



# MANISTEE COUNTY-WIDE PARK & RECREATION PLAN

2022-2026

Manistee County | Arcadia Township | Bear Lake Township | Village of Bear Lake  
Brown Township | Cleon Township | Village of Copemish | Dickson Township  
Village of Eastlake | Charter Township of Filer | Village of Kaleva | City of Manistee  
Manistee Township | Maple Grove Township | Marilla Township | Norman Township  
Onkama Township | Village of Onkama | Pleasanton Township  
Springdale Township | Stronach Township

Plan Prepared by Networks Northwest

Adopted by local municipalities

Adopted by Manistee County Board of Commissioners



## Acknowledgments

Thank you to the following entities for their support and invaluable input provided throughout this planning process, without which this plan would not have been possible:

- Local officials, elected leaders and citizens in each of the 21 participating jurisdictions
- The Manistee County Planning Department
- The Manistee County Recreation Commission
- SMARTrails

A special thank you to the Manistee County Community Foundation and the Minger Family for their financial contributions to this plan and for their continued support to the community.

Photos throughout the plan, including those on the cover, were provided by Al Taylor.

Prepared by:



Talent / Business / Community



## Forward

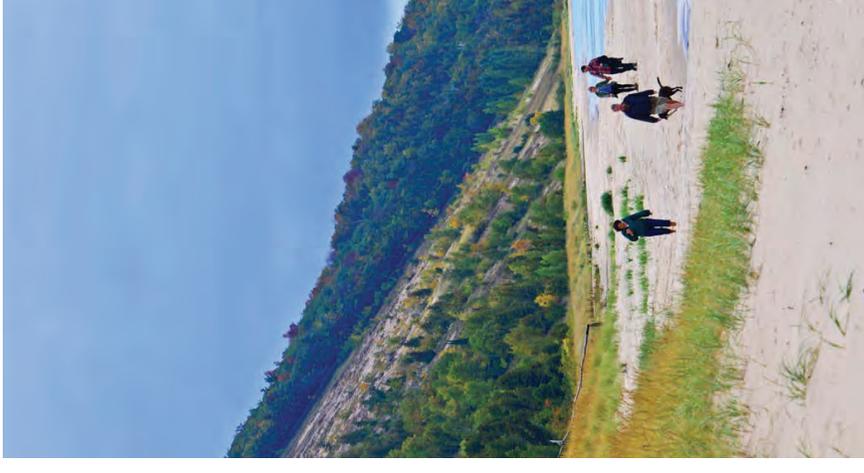
The 2021 Manistee County-Wide Park and Recreation Plan tells a story of community engagement, consensus building, data and information gathering and plan development. The creation of the plan is the cumulative effort of leadership from 21 municipalities, as well as input provided by many stakeholders and members of the public. The plan meets each requirement for the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources 5-Year Park and Recreation Guidelines for each of the 21 municipalities within Manistee County. This document will be utilized to guide policy and decision making processes oriented around recreation within Manistee County, while laying the framework for specific projects and site improvements and creating opportunities for funding and fund development.

Prior to 2015, bringing representation from each municipality to a single table to collaborate on a unified recreation plan had not occurred in Manistee, a feat that has not been replicated in another county in Michigan. This plan update signifies the community's continued willingness to collaborate on important issues. It is important for local leaders to remember that this document is only as strong as the ongoing implementation of the goals contained within, so it is of utmost importance to continually strive to meet each goal.

This plan has been adopted by all 21 communities contained within, including Manistee County, through a well-advertised public hearing process.

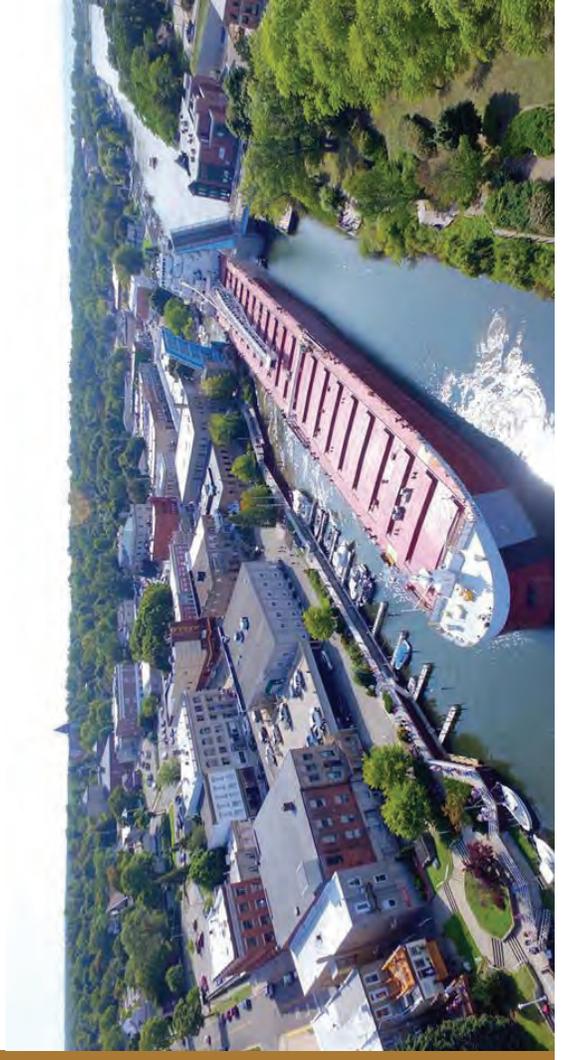
### Disclaimer:

All information contained within this plan is intended for Recreation Planning Purposes. Information on public lands, recreation sites, trails, fishing locations, hunting areas as well as all water access sites may have specific rules in place which must be adhered to, dependent upon the recreational activity one is pursuing. Please contact the appropriate, municipality, agency, landowner or policy which governs the land on which the recreational activity is pursued to ensure all applicable regulations are being followed.



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## Glossary of Terms & Acronyms

### Terms

**Recreation Commission** - A formal 10-person advisory body to the Manistee County Board of Commissioners. They are an appointed body of members that is established under the authority of the County and Regional Parks Act 261 of 1965.

**Planning Commission** - A body of citizens that serves within local government, acting as an advisory group to the municipal governing body on issues and policies related to planning, land use regulation and community development.

**SMARTrails** - 501(c)(3) non-profit that is charged with advocacy for trail development and maintenance fundraising in Manistee County.

**Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund** - A restricted fund that was established in 1976 to provide funding for public acquisition of lands for resource conservation and outdoor recreation, as well as for public outdoor recreation development projects.

**Explore the Shores** - A network of sites designed to provide barrier-free accessibility, educational opportunities and a connection to recreation and fishing in Manistee County, where fresh water is in abundance.

**Dark Sky Location** - A location with qualities that complement nighttime viewing, such as the ability to limit the amount of artificial light.

**Complete Streets** - Streets designed and operated to enable safe use and support mobility for all users. Those include people of all ages and abilities, regardless of whether they are traveling as drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists or public transportation riders.

**Safe Routes to School** - An international movement—and now a federal program—to make it safe, convenient, and fun for children, including those with disabilities, to bicycle and walk to school.

### Acronyms

**DNR** - Department of Natural Resources

**MDOT** - Michigan Department of Transportation

**GTRLC** - Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy

**MCCF** - Manistee County Community Foundation

**SMARTrails** - Sensational Manistee Area Recreational Trails

**PVCC** - Pleasant Valley Community Center

**SRTS** - Safe Routes to School

**MOU** - Memorandum of Understanding

**ACS** - American Community Survey

**MCVB** - Manistee County Visitors Bureau

**MEDC** - Michigan Economic Development Corporation

**RFP** - Request for Proposals

**RFQ** - Request for Qualifications

**TNC** - The Nature Conservancy

Please note, throughout this document the words village, township, city and county are sometimes presented in lowercase, and at other times, capitalized. The lower case usage refers to the geographic area of the community while the capitalized usage refers to the municipal government. For example, one would state that the “township” has a certain population or certain number of parks, while the “Township” will work to implement the stated goals over the next 5-10 years.

# 1 Introduction



### **Regional Focus while Celebrating Community Individuality**

Although one intent of this plan is to foster greater collaboration between the 21 jurisdictions, it also recognizes that each municipality represented in this document is unique in its geography, local identity and parks and recreation needs. For this reason, each jurisdiction's action program features a tailored set of action steps to guide its decision-making.

These action steps are, however, linked together by a series of overarching goals and objectives. In other words, this plan's layout is organized from more general information and goals (i.e. at the county level) to a level of greater specificity for the individual township, village or city. Much of this jurisdiction-specific information can be found in Appendices A and F.

### **Benefits of a County-Wide Plan**

During the previous planning process, which led to the 2016-2020 county-wide plan, the leadership team identified a need for a more centralized entity to apply for grant funding to support improvements across the county, as well as to promote collaboration, primarily for trail implementation. Similar to the manner in which neighboring jurisdictions throughout Michigan share police, fire, water or transportation services, the leadership team recognized the utility in having a single body to handle grant applications for regional trail routes.

After exploring various options to facilitate this concept, the county introduced a 10-member Recreation Commission for Manistee County (also see Appendix D). Going forward, and in conjunction with the information provided in this plan, the goal is to provide the opportunity for local jurisdictions to lease recreation sites to a single public entity when multi-jurisdictional trail implementation is desired. Please note, that this best practice is only intended for trail implementation and should not give the impression that the County is seeking to manage recreation sites owned by local jurisdictions. This is simply a means to meet DNR requirements for grant applications and to manage trails in a fiscally prudent manner. The County and the municipalities would form Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) to retain maintenance responsibilities at the local level while ceding the need for staff and resources dedicated to grant administration to the County.

With a single entity, the County, responsible for grant funding efforts, local jurisdictions would save significant time and resources. Municipalities across the state are often understaffed and simply do not have the resources to effectively apply for and manage parks and recreation grants. This is also true in Manistee County. Although this strategy is entirely optional for each community, and should primarily apply to trail implementation, the benefits of choosing to do so are key contributors to the development and purpose of this plan.



### Project Initiation

Community planners from Networks Northwest began reaching out to municipal leaders in each of the 21 jurisdictions represented in this plan in January, 2021. Each community was briefed on the importance of this planning process, the logistics of completing the extensive effort and a tentative timeline for project completion. By March, 2021, all of the municipalities in the county signed resolutions of support to participate (see Appendix G).

### Public Engagement

An extensive public engagement process occurred as part of the previous park & recreation plan's development, described in Chapter 4. Because of the depth of the previous effort, and the relative difficulty in reaching stakeholders due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the 2022-2026 plan's public engagement portion sought instead to build on what was heard in 2016. In this iteration of the county-wide plan, there were three opportunities for the public to voice its opinions. These consisted of a public meeting, a public hearing and an online survey, the results from which helped the planning team to understand the perspectives that were the same, and those that had changed over the past five years.

### Without Map Boundaries

There are myriad reasons the County and the separate municipalities decided to partake in a county-wide recreation plan in 2015. One of the key rationales was the notion that natural resources, as well as many built environment features such as trails, function irrespective of political boundaries on a map. In order for the Manistee community to implement all of the park amenities sought by the public a collaborative planning process was deemed necessary.

Trails are perhaps the best example of this idea. Throughout the previous planning process, the planning team heard from residents in all corners of the county that they wanted to see more trail connections in Manistee. This is discussed further in

Chapter 3. This type of project and its implementation will require a great amount of collaboration. To avoid the costs associated with repetitive work, the planning team recognized the need to get localities on the same page as soon as possible. A shared vision for trails, expressed in an adopted plan, lays the foundation for implementation.

Aside from trails, natural resources such as forests, rivers, shoreline and dunes cross jurisdictional boundaries and therefore require collaborative planning on their behalf. For this reason, as previously mentioned, this plan is organized from macro to micro-jurisdictional. In other words, it understands the county's many recreational assets regionally, at the county level and then locally, without implying that one perspective is more valid or important than the other.

### Goals & Objectives

The goals and objectives found in Chapter 5 are meant to guide the community's recreation project implementation over the next five years. These goals were developed during the public meeting and, to an extent, build off of the goals found in the previous plan. The planning team worked with local leaders to review 1) what is working well in the community as it relates to parks and recreation, 2) what is not working well and 3) what they would like to see in Manistee if they were to float over the community in 10 years.

### Final Plan Recommendations

In this final planning stage, the team from Networks Northwest received input on the draft plan. In September, 2021, each of the jurisdictions received a copy of the draft plan and were allotted two weeks to provide comments and revisions. Following, the plan was sent to the Michigan DNR for a preliminary review. Finally, each municipality held a 30-day public review period followed by a public hearing in November or December, 2021.



## 2

# Community Description

Manistee, located in northwest lower Michigan, is widely revered for its abundant natural resources, picturesque lakefront, scenic vistas and ample recreation amenities. With a population of 24,457, the largely rural community is home to a mix of full-time and seasonal residents. Visitors from around the region visit Manistee to enjoy the many outdoor activities it offers, making tourism a key part of the county's economic base. This section describes the natural and built features of Manistee that are a draw for residents and tourists alike. It additionally includes a narrative

## Manistee's Wide Appeal

of the community's demographics, the value provided by parks and recreation and the efforts that have been made in connecting sites through trail development. While this chapter focuses on county-wide resources, a further jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction community description can be found in Appendix A along with the inventories and administrative structures described in Chapter 3. In addition, Appendices B and C contain maps of Manistee's ample natural and recreational resources.

### Public Lands

There are abundant public lands within Manistee County. The lands can be divided into different categories based upon ownership. The following land owner categories are summarized in this section and are displayed in Appendix B (See Map B-1).

### State Lands

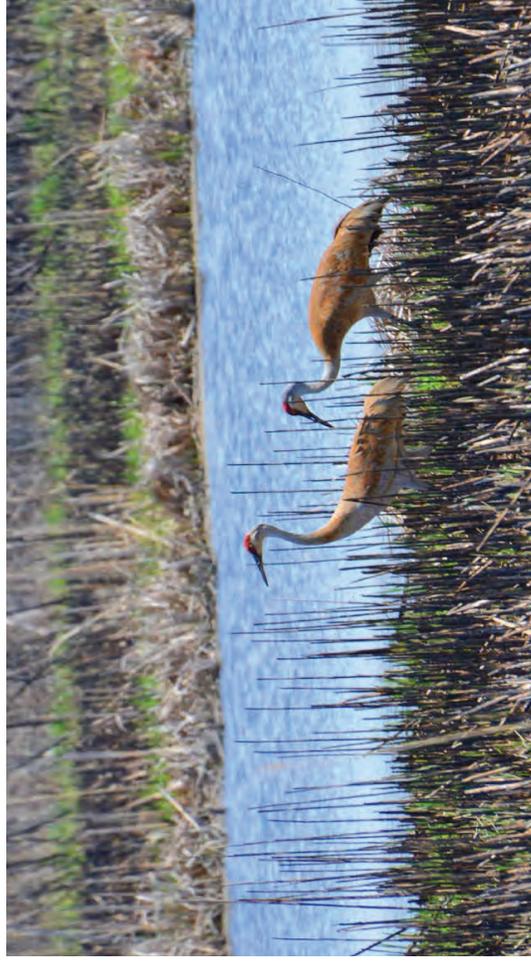
State land ownership in Manistee County totals approximately 24,329 acres which are contained in State Forest, Game Area and Park lands. This accounts for about 6.8% of the land area in Manistee.

### United State Forest Service Lands

Federal lands contained within the Manistee National Forest total approximately 86,874 acres in Manistee County. This accounts for about 24% of the land area in Manistee County.

### Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy Lands

Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy has lands which are available for public use. These lands encompass approximately 2,454 acres. This accounts for about 0.7% of the land area in Manistee County.



### Private Lands Open to Public Use

Private land holdings open to the public are most often organizations such as the National Audubon Society, the Spirit of the Woods Conservation Club and privately owned but publicly open locations such as the Pleasant Valley Community Center in Arcadia Township. Total private lands open to public number approximately 124 acres. This accounts for about 0.03% of the land area in Manistee.

### Consumers Energy Private Lands Open to Public Use

Consumers Energy with two large hydroelectric dams within Manistee County located along the Manistee River, allows for public use on portions of their land holdings. Consumers energy lands open to public use encompass approximately 756 acres. This accounts for about 0.2% of the land area in Manistee County.

### **Local Government and School Lands**

Local units of government as well as local school system lands account for many public land areas with identified recreation sites. The approximate amount of lands totals 2,965 acres. This accounts for about 0.8% of the land area in Manistee County.

### **Rivers and Streams**

Rivers and Streams are plentiful in Manistee County. Predominantly cold-water fed, the streams and rivers support abundant trout and salmon species as well as other cool water species such as walleye, small-mouth bass and pike. The major river and creek systems are displayed on Map B-2.

### **Water Bodies**

Manistee County contains 3 harbor lakes which are connected to Lake Michigan via a channel (Manistee Lake, Portage Lake and Arcadia Lake), but also contains many inland lakes such as Bear, Lemon, Pine, Sand, Chief, Canfield, Healy, Glovers, Bar and Eleanor. Each of these lakes provides public access and myriad opportunities, from fishing to boating and swimming. The public and private water bodies of Manistee County are displayed on Map B-3.

### **Wetlands**

The wetlands of Manistee County are an important resource as they serve as the primary recipient of overland storm water runoff and provide an aquifer base for the recharging of our inland lakes and streams. They also function as an important habitat for bird populations, as well as a host of other native species. The wetlands within Manistee County as identified by the State of Michigan are displayed on Map B-4.

### **Topography**

Manistee County has topography which is varied with river valleys, lowlands and rolling hills. These features are displayed on Map B-5.





Manistee County's population has remained steady over the past 10 years and is projected to continue along a similar trajectory through 2025. Shown in Figure 1, Manistee County's population grew from 24,733 in 2010 to 24,960 in 2020. Despite this slight growth, Manistee County is projected to decline in population by 2025 to 24,886 people.

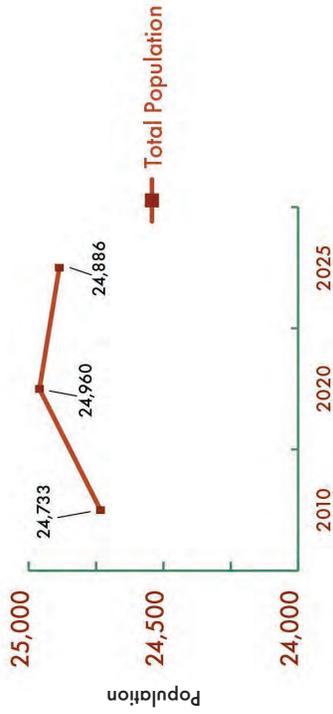
Figure 2 describes the breakdown of three age groups in Manistee. One can see that from 2010 to 2025, the county's median age will increase as the proportion of individuals age 65+ rises. For context, 22.1 percent of Michiganders are age 65+, meaning Manistee County's population is, on average, older than residents from other communities across the state. This provides some planning implications as jurisdictions within Manistee County may decide to shift some recreation programming and infrastructure developments to suit an aging population.

## Community Demographics

Breaking down the community's population change further, Figure 4 on page 15 shows trends for each Census Tract in Manistee County to illustrate what areas of the county are gaining and losing residents. One can see that growth in the community has largely occurred in Tracts 4 (Manistee Township), 7 (Filer & Stronach Townships) and 9 (City of Manistee & Manistee Township). However, consistent with population trends for the county as a whole, none of the local jurisdictions have seen a significant change in their population since 2010.

One important factor to consider when planning for parks and recreation is accessibility. Nearly one in five people (18.2%) living in Manistee County lives with at least one form of physical disability (see Figure 3). It is reasonable to assume that this number will go up in tandem with the median age increase. Discussed later in this plan, Manistee County strives to provide recreation opportunities that serve everyone regardless of physical ability. This is one of the key principles guiding the county going forward.

Figure 1. Manistee County Population, 2010-2025



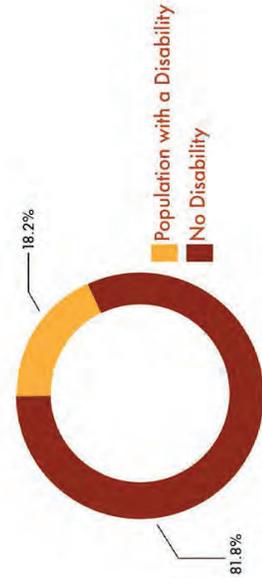
Source: Exri, Business Analyst Online - Community Profile

Figure 2. Population by Age, 2010-2025



Source: Exri, Business Analyst Online - Community Profile

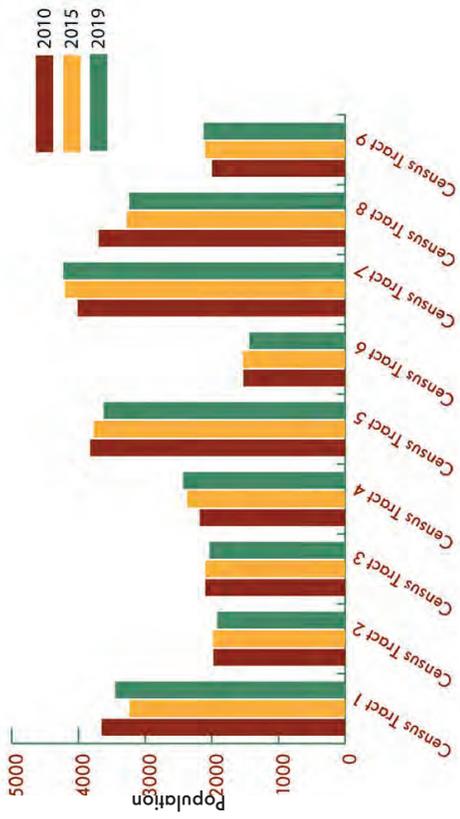
Figure 3. Population with a Disability, 2019



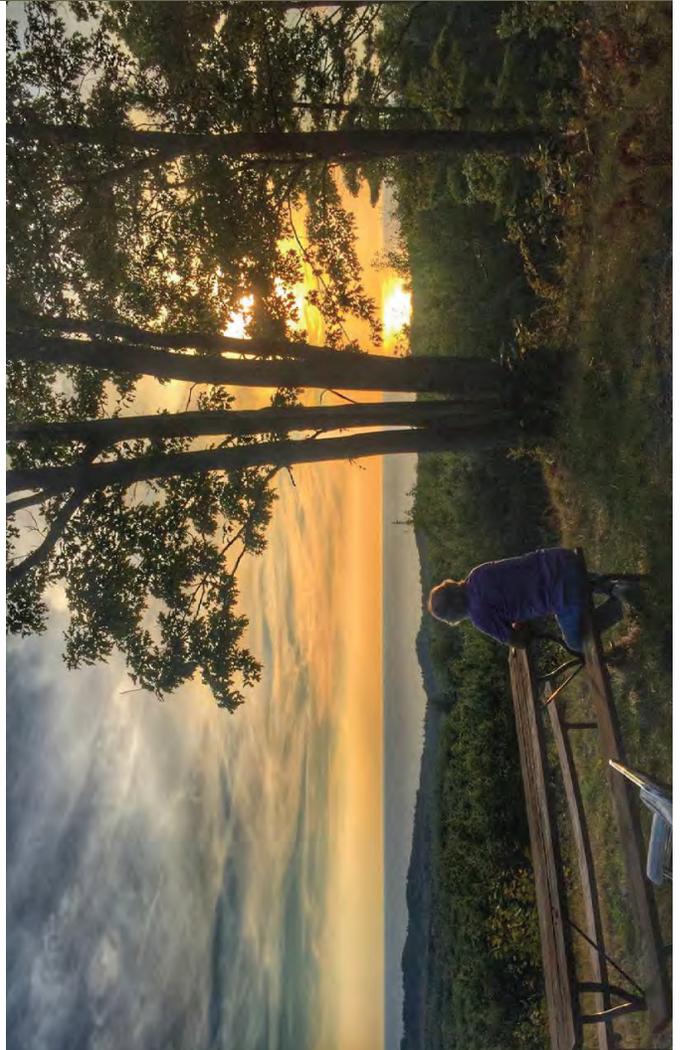
Source: ACS 2019 5- Year Estimates



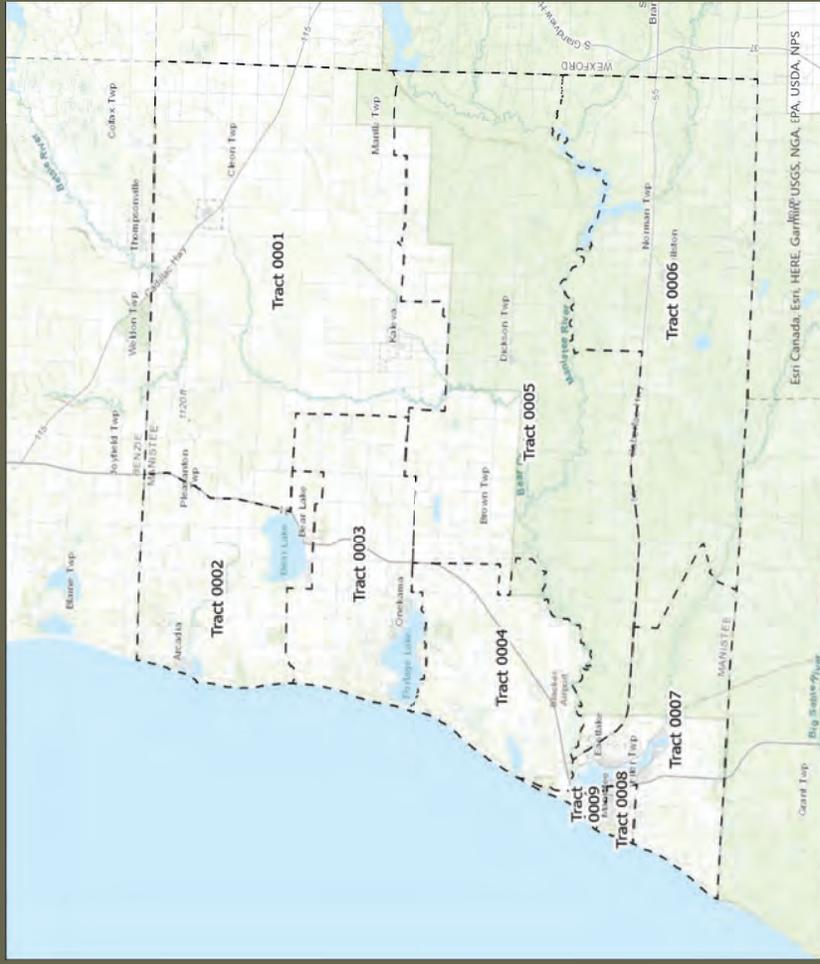
Figure 4. Population by Census Tract, 2010-2019



Source: ACS 5-Year Survey for 2010, 2015 & 2019



Map 1. Manistee County Census Tracts



The quality and quantity of recreation sites cannot be understated as their positive effects are now well-documented in academic literature as well as local studies. According to a February, 2021 press release issued by the Manistee County Visitors Bureau (MCVB) citing a study by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), "Visitors spent \$157.8 million in Manistee County in 2019, up 2.9 percent from 2018 and 11.3 percent from five years ago." The same study describes positive economic impacts from visitor spending (lodging, retail, food and beverage, recreation and transportation), as well as from direct and indirect employment increases as a result of tourism.

## All that Green Space Offers

Aside from the recently known economic benefits of green spaces, there are also the various benefits of which many people are already aware. Quality green spaces contribute positively to physical health, mental health, social networks and environmental sustainability. For all of these reasons it remains critically important for Manistee County to understand its recreation offerings and to continue planning for these.

This section discusses the recreation industries that help make up Manistee County's economic base, the cited benefits to different park features and the importance of spacing recreation sites close to residents.

### Location Quotient Analysis

To further acknowledge the relationship between quality recreation and the local economy, the planning team for this county-wide plan update used a Location Quotient (LQ) analysis. Location quotient analyses are useful for local officials and other decision makers in understanding the makeup of the local economy. This analysis, in simplest terms, estimates the concentration of a particular industry in one area compared to that industry's concentration in the rest of the country, thereby highlighting the uniqueness of Manistee.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics provides county-level data on a quarterly basis. A LQ score of 1 or higher indicates that an industry sector is a key part of the local economic base and that the municipality is likely exporting that industry outside of the community (e.g. a local restaurant serving many visitors in addition to locals).

By calculating the LQ score for different types of industries, a community can better:

1. Determine which industries make the regional economy unique.
2. Identify which industries the community is exporting.
3. Recognize emerging export industries that are starting to bring economic activity into the local market, and
4. To identify export industries that have the potential to threaten the region's economic base.

Often, municipalities work to ensure that various industry sectors have a LQ score close to 1, indicating that the economic base is diverse and not heavily reliant on one or two industries. Communities with a diverse economic base are considered more sustainable because if one industry declines, for whatever reason, the impact on the community will be minimal compared to a community that relies entirely on one or two industries.



Table 1. Location Quotients for Manistee County Industries

NAICS 5-Digit Industry	Annual Average Employment	Total Annual Wages	Annual Average Employment Location Quotient
Restaurants and other eating places (NAICS 72251)	394	\$5.96 million	0.75
Gasoline stations with convenience stores (NAICS 44711)	190	\$4.31 million	4.66
Hotels and motels, except casino hotels (NAICS 72111)	99	\$1.44 million	1.23
Other traveler accommodation (NAICS 72119)	59	\$947,470	36.02
Rv parks and recreational camps (NAICS 72121)	37	\$800,690	11.00
Gift, novelty, and souvenir stores (NAICS 45322)	12	\$140,757	1.70
All other amusement and recreation industries (NAICS 71399)	11	\$245,528	1.07

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

For this park and recreation plan, Manistee County was analyzed using the NAICS (North American Industry Classification System) 5-digit industries. Only industries that relate to parks and recreation are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 shows that Manistee County has a very high concentration of gasoline stations with convenience stores, RV parks and recreational camps and other traveler accommodations. Other traveler accommodations largely consists of establishments primarily engaged in providing short-term lodging (except hotels, motels and casino hotels) such as bed-and-breakfast inns, tourist homes, guest houses, youth hostels and housekeeping cabins and cottages. These industries are representative of the direct and indirect economic stimuli the county receives as a result of its ample recreation and natural resources.

This further highlights the importance of effectively planning for the management of these sites as they drive employment in a variety of industry sectors.

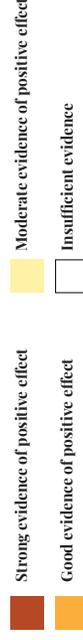
### Studied Park Benefits

In addition to economic benefits, the prevalence of parks and recreation opportunities in a community has been shown to have a positive relationship with other forms of capital. A 2017 study found that the number of parks and the total acreage of green space within walking distance to residents had a positive relationship with self-reported mental wellbeing (1). Additionally, researchers from UC San Diego conducted an expansive review of the literature around the built environment and its effect on the following: physical health, mental health, social benefits, environmental sustainability, safety/injury

prevention and economic benefits (2). Table 2 displays the results of this review and the strength of evidence between the built environment and certain outcomes. One key takeaway from this table is that presence and proximity to parks and recreation shows 'good' to 'strong' evidence of having a positive correlation with physical health, mental health, social benefits, environmental sustainability and safety/injury prevention. Trails show 'good' evidence of a positive relationship with economic benefits and pedestrian/bicycle facilities show a 'strong' positive correlation with safety/injury prevention and economic benefits. These findings support the notion that best practices in design, as well as the availability of parkland can lead to a quality community where people choose to live, work and recreate.

Table 2. Built Environment Features and their Co-Benefits

Summary Scores for Built Environment Features & Public Outcomes						
Built Environment Attribute	Physical Health	Mental Health	Social Benefits	Environmental Sustainability	Safety / Injury Prevention	Economic Benefits
Presence, proximity	Strong evidence of positive effect	Strong evidence of positive effect	Good evidence of positive effect	Insufficient evidence	Insufficient evidence	Insufficient evidence
Design features	Good evidence of positive effect	Good evidence of positive effect	Good evidence of positive effect	Insufficient evidence	Insufficient evidence	Insufficient evidence
Trails	Good evidence of positive effect	Good evidence of positive effect	Good evidence of positive effect	Insufficient evidence	Insufficient evidence	Insufficient evidence
Physical activity programs/promotion	Good evidence of positive effect	Good evidence of positive effect	Good evidence of positive effect	Insufficient evidence	Insufficient evidence	Insufficient evidence
Public gardens	Good evidence of positive effect	Good evidence of positive effect	Good evidence of positive effect	Insufficient evidence	Insufficient evidence	Insufficient evidence
Pedestrian / Bicycle facilities	Good evidence of positive effect	Good evidence of positive effect	Good evidence of positive effect	Insufficient evidence	Insufficient evidence	Insufficient evidence
Safe routes to school	Good evidence of positive effect	Good evidence of positive effect	Good evidence of positive effect	Insufficient evidence	Insufficient evidence	Insufficient evidence
School recreation facilities	Good evidence of positive effect	Good evidence of positive effect	Good evidence of positive effect	Insufficient evidence	Insufficient evidence	Insufficient evidence



1 - Wood, L., Hooper, P., Foster, S., & Bull, F. (2017). Public green spaces and positive mental health - investigating the relationship between access, quantity and types of parks and mental wellbeing. Health & Place, 48, 63-71. doi: 10.1016/j.healthplace.2017.09.002.

2- Sallis, J.F. & Sponson, C. (2015). Co-benefits of designing communities for active living: an exploration of literature. International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity, 12(30). doi: 10.1186/s12966-015-0188-2.

Community Description

Getting Everyone to the Parks

Residents and local officials alike largely understand the important value of well-planned parks and recreation. In addition, recreation sites are most valuable to the community when everyone has the opportunity to use them. As a predominantly rural community, Manistee should continue to consider the spatial relationship between its parkland and various user groups, taking into consideration two largely interconnected variables: poverty and access to a personal vehicle.

A national peer-reviewed study found that rural households are often beyond walking distance to a park (median of 6.2 miles nationally) and rural households living below the poverty threshold are more likely to be spatially distanced from recreation sites than others in the community (3).

In Manistee County, as with many low population

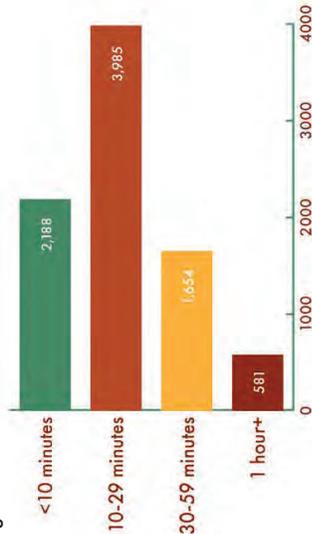
density communities, access to a personal vehicle is paramount for both work and recreation. This notion is best illustrated by the data below. 74 percent of workers in Manistee County take 10 minutes or more to travel to work.

According to the 2019 ACS Survey, 11.5% of Manistee County’s population lives below poverty level. And while most (93.7%) have access to a vehicle, more than one in 20 (6.3%) do not. One recreation benchmark that Manistee should strive for in the coming years is to not only improve current recreation sites, but to also facilitate stronger non-motorized connections to these places. The next chapter describes the work completed to date that provides some of these needed connections, in addition to the various other recreation amenities found in Manistee County.



According to the 2015-2019 American Community Survey, 79.7% of Manistee County workers age 16+ drove alone to work. 10.7% carpooled, 2.5% walked and just 1.0 percent rode their bike.

Figure 5. Travel Distance to Work



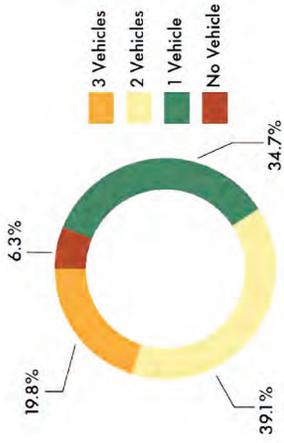
Source: ACS 2019 5-Year Estimates

Table 3. Median Household Income

	2020	2025
Median Household Income	\$44,620	\$48,741
Median Home Value	\$138,796	\$149,242

Source: Esri, Business Analyst Online - Community Profile

Figure 6. Vehicle Ownership by Household



Source: ACS 2019 5-Year Estimates



3 - Wen, M., Zhang, X., Harris, C.D., Holt, J.B., & Craft, J.B. (2013). Spatial disparities in the distribution of parks and green spaces in the USA. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 45(1). doi: 10.1007/s12160-012-9426-x



# 3

# Recreation Inventory



Manistee County's perception as a recreation destination can be attributed to the sheer quantity of public lands and water access, as well as the overall quality of those sites. This chapter describes each of the various recreation site types in the county.

Because of the relatively large number of sites, the planning team worked with residents and local officials during the 2015 planning process, and again in 2021, to categorize locations as primary, secondary or tertiary. This practice served two purposes. First, it

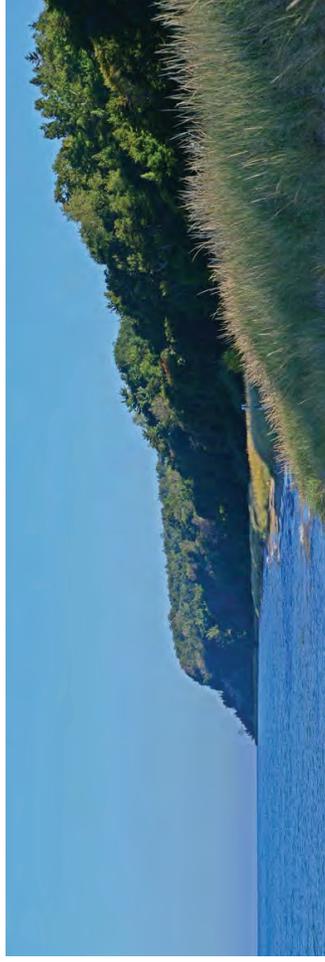
## Recreation in Manistee: Variety, Quantity, Quality

documents which sites at the local and county levels are the greatest contributors to recreation in the community. Subsequently, this prioritization of sites then gives the entities in charge of park improvements a better sense of which projects should happen first.

The following recreation types are described and mapped in this plan: public lands open to hunting, beach access, boat launches, canoe and kayak access, camping, dark sky locations, Explore the Shores sites and trails. Because of the extensive work that has occurred in recent years around trail development locally and regionally, this recreation type has its own section. This chapter displays park and recreation locations in a county-wide context. See Appendix A for each local jurisdiction's inventory, description and mapping.

### Public Lands Open to Hunting

Manistee County hosts over 115,000 acres of public lands open to hunting. The vast majority is managed as state or national forest land by the State of Michigan and US Forest Service. Other entities, including the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, Consumers Energy and local school districts also manage land open to hunting by the public. While these areas are distributed throughout the county, the southernmost jurisdictions enjoy the greatest amount of public hunting lands. (See Map C-2).



### Beaches

The Lake Michigan shoreline is a key recreation attraction for the state of Michigan, and Manistee County boasts some of the most pristine lakefront views in the state. With 39 public beaches, there are many options to choose from. The majority of these beach sites are located along Lake Michigan, though some of the inland lakes also feature beaches. These include Portage Lake, Bear Lake, Healy Lake, Lake Elinor and Crystal Lake (See Map C-3).

### Boat Launches

At the time of this writing, Manistee County holds 36 boat launches. These launches are well-dispersed throughout the community, allowing access to various water bodies including Lake Michigan, the Manistee River, Bear Creek and various others. This is an important county-wide asset as Michigan is third in the nation in terms of registered recreational boating vessels, trailing behind only Florida and Minnesota (See Map C-4).

### Canoe and Kayak Access

As of 2021, Manistee County features 117 canoe and kayak launches. The vast majority of Manistee's launches can be found on Portage Lake, Bear Lake, the Manistee River and the Little Manistee River. There are also sites to launch along Lake Michigan, which are part of the Manistee-Frankfort section of the Lake Michigan Water Trail. The Lake Michigan Water Trail is a 1,638 mile water trail managed by an array of public and private entities in Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana (See Map C-5).



### Camping

There are around 80 public camping areas in Manistee County as of 2021. Campers and hikers can find a place to spend the night throughout the county. The greatest concentration of rustic backcountry campsites are located along the Little Manistee River and Tippy Dam Pond. Campers of varying skill levels will be able to find an accommodating campground in Manistee. From rustic sites in the Huron-Manistee National Forest to RV-accommodating sites elsewhere, there is a site for everyone (See Map C-6).

### Dark Sky Locations

There are 236 recreation sites in Manistee without lighting on-site, making them candidates for a “dark sky” designation. Darksky initiatives require areas that do not compete with development and the resulting lights that are required for a dense population. With much of Manistee County undeveloped as a result of large land holdings owned by the US Forest Service, the Department of Natural Resources, energy companies (Consumers Power), and Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, opportunities to develop dark sky initiatives are plentiful.

Dark sky initiatives meet the triple-bottom-line of sustainability: they provide a quality space to enjoy nature; they generate eco-tourism dollars; and they promote a reduction in light pollution (See Map C-7).

### Explore the Shores Program

The establishment of the Explore the Shores Program in 2008 within Manistee County began an endeavor which seeks to develop Universally Accessible Water Access Sites throughout Manistee County.

Recreation in Manistee County has greatly benefited from the establishment and continued expansion of the Explore the Shores program. The previous county-wide plan set the goal to have 50+ sites by 2020. While this ambitious goal was not accomplished, two sites went from nominees to designated: Magoon Creek Natural Area and the state-owned Portage Lake Boat Launch. For a map of Manistee’s Explore the Shores program see Map C-10.



Local Planning Commissions, Boards and Councils completed the task of ranking recreation sites through a 3-tiered system of primary, secondary and tertiary sites. The ranking of recreation sites was completed for those sites within each community boundary. The ranking followed an anecdotal formula of identifying the most utilized sites, those which were in need of improvement, sites which could serve as trailheads or stops along a trail route and those desired to become an important

## County-Wide Primary Sites

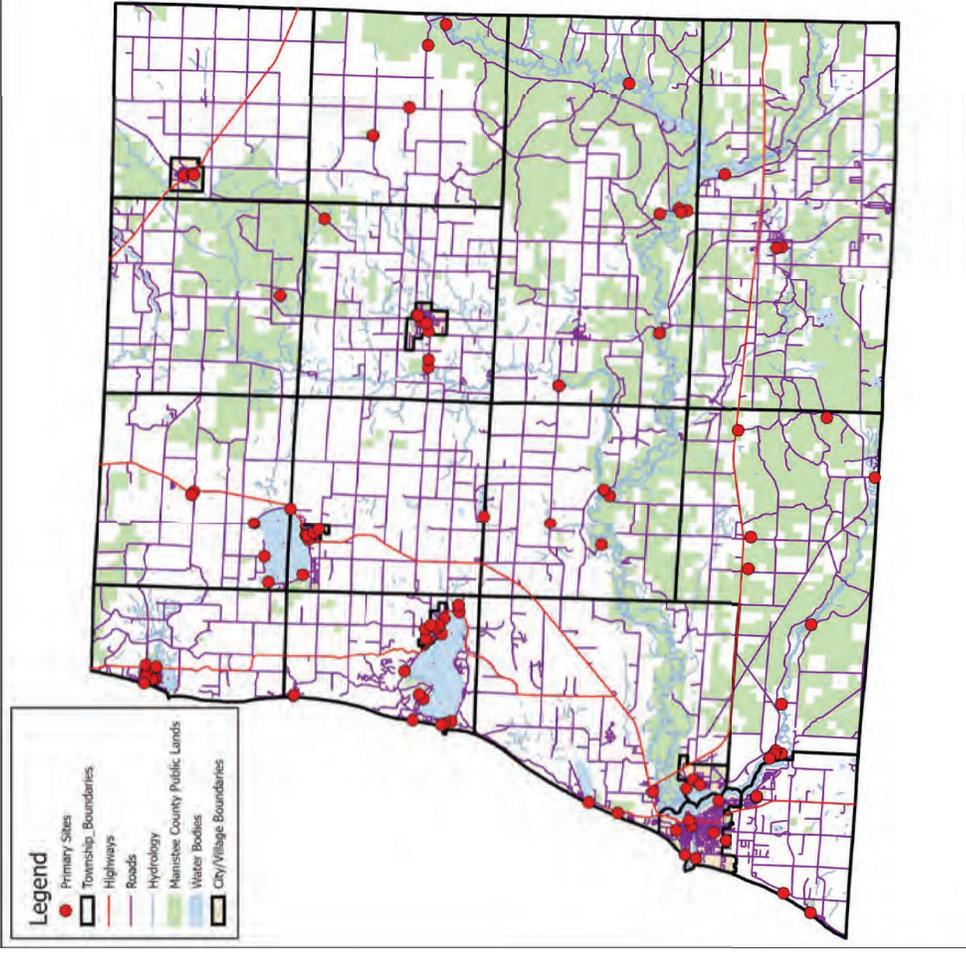
location for activity within the municipality. Each site's ranking was recorded and is provided within the recreation site inventories for each community within Appendix A. The purpose of this ranking exercise, which is not a DNR requirement, was to:

- 1) Help newly appointed and elected officials understand which sites are most important to the community in the coming years; and
- 2) Facilitate collaboration between Manistee County's municipal governments, non-profits, businesses, civic organizations and other stakeholder groups on projects that cross municipal borders, namely trail connections to recreation sites.

It is important to note that this ranking system is not an official planning categorization. Local governments can and should pursue funding for a secondary or tertiary site if desired by the public or if site-specific funding becomes available.

There are a total of 307 identified recreation sites within Manistee County. Of those, 98 sites are considered primary, 95 are considered secondary and 114 are tertiary. All of the county's primary sites can be seen on the map on page 28.

Map 2. County-Wide Primary Recreation Sites



Few goals galvanize an entire community. However, as the public input data shows in Chapter 4 and subsequently the goals developed by each of the 20 communities in the County in Chapter 5, residents have articulated that they want multi-use trails. While the county has some established snowmobile trails, the North Country Trail, Manistee River Trail, Big M Trail System as well as a few other local trail systems found scattered throughout Manistee, the trails system is uncoordinated, is lacking connections, has limited loops, and does not facilitate connections in a meaningful way to population centers or service areas. In addition, they lack signage and way-finding, are not maintained for multiple user types, and lack basic facilities. Put simply, there are great needs to the existing trail system, and conversely, there are great opportunities and widespread support.

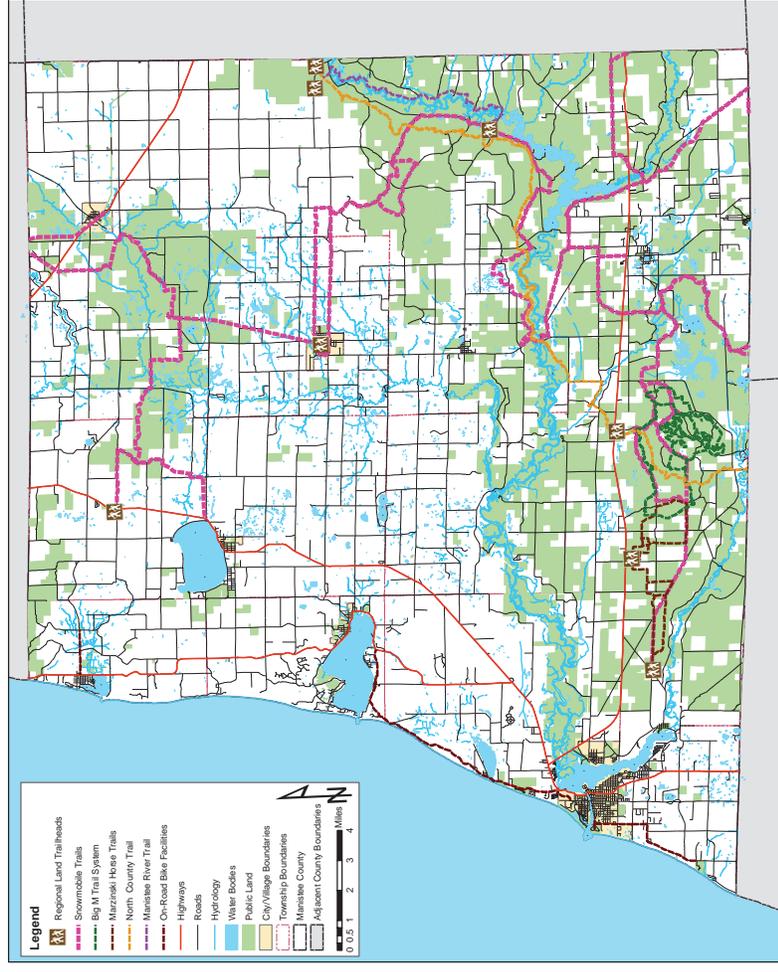
## Trails

The existence of many localized trails and a few existing regional connection calls for increased connectivity. A strong showing of support through the public input processes described in this plan provides the evidence needed that trail connections are desired throughout the community and a variety of trail types are needed. In Manistee, there are abundant localized trail systems with few regional connectors and even fewer connections to some of the most densely populated areas.

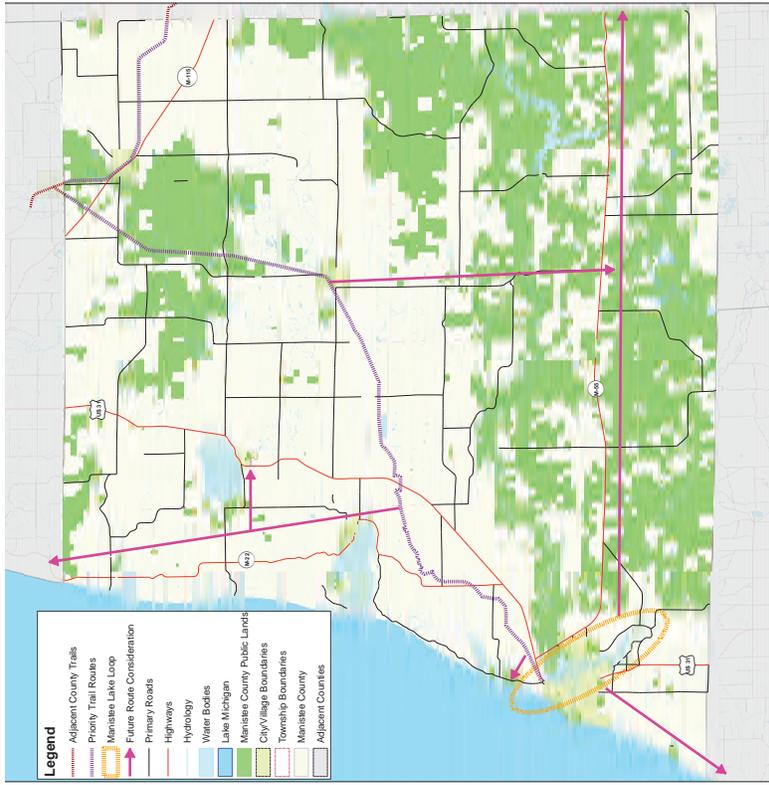
The utilization of regional trail connections to link population centers, recreation sites, private business districts, historic locations and various amenities and existing localized trail systems can provide an avenue with which residents and visitors can explore and recreate throughout the county. This recreation plan provides the framework for moving forward to plan and establish the regional trail network.

See Appendices D and E for further trail information.

Map 3. Existing Trails



Map 4. Broad Brush Stroke Future Trail Connections



Map 4 (above) displays delineated priority routes and future route objectives. Priority routes are displayed as the hashed purple line that extends from the existing "Betsie Valley Trail" in Thompsonville in Southern Benzie County into Manistee County. The trail extends from the single route in Benzie County to two routes in Manistee County.

One branch of the trail leads east through the Village of Copemish and Cleon Township and into Wexford County. This trail is envisioned to connect Mesick to Yuma to Cadillac, connecting to the White Pine Trail, allowing for connection of the White Pine Trail to the Betsie Valley Trail.

The second branch leads south out of Thompsonville and connects to the Village of Kaleva, then turns west, passing through Chief and running just south of

Onekama and ultimately passing through tribal lands of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians before ultimately connecting to the City of Manistee. This routes is also envisioned to have a spur linking the trail to Orchard Beach State Park.

Each of these routes earned their priority designation because of the connections they facilitated to existing trail systems and communities, large swaths of the trail corridors being under public ownership and the continuous railroad bed that is existing from the former, now-removed, railroad line. These priority routes are seen as the most feasible for immediate implementation, due to the characteristics noted previously, but also due to landowner conversations that have and are occurring in regard to trail placement.

## Support Structure & Advocacy for Trail Development

**Friends of SMARTrails (501c3 non-profit)**  
 The Friends of SMARTrails is a formally established non-profit that is charged with advocacy for trail development fundraising and maintenance. The organizational structure is led by a formal Board of Directors, with additional participation from members of the public as non-board member participants. The Friends group acts in multiple capacities:

- They keep a pulse on the community as they interact with neighbors and visitors supporting advocacy for trail development;
- They communicate with local governmental elected and appointed officials;
- They strategize and prioritize for implementation efforts, acting as advisors to the Recreation Commission;
- They hold and attend events to spread awareness of the benefits of trails to the community;
- They fundraise for grant matches and trail maintenance efforts; and
- They assist with maintenance efforts as able.

The Friends of SMARTrails is a non-public body and therefore is not held to the same requirements as the Recreation Commission. Agendas, minutes and meetings are not required to be open to the public, allowing the group to discuss more sensitive subjects such as landowner concerns or funding of efforts outside of the public eye. There is sometimes a need for closed door discussions for sensitive subjects, but it is advised that this support organization act largely within view of the public with abundant transparency in order to establish and maintain trust with the residents of Manistee County.

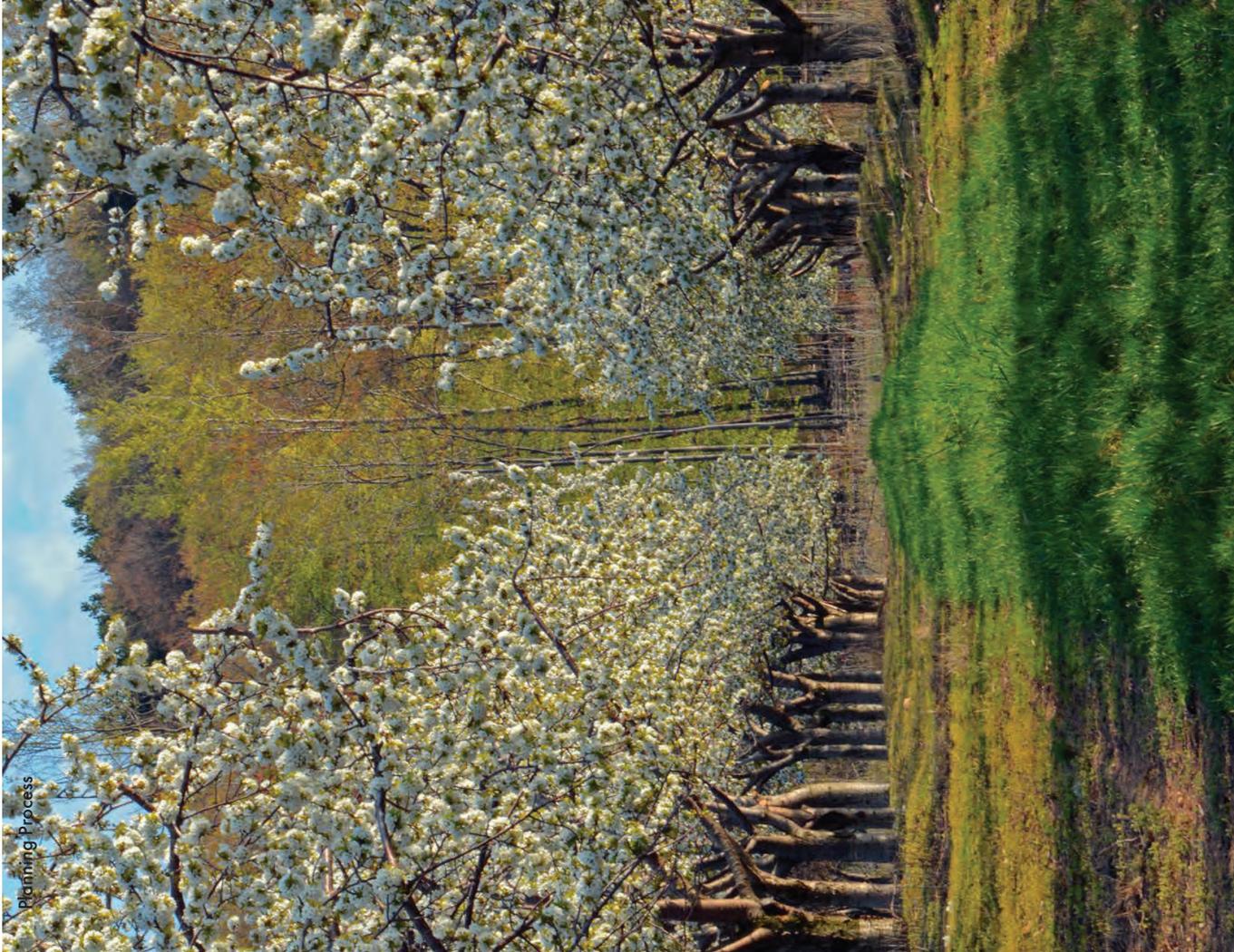
### Recreation Commission

The Manistee County Recreation Commission is a formal advisory body to the Manistee County Board of Commissioners. They are an appointed body of ten members that is established under the authority of the County and Regional Parks Act 261 of 1965. The body membership includes 6 at large seats which are appointed by the County Board upon submittal of an application, with 4 statutorily required seats to be filled by a member of the County Board, a representative of the Road Commission, a Planning Commission member and the Drain Commissioner. The Recreation Commission acts in the following capacities:

- The formal body that is charged with seeking and obtaining grant monies for implementation of projects;
- Provide coordination with other County entities and departments; and
- Recommendation of approval of Recreation Plans and efforts to the formal legislative body.

This governmental commission functions in the public realm, therefore meetings must be advertised and open to the public. The County Board of Commissioners establishes the budget of the Recreation Commission. A well-functioning Recreation Commission is supported with staff.





# 4

# Planning Process

## Planning Process

As the 2016-2020 Manistee County-Wide Park & Recreation Plan was the first of its kind in the county, there was a great need for an extensive public input process. Because this had been the first time Manistee planned for parks and recreation in a coordinated and cross-jurisdictional manner, the planning process itself required an in-depth look at what was working well, what needed to be improved and what residents wanted to see for their community in the coming years.

## Building Consensus

Analogous to other planning processes, the successful implementation of a project is often determined by the public's support for it. Therefore, it was critical to understand public sentiment early in the process to ensure that future park and recreation improvements in Manistee are representative of what people want to see in their community.

This chapter summarizes the public input and planning process that informed the 2016-2020 county-wide plan, as well as the more recent process used to update this information for this 2022-2026 plan. The input process from the previous county-wide plan is described here because the information it produced informed the bulk of this current plan. The 2022-2026 planning process was largely a review and update to the information gathered in 2015.

### 2016-2020 Public Input Process

The 2016-2020 Manistee County-Wide Park & Recreation Plan was informed by three overarching outreach methods: a county-wide survey, public visioning sessions and stakeholder meetings. The objective in using a variety of outreach methods was to garner sentiments from people representing different geographic locations in the county, people with different recreation interests and people of different age groups.

The survey was well advertised throughout Manistee with the use of traditional and social media, flyers, personalized invitations to stakeholders and public announcements at community events. The online survey was open for three months (May through

July) which allowed seasonal residents to participate as well. Paper versions of the survey were available to those who did not have online access. The 1,009 responses gathered from the 2016 survey helped to inform the county-wide goals and objectives found in the previous plan. The most cited improvements and additions to Manistee's inventory of recreation opportunities were trails, sports complexes, the ability to rent canoes and kayaks, climbing walls, an indoor fitness/exercise facility and a nature center. Trail planning has continued to be a focus for community members and local leaders. Chapter 3 discussed this further, including what efforts have been made since 2016.

Aside from the survey, and perhaps most importantly, the planning team organized various public visioning sessions in 2015 to inform Manistee County's first county-wide park and recreation plan. There were nine visioning sessions in total. Three of these were at local area high schools: Manistee High School, Onkama High School and Brethren High School. The intent was to engage area youth to understand their recreational needs, an age group that is often left out of planning processes.

For the wider public, the planning team hosted public input sessions at six different locations. These meeting sites were chosen because they could be easily identified by members of the public, they were in relatively close proximity to higher population centers and they were spaced apart enough so that residents throughout the county could attend a session close to their home. These meetings took place at Marilla Township Hall, Sironach Township Hall, Brethren High School, Bear Lake United Methodist Church, Springdale Township Hall and Manistee High School.

All nine public visioning sessions followed a similar format. Participants identified their preferred recreation activities and the locations they most often frequent in Manistee to give the planning team an anecdotal understanding of the county's recreation sites and hubs of activity. This activity then led into



a Strengths, Weaknesses and Opportunities (SWO) discussion. In summary, participants stated that the area's unique and pristine natural resources are its main strength. The main concerns, or weaknesses included a shortage of access points to water resources, shortcomings in regard to trails and the perceived inability for communities to adequately fund and maintain the recreation sites that they own. Finally, in 2015, the planning team concluded the public planning process through discussions with key stakeholders. These stakeholders included the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the United States

Forest Service, Consumers Energy and the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy.

Though each group had specific stances on how they perceive recreation within Manistee, all felt it was a worthwhile endeavor to move forward with the collaboration and consensus that had been built through the planning process. One notion that was reiterated in each discussion was to remain transparent and to ensure that each of these groups is included in any initial conversations concerning recreation in which they have a stake and/or own property. In other words, collaboration and open communication should remain a priority.



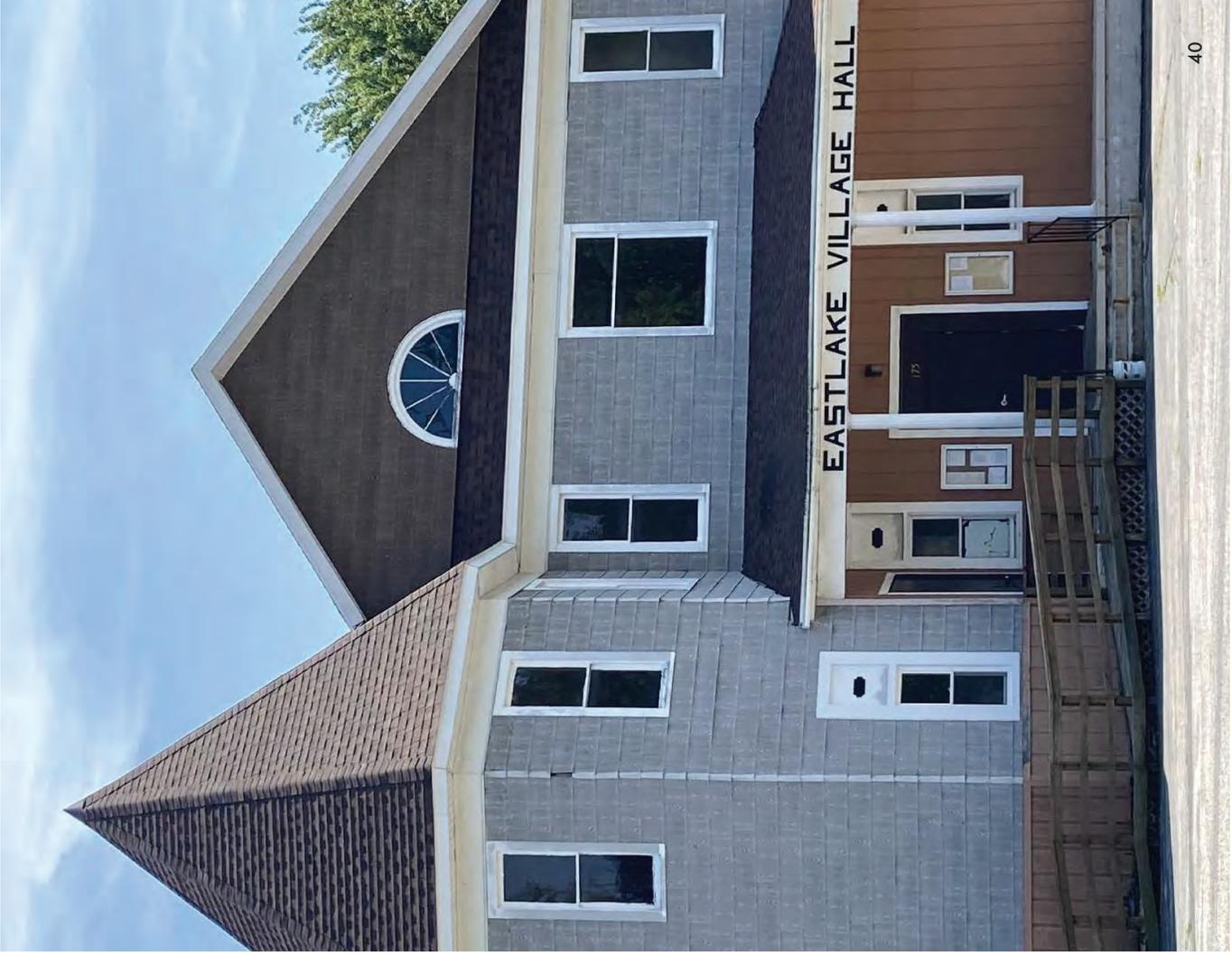
During 2021, the planning team met with local officials and members of the public in Manistee County and each of the 20 jurisdictions therein. These meetings provided participants the opportunity to edit their community descriptions, re-prioritize their recreation sites, note changes to their recreation inventory, update the details in their administrative structures and draft updates to their goals and objectives. Planners from Networks Northwest met with each municipality at least once with an optional follow-up meeting. These meetings were scheduled with township boards, village councils, parks and recreation commissions, planning commissions and parks departments, depending on the preferences of the individual communities.

## Updating the 2022-2026 Plan

In addition to these planning meetings, Networks Northwest also maintained an online survey from February to August, 2021. Survey respondents had the option of either participating online or through a mail-in copy. Key findings from the survey can be found later in this chapter.

Final recommendations and edits to this plan were made during the 21 thirty-day review periods for the County and each municipality and the subsequent public hearings. In this way, the plan is reflective of public sentiments towards parks and recreation in Manistee County. The information garnered during this process did not deviate greatly from the input gathered for the 2016-2020 plan. This plan and the goals and objectives found in the next chapter function primarily as a check-in with each community to understand the status of their planned projects and what successes or barriers they have experienced.

Prior to this plan's next update in 2026, the County would be prudent in continuing to collect public opinions around parks and recreation. Maintaining ongoing communication with members of the public will help to ensure that the projects and associated funds in Manistee effectively meet the needs and desires of the people who live and recreate there.



### Survey Results

The 2021 survey received 395 responses. Many of the questions were repeated from the surveys administered during the previous county-wide park and recreation planning process as well as the survey used for trail planning efforts in 2019. Of the 395 responses, 292 people stated they are permanent residents of Manistee County. A large portion of the responses (159) came from the City of Manistee and Arcadia Township. There were no respondents from the Village of Bear Lake and Marilla Township. Therefore, these survey results should be considered an anecdotal look at public preferences as they are not statistically significant. However, these results nonetheless provide local officials with information they can use in prioritizing projects and planning in the future.

Survey participants were asked what recreation activities they participate in during warm-weather and winter months (see Figures 9 & 10). For warm-weather months, at least 50% of respondents stated that they participate in Swimming/Beach Activities (82%), Hiking (69%), Kayaking (53%) and Walking/Running (74%). For winter months, at least 50% responded that they participate in Hiking (51%) and Walking/Running (59%). When asked where they go to recreate in Manistee, 90% said they go to beaches and Lake Michigan, 79% use public land such as state forests, 52% use interior lakes, 62% go to the county's rivers and 41% use parks, schools and

sports fields.

The greatest barrier to recreation participation in Manistee was a lack of park/recreation features that interest the respondent. This received 62 choices.

The survey also featured a series of statements that asked the degree to which the respondent agrees or disagrees with a given sentiment. Ninety-seven percent agree or strongly agree that Manistee County should make it a priority to preserve natural areas and water access. Seventy-five percent agree or strongly agree that parks in Manistee County are well-maintained and 78% agree or strongly agree that parks in Manistee County offer amenities that appeal to their recreation interests. There is resounding agreement that Manistee County should implement more non-motorized trail connections (80.6% agree or strongly agree).

There is also strong support for a range of funding mechanisms to support parks and recreation improvements in the county (see Figure 11). Of the 326 responses to the question, "Which recreation funding methods do you support for parks and recreation in Manistee County", 74% support donations, 81% support grants, 56% support a re-appropriation of existing taxpayers funds and 49% support a millage to fund site improvements.

For a full set of survey responses, see Appendix H.

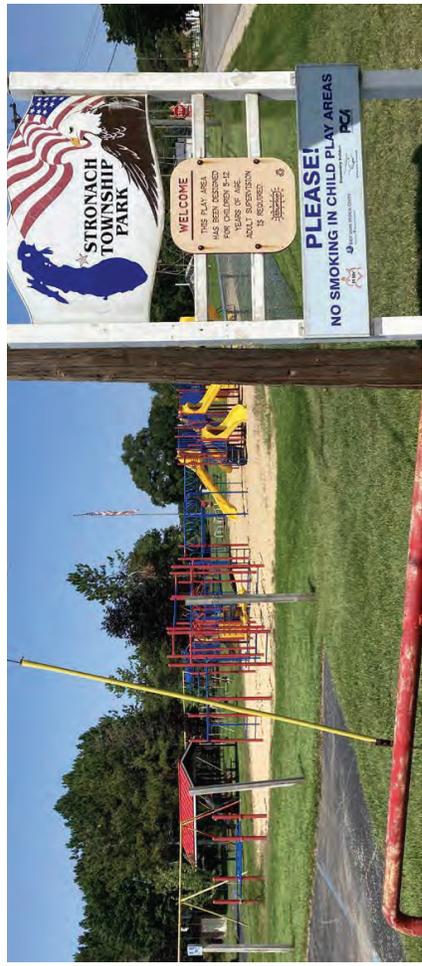


Figure 7. Which of the following recreation activities do you participate in within Manistee County during the warm-weather months? (Choose all that apply)

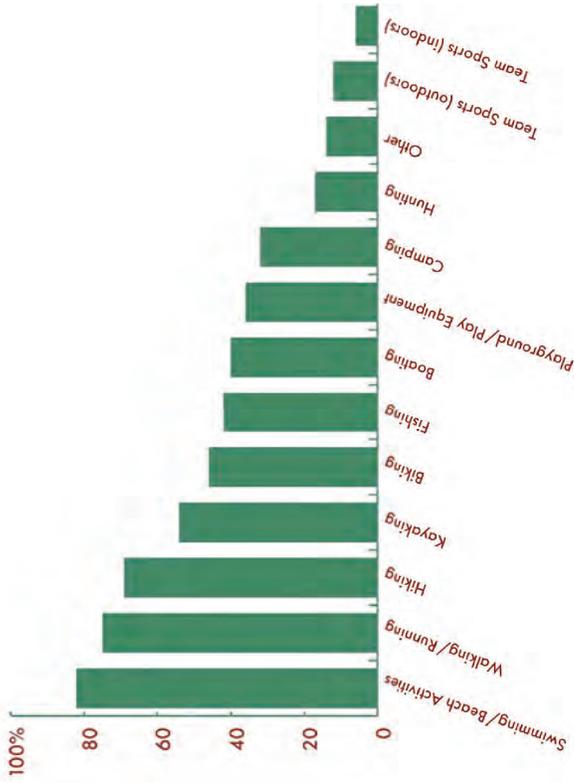


Figure 8. Which of the following recreation activities do you participate in within Manistee County during the winter months? (Choose all that apply)

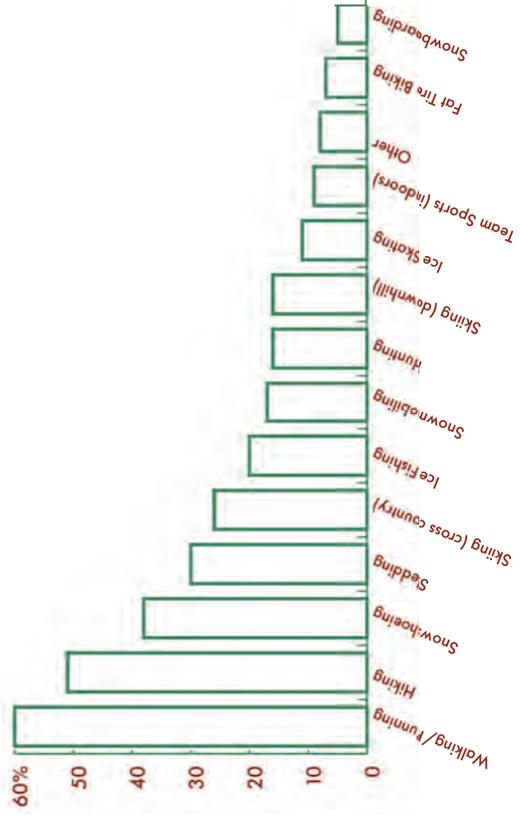


Figure 9. Where do you go in Manistee County to recreate? (Choose all that apply)

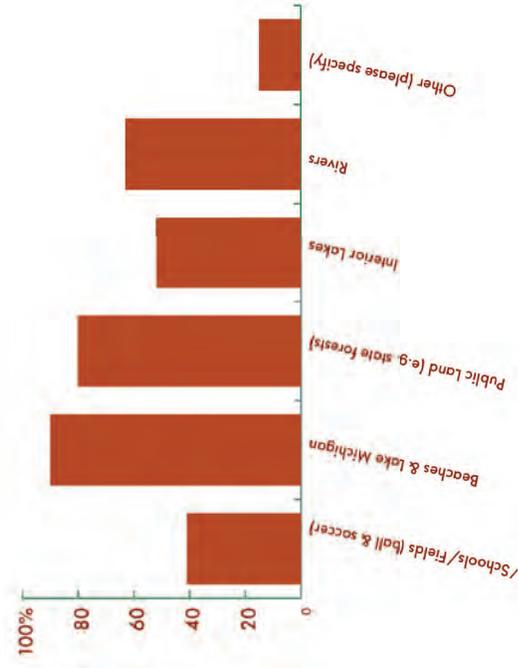


Figure 10. How often do you visit a public park, beach, trail or other recreation site in Manistee County?

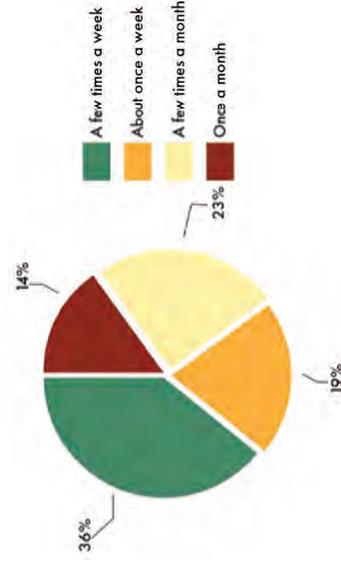
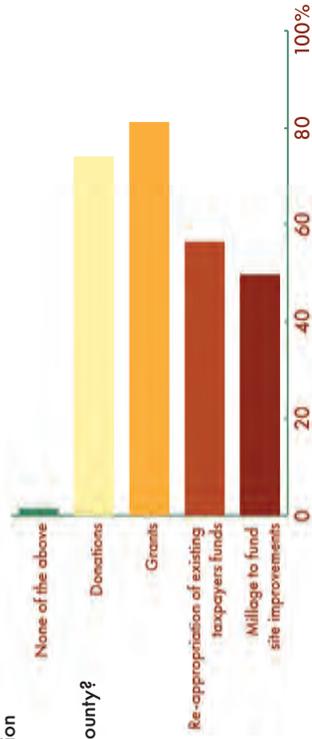
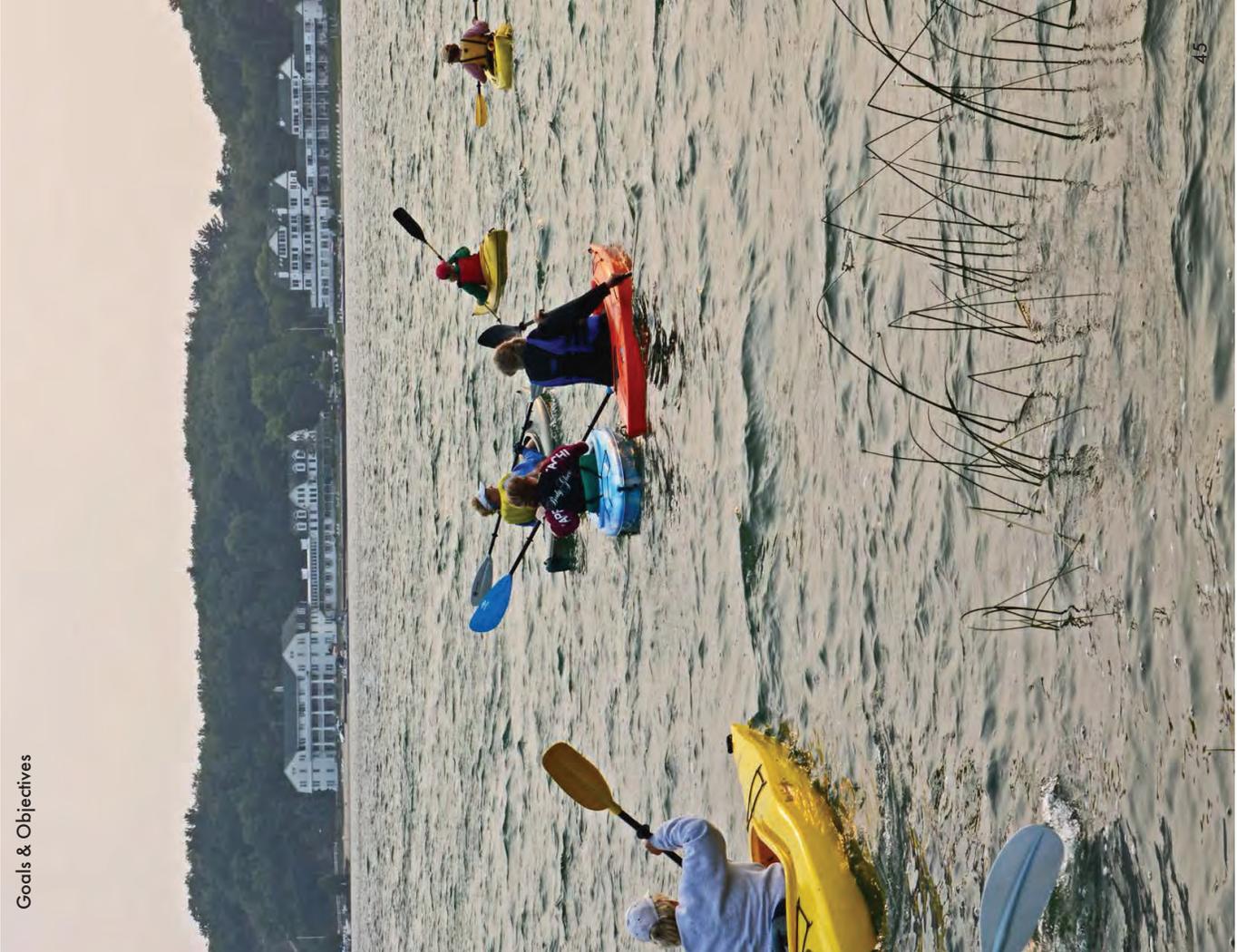


Figure 11. Which recreation funding methods do you support for parks and recreation in Manistee County?





# 5

# Goals & Objectives



## Next Steps for Success

The goals and objectives section of any plan are key in that they are the final result of the combined data collection and community input processes. By understanding where the community has been and what challenges it is currently experiencing, it can proceed with deciding what changes should come next. Goals and objectives capture the image that the community wants to manifest in itself through organized and community-supported change. While not as specific as the action programs and individual project implementation strategies that will come later, these goals and objectives detail all of the efforts that Manistee has built consensus around and for which funding may be sought. For each individual jurisdiction's goals and objectives, see Appendix F.

### Goal 1: Review, update and implement the 5-Year Manistee County Park & Recreation Plan.

- Regularly update the map that identifies the large natural resource features/systems found within the County (i.e. Manistee River, DNR land, USFS land, Lake Michigan shoreline)
- Allocate and assign the various goals, where appropriate, identified by each community to the natural resource features/systems map.
- Use the Natural Resource Features/Systems and Community Goals Map to seek funding sources for implementation.
- Convene and host a Recreation Summit to seek volunteers for parks and recreation related committees and to assist these entities in getting started. The Recreation Commission will also attend the county-wide Trails Summit and the Regional Summit.
- Invite the DNR Grants Coordinator to Manistee County to speak and educate the communities about recreation, grants, and other implementation opportunities.
- Encourage Manistee's municipalities to share facilities and programming efforts where feasible.
- Support local jurisdictions in adopting concepts such as walkability, connectivity between points of interest, the development of pathways and trails, the protection of natural resources, improved access to recreational assets and watershed protection in their planning documents, zoning ordinances and other municipal documents.



### Goal 2: Improve access to natural resources and recreational facilities for recreational purposes.

- Continue to support the creation and development of Explore the Shores sites.
- Develop a County wide Blue Water Trail system complete with way-finding and accesses which meet the criteria of the National Water Trails System under the National Park Service.
- Develop a system of way-finding throughout the County's river systems with information about river segments, including degree of difficulty designation.
- Identify gaps and opportunities for new access points to land.
- Identify, evaluate, and make improvements to existing access points.
- Identify hubs of the trail system and seek funding to create the facilities necessary for the trail users.
- Evaluate the trails to determine if they are meeting the needs of the user.

### Goal 3: Continue to steward the county's natural resources.

- Support, or initiate, traffic calming measures as requested by the public for the Hodenpyl Stretch of Manistee River.
- Support watershed plans once adopted by their respective communities.
- Support the work of the Manistee County Conservation District, Grand Traverse Land



## Goals & Objectives

Conservancy, United States Forest Service, Consumer Energy, Railroad Corporations, the Department of Natural Resources and other large landowners and seek ways to strengthen their ties with recreational development.

- Collaborate with the Manistee County Land Bank Authority to identify and evaluate properties with higher ecological significance to plan for their management and potential recreational uses.

### **Goal 4: Develop nature and natural resource based tourism within the county.**

- Conduct an annual tour of the county-wide priority recreation sites.
- Support the M-22 Pure Michigan Byway project.
- Create a County Recreation Ambassador Program that uses volunteers to help promote the area by providing person to person contact to give tours, information, etc.
- Create identifiable segments along the rivers that are marketed, designated for difficulty, and have clearly identifiable points of access. This may be completed by designating certain river segments as water trails.
- Work with the Visitors Bureau to link planning work with their Mobile Application.
- Create a strong partnership between the Manistee County Planning Department, the Visitor's Bureau, the Manistee Area Chamber of Commerce and any other organization working toward improved eco-tourism.
- Encourage recreation outfitter business development.
- Encourage the development of businesses that sell or lease recreational equipment.
- Continue to support the development of "pop up" businesses in the county at recreation sites.

### **Goal 5: Look for ways to improve collaboration and partnerships to support recreation.**

- Meet with the Manistee Recreation Authority, local recreation organizations, educational institutions and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians to explore ways to increase natural outdoor recreation by offering lessons/programming that teaches kiteboarding, sailing, paddle boarding, fly fishing, and other recreational activities that utilize our natural assets.

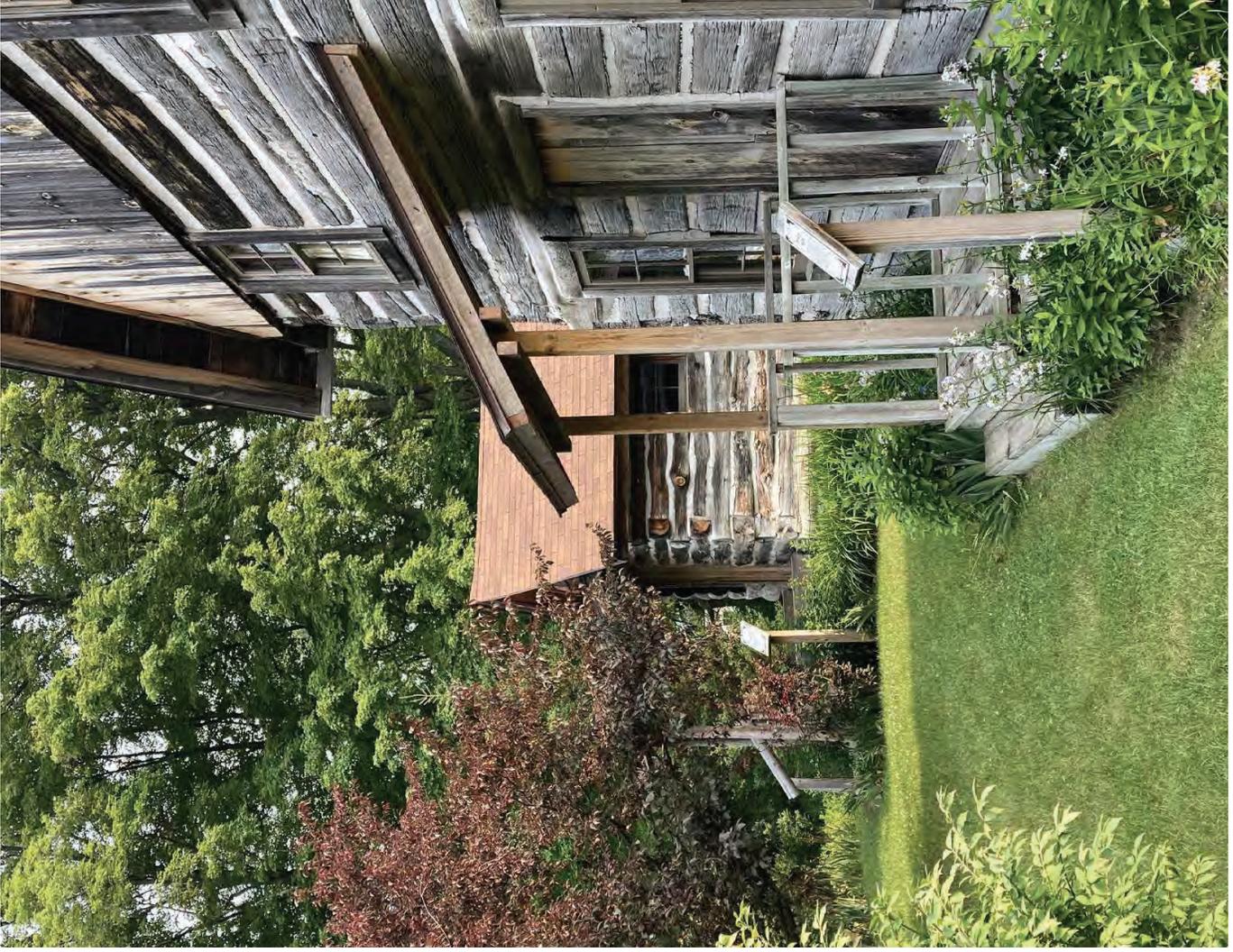
- Continue to maintain working relationships and a regular meeting schedule with Consumers Energy, the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, the Department of Natural Resources, US Forest Service, and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians in order to implement this Recreation Plan.

### **Goal 6: Help improve and promote the use of community parks.**

- Create opportunities for linkages and connections between the parks.
- Support efforts by communities to implement their park improvement goals.
- Work with the Visitors Bureau and other related organizations to promote recreation sites.

### **Goal 7: Improve pedestrian and non-motorized travel in Manistee County.**

- Support safe crossing points on major roads by working with MDOT, the Manistee County Road Commission and local units of government.
- Support the adoption of Complete Streets resolutions and ordinances at the local level to promote traffic calming measures along state-managed roads.
- Support safe non-motorized travel best practices at the local level.



## Goals & Objectives

- **Goal 8: Develop a county wide, multi-use, trail system that connects communities, natural features and is universally accessible.**
  - Create a wayfinding plan for the county.
  - Coordinate with SMARTrails and the local jurisdictions to implement the Manistee Lake Area Non-motorized Trail Plan, the Railroad Relocation for the Manistee Lake Area Communities Plan and the 2017 Manistee County US-31 Corridor Enhancement Plan.
  - Develop trail plans for the identified trail hubs throughout the county.
  - Plan a Blue Water trail system with links to neighboring Counties.
  - Mark designated trail uses on the county's trails and trailheads.
  - Continue to identify trail opportunities that are off road and would be procured by purchasing land, seeking easements, utilizing railroad grades, and/or converting snowmobile trail leases into multi-use easement lease agreements.
- Keep an open line of communication with all of the county's municipalities. Conduct periodic discussions concerning the current status of the recreation plan and ongoing projects.
- Publish, maintain and market ORV, snowmobile and non-motorized trails in Manistee.
- **Goal 9: Plan for the maintenance and funding of recreational facilities.**
  - Create a county-wide dialogue about the importance of creating a line-item budget for recreation expenditures within an individual community's budget.
  - Create a county-wide dialogue about the importance of creating a recreation savings account to save money for the matching funds needed when applying for grants.
  - Facilitate a seminar to discuss potential funding sources to implement the Manistee County-Wide Park & Recreation Plan.





# 6

# Action Program



This planning process and the updates to this planning document are the first steps in guiding the community towards an improved culture of parks and recreation. These planning efforts are an important start to any implementation phase because of the noted importance in ensuring that key stakeholders and members of the public agree on the direction that the community should take. However, for a plan to be truly effective in creating community-wide change, responsible stakeholders must commit to their roles and work collaboratively to take projects from planning to development. This chapter broadly defines these roles and provides a framework for successful project implementation. Many aspects of this action strategy are intentionally ambiguous to allow local jurisdictions to cater the strategy to their unique processes and needs.

## A Framework for Success

Manistee County and each of its jurisdictions should continue to work collaboratively to implement the goals and objectives listed in the previous chapter, recognizing that quality recreation does not end at jurisdictional boundaries, but instead forms a mosaic of sites that ultimately define the quality of the community as a whole.

Success in implementation relies upon several sequential factors including: Organization and Support, Project Selection & Planning, Eligibility & Ability for Funding, Grant Administration, Project Management, Project Completion and Project Maintenance. This chapter will describe these factors as they pertain to parks and recreation.

### Roles and Responsibilities

Elected officials and appointed officials serve in a capacity of not only representation of residents, but also in a broader sense of community building, economic development and environmental stewardship. The structure of local governments guides the appointed planning commission and park and recreation commission members to coordinate with staff to research, develop, review and critique plans such as this, offering recommendation to the elected body when they are satisfied with the direction of the document. Elected bodies, upon recommendation of an appointed body, hold public hearings prior to the formal adoption of a plan. This process of support and adoption, with a properly crafted plan containing the appropriate content, leads to eligibility for various funding opportunities at state and federal levels as well as a support case for non-profit funding. The plan adoption process includes the following steps: Plan Development, Plan Review (internal and then public), Recommendation for Adoption and Formal Adoption by the Elected Body.

### Role of Staff

Local governments often provide staff or support for staff to see that processes are initiated and completed appropriately. Staffing is necessary for organizing support, managing projects and grants, as well as continual maintenance of facilities into perpetuity. Staff work closely with appointed bodies such as Park and Recreation Commissions and Planning Commissions, which provide support for plan adoption, selection of projects and the seeking of grants.

### Role of Friends Group

Friends Groups are tasked with raising funds to assist with the development and maintenance of sites and facilities as well as making recommendations for projects. The members maintain a pulse on the community. They spread awareness and nurture support that builds within communities for projects from a grassroots level. The success of many projects can be traced back to the establishment and support of a friends group.

### Role of Stakeholders

Stakeholders have a role as a participant, user, business owner or steward of facilities or resources. Stakeholders were consulted for this planning process as they hold valuable information, unique points of view and experience that shapes the plan's content. In part, stakeholders often function to provide support for specific improvements and facilities, access to funding, fundraising and capacity building.

### Role of the School System

The school system plays a vital role with non-motorized transportation facilities. The denser residential areas in the Manistee area provide the opportunity to connect school age children with the ability to access their schools via non-motorized routes. These routes must be designed appropriately to provide safe and efficient travel from home to destinations. A primary role of the school system is support through "Safe Routes to School".

A table of all roles and responsibilities and accompanying parties is provided on the next page.

Table 4. Project Implementation Roles & Responsibilities

Roles & Responsibilities	Project/Plan Support & Input	Plan Development	Plan Adoption & Recommendations	Plan Adoption	Obtain Request for Quantifications from Design & Construction Firms	Project & Facility Selection	Obtain Request for Proposals from Qualified Firms	Obtains Preliminary Design & Cost Estimate	Grant Applicant	Grant Writing	Grant Administration	Obtain Final Project Design (from selected firm)	Invoice Payment & Grant Fund Capture	Fund Development	Capacity Building	Maintenance
Elected Government Bodies or Official	X			X					X				X			X
Planning Commissions	X		X													
Parks & Recreation Commissions	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X			X	X
Friends Groups	X					X			X					X		
Stakeholders & Members of the Public	X															
Staff	X	X			X		X	X		X	X					X

**Next Steps**

The Manistee community has accomplished much in recent years in its effort to promote, maintain and improve recreation. However, there are several actions that should be undertaken in the near future in order to ensure that the community is in a strong position to further build on its successes. The following actions should remain points of focus for the County and the municipalities therein.

**Continued Public Outreach**

The Manistee County community has now completed multiple public input processes around parks and recreation. While these planning projects have resulted in a strong exchange of information between local officials and members of the public, this dialogue should not cease taking place in the community. The County and each of the local units of government are wise in continuously seeking public



opinion on local decision making. This may include focus groups, surveys or other public events meant to ensure the community's decision makers have a keen understanding of public sentiments. Communities that regularly exchange information with members of the public are often in a better position to effect change through project implementation.

**Complete Streets Policies and Resolutions**

In 2003 an Executive Directive was handed down from the Governor's Office that directed "Context Sensitive Design For Transportation Projects". Later, in 2010, two pieces of legislation were adopted: Public Acts 134 and 135, under the influence of the 2003 executive directive. These two acts established complete streets legislation and the Complete Streets Advisory Council (CSAC). The CSAC was charged with providing education and advice to local governments, road agencies and stakeholders on the benefits and importance of adopting Complete Streets Ordinances at the local level and the benefits of doing so. The CSAC was disbanded in 2015 under a sunset repeal of that portion of the act having met their charges and believing that the MDOT and local road agencies could carry the effort forward.

The legislation supports the adoption of resolutions and the establishment of policy at the local governmental level. These resolutions and accompanying policy seek to develop roadway infrastructure that meet the needs of all users including pedestrians and bicyclists, not just automobiles. Act 134 points to the planning process for incorporation of these facilities and seeks to tie them directly into Community Master Plans or in this case a Recreation Plan, as it directly references the 2008 Planning Enabling Act and amendments.

### County-Wide Grant Writer

By hiring a grant writer for the entire County, Manistee would be in a much stronger position to acquire grant funding for parks and recreation improvements. This hire would greatly assist the local units of government in grant acquisitions by lessening the burdens of under-staffing and often lacking technical expertise in this regard. Prior to the adoption of this plan, the County has already discussed the likelihood of such an addition. It should also be noted that localities wanting to handle grant writing and administration in-house are encouraged to continue doing so. This practice would largely aim to assist those communities without the staff capacity or budgeting to apply for the myriad grant opportunities from the state, federal government, community foundation and others.

### Grant Writing Workshops & Continuing Education

Funding for improvements can be a difficult prospect when budgets are tight and often grants are relied upon to fill in the gaps. Seeking and obtaining grants is a multi-faceted process that incorporates identifying a project, finding eligible grants, soundly completing a grant application, achieving application selection and project awards, tracking invoices and payments for eligible costs, seeking reimbursement of funds and managing the grant award through proper reporting. All of these tasks incorporate more than one individual within the process in order to achieve success. This often includes staff who can write grants and administer the process, treasurers who manage the invoicing and payments of reimbursable funds, and supervisors or presidents of local governments who sign off on the grant applications.

Complexity of grant writing and administration is a known impediment to the success of obtaining grants.

Therefore, many opportunities exist to participate in workshops and trainings that teach the skills necessary to be successful in grant writing. The State of Michigan utilizes grant workshops each spring that educate on changes to grant programs, and offers refreshers and pointers on building a successful grant application.

### Safe Routes To School

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a federal program that seeks to make it safe, convenient and fun for children of all abilities to bicycle and walk to school. Eligibility for the granting program is available to any school with at least one grade in the K-8 range, whether public, charter, tribal or private. The program is managed by the Michigan Department of Transportation with support provided by the Michigan Fitness Foundation. The program seeks to:

- Enable and encourage students in K-8, of all abilities to walk and bicycle to school;
- Make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation choice, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age; and
- Facilitate the planning, development and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution in the vicinity of elementary and middle schools.

A cooperative approach to this program should be explored with the local governments in the Manistee area providing a supporting role to school board. School districts should understand the various benefits to these planning efforts and should be encouraged to actively participate.

# Funding Mechanisms

Project implementation is often dependent on the availability of funding and local capacity. Fundraising and success in obtaining funds often relies upon well-developed and supported plans. This section will outline different sources of available funds and funding mechanisms that are available for parks and recreation.

Grants are available in many different forms through both the public and private sectors. The most common grants stem from the state and federal government. These grants often have match requirements that rely upon a percentage of the total grant allotment to be met. They include administrative

reporting that often requires monitoring of the project, expenses, invoicing and payment reimbursements.

The State of Michigan has funding sources for which many of these projects meet eligibility through two primary agencies, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). Each agency funds different types of improvements, but there overlap exists between the two. The tables on the next page provide details on eligible grant opportunities. The federal government provides ample grant opportunities for non-motorized mobility, a key aspect of this plan. Programs are administered



**Action Program**

through the US Department of Transportation Transit, Highway, and Safety Funds.

The Manistee County Community Foundation serves the community of Manistee with a wide array of endowments that impact all facets of the community. The Minger Family Endowment was created through the generosity of Forest R. Minger. Upon his passing, he provided significant funds to the MCCF for the purpose of recreational trail and site development. This granting program is available on a yearly basis and will be a critical source of funding to see the recreational visions of the community become a reality.

Another important piece to the funding equation includes performing fundraising and seeking donations. Most grants require a match in order to receive the grant award. Meeting that match percentage can mean the difference between a project meeting completion or being left on the

drawing board. The establishment of the Friends of SMARTTrails non-profit provides the avenue for setting up and scheduling fundraising events and seeking and obtaining donations. Since the previous county-wide plan's adoption, this important non-profit has been established and members are now actively working to implement parks and recreation projects. This is just one example of how non-governmental and inter-jurisdictional collaboration can help to offset project costs.

Over the next few years the Friends Group should be setting work plans for events that support and build upon the development of non-motorized, multi-modal and multi-use facilities. These events could become annual, which may further build and increase support for a succession of projects that work to complete the desired system.

The last piece in the capacity building and funding discussion is that of utilizing tax dollars to fund

facilities. Often discussed apprehensively, the use of tax dollars to fund projects and facilities is commonplace in several rural Michigan communities. The advantage of having a set amount of tax dollars on a yearly basis to implement projects is immense. With the abundance of grant dollars available through several sources, including the Manistee County Community Foundation, which requires that their grant funds be expended within Manistee County, it is strategically advantageous to have a fund of monies that are specifically for a grant match. Survey results from both the 2015 and 2019 surveys displayed support for a millage specific for recreation, with 57% supporting a millage in 2019. Forty-nine percent of respondents stated the same in the 2021 survey. The 2019 and 2021 surveys went further and asked the relatively controversial question of whether re-appropriation of existing

taxes should be a consideration for non-motorized, multi-modal, multi-use facility and recreation site development. Sixty-six percent of respondents were in favor of re-appropriation in 2019 and 56% were in favor in 2021. It should be noted that the 2021 survey received fewer responses and is thus likely less representative than the 2019 survey.

The percentages in support of these measures through three consecutive surveys with six years of separation should be heeded by local and regional elected officials. With immense projects on the horizon supported by large majorities of the community, funding from governmental entities displays a full "buy-in" to the process and implementation. This shows both local support to the community's residents and visitors, and also to granting agencies that favor approving applications that are both morally and financially supported by local units of government.

**Table 5. MDOT Grants**

Grant/Loan Name	Type	Match	Allotment	Eligible Applicants	Priorities	Eligible Projects
Safe Routes to School	Grant	No	\$200,000	School Districts (K-8)	School route improvements	Sidewalks, crosswalks, bike lanes, bike racks, signage
State Infrastructure Bank	Loan	No	\$2 million	Act 51 Public Entities	Reduce borrower costs, investment, accelerate delivery of projects	All phases of a transportation project with road right of way
Transportation Alternative Program	Grant	20%	No max	Local units of government, tribal governments, road agencies	Multi-modal and non-motorized facilities	Trails, bike lanes, crosswalks, signage, bike racks, etc.

\* Site Development \*\* Land Acquisition

**Table 6. MDNR Grants**

Grant/Loan Name	Type	Match	Allotment	Eligible Applicants	Priorities	Eligible Projects
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund	Grant	25%	\$300,000* No min**	Local units of government, school districts	Development of recreation sites, land acquisition	Trails, recreation facilities, land acquisition
Land and Water Conservation Fund	Grant	50%	\$300,000	Local units of government	Recreation development projects	Trails, recreation facilities
Recreation Passport Grant Program	Grant	25%	\$150,000	Local units of government, school districts	Multi-modal and non-motorized facilities	Trails, bike lanes, crosswalks, signage, bike racks, etc.

Table 7. USDOT Grant Table

Grant/Loan Name	Type	Match	Allotment	Eligible Applicants	Priorities	Eligible Projects
Build Discretionary	Grant	20%	No min	State, local, tribal governments	Safety, economic, sustainable	Sidewalks, crosswalks, bridges, bike lanes, etc.
Infrastructure for Rebuilding America	Grant	40%	No min	State, local, tribal governments	Economic, fund leverage, innovation, performance	Sidewalks, crosswalks, bridges, bike lanes, etc.
Surface Transportation Block Grant Program	Grant	NA	NA	State, regional planning authority	Improve mobility, economic growth, innovation	Project must be in a State Transportation Improvement Program; sidewalks, crosswalks, bridges, bike lanes, etc.

Table 8. MCCF Grant

Grant/Loan Name	Type	Match	Allotment	Eligible Applicants	Priorities	Eligible Projects
Minger Family Endowment Fund	Small & large grants	10%	\$5,000 or \$100,000	Local and tribal governments, school districts, non-profits	Trail acquisition and development, indoor and outdoor recreation, water sites	Trails, boardwalks, water trail access, recreation sites

## Implementation Steps

The Implementation Steps on this page provides a sequential order of operations for successful implementation of this plan.

### 1. Responsible Role-Players & Support

Initial assignment of responsible role-players and support of project(s) type(s).

### 2. Project Selection

Role-players determine specific project from plans and project options.

### 3. Eligibility & Funding Ability

Determine routes for funding (grant, government general fund, etc.); is match needed?

### 4. Formal Project Selection

Obtain resolutions of support from governmental units. Obtain letters of support from governmental agencies, stakeholders & residents.

### 5. Project Preliminary Design & Cost Estimate

Determination of design and cost for inclusion within grant application(s). The request would be made to selected firms following a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) & Request for Proposals (RFP).

### 6. Grant Application Preparation

Grant application is prepared for the selected project.

### 7. Grant Application Submittal

Grant application is submitted under the authority of respective agency or nonprofit with accompanying support materials (resolution(s)/letter(s) of support, and project design/cost estimate.

### 8. Grant Award

Grant Applicant is notified of success of application.

### 9. Final Project Design

Success of grant award triggers a final design for the project with updated costs.

### 10. Grant Administration

Accountability to granting agency of project status, payments and reimbursement requests through completion of project and close-out of grant.

### 11. Project Construction Management

Contracted firm initiates construction of project.

### 12. Project Completion

Project is constructed and made available to the public.

### 13. Grant Close-Out

Final reporting of grant administration and close-out of grant.

### 14. Project Maintenance

Continual maintenance of the project and site is important to preserve the quality of the site for use into perpetuity

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# Appendix A – Community Descriptions, Recreation Inventories, Administrative Structures and DNR Grant Awards

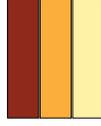
Each community within Manistee County holds specific features that residents and visitors identify with the area. In many cases these features are natural resource based, whether it is the high dunes of Lake Michigan, harbor or inland lakes, acres of beautiful State and National Forests or the cold waters of our rivers and streams. These unique features help one to identify with the area, and in most cases offer a natural resource base for which to pursue countless recreational opportunities.

This section of the plan provides the community description and recreation inventory for each of the municipalities within Manistee County. Each municipality is outlined within the Recreation Region within which it resides. The community description provided by each municipality provides a brief narrative of the community. The recreation inventory identifies each recreation site, and through a table provides the assets found at each site. Maps accompany each inventory table, and display all recreation site locations within the community as well as highlighting those sites which are considered a primary site for the municipality. All recreation sites are color-coded in the inventory table according to the ranking provided by each municipality.

Red cells within the tables denote primary recreation sites.

Orange cells within the tables denote secondary recreation sites.

Yellow cells within the tables denote tertiary recreation sites.



The total list of recreational assets which were inventoried during the planning process follows. It is important to note that the inventory tables for each municipality only list those assets which are found at any one site located within the municipality. For example, if an inventory table doesn't display the asset "Disc Golf" within the community inventory table, then that site asset isn't found at any recreation sites within the municipality.

- Recreation Site ID #
- Site Name
- Municipality
- Ownership
- Municipality Priority Ranking
- County-Wide Priority Site
- Park Type (See Adjacent Key)
- Fee Site
- ADA Access (Low, Med., High)
- Explore the Shores Site
- Explore the Shores Nominee
- Lighting
- Dark-Sky Candidate
- Parking Availability (1 = five spots or less) (2 = five to ten spots) (3 = ten or more spots)
- Signage (Directional)
- Signage (Educational)

- Camping
- RV Compatible (Space Allowance)
- Utilities/Hook-ups
- Potable Water
- Restrooms (Flush Toilets)
- Outhouse (Pit Vault)
- Portable Toilet (portable)
- Shower Facility
- Garbage Receptacles
- Fire Pit
- Picnic Table
- Benches
- Grill
- Bike Rack
- Emergency Phone
- Water Access
- Beach
- Pier/Fishing Platform
- Canoe/Kayak Access
- Boat Launch
- Boat Parking (on water)
- Fish Cleaning Station
- Fishing Line Recycling Box
- Picnic Shelter
- Beach House
- Band Shell
- Dog Park
- Pet Waste Disposal Station
- Viewing Platform
- Trailhead (Water, Land)
- Trails (access to any off pavement trail)
- Bike Lane (Road Shoulder)
- Playground Equipment
- Baseball Field
- Tennis/Pickleball Court
- Volley Ball Net
- Basketball Court
- Soccer Field
- Football Field
- Shuffle Board
- Ice Arena
- Skate Park
- Disc Golf

## Key for Manistee County Park Types

Abbreviation	Park Type
MP	Mini-Park: Generally less than 1 acre & less than 1/4 mile from residential areas; addresses limited, isolated or unique needs
NP	Neighborhood Park: 5-10 acres in size, serve as recreational/social focus of neighborhood or small town community
CP	Community Park: serve broader purpose, more amenities, serve two or more neighborhoods, can be large >25 acres in size
RP	Large Urban Park/Regional Park: generally >50 acres in size, serve regional needs as well as preserving landscape/open space
PT	Park Trail: multi-purpose trail located within park, greenway or natural area
SU	Special Use Park: geared towards a specific use
RDSU	Road End Special Use: public ROW which allow access to resources, typically water access
NRA	Natural Resources Area: land set aside for preservation of natural resources, open space, buffering or other natural area

# Arcadia Township

## Community Description

Arcadia Township is located adjacent to Lake Michigan. As of the 2019 ACS 5-year estimates, the township has a population of 639. Arcadia has an abundance of natural resources that form the base for the community's environmental, social and economic well-being. Because of this, the community finds it critical to ensure that future generations have the same opportunities to utilize these resources as generations present and past. In addition, these natural resources provide both the economic and recreational growth opportunities that attract residents and visitors to the area in the first place. Recreation planning is an important process to help sustain Arcadia Township as an outdoors-oriented place, while still adapting to changes from internal and external factors over time such as population change and changes in the economy. In the development of the Arcadia Township master plan and recreation goals, the township recognizes the need to leverage and build upon community assets, diversify the economic base to promote sustainable development and to understand the township's role as a regional resource for recreation.

Arcadia recognizes that quality recreation opportunities help the community to be socially, economically and environmentally sustainable. Socially, these opportunities promote a unified and healthy populace. This is something the township has taken a stronger stance on reflected in its more recent adoption of a resolution of support for greater inclusivity. In terms of economic growth, opportunities are centered on utilizing the natural resource assets of the community as recreation avenues and building upon them so that other sectors within the local economy benefit. Environmentally, park and recreation planning can help to showcase the community's natural assets, thereby supporting their stewardship.

Arcadia Township provides varied recreational sites and opportunities to fit most anyone's interests. The Arcadia Beach Natural Area provides access to Lake Michigan with Universal Accessibility and various site amenities such as restrooms, benches and signage. Further access to Lake Michigan may be found at various road ends located within the municipality. The wide spectrum of recreational activities spans from foraging for local plants to swimming, bird watching, boating, biking, hiking, snow shoeing, fishing, paddle sports, cross country skiing, night sky viewing and many more.

Community parks with playground equipment and courts for tennis and basketball can be found within the population center of the unincorporated Village of Arcadia. Access to Arcadia Lake at the Veterans Memorial Park and Marina provides for the County's first Universally Accessible kayak launch at this designated Explore the

## Shores Site.

The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy has land holdings within the Arcadia Marsh, which provides opportunities for hiking, bird-watching and hunting. The Conservancy also has land holdings along the northern boundary of the township which are interspersed by trails that can be accessed by trailheads in Benzie County. Localized trail systems on Conservancy lands as well as the on-road facility along a portion of Glovers Lake Road provide localized trails that present opportunities for future connections. Support for establishment of connections to Bear Lake, Pleasanton and Onekama Townships as well as to Benzie County should remain a focus.

## Administrative Structure

<b>Municipality</b>	Arcadia Township
<b>Governing body responsible for recreation planning</b>	Township Board, at the recommendation of the Parks & Recreation Committee
<b>Governing body authorized to commit funds</b>	Township Board
<b>Budget</b>	\$25,000
<b>Sources of funds</b>	General Fund
<b>Volunteers</b>	30-50 volunteers who do maintenance, help with community projects and events, plant flowers, help with beautification efforts
<b>Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements</b>	Encourages recreation programming by the Pleasant Valley Community Center
<b>Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)</b>	Yes
<b>Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center</b>	No



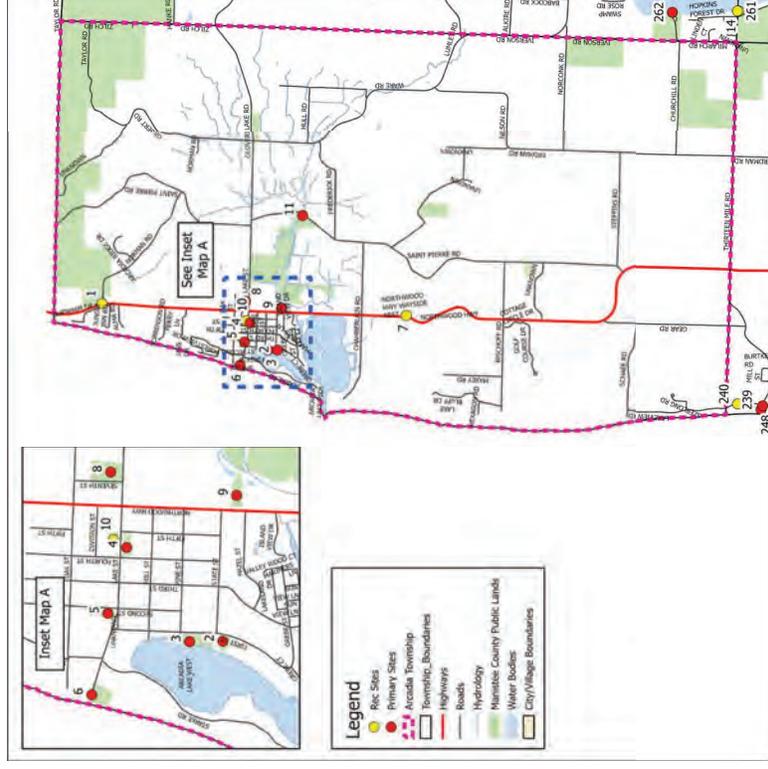
## DNR-Awarded Grants

Project #	Applicant	Title	Year	Amount	Status	Description
26-01016	Arcadia Township	Arcadia Township Lake Michigan Park	1977	\$12,846.00	Withdrawn	Develop 1 ac. Lake Michigan Park; includes restrooms, picnic shelter, parking area, landscaping
26-01010	Arcadia Township	Arcadia Mooring & Launching Facilities	1978	\$75,000.00	Closed	Develop piling, pier, launch ramp removal, new piling, pier and launch ramp, rip-rap, sidewalk, lighting, utilities, site improvement, landscaping
TF1027	Arcadia Township	Arcadia Township Marina Expansion	1985	\$95,000.00	Closed	Acquisition of 70 acres with 200 feet of Arcadia Lake frontage. The property is between the existing marina and township park properties.
TF99-127	Arcadia Township	Arcadia South Beach	1999	\$834,259.00	Closed	Acquisition in fee simple of 10 acres for resource protection and public outdoor recreation. Site includes 1,369 feet of Lake MI shoreline.
RP11-425	Arcadia Township	Fitch Park Improvements	2011	\$11,725.00	Closed	Development included renovation of parking lot and tennis court.

Recreation Site Inventory

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Med., High)	Lighting	Dark Sky Candidate	Staging Area/Diversion	Storage	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Portable Toilet	Carbage Receptacle	Benches/Chairs	Grill	Bike Rack	Emergency Phone	Water Access	Beach	Fish/Fishing Platform	Canoe/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Boat Parking	Boat Shelter	Per Waste Disposal Station	Trailed (Water, Land)
2	Grebe Park	ARC	1	CP	H			3																		
5	Pickert Park	ARC	1	NP	L			3																	W	
6	Arcadia Beach & Natural Area	ARC	1	CP	L			3																		
8	Pleasant Valley Community Center	Pleasant Valley	1	SU	H			3																		
3	Velevans Memorial Park & Marina	ARC	1	CP	M			3																	W	
4	Fish Park	ARC	1	NP	M			2																		
9	Arcadia Marsh Natural Area - M22 Trailhead	Conservancy	1	NRA	H			2																	L	
11	Arcadia Marsh Natural Area - St. Pierre Trailhead	Conservancy	1	RDSU	L			1																	L	
10	Arcadia Twp Hall	ARC	2	SU	H			3																		
7	Trailhead F	Conservancy	3	RDSU	L			1																	L	
1	M22 Scenic Overlook	State	3	SU	M			2																		

Site Name	Trails (Off Road)	Bike Lane (Road Shoulder)	Tennis/Rickleball Court	Playground Equipment	Basketball Court
Grebe Park					
Pickert Park					
Arcadia Beach & Natural Area					
Pleasant Valley Community Center					
Velevans Memorial Park & Marina					
Fish Park					
Arcadia Marsh Natural Area - M22 Trailhead					
Arcadia Marsh Natural Area - St. Pierre Trailhead					
Arcadia Twp Hall					
Trailhead F					
M22 Scenic Overlook					



# Bear Lake Township

## Community Description

Bear Lake Township is a rural residential community located in the Northern part of Monticane County. The township's population according to 2019 ACS 5-year estimates is 1,799. The community's greatest assets are the picturesque lakes and creeks. The largest lake in the community is the 1800-acre Bear Lake, of which approximately 590 acres are within the Township's 3.6 square miles. Bear Lake Township is also home to many other smaller kettle-hole lakes, as well as numerous creeks that span the landscape.

Today, over two thirds of the township is dedicated to either agriculture or forest, while about a quarter is used for residential purposes. The remaining land is divided among commercial, institutional and leisure purposes. In addition, the US-31 Commercial Corridor has business offering a variety of retail, medical services and leisure activities to the community.

This small rural community has been responsive to needs related to making improvements that will help increase long-term population and business growth. Bear Lake Township draws upon the vicinity of Bear Lake and the Bear Lake School Forest for many of the recreational assets within the Township. Several road ends along Bear Lake provide water access for swimming and launching watercrafts. The School Forest provides athletic fields and trails utilized by school teams for practice and sporting events, while also allowing public access for walking, hiking and team sports. Chief Lake along the south boundary of the township provides further access to inland water resources. Chief Lake is accessed primarily for fishing access during both winter and summer months.

Trail systems through the Township are lacking, but Bear Lake would like to see non-motorized connections to both Onekama and Arcadia Townships in the near future. Continued progress should be made for the development of trail systems connecting these municipalities.

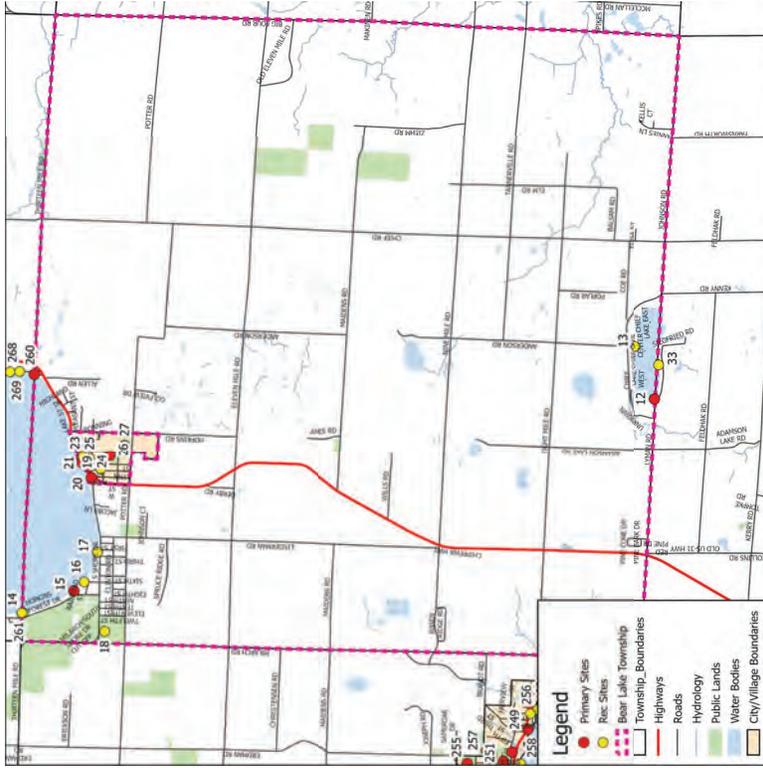
## Administrative Structure

<b>Municipality</b>	Bear Lake Township
<b>Governing body responsible for recreation planning</b>	Planning Commission and Township Board
<b>Governing body authorized to commit funds</b>	Township Board
<b>Budget</b>	\$4,000
<b>Sources of funds</b>	General Fund
<b>Volunteers</b>	Volunteers recruited as needed
<b>Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements</b>	None
<b>Contributes to Monticane Recreation Association (MRA)</b>	Yes
<b>Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center</b>	No



## Recreation Site Inventory

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	ADA Access (Low, Mod., High)	Parking Availability	Signage Directional	Portable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Outhouse (Pit Vault)	Garbage Receptacle	Benches	Water Access	Cane/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Trails (Off Road)	Baseball Field
12	Chief Lake Access	BRL	1	RDSU	L	1	*						*	*	*		
15	Division St Access-BL	MCKC	1	RDSU	L	1						*	*	*			
16	Seventh St Access-BL	MCKC	2	RDSU	L	1						*	*	*			
17	2nd St Access-BL	BRL	2	RDSU	L	1	*					*	*	*			
14	Thirteen Mile Rd Access-BL	MCKC	3	RDSU	L	1	*					*	*	*			
18	Bear Lake School Athletic Fields	School	3	SU	L	3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
13	Anderson Rd Access-CH	MCKC	3	RDSU	L	1							*	*	*		



# Village of Bear Lake

## Community Description

The Village of Bear Lake sits as a major gateway to northern Michigan. With its panoramic view of a scenic and healthy inland lake, it is home to 300 full time friends and neighbors. The population according to the 2019 ACS 5-year estimates is 203. As the heart of the Greater Bear Lake area, the Village of Bear Lake is poised to serve as a hub of recreational opportunities in the coming years. The Village emphasizes the need for better utilization of Hopkins Park by all stakeholders, increased usage of Harry Cozier Court (where pickleball is now played) and greater use of Village Park all need to be explored.

Although the Bear Lake area has a number of bicycle routes, the Northwest Michigan Regional Non-Motorized Strategy (2008) does not include a regional trail through or near the Village. Village Park sits ready to fulfill its mission as a “hub” for bicyclists, travelers, and residents. The Village has the foundation for excellent recreational facilities in Hopkins Park, Harry Cozier Court, Village Park, the boat launch, and the Hopkins Park Star Access.

The Village, Bear Lake Township and Pleasanton Township all share access to Bear Lake, which is a draw for many year-round and seasonal residents. Although residents and visitors have access to area-wide lakes, local public schools and state and national forests, many of the communities lack basic recreational assets like playgrounds, bike paths and parks designed for outdoor events.

Bear Lake Village rests along the southern shores of Bear Lake. The primary recreational assets of the Village stem from access to Bear Lake. Hopkins Park Campground and Boat Launch provides abundant recreational assets for those wishing to stay and enjoy the shores and various water-related activities. Fishing and water recreational sports are the main draw of this location and the campground is a wonderful setting for enjoying these sites.

The Bear Lake Public Beach is the only public “beach” location along the shores of Bear Lake. This beach, although small, is enjoyed by both residents and visitors alike. The Bear Lake School provides athletic fields and playground equipment on the school campus. The terminus of the snowmobile trail system occurs just north of the Village in Pleasanton Township. Thought and support for linking the Village to this established trail system should be supported as well as support for continuing the trail system through Bear Lake Township to Onekama Township and the Village of Onekama.

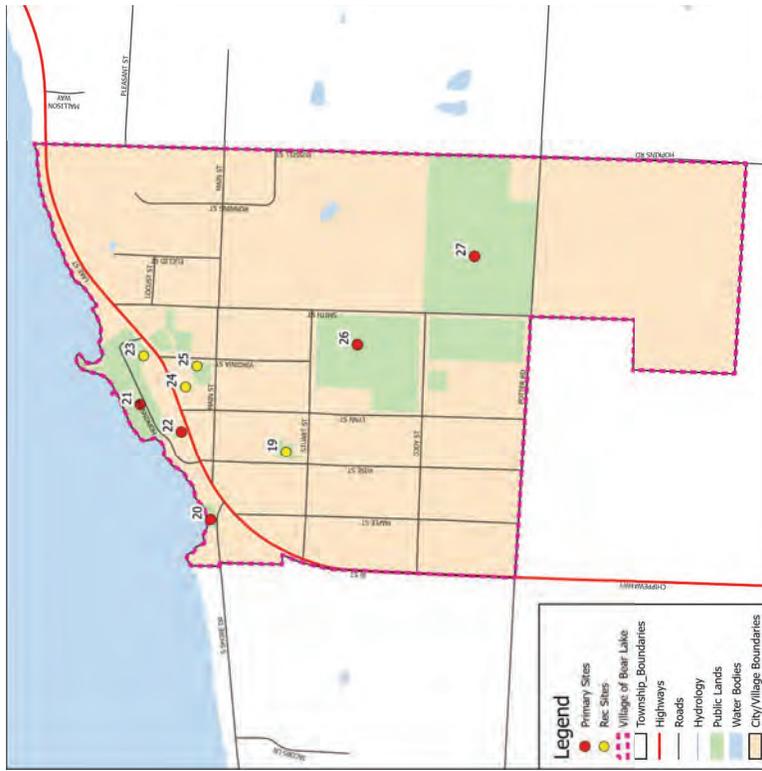
## Administrative Structure

<b>Municipality</b>	Village of Bear Lake
<b>Governing body responsible for recreation planning</b>	Village Council at the recommendation of the Planning Commission
<b>Governing body authorized to commit funds</b>	Village Council
<b>Budget</b>	As needed for maintenance; usually between \$3-5,000 annually
<b>Sources of funds</b>	Village Park Revenue
<b>Volunteers</b>	Community cleanup; local events and celebrations; 20 volunteers
<b>Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements</b>	None
<b>Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)</b>	No
<b>Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center</b>	No



## Recreation Site Inventory

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Med, High)	Lighting	Forking Availability	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Camping	RV Compatible (Camping)	Utilities/Hook-Ups (Camping)	Portable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Garbage Receptacle	Fire Pit	Picnic Table	Benches	Grill	Water Access	Beach	Canoe/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Picnic Shelter	Viewing Platform	Trailhead (Water, Land)	Trails (Off-Forest)	Playground Equipment	Baseball Field	Tennis/Pickleball Court	Basketball Court	Volley Ball	Basketball Court			
21	Hopkins Park Campground & Boat Launch	BLV	1	CP	*	L	*	3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
20	Blomley Beach	BLV	1	MP	L	*	1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
22	Hopkins Park Star Access	BLV	1	MP	L	*	3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
27	DRW Village Property	BLV	1	SU	L	*	1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
26	School Athletic Fields	School	1	SU	L	*	3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
19	Cozier Park	BLV	2	MP	L	1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
23	Veterans Memorial Park & Clock Tower	BLV	2	CP	M	3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
24	Pocket Park	BLV	2	MP	L	1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
25	Bear Lake Village Hall	BLV	2	SU	M	3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*



# Brown Township

## Community Description

Brown Township is a rural residential community located in the Manistee River Valley. The population according to the 2019 ACS 5-year estimates is 643. The township has a beautiful natural landscape of hills, woods, streams and lakes. A portion of the Township overlooks the Manistee River. The primary land uses in the Township are homes on large acreage and agriculture.

Brown Township will continue to actively support the rural residential lifestyle. The Township promotes and encourages lifestyle and land use practices that protect the natural environment and the rural character of the area. In addition, the community works diligently to ensure that open space, views, wildlife and water resources are preserved. This will be accomplished through careful land development and stewardship, as well as continuing to provide a responsive government and cost efficient rural services.

Brown Township is anchored by vast natural resources and abundant public land along the southern portion of the Township. Two river access locations on USFS lands, Bear Creek Access and Rainbow Bend Access, are the two lowest accesses to the Manistee River above the M-55 bridge crossing. Each of these accesses are very popular for river recreationists, and both benefit as established Explore the Shores sites.

Chief Lake to the north offers a recreational opportunity for water access in an area of the township that is predominantly in private ownership. Increased and improved access to the lake is desired, and working in conjunction with Bear Lake Township would offer the best opportunity for providing this access.

Trail systems through the Township are lacking, but the position of the township between population centers and abundant public land offer the opportunity for future trail establishment. The Manistee River provides a barrier for non-motorized trail users as well as snowmobile trail users. The community seeks to develop a bridge to cross the Manistee River to connect the municipalities north of the river to the south and west.

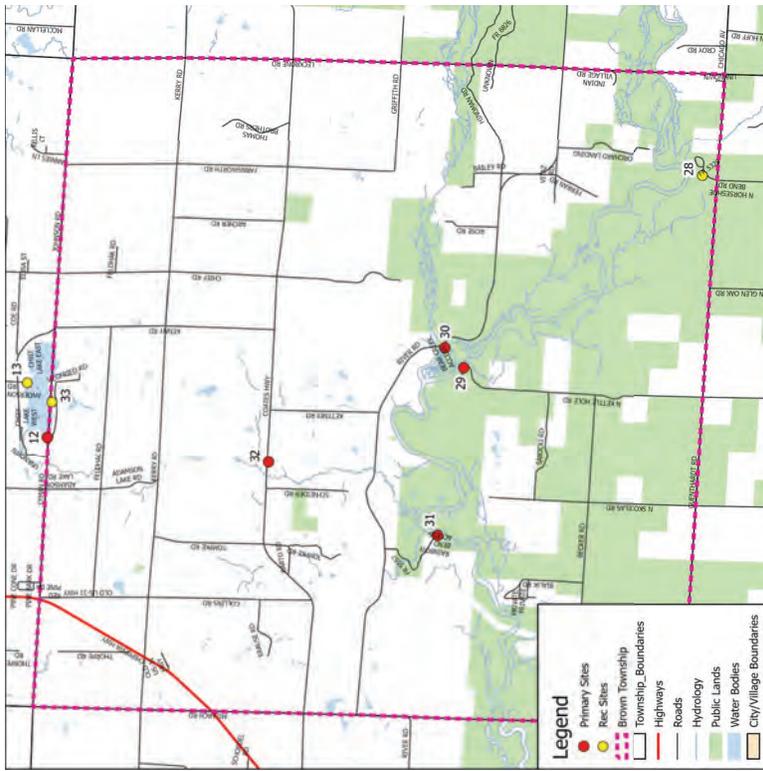
## Administrative Structure

<b>Municipality</b>	Brown Township
<b>Governing body responsible for recreation planning</b>	Township Board at the recommendation of the Planning Commission
<b>Governing body authorized to commit funds</b>	Township Board
<b>Budget</b>	-
<b>Sources of funds</b>	General Fund
<b>Volunteers</b>	No volunteers
<b>Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements</b>	Yes - with the MRA
<b>Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)</b>	Yes
<b>Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center</b>	No



## Recreation Site Inventory

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Fork Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Mod., High)	Explore the Shores Site	Lighting	Dark Sky Candidate	Forking Availability	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Camping	Potable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Outhouse (Pit Vault)	Garbage Receptacle	Fire Pit	Picnic Table	Benches	Grill	Water Access	River/Fishing Platform	Canoe/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Picnic Shelter	Trailhead (Water, Land)	Trails (Off Pavement)	Playground Equipment	Disc Golf
31	Rainbow Bend Access	USFS	1	SU	H	H	H	*	*	3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
30	Bear Creek Access	USFS	1	SU	H	H	H	*	*	3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
32	Brown Twp. Hall	BN	1	SU	M	M	M	*	*	3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
29	Ketchikan Rd Access-MR	M/CRC	1	R/SU	L	L	L	*	*	2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
33	Lymon Rd Access-CL	M/CRC	2	R/SU	L	L	L	*	*	1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
28	Udell Roadway Day Use Area	USFS	3	RP	L	L	L	*	*	3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	



# Clean Township

## Community Description

Clean Township is located in the northeast corner of Manistee County, farthest from the County seat in Manistee. The township's northeast corner represents the point where 4 counties meet: the southeastern border is the county line between Manistee County and Westford County, the northeast border is the county line between Manistee County and Grand Traverse County. The northwest border is the county line between Manistee County and Benzie County. Early settlers arrived in Clean Township in 1865 to homestead. With the creation of a railroad, many villages sprang up in the area. Shortly after, Clean Township was settled, Westford County established its courthouse in Sherman, north of Mesick. This was closer to Clean Township than the Manistee County seat, so in 1868 Clean Township was transferred to Westford County. In 1881 Clean Township became part of Manistee County again. In February of 1891, the Village of Copenish incorporated and was the first village to incorporate in Manistee County. Children from the area attend Mesick Consolidated Schools or Benzie County Schools.

Transportation patterns have changed, with the four railroads going out of use and Cadillac Highway (M-115) bypassing the village. Clean is a typical small town with a gas station, hardware store, bank, grocery store, beauty salon, auto repair shop, MR Products and a manufacturing plant. Clean Township was first a lumbering settlement, then with the overabundance of good farmland, became an agricultural community. It is now largely defined as a bedroom community, approximately 30 miles in either direction from larger population centers such as Traverse City, Manistee and Cadillac.

Clean Township is the lone municipality in Manistee County without a single recreation site found within the township borders outside of those contained within the Village of Copenish. The township has recreation lands and trails within its borders, but lacks identified recreational sites. The Township Hall is listed as a recreation site, but is actually contained within the Village of Copenish and is accounted for within that municipality's recreation inventory. Clean Township works closely with the Village of Copenish and it is suggested that both municipalities plan for recreation together, as improvements to recreation sites within either municipality will have an effect on the other.

Clean Township contains abundant public lands and existing trail systems which are important to their communities and Manistee County as a whole. Continual support for maintaining and increasing connections to adjacent communities and the neighboring resort of Crystal Mountain should remain a priority.

## Administrative Structure

Municipality	Clean Township
Governing body responsible for recreation planning	Township Board
Governing body authorized to commit funds	Township Board
Budget	-
Sources of funds	General Fund
Volunteers	No volunteers
Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements	None
Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)	No
Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center	No
Contributes to Manistee County Baseball League	No



# Village of Copenish

## Community Description

The Village of Copenish is located in northeastern Manistee County and is landlocked by Cleon Township. Largely defined as a quiet bedroom community, the Village's population was 193 in 2019 according to US Census Bureau estimates. Copenish is conveniently located between the City of Manistee, Traverse City and the City of Cadillac. This means that residents enjoy easy access to larger population centers while still maintaining the nature-centric neighborhoods sought by many in the region.

Copenish was incorporated in 1891 soon after a boom in the local logging industry and the construction of two railroads that passed through the area. While neither railroad is functional presently, this has opened up a recreational opportunity for the community. The Betsey Valley Trailway, a transformed former railroad line, passes directly through Copenish along M-115. At the time of this writing, the trail is paved only in Benzie County and the section in Manistee is primarily used by snowmobilers. However, there are plans for the trail to be paved in order to better support non-motorized uses. Copenish would be one of the first Manistee jurisdictions to see trail improvements once local and regional plans for the trail bed are implemented. Described in this plan as well as Copenish's 2018 Master Plan, the Village would like to develop two trailheads along the Betsey Valley Trail once it has been acquired and paved; one trailhead for non-motorized uses and another for snowmobilers.

Copenish has two parks that differ in their user groups. Mish-a-Mish Park is located along M-115 and acts as a trailhead to First Creek Nature Trail, a 1.1 mile unpaved loop. Mish-a-Mish is a passive recreation site and primarily attracts visitors from outside of the community. In contrast, Lewis Park is frequented more often by Copenish residents. Lewis Park features playground equipment, a basketball court, a picnic shelter, seating and BBQ pits. Most of Copenish's local events occur at Lewis Park, which is located in the center of the community, adjacent to the Village Hall. The Village Hall itself is not widely used for non-governmental community events though improvements to the facility would help promote the site as a community recreational asset. Copenish also hosts the Cleon Township Hall and the Copenish Historic Museum & Library within its jurisdictional borders.

As a key connector along the soon-to-be-paved Betsey Valley Trail, there are abundant opportunities for the Village to strengthen its identity as a place for outdoor recreation in the coming years.

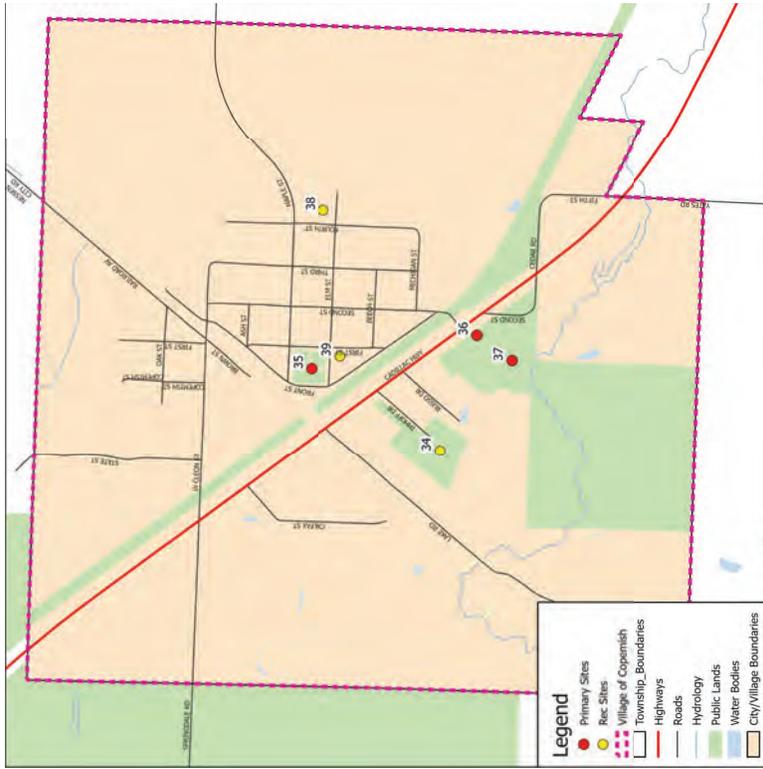
## Administrative Structure

<b>Municipality</b>	Village of Copenish
<b>Governing body responsible for recreation planning</b>	Planning Commission
<b>Governing body authorized to commit funds</b>	Village Council
<b>Budget</b>	\$14,005.00
<b>Sources of funds</b>	Line Item
<b>Volunteers</b>	Volunteers for Copenish Days and any other community events such as the Easter Egg Hunt; beautification initiatives; local projects as needed
<b>Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements</b>	Working relationship with Betsey Valley Community Center; Cleon Twp and Village have written grants together.
<b>Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)</b>	No
<b>Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center</b>	No

## Recreation Site Inventory

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	ADA Access (Low, Med, High)	Lighting	Restroom Availability	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Pond/le Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Outhouse (Pit Vault)	Garbage Receptacle	Picnic Table	Benches	Water Access	Picnic Shelter	Trailhead (Water, Land)	Trails (Off Pavement)	Playground Equipment	Basketball Court
35	Lewis Park	COP	1	NP	M	3	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
36	Mish-a-Mish park	COP	1	MP	L	2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
37	First Creek Nature Trails	COP	1	PT	L	2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
34	Cleon Twp. Hall	CLE	2	SU	M	3	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
38	Copenish Historic Museum & Library	Cop. Hst.	2	SU	L	2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
39	Copenish Village Hall	COP	2	SU	M	3	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•





# Dickson Township

## Community Description

Dickson Township lies within the boundaries of the Manistee National Forest. The population, according to the 2019 ACS 5-year estimates is 899. The renowned Manistee River runs through the eastern and southern portions and Tippy Dam Pond, the site of the record Michigan Walleye catch, makes the township a Michigan fishing and vacation destination. State and Federal recreational land makes up a large portion of the township's 71.6 square miles, with 1.6 square miles made up of water. Numerous creeks and tributaries wind through the township.

Numerous outdoor activities await the outdoor enthusiast including, hunting, fishing, more mushroom hunting, hiking, biking, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, boating, plus a favorite destination for retirees. The Village of Brethren sits just north of the Big Manistee River and is the hub for local activity and hosts various festivals throughout the year. Similar to other townships in Manistee, Dickson's ability to stage year-round recreational activities, as well as its close proximity to various larger population centers makes it a strong destination for outdoors enthusiasts.

Dickson Township is home to one of the most popular steelhead and salmon fishing locations in the State of Michigan with the Tippy Dam recreation site located on the Manistee River. This site sees some of the most angler hours per year of any site in the State according to the DNR. River access is further facilitated downstream of Tippy Dam at the Highbridge Access. Between these two sites, anglers and river users can access the majority of the river in Dickson Township below Tippy Dam.

The Hadenpyl stretch of the Manistee River, the area between Hadenpyl Dam in Marilla Township and the backwaters of Tippy Dam in Dickson Township, is an extraordinarily scenic stretch of river in Manistee County. Access at Red Bridge provides a location from which one can launch a boat and access the river or the backwaters of Tippy Pond. This location also serves as a take-out point for those floating down from below Hadenpyl Dam. The Township seeks to make this site universally accessible to increase its usage by the community. Tippy Pond is a popular location with abundant rustic campsites. This water body is very popular during the summer months.

Dickson Township is intersected with various trails including the North Country Trail, a snowmobile trail system and the Manistee River Trail along the Hadenpyl stretch of

the Manistee River. The combination of a segment of the North Country Trail and the whole of the Manistee River Trail provides a 23 mile loop that is very popular with backpackers wishing to experience a weekend back-country experience. Continued support of trail connections outside of the Township with established trails within the Township and County should remain a priority. Connections to population centers in the Village of Kaleva to the north are also a high priority.

## Administrative Structure

<b>Municipality</b>	Dickson Township
<b>Governing body responsible for recreation planning</b>	Township Board and Planning Commission
<b>Governing body authorized to commit funds</b>	Township Board
<b>Budget</b>	Funds allocated as needed
<b>Sources of funds</b>	General Fund
<b>Volunteers</b>	No volunteers
<b>Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements</b>	None
<b>Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)</b>	No
<b>Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center</b>	No

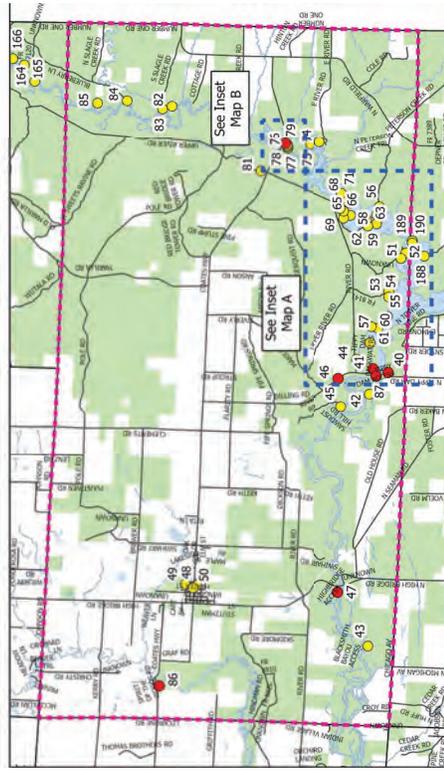


## Recreation Site Inventory

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Mod., High)	Explore the Shores Site	Lighting	Dark Sky Candidate	Parking Availability	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Camping	RV Campable (Camping)	Utilities/Hook-Ups (Camping)	Potable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Outhouse (Pit Toilets)	Garbage Receptacle	Fire Pit	Picnic Table	Benches	Grill	Water Access	Beach	River/Fishing Platform	Cannon/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Fish Cleaning Station	Fishing Line Recycle Box	Picnic Shelter	Trailhead (Water, Land)	Trails (Off Road)	Playground Equipment	Baseball Field	Basketball Court				
40	Tippy Dam South Access	Con	1	SU	L				3	3	3																													
87	Tippy Dam Access	State	1	RP	H				3	3	3																													
47	Highbridge Access	USFS	1	SU	L				3	3	3																													
41	Tippy Pond Access	State	1	SU	M				3	3	3																													
46	Saddle Bend Access	USFS	1	NBA	L				3	3	3																													
80	Red Bridge Access	USFS	1	RP	M				3	3	3																													
86	Spirit of the Woods Conservation Club	Private	1	NBA	H				3	3	3																													
43	Blacksmith Bayou Access	USFS	2	RP	L				2	2	2																													

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Med, High)	Explore the Shore Site	Lighting	Dark Sky Candidate	Parking Availability	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Camping	RV Compatible (Camping)	Utilities/Hook-Ups (Camping)	Portable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Outhouse (Pit Vault)	Garbage Receptacle	Fire Pit	Picnic Table	Benches	Grill	Water Access	Beach	Pier/Fishing Platform	Canoe/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Fish Cleaning Station	Fishing Line Recycle Box	Picnic Shelter	Trailhead (Water, Land)	Trails (Off Pavement)	Playground Equipment	Basketball Field		
65	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					0																											
66	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					0																											
67	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					0																											
68	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					0																											
69	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					1																											
70	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					1																											
71	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					0																											
72	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					1																											
73	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					1																											
74	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					0																											
75	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					0																											
76	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					1																											
77	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					1																											
78	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					1																											
79	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	M					1																											
82	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					0																											
83	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					0																											
84	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					0																											
85	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					0																											

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Med, High)	Explore the Shore Site	Lighting	Dark Sky Candidate	Parking Availability	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Camping	RV Compatible (Camping)	Utilities/Hook-Ups (Camping)	Portable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Outhouse (Pit Vault)	Garbage Receptacle	Fire Pit	Picnic Table	Benches	Grill	Water Access	Beach	Pier/Fishing Platform	Canoe/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Fish Cleaning Station	Fishing Line Recycle Box	Picnic Shelter	Trailhead (Water, Land)	Trails (Off Pavement)	Playground Equipment	Basketball Field			
44	Tippy Dam Campground	State	2	RP	L					3																												
45	Sawdust Hole Access	USFS	2	NBA	L					3																												
49	Manikow Park Recreation Area	DIC	2	RP	L					2																												
56	Peponis Creek Rd Access-WR	MCRC	2	RDSU	L					1																												
81	Upper River Rd North County Trail TH	USFS	2	PT	L					2																												
48	Dickson Twp Park	DIC	2	CP	M					3																												
42	Tunk Hole Access	USFS	3	NBA	L					3																												
50	Dickson Twp. Hall	DIC	3	SU	M					2																												
51	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					1																												
52	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					1																												
53	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					1																												
54	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					1																												
55	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					0																												
57	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					1																												
58	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					0																												
59	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					0																												
60	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					1																												
61	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					1																												
62	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					1																												
63	Camping & Landing Upper Manistee River	USFS	3	RP	L					2																												
64	Upper Manistee River Basic Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					1																												



# Village of Eastlake

## Community Description

Eastlake is defined in part by its setting along the lakeshore and by the natural resources that surround it, as well as its proximity to the City of Manistee and the surrounding region. This regional context and access to natural resources have been the drivers for much of the village's development and economic patterns, and continue to provide much of Eastlake's recreation, service and employment opportunities.

The rural character and access to water, forest and other natural resources have been the region's greatest economic drivers. Many Manistee communities, including Eastlake, were built up around the lumber industry or otherwise served as major hubs for water-based or rail-based transportation. Eastlake had its beginnings in the logging boom of the 19th century, with the construction of a sawmill on the shore of Manistee Lake in 1870. The Village, incorporated in 1912, later became a stop on the Pere Marquette Railroad, which supported the logging industry and contributed to the community's growth. The area's history as a thriving industrial center and commercial port resulted in a fairly stable population base in Manistee County.

As a result of the decline in logging and other industries, the population of Eastlake has dropped substantially since its peak in the late 19th century, when it was home to around 3,500 residents. With the end of the logging boom, the number of Eastlake residents dropped to 675 by 1920. Since that time, the population has fluctuated, with a low of 376 in 1930. The current population of Eastlake, according to 2019 ACS 5-year estimates is 463.

The Village of Eastlake rests along the shores of Manistee Lake and abuts the Manistee State Game Area. The village has various neighborhood parks as well as a larger regional park on Manistee Lake named Penny Park. Penny Park features a boat launch and campground and was one of the more recent parks within the county to be inducted into the Explore the Shores program. The park is a popular destination for those seeking to recreate on Manistee Lake or the Manistee River and is highly accessible.

A large tract of land owned by the Village is the site of the Eastlake Nature Trail. This green space, which already contains hiking trails, could be utilized as a connection for future regional trail connections. The property lies adjacent to USFS land holdings and could provide a link between Eastlake and DNR and USFS lands.

Members of the public have shown support for future trail development with regional connections, expansion into the Manistee Marsh and the potential to develop a trail around Manistee Lake. The Village should continue to plan appropriately with neighboring municipalities for the establishment of these trail facilities.

## Administrative Structure

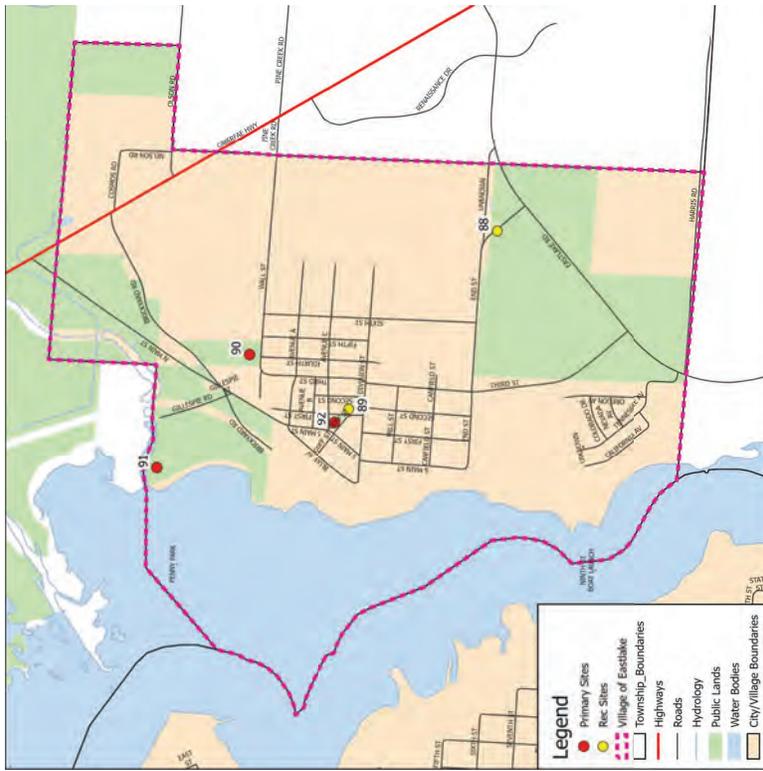
<b>Municipality</b>	Village of Eastlake
<b>Governing body responsible for recreation planning</b>	Village Council
<b>Governing body authorized to commit funds</b>	Village Council
<b>Budget</b>	\$33,038.00
<b>Sources of funds</b>	Line Item
<b>Volunteers</b>	Volunteers recruited as needed for events
<b>Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements</b>	Collaborative agreement with DNR for management of Penny Park (DNR owns Penny Park, Eastlake manages); Village allow Manistee Baseball League to use Johnson Field free of charge
<b>Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)</b>	No
<b>Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center</b>	No

## Recreation Site Inventory

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Mod., High)	Explore the Shores Site	Lighting	Parking Availability	Signage Directional	Camping	RV Compatible (Camping)	Utilities/Hook-Ups (Camping)	Portable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Outhouse (Pit Vault)	Shower Facility	Garbage Receptacle	Fire Pit	Picnic Table	Benches	Gill	Waver Access	Canoes/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Fish Cleaning Station	Picnic Shelter	Trailhead (Water, Land)	Trails (Off F pavement)	Playground Equipment	Baseball Field	Baseball Court
91	Penny Park	ELV	1	CP	H	*	*	3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
92	Eastlake WI Hall	ELV	1	SU	M	*	*	2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
90	Johnson Field	ELV	1	MP	L	*	*	3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
89	Eastlake Playground	ELV	2	MP	L	*	*	1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
88	Eastlake Nature Trail	ELV	2	PT	L	*	*	2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*



Project #	Applicant	Title	Year	Amount	Status	Description
T112-090	Village of Eastlake	Penny Park Renovation	2012	\$41,000.00	Open	Development to include new picnic shelter, house, upgrading boat launch/kid pier, installation of playground, upgrading parking lot and entrance drive.



# Charter Township of Filer

## Community Description

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. Filer's population according to the 2019 ACS 5-year estimates is 2,641.

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. This park also features snowboating, cross-country skiing, as well as the opportunity to collect beach glass and Petroseley stones. 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. Oak Hill hosts tennis and basketball courts. The township's 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 adjoining neighbors. The US-31 Commercial Corridor has many businesses offering a variety of retail, banking, medical services and leisure activities to the community. The Lakefront Industrial Area has been able to adapt to the changing economy, improve its environmental footprint, all 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. The beachfront can be accessed by following various trails (2.5 miles) 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. Here, one can 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 that extends north to the City of Manistee along Cherry Street. There is a desire to see further trail development and regional connections, with the added possibility of snowmobile trail connections. The township has an ORV ordinance in place. These efforts are supported by the community and should remain a priority for future park and recreation improvements. Filer Township is committed to helping the county-wide community implement the Manistee Lake Area Non-Motorized Plan (2020).



## Administrative Structure

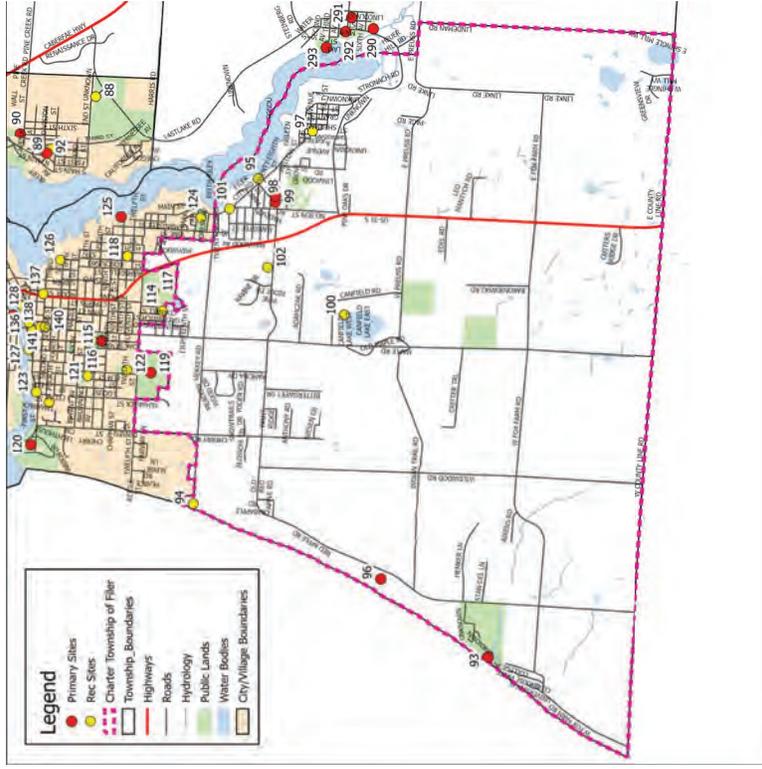
Municipality	Charter Township of Filer
Governing body responsible for recreation planning	Township Board and Parks Department
Governing body authorized to commit funds	Township Board
Budget	\$45,000
Sources of funds	General Fund
Volunteers	No volunteers
Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements	Yes
Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)	Yes - \$10,000
Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center	Yes - \$15,000

## DNR-Awarded Grants

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.

**Recreation Site Inventory**

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Mod., High)	Explore the Shores Site	Lighting	Dark Sky Candidate	Rocking Availability	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Portable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Outhouse (Pit Vault)	Garbage Receptacle	Picnic Table	Benches	Grill	Water Access	Beach	Canoe/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Picnic Shelter	Pet Waste Disposal Station	Trailed (Water, Land)	Trails (Off-Foreman)	Bike Lane (Road Shoulder)	Playground Equipment	Tennis Court	Baseball Court	Baseball Court
93	Meggon Creek Natural Area	RL	1 RP	RP	H																											
96	Sandling Park	RL	1 SU	SU	L																											
98	Oak Hill Park	RL	1 CP	CP	L																											
99	Filer Twp. Recreation Center	RL	1 SU	SU	M																											
97	Filer City Park	RL	2 AP	AP	L																											
94	Miskey Rd Access-WI	MCRK	3 RDSU	RDSU	L																											
95	Filer Twp. Hall	RL	3 SU	SU	M																											
102	Wellhead Walking Path & Property	RL	3 PT	PT	L																											
101	Nelson St Office	RL	3 SU	SU	H																											
100	Confined Lake Boat Launch	State	3 SU	SU	L																											



# Village of Kaleva

## 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.

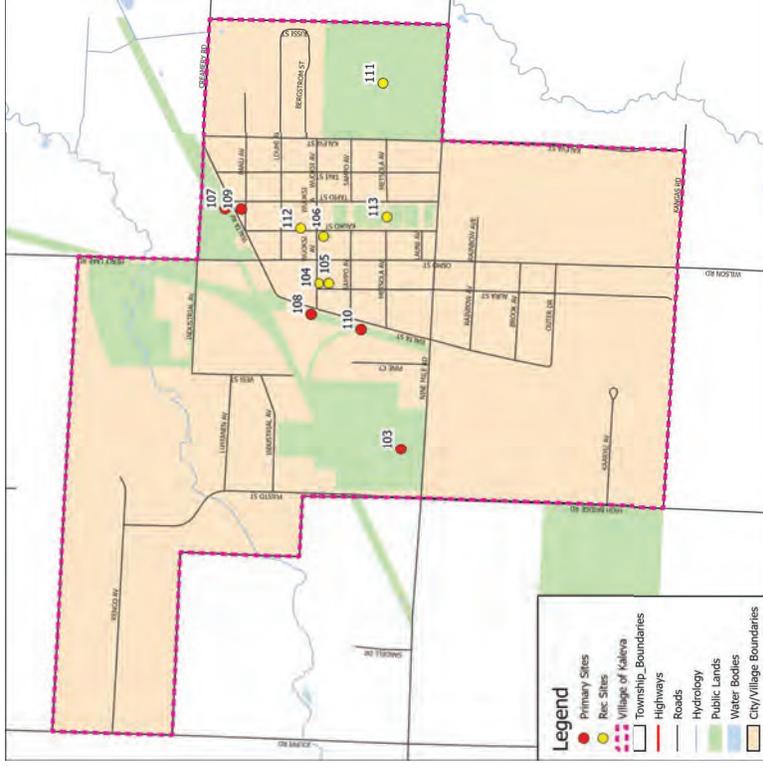
## Administrative Structure

<b>Municipality</b>	Village of Kaleva
<b>Governing body responsible for recreation planning</b>	Village Council
<b>Governing body authorized to commit funds</b>	Village Council
<b>Budget</b>	???
<b>Sources of funds</b>	General Fund
<b>Volunteers</b>	100 volunteers who coordinate joint recreational activities with the Lions Club, Fireman's Association, Historical Society, Kaleva Beautification Team, Snowbirds Club
<b>Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements</b>	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
<b>Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MIRA)</b>	No
<b>Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center</b>	No
<b>Contributes to Manistee County Baseball League</b>	No



Recreation Site Inventory

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Mod, High)	Lighting	Forking Availability	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Camping	RV Compatible (Camping)	RV Compatible (Camping)	Portable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Outhouse (Pit Vault)	Portable Toilet	Garbage Receptacle	Fire Pit	Picnic Table	Benches	Grill	Picnic Shelter	Traffic Shelter (Water, Land)	Trails (Off Pavement)	Playground Equipment	Baseball Field	Tennis Court	Baseball Court	Tennis/Pickleball Court	Basketball Court
103	Kaleva Village Roadside Park/Campground	KAL	1	RP	*	M	*	3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
107	Kaleva Library	KAL	1	SU	H	H	*	1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
108	Kaleva Railroad Depot Museum & Engine	KAL	1	PT	M	M	*	3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
109	Historic Log Cabin	KAL	1	SU	L	L	*	3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
110	Centennial Walkway	KAL	1	PT	L	L	*	3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
106	Kaleva Birth House	Kal. Hist.	2	SU	L	L	*	3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
112	Abster Park	KAL	2	NP	M	M	*	3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
113	Maple Grove Township Community Center	MGT	3	CP	H	H	*	3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
111	Maple Grove Cemetery	MGT	3	SU	L	L	*	3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
104	Kaleva Village Hall	KAL	3	SU	M	M	*	2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*



# City of Manistee

## Community Description

It is the beauty and natural wonder that abounds in the region's forests, lakes and rivers that remain a constant factor and will always make Manistee a special place to live and visit. The city is located at the mouth of the Manistee River on Lake Michigan, a part of northwestern Michigan where the ancestors of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians were the original inhabitants of these great lands. Historic Manistee, the Victorian port city, has a river walk running through downtown to Lake Michigan to enjoy. You will find activities for all personalities, from the adventurous winter sports to the casual strolls along the beach. Manistee is your four season's destination for adventures, excitement and relaxation. The city is a paradise for water and sports enthusiasts and is known as the "Fishing Capital of the Midwest." The abundance of nearby outdoor activities, beaches and trails are second to none.

Manistee has a vast natural beauty and a "hometown" feeling, and cultural arts include the historic Ramsdell Theatre, Manistee Symphony Orchestra, Manistee Art Institute, dance studios, and art galleries. The city is also home to nearly 150 businesses and community resources. River Street features an eclectic mix of retail shops, antique stores and restaurants.

The City of Manistee contains the largest population within Manistee County. Abundant recreation sites can be found throughout the community in the form of neighborhood and regional parks, as well as preservation of beach access for the public and linear trails and walkways through the City.

Both the Douglas Recreation Area/1st St. Beach and the 5th Ave. Beach provide abundant access to Lake Michigan. The City was wise in preserving shoreline and beach assets for the public as this is a major draw to the City for visitors, but is also welcomed by residents. Each of these sites offers various amenities in terms of ball field, courts, concessions, playground equipment and in the case of Douglas Rec. Area, a boat launch.

Trail development in the City has been on-going through the leadership of the Non-motorized Trail Committee. The committee has worked for the development of on-road bike facilities as well as the establishment of the Zimmerman Pathway (located in Manistee Twp.), and the City's non-motorized trail park (located in Manistee Twp.)

The riverwalk, a boardwalk along the Manistee River channel through the City of Manistee provides a great location for a stroll down the river, with historic

information, parks linked along the linear trail and seating for those wishing to take in the view.

Trail development has been successful and increased opportunities for making regional connections to adjacent municipalities is something that should be pursued into the future. Support is in place for trail development and momentum in carrying that development forward should be sustained.

## Administrative Structure

<b>Municipality</b>	City of Manistee
<b>Governing body responsible for recreation planning</b>	Parks Commission; Parks & Recreation Department
<b>Governing body authorized to commit funds</b>	City Council
<b>Budget</b>	\$414,000
<b>Sources of funds</b>	Line Item
<b>Volunteers</b>	Volunteers from Lions Club, Local Veterans, Joycees assist with various parks, Friends of Manistee Parks, Blossom Boulevard, Manistee Proud, Disc Golf Club, MRA volunteers, Army Youth Project, Alternatives for Area Youth. An "Adopt-a-Park" program has been enacted
<b>Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements</b>	Yes
<b>Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)</b>	Yes
<b>Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center</b>	Yes

Project #	Applicant	Title	Year	Amount	Status	Description
26-00228	City of Manistee	First Street Beach Ramp	1972	\$81,450.00	Closed	Development of parking lot, comfort station, lift station, underground wiring and landscaping of boat launch.
26-00244	City of Manistee	Manistee City Marina Park	1972	\$98,500.00	Closed	Acquire two parcels of land to develop for grading, landscaping, sidewalks and steps, retaining wall, benches, waste receptacles & picnic tables.
24-01101 F	City of Manistee	Sands Park	1980	\$16,750.00	Closed	Two fenced tennis courts, drinking fountain, playground, landscaping.
BF89-461	City of Manistee	Sands Park Restoration	1989	\$34,650.00	Closed	Replace shelter house & lighting, restrooms, fencing, irrigation system.
26-01504	City of Manistee	Beach Fee Marina Project	1991	\$81,000.00	Closed	Renovation of bathhouse, marine access ramp/walkway, replace fuel tanks.
TF91-147	City of Manistee	Manistee Riverwalk West	1991	\$325,000.00	Closed	Develop 3,000' elevated lighted boardwalk from Manistee Marina to First Street Beach on Lake Michigan.
TF94-240	City of Manistee	Manistee Riverfront Park	1994	\$325,000.00	Closed	Develop additional 550' of lighted riverwalk including handicapped access area, benches, signage, shore protection/landscaping to east of US-31
BF98-294	City of Manistee	Lake Michigan Public Access	1998	\$40,000.00	Closed	Build trail and parking lot to provide additional access to a mile of City-owned Lake Michigan shoreline.
TF07-040	City of Manistee	Man Made Lake Acquisition	2007	\$2,015,000.00	Closed	Acquisition of 23 acres, with 1,350 feet of frontage on Lake Michigan and 1,700 feet of frontage on the 10 acre Man Made Lake for passive rec.
TF11-06	City of Manistee	Manistee First St. Beach House	2011	\$280,000.00	Closed	Development to include removal and replacement of First St. Beach House in Douglas Park. Universally accessible.
26-01731	City of Manistee	Rotary Park Play Area	2013	\$48,000.00	Closed	Universally accessible, ADA-compliant play area for children.

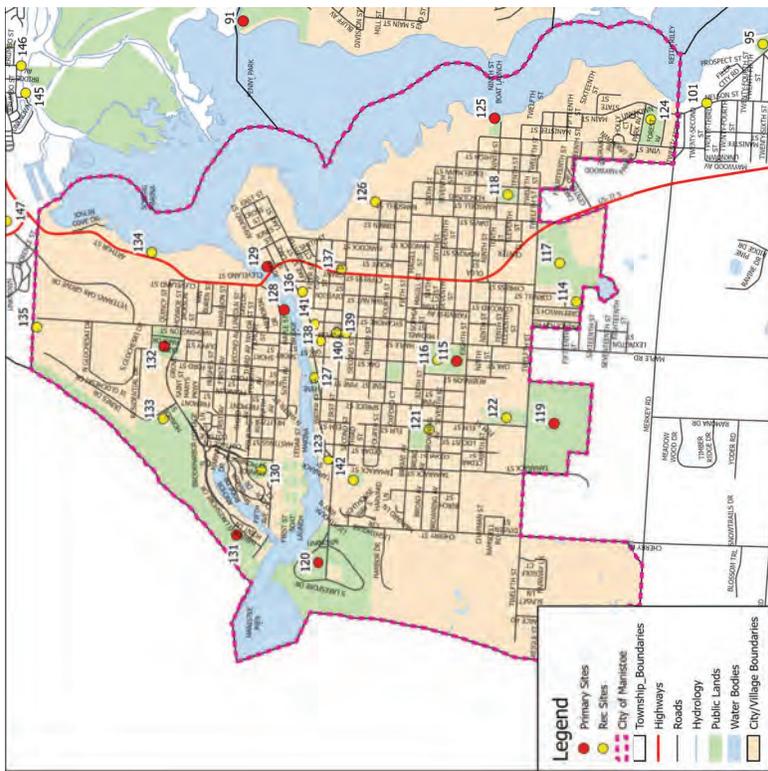
Recreation Site Inventory

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Med, High)	Explore the Shores Site	Lighting	Dark Sky Candidate	Parking Availability	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Utilities/Hook-Ups (Camping)	Portable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Portable Toilet	Shower Facility	Garbage Receptacle	Picnic Table	Benches	Grill	Bike Rack	Emergency Phone	Water Access	Beach	Pier/Fishing Platform	Canoes/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Boat Parking	Fish Cleaning Station	Picnic Shelter	Beach House				
120	Douglas Rec Area/1st St Beach	CITY	1	CP	H																															
129	The Riverwalk	CITY	1	PT	H																															
131	Fifth Ave Beach	CITY	1	CP	H																															
115	Sandy Park	CITY	1	NP	L																															
119	MHS/MMS/Paine Aquatic Cn.	School	1	SU	L																															
122	Duffy Park	CITY	1	NP	L																															
128	Veterans Memorial Park & Riverwalk	CITY	1	PT	L																															
135	North St Boat Launch	CITY	1	SU	L																															
114	Meek Park	CITY	2	NP	M																															
116	Kennedy School Gym	School	2	SU																																
121	Jefferson School Gym	School	2	SU																																
122	Centennial Track	School	2	SU																																
126	Merton Park	Marion	2	MP	L																															
130	Red Sycamore Park	CITY	2	NP	L																															
133	Man Made Lake	CITY	2	NP	L																															
134	Arthur St Boat Launch	CITY	2	SU	H																															
135	North Beach Access Park	CITY	2	MP	L																															
136	Arl Park	CITY	2	MP	L																															
137	Visitors Bureau	M.C.	2	SU																																
138	Manatee City Hall	CITY	2	SU																																
139	Manatee Public Library	M.C.	2	SU																																
142	Hanlin Field	CITY	2	NP	L																															
117	MCC Playground/Gym	School	3	NP																																
118	Maxwelltown Comm. Park	CASMAN	3	NP																																
133	Waterworks Museum	CITY	3	SU																																
124	Ball Park	CITY	3	NP	M																															
127	Manatee Municipal Marina	CITY	3	SU	H																															
140	Ramsdell Theatre	CITY	3	SU																																
141	Vogue Theatre	CITY	3	SU																																
143	Manatee Non-motorized Trail Park*	CITY	3	PT	L																															

Site Name	Band Shell	Dog Park	Pet Waste Disposal Station	Viewing Platform	Trailhead (Water, Land)	Trails (Off Road)	Bike Lane (Food Shoulder)	Playground Equipment	Baseball Field	Tennis Courts	Volley Ball	Basketball Court	Soccer Field	Football Field	Shuffle Board	Ice Arena	State Park	Disc Golf	
Douglas Rec Area/1st St Beach			*		W		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				
The Riverwalk					L	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				
Fifth Ave Beach					W		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				
Sandy Park							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	
MHS/MMS/Paine Aquatic Cn.							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				
Duffy Park			*		L	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				
Veterans Memorial Park & Riverwalk					W		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				
North St Boat Launch							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				
Meek Park							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				
Kennedy School Gym							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				
Jefferson School Gym							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				
Centennial Track							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				
Merton Park							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				
Red Sycamore Park			*				*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				*
Man Made Lake							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				
Arthur St Boat Launch			*		W		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				
North Beach Access Park			*				*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				
Arl Park			*				*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				
Visitors Bureau							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				
Manatee City Hall							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				
Manatee Public Library							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				
Hanlin Field							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				*
MCC Playground/Gym							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				
Maxwelltown Comm. Park							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				
Waterworks Museum							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				
Ball Park							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				
Manatee Municipal Marina					L	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				
Ramsdell Theatre							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				
Vogue Theatre							*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				
Manatee Non-motorized Trail Park					L	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				

\*Site 143 appears in the Manatee Township inventory map





# Manistee Township

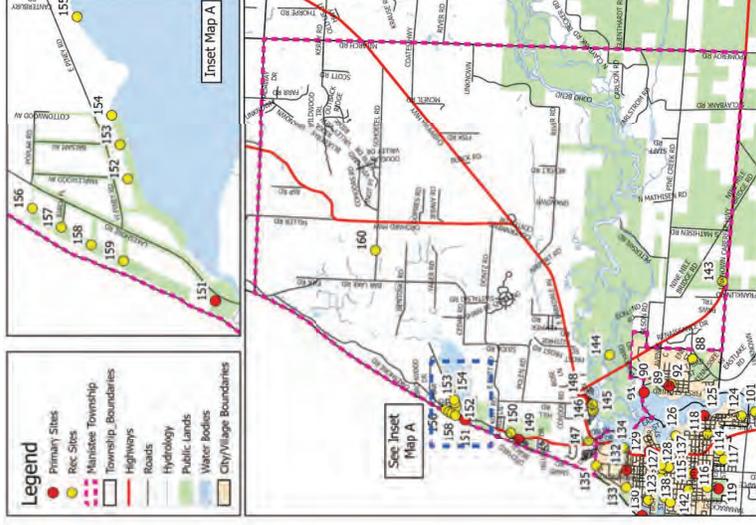
## Community Description

Manistee Township, located in the southwest portion of Manistee County is characterized by a wide variety of land uses both rural and urban. The population, according to 2019 ACS 5-year estimates is 4,076. Access to the township is via US 31, M-55 and M-22. Manistee is home to the County's largest employer, the Little River Casino Resort, Oaks Correctional Facility, West Shore Hospital, Elmers and Meijer. The well-known M-22 Scenic Byway begins in Manistee Township. Residents appreciate the natural beauty of the area and the quiet laid back atmosphere as well as the convenience of shopping, employment and a wide variety of housing types.

County facilities in the township include Manistee-Blacker Airport, the County Sheriff's Department and Jail, West Shore Medical Center and the County Medical Care Facility. Other employment opportunities exist in the township's urban area including an industrial renaissance zone and small businesses. In rural areas of the township there are a variety of farms, forestry and a vineyard and small homesteads. Manistee Township works cooperatively with neighboring governments and is preparing for growth along the US 31 corridor. It partnered with the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians for sewer service and the City of Manistee to provide a municipal water supply.

Manistee Township has abundant natural resources with which to focus resource based recreational activities. Orchard Beach State Park lies within the municipal boundary, providing hiking trails, camping and access to Lake Michigan. Additionally, recreational opportunities abound with the natural resources of Lake Michigan and the Big Manistee River. Lake Michigan to the west provides opportunities for beach and "big" lake recreational activities, including swimming, sunbathing, boating and fishing. Lake Michigan is accessed via the Bar Lake Outlet recreation site as well as other road ends in the immediate vicinity of Bar Lake. Along the southern portion of the township the Big Manistee River flows through the Manistee State Game Area and empties into the Manistee Marsh and Manistee Lake. Outdoors enthusiasts will also find large swaths of State and Federal forest lands within Manistee as well.

Manistee Township contains the only off-road, large-width, paved non-motorized pathway in Manistee County. This pathway, located between Lakeshore Drive and Hill Road, is well-used by the public. Further trail segments of this nature are desired by residents. The Township supports further expansion of non-motorized pathways on public lands and existing rights-of-way and would like to connect routes to neighboring communities. The DNR-managed Manistee Marsh holds potential for connecting trail routes and discussions with the DNR should continue regarding trail route development. In terms of motorized paths, the Township allows ORV's on designated roads.



**Recreation Site Inventory**

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Mod, High)	Explore the Shores Site	Lighting	Dark Sky Candidate	Forking Availability	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Camping	RV Compatible (Camping)	Utilities/Hook-Ups (Camping)	Portable Water	Kitchens (Flush Toilets)	Portable Toilet	Shower Facility	Garbage Receptacle	Fire Pit	Picnic Table	Benches	Grill	Bike Rack	Water Access	Beach	Cone/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Picnic Shelter	Viewing Platform	Trailhead (Water, Land)	Trail (Off Road)		
149	Orchard Beach State Park	State	1	RP	L																														
148	Manistee Trap Park at Fish Trap Hill	MAN	1	MP	L																														
143	Bar Lake Outlet Beach	MAN	1	NRA	H																														
146	Manistee Non-motorized Trail Park	CITY	2	PT	L																														
147	Bridge St Access-MR	MCRC	2	RDSU	L																														
147	Zimmerman Lane Trailhead	MCRC	2	PT	H																														
151	Access-MI	MCRC	2	RDSU	L																														
150	Newland School	MCRC	2	SU	L																														
159	Access-MI	MCRC	2	RDSU	L																														
145	Park Ave Access-MR	MCRC	3	RDSU	L																														
152	Maplewood Ave Access-BA	MCRC	3	RDSU	L																														
153	Bellum Ave Access-BA	MCRC	3	RDSU	L																														
155	Bar Lake Unimproved Boat Launch	MCRC	3	SU	L																														
156	Poplar Rd Access-MI	MCRC	3	RDSU	L																														
157	Birch Pl Access-MI	MCRC	3	RDSU	L																														
144	M-55 Man. River Wildlife Platform	State	3	NRA	L																														
154	Cottonwood Ave Access-BA	MCRC	3	RDSU	L																														
150	Beech-Hemlock Nature Trailhead	State	3	PT	L																														

**DNR-Awarded Grants**

Project #	Applicant	Title	Year	Amount	Status	Description
TF 1050	Manistee Township	Bar Lake Outlet	1985	\$17,500.00	Closed	Acquisition of 1.5 acres w/ 400 feet of Bar lake frontage and outlet.
12-0922	Manistee Township	Bridge Street Boat Launch	2012	\$36,950.00	Closed	

**Administrative Structure**

Municipality	Description
Governing body responsible for recreation planning	Manistee Township
Governing body authorized to commit funds	Township Board and Planning Commission
Budget	Township Board
Sources of funds	\$22,000
Volunteers	General Fund
Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements	Pickleball group fundraises for and maintains courts; volunteers maintain the Zimmerman Trail
Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)	Yes
Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center	Yes
	No

# Maple Grove Township

## 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.

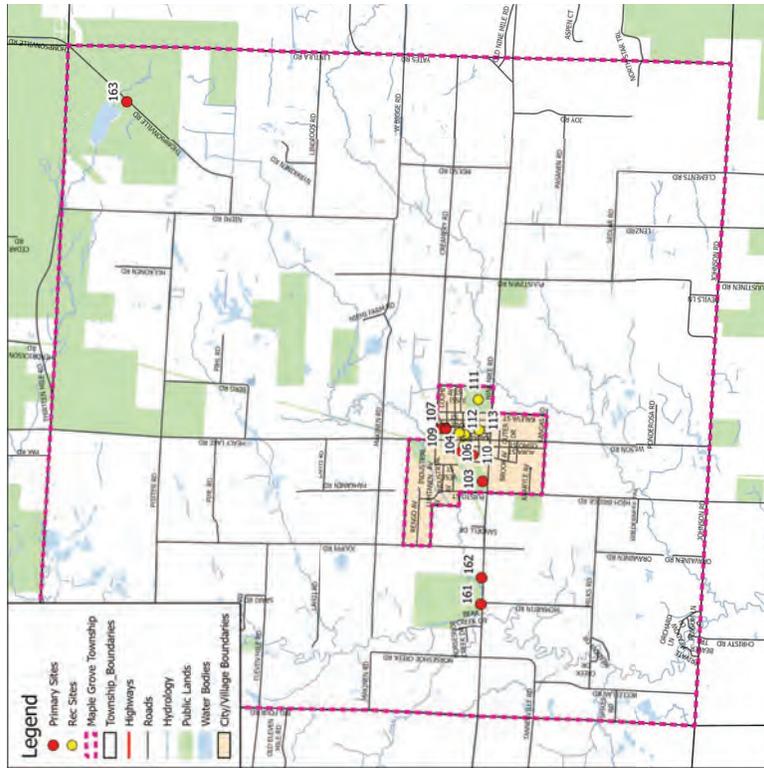


## Administrative Structure

<b>Municipality</b>	Maple Grove Township
<b>Governing body responsible for recreation planning</b>	Township Board
<b>Governing body authorized to commit funds</b>	Township Board
<b>Budget</b>	-
<b>Sources of funds</b>	Line Item
<b>Volunteers</b>	Up to 150 volunteers regularly staff museum, provide beautification; Community Center committee; Kaleva Days; road cleanup; Firemen's Association; Big Bear Sportsmen's Club; Snowbirds Club
<b>Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements</b>	Kaleva, Norman, Dickson School District partners to maintain recreational facilities at the old school building; Joint recreation committee with Village of Kaleva; Joint Planning Commission
<b>Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)</b>	Yes
<b>Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center</b>	No
<b>Contributes to Manistee County Baseball League</b>	No

## Recreation Site Inventory

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Risk Type	ADA Access (Low, Mod, High)	Explore the Store Name	Dark Sky Candidate	Parking Availability	Water Access	Canoe/Kayak Access
161	Bear Creek Access	State	1	NRA	L			1	1	•
163	Lemon Lake Access	State	1	NRA	L			2	•	•
162	School Forest Access	School	1	NRA	L			1	•	•



# Marilla Township

## Community Description

Marilla Township is located in the southern portion of the northeast corner of Manistee County along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Its population according to the 2019 ACS 5-year estimates is 336. Marilla Township was originally part of Brown Township. The Manistee County Board of Supervisors accepted the petition of Marilla Township on January 4, 1870. Marilla Township is served by three school districts: Mesick Consolidated; Kaleva, Normen, Dickson KND; and Benzie County Central.

Close proximity to the Manistee River made Marilla an attractive place for early lumber barons. The River branch of the Manistee & Northeastern Railroad ran through Marilla from east to west. Much of the logged over areas became part of the Manistee National Forest, where the Marilla Trailhead of the North Country Trail established a popular place for hiking. In the early 1920's a new consolidated Standard School was built. The two room school ceased operating in the 1940's. The building now serves as a township hall, a community building and the Marilla Museum located in the lower level. The Marilla Historical Society, consists of a restored log building, a restored 1900 barn and the first built, historical log home moved to this location log by log and re-fabricated. Marilla Township Park was established and is still maintained by the township.

Marilla Township recreational features stem from local sites such as the Township Hall and Pioneer Museum and Township Forest sites located on USFS and Consumer Power lands along the Manistee River. Marilla has much to offer in terms of outdoor recreation and these sites are varied throughout the township. The Township Forest sits adjacent to the Township Cemetery and currently has unmarked trails utilized by locals. This section of forest is destined to be further enhanced with localized trails.

USFS and Consumer Power land holdings along the Manistee River provide access to Hadenpyl Pond and the Manistee River below Hadenpyl Dam. The river is a designated Blue Water trail, and the Manistee River and North Country Trail (land trails) also traverse this area. Access to the Manistee River in this area is a priority and increased Universal Accessibility is desired. Marilla Township is in a position to continue to facilitate further trail development with increased connections within and outside Manistee County.

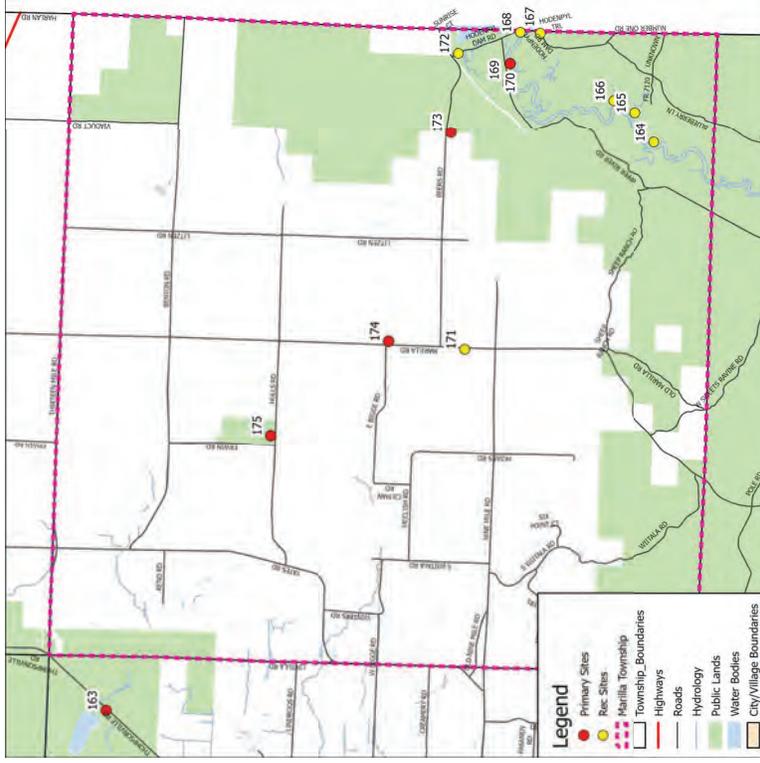
## Administrative Structure

<b>Municipality</b>	Marilla township
<b>Governing body responsible for recreation planning</b>	Township Board; Planning Commission
<b>Governing body authorized to commit funds</b>	Township Board
<b>Budget</b>	\$0 - project budgeted as needed
<b>Sources of funds</b>	General Fund
<b>Volunteers</b>	Volunteers for event staffing; Marilla Historical Society
<b>Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements</b>	Arts & Culture Alliance of Manistee County
<b>Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)</b>	No
<b>Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center</b>	No



Recreation Site Inventory

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Fork Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Mod., High)	Explore the Shore Nominee	Lighting	Dark Sky Candidate	Parking Availability	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Camping	Portable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Outhouse (Pit Vault)	Fire Pit	Picnic Table	Benches	Water Access	Trailhead (Water, Land)	Trails (Off Pavement)
174	Manilla Twp Pioneer Hall Place and Museum	MAR	1	SU	L					3												
175	O.D. Memorial Forest	MAR	1	NRA	L					1												
170	Manistee River Suspension Bridge	USFS	1	SU	L					2												
173	Manilla North Country Trail Trailhead	USFS	1	PT	L					2												
171	Manilla Twp Park	MAR	2	NP	L					2												
167	Hodapp's South Trail water Access	Con	2	SU	L					3												
168	Hodapp's North Trail water Access & Canoe Portage	Con	2	SU	L					3												
169	Woodpacker Creek Access	Con	2	SU	L					2												
164	Upper Manistee River Backcountry Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					0												
165	Upper Manistee River Backcountry Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					0												
166	Upper Manistee River Backcountry Campsite	USFS	3	SU	L					0												
172	North Country Trail Access	Con	3	PT	L					2												



# Norman Township

## Community Description

Norman Township is rural and rich in natural beauty, with extensive natural resources including national forests/lands; hundreds of miles of inland lake, river and stream frontage; diverse wildlife habitat; forested hills, open meadows and numerous wetlands. These natural resources contribute to a beautiful, mostly rural setting for people to live, work and recreate within the township. The population of Norman, according to ACS 5-year estimates, is 1,390. Norman Township has experienced a significant population decline over the past decade. Seasonal residents, visitors to private homes and rental cottages and day tourists add to the township's population and economic base during the summer months.

There is no incorporated village or city within the jurisdictional boundaries of Norman Township, but the unincorporated village of Wellston may be considered the township's population center. The intersection of M-55 and Seaman Road is likely the busiest area within Norman. Although historically a larger settlement, land uses now at and in the vicinity of this area include a convenience store, auto repair shops, the Township Hall and Library and outdoor stores tailored to the area's fishing interests.

Norman Township rests in the heart of the Manistee National Forest, with abundant USFS lands throughout. The Pine River and the south arm of Tippy Pond extend into the Township offering water resources for various recreational activities. The

Township also now owns all property around Crystal Lake and intends to develop the site as a key recreational asset for residents and visitors of various ages and interests.

The Pine River hosts two well-known recreation sites in close proximity to one another. The Cooley Bridge State Roadside Park and the Low Bridge Canoe Landing are primary sites which the Township would like to see continued focus on improving amenities and promoting access. In addition, the Township operates a public access on the south arm of Tippy Pond in the Norman township Tippy Pond boat launch. This popular boat launch is located on Consumers Energy property which is managed by the Township through a cooperative agreement. Additionally, the township features Loomis Landing, which provides access to the Pine River. The sand bar at this site is moving outwards and engineering solutions will need to be implemented in the coming years to make the site more easily utilized by the public.

Norman Township has land trails in place which provide connections to neighboring townships and extend into Lake County to the south. Support for increased trail connections and for the establishment of a loop backpacking trail system around the Pine River has emerged and should continue to be a focus for the Township. Norman would also like to see additional areas designated for ORV's with the possibility of a connecting path to nearby Lake County.

Project #	Applicant	Title	Year	Amount	Status	Description
26-0102381	Norman Township	Norman Township Park	1977	\$9,250.00	Closed	Development of two tennis courts

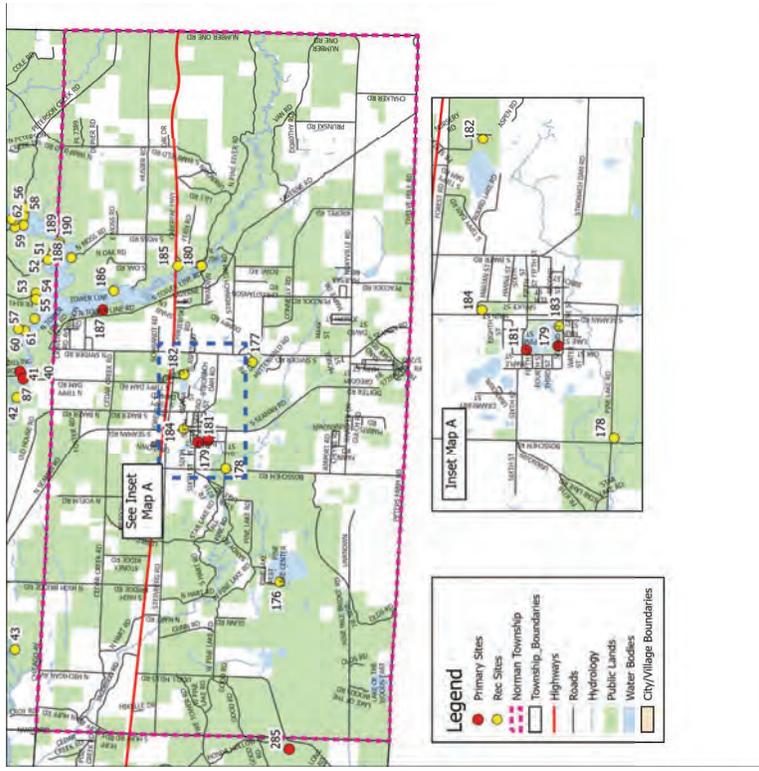
## Administrative Structure

<b>Municipality</b>	Norman Township
<b>Governing body responsible for recreation planning</b>	Township Board
<b>Governing body authorized to commit funds</b>	Township Board
<b>Budget</b>	\$10,000
<b>Sources of funds</b>	General Fund
<b>Volunteers</b>	Volunteers for 4th of July fireworks, beautification efforts, community garden at township Hall, assistance with parks improvements, Wagon Boosters, Wellston Excel (fundraising)
<b>Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements</b>	Township shares baseball field with the school district
<b>Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)</b>	No
<b>Contributes to Peaine Aquatic Center</b>	No



Recreation Site Inventory

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Med, High)	Explore the Shore Nominee	Lighting	Dark Sky Candidate	Parking Availability	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Camping	RV Compatible (Camping)	Potable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Onhouse (Rin Vault)	Portable Toilet	Garbage Backpack	Fire Pit	Picnic Table	Benches	Grill	Water Access	Beach	River/ Fishing Platform	Canoe/ Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Picnic Shelter	Traillhead (Water, Land)	Trails (Off Pavement)	Picnic Ground Equipment	Valley Ball	Basketball Court		
187	Nor. Twp. Tippy Pond Boat Launch	3	RP	L				3																											
179	Crystal Lake Park	3	NP	L				3																											
181	Crystal Lake Beach	3	SU	L				3																											
180	Lower Bridge Canoe Landing	1	RP	M				3																											
185	Cochy Bridge State Recreable Park	1	SU	H				3																											
178	Abraham Trailhead	1	NRA	L				1																											
183	Falling Dock	1	SU	L				2																											
177	Donner Lake Recreation Area	2	NRA	L				3																											
176	Pine Lake Recreation Area	3	NRA	L				3																											
184	Norman Township Fall	3	SU	M				3																											
186	Upper Man. River Rustic Campsite	3	SU	L				0																											
188	Moos RD Access-MR	3	RDSU	L				1																											
189	Upper Man. River Rustic Campsite	3	SU	L				0																											
190	Upper Man. River Rustic Campsite	3	SU	L				0																											
182	Monistake National Forest Service Office	3	USFS	M				3																											



# Onekama Township

## Community Description

In the late 1800's, near the end of the lumbering era, Portage Lake developed into a significant resort community. Orchards and fruit farming became prevalent. Since that time, Onekama Township has become home to many long-term residents and is a sought after destination for tourists, especially during the summer months. According to the 2019 American Community Survey (ACS), Onekama Township has 1,320 residents. Of the community's estimated 1,357 housing units, 717 are considered seasonal, recreational or occasional use.

Onekama Township is located along the Lake Michigan shoreline on the western edge of Manistee County. Portage Lake, the central feature of the Township, covers 2,116 acres. The Channel connecting Portage Lake to Lake Michigan, as well as Lake Michigan itself, provides for fishing, boating, swimming and other activities. Its shores are around 10 miles in length. Access to Portage Lake is available at road ends scattered along the shores of the lake as well as through two boat launches. One boat launch, in addition to a new Universally Accessible Kayak and Canoe Launch, is located within the Township on North Point, owned by the DNR. The dune-lined Lake Michigan shores extend more than 16 miles. The Lake Michigan shores sweep northward to Pierport, a former Lake Michigan port and lumbering town, which also has shoreline recreational facilities that are included in this Five-Year Plan.

Lake Michigan acts as a backdrop to Portage Lake, and can be accessed via boat from the channel or by foot from the various road ends which terminate into the "Big Lake". Captain John Langland Park acts as the primary Lake Michigan beach access with improvements and available assets. The north pier-head is readily reachable from this park. The Manistee County Fairgrounds are located within Onekama Township. The grounds serve as the annual location for the fair, but also are available for other community events.



## Administrative Structure

<b>Municipality</b>	Onekama Township
<b>Governing body responsible for recreation planning</b>	Community Parks & Recreation Committee
<b>Governing body authorized to commit funds</b>	Township Board
<b>Budget</b>	\$218,000
<b>Sources of funds</b>	General Fund and Donation Fund; Michigan Audubon Society
<b>Volunteers</b>	Partnerships for programs such as scavenger hunts, run/walk event, and recreation centered around community events such as Onekama Days and the Onekama Block Party
<b>Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements</b>	Works with the Onekama School District; Manistee Conservation District; Manistee ISD; Black Cap Farms; Portage Lake Garden Club
<b>Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)</b>	Yes
<b>Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center</b>	No

## DNR-Awarded Grants

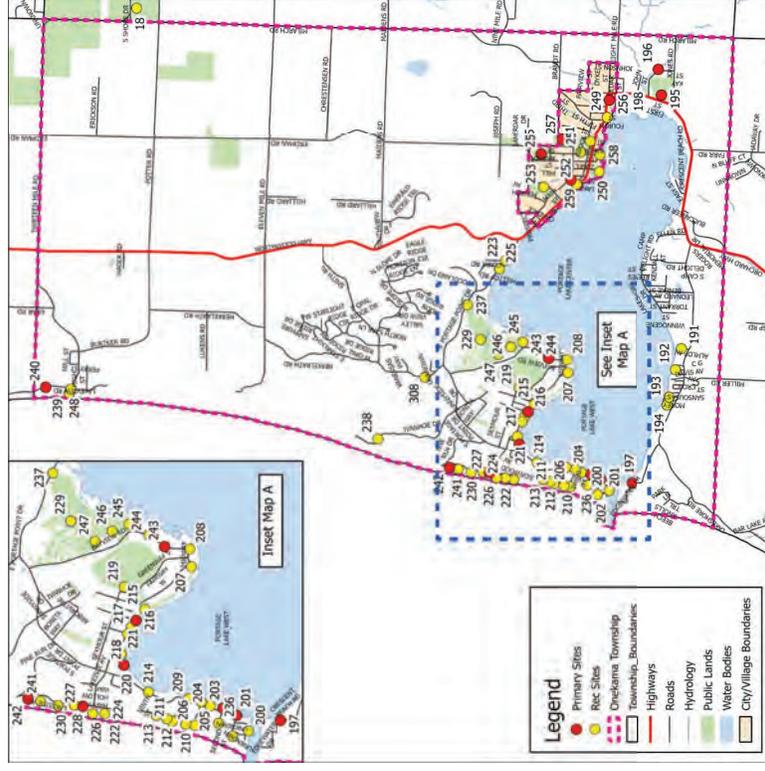
Project #	Applicant	Title	Year	Amount	Status	Description
TF16-0187	Onekama Township	Portage Lake Kayak & Canoe Launch/Trailhead - North Point	2017	\$10,200.00	Active	Universally accessible kayak and canoe launch on Portage Lake and DNR boat launch

**Recreation Site Inventory**

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Mod., High)	Explore the Shores Site	Explore the Shore Nominee	Lighting	Dark Sky Candidate	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Portable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Outdoor (Fill Vault)	Portable Toilet	Carbage Receptacle	Fire Pit	Picnic Table	Benches	Water Access	Beach	Pier/Fishing Platform	Canoes/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Boat Forking	Pet Waste Disposal Station	Trailed (Water, Land)	Trails (Off Footprint)	Playground Equipment			
195	Madison County Fairgrounds	M.C.	1	SU	L																									*			
202	Captain John Longland Park	ONE	1	CP	L																		*							*			
219	North Point Park	ONE	1	RP	H																		*							*			
215	Portage Lake Boat Launch	State	1	RP	L																		*							*			
196	Garden Park	ONE	1	NRA	L																												
199	Fiddlers Park	ONE	1	NRA	L																												
253	Glen Park	ONE	1	NP	L																												
226	Sunset House/Lake Idle Aw Access-ML	MCKC	1	RDSU	L																												
197	Crescent Beach Rd Access-South Pier	ONE	1	SU	M																												
200	First St North Pier Access	ONE	1	RDSU	L																												
239	Thirteen Mile Rd Access-ML	MCKC	1	RDSU	L																												
213	Ninth St Access-ML	MCKC	1	RDSU	L																												
218	Andromed Dr Access-PL	ONE	2	RDSU	L																												
223	Clark Rd Access-PL	ONE	2	RDSU	L																												
225	Hilltop Rd Access-PL	ONE	2	RDSU	L																												
221	Seventh St Access-ML	ONE	2	RDSU	L																												
214	Twelfth St Access-PL	ONE	2	RDSU	L																												
217	Arboretum Dr Access-PL	ONE	2	RDSU	L																												

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Mod., High)	Explore the Shores Site	Explore the Shore Nominee	Lighting	Dark Sky Candidate	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Portable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Outdoor (Fill Vault)	Portable Toilet	Carbage Receptacle	Fire Pit	Picnic Table	Benches	Water Access	Beach	Pier/Fishing Platform	Canoes/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Boat Forking	Pet Waste Disposal Station	Trailed (Water, Land)	Trails (Off Footprint)	Playground Equipment			
224	Avenue C Access-ML	ONE	2	RDSU	L																		*										
208	Midway Dr Access-PL	ONE	2	RDSU	L																		*										
198	Eagles View Wetlands	ONE	2	NRA	L																												
229	Portage Wetlands Park	ONE	2	NRA	L																												
247	Willow Way Access-PL	MCKC	2	RDSU	L																												
203	Third St Access-PL	MCKC	2	RDSU	L																			*									
204	Fourth St Access-PL	MCKC	2	RDSU	L																			*									
205	Fifth St Access-PL	MCKC	2	RDSU	L																			*									
206	Fifth St Access-ML	MCKC	2	RDSU	L																			*									
209	Sixth St Access-PL	MCKC	2	RDSU	L																			*									
240	Burnham St Access-ML	MCKC	2	RDSU	L																			*									
191	Almid Ave Access-PL	MCKC	3	RDSU	L																			*									
192	Senor Ave Access-PL	MCKC	3	RDSU	L																			*									
193	Campbell St Access-PL	MCKC	3	RDSU	L																			*									
194	Cedar Grove Access-PL	MCKC	3	RDSU	L																			*									
201	Second St Access-PL	MCKC	3	RDSU	L																			*									
207	West Pointy St Access-PL	MCKC	3	RDSU	L																			*									
210	South St Access-ML	MCKC	3	RDSU	L																			*									
308	Portage Point Woods Preserve	PVT	3	NRA	L																												

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Mod, High)	Dark Sky Candidate	Public Water	Water Access	Beach	Canoe/Kayak Access
237	Aranson Wall (Ullis Eden)	ONE	1	SU	L						
248	Aranson Wall (Old Foss Fall)	ONE	1	SU	L			*			
212	Eighth St Access-MI	ONE	2	RDSU	L				*	*	*
222	Juniper Way Access-PL	ONE	2	RDSU	L				*	*	*
227	Avenue B Access-MI	ONE	2	RDSU	L				*	*	*
227	Avenue E Access-MI	ONE	2	RDSU	L				*	*	*
230	Lakeside Ave Access-MI	ONE	2	RDSU	L				*	*	*
236	Third St Access-MI	ONE	2	RDSU	L				*	*	*
238	Harbor Rd Access-MI	ONE	2	RDSU	L				*	*	*
241	Alley G Access-MI	ONE	2	RDSU	L				*	*	*
242	Alley H Access-MI	ONE	2	RDSU	L				*	*	*
244	Batesmore Way Access-PL	ONE	2	RDSU	L				*	*	*
244	Sylvan Way Access-PL	ONE	2	RDSU	L				*	*	*
220	Beachwood Ave Access-PL	MGRC	3	RDSU	L				*	*	*
221	Lakewood Rd Access-PL	MGRC	3	RDSU	L				*	*	*
228	Avenue F Access-MI	MGRC	3	RDSU	L				*	*	*
235	Rosewood St Access-PL	MGRC	3	RDSU	L				*	*	*
243	Golfstone Way Access-PL	MGRC	3	RDSU	L				*	*	*
246	Main Way Access-PL	MGRC	3	RDSU	L				*	*	*



# Village of Onekama

## Community Description

The Village of Onekama, formerly a lumbering town, is on the northeast shore of Portage Lake. In the late 1800's near the end of the lumbering era, Portage Lake developed into a significant resort community. Orchards and fruit farming also became prevalent. The population, according to the 2019 ACS 5-year estimates is 461. The Onekama School, with around 400 students, is within the Village. The school is included in this plan because of the extensive recreational facilities it provides to the public. A \$14.1 million building project was dedicated in 2010.

The village provides quaint neighborhood parks, larger school athletic fields and courts and a more expansive Village Park which adorns the shore of Portage Lake. Portage Lake, the central feature of the community, covers 2,116 acres. This inland lake, the channel and Lake Michigan, to which Portage Lake is connected, provide fishing, boating, swimming and other activities. Its shores are around 10 miles in length; the dune-lined Lake Michigan shoreline extends more than 16 miles along Onekama Township. The Lake Michigan shores sweep northward to Pierport, a former Lake Michigan port and lumbering town, which also has shoreline recreational facilities that are included in this Five-Year Plan.

The Onekama Village Park and Boat Launch acts as a central community park with various assets such as playground equipment, beach area, a picnic shelter and a band shell. This park serves as a primary access to Portage Lake with a fishing dock and boat launch.

The Onekama Consolidated School District works in collaboration with the Village for the management of school athletic space for the allowance of use by community residents. The Village understands the benefit of shared use of facilities as it promotes collaboration, cost-sharing and increased use by community members.

Land trail systems are lacking within the community. Support for trails is evident, and consideration should be made for connections to Bear Lake Township, Arcadia Township and Manistee Township.

## Administrative Structure

<b>Municipality</b>	Village of Onekama
<b>Governing body responsible for recreation planning</b>	Onekama Village Recreation Committee
<b>Governing body authorized to commit funds</b>	Village Council
<b>Budget</b>	\$44,041.00
<b>Sources of funds</b>	Line Item
<b>Volunteers</b>	No volunteers
<b>Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements</b>	Partners with Onekama Township Parks & Recreation Committee
<b>Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)</b>	No
<b>Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center</b>	No

## DNR-Awarded Grants

Project #	Applicant	Title	Year	Amount	Status	Description
TF12-088	Village of Onekama	Onekama Village Park	2012	\$97,200.00	Active	Peron steps, barrier-free beach access, mobi mat, beach nourishment



## Recreation Site Inventory

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Mod., High)	Explore the Shores Site	Lighting	Porting Availability	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Portable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Outhouse (Fry Vault)	Portable Toilet	Garbage Receptacle	Picnic Table	Benches	Grill	Bike Rack	Water Access	Beach	Fir/Fishing Platform	Canoe/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Boat Parking	Viewing Platform	Trolleyed (Water Land)	Trails (Off Forewest)	Bike Lane (Road Shoulder)	Playground Equipment	Baseball Field	Tennis Court	Baseball Court			
249	Fair Center	ONV	1	SU	M																																
250	Onekama VJ Park/ Boat Launch	ONV	1	CP	M																																
251	School Basketball Courts	School	1	SU	L				0																												
254	School Tennis Courts	School	1	SU	L				0																												
255	School Ball Fields	School	1	SU	M																																
257	School Stadium and Track	School	1	SU	M																																
252	Rotary Park	ONV	2	MP	L				0																												
258	Zone 9 Wildlife Park	ONV	2	MP	L																																
259	Triangle Park	ONV	2	MP	L																																



# Pleasanton Township

## Community Description

Pleasanton Township is home to many recreational opportunities that take advantage of recreational sites and natural features within the community. The population, according to 2019 ACS estimates, is 727. The township's recreation features include playground equipment, a ball diamond, a tennis and pickleball court, and a picnic area at the Township Hall; May Buell Park; four public access sites on Bear Lake; and the open space at the Township park on Lakeside Avenue. Additionally, there is public access on Glovers Lake to the north in Township. The State of Michigan Conservancy holds 1,428 acres of land for recreation and other conservation purposes which provide multi-user trails, wildlife viewing and general enjoyment of nature.

Recreational opportunities are plentiful. Part of the recreational experience in Pleasanton includes the visual corridors where people can look over the vistas and view Bear Lake, state forest lands and ample wildlife. Pleasanton's most prominent trail connection is the west end of snowmobile Route 386 that follows Lumley Road east from US-31 toward Springdale Township. A new snowmobile trailhead was recently designated at the corner of 13 Mile Road and US-31. It joins the 23-mile-long Trail 3 at the end of its 9-mile run, establishing connectivity among five counties stretching from Leelanau in the north to Newaygo in the south. The Arcadia Dunes Preserve biking and hiking trail grazes the northwest corner of the Township, and the preserve itself extends inland even further.

The open spaces of Pleasanton Township provide an aesthetic beauty which acts as the backdrop for recreational assets derived from the Northern shores of Bear Lake to the forested lands of the Pere Marquette State Forest to the east, and Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy land holdings in the north.

Access to Bear Lake at various public road ends, and Township owned properties provides for kayak and canoe access as well as areas for fishing and picnicking. The DNR Boat Launch along the northwestern shore of the lake is one of only two public launches on Bear Lake. The DNR also manages a launch on Glovers Lake.

The snowmobile trails and the trailhead adjacent to the Township Hall are the furthest west designated trail locations within Manistee County. These trails are important to the region, and can serve as sites for future trail connections to the communities of Arcadia, Bear Lake and Onokama.

## Administrative Structure

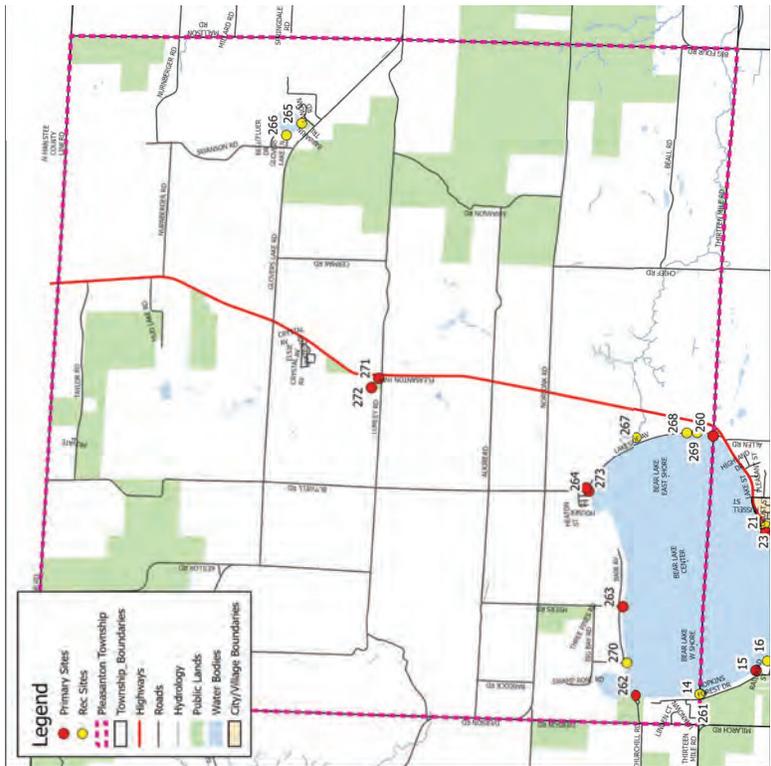
Municipality	Pleasanton Township
Governing body responsible for recreation planning	Township Board
Governing body authorized to commit funds	Township Board at the recommendation of the Recreation Committee & Planning Commission
Budget	\$16,200.00
Sources of funds	Line item
Volunteers	Volunteers recruited as needed for events
Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements	Water trail agreement with the Village of Bear Lake; Retains member on the SMARTrails committee
Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)	Yes
Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center	No
Contributes to Manistee County Baseball League	No



Project #	Applicant	Title	Year	Amount	Status	Description
TF16-0034	Pleasanton Township	Acquisition of Land for May Buell Park	2016	\$124,040.23	Closed	Purchase of land from Buell family to support development of a new township park.
RP20-0039	Pleasanton Township	Development of May Buell Park	2020	\$118,600.00	Open	Improvements for May Buell Park to include picnic area, beach, fencing, parking, restrooms & ADA accessibility.

Recreation Site Inventory

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	ADA Access (Low, Med, High)	Explore the Shore Nominee	Parking Availability	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Potable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Outdoor (For Youth)	Picnic Table	Benches	Grill	Water Access	Canoe/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Front Shelter	Trailhead (Water, Land)	Trails (Off Pavement)	Playground Equipment	Baseball Field	Tennis Court/Rickball Court	Volley Ball	Baseball Court	Shuffle Board	Carriage Reception
273	May Bull Park	P.E	1	NP	H		3													W								
260	13 Mile Rd Access-BE	P.E	1	RDSU	L		1																					
272	Snowmobile Trailhead	P.E	1	SU	L		2													L								
263	Meyers Rd Access-BE	MCKC	1	RDSU	L		1																					
264	Buwa Rd Access-BE	MCKC	1	RDSU	L		1																					
271	Pleasanton Twp Hall	P.E	1	SU	M		3																					
262	Bear Lake Boat Launch	State	1	SU	L		2													W								
267	Pleasanton Twp Park	P.E	2	CP	L		1																					
268	Bear Lake Access-BE	P.E	2	SU	L		1																					
269	Bear Lake Access-BE	P.E	2	SU	L		1																					
241	13 Mile Rd Access-BE	P.E	3	RDSU	L		1																					
265	Glover's Lake Boat Launch	State	3	RU	L		2																					
266	Glover's Lake Launch	P.E	3	RDSU	L		1																					
270	Bear Lake Access-BE	P.E	3	SU	L		1																					



# Springdale Township

## Community Description

Springdale Township covers approximately 35.7 square miles; roughly half is state-managed land. The 2019 ACS 5-year population estimate is 949. The first settlers were the Algonquians, inhabiting the bluffs above the Bec Scies River (Betsie) 5,000 years ago. The big push of settlers into the area came on the heels of the 1863 Homestead Act. The Springdale Township government was first created on April 3rd, 1871, at the home of Tus Glover, just 6 months after the Manistee Board of Supervisors formally designated Springdale a township.

Springdale Township is fortunate to have the Betsie River and the Healy Lake State Forest Campground and many acres of public land, providing abundant opportunities for recreation activities. The Betsie River is the main recreational attraction in the township for many people. The Betsie River was designated a wild and scenic river in 1973 under the Michigan Natural Rivers Act. It offers excellent paddling, trout and salmon fishing and unparalleled scenic beauty. There are numerous small creeks that support a healthy brook trout population. The creeks and river are supported by many ground springs, which is why the area was named Springdale. The Healy Lake State Forest Campground offers 24 secluded rustic campsites with access to boating and fishing on beautiful Healy Lake. The abundant state land offers open fields and the heavily forested areas provide excellent natural wildlife habitat making the area prime for hunting and wildlife viewing. Farms, both large and small, still dot the landscape of Springdale Township, keeping the agricultural spirit alive, once the main catalyst to developing this area.

Springdale Township contains thousands of acres of Pere Marquette State Forest through which the Betsie River winds its way as it traverses a portion of Manistee County. With these grand natural resources within the confines of the township, recreational opportunities abound.

The township now has four identified recreation sites: Healy Lake State Forest Campground, the Township Park located at the Township Hall and two DNR-managed access sites to the Betsie River. Healy Lake State Forest Campground is a popular destination within northeast Manistee County. The campground, located on State land, is managed by Springdale Township through a cooperative agreement with the DNR. The campground provides beautiful wooded sites and a boat launch adjacent to thousands of acres of State Forest.

The Township Hall Park provides a tennis court, a baseball field, basketball courts, picnic area and playground equipment. This park has the only playground and athletic facilities located within the Township. There are plans to add pickleball to

the tennis court.

There is a desire to provide further access to the Betsie River within. With Springdale Township containing the most mileage of the Betsie River within any community in Manistee County, coupled with tracks of State land adjacent to the river, the Township is in a position to identify and create trail access. Discussions with Benzie County are ongoing concerning the establishment of the Betsie River as a Blue Water Trail. Support for expanded trail systems within the Township, providing linkages to the west will garner continued support. Additionally, potential exists to link Healy Lake State Forest Campground as a destination along a trail system.

## Administrative Structure

<b>Municipality</b>	Springdale Township
<b>Governing body responsible for recreation planning</b>	Township Board
<b>Governing body authorized to commit funds</b>	Township Board
<b>Budget</b>	Funds allocated as needed
<b>Sources of funds</b>	General Fund
<b>Volunteers</b>	Volunteers recruited as needed for events
<b>Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements</b>	None
<b>Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)</b>	No
<b>Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center</b>	No

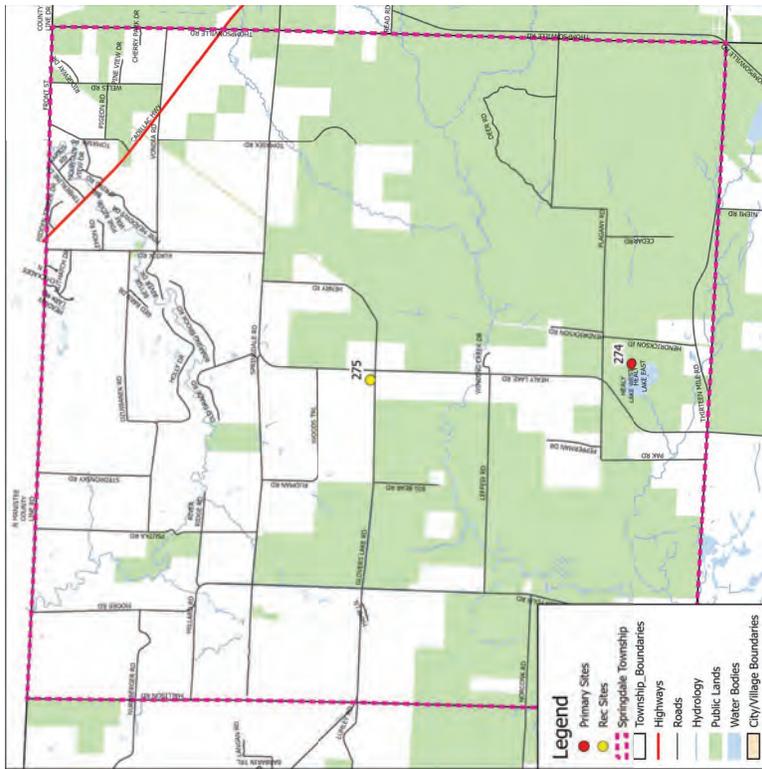
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## Recreation Site Inventory

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	ADA Access (Low, Med, High)	Lighting	Dark Sky Candidate	Parking Availability	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Camping	RV Compatible (Camping)	Portable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Outhouse (Pit Vault)	Garbage Receptacle	Fire Pit	Picnic Table	Water Access	Beach	Canoe/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Picnic Shelter	Trails (Off Pavement)	Playground Equipment	Baseball Field	Tennis/Pickleball Court	Basketball Court
274	Healy Lake State Forest Campground/Boat Launch	State	1	RP	L	•	•	3	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
275	Springdale Twp Hall and Park	SPR	2	NP	H	•	•	3	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

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# Stronach Township

## Community Description

Stronach Township is located within south-central Manistee County, where it borders Mason County. The population, according to the 2019 ACS 5-year estimates is 825. Stronach is a double township meaning that it contains almost twice the area of a normally bound 3.6 square mile township. The township extends east from the shoreline of Manistee Lake to the western boundary of Norman Township located to the east.

Stronach was organized in 1855 as a three parent township. In 1868, Stronach Township saw the last split of land area from the original parent in the form of Filer Township, located to the west. After that time, Stronach Township contained the land area that is currently represented by its jurisdictional boundaries.

Stronach Township is home to the segment of the Little Manistee River that passes through Manistee County before entering Manistee Lake. The river is one of the best steelhead fisheries in the State of Michigan and boasts a healthy population of resident brown trout as well. Many rustic river access locations can be found along the river throughout the township along with more developed sites such as the DNR weir.

The Big M Trail System, located within the Udell Hills, is a world class mountain biking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing trail system. This extensive localized trail network is augmented by the linear North Country Trail, which transects the Stronach and provides connections to Norman and Dickson township, as well as to Mason County to the south. The Marzinski Horse Trailhead and Campground is the only equestrian trail system within Manistee County. The loop trail system offers horseback riding routes that wind through USFS lands.

The established trail systems within the township lend themselves to a county-wide trail planning effort, as many routes and connections to neighboring communities are in place. Further work for connections to Filer Township and the City of Manistee to the west should remain a priority.

## Administrative Structure

<b>Municipality</b>	Village of Onekama
<b>Governing body responsible for recreation planning</b>	Onekama Village Recreation Committee
<b>Governing body authorized to commit funds</b>	Village Council
<b>Budget</b>	\$44,041.00
<b>Sources of funds</b>	Line Item
<b>Volunteers</b>	No volunteers
<b>Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements</b>	Partners with Onekama Township Parks & Recreation Committee
<b>Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)</b>	No
<b>Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center</b>	No



## Recreation Site Inventory

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Mod, High)	Explore the Shores Site	Lighting	Dark Sky Candidate	Forking Avoidability	Storage Directional	Storage Educational	Camping	RV Compatible (Camping)	Portable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Outhouses (For YOUTH)	Garbage Receptacle	Picnic Table	Benches	Grill	Water Access	Fish/Fishing Platform	Conceal/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Fishing Use Recycle Box	Picnic Shelter	Viewing Platform	Trailhead (Water Land)	Trails (Off Footwear)	Floating Equipment	Baseball Court		
2855	Big M Trailhead	USFS	1	RP	M					3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
289	Udell North Country Trail Trailhead	USFS	1	PT	L					2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
287	Claybank Park	STR	1	CP	M					2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
288	Marzinski Horse Trail & Campground	USFS	1	SU	L					3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
291	Stronach Twp Hall & Community Center	STR	1	SU	M					3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
292	Stronach Twp Park	STR	1	NP	M					3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
303	Little Manistee River Weir Facility	State	1	SU	H					3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
279	9 Mile Bridge	State	1	SU	L					2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
290	Wain-Su/Stronach Rd Bridge Access	STR	1	NRA	L					1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*



# Arcadia Township

## **Goal 1: Develop multi-use trails that link local community assets and connect Arcadia 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.
- Develop a snowmobile trail that connects Arcadia to the county-wide system.
- Provide user amenities at the trailheads that include trash receptacles, signage, pavilions, ADA compliant bathrooms, potable water, seating, lighting, fitness stations and bike repair stations. Current trailheads are at the Pleasant Valley Community Center (PVCC), Finch Park, Arcadia Beach & Natural Area and Grebe Park.
- Develop a clearly marked and communicated snowshoe and cross-country ski route; the route may coincide with the non-motorized trail system but may also utilize Township-owned property on Erdman Road and 13 Mile Road, as well as Onekama School District property on Norconk Road.
- Prioritize trail route development that would connect existing neighborhoods, parks, community and economic centers and Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy lands within the township. These routes may consist of on-road connections, separated paths, easements across private property and linkages to existing trails.

## **Goal 2: Improve existing park and recreational facilities within Arcadia so that they meet all safety standards, are designed to be used by all types of users, are well maintained and relevant.**

- Continue to implement the park improvement plans that were established for Sunset Station, Arcadia Beach & Natural Area and Veterans Memorial Park & Marina.
- Develop site specific park plan for Pickett Park that includes, but is not limited to, improving landscaping, adding a pavilion, replacing the play structure, replacing the swing set to also include an ADA compliant child seat and reusing existing features in a new creative way.
- Develop a site specific park plan for Finch Park that includes, but is not limited to, improving landscaping, replacing and/or improving restrooms, improving seating, creating a pickleball court on the tennis court, making the site ADA accessible, improving lighting and developing a venue for community concerts.
- Ensure recreation sites have appropriate lighting and are universally accessible.
- Develop picnic table shelters at recreation sites, especially along the beachfront.
- Expand water resources to parks (potable and non-potable as appropriate).
- Replace signage at Arcadia's recreation sites so that it includes site information and is displayed with a unified theme and color palette.

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- Work with the Army Corps of Engineers and EGLE to secure dredging spoils from the Arcadia Lake Channel dredging to supplement beach sand at Arcadia Beach & Natural Area.

- Provide WiFi connectivity at recreation sites.
- Add showers and a generator at the PVCC.
- Extend North Pier to reduce dredging needs.
- Promote dark sky viewing in the township, including the potential addition of an observatory.
- Support efforts to implement WiFi accessibility in public spaces.
- Plant trees throughout the community and replace trees nearing end-of-life.
- Improve sidewalks throughout the township.

## **Goal 3: Develop new park and recreational facilities that are tailored toward both organized and individual recreational opportunities, that are accessible by all users and meet the needs of a wide variety of resident recreation interests.**

- Facilitate meetings with members of the public, community groups (e.g. Lions Club, GTRLC, PVCC, Arcadia Garden Club, Camp Arcadia, Amway Co., etc.) to understand their recreation goals as they relate to this plan and the Township Master Plan in order to identify priorities that can be worked on collaboratively.
- Place adult porch swings and other seating throughout the township, especially near areas of higher pedestrian activity.
- Develop the following new facilities at the PVCC or on other suitable Township-owned property: ice skating rink, outdoor pickleball court, fish cleaning station, sports fields/courts, disc golf and community garden.
- Develop a trailhead and information hub at a public space for the trail system, Arcadia Marsh, Arcadia Beach & Natural Area and any other natural area that promotes environmental education. This information kiosk should be an outdoor, simple roof structure that is self-guided.
- Develop the Arcadia Campground property on Arcadia Lake in keeping with this Recreation Plan and the Master Plan.
- Add turnouts on M-22 to make launching, fishing and wildlife viewing safer.

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**Goal 4: Develop and implement Township policies, initiatives and partnerships that support recreation.**

- Continue to identify the potential purchase of properties that are adjacent to Lake Michigan and Arcadia Lake, would link existing recreation sites or would otherwise support environmental stewardship in Arcadia while providing recreation opportunities to residents and visitors.
- Formalize a collaborative partnership with the PVCC to recognize their role as a catalyst for the development of recreation initiatives and programming. The PVCC is also a suitable location for recreation scheduling and a point of communication for residents regarding recreational opportunities.
- Work with the PVCC to assess the possibility of funding a part-time staff member for programming throughout the township and at the PVCC. Programming opportunities may include a farmer's market, antique fair, community garage sale, art show and other opportunities identified by the public.
- Enhance the safety and aesthetic quality of pedestrian paths in the community through streetscape improvements such as the addition of crosswalks, vegetation and landscaping, ADA compliance, signage and sidewalk repairs.
- Coordinate with MDOT on potential traffic calming measures along the M-22 corridor.
- Seek out regional collaborative partners to identify opportunities for developing recreational opportunities that cross municipal boundaries such as trail systems (land and water), harbor dredging and program development.
- Coordinate with the State Waterways Commission for marina management.

**Goal 5: Create and improve recreational programming and opportunities.**

- Improve the parks so that youth of all ages have more recreational opportunities.
- Increase the Manistee Recreation Area's presence by conducting a meeting with families in the community to educate them about the MRA and find out what their needs are in order to strengthen the MRA programming.
- Evaluate, collaborate and improve recreational programming at the PVCC. This effort may require the hiring of part-time staff to supplement the all volunteer organization (see Goal 4).
- Create a subcommittee made up of residents to develop a concert series that would be primarily hosted at Finch Park.
- Create a subcommittee to develop an organized, well communicated driving and/or walking tour route of the Township titled "Explore Arcadia" that leads view seekers to clearly identified locations to view the scenic rural character, Arcadia marsh, Lake Michigan, the night (dark) sky while also providing opportunities to connect to non-motorized trail systems. A similar self-walking trail may be developed for pedestrian traffic.
- Update the Township website and other social media so that it provides a single source of information regarding recreation related community events, recreational assets, recreational opportunities and activity schedules. Work with the PVCC to ensure this information is posted regularly. (visitarcadiami.com)
- Add useful links to the Township webpage, including but not limited to, the Manistee Recreation Authority and the Council on Aging.
- Provide adult education and fitness classes at the PVCC.

# Bear Lake Township

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

- Develop a trail connection that would use Potter Road to connect US-31 to M-22.
- Create a way-finding signage system that would show water access points, parks and other recreational, cultural and historical sites on maps within the township (including the cemetery).

## **Goal 2: Develop facilities and purchase land that will be used for increasing recreational opportunities while also serving other municipal purposes and goals.**

- Build a new Township Hall that would allow for the development of recreation facilities and activities such as ball fields, shelters, a picnic area, bird watching, an informational kiosk, a playground and others as supported by the community.
- Identify sites on Bear Lake and Chief Lake to purchase.

## **Goal 3: Plan for recreational development of vistas and dark sky initiatives.**

- Identify sites that preserve scenic vistas as well as cultural and historic sites.
- Prepare a viewshed map of the community.
- Special consideration for preservation efforts should be given to Windy Ridge, Potter Road, Spruce Ridge, 9 Mile, 11 Mile, Maidens Road, and Chief Road. Create the regulatory mechanisms (zoning) to preserve these vistas.
- Identify sites that may be used for the development of a Dark Sky Park.

## **Goal 4: Improve recreational opportunities for youth.**

- Conduct a survey of local youth to identify recreational interests and gaps in recreation programming and facilities.
- Maintain existing park spaces and equipment which are utilized by youth. Support ongoing maintenance of the Bear Lake School Athletic Fields.

## **Goal 5: Improve access to Bear Lake and Little Beaver Creek.**

- Identify access points on the Little Beaver Creek that may also be universally accessible. Consider sites on Chief Road and 8 Mile Road east of Chief Road.
- Partner with Explore the Shores Program to develop the access sites to be compliant for all types of users.

## **Goal 6: Develop an eco-tourism economy.**

- Meet with the County Visitors Bureau to improve marketing of the township to increase tourism.

## **Goal 7: Maintain good stewardship of the natural resources within the township while also developing recreational opportunities.**

- Set up a boat power washing cleaning station at a public access site to Bear Lake and Chief Lake in order to combat Aquatic Invasive Species.

## Village of Bear Lake

### **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.
- Delegate a representative from Bear Lake to participate on the SMARTrails committee.
- Link recreation sites in the Village through non-motorized trails.

### **Goal 2: Increase the use of Hopkins Park through site improvements.**

- Develop parking areas for boaters.
- Add a new bath house and showers.
- Provide potable water to campsites.
- Improve or replace existing beach pavilion.
- Add a mobi mat or other accessible pathway on the beach.
- Improve the playground equipment.

### **Goal 3: Improve the quality and quantity of recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.**

- Develop or enhance spaces that appeal to a younger demographic.
- Evaluate and improve gaps in programming for adults.
- Develop athletic fields in the community.
- Plan for and create a new community center, playground, sidewalk connections to points of interest and a splash pad.
- Add canoe and kayak launches on Bear Lake.
- Improve ADA accessibility at Village recreation sites.
- Assist in implementing the US-31 Corridor Plan (2017).

### **Goal 4: Develop an eco-tourism economy.**

- Meet with the Visitors Bureau to educate them about the Village recreational opportunities in order to improve marketing to increase tourism.
- Attract and retain a recreation-oriented business or businesses on Bear Lake.

## Brown Township

### **Goal 1: Improve access to the Manistee River, Chief Lake and other inland lakes.**

- Coordinate with Bear Lake Township to establish an Explore the Shores site on Chief Lake.
- Improve recreational offerings at the Chief Lake public access site by improving landscaping, install a seasonal dock, create a beach area, install benches, picnic tables, grills, improve existing parking to a larger area and ensure that the facility meets Universal Design Standards.
- Support the USFS restructuring of Bear Creek Boat Launch on the Manistee River.

### **Goal 2: Create a community recreational gathering place.**

- Improve the Township Hall in order to make it the place to gather for recreational purposes. Improvements may include, but are not limited to, ensuring ADA access, building a picnic shelter, adding playground equipment, resurfacing the parking lot and building a retaining wall on the north side near Coates Highway.

### **Goal 3: Continue to assess opportunities to add recreation assets and opportunities in the community.**

- Acquire land adjacent to the Township Hall on the west side (≈ 3 Acres) that abuts Chief Creek.
- Identify land abutting the Manistee River that could be acquired for recreational use.
- Support and encourage agritourism provisions in the zoning ordinance.
- Collaborate with Manistee County and adjacent jurisdictions on recreation programming and site development.
- Develop a frisbee golf course in Brown Township.

### **Goal 4: Support the development of multi-use trails that are connected to a County-wide trail system and that connect local amenities.**

- Collaborate with SMARTrails, the Manistee County Planning Department, the Manistee County Recreation Commission and neighboring jurisdictions on multi-use trail development efforts.
- Link recreation sites in the township through non-motorized trails.
- In order to make connections in the trail system running through Manistee County and through Brown Township, build a bridge in the vicinity of Bear Creek and develop a continuous trail from the Bear Creek access to Kettlehole Road. Assess the feasibility of constructing bridges to the island near White Fence on the Manistee River. If the island in section 22 near White Fence is connected with bridges, improve the island with picnic and camping amenities.
- Coordinate with the USFS on trail development, improvements and maintenance.
- Incorporate existing snowmobile trails into the township with spur trails.

## Clean Township

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

- Use the railroad grade as a trail for connections to Wexford County and Benzie County.
- Locate a trail hub that will serve the convergence of trails from three counties. Develop this trailhead with amenities that may include, but are not limited to, seating, signage, a roadside park, restrooms and potable water.
- Support the Betzie River Blue Water Trail system.
- Connect to the Betzie Valley Trail in Benzie County.
- Continue to coordinate with the DNR on allowing ORV usage along the rail bed. Place signage to demarcate private and public lands.

### **Goal 2: Work collaboratively with Copenish Village to plan for, implement and maintain recreation sites that serve the village and the township.**

- Meet annually or biannually with the Village to discuss park improvements and to offer support.
- The Village Parks located in Copenish serve the greater area of Clean Township. Show support for park improvements by supporting grant applications with letters of support.
- Establish community and volunteer events centered around recreation.

### **Goal 3: Establish recreation sites within Clean Township.**

- Develop a picnic area at the Township Hall and Fire Station with a pavilion shelter and picnic tables.
- Improve the Township Hall property with additional recreational infrastructure including, but not limited to, ball fields, a skate park and walking trails.

# Village of Copenish

## Goal 1: Cultivate a strong sense of place in Copenish by enhancing recreation sites and bolstering programming.

- Host more public events that celebrate the community's history and unique attributes (similar to Copenish Heritage Days).
- Host smaller events and workshops that appeal to various recreational interests, age groups and physical abilities.
- Periodically solicit feedback from the public regarding parks and recreation in Copenish. This may be through surveys, focus groups or public meetings.
- Add informational signage at historically significant sites throughout the Village.
- Regularly update the Village's website to promote local events throughout the calendar year.
- Continue to coordinate with media outlets in the area to market events in Copenish.
- Honor service members in the community.

## Goal 2: Maintain and improve park facilities so that they are accessible and attractive to a wide user group.

- Improve ADA accessibility at Village-operated recreation sites.
- Make improvements to the Village Hall to allow for increased usage by the community.
- Add restrooms as needed at park facilities.
- Research potential opportunities to add unique recreational experiences into Copenish's public spaces. Examples may include, but may not be limited to, a splash park, zip lines, murals or outdoor sculptures. Engage members of the community to gauge interest in these types of projects.
- Add more playground equipment to Lewis Park and Mish-a-Mish Park.
- Provide drinking fountains at Lewis Park and Mish-a-Mish Park.
- Improve lighting at park facilities.
- Add a covered picnic structure at Mish-a-Mish Park.
- Include directional signage, benches, and improved trail surfaces at First Creek Nature Trails.

## Goal 3: Continue to support improvements to the Betsie Valley Trail. Take advantage of the regional trail's contribution to Copenish's economy, sense of community and appreciation for the area's natural assets.

- Collaborate with Manistee County and SMART Trails to acquire use of the abandoned railroad bed to improve the Village's trail segment that connects to the county-wide trail system and the Betsie Valley Trail system.
- Continue to participate and retain a member with SMART Trails, the county-wide trail committee.\*
- Continue to collaborate with SMART Trails, the Manistee County Planning Department, the Manistee County Recreation Commission and neighboring jurisdictions on multi-use trail development efforts.
- Develop separate trailheads for non-motorized uses and snowmobiles at the locations identified on the Future Land Use Map.\*
- Highlight the Betsie Valley Trail and its connection to Copenish on the Village website.
- Add directional signage along the Betsie Valley Trail segment that lies within Copenish to endorse local points of interest and to further link the trailway to the village.
- Improve non-motorized connectivity and safety between Lewis Park and the nearby non-motorized trailhead.
- Upon improvement of the Betsie Valley Trail, include seating, restrooms, water and bike repair amenities at trailhead sites.

\* Found in the Village Master Plan

## Dickson Township

### **Goal 1: Improve park facilities in the township.**

- Install lighting at the baseball diamond.
- Install volleyball courts with a sand court.
- Incorporate a campground into the Manikwa Park in the township.

### **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.

### **Goal 3: Improve access to the Manistee River.**

- Develop river fishing platforms at key points on the Manistee River for easier access to the water.
- Plow the boat launch in the winter months at Blacksmith Bayou and improve the site with amenities to encourage winter usage.
- Add fishing platforms at Blacksmith Bayou.
- Further develop the Explore the Shores site at Tippy Dam to include a Universally Accessible Kayak Launch.
- Create an Explore the Shores site at the USFS High Bridge Access that includes a Universally Accessible Kayak Launch.

## Village of Eastlake

### **Goal 1: Improve the Village of Eastlake's recreation sites.**

- Improve Penny Park by developing an ADA accessible fishing pier, paving and further improving the parking lot and adding an additional dock for the bayou.
- Stabilize the shoreline at Penny Park.
- Improve Johnson Field by installing cameras, ensuring accessibility for all users, providing adequate parking, improving landscaping, improving lighting, building a gazebo.
- Improve the Nature Walk by maintaining the trails, providing adequate parking, adding seating and developing a gazebo or picnic area.
- Provide accessible features at Eastlake's recreation sites.
- Improve the Village Hall's brick foundation, exterior siding and repair the upstairs interior of the building.

### **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.
- Explore and consider the implementation of a trail or walkway providing access to Penny Park and the Manistee Lake shoreline from the village's residential areas.

### **Goal 3: Provide cost-effective, responsive and efficient recreation services and facilities.**

- Maintain an advisory committee to the Village Council for recreation improvements, opportunities and grants.

## Charter Township of Filer

### Goal 1: Improve parks and recreation facilities in the township.

- See the Filer Township Park Improvements 2022 table for specific park improvements. The park improvements listed are improvements that need to be made to improve the specific park mentioned (See Table F-1).
- Include full cutoff lighting fixtures at park facilities to reduce light pollution.
- Improve access to water throughout the township.

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

- Implement bike paths separate from roads.
- Improve safety by creating safe crossing areas across large roads
- If the existing railroad is relocated or other old railroad beds become available (Indian Trail), utilize the land for trails.
- Create a looped paved road shoulder trail loop that connects Red Apple Road, Fox Farm Road and Wildwood Roads.
- Create trail connections throughout the community to school facilities.

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

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

Table F-1. Filer Township Park Improvements

Park Improvements Desired	Benches	Bike Rack	Boardwalk & Observation Deck	Building Repair/Additions/Update	Changing House	Emergency Phone	Parking Barricade Replacement	Parking Lot Improvements/Addition	Pet Waste Stations	Playground Equipment	Restrooms	Shelter House for Winter Use	Signage	Trails Trash Receptacles
Canfield Lake Boat Launch	X								X					X
Filer City Park	X	X												
Filer Township Hall	X	X												
Filer Township Rec Center	X	X		X						X				
Magoon Creek		X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
Oak Hill Park	X	X												
Sundling Park	X	X												X

## Village of Kaleva

### **Goal 1: Develop multi-use trails that are connected to a County wide trail system and that connect local amenities.**

- Collaborate with SMARTrails, the Manistee County Planning Department, the Manistee County Recreation Commission and neighboring jurisdictions on multi-use trail development efforts.
- 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.
- Link recreation sites in the Village through non-motorized trails.

### **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.
- Add lighting at park facilities.
- Add references to the municipal website on park signage.

### **Goal 3: Develop recreation site improvements at the 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 on-site.
- 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.

## Manistee Township

### **Goal 1: Improve public access to Lake Michigan and the Manistee River.**

- Improve parking at Bar Lake Outlet by creating a safer parking area.
- Work in collaboration and support the DNR as they work to revitalize the Manistee Marsh. Support DNR improvements for access and parking to the Manistee State Game Area wildlife viewing platform.
- Explore options for increasing access to Lake Michigan. Increased access to Lake Michigan at Orchard Beach State Park would alleviate excessive use of the Bar Lake Outlet.

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

- Create paths that will accommodate cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling trails.
- Improve safety by creating safe crossing areas across large roads.
- Extend snowmobile trails from M-22 to the northeast.

### **Goal 3: Promote safe pedestrian and non-motorized mobility throughout the township, especially between recreation sites and local points of interest.**

- Collaborate with SMARTrails, the Manistee County Planning Department, the Manistee County Recreation Commission and neighboring jurisdictions on multi-use trail development efforts.
- Coordinate with MDOT and community members to implement traffic calming measures and pedestrian amenities along US-31.

### **Goal 4: Improve existing recreation facilities.**

- Inventory recreation sites for frequency of usage, user needs and opportunities to expand the types of recreation offered at each site.
- Improve parking at water access sites including those at Poplar Street, Birch Street, Maplewood Avenue and Balsam Avenue.
- At the Manistee Township Hall, improve pickleball courts, the picnic area, the ball field, add playground equipment and develop a soccer field.
- Enhance accessibility at Bar Lake Park. Add mobi mats on the beach.
- Add restrooms at the Manistee Township Park at the Township Hall.
- Manistee Township seeks to work collaboratively and act as a grant applicant with support from the Friends of Orchard State Park on mutually agreed upon grant applications for recreational improvements at Orchard Beach State Park.

# City of Manistee

## Goal 1: Implement improvements to the City's parks and other recreation sites.

- See the City of Manistee Park Improvements - 2022 Table for specific park improvements. The park improvements listed are improvements that need to be taken to improve the specific park mentioned.

## Goal 2: Identify and acquire land for future recreational opportunities.

- Acquire existing railway bed on the southern and northern end of Manistee River to work towards creating a continuous trail route around Manistee Lake ensuring that the trail is connected to the Riverwalk and the County wide trail system.
- Acquire property to build a splash pad park.
- Acquire the Consumers Property- Arthur Street Parcel #51-101-300-01 which is a 13.6 acre parcel for the purpose of overflow parking for the Arthur Street Boat Launch and possible location for a trail segment. If acquisition by the City is not feasible, coordinate with Consumers Energy to support the site as a recreational resource for the community.
- Coordinate with Morton Salt Inc. to support their property (portion that is south of the park; parcel #06-424-709-01) to allow for improvements and expanded uses as outlined in the park's master plan.
- Acquire the Consumers Power Company Parcel #51-712-475-01 in order to make improvements to the Ninth Street Boat Launch and in reserve for the adjacent City of Manistee Waste Water Treatment Facility located north of the launch.
- Acquire the property west of Washington Street to Harbor Village Channel to extend the Riverwalk to the Harbor Village Channel.
- Acquire the Consumers Energy property(s), or establish easements, along the river channel to Manistee Lake, just east of the US-31 bridge. This initiative would complete the riverwalk through and around the peninsula to the east portion of Manistee Lake. This should eventually result in connections to a county-wide trail system.

## Goal 3: Develop multi-use trails that are connected to a county-wide trail system.

- Create a network of trails and bike paths, including on-road and off-road routes, that connect points of interest such as Lake Michigan, neighborhoods, parks, businesses and natural areas.
- Continue to work collaboratively with SMARTrails and neighboring jurisdictions in developing a county-wide trail system.
- Improve safety by creating safe crossing areas across large roads with specific focus on US-31 between 1st Street and 8th Street. Coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions on pedestrian traffic concerns along roadways that cross through the City.
- Become a part of the Blue Water Trail network. The first step will be establishing a water trailhead within the city.
- Develop a snowmobile route with way-finding signage that is connected to the great Manistee County Snowmobile Trail System.
- Continue to support improvements and marketing efforts for Bike Highway 35.

## Goal 4: Improve access to the community's water resources.

- Create a zero entry boat launch and undertake other improvements at Arthur Street Boat Launch, Fifth Avenue Beach, the Municipal Marina and the Ninth Street Boat Launch.
- Implement ADA accessible features to support expanded use of Manistee's water resources.
- Create a canoe and kayak launch at the south portion of the riverwalk or at any other suitable launch sites.
- Create an area within the city for crewing.
- Create a pier on Man Made Lake and improve the pier at Douglas Park and the Ninth Street Boat Launch.

Table F-2. City of Manistee Park Improvements

	Arthur Street Board Lunch	Douglas Park	Fifth Avenue Beach	Mack Park	Manhole Deck	Municipal Marina	Morton Park	North Street Board Lunch	North Beach Access	Riverwalk/Memorial Park	Red Square Park	South Beach
Ball field improvements/add		X										
Basin bank stabilization		X	X									
Battering cages		X	X	X								
Benches		X	X	X								
Bike racks		X	X	X								
Blue bins		X	X	X								
Bleachers		X	X	X								
Blue Trail Access Point		X										
Boardwalk improvements		X										
Boys and Girls Club		X										
Canoe/kayak launch												
Crewing/rowing facilities-new												
Cruise Ship Accessibility to												
Deck golf												
Deck for picnic table/fun												
Docking water												
Fencing		X	X	X								
Fish cleaning station		X										
Flag pole		X										
Green space area		X	X	X								
Handicap		X	X	X								
Lighting improvements/add												
Marina		X	X	X	X							
Parking lot improvements/add		X	X	X	X							
Pavilion at "tie tying" area		X	X	X	X							
Picnic area/shelter		X	X	X	X							
Pier improvements/addition		X	X	X	X							
Playground equipment		X	X	X	X							
Ramp improvements		X	X	X	X							
Restrooms		X	X	X	X							
Rollerblading area		X	X	X	X							
Road infrastructure improvement		X	X	X	X							
Rollerblade area		X	X	X	X							
Round About Landscaping		X	X	X	X							
Shuffle boards		X	X	X	X							
Stairways repair existing		X	X	X	X							
Stairway improvements		X	X	X	X							
Sports field		X	X	X	X							
Splash pad		X	X	X	X							
Sprinkler System		X	X	X	X							
Telescope		X	X	X	X							
Tennis court improvement/add		X	X	X	X							
Trail improvements/add		X	X	X	X							
Unimproved accessibility at		X	X	X	X							
Vending Machines		X	X	X	X							
Volley ball - add/improvement		X	X	X	X							

**Goal 5: Develop an eco-tourism economy.**

- Attract more, and continue to support existing, outdoor rental businesses.
- Continue to meet with the visitors bureau to promote Manistee's recreation sites through various forms of marketing.

**Goal 6: Improve recreational programming.**

- Evaluate and improve gaps in programming for youth.
- Evaluate and improve gaps in programming for adults.
- Evaluate and improve gaps in programming for those with disabilities.

**Goal 7: Create new recreational opportunities.**

- Create a community ice arena.
- Create a specific park accessible for all kids with no barriers and a wheelchair accessible playground structure
- Build an outdoor amphitheater.
- Build an outdoor pool.
- Build a community recreation center with a climbing wall, indoor pool, childcare, etc.
- Identify potential sites for an outdoor fitness center and develop these amenities for public use..
- Develop a disc golf course within the city.
- Develop a dog park at Morton Park.

## Maple Grove Township

**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: Continue to develop partnerships with organizations in the community that contribute to the area's recreation opportunities, as well as those that support conservation efforts.**

- Improve the KND property for multi-use trails, snow shoeing, restroom facilities, shelter, parking, and to harvest the timber for revenue. This is the 40-acre parcel in Section 29.
- Improve the KND property for multi-use trails, informational signage, restroom facilities, parking, fishing, placed-based learning opportunities, bird watching and events. This is the 160-acre parcel in Section 19.

## Marilla Township

### Goal 1: Improve access to the Manistee River.

- Improve the suspension bridge on the Manistee River Trail to ensure it is ADA compliant with improved parking.
- Improve access at Woodpecker Creek by enhancing the boat slide and adding parking.
- Develop an Explore the Shores site on the Hodenpyl Stretch.
- Upgrade boat launches at the Hodenpyl North Tailwater Access and Canoe Portage to allow for easier access for canoes and drift boats.
- Identify opportunities to make river access ADA accessible.

### Goal 2: Develop multi-use trails that are connected to a County-wide trail system and that connect local points of interest.

- Continue to work collaboratively in developing the County-wide trail system
- Link existing trails to the Marilla Township Hall.
- Develop a trail connection between Memorial Forest to the Marilla Cemetery. Utilize either site as a trailhead with improved lighting, parking, restrooms, seating and signage.
- Coordinate with the USFS on trail maintenance needs.

### Goal 3: Promote and maintain recreational opportunities so that the Township is a year-round tourist destination.

- Create and produce materials which point out the recreational opportunities within the Township.
- Feature community events and recreation opportunities on the municipal website.

### Goal 4: Improve existing recreation facilities and expand recreation opportunities in the community.

- Develop hiking, snowshoe, and cross-country ski trails on the Township owned 80 acres of land at O.D. Stark Memorial Forest. Include restrooms and signage on-site.
- At the Marilla Township Hall, include a walking path, playground equipment, grills, a pavilion, seating, outdoor restrooms and fitness equipment.
- Improve existing parking, restrooms and eliminate parking fees at the Marilla County Trailhead.
- Acquire land for new recreation opportunities or to expand existing recreation sites including playgrounds, walking paths, picnic areas, restrooms and covered pavilions.
- Identify a location for athletic fields and courts, preferably adjacent to an existing recreation site.

## Norman Township

### **Goal 1: Increase awareness about natural resources and recreational opportunities in Norman Township.**

- Meet with the Visitors Bureau to further educate them about the Township's recreational opportunities.

### **Goal 2: Support work for establishment of trail connections to neighboring communities.**

- Continue to work collaboratively with neighboring jurisdictions, Manistee County and SMARTrails to develop a county-wide trail system.
- Continue to support and have a representative serve on a trail planning and implementation team.
- Identify opportunities to link ORV trails to points of interest and neighboring communities in a manner that does not interfere with other uses.

### **Goal 3: Improve Norman Township's park amenities.**

- At the Norman Township Tippy Pond Boat Launch, support development of a universally accessible fishing platform, a paved walkway to the waterfront, parking improvements, a boat launch, lighting, grills and seating.
- Create plans for ball fields and courts at the township-owned property on 6th Street.
- Implement the following features at Crystal Lake Park: a trail that circles the lake; a walking trail within the park; seating; a playground; a memorial for veterans and firefighters; parking; a new retaining wall at the beach; improved volleyball courts; an ADA kayak/canoe launch; a restroom and washing facility; BBQ pits; a pavilion or gazebo; an event staging area for a farmers market and other public uses; new basketball courts; replace the fishing dock; and improved ADA accessibility on the entire site and especially to the dock.
- Develop an athletic center within the township.

### **Goal 4: Maintain, market and improve the community's rustic trails and blueways.**

- Encourage and support development of a back-country loop trail with campsites on USFS lands around the Pine River.
- Further promote the beauty of the Pine River as a blueway trail.
- Support education efforts for "leave no-trace" practices for visitors and residents.

# Onekama Township

## Goal 1: Continue to manage parks and road ends within the Township in a manner that balances user needs, intended uses and ecological stability.

- Develop and implement a master plan for each park in Onekama Township.
- Conduct an inventory of each park using the Parks Management Plan.
- Keeping original intended uses and purposes of each park in the system in mind solicit public feedback and input regarding parks and recreation at public meetings.
- Implement a Park Watchers and Park Advocates program to monitor park properties regularly. Engage members of the community to recruit volunteers. Encourage the Advocates to participate in park planning processes.
- Add signage at road ends that describe their intended uses and designations.
- Add wayfinding, informational and historic signage throughout the community.
- Conduct assessments of the community's road ends to evaluate violations.
- Based on the road ends assessments, prioritize enforcement efforts and present these efforts to the Township Board for review.
- In order to promote appropriate uses at individual parks, add informational signage, wayfinding signage and interpretive signage. Supported activities at individual parks will also be listed on the municipal website.
- Employ a part-time employee to maintain Onekama Township's parks.

## Goal 2: Collaborate with other local units of government, Manistee County, businesses, and civic organizations to improve existing park facilities and to identify new parks and recreation opportunities.

- Encourage collaboration between Onekama Township and the Village of Onekama when budgeting and planning for parks and recreation.
- Township Board to seek out and appoint member of the Onekama Township Parks and Recreation Committee, or other interested volunteers, to engage with parks and recreation stakeholders to foster ongoing collaborative relationships.
- Work with neighboring jurisdictions, Manistee County and other relevant stakeholders to identify and implement trail connections.
- Identify opportunities to reduce municipal expenditures on parks and recreation maintenance by sharing services with the Village of Onekama.
- Support the Portage Lake Management Plan for the control of Invasive Species both in and around Portage Lake.
- Work with the Manistee Recreation Association, Onekama Consolidated Schools, Manistee ISD and other organizations to provide programs for residents, youth and those with disabilities.

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## Goal 3: Enhance and expand upon the parks and recreation sites in Onekama Township.

- Where feasible and appropriate, provide seating, potable water, restrooms and lighting at park facilities.
- Develop a bike path or trail around Portage Lake.
- Provide ADA accessibility at recreation sites.
- Continue to support the ongoing stewardship of the Portage Lake Watershed.
- Continue to identify and acquire land that contributes to environmental preservation, education, viewsheds and recreation experiences.
- Support public education efforts regarding invasive species and septic system monitoring.
- Improve parking access at recreation sites.
- Develop additional hiking trails at park sites in addition to supporting non-motorized connections between recreation sites.
- Investigate new recreation infrastructure for activities not currently offered in the community. These may include, but are not limited to, a pickleball court, ice skating and fitness equipment.
- Continue to budget and fund annually for parks and recreation.

## Goal 4: Encourage the use of recreation sites by members of the community through effective public engagement, marketing and partnerships.

- Continue to promote and provide recreation programming for Township residents via nature walks, birding, pollinators, dark sky and beach activities.
- Install a map of Onekama Recreation sites at a site with pedestrian traffic.
- Continue to publish a brochure of parks and recreation of sites for residents and visitors. These should be placed at the library, Township Hall, bank, restaurants, lodging and other highly visible sites in the community.
- Publish a parks and recreation newsletter for donors and local taxpayers.
- Consider justification for parks and recreation funding via a local Township Parks Millage.

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# Village of Onekama

## Goal 1: Highlight, preserve and enhance the community's natural resources to glean their contributions to the environmental, social and economic well-being of Onekama.

- Continue to support Portage Lake's water quality and pollution monitoring by the Portage Lake Watershed Forever organization, Onekama Township and Onekama Consolidated Schools.
- Support the enforcement of the county-wide septic system monitoring program.
- Support the extension of the sewer system into areas where septic systems are endangering the ecological quality of Portage Lake and other bodies of water in the community.
- Support educational initiatives that foster environmental stewardship, such as describing the risks that invasive species pose and best practices for their prevention, management and eradication.
- Involve community organizations in efforts to protect and enhance environmental quality, such as by identifying and controlling invasive species in and around Portage Lake.
- Support the Portage Lake Management Plan and its goals for public health, aquatic ecosystems, water-based recreation, natural resource and cultural assets, and the control of invasives both in and around Portage Lake.
- Continue to support the Portage Lake Overlay Zone in the Village Zoning Ordinance.

## Goal 2: Provide opportunities for enjoying lake views, utilizing the beach and accessing Portage Lake for recreation.

- Explore the possibilities of further dredging and plan a dock extension to improve shore fishing in the Onekama Village Park.
- Support a campaign for legislation to provide Federal funding for dredging of the channel and for necessary pier renovations in the future.
- Continue to use the donation box for use of the Village boat launch.
- Preserve, enhance and promote access and use of scenic vistas.

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## Goal 3: Administer and publicize Onekama Village parks and recreation to the greatest benefit of the community.

- Hold regularly scheduled meetings with the planning commissions of neighboring jurisdictions to develop shared visions for community recreation and to identify opportunities for collaboration and cost-sharing.
- Install a large map of Onekama recreation sites at the Onekama Village Park.
- Continue to budget annually for parks and recreation.
- Inform donors and community members of improvements in, and the current status of, parks and recreation, particularly in instances where donated funds have been used.
- Promote parks fundraising events and activities.
- Continue to collaborate with other local units of government for parks and recreation planning.
- Support the MRA and its ability to provide recreation lessons, events and programming.
- Support the year-round presentation of concerts by local and regional artists.
- In association with the Manistee Recreation Association, the Onekama Consolidated Schools, and other organizations, provide recreation programs for residents, seasonal youth and those with disabilities.

## Goal 4: Improve and enhance Onekama Village's parks and recreation facilities for optimal use by residents, seasonal residents and visitors.

- Cut and replace trees as needed.
- Plan for future needs and upgrades in the Onekama Village Park by garnering public input, followed by the creation of a clear implementation strategy.
- Continue to mechanically groom beaches.
- Continue to maintain the Butterfly Park and other green spaces around Farr Center.
- Support multi-use trail planning efforts locally and regionally.
- Install directional, educational and historical signage as needed.
- Support pickleball court maintenance efforts and usage.

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## Pleasanton Township

### **Goal 1: Develop multi-use trails that are connected to a county-wide trail system and that work to connect local points of interest.**

- Collaborate with SMARTrails, the Manistee County Planning Department, the Manistee County Recreation Commission and neighboring jurisdictions on multi-use trail development efforts.
- Work with the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy to develop an equestrian trail system that allows for horseback riding, horse carts, and camping with a horse trailer.
- Improve safety for trail users by developing safe crossing points on major roads.
- Ensure a well connected snowmobile trail throughout the township.
- Develop a designated trail that circles Bear Lake including mile markers to help measure distance.
- Identify roadways that could feature widened shoulders to allow for non-motorized paths.
- Implement a designated non-motorized connection between May Buell Park and the Township Hall.
- Improve snowmobile trail surfaces for adaptive uses (motorized and non-motorized).
- Develop a walking trail loop at Pleasanton Township Hall.

### **Goal 2: Improve the use of Pleasanton Township parks.**

- Improve the park facilities at the Township Hall Park including updating the lighting at the sports field, improving the playground equipment, developing an outdoor restroom, providing frost-free drinking water, creating a trailhead with signage for snowmobile use and other multi-use trail users and improving seating.
- Develop restroom facilities at Pleasanton Township Park.
- Improve parking, playground equipment and seating at Pleasanton Township Park.
- Implement picnic pavilions at township recreation sites.

### **Goal 3: Create and improve access opportunities to Bear Lake.**

- Continue to identify potential property acquisitions that would promote public access to Bear Lake.
- Support efforts to monitor and steward the ecological quality of Bear Lake.

# Springdale Township

## **Goal 1: Improve access to surface water resources.**

- Support improvements to the Michigan DNR's Beisie River access sites at Moore Road & County Line Road and at Dzuibonek & Kurick Roads.
- Support the development of access site's to the DNR-owned properties at Kurick Road and N County Line Road.
- Make Healy Lake universally accessible for all users.
- Consider making Healy Lake State Forest Campground part of the Explore the Shores program.
- Renew the Township's lease with the State of Michigan for Healy Lake State Forest Campground.
- Develop an on-shore fishing platform at Healy Lake for improved access to the water.

## **Goal 2: Improve recreation sites within Springdale Township.**

- Provide electrical hookups to the Healy Lake State Forest Campground.
- Install a new electric water pump and well at the Healy Lake State Forest Campground.
- Improve and develop ball fields and athletic equipment at Springdale Township Park.
- Develop pickleball courts at Springdale Township Park.

## **Goal 3: Develop multi-use trails that are connected to a county-wide trail system.**

- Make the railroad grade a priority in developing the trail connections.
- Continue to work collaboratively in developing the county-wide trail system.
- Once trail improvements are made to the Beisie Valley Trail, develop Healy Lake State Forest Campground as an established trailhead.
- Coordinate with Manistee County to establish trails for Off-road Vehicles (ORV).

## **Goal 4: Plan for maintenance and funding of recreational facilities, programming, and future opportunities.**

- Create a line item in the budget that funds recreation.
- Create a savings mechanism to save funds for recreational purposes.
- Seek out funding sources (grants, endowments) and actively pursue obtaining funding awards.
- Apply for grants that support park and recreation improvements through the County's Recreation Commission.

## Stronach Township

### **Goal 1: Increase awareness about natural resources and recreational opportunities in Stronach.**

- Meet with the Visitors Bureau to educate them about the township's recreational opportunities.
- Explore ways that the Township can use technology to promote recreation.

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

- Continue to work collaboratively to develop a county-wide trail system.
- Expand and improve the shoulder on Skocelas Road to use for a bike lane.

### **Goal 3: Improve parks and recreation sites in the township to improve quality and offer more recreation opportunities.**

- Add bleachers, develop ADA accessible restrooms and improve parking at Stronach Park with a paved parking area along Stronach Road.
- Improve Claybank Park by adding grills, graveling the parking lot and driveway and developing the park as a trailhead.
- Continue to plan for the maintenance and funding of recreational facilities.
- Develop a fish cleaning station at the boat launch which would be convenient for those fishing Manistee Lake and the Little Manistee River.