

# 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.

## Village of Copenish

### 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:**

Copemish is located in the northeast part of Manistee County in Cleon Township. It is a small village of about 190 residents. The name “Copemish” means “Big Beech”, and referred to holding council under the beech trees.

Copemish was incorporated in 1891, after a large logging industry began (1883) and two railroads laid their tracks directly through the area (1889). Until that point, people had to travel long distances by horse and buggy or foot power to do just about anything!

Today, the village is a pleasant bedroom community, with several businesses - Honor Bank, MR Products, Copemish Hardware, Copemish Family Market, Bear Claw Café, EZ Mart, Dollar General, Joe’s Body Shop, Witkop Machine Shop, Copemish Flea Market, Junque & Necessities second-hand store and a post office! A lot of businesses for a small town.

The history of Copemish included a pickle factory, the logging industry, hotels, 2 churches and a grist mill and grain elevator. There were also a doctor, a pharmacy and a large schoolhouse.

Today, the Copemish area offers much in the way of recreation. There are many snowmobile trails in the area (which makes our local businesses readily available to snowmobilers!), First Creek Nature Trail, Twisted Trails Off road Park, and lots of woods for mushroom hunting, hiking, and deer and small game hunting.

The Betsie River is located near Copemish, and provides plenty of fishing, swimming, canoeing and kayaking. It is a beautiful, natural river, and there is a lot of wildlife to spot while floating down on a sunny day.

All in all, Copemish is a beautiful small jewel of a village in the middle of the most glorious area of the country!

Copemish Village contains a number of recreation sites within the Village boundaries. What is unique to the village is that the 6 identified recreation sites account for all of the sites within the municipalities of both the Village and Cleon Township which encompasses the Village.

The Village contains two large community parks which differ from one another by their recreational use. Lewis Park which is centered in the Village, is an active recreation site with playground equipment, basketball court and amenities for picnicking and outdoor community events. Mish-A-Mish Park is categorized more as a passive community park which serves as the trailhead to the First Creek Nature Trail.

Both the Copemish Village Hall and Cleon Township Hall located within the Village limits are listed as recreational sites with both serving as community gathering spaces.

Copemish Village is an integral part of the established snowmobile trail system in Manistee County providing connections to communities within Manistee County as well as to communities in neighboring Wexford and Benzie Counties.

### **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

- Lewis Park
- Mish-A-Mish Park
- First Creek Nature Trails

#### Secondary

- Cleon Twp. Hall
- Copemish Historic Museum & Library
- Copemish Village Hall

### **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.



**Legend**

- Rec Sites
- Primary Site
- Highways
- Roads
- Hydrology
- Water Bodies
- Manistee County Public Lands
- Copemish Village
- City/Village Boundaries
- Neighboring Townships
- Neighboring Counties



