available for hunters, fishermen and recreational campers. The roadside campground is especially popular during the fall salmon and spring steelhead runs where it acts as a central location for accessing many excellent rivers in the region. However, it is well-visited throughout the year as a destination for outdoor enthusiasts wanting to spend time in the thousands of acres of public land and miles of streams and rivers that traverse this portion of the county.

Important assets as well, the Kaleva Railroad Depot Museum and Centennial Walkway provide a trailhead for non-motorized travel during warm-weather months and winter-time snowmobile traffic. The site also features sculptures spread along the Centennial Walkway, which reference the rich Finnish heritage of the area.

Goals & Objectives

Goal 1: Develop multi-use trails that are connected to a County wide trail system.

- Collaborate with SMARTrails, the Manistee County Planning Department, the Manistee County Recreation Commission and neighboring jurisdictions on multi-use trail development efforts throughout the planning process.
- Highlight the Betsie Valley Trail and its connection to Kaleva on the Village website.
- Add directional signage along the Betsie Valley Trail segment that lies within the Village to endorse local points of interest and to further link the trailway to the community.

Goal 2: Promote the cultural and natural assets in Kaleva to encourage greater tourism visitation.

- Meet with the Manistee County Visitors Bureau, the Arts & Culture Alliance of Manistee County and the Kaleva Historical Society to educate them about Kaleva recreational opportunities.
- Develop marketing materials to increase tourism. Distribute marketing materials on the Village website and through pamphlets at Michigan Welcome Centers and MDOT rest stops across the state.
- Add historical signage at the cultural sites in the Village.
- Add wayfinding signage to the Village's various points of interest.

Goal 3: Develop recreation site improvements at Site #105 (Kaleva Village Roadside Park and Campground).

- Develop a service building with flush toilets, showers and electricity.
- Provide electricity to more campsites.
- Assess the feasibility of adding a pool onsite.
- Add playground equipment.
- Increase marketing efforts for the Roadside Park and Campground in conjunction with the projects listed in Goal 2.
- As the Village of Kaleva is identified as a trail hub for the planned Betsie Valley Trail extension, the park should be recognized as a potential staging area for area trails.

MAPLE GROVE TOWNSHIP – Updates for the 2022-2026 Manistee County-Wide Park & Recreation Plan

Administrative Structure

Municipality	Governing body responsible for rec. planning	Governing body authorized to commit funds	Budget	Sources of funds	Volunteers	Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements	Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)	Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center	Contribute to Manistee County Baseball League
Maple Grove Township	Township Board	Township Board	\$0	Line Item	Up to 50 volunteers regularly staff museum, provide beautification; Community Center committee; Kaleva Days; road cleanup	Kaleva, Norman, Dickson School District partnership to maintain recreational facilities at the old school building; Joint recreation committee with Village of Kaleva; joint Planning Commission	Yes	No	No

Site Categorization

Primary

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

Site Inventory

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	•	

Community Description

Maple Grove Township’s history can be traced back to the lumbering activity that began in the area during the 1850’s. The community’s vast supply of timber helped establish the local economy as much of the land was purchased by outside timber investors. Later, homesteaders moved into the area following the American Civil War period. The Township was established in October of 1878. The population in Maple Grove grew slowly as the primary source of income during those early days continued to come from timber operations. A significant boom occurred in 1888 when two railroads were built through the Township. At 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 point at which two railroads crossed, known as Manistee Crossing, located in present-day Maple Grove Township. This location became the company’s first major development. During this time, the community saw increased growth, especially from Finnish Immigrants. The central village was named “Kaleva” after “Kalevala”, a Karelian and Finnish epic poem written in the 19th Century.

Through the years, Maple Grove Township experienced some agricultural activity though this ultimately declined over time due to the area’s relatively poor soils. However, these same sandy soils filtered abundant groundwater through the area’s many wetlands, which fed into local cold-water streams. These streams were subsequently stocked with species of trout and salmon leading to a well-functioning fishery in the community.

Maple Grove Township provides recreational opportunities on State and School Forest land holdings within the Township. Portions of land within the Township were held by the State of Michigan and became part of the Pere Marquette State Forest. These forested lands offer recreational opportunities for locals and visitors alike. The three recreation sites listed in this document for Maple Grove Township each provide water access, an important recreational asset for the community. Two of the recreation sites are located adjacent to each other along Bear Creek and 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 site for the water body. The DNR recently developed a canoe and kayak launch there. The School Forest Access site is located on property owned by the Kaleva Norman Dickson (KND) School System. The property has frontage on Beaver Creek and is immediately adjacent to acres of State-owned land. Each of these sites are important access points for small stream water access, and each is utilized primarily by fishing enthusiasts. The Lemon Lake Access Road is another 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 of Kaleva and the KND school system when planning for parks and recreation. This established relationship is important to successfully implementing recreation activities and planning site improvements for greater community and Manistee County. Both Maple Grove and Kaleva anticipate collaborating with nearby jurisdictions and the County on trail connections, especially when plans for extending the Betsie Valley Trail are ready to implement.

Goals & Objectives

Goal 1: Improve access points along Bear Creek to enhance the user experience while maintaining stewardship of the natural ecosystem.

- Improve Site #160 (Bear Creek Access) to provide more parking, seating and signage that describes the site's unique ecological features.
- Improve Site # 162 (Lemon Lake Access Road) to provide an ADA accessible launch, seating, more parking and better road conditions.

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

- Collaborate with SMARTrails, the Manistee County Planning Department, the Manistee County Recreation Commission and neighboring jurisdictions on multi-use trail development efforts throughout the planning process.
- Highlight the Betsie Valley Trail and its connection to Maple Grove on the Township website.
- Add directional signage along the Betsie Valley Trail segment that lies within the Township to endorse local points of interest and to further link the trailway to the community.

Goal 3: Connect visitors to recreational points of interest using wayfinding signage and continuous marketing.

- Create a system of wayfinding to help people navigate throughout the community, connecting them to local recreation sites.
- Form a Wayfinding Ad Hoc Committee that will work with the Planning Commission and Township Board to create a unified system of signage throughout the community.
- Continue to partner with MDOT to market the community through informational pamphlets at rest stops throughout the state.
- Highlight recreation sites and local events on the municipal website.

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

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, informational signage, restroom facilities, parking, fishing, placed-based learning opportunities, bird watching and events.