



MANISTEE COUNTY-WIDE PARK & RECREATION PLAN

2027-2031

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 Manistee County Planning Department

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 Recreation Commission
- SMARTrails
- Networks Northwest for preparing the previous, 2022-2026 County-Wide Park & Recreation Plan

A special thank you to the Manistee County Tourism Authority for providing photos throughout the plan.



Forward

The 2027-2031 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 the requirements of the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources Five-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 for Manistee County. This plan update signifies the community’s continued willingness to collaborate on important issues. By implementing this plan, local leaders recognize that its effectiveness depends on continued progress toward the goals outlined within it and agree on the importance of continually working to achieve those goals.

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. Public Lands shown throughout this plan include most publicly owned properties (e.g., those owned by a township, village, city, county, state, or other public entity), as well as select privately owned properties that are open to the public. The maps are intended for reference purposes only. 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, including limited 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 of all ability levels, to bicycle and walk to school.

Acronyms

DNR - Department of Natural Resources	ACC - Arcadia Community Center
MDOT - Michigan Department of Transportation	SRTS - Safe Routes to School
GTRLC - Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy	ACS - American Community Survey
MCCF - Manistee County Community Foundation	RFP - Request for Proposals
SMARTrails - Sensational Manistee Area Recreational Trails	RFQ - Request for Qualifications

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**

Manistee County has 21 unique jurisdictions. Different in their geography, local identity and parks and recreation needs. For this reason, although this is a county wide plan, each jurisdiction’s action program features a tailored set of action steps created by the local unit of government to guide its own decision-making.

These action steps are outlined and 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 E.

Benefits of a County-Wide Plan

During the first county-wide planning process, which led to subsequent 5-year plan updates, 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 for facilitating this concept, the County established a 10-member Recreation Commission for Manistee County. Moving forward, and in conjunction with the information and priorities identified in this plan, the goal is to provide local jurisdictions with an opportunity to collaborate on trail projects and pursue multijurisdictional grants through a single entity.

Manistee County does not intend to assume ownership or management of existing recreation facilities that are currently owned and maintained by local units of government. Rather, the County seeks to support local communities by assisting

with grant application requirements and the fiscal and administrative responsibilities associated with trail development. The Manistee County Recreation Commission provides an option for local jurisdictions to partner on multi-jurisdictional trail projects while retaining ownership and maintenance responsibilities through Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs). Through MOUs, the County and participating municipalities can establish roles and responsibilities that allow local jurisdictions to retain ownership and maintenance responsibilities while relying on the County for grant administration and related resources.

By establishing a single entity to coordinate grant funding efforts, participating communities can reduce the time and resources required to pursue and manage recreation grants. Like many municipalities across the state, communities in Manistee County often operate with limited staff and resources, making it challenging to effectively pursue and administer grant-funded parks and recreation projects. Participation in this approach is entirely voluntary and is intended specifically for trail development projects. For communities that choose to participate, this collaborative approach can provide valuable administrative support while strengthening the County’s ability to pursue funding and advance the recreation priorities identified in this plan.

Project Initiation

Manistee County Planning staff began reaching out to municipal leaders in each of the 21 jurisdictions represented in this plan in July 2025. 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 January 2026, most of the municipalities in the county signed resolutions of support to participate (see Appendix F).





Public Engagement

An extensive public engagement process was undertaken during the development of the 2016–2020 County-Wide Park & Recreation Plan, as described in Chapter 4. As Manistee County’s first county-wide recreation plan, it established a strong foundation that continues to guide recreation planning today. The 2027–2031 update builds upon that foundation by comparing public input collected over previous planning cycles to identify changing trends, evolving priorities, and areas of continued support. To reinforce broad community participation for this plan update, Planning Department staff conducted an extensive public outreach effort that included a year-long online survey, outreach at community events, public meetings, public hearings, facilitated roundtable discussions, and drop-in public engagement sessions. Together, these efforts provided valuable insight into both the recreation priorities that have remained consistent over time and those that have emerged since the previous plan update.

Goals & Objectives

The goals and objectives found in Chapter 5 are the overarching, common themes meant to guide the community’s recreation project implementation over the next five years. These goals were developed during the public engagement period and build off the goals found in the previous plan. The planning team worked with local leaders to review 1) where they are at with their goals and objectives, 2) what has changed in their communities 3) what they would like to plan for in the next five years for recreation improvement.

Final Plan Recommendations

The draft 2027–2031 County-Wide Park & Recreation Plan was submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for preliminary review and revised as needed based on agency feedback. Following the DNR review, the draft plan was released for public review, and there were six public hearings held in various locations throughout the county before each local unit of government considered adoption of the plan. After participating municipalities adopted the plan, the

Manistee County Board of Commissioners adopted the final 2027–2031 County-Wide Park & Recreation Plan.

Without Map Boundaries

There are many reasons why Manistee County and its local communities chose to create a county-wide recreation plan in 2015. One of the main reasons was the understanding that natural resources, parks, and recreation opportunities do not stop at township, village, or city boundaries. Features like trails, rivers, and public recreation areas are shared by everyone, regardless of where they live. To provide the parks and recreation amenities that residents wanted, the County and its local communities recognized that working together through a collaborative planning process was the best path forward.

Trails are perhaps the best example of this idea. Throughout the current and previous planning processes, the planning team has continued to hear support for more trail connections in Manistee, which is discussed further in Chapter 3 and Appendix D. 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. A shared vision for recreation opportunities, expressed in an adopted plan, lays the foundation for implementation.

Aside from trails, natural resources such as forests, rivers, shorelines 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.



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Community Description

The county encompasses approximately 542.3 square miles of land. As a predominantly rural area, it is home to a mix of full-time and seasonal residents. The City of Manistee serves as the primary population center, with several smaller villages distributed throughout a landscape of forests, farmland, and Lake Michigan shoreline. Visitors from across the region are drawn to the county’s natural features and recreational opportunities, making tourism a key component of the local economy.

Manistee’s Wide Appeal

This chapter describes Manistee County as a whole, including its community characteristics, demographics, and parks and recreation opportunities. Additional jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction community descriptions are provided in Appendix A, along with their recreation inventories and administrative structures. Appendices B and C contain maps of the county’s extensive natural and recreational resources.

Map Disclaimer:
Public lands shown throughout this plan include most publicly owned properties (e.g., those owned by a township, village, city, county, state, or other public entity), as well as select privately owned properties that are open to the public. The maps are intended for reference purposes only and are not intended to verify ownership or guarantee public access. Public access should always be confirmed with the respective landowner or managing agency.

Public Lands

Manistee County is enriched with public lands. These areas can be divided into different categories based upon ownership. The following landowner 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 nearly 25,000 acres which are contained in State Forest, Game Area and Park lands. This accounts for about 7% of the land area in Manistee.

United State Forest Service Lands

Federal lands contained within the Manistee National Forest total nearly 87,000 acres in Manistee County, accounting for about 25% of the land area.

Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy Lands

Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy has properties which are available for public use. These lands encompass approximately 3,000 acres about 0.8% of the land area in Manistee County.



Private Lands Open to Public Use

Private land holdings open to the public include land owned by organizations such as the Michigan Audubon Society, the Spirit of the Woods Conservation Club, Arcadia Community Center, Portage Point Woods Preserve, and properties in the Commercial Forest Program. Private lands open to public total approximately 1,063 acres. This accounts for about 0.3% of the land area in Manistee.

Consumers Energy Private Lands Open to Public Use

Consumers Energy owns two large hydroelectric dams within Manistee County located along the Manistee River, and at the time of this writing, allows for public use on portions of their land holdings. Consumers Energy lands open to public use encompass approximately 700 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 number of lands totals 959 acres. This accounts for about 0.27% 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 majority of the rivers and creeks in the county are displayed on Map B-2.

Water Bodies

Manistee County contains three 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 grown slightly over the past decade and is projected to continue increasing at a similar rate through 2030. As shown in Figure 1, the population increased from 24,733 in 2010 to 25,032 in 2020, with projections estimating approximately 25,656 in 2025.

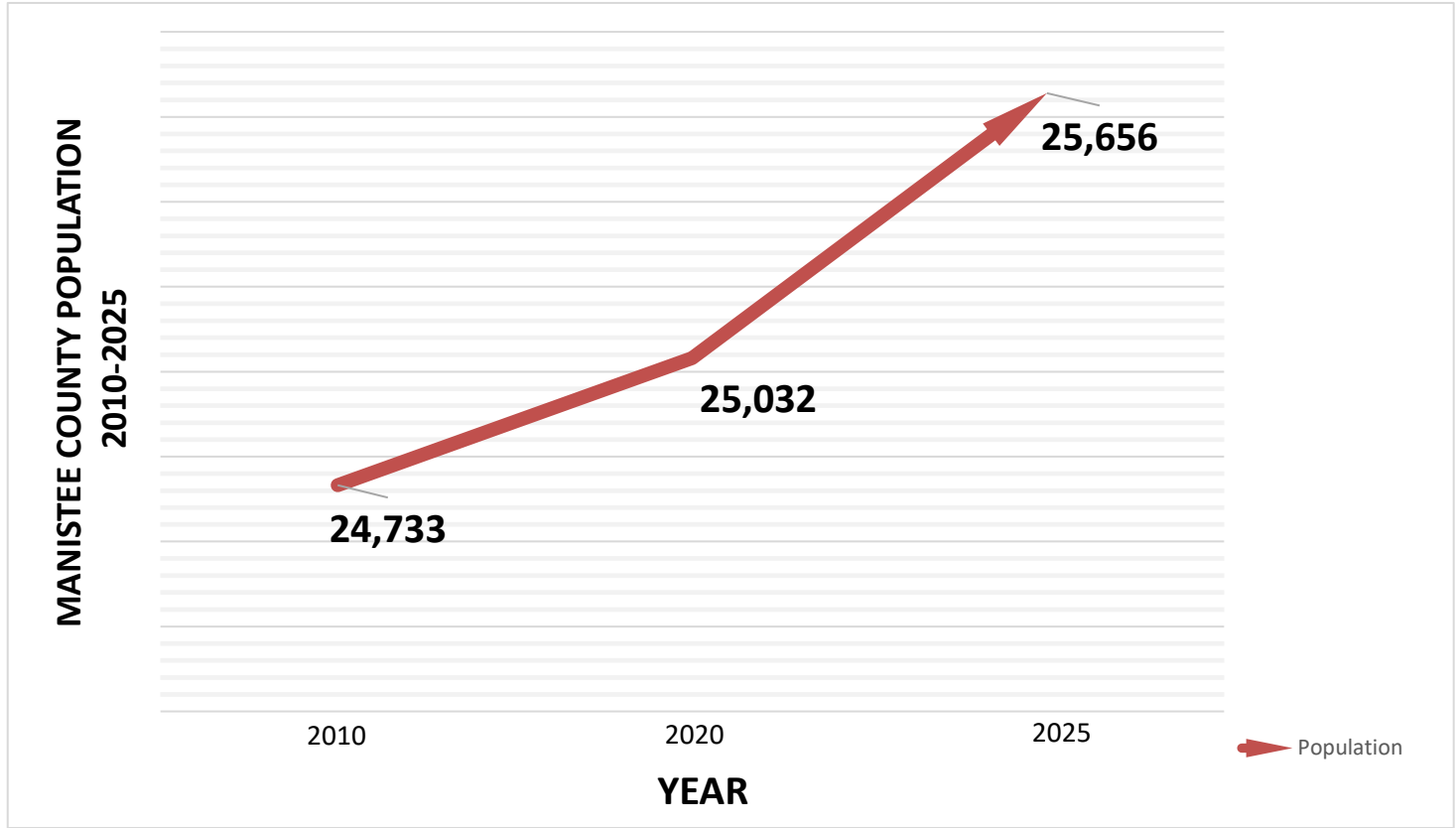
Figure 2 describes the breakdown of three age groups in Manistee: youth, adults, and seniors. The chart supports the projection that from 2025 to 2035, the county’s median age is estimated to continue increasing as the proportion of individuals age 65+ rises. For context, 20.5% of Michigan’s population is age 65 or older, compared to 30.1% in Manistee, according to current US Census QuickFacts. This means Manistee County has an older population than most places in the state. Because of this, local governments may need to change recreation programs and update facilities to better meet the needs of older adults.

Community Demographics

Figure 3 summarizes the distribution of Manistee County’s population among its local units of government based on the 2020 U.S. Census. The City of Manistee is the county’s largest population center, followed by Manistee Township, while the remaining population is distributed among the county’s townships and villages. This distribution demonstrates that recreation planning must balance the needs of more densely populated communities with those of the county’s rural areas, ensuring that parks, recreation facilities, and natural resources remain accessible to residents throughout Manistee County.

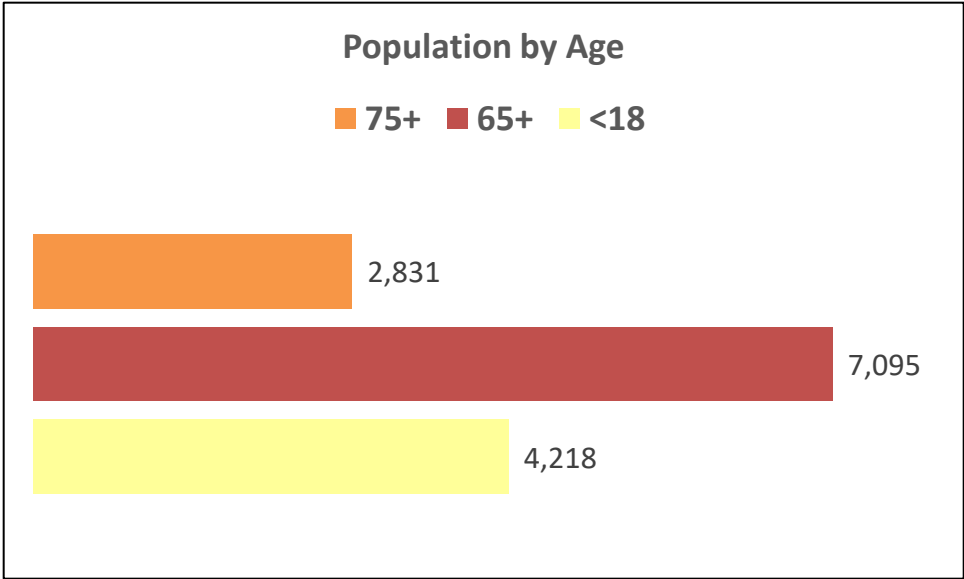
An important consideration in parks and recreation planning is accessibility. According to the 2020–2024 ACS estimates, approximately one in seven people (13.9%) under age 65 in Manistee County lives with at least one form of physical disability. Combined with the County’s relatively higher median age, accessibility should remain a key consideration when planning future recreation improvements. As discussed later in this plan, Manistee County strives to provide recreation opportunities that are accessible to everyone, regardless of physical ability. Ensuring that recreation facilities and opportunities are inclusive and accessible will continue to be a key principle guiding future recreation planning.

Figure 1. Manistee County Population, 2010-2025



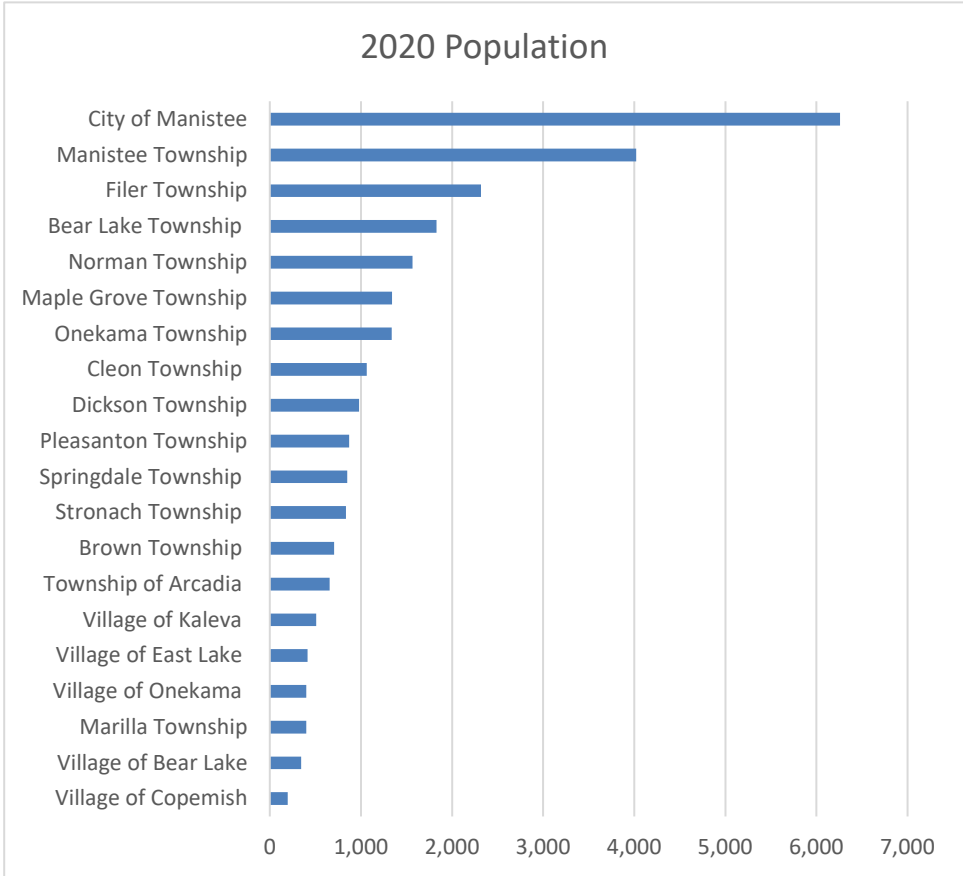
Source: U.S. Census Bureau. “quick facts”

Figure 2. Population by Age, 2010-2025

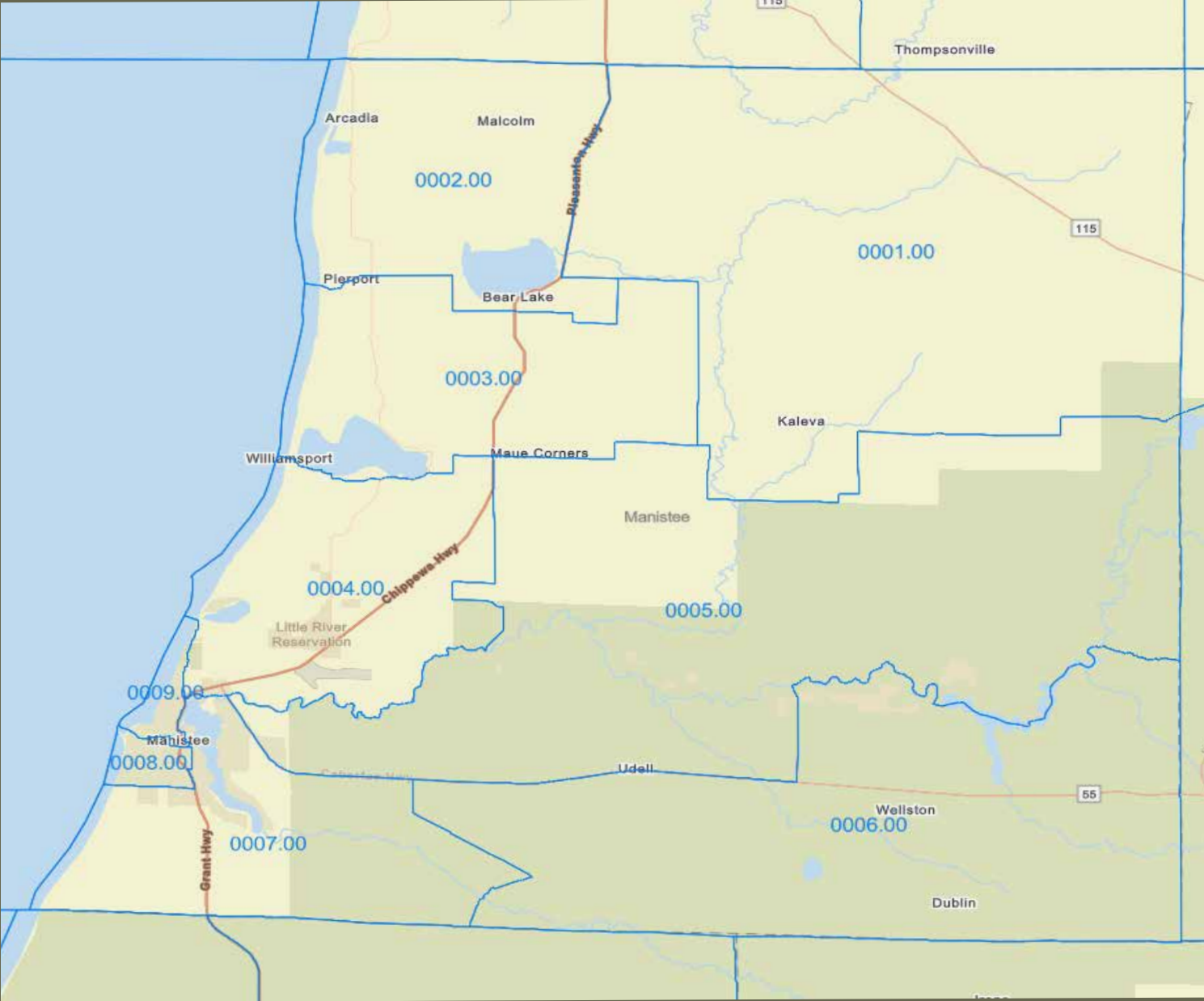


Source: U.S. Census Bureau. “quick facts”

Figure 3. Population by Local Unit of Government



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. In November 2025, the Manistee County Tourism Authority reported that more than 800,000 visitors traveled to Manistee County in 2024, generating approximately \$172.8 million in total spending. These dollars supported recreation, lodging, and dining across the region. Overnight visitors spent an average of \$428 per person, while day-trippers spent about \$84 per person.

Tourism in the county has grown by 146% from 2012 to 2023, reinforcing Manistee County’s reputation as an affordable destination compared to neighboring communities.

Aside from the economic benefits associated with green spaces and recreation opportunities, these resources provide a wide range of community benefits that contribute to the overall quality of life for residents.

All that Green Space Offers

Quality green spaces support physical and mental health, strengthensocialconnections,provideopportunitiesfor active lifestyles, and contribute to environmental sustainability by protecting natural resources and improving community resilience. These benefits extend beyond individual users by supporting stronger neighborhoods, increasing community attractiveness, and enhancing the overall desirability of a place to live, work, and invest.

For these reasons, it remains critically important for Manistee County to understand its existing recreation offerings, identify opportunities for improvement, and continue planning for future recreation needs. A well-planned recreation system can serve as both an economic asset and essential community infrastructure, providing residents and visitors with opportunities to connect with nature, participate in healthy activities, and engage with one another.

This section discusses the studied benefits of parks and recreation. The documented benefits associated with different park features and amenities, and the importance of ensuring that recreation opportunities are appropriately located and accessible to residents.

Studied Park Benefits

Parks and recreation opportunities contribute to multiple forms of community value, including improved health outcomes, social connections, environmental resilience, and overall quality of life. A broad review of the relationship between the built environment and public outcomes found that parks, trails, pedestrian networks, and other active-living features provide benefits related to physical activity, mental health, social interaction, environmental sustainability, safety, and economic value (Sallis et al., 2015). Table 1 summarizes these relationships and the strength of evidence identified in that review.

Recent research further indicates that the value of parks is influenced not only by the amount of parkland available, but also by quality, accessibility, safety, amenities, and programming. Well-designed parks and recreation facilities function as essential community infrastructure by creating opportunities for residents to be active, connect with others, and engage with nature (Braubach et al., 2021).

Investments in parks, trails, pedestrian connections, and recreation amenities help create healthy, resilient, and desirable communities. By providing spaces for recreation, gathering, and interaction with nature, parks and recreation systems support communities where residents choose to live, work, and invest.

Table 1. 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						
Design features						
Trails						
Physical activity programs/ promotion						
Public gardens						
Pedestrian / Bicycle facilities						
Safe routes to school						
School recreation facilities						

Strong evidence of positive effect Good evidence of positive effect Moderate evidence of positive effect Insufficient evidence

Table 1 is adapted from Sallis et al. (2015). Subsequent research has generally reinforced these relationships while emphasizing the importance of park quality, equitable access, and the design characteristics that influence how communities use green space.

Sources: 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.
Sallis, J. F., & Spoon, C. (2015). Co-benefits of designing communities for active living: An exploration of literature. *International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity*, 12, 30.
Braubach, M., et al. (2021). *Green and blue spaces and mental health: New evidence and perspectives for action*. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe.

Getting Everyone to the Parks

Parks and recreation are widely recognized by both residents and local officials as important community assets. However, their value depends on whether people can access and use them. In a largely rural area like Manistee County, this means paying close attention to how park locations relate to different user groups, especially when considering two closely connected factors: poverty and access to a personal vehicle.

Research shows that rural households are often located far from parks, with a national median distance of 6.7 miles. Households in rural states in the western and Midwestern US have lower neighborhood park access than their counterparts in urban states (Zhang et al., 2011). While the City of Manistee has relatively strong park access, with most residents living within a 10-minute walk of a park, access across the broader county is more limited. As a predominantly rural area, many households are likely located several miles from the nearest recreation site, consistent with national estimates for rural communities.

In Manistee County, as in many low-density areas, having access to a personal vehicle is essential for both employment and recreation. According to 2020-2024 ACS Estimates, the mean travel time to

Source: Zhang et al. International Journal of Health Geographics 2011, 10:31
<http://www.ij-healthgeographics.com/content/10/1/31>

work for Manistee County residents is approximately 21.7 minutes. Additionally, approximately 13.7% of the population lives below the poverty level, and a small percentage of households do not have access to a vehicle, which can present barriers to accessing parks, trails, recreation facilities, and other community destinations.

Given these conditions, one key goal for the County moving forward is not only to improve existing parks and recreation sites, but also to strengthen non-motorized connections between them. Improving trails, sidewalks, and other linkages can help expand access, particularly for those without reliable transportation. The next chapter outlines progress made toward these connections, along with an overview of other recreation amenities throughout Manistee County.



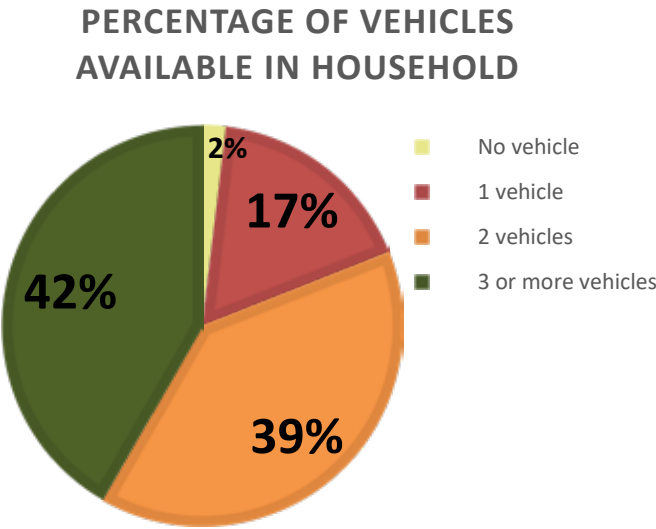
According to the 2024: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 77% of Manistee County workers drive alone to work. Alternative commuting methods are used less frequently, with 8.4% carpooling, 1.8% walking, 0.8% bicycling, and 1.1% using taxicab, motorcycle, or other means of transportation. Additionally, 10.8% of workers reported working from home.

Table 2. Median Household Income

	2020	2025
Median Household Income	\$50,055	\$63,516
Median Home Value	\$141,300	\$182,200

2016-2020 & 2020-2024: ACS Estimates

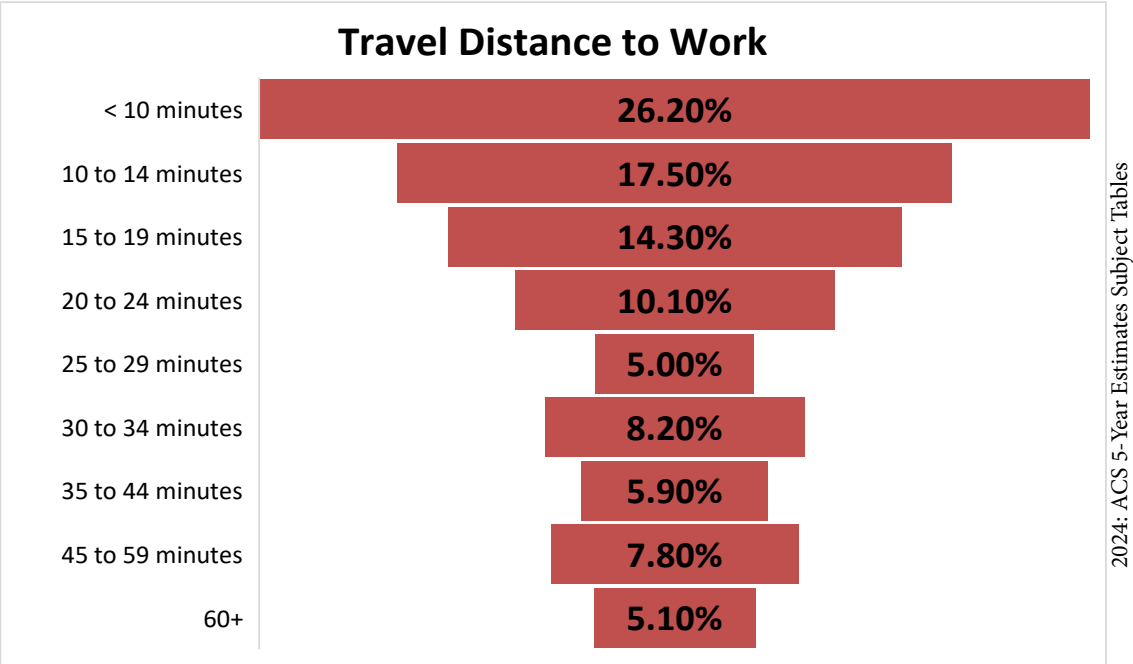
Figure 5. Vehicle Ownership by Household



2024: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables



Figure 4. Travel Distance to Work



2024: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables



3

Recreation Inventory

Manistee County’s reputation as a recreation destination is rooted in its abundance of public lands and water access points. The quality of these recreation assets not only enhances the daily lives of residents but also attracts seasonal visitors and second-home owners who choose to spend time in the county during all four seasons. This chapter provides an overview of the various recreation site types located throughout the county.

Given the significant number of sites, local officials incorporated input from residents to categorize each site as primary, secondary, or tertiary. When this process was first completed in 2015, rankings were based on a combination of factors, including overall utilization, identified improvement needs, potential to serve as trailheads or trail connections, and the community’s desire for the site to be a key activity hub. This methodology was intended to clearly identify the recreation assets most valued by residents so that resources could be directed strategically to achieve the greatest impact.

Recreation in Manistee: Variety, Quantity, Quality

The prioritization established in 2015 continues to guide each five-year plan update and was reviewed by every municipality as part of this planning cycle. While prioritization helps inform decision-making, opportunities to improve any recreation site should be pursued as funding and resources become available, regardless of its ranking.

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 candidate locations, Explore the Shores sites and trails. In more recent years, increased emphasis on local and regional trail development has warranted a dedicated section of the plan focused specifically on trails. This chapter presents park and recreation locations from a county-wide perspective; detailed inventories, descriptions, and maps for each local jurisdiction are included in Appendix A.

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 United States Forest Service, respectively. Other entities, including the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, Consumers Energy and private landowners participating in the Commercial Forest Program, also manage land open to hunting by the public. While these areas are distributed throughout the county, the southernmost and northeastern jurisdictions enjoy the greatest amount of public hunting lands. (See Map C-2*).

*There is the potential for small areas, which are closed to hunting, to be found within the shaded boundaries of areas which are shown as open to hunting. This map is not to be used as a sole source for determining if an area is open to hunting.

Boat Launches

Manistee County currently has 35 boat launches. These launches are well-dispersed throughout the community, allowing access to various water bodies including Lake Michigan, Manistee Lake, the Manistee River, and several other relatively smaller inland lakes and streams. 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 2026, Manistee County features 102 sites with the ability to launch a canoe or kayak (See Map C-5). Many of Manistee’s launches can be found on Portage Lake, Bar Lake, Bear Lake, the Manistee River, Arcadia Lake, 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.

Beaches

The Lake Michigan shoreline is a key recreation attraction for the state of Michigan, and Manistee County is fortunate to have some of the most pristine lakefront views in the state. There are 32 public beach access points across the county, with the majority located along Lake Michigan, though some of the inland lakes feature beaches as well (See Map C-3). These include Arcadia Lake, Bar Lake, Bear Lake, Crystal Lake, Lake Eleanor, Healy Lake, Man Made Lake, Manistee Lake, and Portage Lake.



Camping

There are over 60 public camping areas throughout Manistee County where campers and hikers can find a place to enjoy their nights around a bonfire and under the stars. The greatest concentration of rustic backcountry campsites are located along the Little Manistee River and Tippy Dam Pond. Campers of all skill levels will be able to find an accommodating campground in Manistee, ranging from rustic sites in the Huron-Manistee National Forest to RV-accommodating sites such as Orchard Beach State Park along Lake Michigan. (See Map C-6).

Dark Sky Locations

There are 101 locations recognized by our municipalities as potential dark sky locations throughout Manistee County. These locations include places such as beach access points to Lake Michigan, river access points, hiking trails, rustic campsites, and parks, that do not have lighting on-site. Dark sky initiatives require areas that do not compete with development and the resulting lights that are required for a dense population.

Although there aren’t any sites in the county that are officially recognized as DarkSky International Parks or dedicated by the State of Michigan as Dark Sky Preserves, there are many locations that would likely qualify for official designation. With much of Manistee County undeveloped due to 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).

Designation as a Dark Sky Preserve or DarkSky International Park recognizes areas with exceptional nighttime skies and a commitment to protecting them from light pollution. Achieving designation typically involves demonstrating high-quality dark skies, adopting responsible outdoor lighting practices, developing long-term management and

stewardship policies, and providing opportunities for public education and nighttime recreation. These designations not only help preserve natural resources and wildlife habitat but also promote astro-tourism, outdoor recreation, environmental education, and economic development by attracting visitors interested in experiencing natural night skies.

Explore the Shores Program

The establishment of the Explore the Shores Program in 2008 marked an important effort to develop and certify universally accessible water access sites throughout Manistee County. Although the program is no longer active, it significantly enhanced recreation opportunities across the county.

The 2016-2020 County-Wide Park & Recreation 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, bringing the total number of recognized sites to 20 countywide (See Map C-8).

The Explore the Shores Program was originally established by the Alliance for Economic Success (AES) with support from the Manistee County Community Foundation and other community funding partners. Because AES is no longer active in Manistee County, a commitment from one or more local entities would be needed to reactivate the program. Feasibility of reestablishing the program may include an inventory of the existing sites to determine needs for maintenance and signage updates, convening stakeholders to determine interest in sustaining and/or growing the program, and associated cost projections. Regardless, nearly all certified sites still exist and offer accessibility for residents and visitors alike.

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 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:

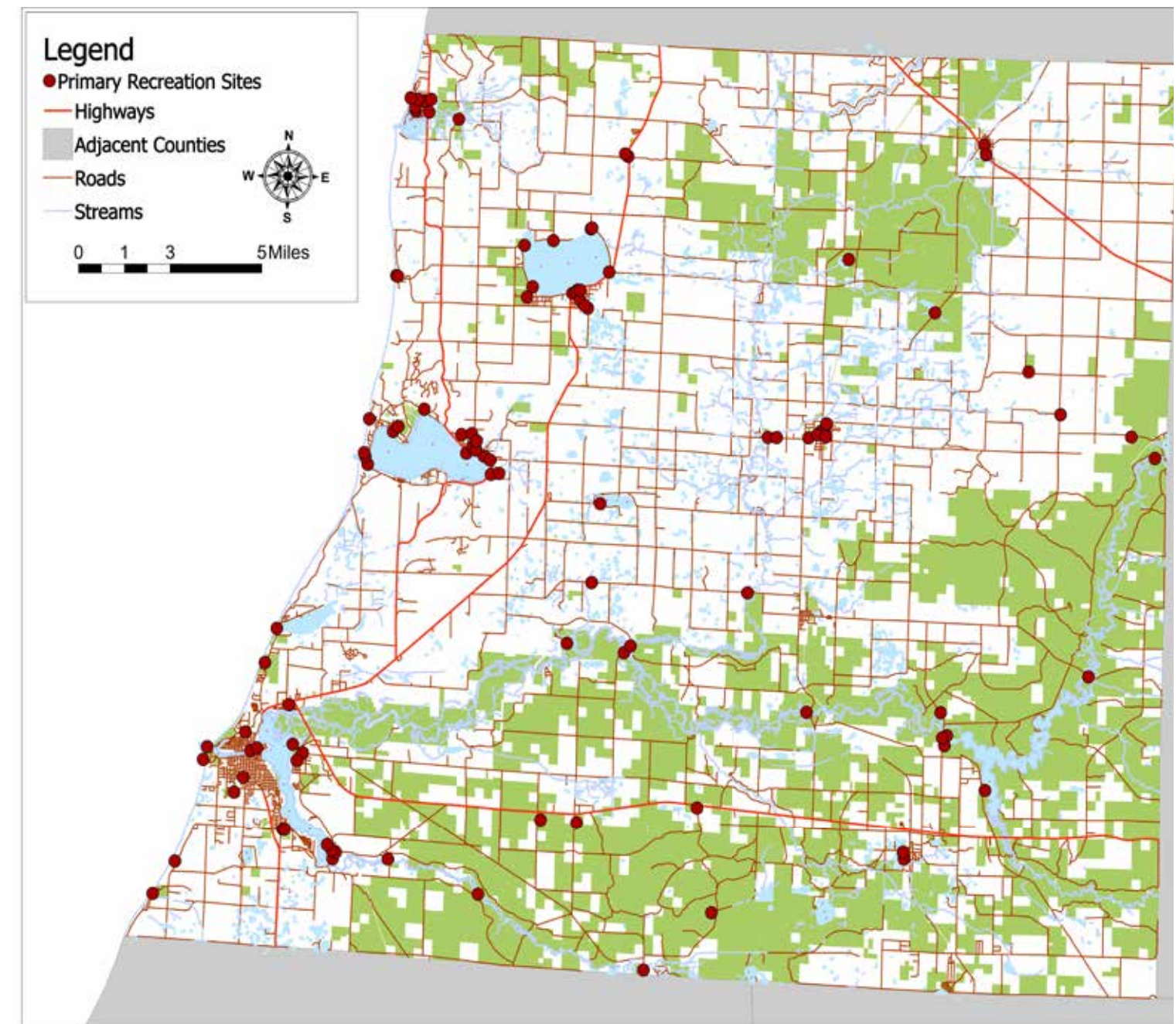
County-Wide Primary Sites

- 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 290 identified recreation sites within Manistee County. Of those, 102 sites are considered primary, 72 are considered secondary and 116 are tertiary. All of the county's primary sites can be seen on the map on page 28 (Map 2).

Map 2. County-Wide Primary Recreation Sites



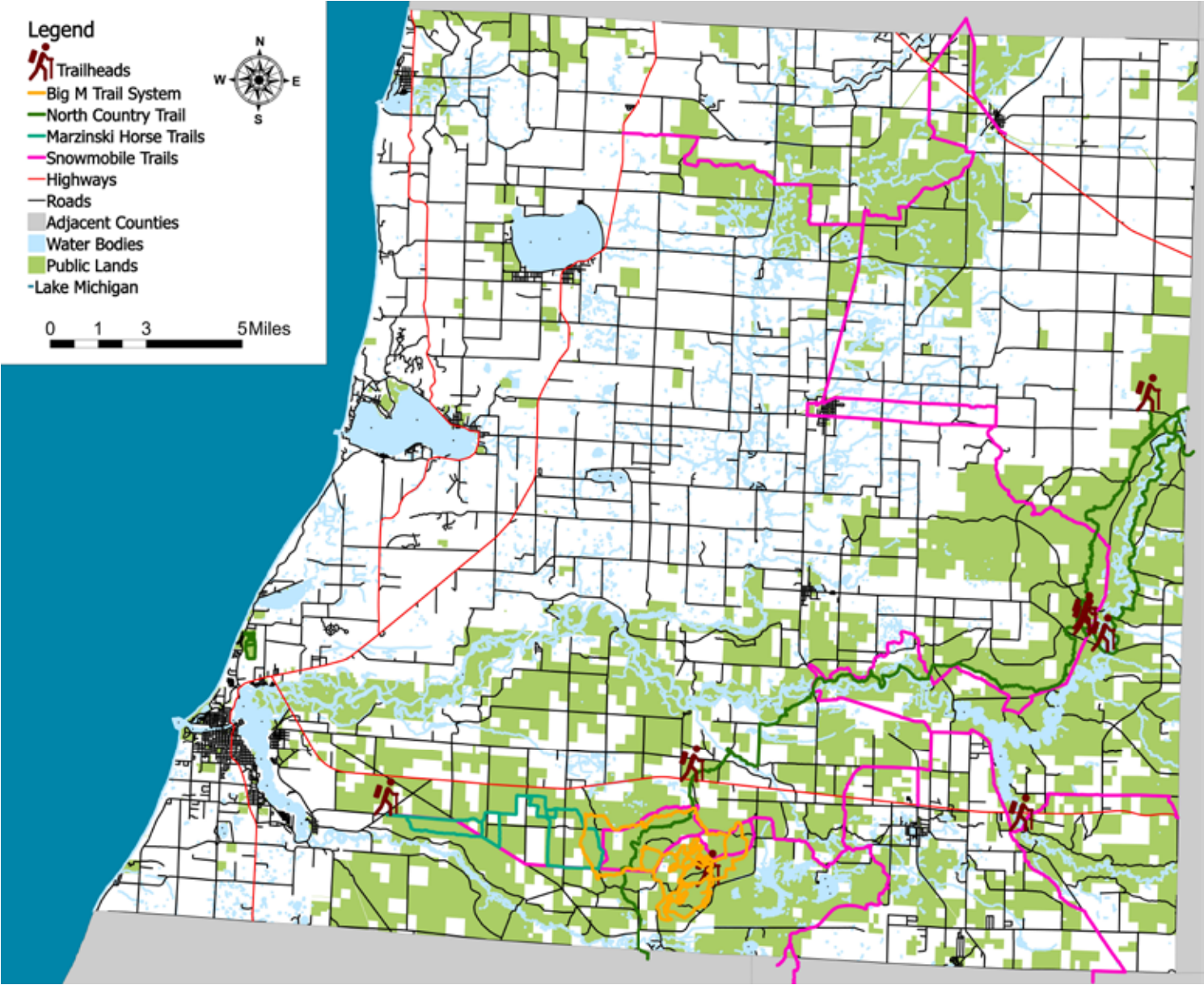
Advancing trail development throughout Manistee County has been an ongoing area of consensus among local leaders and residents for several years. As the public input data shows in Chapter 4 and subsequently the goals developed in Chapter 5, residents have shown there is a desire for more multi-use trails. While the county has an extensive network of trails including the snowmobile trail system, the North Country Trail, the Manistee River Trail, the Big M Trail System, and several other local systems, the overall network remains uncoordinated, lacks connectivity, offers limited loop opportunities, and does not meaningfully connect to population centers or service areas. In addition, many of the existing trail systems lack signage and wayfinding, are not maintained for multiple user types, and lack basic facilities.

Trails

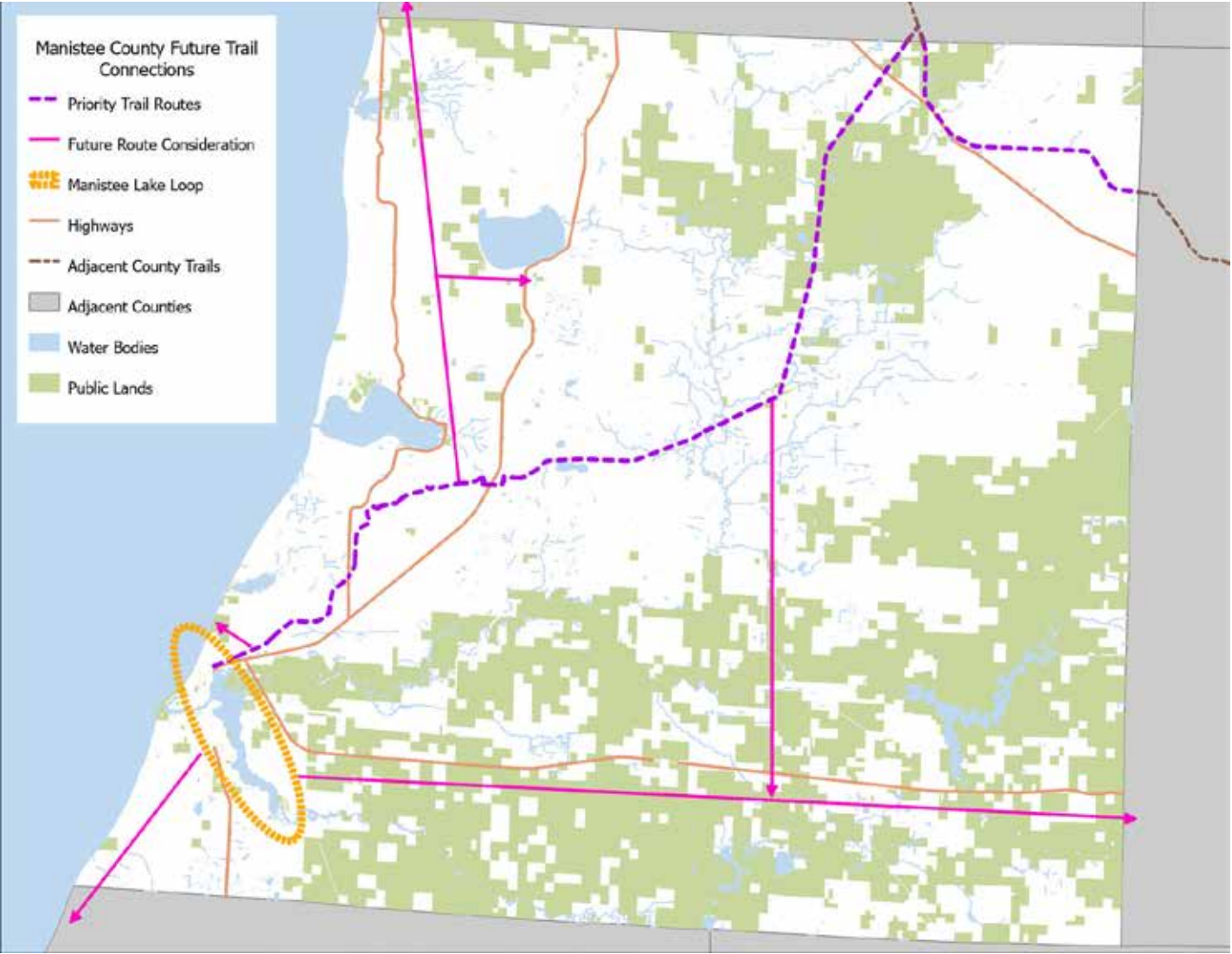
While the existing trail system requires improvement, there are also considerable opportunities and broad public support to further these efforts. The existence of many localized trails and a few regional connection calls for increased connectivity. A strong showing of support that has historically occurred through public input processes provides evidence that trail connections are desired throughout the community and a variety of trail types are needed.

The utilization of regional trail connections to link population centers, recreation sites, private business districts, historic locations and various amenities would provide a recreation-oriented avenue for residents and visitors to explore and experience the county. This plan provides the framework for moving forward with establishing a regional trail network. More information on this can be found in Appendix D.

Map 3. Existing Trails



Map 4. Broad Brush Stroke Future Trail Connections



Map 4 (above) illustrates current priority routes and future route considerations. Priority routes are shown as hashed purple lines extending from the existing Betsie Valley Trail in Thompsonville (southern Benzie County) into Manistee County. Upon entering Manistee County, the single route from Benzie County divides into two proposed regional trail routes.

The first branch travels east through the Village of Copemish and Cleon Township toward Wexford County. This route is envisioned to connect to Mesick, continue to Yuma, and ultimately reach Cadillac, creating a regional linkage between the Betsie Valley Trail and the White Pine Trail, which ultimately extends all the way to Grand Rapids.

The second branch extends south from Thompsonville through the Village of Kaleva, then

turns west through Chief and continues just south of Onekama. This route would pass through lands owned by the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians before continuing into the City of Manistee. A spur connection to Orchard Beach State Park is also envisioned along this alignment.

These routes were designated as priorities due to their strong potential to connect existing trail systems and communities, the presence of substantial publicly owned land along the corridors, and the availability of continuous former railroad beds. Collectively, these characteristics make the priority routes the most feasible candidates for near-term implementation.

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 members. 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 for and prioritize implementation efforts, acting as advisors to the Manistee County 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 efforts outside of the public eye. At times there is a need for closed door discussions on sensitive subjects, but it is advised that this support organization acts largely within view of the public. It is important to maintain 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 six at large seats which are appointed by the County Board, with four statutorily required seats to be filled by a member of the County Board of Commissioners, 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 funding 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 (County Board of Commissioners).

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. The Recreation Commission is supported with staff from the Manistee County Planning Department.





4

Planning Process

Building Consensus Around Recreation

A recreation plan is only as effective as the public input used to develop it. The greatest opportunity for successful implementation exists when the communities served by the plan feel their needs, priorities, and ideas are reflected in its recommendations. Public support is often one of the most important factors in determining whether recreation projects move forward. For that reason, it is important to understand public sentiment early in the planning process to ensure future park and recreation investments in Manistee County align with community priorities.

The 2016–2020 Manistee County-Wide Park & Recreation Plan was the first county-wide recreation plan developed for Manistee County and established the framework that continues to guide recreation planning today. Developing the first plan required an extensive public engagement process to identify existing strengths, recreation needs, and long-term priorities across all communities within the county. The resulting goals and objectives have continued to serve as the foundation for subsequent five-year plan updates, providing consistency while allowing local priorities to evolve over time.

This chapter summarizes the public engagement and planning process used to develop the original 2016–2020 plan and describes the public participation efforts undertaken for the 2027–2031 planning period. Documenting each planning cycle is important because many recreation projects require years to plan, fund, and implement. Reviewing previous public input allows the County and local communities to measure progress toward long-term goals while identifying emerging recreation trends and changing community priorities.

Overall, public sentiment has remained relatively consistent over the past decade. As a result, the goals and objectives established through the 2016–2020 planning process continue to provide a strong framework for county-wide recreation planning. Accordingly, this update focuses primarily on evaluating progress toward existing goals, identifying completed projects, understanding barriers to implementation, and incorporating new priorities identified through the current public and stakeholder engagement process. As future updates are completed, continued public engagement will ensure the plan evolves alongside the changing recreation needs of Manistee County residents and visitors.

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 1,009 responses gathered from the 2016 survey helped to inform the county-wide goals and objectives that are reviewed and updated through each five-year review. Aside from the survey, and perhaps most importantly, the planning team organized nine public visioning sessions in 2015 to inform Manistee County's first county-wide park and recreation plan, with all sessions following a similar format. 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.

Finally, in 2015, the planning team concluded the public planning process through discussions with key stakeholders. 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 conversation



concerning recreation in which they have a stake and/or own property. In other words, collaboration and open communication should remain a priority.

In 2026, Planning Department staff contacted and met with all local units of government to update the community-specific information contained in Appendices A and F. Communities were asked to review and revise their community description, recreation site inventory and priorities, administrative structure, and local Goals and Objectives. The process used for the 2027–2031 update closely mirrored the approach undertaken during the 2022–2026 planning cycle, allowing for continuity while capturing changes that have occurred over the past five years.

In addition to coordinating directly with local governments, Planning Department staff maintained an online survey, hosted public input sessions throughout the county, and distributed a series of questions to community stakeholders. Using multiple outreach methods ensured that input was collected from residents representing different geographic areas, age groups, recreation interests, and organizations. Similar to previous planning efforts, the feedback received remained largely consistent with prior updates, indicating that recreation priorities in Manistee County have remained relatively stable over time.



Updating the 2026-2031 Plan

Public Input Process

Planning Department staff hosted four public input sessions throughout the county, offering both drop-in and facilitated roundtable formats. The drop-in sessions allowed participants to visit at their convenience and complete as many public input activities as they wished, while the roundtable sessions consisted of guided discussions in which participants completed all activities as a group. A flyer detailing each public input session is included on page 40.

Staff also met with the Youth Advisory Council (YAC), the Manistee County Community Foundation's youth advisory body. Comprised of high school students representing each school district in Manistee County including Bear Lake, Brethren, CASMAN Academy, Manistee, and Onekama, the YAC participated in selected public input activities and provided valuable insight into recreation priorities from the perspective of local youth.

Summary of Public Input

Survey respondents and public input session participants expressed strong support for expanding non-motorized trail systems, maintaining public beaches, increasing active recreation opportunities, and providing more year-round recreation options. Frequently requested improvements included additional disc golf courses, pickleball courts, a splash pad, expanded restroom facilities at parks and trailheads, and improved, universally accessible river access for kayaking.

Most respondents were active users of Manistee County's recreation system, with only 1.3 percent reporting they never visit recreation sites. Despite high participation rates, many indicated that existing recreation facilities do not fully align

with their interests. The most frequently identified barrier (28.5 percent) was a lack of recreation amenities that matched the activities they wished to pursue, despite approximately 80 percent of respondents agreeing that parks and recreation facilities are generally well maintained.

The strongest area of consensus centered on non-motorized trail connectivity. More than 82 percent of respondents agreed that the county would benefit from additional trail connections, including 57.4 percent who strongly agreed. Participants consistently expressed a desire for a more interconnected county-wide trail network, including both short loop trails and longer regional connections. Requests for walking and biking trails, outdoor fitness equipment, improved signage, and enhanced wayfinding were also common.

Pickleball and disc golf emerged as recreation activities in particularly high demand, with respondents frequently citing limited availability or overcrowding. Many also identified a lack of indoor recreation opportunities during the winter months and suggested facilities such as an indoor recreation center, sports complex, or dedicated indoor pickleball facility.

ORV trail opportunities were also identified as an important recreation asset, with many respondents supporting expanded riding opportunities. At the same time, swimming and beach-related activities were the most widely reported warm-weather recreation pursuits, with 67 percent of respondents participating. Public input sessions consistently emphasized the importance of maintaining and improving public beaches and shoreline access throughout the county.

Stakeholder Input

Stakeholder responses complemented the survey and public input session findings by emphasizing the broader role recreation plays in supporting community health, economic development, tourism, workforce attraction and retention, environmental stewardship, and overall quality of life. Stakeholders consistently supported a recreation strategy focused on improving regional connectivity, expanding accessibility, strengthening partnerships, and

leveraging recreation as both a community asset and an economic development tool.

Stakeholder engagement is an essential component of the planning process because it ensures the County-Wide Park & Recreation Plan reflects the perspectives of the organizations, agencies, and community partners responsible for providing and supporting recreation opportunities throughout Manistee County. A series of questions was distributed to approximately 40 community organizations representing recreation providers, tourism, education, conservation, economic development, and public land management.

Stakeholder input helps identify regional priorities, reduce duplication of facilities and services, strengthen partnerships, and encourage coordinated investment in recreation infrastructure. It also provides valuable insight into long-term planning considerations, accessibility, environmental stewardship, and implementation capacity that may not be captured through public surveys alone.

Survey Results

The online survey was available from late July 2025 through June 2026 and received 511 responses. Many of the survey questions were carried forward from previous County-Wide Park & Recreation Plan updates to allow for comparison over time and identification of emerging trends. Of the 511 respondents, 465 identified themselves as either permanent or seasonal residents of Manistee County. The greatest concentration of responses came from the City of Manistee and Onekama Township, which together accounted for 202 responses. Although the survey results are not statistically representative of the county's population, they provide valuable insight into public preferences and recreation priorities that can assist local officials in identifying projects and guiding future planning efforts.

In addition to making the survey available online and in printed form upon request, Planning Department staff promoted the survey at two well-attended community events: Onekama Days and Copemish Heritage Days, both held on August 2, 2025. Staff distributed informational flyers with QR codes linking directly to the survey and provided



paper copies for attendees wishing to complete the survey in person.

Overall, the public engagement process demonstrates strong support for continuing to expand and enhance recreation opportunities throughout Manistee County. While the existing recreation system is widely viewed as well maintained, residents and stakeholders alike expressed a clear desire for improved connectivity, expanded active recreation opportunities, increased year-round amenities, and greater accessibility for users of all ages and abilities.

Together, these findings provide a strong foundation for updating the Goals and Objectives contained in this plan and will help guide recreation investments throughout the 2027–2031 planning period. Complete survey results, public input session summaries, and stakeholder responses are included in Appendix G.



2027 – 2031

County-Wide Recreation Plan Update

The Manistee County Planning Department is updating the County-Wide Recreation Plan, and we want your input on the community’s future.

The County is hosting 4 input sessions. Two of these are drop-in (come and go as you please) and the other two will be a facilitated roundtable discussion.

Don’t worry if you are not familiar with local governance or community planning. Our activities are easy to follow for everyone.

COUNTY OF
manistee
MICHIGAN

Do you want to help shape the future of Recreation Planning in Manistee County?

If so, Please take this quick survey below!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ManCoRecPlan>

Questions?
Contact us at:
planning@manisteecountymi.gov
231-723-6041

Roundtable Discussion	Drop-In Session
September 25, 2025 5:30pm-7:30pm West Shore Community College 401 River St, Manistee MI 49660	October 16, 2025 4pm-8pm Norman Township Hall 1273 S Seaman Rd, Wellston MI 49689
Drop-In Session	Roundtable Discussion
October 25, 2025 11am-3pm Maple Grove Community Center 9208 Kauko St, Kaleva MI 49645	November 18, 2025 10:30am-12:30pm Pleasanton Township Hall 8958 Lumley Rd, Bear Lake MI 49614

Please RSVP for the roundtable discussions by emailing kkolanowski@manisteecountymi.gov or calling 231-398-3576.

Figure 6. Which of the following recreation activities do you participate in within Manistee County during the warm-weather months? (Choose all that apply)

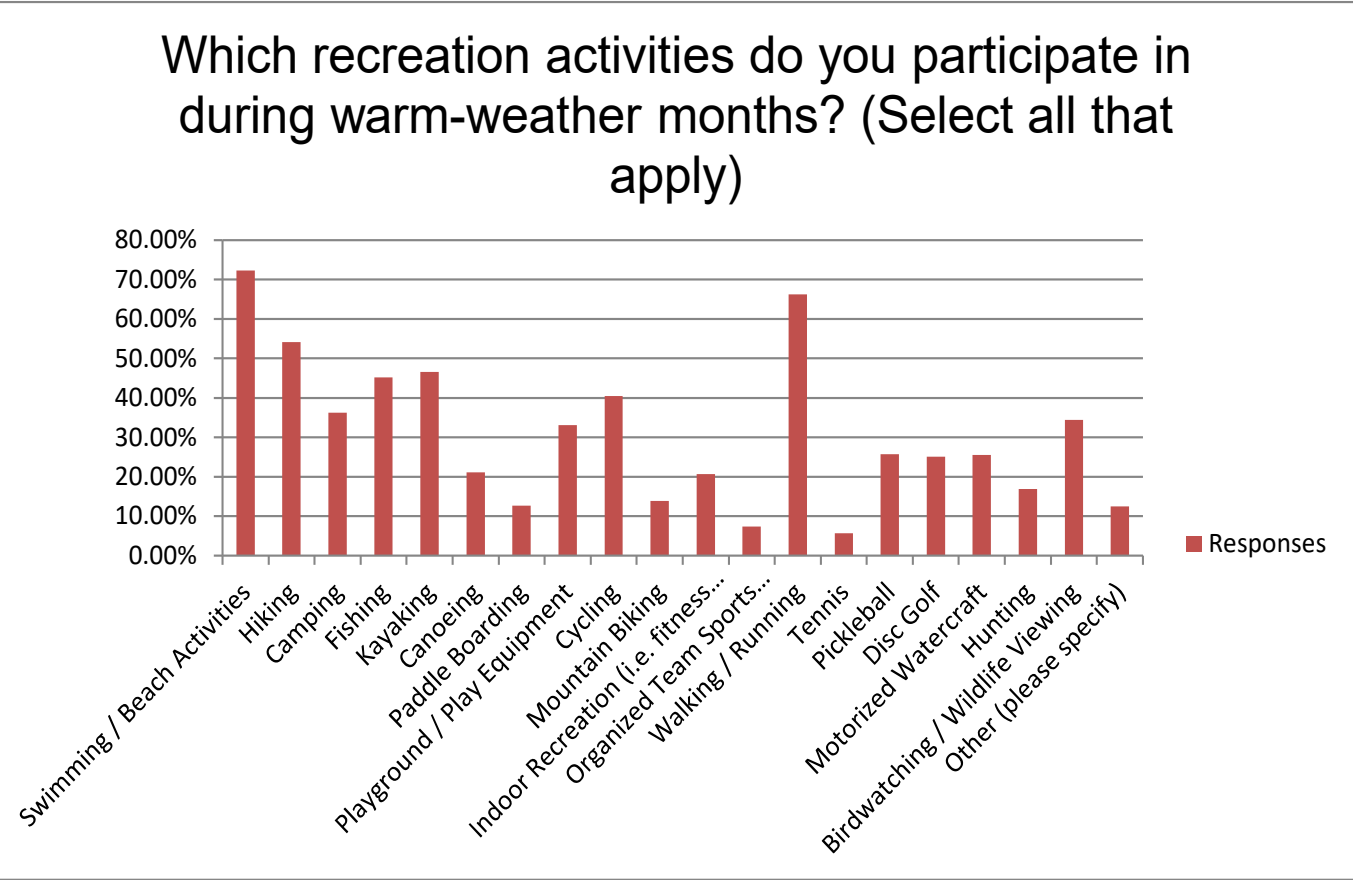


Figure 7. Which of the following recreation activities do you participate in within Manistee County during the winter months? (Choose all that apply)



Figure 8. Where do you go in Manistee County to recreate? (Choose all that apply)

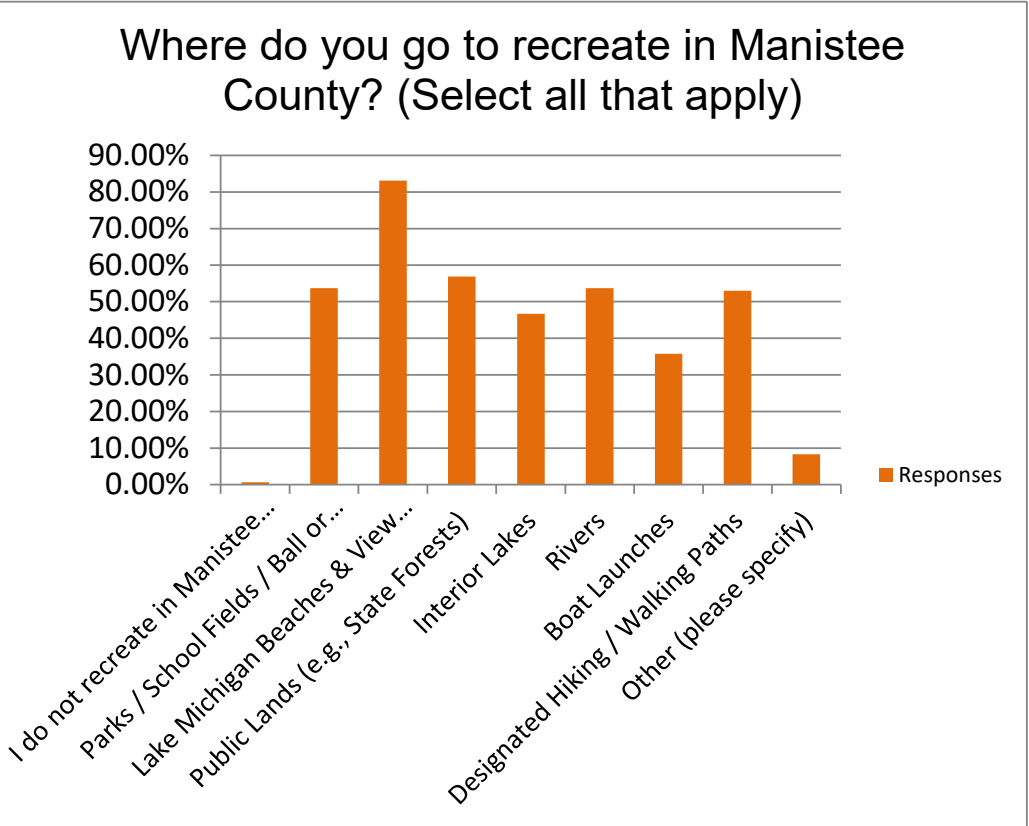


Figure 9. How often do you visit a public park, beach, trail or other recreation site in Manistee County?

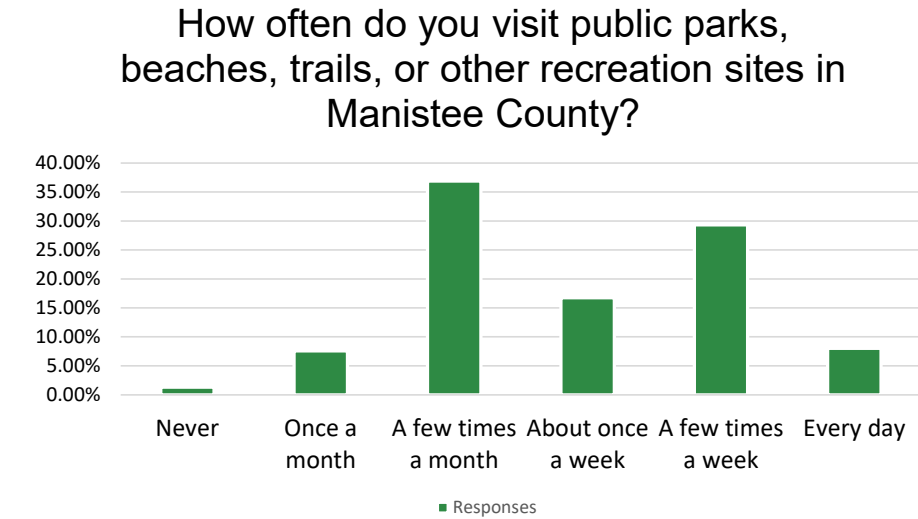
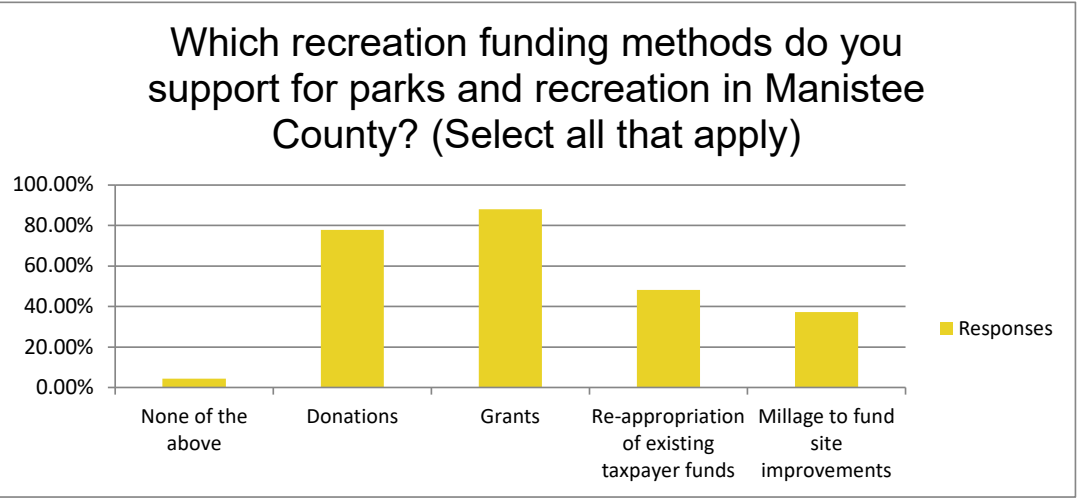


Figure 10. Which recreation funding methods do you support for parks and recreation in Manistee County?





5

Goals & Objectives



Next Steps for Success

The Goals and Objectives chapter is one of the most important parts of any plan because it represents the culmination of the public input, data collection, and planning efforts that informed its development. By understanding where a community has been, what challenges and opportunities it faces today, and what residents and stakeholders want to see in the future, it can begin to identify where it should go next. Goals and objectives capture the priorities that a community has built consensus around and provide a framework for future decision-making and investment. While they are not as specific as the action programs and project implementation strategies that follow, they identify the projects and initiatives the community wishes to pursue and for which funding may be sought. The goals and objectives for each individual jurisdiction can be found in Appendix E.

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

- Regularly update maps 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 assist with convening a county-wide Trails 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 coordinate with recreation improvements, 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.

- Work with the Manistee County Community Foundation and other community partner organizations to reestablish the Explore the Shores Program.
- 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.



Goals & Objectives

- Support the work of the Manistee County Conservation District, Grand Traverse Land 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 primary recreation sites.
- Support and participate in the M-22 Pure Michigan Byway Committee.
- 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 Tourism Authority to link planning work with their website.
- Foster a strong partnership between the Manistee County Planning Department, the Tourism Authority, 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 Association, 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 Tourism Authority 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.



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 2017 Manistee County 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.

- Continue to maintain and update the County-Wide ORV Ordinance and support the efforts of the Benzie-Manistee Dirt Birds.
- Publish, maintain and market ORV, snowmobile and non-motorized trail maps 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 and/or maintaining 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 effort serves as the foundation for positive recreation improvements in Manistee County. Guided by local units of government, this plan outlines both the update process and the broader planning approach. Input from these local entities is a critical first step toward implementation, helping ensure that key stakeholders and community members are aligned in the direction the county should take.

To build a cohesive, county-wide recreation system, this chapter highlights the roles community stakeholders have within a successful implementation framework. Many elements of this action strategy remain intentionally flexible, allowing local jurisdictions to adapt the approach to fit 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.

Some municipalities may not have a Parks & Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, or designated staff. Others may have a Planning Commission but not a Parks & Recreation Commission. In these instances, recreation planning responsibilities may fall to the Planning Commission or be carried out by elected officials and governing bodies. Many communities also rely heavily on volunteers and local organizations to help plan, fund, and implement recreation projects and initiatives. Their contributions are often critical to bringing a community's recreation goals and aspirations to fruition.

Role of Staff

Local governments often provide staff or financial support for staff to see that processes are initiated and completed appropriately. Staffing is necessary for organizing and managing projects and grants, as well as continual maintenance of facilities.

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 seeking 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 advocacy 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. The table assumes that the local government has a Parks & Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, and staff.

Table 3. Project Implementation Roles & Responsibilities

Roles & Responsibilities	Project/Plan Support & Input	Plan Development	Plan Recommendations	Plan Adoption	Obtain RFQs 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	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 municipalities therein.

Continued Public Outreach

Manistee County has completed multiple public input processes related to parks and recreation, resulting in meaningful dialogue between local officials, stakeholders and community members. Building on this foundation, the County and its

local units of government remain committed to continuing thoughtful planning processes that incorporate ongoing public engagement.

By consistently seeking and following community input through tools such as surveys, focus groups, and public meetings, the County aims to align decision-making with the local governments and the priorities of its residents. This approach reflects our framework for success and supports the development of strong collaborative partnerships throughout the region, positioning the community for effective and responsive project implementation.

Complete Streets Policies and Resolutions

Complete Streets is a transportation planning approach that promotes the design and operation of streets that are safe, accessible, and convenient for all users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation.

Since the State of Michigan began advancing Complete Streets principles in the early 2000s, these concepts have become increasingly integrated into transportation and community planning efforts throughout the state, including in Manistee County. Complete Streets principles encourage local units of government to consider the needs of all roadway users and to plan transportation infrastructure that supports safe and efficient travel for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit users alike.

Michigan’s Complete Streets legislation further supports the adoption of local policies and resolutions that incorporate multimodal transportation planning into local planning documents developed under the Michigan Planning Enabling Act. Recreation plans play an important role in this process by identifying non-motorized transportation needs and opportunities that improve connectivity between parks, trails, schools, businesses, and other community destinations.

County-Wide Grant Writer

Manistee County has strengthened its capacity to pursue and manage grant funding through the establishment of a county-wide grant writing and project management function. Since 2022, this role has supported the County in identifying and pursuing competitive funding opportunities from federal, state, and foundation sources that advance infrastructure, recreation, transportation, and community development initiatives.

The addition of dedicated grant writing capacity has enhanced the County’s ability to undertake complex, multi-jurisdictional projects and coordinate funding efforts with local, regional, and state partners. While local units of government continue to pursue grant funding independently when appropriate, the

County’s grant administration function provides an additional resource to support projects that benefit Manistee County as a whole.

Since its creation, the grant administration function has played an important role in advancing major County-led initiatives, including the Manistee County Safer Southern Rail Route (SSRR) project and other infrastructure planning efforts requiring significant coordination among local, state, and federal partners. The SSRR project is discussed further in Appendix D.

Grant Writing Workshops & Continuing Education

Funding for improvements can be challenging when local budgets are constrained, and grants often play a critical role in supporting community projects. Grant acquisition is a multi-step process that requires coordination across project development, application preparation, financial management, and ongoing reporting, typically involving both administrative staff and elected officials.

Complexity of grant writing and administration is a known barrier to securing funding. To support capacity building, numerous training and workshop opportunities are available to strengthen local expertise. The State of Michigan, for example, offers annual grant workshops that provide updates on funding programs and guidance on developing competitive applications. At the local level, the Manistee County Community Foundation serves as a key resource, providing education, grant-seeking support, and matching fund opportunities that help communities strengthen applications and leverage additional funding.

Local and Regional Partnerships

Local and regional partnerships play an increasingly important role in expanding access to funding and strengthening communities’ ability to pursue recreation projects. Manistee County is especially fortunate to have access to the Minger Family Endowment Fund through the Community Foundation, which supports recreational trail and site development throughout the county.

At the regional level, Manistee County benefits from the services of Networks Northwest, the regional planning organization. Networks Northwest assists local communities with a variety of planning and grant administration needs, as staff capacity allows. This regional partnership has supported recreation projects in Manistee County, including a grant to improve a segment of an existing non-motorized and snowmobiling trail, which is discussed further in Appendix D.

Combined with the efforts of local “Friends” groups, such as Friends of SMARTrails, these partnerships help build local support, fund local recreation projects, generate matching funds, and coordinate fundraising efforts, increasing the capacity of communities to pursue larger grant opportunities and advance multi-jurisdictional recreation projects.

Safe Routes To School

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a federal program supported in Michigan by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Michigan Fitness Foundation. It promotes safe, convenient, and active transportation options for K–8 students by encouraging walking and bicycling to school. The program supports projects that improve safety near schools, reduce traffic congestion, lower emissions, and promote healthy lifestyles from an early age.

Successful SRTS initiatives typically involve coordination between school districts, local governments, and transportation partners to plan and implement infrastructure and safety improvements in school zones.

Local planning and infrastructure efforts within Manistee County have increasingly recognized the importance of providing safe and accessible non-motorized connections to schools, parks, and community destinations. Improvements to sidewalks, shared-use paths, pedestrian crossings, and roadway design are encouraged to be consistent with Complete Streets and Safe Routes to School principles to help support safer travel options for students and families throughout the county. Recreation planning efforts continue to identify opportunities to improve connectivity between

schools and surrounding neighborhoods as future projects are pursued.

Greater Manistee Walkability Action Institute Team (WAI)

This cross-sector collaboration (county-wide representation) received training, technical, and design support from MDOT to increase non-motorized connectivity along US Bike Route 35 from Filer Township through the City of Manistee northward into Manistee County. Team members from Public Safety, School Administration, the Municipalities, and the Health Department are working with Manistee Area Public Schools, Trinity Lutheran School, and CASMAN Alternative Academy on a multi-phase Safe Routes to Schools project with multiple timelines. Greater Manistee Walkability Action Institute Team along with the North Region Active Transportation Committee, has led community input surveys and walkability audits to increase pedestrian safety as part of the transformative MDOT US-31 Rebuilding Project in Manistee scheduled for 2027 and 2028.

Funding Mechanisms

Project implementation is often dependent on available funding and local capacity, with successful outcomes typically tied to well-developed planning efforts. This section outlines key funding sources and mechanisms available to support parks and recreation projects.

Grant funding is available from both public and private sources, with state and federal programs representing the most common opportunities. These grants often require local match contributions and include administrative requirements for project oversight, expense tracking, and reimbursement processing.

At the state level, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) provide primary funding sources for transportation-related and recreational improvements, with some overlap in eligible project types. At the federal level, programs administered through the U.S. Department of Transportation support non-motorized mobility and multimodal infrastructure initiatives aligned with the goals of this plan.

As previously stated, local and regional partnerships play an increasingly important role in leveraging funding opportunities.



The use of local tax dollars as a dedicated funding source is also an effective strategy used in several rural Michigan communities. When combined with strong grant programs and foundation support, dedicated local funding can significantly enhance match capacity and improve competitiveness for external funding opportunities.

Survey results over the past decade indicate a gradual shift in public sentiment regarding funding for parks and recreation. Earlier surveys in 2015 and 2019 showed majority support for a dedicated millage, with 57% of respondents in 2019 expressing support. By 2021, that support had declined slightly to 49%, signaling a softening in public willingness to fund recreation through new taxes.

More recent survey data shows this trend continuing, with only 36% of respondents now indicating support for an additional millage. This represents a notable decrease from prior years and suggests growing reluctance among residents to pursue new tax-based funding mechanisms.

At the same time, support for alternatives is also dwindling. While earlier surveys found that 66% of respondents in 2019 and 56% in 2021 supported the re-appropriation of existing tax dollars for recreation-related development, current results show a more moderate 47% level of support for this approach. Although slightly lower than previous years, this still reflects a substantial portion of respondents who favor reallocating existing resources over introducing new taxes.

Notably, the most recent data highlights overwhelming support for the pursuit of grant funding, with 87% of respondents in favor. This strong preference indicates a clear shift toward funding strategies that minimize direct financial impact on taxpayers.

It should also be noted that variations in response rates across survey years may influence direct comparisons; however, the overall trend suggests declining support for new millages and increasing preference for alternative funding approaches,

particularly external grant opportunities.

The results across multiple survey cycles continue to provide important guidance for local and regional decision-makers. While support for new tax-based funding mechanisms has declined over time, there remains clear and consistent public backing for advancing parks and recreation projects through alternative funding strategies. In particular, the strong preference for grant funding, along with continued support for the re-allocation of existing resources, demonstrates that the community remains invested in the development of recreation amenities.



Table 4. MDOT Grants

Grant/Loan Name	Type	Match	Eligible Applicants	Eligible Projects
Safe Routes to School (SRTS) - Mini-Grant	Grant	See current program requirements	K–12 schools, school districts, municipalities, affiliated nonprofits	Walking/biking programs, bike rodeos, walking school buses, safety education
Safe Routes to School (SRTS) - Major Grant	Grant	See current program requirements	Eligible communities/school partners	Sidewalks, crosswalks, and other infrastructure supporting safe walking and biking to school
State Infrastructure Bank	Loan	Project-specific	Act 51 Public Entities	planning, cost estimates, feasibility studies, environmental/economic studies, design, ROW acquisition, engineering, and construction
Transportation Alternative Program	Grant	Minimum 20%	Local governments, road agencies, schools, nonprofits, tribal governments, etc., depending on applicant structure	Trails, pedestrian improvements, bike facilities, SRTS, streetscapes, historic transportation facilities

Table 5. MDNR Grants

Grant/Loan Name	Type	Match	Allotment	Eligible Applicants	Priorities	Eligible Projects
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund	Grant	25%	\$15,000-\$400,000* *no max on land aquisition	Local units of government, school districts	Development of recreation sites, land acquisition	Trails, recreation facilities, land acquisition
Land and Water Conservation Fund	Grant	50%	\$30,000-\$500,000 *no max on land aquisition	Local units of government	Recreation development projects	Trails, recreation facilities
Recreation Passport Grant Program	Grant	25%	\$75,000-\$150,000	Local units of government, school districts	Multi-modal and non-motorized facilities	Trails, bike lanes, crosswalks, signage, bike racks, etc.

Table 6. USDOT Grant Table

Grant/Loan Name	Match	Eligible Applicants	Priorities	Eligible Projects
Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP)	Varies by federal funding opportunity	Eligible state, local, regional, and other governmental entities, including eligible partnerships	Connected bicycle and pedestrian networks and active transportation spines	Regional trail systems, trail connections, pedestrian/bicycle networks
BUILD Program	Generally 20% minimum non-federal share; higher match may strengthen competitiveness	State, local, tribal governments	Safety, economic, sustainable	Sidewalks, crosswalks, bridges, bike lanes, etc.
Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA)	Minimum 20% non-federal share; higher match may strengthen competitiveness	State, local, tribal governments	National/regional significance, freight, highways, bridges, and critical transportation infrastructure	Sidewalks, crosswalks, bridges, bike lanes, etc.

Table 7. MCCF Grant

Grant/Loan Name	Type	Match	Allotment	Eligible Applicants	Priorities	Eligible Projects
Minger Family Endowment Fund	Small & large grants	10% minimum	\$5,000 or \$100,000* *Requests exceeding \$100,000 can be made with advance communication with Program Officer	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

Grant eligibility, award limits, match requirements, and application cycles are subject to change and should be confirmed with the administering agency at the time of application.

Implementation Steps

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

1. Assign Roles and Responsibilities

Identify lead agencies, partners, and supporting organizations responsible for advancing the project(s) and assign responsibilities.

2. Project Identification and Prioritization

Select and prioritize specific projects based on community needs, feasibility, and alignment with the plan.

3. Evaluate Funding Eligibility and Strategy

Determine appropriate funding sources (grants, general funds, partnerships, etc.) and identify match requirements.

4. Secure Local Support and Authorization

Obtain resolutions of support from governing bodies and letters of support from stakeholders, agencies, and the public.

5. Preliminary Design and Cost Estimation

Develop initial project concepts and cost estimates to support funding applications. This may involve engaging consultants through RFQ/RFP processes.

6. Prepare Grant Application(s)

Compile required materials, including design concepts, cost estimates, and supporting documentation.

7. Submit Grant Application(s)

Submit applications through the appropriate agency or nonprofit entity.

8. Grant Award Notification

Receive and review funding decisions.

9. Final Design and Engineering

Upon award, complete detailed design and update cost estimates as needed.

10. Grant Administration and Compliance

Manage reporting requirements, reimbursements, and communication with the funding agency.

11. Project Construction

Bid and construct the project, ensuring proper oversight and quality control.

12. Project Completion and Public Access

Finalize construction and open the project for public use.

13. Grant Close-Out

Complete all required documentation and finalize the grant with the funding agency.

14. Ongoing Maintenance and Operations

Maintain the site and facilities to ensure long-term usability and quality. Ensure all applicable grant guidelines are followed for the timeframe facilities must remain a public, recreational asset.

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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 appendix 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 (porto-jon)
 - 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

ADA Accessibility Key

Low: The site has very limited ADA accessibility with little to no ADA-accessible features (less than half of the site).

Medium: The site offers a balanced mix of accessible and non-accessible features. (around half of the site's features).

High: The site is fully or almost fully ADA-accessible with most or all features are ADA-accessible.

Township of Arcadia

Community Description

The Township of Arcadia is located adjacent to Lake Michigan. According to the 2020 Census, the Township has a population of 657. The Township of 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 those resources as generations present and past. These natural resources also provide economic and recreational growth opportunities that attract residents and visitors to the area.

Recreation planning is an important process to help sustain the Township of Arcadia as an outdoors-oriented place while adapting to changes over time, such as population change and shifts in the economy. In the development of the Township's master plan and recreation goals, the Township recognizes the need to leverage community assets, diversify the economic base, and understand its role as a regional resource for recreation. The current master plan update incorporates public input to help guide future recreation priorities and improvements.

The Township of Arcadia recognizes that quality recreation opportunities help the community be socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable. These opportunities promote a unified and healthy populace, support economic growth through the use of natural resource assets, and help showcase the community's natural resources while supporting their stewardship.

The Township provides varied recreational sites and opportunities to fit most interests. The Arcadia Beach Natural Area provides access to Lake Michigan with universal accessibility and amenities such as restrooms, benches, and signage. Recent additions have enhanced this community asset, with future improvements to be identified through surveys and public input. Additional Lake Michigan access may be found at various road ends throughout the municipality. Recreational activities include swimming, bird watching, boating, biking, hiking, snowshoeing, fishing, paddle sports, cross-country skiing, night sky viewing, and more. The Township is home to nationally known golf courses bringing players from across the country to the region.

Community parks with playground equipment and courts for tennis and basketball can be found within the population center of the unincorporated Village. Access to Arcadia Lake at 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, providing opportunities for hiking, bird watching, and hunting. Conservancy lands along the northern boundary of the Township of Arcadia, along with existing trails and the on-road facility along a portion of Glovers Lake Road, provide opportunities for future trail connections.

Support for connections to Bear Lake, Pleasanton, and Onekama Townships, as well as Benzie County, should remain a focus. The Township of Arcadia will continue to support regional partnerships, including the M-22 Byway Committee, to promote the area's scenic and recreational resources and strengthen regional connectivity.

Administrative Structure

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



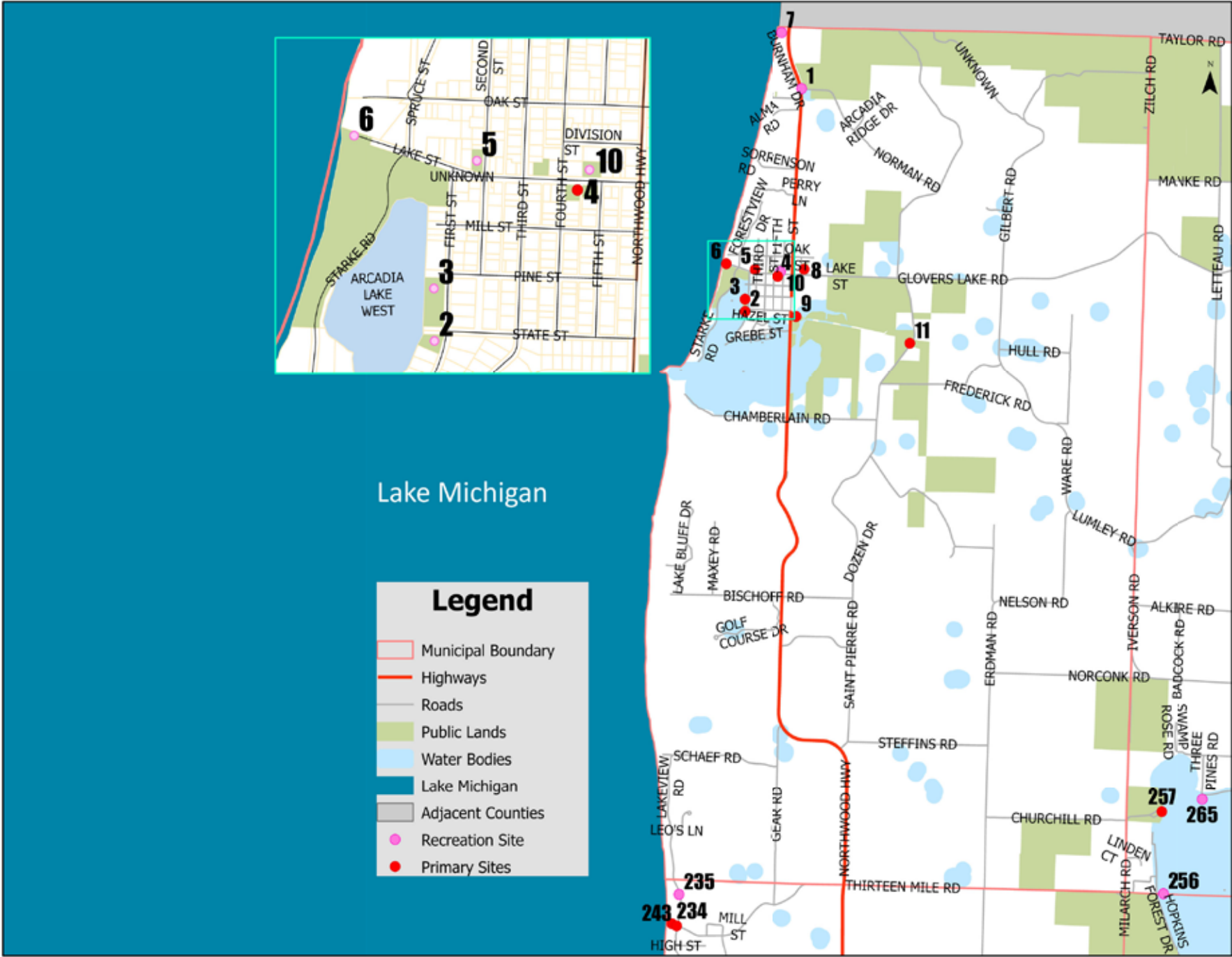
DNR-Awarded Grants

Project #	Applicant	Title	Year	Amount	Status	Description
26-01016	Arcadia Township	Arcadia Township Lake Michigan Park	1977	\$12,966.00	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 piles, piers 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	\$834,759.00	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	Finch Park Improvements	2011	\$11,175.00	Closed	Development included renovation of parking lot and tennis courts.

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)	Potable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Outhouse (Pit Vault)	Portable Toilet	Garbage Receptacle	Picnic Table	Benches/Chairs	Grill	Bike Rack	Emergency Phone	Water Access	Beach	Pier/Fishing Platform	Canoe/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Boat Parking	Picnic Shelter	Pet Waste Disposal Station	Viewing Platform	Trailhead (Water, Land)
2	Grebe Park	ARC	1	CP		H	•	•		3		•	•		•			•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•				•	•	•	
5	Pickert Park	ARC	1	NP		L			•	1								•	•												•		
6	Arcadia Beach & Natural Area	ARC	1	CP		M	•	•		3	•	•				•		•	•	•	•	•		•	•						•	•	W
8	Arcadia Community Center	ACC	1	SU		H		•		3					•			•	•	•		•	•							•			
3	Veterans Memorial Park & Marina	ARC	1	CP	•	M	•	•		3		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•		•			•	•	•	•	•		W
4	Finch Park	ARC	1	NP		M		•		2							•		•			•								•	•		
9	Arcadia Marsh Natural Area - M-22 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				•	•																		
1	Trailhead F	Conservancy	3	RDSU		L				1																						•	L
7	M-22 Scenic Overlook	State	3	SU		M				2																						•	

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Trails (Off Pavement)	Bike Lane (Road Shoulder)	Playground Equipment	Tennis/Pickleball Court	Basketball Court
2	Grebe Park			•		
5	Pickert Park			•		
6	Arcadia Beach & Natural Area	•	•	•		
8	Arcadia Community Center		•	•	•	•
3	Veterans Memorial Park & Marina	•	•			
4	Finch Park				•	
9	Arcadia Marsh Natural Area - M-22 Trailhead	•				
11	Arcadia Marsh Natural Area - St. Pierre Trailhead	•				
10	Arcadia Twp Hall					
1	Trailhead F	•				
7	M-22 Scenic Overlook					



Bear Lake Township

Community Description

Bear Lake Township is a rural residential community located in the Northern part of Manistee County. The township’s population according to the 2020 Census is 1,831. 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 36 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. Continual progress should be made for the development of trail systems connecting these municipalities.

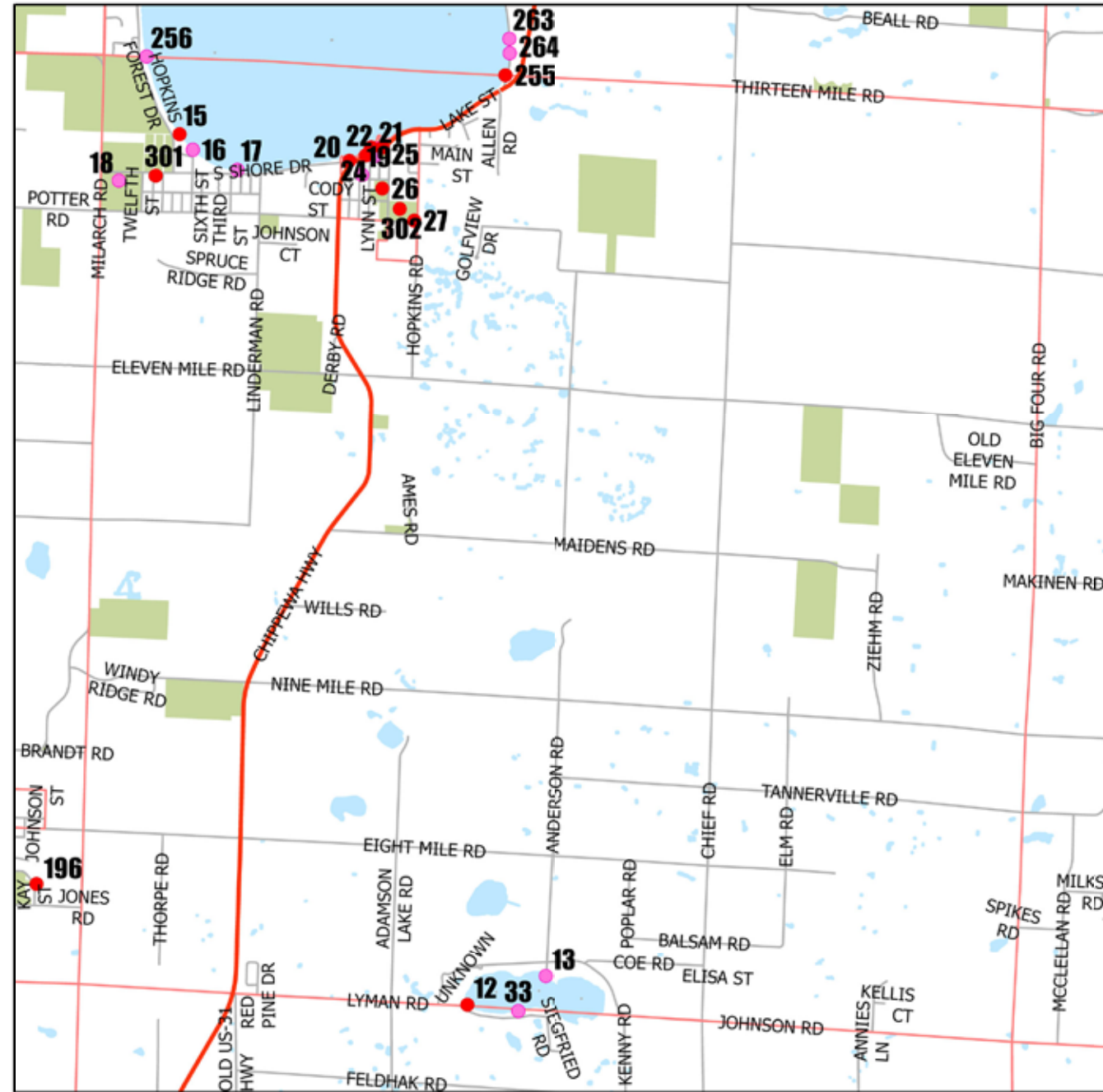
Administrative Structure

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



Recreation Site Inventory

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	ADA Access (Low, Med., High)	Parking Availability	Signage Directional	Potable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Outhouse (Pit Vault)	Garbage Receptacle	Benches	Water Access	Canoe/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Trails (Off Pavement)	Baseball Field
12	Chief Lake Access	BRT	1	RDSU	L	1	•						•	•	•		
15	Division St. Access-BL	MCRC	1	RDSU	L	1							•	•			
301	Eleventh Street Property	BLT	1	MP	L	1											
16	Seventh St Access-BL	MCRC	2	RDSU	L	1						•	•	•			
17	2nd St. Access-BL	BRT	2	RDSU	L	1	•					•	•				
18	Bear Lake School Athletic Fields	School	3	SU	L	3	•	•	•	•	•	•				•	•
13	Anderson Rd Access-CH	MCRC	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 2020 Census is 342. 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 Cosier Memorial Courts and greater use of Village Park all need to be explored. The old DPW building is in a prime location to foster better utilization of Hopkins Park with plans to renovate the building for village offices, and renovated bathrooms for the Hopkins Park Campground.

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, Cosier Memorial Courts, Village Park, the boat launch, and the Hopkins Park Stair Access.

The Village of Bear Lake, 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, or state and national forests, many of the communities lack basic recreational assets like bike paths and parks designed for outdoor events.

Village of Bear Lake 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 planning for linking the Village to this established trail system should be supported as well as continuing the trail system through Bear Lake Township to Onekama Township and the Village of Onekama.

Administrative Structure

Municipality	Village of Bear Lake
Governing body responsible for recreation planning	Village Council at the recommendation of the Planning Commission
Governing body authorized to commit funds	Village Council
Budget	As needed for maintenance; usually between \$3-5,000 annually
Sources of funds	Village Park Revenue
Volunteers	Community cleanup; local events and celebrations; 20 volunteers
Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements	Bear Lake Promoters, Bear Lake Triginta Club, Greater Bear Watershed Alliance (GBWA)
Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)	No
Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center	No



Recreation Site Inventory

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Med., High)	Lighting	Parking Availability	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Camping	RV Compatible (Camping)	Utilities/Hook-Ups (Camping)	Potable 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 Pavement)	Playground Equipment	Baseball Field	Tennis/Pickleball Court	Basketball Court	Volley Ball	Basketball Court		
21	Hopkins Park Campground & Boat Launch	BLV	1	CP	•	L	•	3	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		W	•	•							
20	Bear Lake Beach	BLV	1	MP		L	•	1	•									•	•	•	•	•	•													
22	Hopkins Park Stair Access	BLV	1	MP		L		3	•												•															
27	DPW Village Property	BLV	1	SU		L		1																												
26	School Athletic Fields	School	1	SU		L		3	•							•			•											•	•	•	•		•	
25	Old DPW Building	BLV	1	NP		M	•	3						•	•	•																				
302	Discovery Trail	BLV	1	NP		L		1		•									•								L	•								
19	Cosier Memorial Courts/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		•								•	•																	



Brown Township

Community Description

Brown Township is a rural residential community located in the Manistee River Valley. The population according to the 2020 Census is 704. 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.

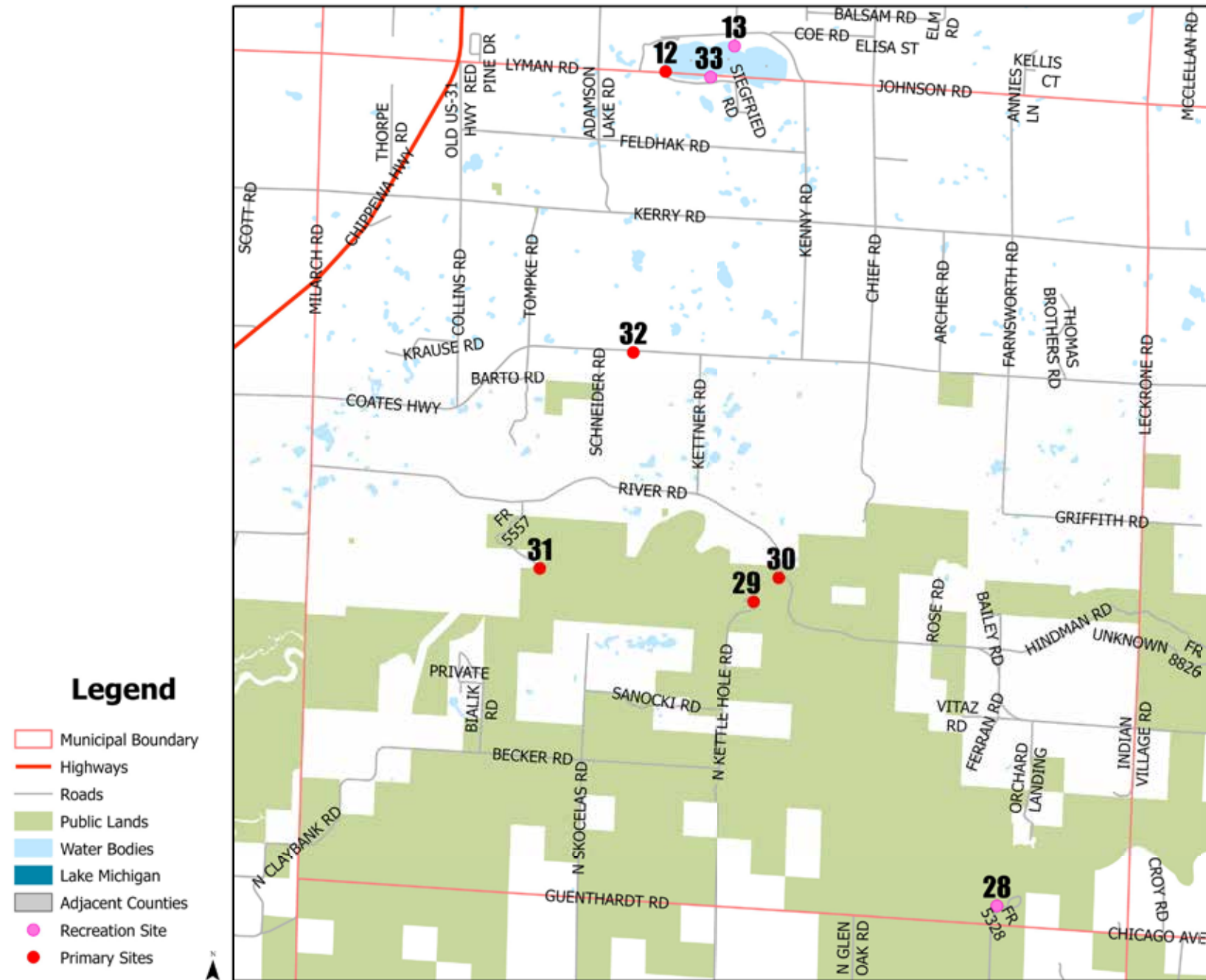
Administrative Structure

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



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	Explore the Shores Nominee	Lighting	Dark Sky Candidate	Parking Availability	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Camping	Potable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Outhouse (Pit Vault)	Garbage Receptacle	Fire Pit	Picnic Table	Benches	Grill	Water Access	Pier/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	•			•	3	•	•				•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•		W	•		
30	Bear Creek Access	USFS	1	SU	•	H	•			•	3	•	•				•	•		•			•	•	•	•		W	•		
32	Brown Twp. Hall	BRN	1	SU		M			•		3	•			•	•		•		•										•	
29	Kettlehole Rd Access-MR	MCRC	1	RDSU		L				•	2			•									•								
33	Lyman Rd Access-CL	MCRC	2	RDSU		L		•			1												•		•						
28	Udell Rollways Day Use Area	USFS	3	RP		L				•	3	•	•				•		•	•		•	•			•					•



Cleon Township

Community Description

Cleon 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 four counties meet. The southeastern border is the county line between Manistee County and Wexford County, the northeast border is the county line between Manistee County and Grand Traverse County, and the northwest border is the county line between Manistee County and Benzie County. According to the 2020 Census, the population is 1,063.

Early settlers arrived in Cleon Township in 1865 to homestead. With the creation of the railroad, several villages developed in the area. Shortly after settlement, Cleon Township was transferred to Wexford County in 1868 due to the location of the county courthouse in Sherman before returning to Manistee County in 1881. The Village of Copemish incorporated in 1891 as the first incorporated village in Manistee County.

Students attend Mesick Consolidated or Benzie County schools.

Transportation patterns have changed as the railroads were abandoned and Cadillac Highway (M-115) became the area’s primary transportation corridor, providing access to campgrounds, public water access sites, local lakes, and Lake Michigan. Cleon Township evolved from a lumbering settlement into an agricultural community and is now primarily a bedroom community located approximately 30 miles from Traverse City, Manistee, and Cadillac. The township is also within five miles of Crystal Mountain Resort and approximately 15 miles of the Interlochen Center for the Arts.

Cleon Township is the only municipality in Manistee County without an identified recreation site outside the Village of Copemish, although it contains public lands and trail systems within its borders. The Township Hall is located within the Village of Copemish and is included in that municipality’s recreation inventory. Because the township and village share recreational resources, continued coordination of recreation planning is encouraged.

Cleon Township contains abundant public lands and trail systems that are important to both the local community and Manistee County. Continued support for maintaining and expanding connections to adjacent communities,

Crystal Mountain Resort, and regional recreation opportunities should remain a priority.

Administrative Structure

Municipality	Cleon 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 Copemish

Community Description

Village of Copemish is located in northeastern Manistee County and is surrounded by Cleon Township. Largely defined as a quiet bedroom community, the Village is conveniently located between the City of Manistee, Traverse City, and the City of Cadillac. Residents enjoy easy access to larger population centers while maintaining the rural character and natural setting that define the community. The Village also serves as a gateway to regional recreation opportunities, including Crystal Mountain Resort, Twisted Trails Off-Road Park, and the Betsie Valley Trail. According to the 2020 Census, the popultion is 195.

Copemish was incorporated in 1891 following a boom in the local logging industry and the construction of two railroads through the area. While the railroads are no longer active, their former corridor has become the Betsie Valley Trail, which passes through the Village along M-115. The Manistee County section now features a crushed limestone surface supporting snowmobiling, hiking, bicycling, and other recreational uses. The Village continues to pursue development of separate trailheads for non-motorized users and snowmobilers.

Copemish has two parks that serve different user groups. Mish-a-Mish Park provides access to the 1.1-mile First Creek Nature Trail and primarily attracts visitors, while Louis Park serves Village residents with a playground, basketball court, picnic shelter, seating, and barbecue pits. Most community events are held at Louis Park adjacent to the Village Hall.

The Village Hall has recently received a new roof, interior renovations, fiber upgrades, and now houses a community food pantry. Recent improvements to the American Legion Hall and Fire Hall reflect the Village’s continued investment in community facilities. Copemish also includes the Cleon Township Hall, the Copemish Historic Museum & Library, and the Archangel Ancient Tree Archive, an internationally recognized nonprofit dedicated to preserving and propagating the genetics of old-growth trees for research, education, and reforestation.

As a key connection along the Betsie Valley Trail and a hub for Twisted Trails, Copemish is well positioned to strengthen its identity as a destination for outdoor recreation while preserving the small-town character and natural resources valued by residents.

Administrative Structure

Municipality	Village of Copemish
Governing body responsible for recreation planning	Planning Commission
Governing body authorized to commit funds	Village Council
Budget	\$2,500
Sources of funds	Line Item
Volunteers	Volunteers for Copemish Days and any other community events such as the Easter Egg Hunt; beautification initiatives; local projects as needed
Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements	Working relationship with Cleon Twp partnered with the Manistee County Community Foundation to bring holiday lights to Copemish
Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)	No
Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center	No

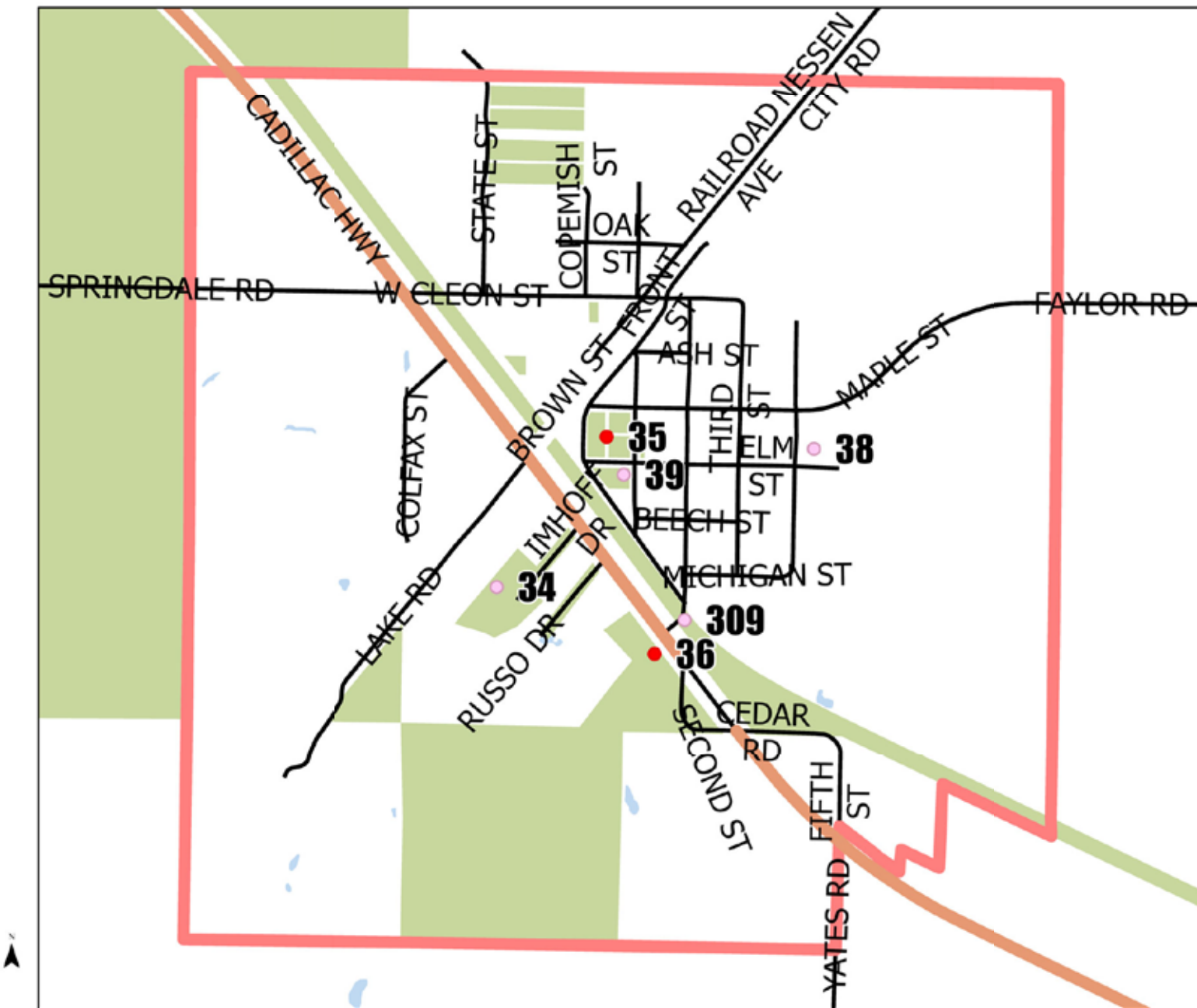
Recreation Site Inventory

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	ADA Access (Low, Med., High)	Lighting	Parking Availability	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Potable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Outhouse (Pit Vault)	Garbage Receptacle	Picnic Table	Benches	Grill	Water Access	Picnic Shelter	Trailhead (Water, Land)	Trails (Off Pavement)	Playground Equipment	Basketball Court
35	Louis Park	COP	1	NP	M	•	3	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•			•	•
36	Mish-A-Mish Park/ First Creek Nature Trails	COP	1	CP	L		2	•	•			•	•	•	•	•			L	•	•	
34	Cleon Twp. Hall	CLE	2	SU	M	•	3	•		•	•											
38	Copemish Historic Museum & Library	Cop. Hist.	2	SU	L	•	2	•														
39	Copemish Village Hall	COP	2	SU	M	•	3	•		•	•			•	•	•						
309	Bestie Valley Trailway	DNR	3	NRA	M		2	•						•					•	•		



Legend

- Primary Site
- Recreation Site
- Highways
- Municipal Boundary
- Roads
- Public Lands
- Water Bodies
- Lake Michigan
- Adjacent Counties



Dickson Township

Community Description

Dickson Township lies within the boundaries of the Manistee National Forest. The population, according to the 2020 Census, is 980. The famous Big Manistee River runs through the eastern and southern portions of the township, and Tippy Dam Pond, home to the Michigan record walleye catch, makes the Township a Michigan fishing and vacation destination. State and federal recreational lands make up a large portion of the Township’s 71.6 square miles of land, with an additional 1.6 square miles of water. Numerous creeks and tributaries wind through the Township.

Numerous outdoor activities await the outdoor enthusiast, including hunting, fishing, morel mushroom hunting, hiking, biking, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, boating, ORV riding, and kayaking. These natural amenities also make Dickson Township a favorite destination for retirees. The Village of Brethren sits just north of the Big Manistee River and serves as the hub for local activities, visitor information, and various festivals throughout the year. Whether visiting in spring, summer, fall, or winter, there is always something to enjoy in Dickson Township. Located approximately two hours from Grand Rapids, four and one-half hours from Chicago, and one hour from Traverse City and Cadillac, the Township continues to attract visitors who return to vacation—or choose to make Dickson Township their home.

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 Area located on the Manistee River. This site sees some of the highest angler use in the state according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. River access is further facilitated downstream of Tippy Dam at the High Bridge Access. Between these two sites, anglers and other river users can access the majority of the river within Dickson Township below Tippy Dam.

The Hodenpyl stretch of the Manistee River, the area between Hodenpyl Dam in Marilla Township and the backwaters of Tippy Dam in Dickson Township, is an extraordinarily scenic section of river in Manistee County. Access at Red Bridge provides a location to 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 downstream from Hodenpyl Dam. The Township seeks to make this site universally accessible to increase its use by the community.

Tippy Pond is a popular destination with abundant rustic campsites and is heavily used during the summer months. Dickson Township is also intersected

by several regional trail systems, including the North Country National Scenic Trail, the Manistee River Trail, and a snowmobile trail network. Together, the North Country Trail and the Manistee River Trail create a 23-mile loop that is popular with backpackers seeking a weekend backcountry experience. Continued support for trail connections both within the Township and to surrounding communities should remain a priority, including connections to the Village of Kaleva to the north.

Administrative Structure

Municipality	Dickson Township
Governing body responsible for recreation planning	Township Board, Planning Commission, and Parks & Recreation Committee
Governing body authorized to commit funds	Township Board
Budget	Funds allocated as needed
Sources of funds	General Fund, Brethren Boosters, and Grants
Volunteers	Brethren Boosters, Snow Birds, Dirt Birds, Brethren Heritage Association, and Spirit of the Woods Conservation Club.
Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements	Benzie-Manistee Snow Birds, and Dirt Birds, Seeds, National Honor Society of KND, Dickson Cultural Center, and Manistee County Community Foundation
Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)	No
Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center	No



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	Explore the Shore Nominee	Lighting	Dark Sky Candidate	Parking Availability	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Camping	RV Compatible (Camping)	Utilities/Hook-Ups (Camping)	Potable 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	Baseball Field	Basketball Court
40	Tippy Dam South Access	Con	1	SU		L					3	•	•						•	•					•								•				
87	Tippy Dam Access	State	1	RP	•	H	•	•	•		3	•	•				•		•	•		•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•			W	•			
47	Highbridge Access	USFS	1	SU	•	L				•	3	•	•						•			•			•			•	•				W	•			
41	Tippy Pond Access	State	1	SU	•	M					3	•													•				•			W	•				
46	Suicide Bend Access	USFS	1	NRA		L				•	3		•												•									•			
80	Red Bridge Access	USFS	1	RP		M		•		•	3	•	•	•			•		•		•	•		•			•	•				W	•				
86	Spirit of the Woods Conservation Club	Private	1	NRA		H	•			•	3	•	•					•	•		•	•	•		•		•	•				L	•				
43	Blacksmith Bayou Access	USFS	2	RP	•	L				•	2	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•			•			•	•			•	•				

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Med., High)	Explore the Shores Site	Explore the Shore Nominee	Lighting	Dark Sky Candidate	Parking Availability	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Camping	RV Compatible (Camping)	Utilities/Hook-Ups (Camping)	Potable 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	Baseball Field	Basketball Court		
44	Tippy Dam Campground	State	2	RP	•	L					3	•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•			•									•					
45	Sawdust Hole Access	USFS	2	NRA	•	L				•	3	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•			•									•					
49	Manikiwa Park Recreation Area	DIC	2	RP		L					2	•						•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•		•	•				•		•	•		•	
56	Peterson Creek Rd Access-MR	MCRC	2	RDSU		L				•	1			•							•				•														
81	Upper River Rd North Country Trail T.H.	USFS	2	PT		L				•	2	•																				L	•						
48	Dickson Twp. Park	DIC	2	CP		M			•		3	•				•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•									•			•	•	•	
42	Tunk Hole Access	USFS	3	NRA		L				•	3	•	•					•	•						•										•				
50	Dickson Twp. Hall	DIC	3	SU		M			•		2	•					•	•																					
51	Upper Manistee River Rustic Campsite	USFS	3	SU		L				•	1	•		•							•				•										•				
52	Upper Manistee River Rustic Campsite	USFS	3	SU		L				•	1	•		•							•				•										•				
53	Upper Manistee River Rustic Campsite	USFS	3	SU		L				•	1	•		•							•				•										•				
54	Upper Manistee River Rustic Campsite	USFS	3	SU		L				•	1	•		•							•				•										•				
55	Upper Manistee River Rustic Campsite	USFS	3	SU		L				•	1	•		•							•				•										•				
57	Upper Manistee River Rustic Campsite	USFS	3	SU		L				•	1	•		•							•				•										•				
58	Upper Manistee River Rustic Campsite	USFS	3	SU		L				•	1	•		•							•				•										•				
59	Upper Manistee River Rustic Campsite	USFS	3	SU		L				•	1	•		•							•				•										•				

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Med., High)	Explore the Shores Site	Explore the Shore Nominee	Lighting	Dark Sky Candidate	Parking Availability	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Camping	RV Compatible (Camping)	Utilities/Hook- Ups (Camping)	Potable 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	Baseball Field	Basketball Court
60	Upper Manistee River Rustic Campsite	USFS	3	SU		L				•	1	•		•							•				•									•			
61	Upper Manistee River Rustic Campsite	USFS	3	SU		L				•	1	•		•							•				•									•			
62	Upper Manistee River Rustic Campsite	USFS	3	SU		L				•	1	•		•	•			•	•		•	•			•			•	•					•			
63	Government Landing Camping & Access	USFS	3	RP		L				•	2	•		•	•			•	•		•	•			•			•	•				W	•			
64	Upper Manistee River Rustic Campsite	USFS	3	SU		L				•	1	•		•	•			•	•		•	•			•			•	•					•			
65	Upper Manistee River Rustic Campsite	USFS	3	SU		L				•	1	•		•							•				•									•			
66	Upper Manistee River Rustic Campsite	USFS	3	SU		L				•	1	•		•							•				•									•			
67	Upper Manistee River Rustic Campsite	USFS	3	SU		L				•	1	•		•							•				•									•			
68	Upper Manistee River Rustic Campsite	USFS	3	SU		L				•	1	•		•							•				•									•			
69	Upper Manistee River Rustic Campsite	USFS	3	SU		L				•	1	•		•							•				•									•			
70	Upper Manistee River Rustic Campsite	USFS	3	SU		L				•	1	•		•							•				•									•			
71	Upper Manistee River Rustic Campsite	USFS	3	SU		L				•	1	•		•							•				•									•			
72	Upper Manistee River Rustic 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 1950. The current population of Eastlake, according to the 2020 Census is 415.

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

Municipality	Village of Eastlake
Governing body responsible for recreation planning	Village Council
Governing body authorized to commit funds	Village Council
Budget	\$13,975
Sources of funds	Line Item
Volunteers	Volunteers recruited as needed for events
Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements	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
Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)	No
Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center	No

Recreation Site Inventory

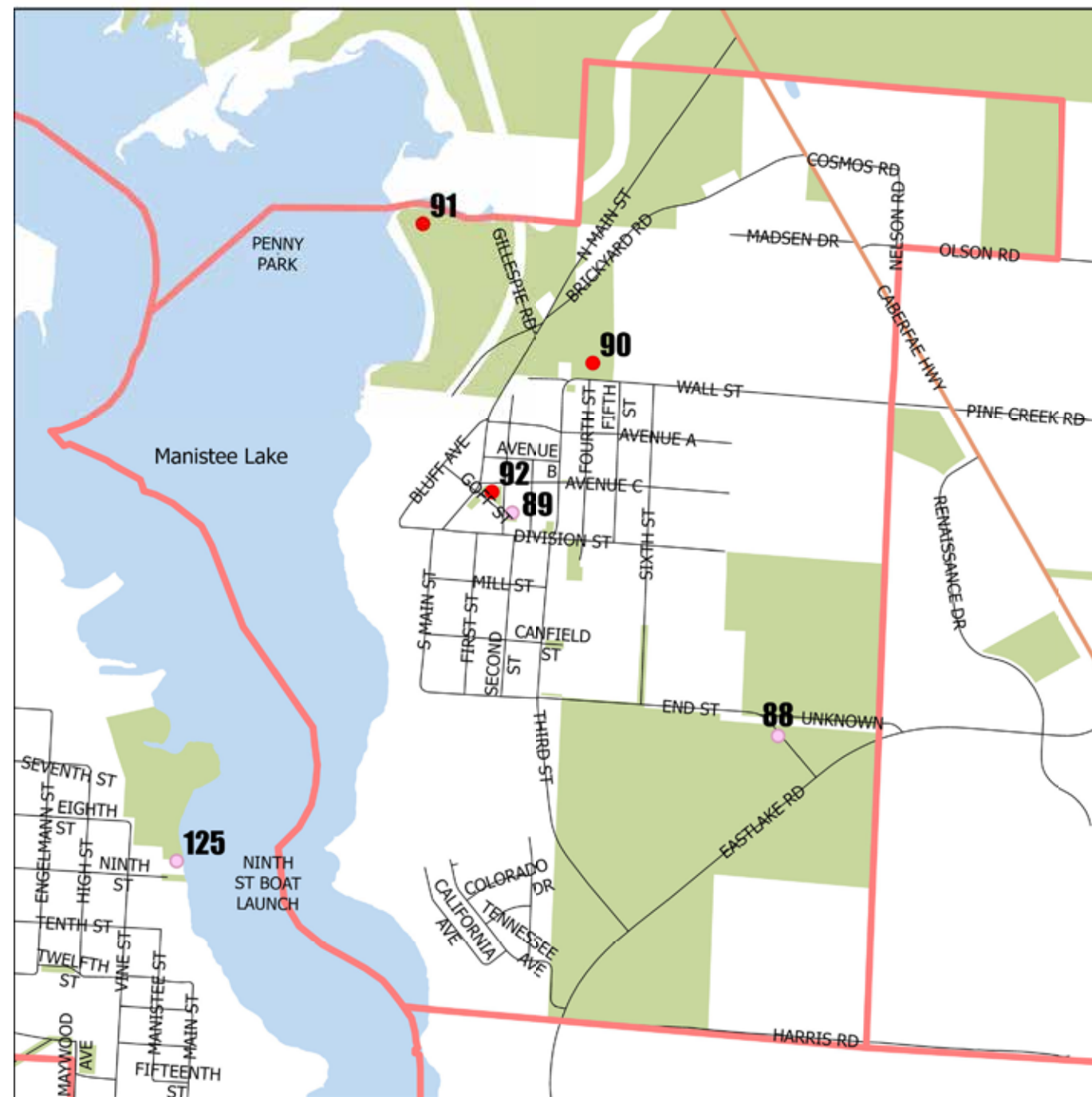
Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Med., High)	Explore the Shores Site	Lighting	Parking Availability	Signage Directional	Camping	RV Compatible (Camping)	Utilities/Hook-Ups (Camping)	Potable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Outhouse (Pit Vault)	Shower Facility	Garbage Receptacle	Fire Pit	Picnic Table	Benches	Grill	Water Access	Canoe/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Fish Cleaning Station	Picnic Shelter	Trailhead (Water, Land)	Trails (Off Pavement)	Playground Equipment	Baseball Field	Basketball Court
91	Penny Park	ELV	1	CP	•	H	•	•	3	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	W	•	•		
92	Eastlake Vil. 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	•											•						L	•				



Project #	Applicant	Title	Year	Amount	Status	Description
TF12-090	Village of Eastlake	Penny Park Renovation	2012	\$141,000.00	Closed	Development to include replacement of bath house, upgrading boat launch/skid pier, installation of playground, upgrading parking area and entrance drive.

Legend

- Primary Site
- Recreation Site
- Highways
- Municipal Boundary
- Roads
- Public Lands
- Water Bodies
- Adjacent Counties



Charter Township of Filer

Community Description

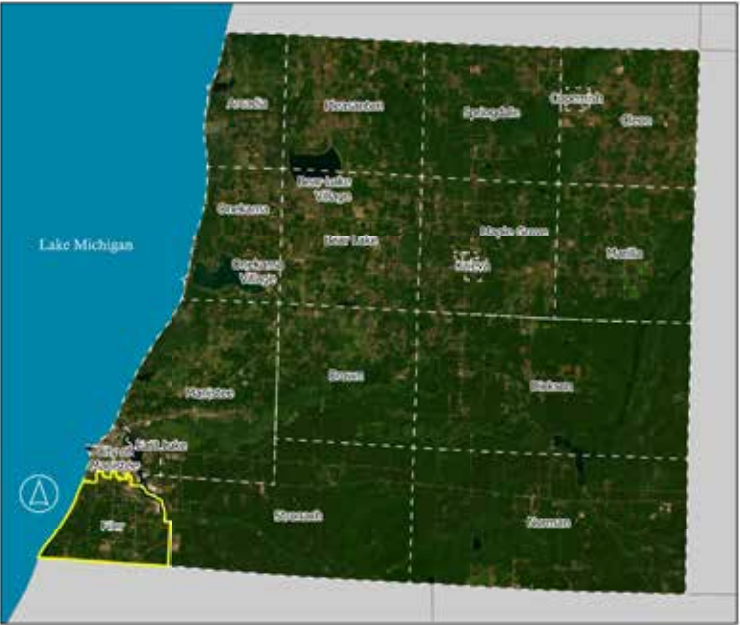
The Charter Township of Filer provides residents with a high quality of life within a varied four-season climate. Located in the southwest corner of Manistee County along the shores of Lake Michigan, Filer Township encompasses 16.5 square miles, including four miles of Lake Michigan shoreline and two miles along Manistee Lake. The Township’s natural beauty was shaped by glacial activity, creating some of the finest freshwater recreation opportunities in northwestern Michigan. According to the 2020 Census, Filer Township has a population of 2,318.

Filer Township rests between Lake Michigan and the southern arm of Manistee Lake and offers numerous opportunities for outdoor recreation and community activities. Lake Michigan access is available at two recreation sites, Magoon Creek Park and Sundling Park. Magoon Creek encompasses 97 acres and serves as the Township’s primary recreation site, with shoreline bluffs, approximately 2.5 miles of trails, picnic areas and shelters, restrooms, swimming access, and opportunities for snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and beachcombing for beach glass and Petoskey stones. Recent improvements, supported by a 2017 DNR Trust Fund Grant, include a paved entrance and parking area, an accessible picnic pavilion, and an accessible overlook platform. Sundling Park provides a 66-foot easement to a largely undeveloped Lake Michigan swimming beach and includes a paved parking area, picnic table, and portable restroom. Additional water access is available at Canfield Lake through a DNR boat launch.

Recreational opportunities extend throughout the Township. Neighborhood parks in the Oak Hill and Filer City areas provide playground equipment, while Oak Hill also features tennis and basketball courts. The Township’s recreation center hosts exercise classes, community meetings, and private events. Filer Township partners with Manistee Area Public Schools to support the community pool and with the Manistee Recreation Association, which offers a variety of recreational activities. Partially paved road shoulders also provide connections for bicyclists and pedestrians traveling between Filer Township and adjoining municipalities.

The Township’s trail network includes the localized trails at Magoon Creek and an on-road bicycle facility along Red Apple Road that extends north toward the City of Manistee along Cherry Street. Continued trail development and stronger regional connections, including the potential for snowmobile trail connections, remain community priorities. The Township also has an ORV ordinance in

place. These efforts support implementation of the Manistee Lake Area Non-Motorized Plan (2020) and should remain a priority for future park, recreation, and connectivity improvements. Beyond its recreational resources, the US-31 Commercial Corridor provides a range of retail, banking, medical, and leisure services to the community, while the Lakefront Industrial Area has adapted to changes in the economy, improved its environmental footprint, and continues to support hundreds of local jobs and the broader community.



Administrative Structure

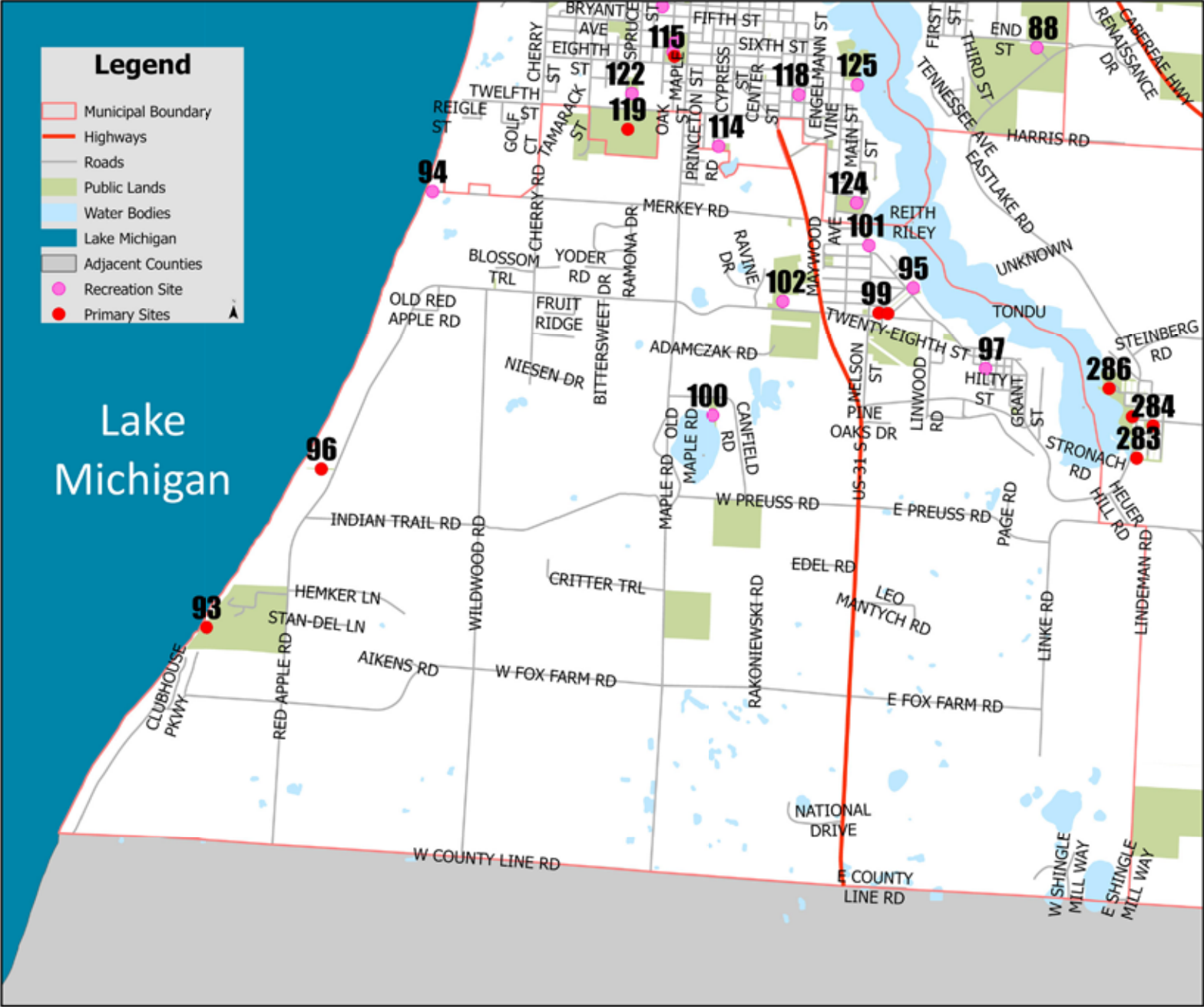
Municipality	Charter Township of Filer
Governing body responsible for recreation planning	Township Board and Parks Department
Governing body authorized to commit funds	Township Board
Budget	\$45,000
Sources of funds	General Fund
Volunteers	No volunteers
Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements	Yes
Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)	Yes - \$10,000
Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center	Yes - \$13,000

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.
TF17-0019	Filer Charter Township	Magoon Creek	2017	71,100	Closed	Paved Park Enterance, providing 25 parking spaces, ADA accessible overlook platform and picnic table and intrepreative signage.

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	Potable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Portable Toilet	Outhouse (Pit Vault)	Garbage Receptacle	Picnic Table	Benches	Grill	Water Access	Beach	Canoe/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Picnic Shelter	Pet Waste Disposal Station	Trailhead (Water, Land)	Trails (Off Pavement)	Bike Lane (Road Shoulder)	Playground Equipment	Tennis Court	Basketball Court	Basketball Court
93	Magoon Creek Natural Area	FIL	1	RP		H	•		•	3	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	L, W	•					
96	Sundling Park	FIL	1	SU		L			•	2					•		•	•	•			•	•			•			•				
99	Oak Hill Park	FIL	1	CP		L		•		2							•	•	•	•										•	•	•	•
98	Filer Twp. Recreation Center	FIL	1	SU	•	M		•		2			•	•			•	•							•								
97	Filer City Park	FIL	2	MP		L				1						•	•	•	•					•					•		•	•	•
94	Merkey Rd Access-MI	MCRC	3	RDSU		L		•		1																							
95	Filer Twp. Hall	FIL	3	SU		H		•		2			•	•			•												•				
102	Wetland Walking Path & Property	FIL	3	PT		L				2																L	•						
101	Nelson St Office	FIL	3	SU		H		•		1				•																			
100	Canfield Lake Boat Launch	State	3	SU		L			•	1	•										•		•	•									



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. According to the 2020 Census, the population is 507.

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, Bible Church and Bethany Luthern Church, 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.

In 2021 the former Kaleva Elementary School has been transformed into the Maple Grove Township Community Center, providing a wide range of amenities for residents of both Maple Grove Township and the Village of Kaleva. TheCommunity Center houses local government offices, a community food pantry, an emergency shelter, an open gymnasium and exercise room, an indoor walking facility, space for community members to teach arts and crafts classes, playground equipment, and pickleball courts.

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.

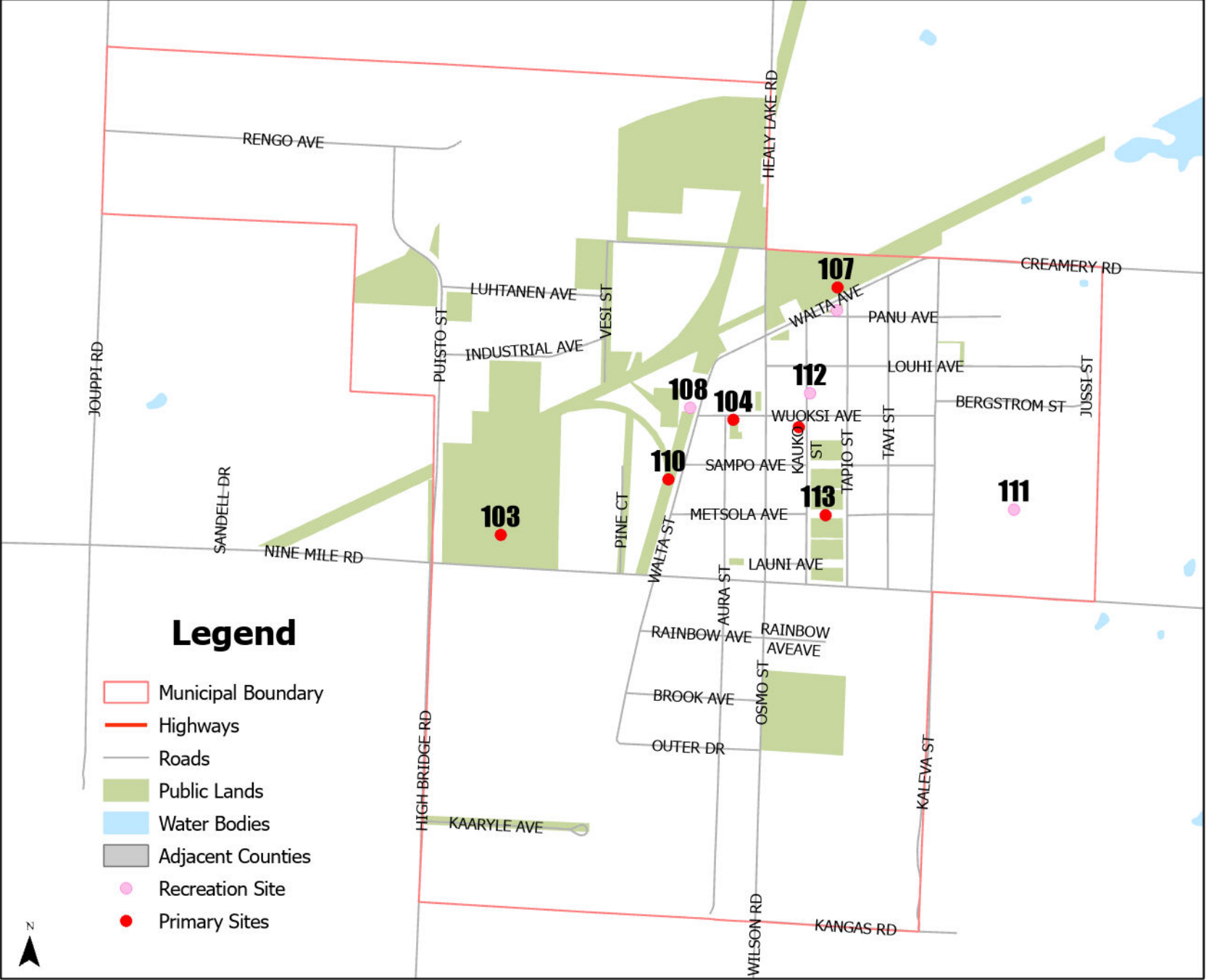
Administrative Structure

Municipality	Village of Kaleva
Governing body responsible for recreation planning	Village Council
Governing body authorized to commit funds	Village Council
Budget	\$20,000
Sources of funds	General Fund & Park Fund
Volunteers	100 volunteers who coordinate joint recreational activities with the Lions Club, Fireman’s Association, Historical Society, Kaleva Beautification Team, Snowbirds Club
Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements	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
Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)	Yes
Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center	No
Contributes to Manistee County Baseball League	No



Recreation Site Inventory

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



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 seasons’ 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. According to the 2020 Census, the population is 6,259.

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, and is also frequented 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 Nonmotorized Trail Committee. The committee has worked for the development of onroad 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

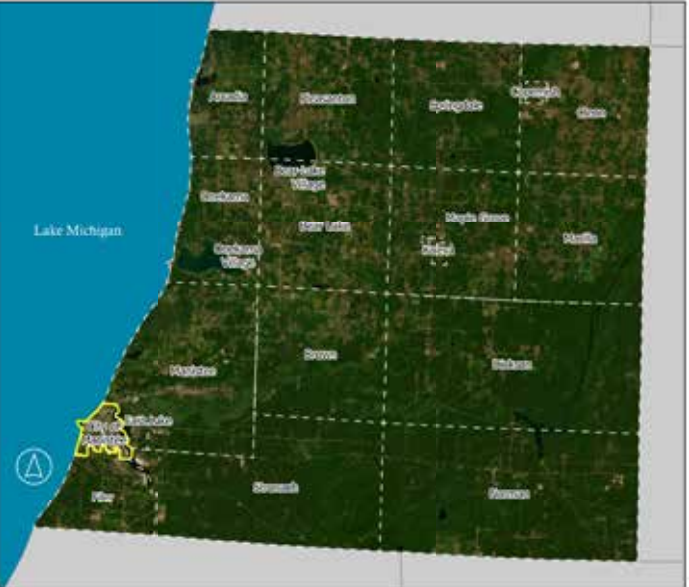
Municipality	City of Manistee
Governing body responsible for recreation planning	Parks Commission; Parks & Recreation Department
Governing body authorized to commit funds	City Council
Budget	\$731,553
Sources of funds	Line Item
Volunteers	Chamber Leadership, Citizen Volunteer Groups, Lakeside Club, Senior Softball, Neighborhood Restoration & Beautification Commission, Saints, Lighthouse Keepers, Disc Golf Club, MRA volunteers, Armory Youth Project, Alternatives for Area Youth. An “Adopt-a-Park” program has been enacted
Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements	Yes
Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)	Yes
Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center	Yes
Contributes to Manistee County Baseball League	Yes

Project #	Applicant	Title	Year	Amount	Status	Description
26-0012B	City of Manistee	First Street Beach Ramp	1972	\$81,450.00	Closed	Development of parking lot, comfort station, lift station, underground wiring and landscaping at 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.
26-01101 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	Barrier Free Marina Project	1991	\$81,000.00	Closed	Renovation of bathhouse, marina access ramp/walkway, replace fuel tanks.
TF91-147	City of Manistee	Manistee Riverwalk West	1991	\$375,000.00	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	\$375,000.00	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.
TF23-0126	City of Manistee	Veterans Memorial Park - Boardwalk Renovation	2023	\$300,000.00	Active	Removing and replacing riverwalk, walkways, installing a retaining wall, landscaping and lighting.
TF24-0185	City of Manistee	Manmade Lake Aquisition	2024	\$90,000.00	Active	Acquisition of a parcel of land immediately adjacent to Manmade Lake and public parking lot for lake. This is the last privately-owned parcel on the lake.

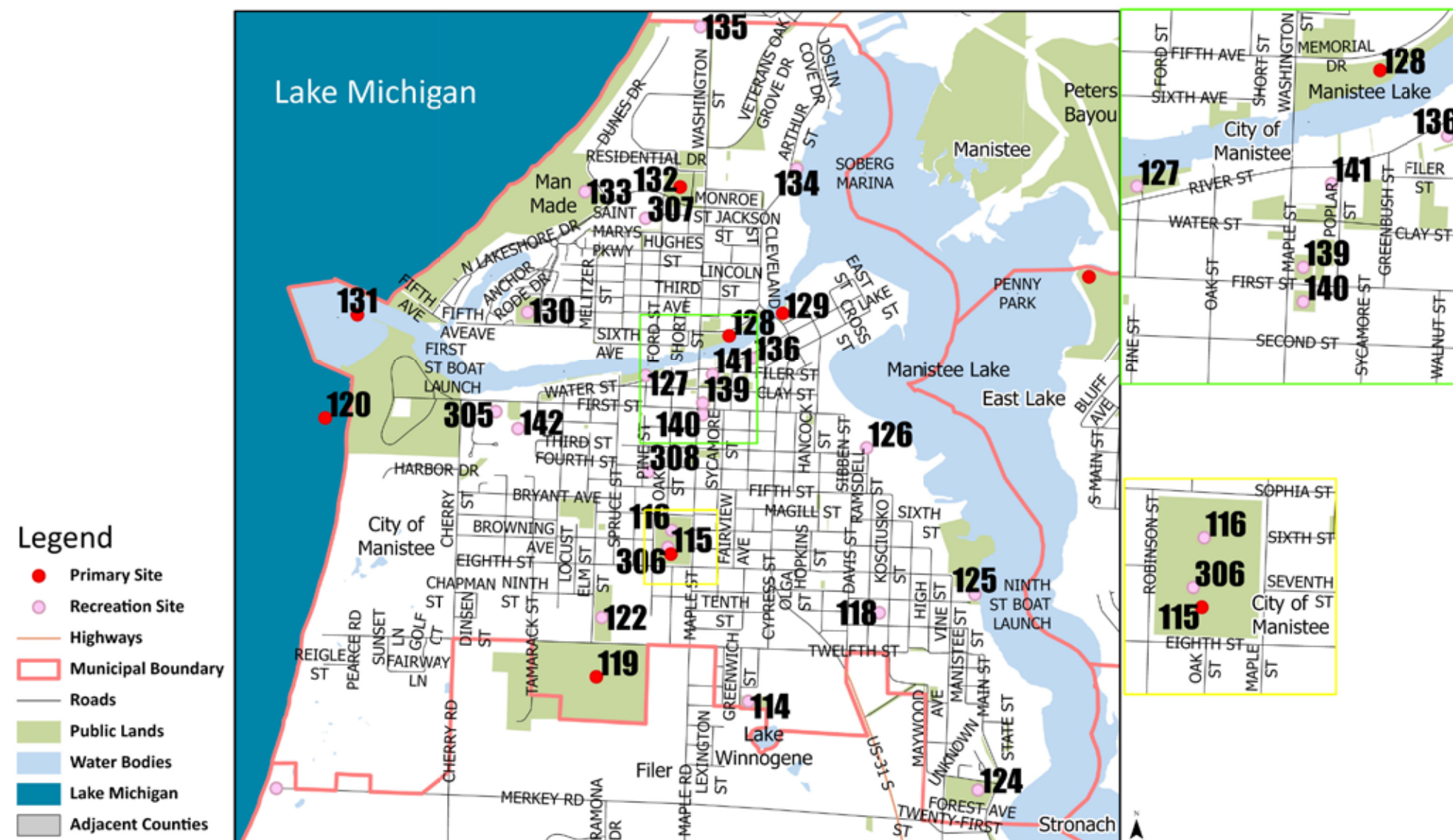
Recreation Site Inventory

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Priority Ranking	Park Type	Fee Site	ADA Access	Explore the Shores Site	Lighting	Dark Sky Candidate	Parking Availability	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Utilities/Hook-Ups	Potable Water	Restrooms - Flush	Portable Toilet	Shower Facility	Garbage Receptacle	Picnic Table	Benches	Grill	Bike Rack	Emergency Phone	Water Access	Beach	Fire Pit	Pier/Fishing Platform	Canoe/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Boat Parking	Fish Cleaning Station	Picnic Shelter	Beach House	
120	Douglas Rec Area/1st St Beach	CITY	1	CP	•	H	•	•		3	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
129	The Riverwalk (South)	CITY	1	PT		H		•		1		•		•				•		•		•												
131	Fifth Ave Beach	CITY	1	CP		H	•	•		3	•	•		•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	
115	Sands Park	CITY/ School	1	NP		L		•		3		•			•			•		•		•												
119	Paine Aquatic Cen.	School	1	SU	•	L		•		3	•	•		•	•			•		•		•												
132	Duffy Park	CITY	1	NP		L				3	•			•	•			•	•	•		•										•		
128	Veterans Memorial Park & Riverwalk	CITY	1	PT		L		•		3	•	•		•				•	•	•		•					•							
125	Ninth St Boat Launch	CITY	2	SU		L		•		1						•		•						•					•	•	•			
114	Mack Park	CITY	2	NP		M				3				•		•		•	•			•												
124	Reitz Park	CITY	2	NP		M		•		1	•	•		•	•			•	•	•	•	•												
126	Morton Park	Morton	2	MP		L				1				•		•		•	•	•	•	•	•											
130	Red Szymarek Park	CITY	2	NP		L				2						•		•	•			•												
133	Man Made Lake	CITY	2	NP		L				2	•	•				•		•				•		•					•					
134	Arthur St Boat Launch	CITY	2	SU		H		•		3	•	•		•	•			•				•		•			•	•	•	•				
135	North Beach Access Park	CITY	2	MP		L			•	2						•		•		•		•		•	•									
143	Manistee Non-motorized Trail Park*	CITY	2	PT		L				2																								
127	Manistee Municipal Marina	CITY	2	SU	•	H		•		3	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•		•										
116	Manistee Elementary School Gym	School	3	SU		H		•		3	•			•	•		•	•				•												
122	Centennial Track	School	3	SU		H		•		1					•			•																
136	Art Park	Pvt.	3	MP						3																								
139	Manistee Public Library	M.C.	3	SU				•		3				•	•							•												
142	Hamlin Field	Pvt.	3	NP		L				3	•			•		•		•																
118	Maxwelltown Comm. Park	CITY	3	NP						3	•				•			•	•	•		•											•	
140	Ramsdell Theatre	CITY	3	SU				•		1	•				•																			
141	Vogue Theatre	Pvt.	3	SU	•			•		1	•				•																			
305	Armory Youth Project	Pvt.	3	SU		H		•		3	•	•			•			•																
306	The Rec at Sands Park	CITY/ School	3	MP		H		•		3		•	•		•	•		•																
307	Wagoner Community Center	Pvt.	3	SU		H		•		3			•	•	•			•		•														
308	Trinity Lutheran Playground	Pvt.	3	SU		M		•		3																								

Site Name	Band shell	Dog Park	Pet Waste Station	Viewing Platform	Trailhead (Water, Land)	Trails (Off Pavement)	Bike Lane	Playground Equipment	Baseball Field	Tennis Court	Pickle Ball	Volley Ball	Basketball Court	Soccer Field	Football Field	Shuffle Board	Ice Arena	Skate Park	Disc Golf
Douglas Rec Area/1st St Beach	•	•	•	•	W		•	•	•	•		•	•						•
The Riverwalk (South)				•	L	•													
Fifth Ave Beach					W			•		•	•	•							
Sands Park								•	•				•				•	•	
Paine Aquatic Cen.									•					•	•				
Duffy Park			•					•	•				•	•					
Veterans Memorial Park & Riverwalk	•			•	L	•													
Ninth St Boat Launch					W														
Mack Park								•	•			•	•						
Reitz Park			•					•	•				•						
Morton Park			•					•					•						
Red Szymarek Park			•					•											•
Man Made Lake																			
Arthur St Boat Launch				•	W														
North Beach Access Park		•	•	•															
Manistee Non-motorized Trail Park*					L	•													
Manistee Municipal Marina			•		L	•										•	•		
Kennedy School Gym													•						
Centennial Track																			
Art Park																			
Manistee Public Library																			
Hamlin Field									•										
Maxwelltown Comm. Park								•					•						
Ramsdell Theatre																			
Vogue Theatre																			
Armory Youth Project																			•
The Rec at Sands Park																			
Wagoner Community Center																			
Trinity Lutheran Playground								•											



*Site 143 appears in the Manistee 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 the 2020 Census, is 4,022. Access to the Township is via US 31, M-55 and M-22. Manistee is home to some of the County’s largest employers, the Little River Casino Resort, the Oaks Correctional Facility, Munson Healthcare Manistee 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.

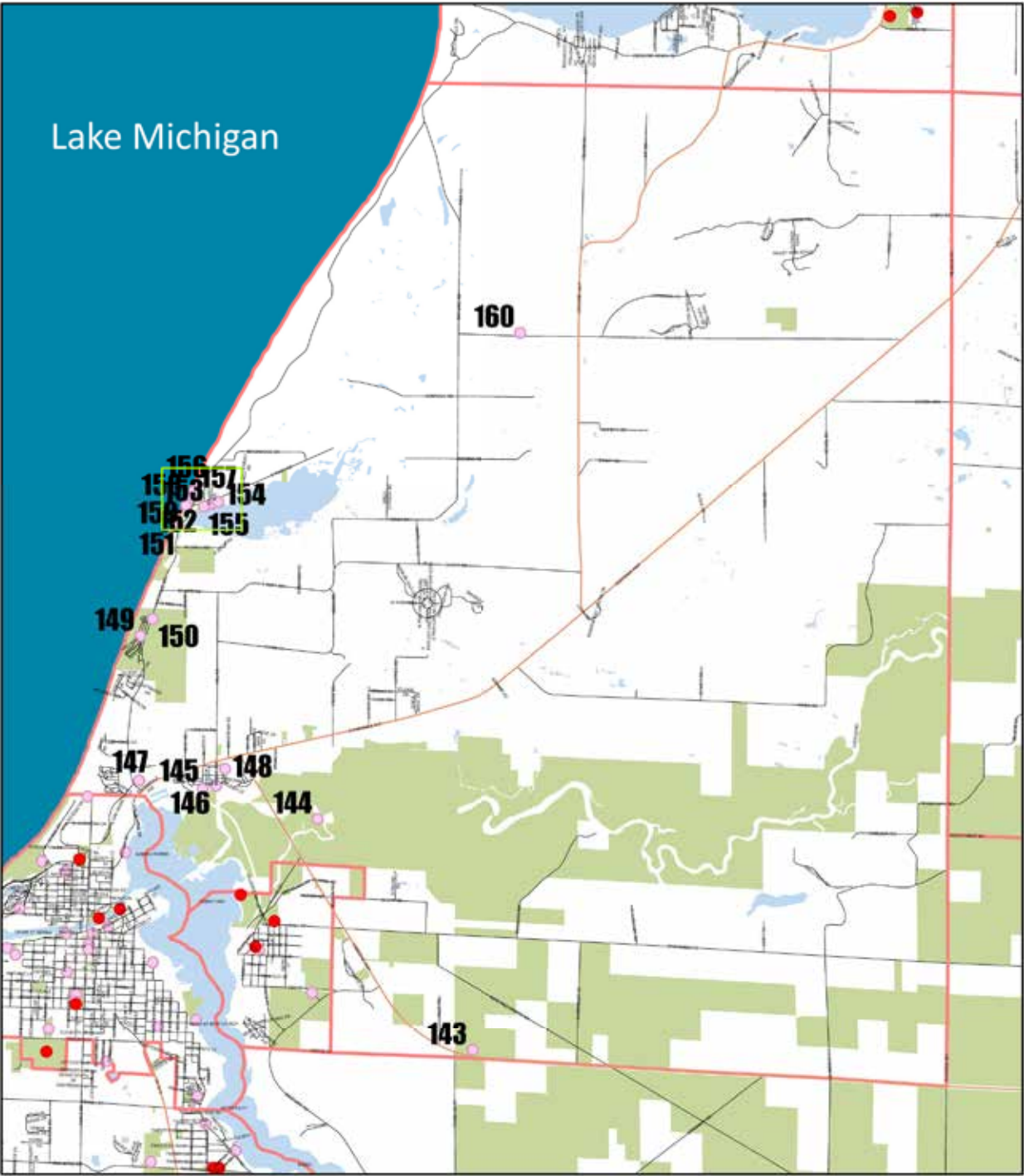
County facilities in the township include Manistee-Blacker Airport, the County Sheriff’s Department and Jail, and the County Medical Care Facility. Other employment opportunities exist in the township’s urban area including an industrial zone and small businesses. In rural areas of the township there 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 the township as well.

Manistee Township contains the only off-road, paved, large-width non-motorized pathway in Manistee County. This pathway, located between Lakeshore Drive and Hill Road, is well used by the public. In addition to its non-motorized facilities, the Township permits ORV use on designated roads.



- Legend**
- Primary Site
 - Recreation Site
 - Highways
 - Municipal Boundary
 - Roads
 - Public Lands
 - Water Bodies
 - Adjacent Counties



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	Explore the Shore Nominee	Lighting	Dark Sky Candidate	Parking Availability	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Camping	RV Compatible (Camping)	Utilities/Hook-Ups (Camping)	Potable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Portable Toilet	Shower Facility	Garbage Receptacle	Fire Pit	Picnic Table	Benches	Grill	Bike Rack	Water Access	Beach	Canoe/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Picnic Shelter	Viewing Platform	Trailhead (Water, Land)	Trails (Off Pavement)
149	Orchard Beach State Park	State	1	RP	•	M			•		3	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•			•
148	Manistee Twp Park at the Twp Hall	MAN	1	MP		L					3								•		•		•	•										
151	Bar Lake Outlet Beach	MAN	1	NRA		H	•		•	•	2		•											•		•	•	•	•			•	W	•
143	Manistee Non-motorized Trail Park	CITY	2	PT		L					2																					L	•	
146	Bridge St Access-MR	MCRC	2	RDSU		L					1																•		•	•			W	•
147	Zimmerman Lane Trailhead	MCRC	2	PT		H				•	1		•																			L	•	
158	Access-MI	MCRC	2	RDSU		L				•	1																•	•	•					
160	Newland School	MCRC	2	SU		L			•		3						•	•					•											
159	Access-MI	MCRC	2	RDSU		L				•	1																•	•	•					
145	Park Ave Access-MR	MCRC	3	RDSU		L					1																•		•					
152	Maplewood Ave Access-BA	MCRC	3	RDSU		L				•	1																•	•	•					
153	Balsam Ave Access-BA	MCRC	3	RDSU		L					1																•	•	•					
155	Bar Lake Unimproved Boat Launch	MCRC	3	SU		L					1																•	•	•	•				
156	Poplar Rd Access-MI	MCRC	3	RDSU		L				•	1																•	•	•					
157	Birch PL Access-MI	MCRC	3	RDSU		L				•	1																•	•	•					
144	M-55 Man. River Wildlife Platform	State	3	NRA		L		•			2	•																			•		•	
154	Cottonwood Ave Access-BA	MCRC	3	RDSU		L					1																•	•	•					
150	Beech-Hemlock Nature Trailhead	State	3	PT		L				•	3		•													•							L	•

DNR-Awarded Grants

Project #	Applicant	Title	Year	Amount	Status	Description
TF1050	Manistee Township	Bar Lake Outlet	1985	\$17,500.00	Closed	Acquisition of 1.5 acres w/400 feet of Bar lake frontage and outlet.
12-9192	Manistee Township	Bridge Street Boat Launch	2012	\$36,950.00	Closed	
TF-22-0085	Manistee Township	Orchard Beach State Park Day-Use Playground	2022	\$300,000.00	Active	For development of a universally accessible day-use playground at Orchard Beach State Park.

Administrative Structure

Municipality	Manistee Township
Governing body responsible for recreation planning	Township Board and Planning Commission
Governing body authorized to commit funds	Township Board
Budget	\$22,000
Sources of funds	General Fund
Volunteers	Pickleball group fundraises for and maintains courts; volunteers maintain the Zimmerman Trail
Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements	Yes
Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)	Yes
Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center	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 because 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. According to the 2020 Census, today's population is 1,342. 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

Municipality	Maple Grove Township
Governing body responsible for recreation planning	Township Board
Governing body authorized to commit funds	Township Board
Budget	As Requested
Sources of funds	General Fund & Millage
Volunteers	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
Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements	Maintain recreational facilities at the Maple Grove Community Center with Village of Kaleva; Through the joint Planning Commission and Recreation Commission
Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)	Yes
Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center	No
Contributes to Manistee County Baseball League	No

Recreation Site Inventory

[illegible]

*Site 113 also appears in the Village of Kaleva Inventory.

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 2020 Census is 398. 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, Norman, 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 Museum and Pioneer Place, maintained and run by 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 to 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 desired to be further enhanced with localized trails.

USFS and Consumer Power land holdings along the Manistee River provide access to Hodenpyl Pond and the Manistee River below Hodenpyl 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.

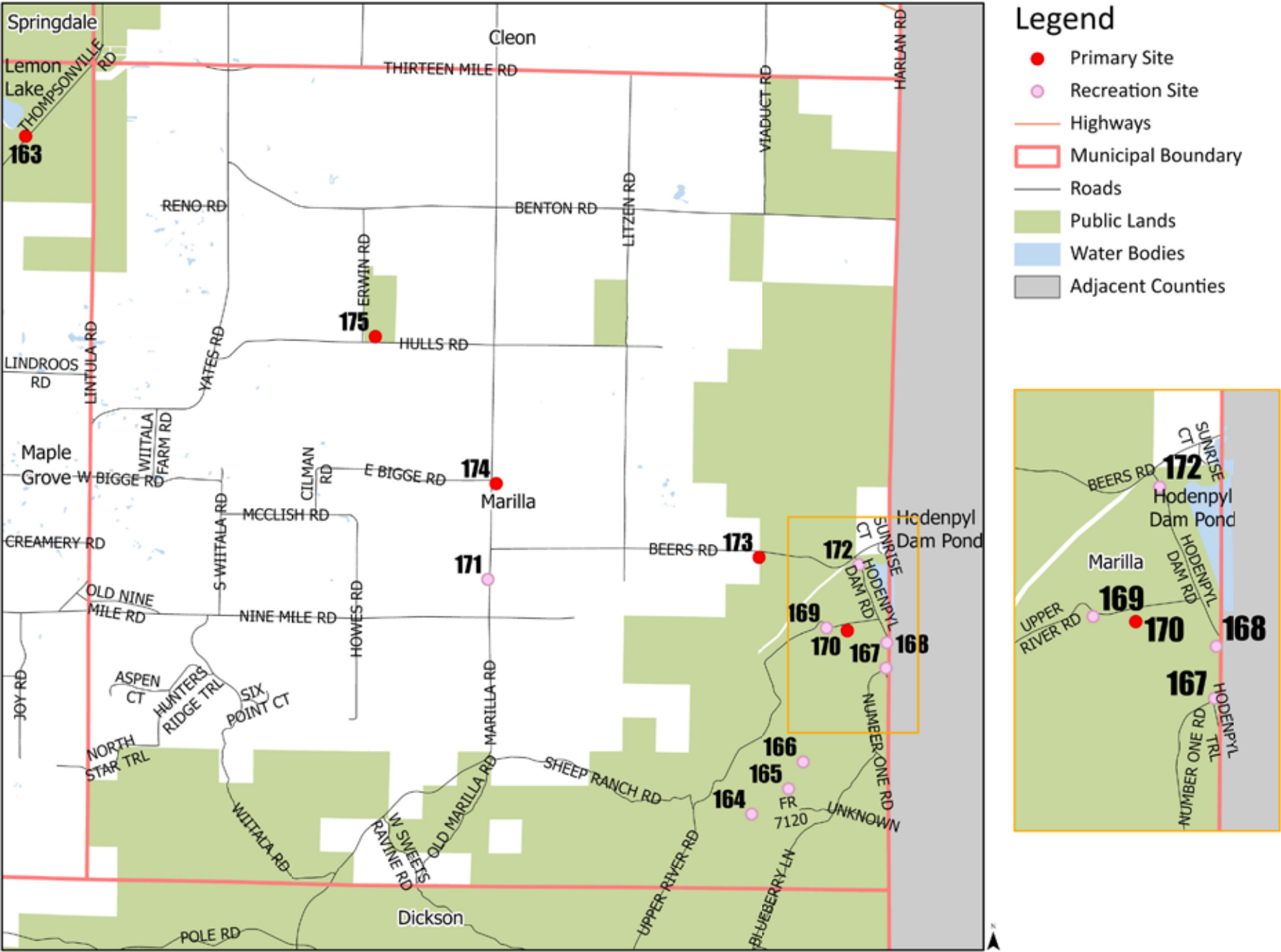
Administrative Structure

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



Recreation Site Inventory

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	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	Potable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Outhouse (Pit Vault)	Fire Pit	Picnic Table	Benches	Water Access	Canoe/Kayak Access	Trailhead (Water, Land)	Trails (Off Pavement)
174	Marilla 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	Marilla North Country Trail Trailhead	USFS	1	PT	•	L			•	2	•	•			•	•		•				L	•
171	Marilla Twp Park	MAR	2	NP		L				2													
167	Hodenpyl South Trail water Access	Con	2	SU		L				3	•									•		W	•
168	Hodenpyl North Trail water Access & Canoe Portage	Con	2	SU		L	•			3	•	•			•	•				•	•	W	•
169	Woodpecker Creek Access	Con	2	SU		L	•		•	2	•									•	•	W	•
164	Upper Manistee River Backcountry Campsite	USFS	3	SU		L			•	1	•		•				•			•			•
165	Upper Manistee River Backcountry Campsite	USFS	3	SU		L			•	1	•		•				•			•			•
166	Upper Manistee River Backcountry Campsite	USFS	3	SU		L			•	1	•		•				•			•			•
172	North Country Trail Access	Con	3	PT		L			•	2	•	•				•						L	•



Norman Township

Community Description

Norman Township is rural and rich in natural beauty, with extensive natural resources including national forestlands; 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 the 2020 Census, is 1,567. 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
26-01023B1	Norman Township	Norman Township Park	1977	\$9,250.00	Closed	Development of two tennis courts

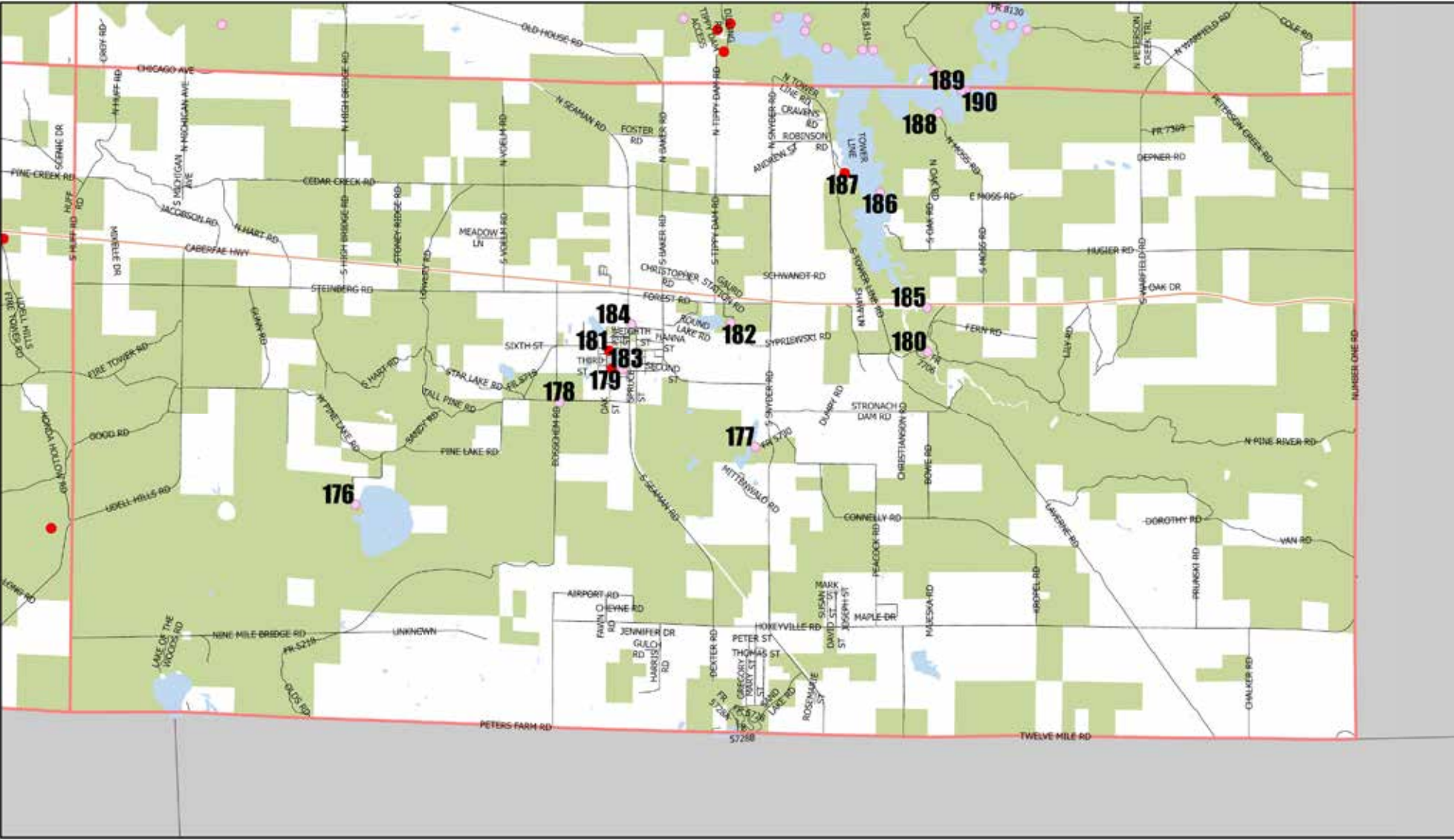
Administrative Structure

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



Recreation Site Inventory

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	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)	Outhouse (Pit Vault)	Portable Toilet	Garbage Receptacle	Fire Pit	Picnic Table	Benches	Grill	Water Access	Beach	Pier/Fishing Platform	Canoe/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Picnic Shelter	Trailhead (Water, Land)	Trails (Off Pavement)	Playground Equipment	Volley Ball	Basketball Court	
187	Nor. Twp Tippy Pond Boat Launch	Con	1	RP		L		•		3	•	•				•	•		•	•	•			•			•	•		W	•				
179	Crystal Lake Park	NOR	3	NP		L		•		3	•					•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•		•			•	•	•	
181	Crystal Lake Beach	NOR	3	SU		L		•		3	•				•	•		•	•		•		•	•	•	•	•					•			
180	Low Bridge Canoe Landing	USFS	1	RP	•	M	•		•	3	•	•				•	•	•			•			•			•			W	•				
185	Cooley Bridge State Roadside Park	State	1	SU		H			•	3	•	•			•	•	•		•		•		•	•							•				
178	Arboretum Trailhead	USFS	1	NRA		L			•	1														•						L	•				
183	Fishing Dock	NOR	1	SU		L				2	•								•				•	•	•		•								
177	Dorner Lake Recreation Area	USFS	2	NRA		L				3	•	•												•			•	•							
176	Pine Lake Recreation Area	USFS	3	NRA	•	L				3	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•			•			•	•			•				
184	Norman Township Hall	NOR	3	SU		M		•		3	•				•	•																			
186	Upper Man. River Rustic Campsite	USFS	3	SU		L			•	1	•		•							•				•							•				
188	Moss Rd Access-MR	MCRC	3	RDSU		L			•	1														•											
189	Upper Man. River Rustic Campsite	USFS	3	SU		L			•	1	•		•							•				•							•				
190	Upper Man. River Rustic Campsite	USFS	3	SU		L			•	1	•		•							•				•							•				
182	Manistee National Forest Service Office	USFS	3	SU		M		•		3	•	•				•																			



Legend

•

Primary Site

•

Recreation Site

—

Highways

—

Municipal Boundary

—

Roads

—

Public Lands

—

Water Bodies

—

Lake Michigan

—

Adjacent Counties

Onekama Township

Community Description

In the late 1800s, near the end of the lumbering era, Portage Lake developed into a significant resort community, while orchards and fruit farming became prevalent. The 1871 opening of the Portage Lake channel reshaped local navigation and recreation, linking the lake to Lake Michigan. Since that time, Onekama Township has been home to many long-term residents and remains a sought-after destination for seasonal visitors and tourists.

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Onekama Township has 1,338 residents, a modest increase from 1,305 in 2010. Of the Township’s 1,357 housing units, about 717 are considered seasonal, recreational, or occasional use (2019 ACS). The Township has an older age profile, with a median age of 56 years; 35% of residents are aged 65 and over, and about 16% are under 18. Approximately 18% of residents report a disability, underscoring the importance of accessibility improvements.

Onekama Township is located on the Lake Michigan shoreline in western Manistee County. Its defining feature, Portage Lake, covers 2,116 acres and provides roughly 10 miles of shoreline. The channel connecting Portage Lake to Lake Michigan supports fishing, boating, and swimming. Public access points include Township road ends and one public boat launch at North Point, owned by the Michigan DNR. Onekama Township itself includes about 6 miles of Lake Michigan frontage, with dune-lined shores extending northward toward Pierport.

Lake Michigan acts as a backdrop to Portage Lake and can be accessed by boat from the channel or by foot from various Township Road ends that terminate at the “Big Lake.” Captain John Langland Park serves as the primary Lake Michigan beach access, offering improved facilities, firepits and volleyball. The Manistee County Fairgrounds are located within Onekama Township and serve as the annual site of the county fair and other community events; the facility is county-operated rather than Township-managed.

Parks and recreation in Onekama Township are guided by a volunteer-led Parks & Recreation Committee under Township Board oversight, with strong local support. In 2022 the Township Board hired two part-time employees to assist with community events and to monitor parks for maintenance, safety and sanitation concerns. High seasonal demand at Township recreation sites reflects the community’s mix of year-round and seasonal residents, with more than half of housing units used seasonally and a strong visitor draw from Portage Lake and Lake Michigan.



Administrative Structure

Municipality	Onekama Township
Governing body responsible for recreation planning	Onekama Township Parks & Recreation Committee (OTPRC)
Governing body authorized to commit funds	Township Board
Budget	\$154,000
Sources of funds	Township General Fund & Volunteer donors
Volunteers	OTRPC is a volunteer led Committee with two Township part-time employees to assist with community events and to monitor parks for maintenance, safety, and sanitation concerns. This team partners with Manistee Tourism, Onekama Schools administration, educators and students, local businesses and many community organizations.
Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements	1st Congregational UCC of Onekama, Dance Fitness, Jr. Clio Club, Manistee Audubon, Manistee Conservation District, Manistee County Planning Department, Manistee County Recreation Commission, Manistee Recreation Association, Manistee Tourism, Onekama Athletic Boosters, Onekama Lions Club, Onekama Schools, Onekama Varsity Football, Patina Designs, PLA-Near & Farr Friends Program, Portage Lake Yacht Club, ROMEO, SEEDS, Simply Fit, St. John’s by the Lake Episcopal Church
Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)	Yes
Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center	No

DNR-Awarded Grants

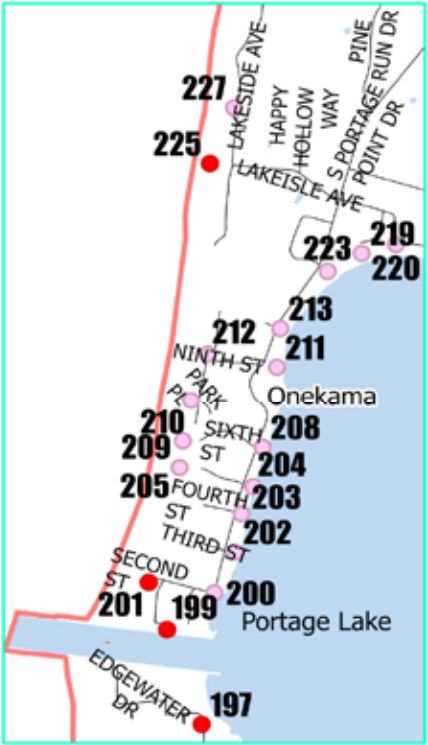
Project #	Applicant	Title	Year	Amount	Status	Description
TF14-0180	Onekama Township	Development of Langland Park on L. Michigan	2014	\$261,000	Closed	The proposed project, a re-submittal of 2012 and 2013 Trust Fund applications, would improve existing park in order to: 1) create day use recreational and interpretive facilities including boardwalk/mobi mats to access Lake Michigan; 2) establish trail hear facilities for the State of Michigan Blue Water Trails Program; 3) dune stabilization accompanied by environmental education in key areas damaged by uncontrolled access; 4) implement a key priority of the Onekama Five Year Recreation Plan, Coastal Access Plan and community Master Plan.
TF16-0187	Onekama Township	Portage Lake Kayak & Canoe Launch/ Trailhead - North Point	2017	\$101,200.00	Closed	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, Med., High)	Explore the Shores Site	Explore the Shore Nominee	Lighting	Dark Sky Candidate	Parking Availability	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Potable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Outhouse (Pit Vault)	Portable Toilet	Garbage Receptacle	Fire Pit	Picnic Table	Benches	Water Access	Beach	Pier/Fishing Platform	Canoe/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Boat Parking	Pet Waste Disposal Station	Trailhead (Water, Land)	Trails (Off Pavement)	Playground Equipment	Pier	Bike Rack	Volley Ball
195	Manistee County Fairgrounds	MC	1	SU	•	L			•		3	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•										•			
201	Captain John Langland Park	ONE	1	CP		L	•		•	•	3	•	•			•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•	W	•			•	•
218	North Point Park	ONE	1	RP		H					3	•	•				•	•		•	•							•	L	•				
214	Portage Lake Boat Launch	State	1	RP		L	•		•		2	•	•			•						•			•	•	•		W	•				
196	Carden Park	ONE	1	NRA		L					1	•									•	•												
221	Feldhak Park	ONE	1	NRA		L					1										•	•												
248	Glen Park/Mineral Springs	ONE	1	NP		L					1	•	•				•											•	L	•			•	
225	Sunset House/Lake Isle Ave Access-MI	MCRC	1	RDSU		L					1										•	•	•		•									
197	Crescent Beach Rd Access - South Pier	ONE	1	SU		M					1		•									•		•										
199	First St North Pier Access	ONE	1	RDSU		L					1											•										•		
234	Thirteen Mile Rd Access-MI	MCRC	1	RDSU		L					1											•	•		•									
217	Ardmore Dr Access-PL	ONE	2	RDSU		L					1											•			•									
222	Clark Rd Access-PL	ONE	2	RDSU		L					1											•			•									
224	Hilltop Rd Access-PL	ONE	2	RDSU		L					1											•			•									
210	Seventh St Access-MI	ONE	2	RDSU		L					1											•	•		•									
213	Twelth St Access-PL	ONE	2	RDSU		L					1											•			•									
216	Arborvitae Dr Access-PL	ONE	2	RDSU		L					1											•			•									
251	Onekama Twp Hall	ONE	3	SU		H					3		•																					

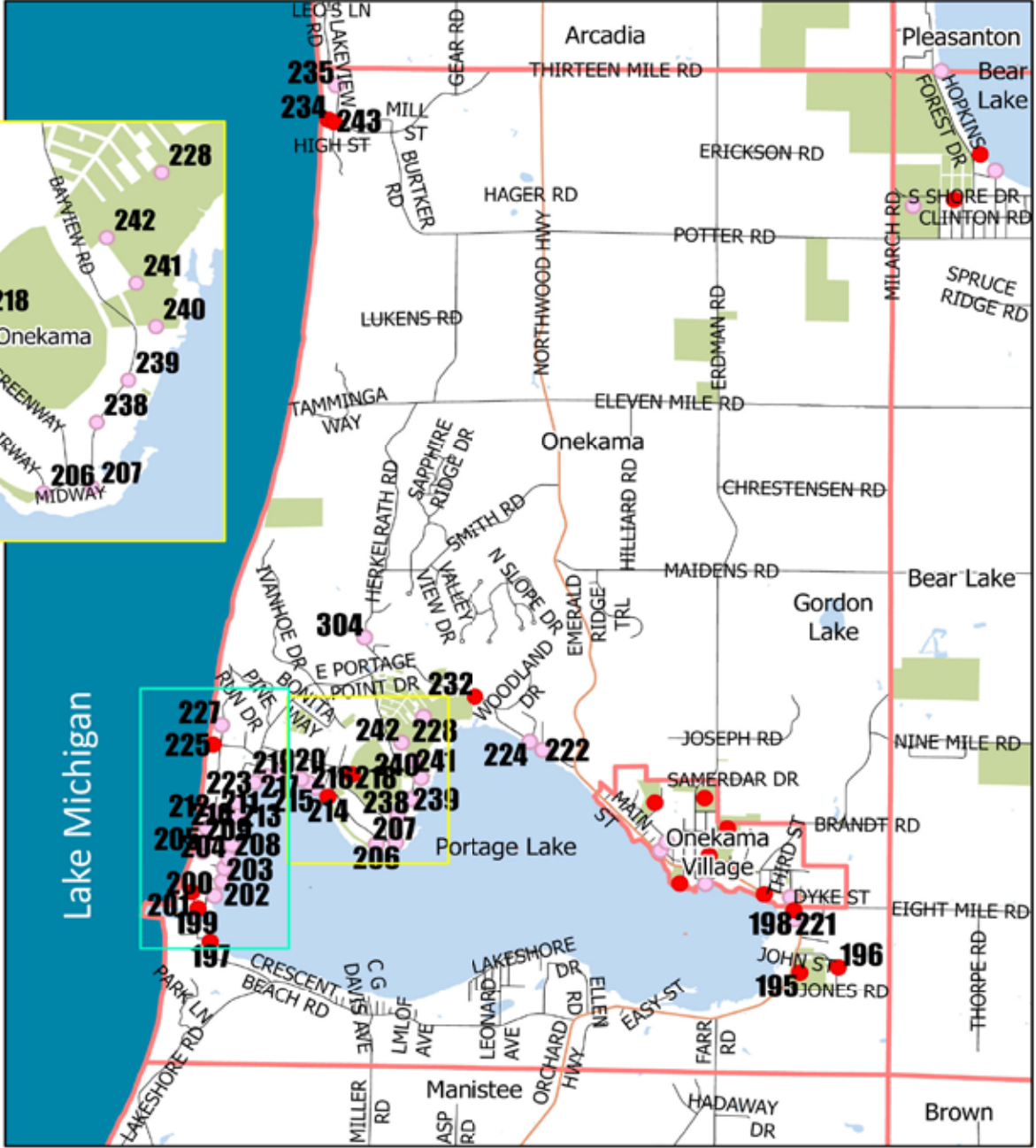
Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Med., High)	Explore the Shores Site	Explore the Shore Nominee	Lighting	Dark Sky Candidate	Parking Availability	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Potable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Outhouse (Pit Vault)	Portable Toilet	Garbage Receptacle	Fire Pit	Picnic Table	Benches	Water Access	Beach	Pier/Fishing Platform	Canoe/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Boat Parking	Pet Waste Disposal Station	Trailhead (Water, Land)	Trails (Off Pavement)	Playground Equipment	
207	Midway Dr Access-PL	ONE	2	RDSU		L					1											•			•							
198	Eagles View Wetlands	ONE	2	NRA		L					1	•																				
228	Portage Wetlands Park	ONE	2	NRA		L					1																					
235	Burnham St Access-MI	ONE	2			L					1											•										
200	Second St Access-PL	MCRC	3	RDSU		L					1											•			•							
206	West Fairway St Access-PL	MCRC	3	RDSU		L					1											•			•							
209	Sixth St Access-MI	MCRC	3	RDSU		L					1											•	•		•							
304	Portage Point Woods Preserve	Pvt	3	NRA		L					2	•	•																L	•		
202	Third St Access-PL	MCRC	3	RDSU		L					1											•			•							
203	Fourth St Access-PL	MCRC	3	RDSU		L					1											•			•							
204	Fifth St Access-PL	MCRC	3	RDSU		L					1											•			•							
205	Fifth St Access-MI	MCRC	3	RDSU		L					1											•	•		•							
208	Sixth St Access-PL	MCRC	3	RDSU		L	•				1											•			•							
242	Willow Way Access-PL	MCRC	3	RDSU		L					1																					

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	Park Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Med., High)	Dark Sky Candidate	Parking Availability	Potable Water	Water Access	Beach	Canoe/Kayak Access
232	Artesian Well (Little Eden)	ONE	1	SU		L		1	•			
243	Artesian Well (Old Face Full)	ONE	1	SU		L		1	•			
215	Juniper Way Access-PL	ONE	2	RDSU		L		1		•		•
239	Batesmore Way Access-PL	ONE	2	RDSU		L		1		•		
240	Sylvan Way Access-PL	ONE	2	RDSU		L		1		•		
211	Ninth St Access-PL	MCRC	2	RDSU		L		1		•		•
219	Beachward Ave Access-PL	MCRC	3	RDSU		L		1		•		•
220	Lakeview Rd Access-PL	MCRC	3	RDSU		L		1		•		•
227	Avenue F Access-MI	MCRC	3	RDSU		L		1		•	•	•
238	Golfmore Way Access-PL	ONE	3	RDSU		L		1		•		
241	Merlin Way Access-PL	MCRC	3	RDSU		L		1				
223	Outlet Ave	ONE	3	RDSU		L		1		•	•	•
212	Ninth St Access-MI	MCRC	3	RDSU		L		1		•	•	•



Legend

- Primary Site
- Recreation Site
- Highways
- Municipal Boundary
- Roads
- Public Lands
- Water Bodies
- Lake Michigan
- Adjacent Counties



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 2020 Census is 399. 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.

DNR-Awarded Grants

Project #	Applicant	Title	Year	Amount	Status	Description
TF12-088	Village of Onekama	Onekama Village Park	2012	\$97,300.00	Closed	Peron steps, barrier-free beach access, mobi mat, beach nourishment

Administrative Structure

Municipality	Village of Onekama
Governing body responsible for recreation planning	Onekama Village Recreation Committee
Governing body authorized to commit funds	Village Council
Budget	\$29,335
Sources of funds	Line Item
Volunteers	No volunteers
Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements	Partners with Onekama Township Parks & Recreation Committee
Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)	No
Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center	No



Recreation Site Inventory

[illegible]



Legend

- Primary Site
- Recreation Site
- Highways
- Municipal Boundary
- Roads
- Public Lands
- Water Bodies
- Adjacent Counties Layer



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 the 2020 Census, is 870 The township’s recreation features include playground equipment, a ball diamond, a tennis, basketball, and pickleball court’s; 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 owns 2,164 acres of the township’s land, and the Grand Traverse Regional Land 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 213-milelong 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 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 kayaking and canoe access as well as areas for fishing and picnicking. May Buell Park offers handicapped accessible beach access, restroom facilities and picnic area. 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 Onkama.

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	\$18,000
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)	No
Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center	No
Contributes to Manistee County Baseball League	No



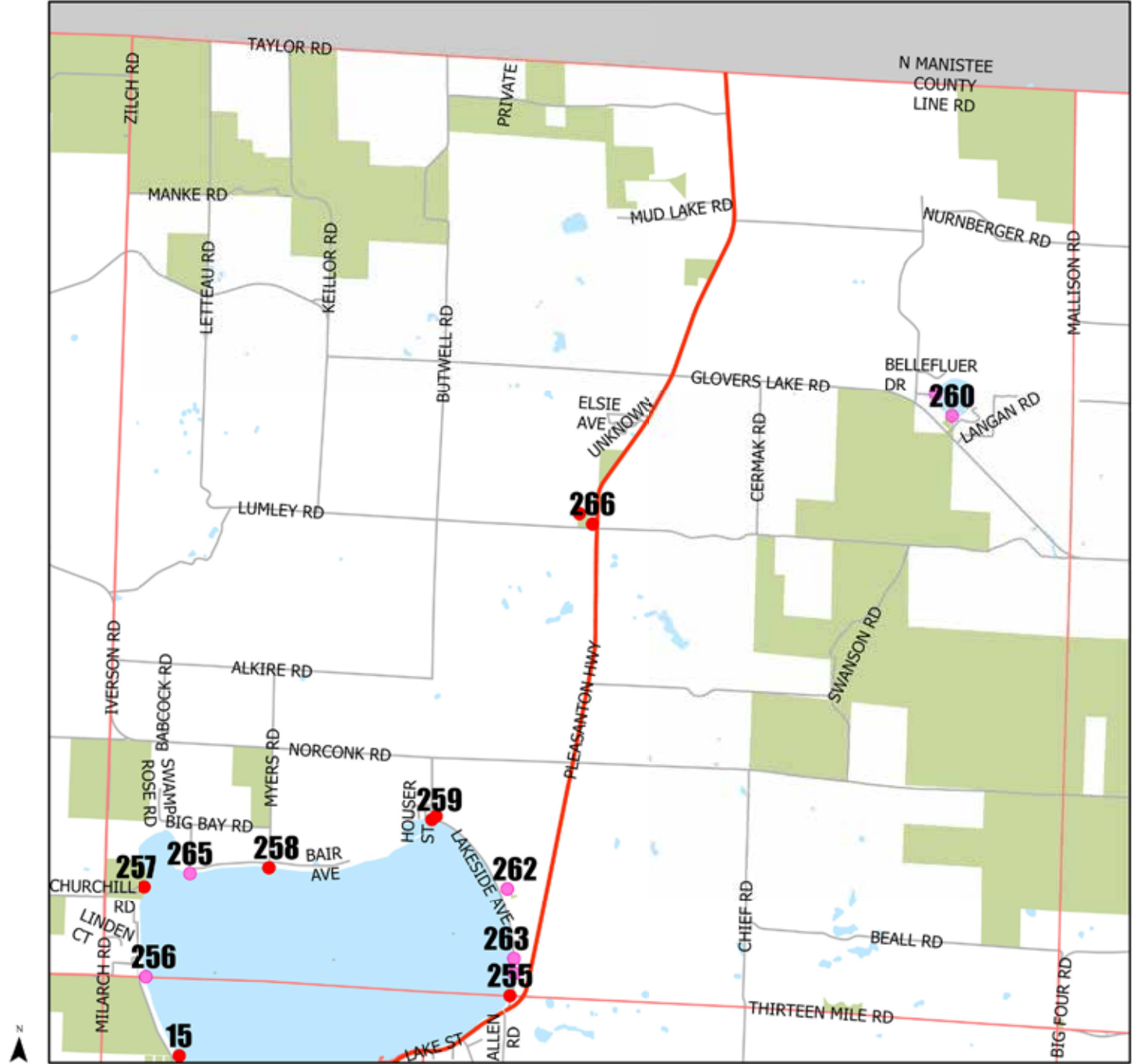
Project #	Applicant	Title	Year	Amount	Status	Description
TF16-0034	Pleasanton Township	Acquisition of Land for May Buell Park	2016	\$124,040.23	Closed	Purchase of land from Buell family to support development of a new township park.
RP20-0039	Pleasanton Township	Development of May Buell Park	2020	\$118,600.00	Closed	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)	Outhouse (Pit Vault)	Fire Pit	Picnic Table	Benches	Grill	Water Access	Canoe/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Picnic Shelter	Trailhead (Water, Land)	Trails (Of Pavement)	Playground Equipment	Baseball Field	Tennis Court/Pickleball Court	Volley Ball	Basketball Court	Shuffle Board	Garbage Receptacle
268	May Buell Park	PLE	1	NP	H		3	•	•			•		•	•	•	•	•			W	•							•
255	13 Mile Rd Access-BE-East	PLE	1	RDSU	L		1	•									•	•											
267	Snowmobile Trailhead	PLE	1	SU	L		2														L	•							
258	Meyers Rd Access-BE	MCRC	1	RDSU	L		1	•									•	•											
259	Butwell Rd Access-BE	MCRC	1	RDSU	L		1	•						•			•	•											
266	Pleasanton Twp Hall	PLE	1	SU	M		3	•		•	•			•					•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
257	Bear Lake Boat Launch	State	1	SU	L	•	2	•	•			•					•	•	•		W	•							
262	Pleasanton Twp Park	PLE	2	CP	L		1	•						•		•	•	•		•			•						
263	Bear Lake Access-BE	PLE	2	SU	L		1	•									•	•											
264	Bear Lake Access-BE	PLE	2	SU	L		1	•									•	•											
256	13 Mile Rd Access-BE-West	PLE	3	RDSU	L		1	•									•	•											
260	Glovers Lake Boat Launch	State	3	RU	L		2	•				•					•	•	•										
261	Glovers Lake Ln Access-GL	PLE	3	RDSU	L		1	•									•	•											
265	Bear Lake Access-BE	PLE	3	SU	L		1	•									•	•											

Legend

- Municipal Boundary
- Highways
- Roads
- Public Lands
- Water Bodies
- Lake Michigan
- Adjacent Counties
- Recreation Site
- Primary Sites



Springdale Township

Community Description

Springdale Township covers approximately 35.7 square miles; roughly half is state-managed land. The 2020 Census population estimate is 849. 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 Titus 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 two identified recreation sites: Healy Lake State Forest Campground, and the Township Park located at the Township Hall as well as 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 Springdale Township. the township contains 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 that access. Discussions with Benzie County are ongoing concerning the establishment of the Betsie River as a Blue Water Trail.

Support exists for expanded trail systems within the Township, providing linkages to the west. Additionally, potential exists to link Healy Lake State Forest Campground as a destination along a trail system.

Administrative Structure

Municipality	Springdale Township
Governing body responsible for recreation planning	Township Board
Governing body authorized to commit funds	Township Board
Budget	Funds allocated as needed
Sources of funds	General Fund
Volunteers	Volunteers recruited as needed for events
Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements	None
Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)	No
Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center	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 Shore Nominee	Lighting	Dark Sky Candidate	Parking Availability	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Camping	RV Compatible (Camping)	Potable 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
269	Healy Lake State Forest Campground/ Boat Launch	State	1	RP	•	L	•		•	3	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•				
270	Springdale Twp Hall and Park	SPR	2	NP		H		•		3	•				•	•	•			•					•		•	•	•	•

- ### Legend
- Municipal Boundary
 - Highways
 - Roads
 - Public Lands
 - Water Bodies
 - Adjacent Counties
 - Recreation Site
 - Primary Sites



Stronach Township

Community Description

Stronach Township is located within south-central Manistee County, where it borders Mason County. The population, according to the 2020 Census is 834. Stronach is a double township meaning that it contains almost twice the area of a normally bound 36 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 transacts 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 Manistee Muzzle Loading Club is also located within Stronach Township and is a longstanding recreational and educational organization that has been serving Manistee County since 1953. Located on 39 acres on Camp Road, the club promotes safe and responsible firearms use, marksmanship, and historical education through a variety of shooting sports and community activities. The club offers year-round access to multiple rifle and pistol ranges and hosts organized shooting events for participants of all skill levels, including muzzle loading, high-power rifle, silhouette, cast bullet, and pistol leagues. In addition to recreational opportunities, the club provides Concealed Pistol License (CPL) classes, participates in community service initiatives such as the MDOT Adopt-

A-Highway program, and has a long history of involvement in local traditions, including the Manistee Forest Festival and the annual Old Fort Rendezvous held each June since 1957. Through its educational programming, historical reenactments, and organized recreational opportunities, the Manistee Muzzle Loading Club contributes to the diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities available in Manistee County.

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

Municipality	Stronach Township
Governing body responsible for recreation planning	Township Board
Governing body authorized to commit funds	Township Board
Budget	\$6,000.00
Sources of funds	Line Item
Volunteers	None
Partnerships and/or collaborative agreements	No
Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)	No
Contributes to Paine Aquatic Center	No



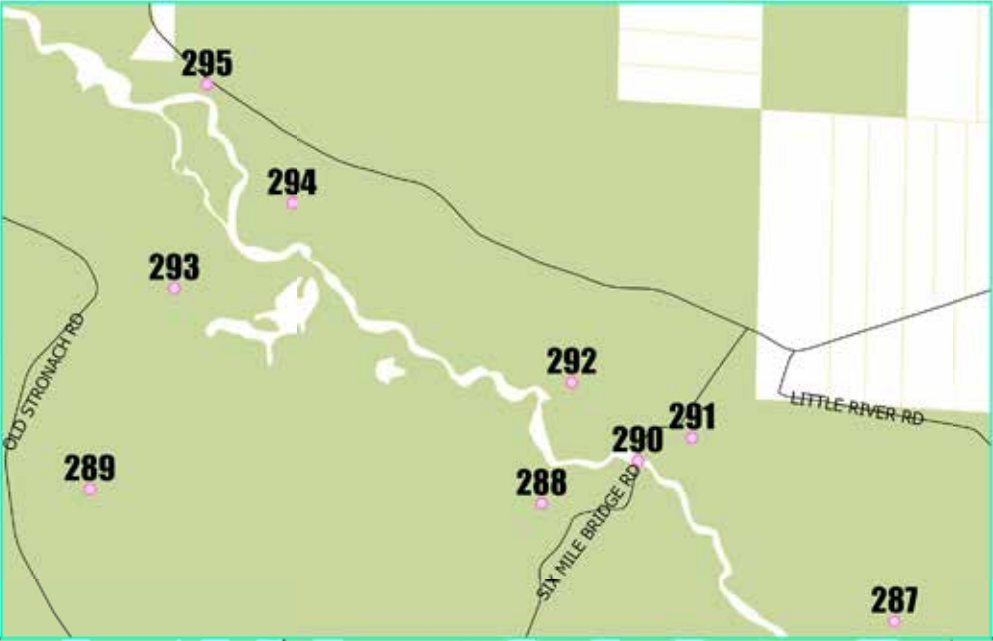
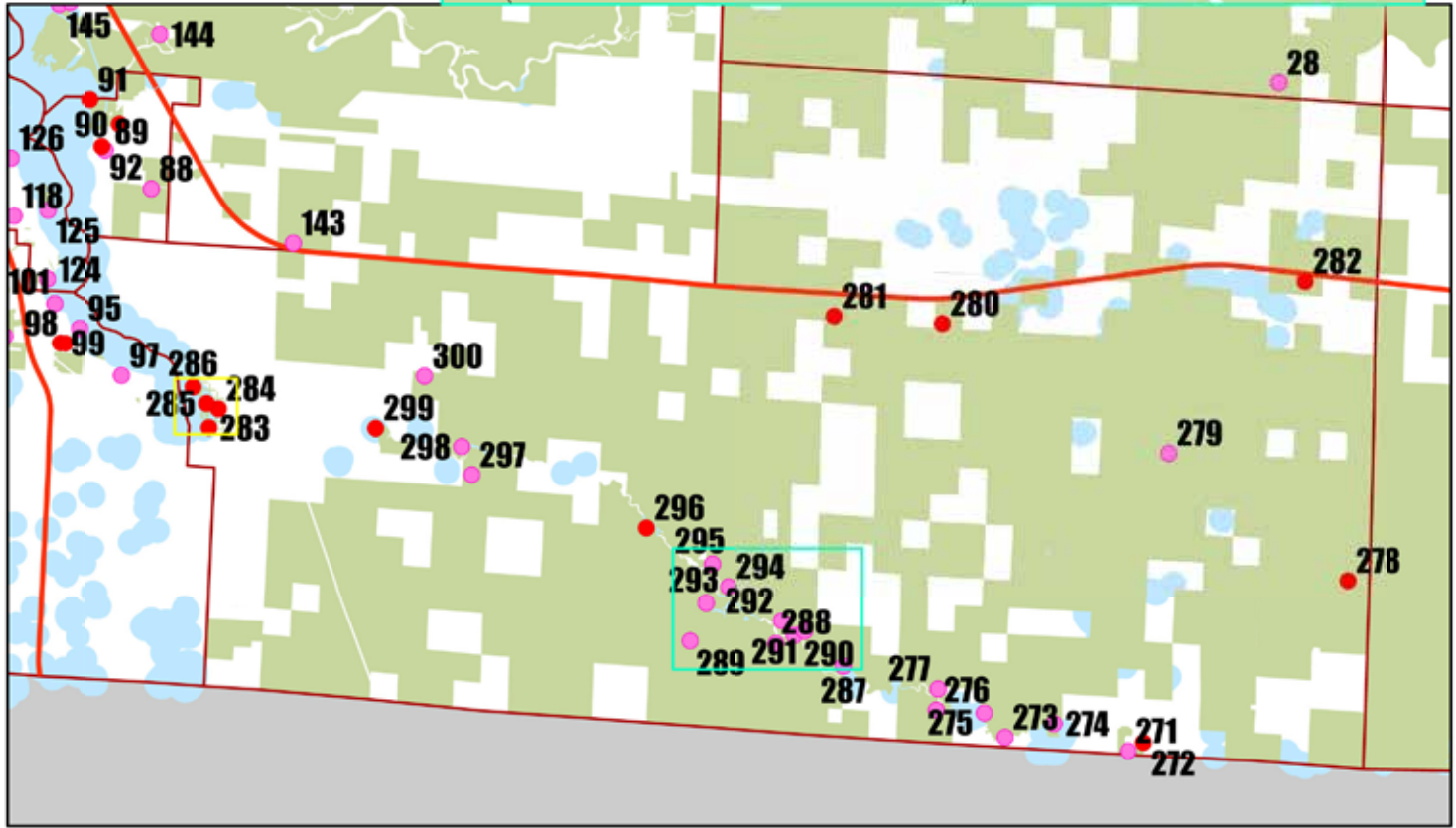
Recreation Site Inventory

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 Compatible (Camping)	Potable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Outhouse (Pit Vault)	Garbage Receptacle	Fire Pit	Picnic Table	Benches	Grill	Water Access	Pier/Fishing Platform	Canoe/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Fishing Lie Recycle Box	Picnic Shelter	Viewing Platform	Trailhead (Water, Land)	Trails (Off Pavement)	Playground Equipment	Baseball Field	Basketball Court
278	Big M Trailhead	USFS	1	RP	•	M			•	3	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•							•		L	•			
282	Udell North Country Trail Trailhead	USFS	1	PT		L			•	2	•	•	•		•	•	•	•		•		•								L	•			
280	Claybank Park	STR	1	CP		M			•	2	•				•	•	•	•		•		•						•				•		•
281	Marzinski Horse Trail & Campground	USFS	1	SU	•	L			•	3	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•								L	•			
284	Stronach Twp Hall & Community Center	STR	1	SU		M		•		3	•				•	•																		
285	Stronach Twp Park	STR	1	NP		M		•		3	•				•	•	•	•		•	•	•						•				•	•	
296	Little Manistee River Weir Facility	State	1	SU		H	•	•		3	•	•	•			•	•			•			•		•				•	W	•			
272	9 Mile Bridge	State	1	SU		L			•	2	•												•		•		•			W	•			
283	Water St/Stronach Rd Bridge Access	STR	1	NRA		L				1													•		•					W	•			

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 Compatible (Camping)	Potable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Outhouse (Pit Vault)	Garbage Receptacle	Fire Pit	Picnic Table	Benches	Grill	Water Access	Pier/Fishing Platform	Canoe/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Fishing Lie Recycle Box	Picnic Shelter	Viewing Platform	Trailhead (Water, Land)	Trails (Off Pavement)	Playground Equipment	Baseball Field	Basketball Court
286	Stronach Twp Manistee Lake Boat Launch	State	1	SU		H	•			3	•	•				•	•			•			•	•	•	•				W	•			
299	Old Stronach Rd. River Access	USFS	1	NRA		L			•	2	•	•									•		•		•					W	•			
279	Udell Fire Tower	USFS	2	NRA		L			•	2	•	•																			•			
300	Steinberg Trailhead	USFS	2	PT		L			•	2	•	•				•	•					•							L	•				
290	6 Mile Bridge Canoe Launch	USFS	2	SU		L			•	1	•	•											•		•	•			W	•				
273	Elm Flats Canoe Launch	USFS	2	NRA		L			•	3	•		•								•		•		•						•			
271	9 Mile South	USFS	3	NRA		L			•	2	•		•										•								•			
274	Hopper Junction	USFS	3	NRA		L			•	1	•		•										•								•			
275	Nancy's Bluff	USFS	3	NRA		L			•	1	•												•								•			
276	Bowman Farm	USFS	3	NRA		L			•	2	•		•										•								•			
277	9 Mile	USFS	3	NRA		L			•	2	•		•										•								•			
287	Gravel Pits	USFS	3	NRA		L			•	2	•		•									•									•			
288	6 Mile South	USFS	3	NRA		L			•	2	•												•								•			
289	Brocki Cabin	USFS	3	NRA		L			•	2	•												•								•			
291	6 Mile Bridge East	USFS	3	NRA		L			•	2	•												•								•			
292	6 Mile Bridge West	USFS	3	NRA		L			•	1	•												•								•			
293	Linkes Pond	USFS	3	NRA		L			•	2	•												•								•			
294	North Lodge	USFS	3	NRA		L			•	2	•		•										•								•			
295	Chicago Boy Rollway	USFS	3	NRA		L			•	1	•		•										•								•			
297	Kennedy Farm	USFS	3	NRA		L			•	2	•												•								•			
298	River Overlook	USFS	3	NRA		L			•	1	•												•								•			

Legend

- Municipal Boundary
- Highways
- Public Lands
- Water Bodies
- Adjacent Counties
- Recreation Site
- Primary Sites

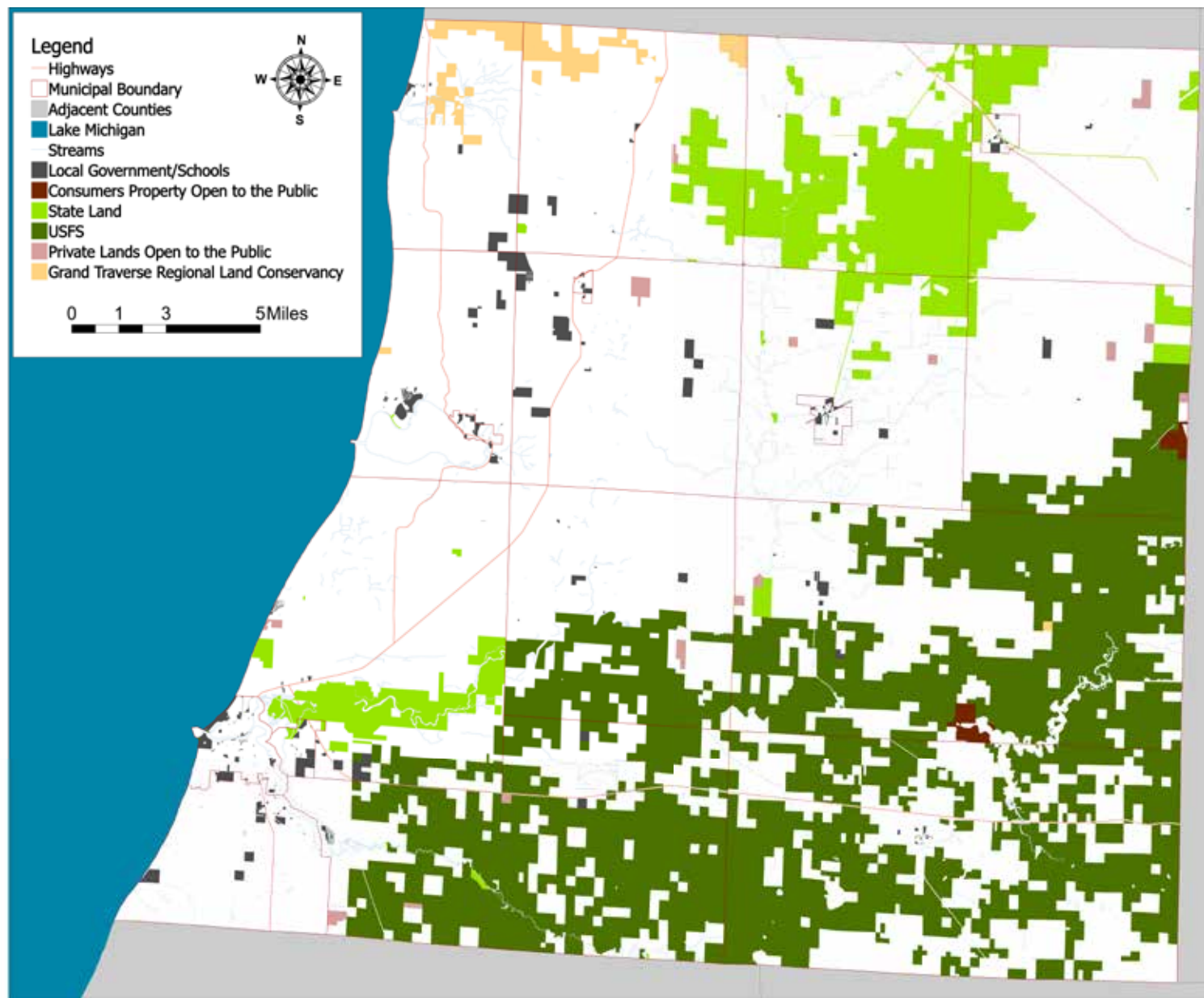


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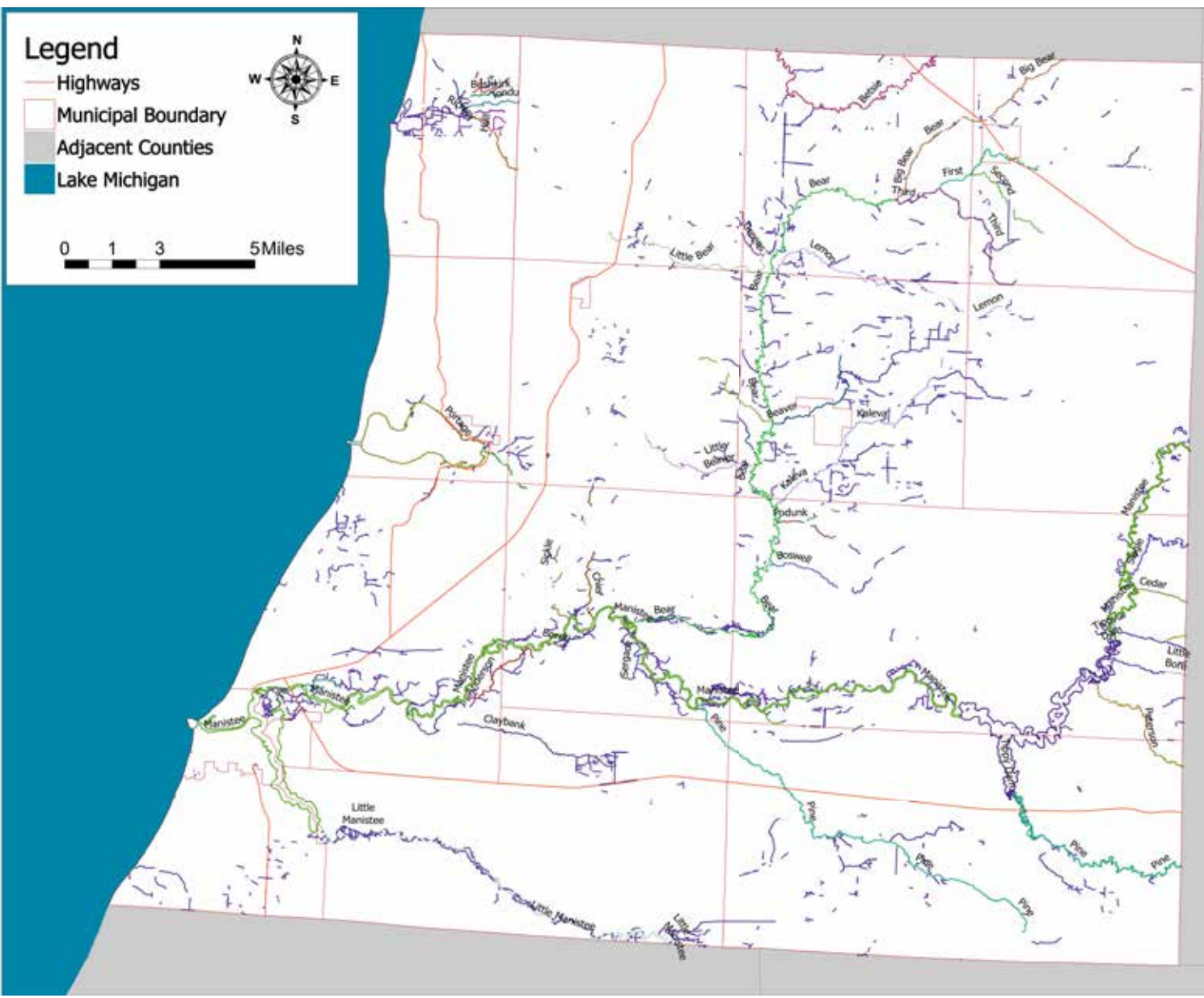
Appendix B - County-Wide Natural Resources

Map B-1 - Public Lands



Appendix B - County-Wide Natural Resources

Map B-2 - Rivers and Streams



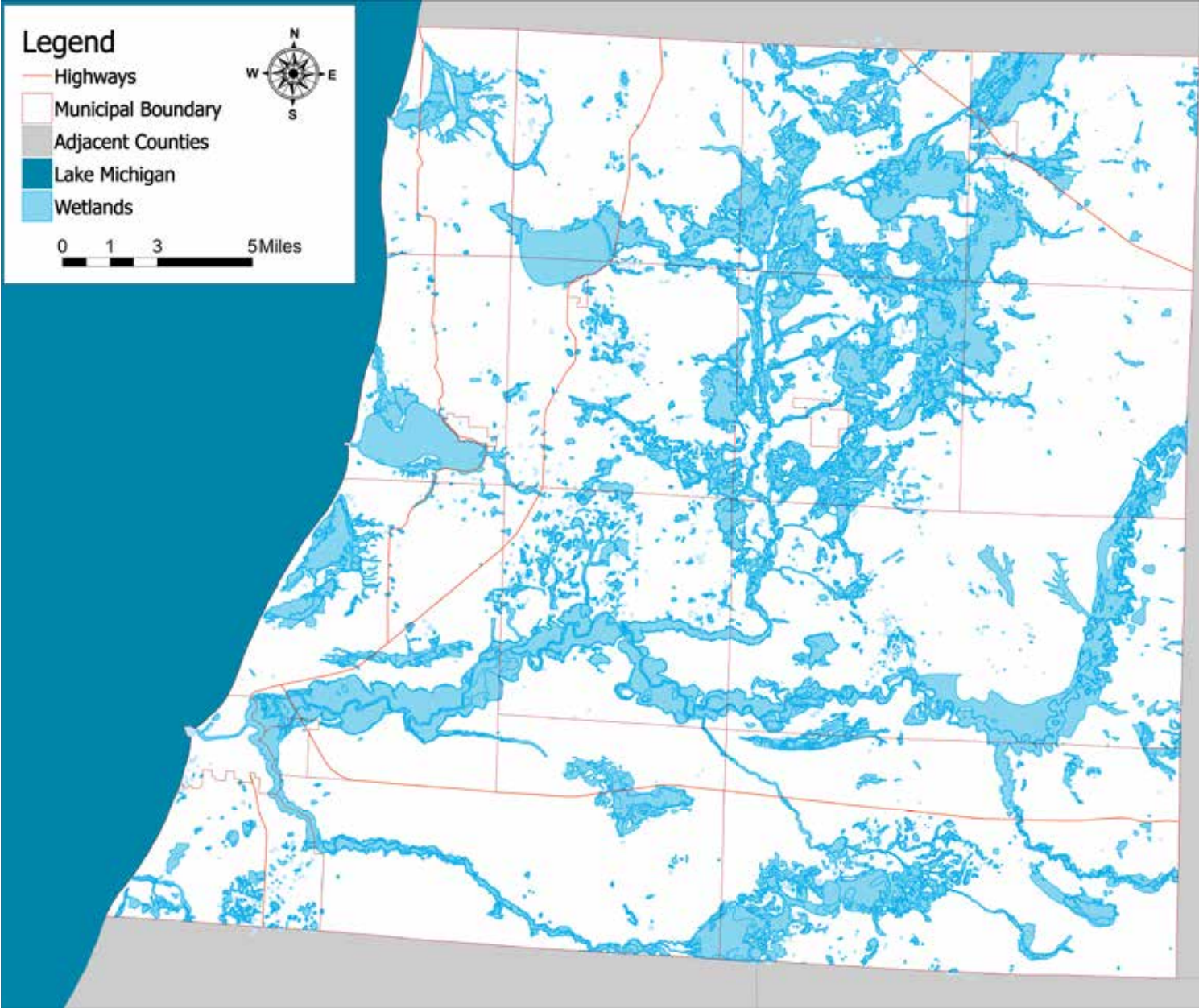
Appendix B - County-Wide Natural Resources

Map B-3 - Water Bodies



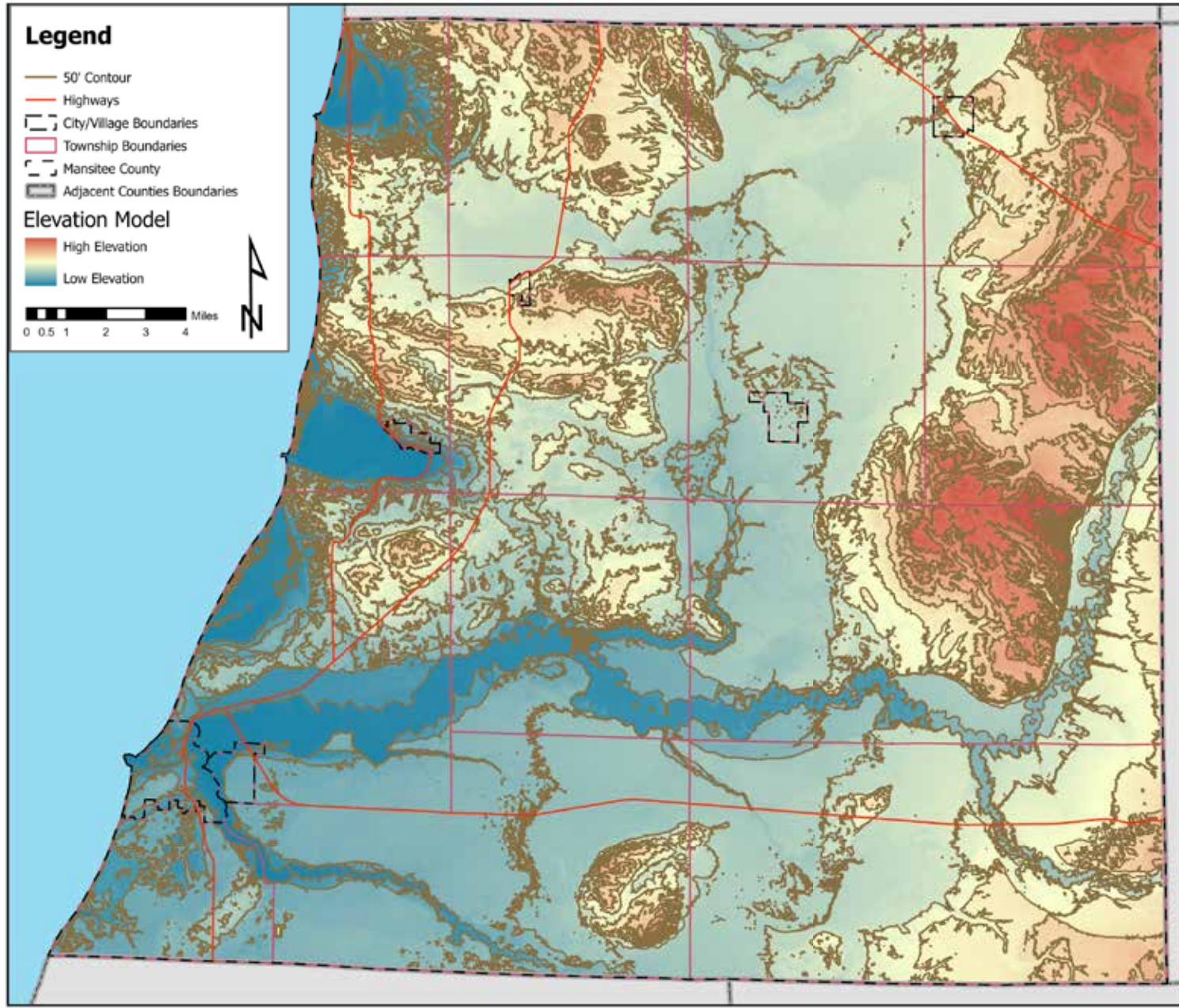
Appendix B - County-Wide Natural Resources

Map B-4 - Wetlands



Appendix B - County-Wide Natural Resources

Map B-5 - Topography



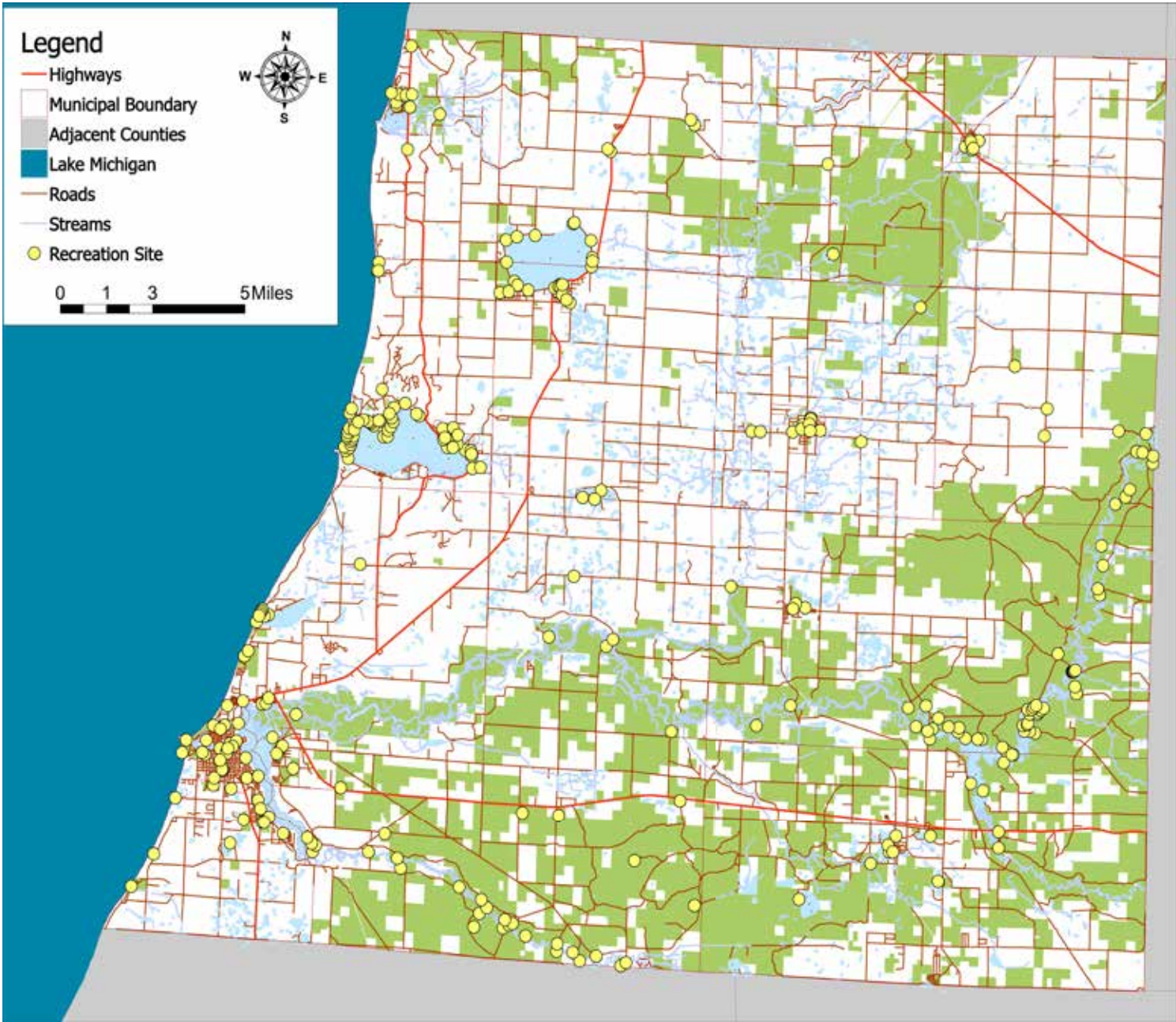
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Appendix C - Manistee County Recreation Sites

Map C-1 - Public Recreation Sites

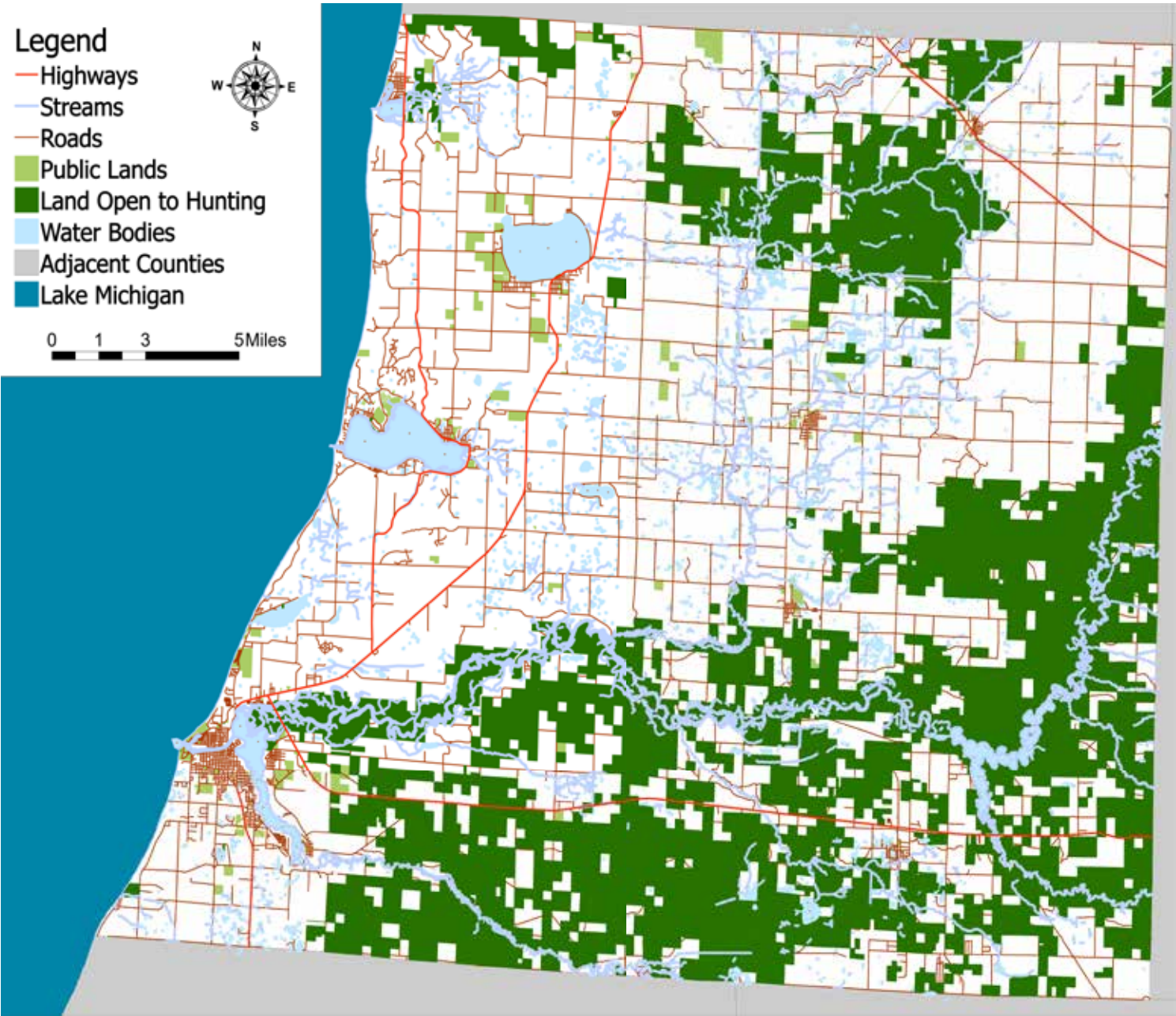
All public recreation sites within Manistee County are displayed on Map C-1.



Appendix C - Manistee County Recreation Sites

Map C-2 - Public Lands Open to Hunting

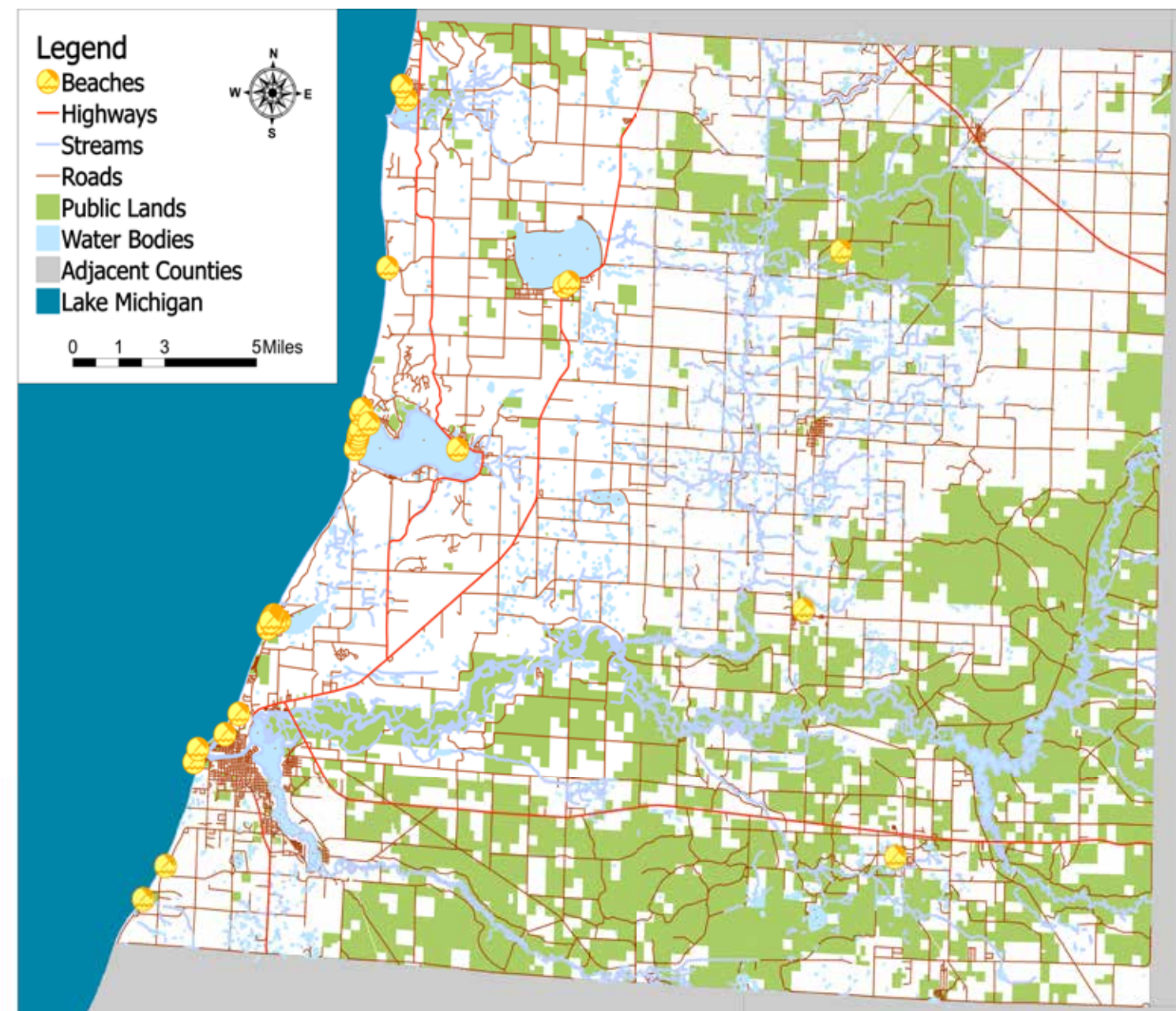
All public lands which are open to hunting are displayed on Map C-2.



Appendix C - Manistee County Recreation Sites

Map C-3 - Public Beach Access Sites

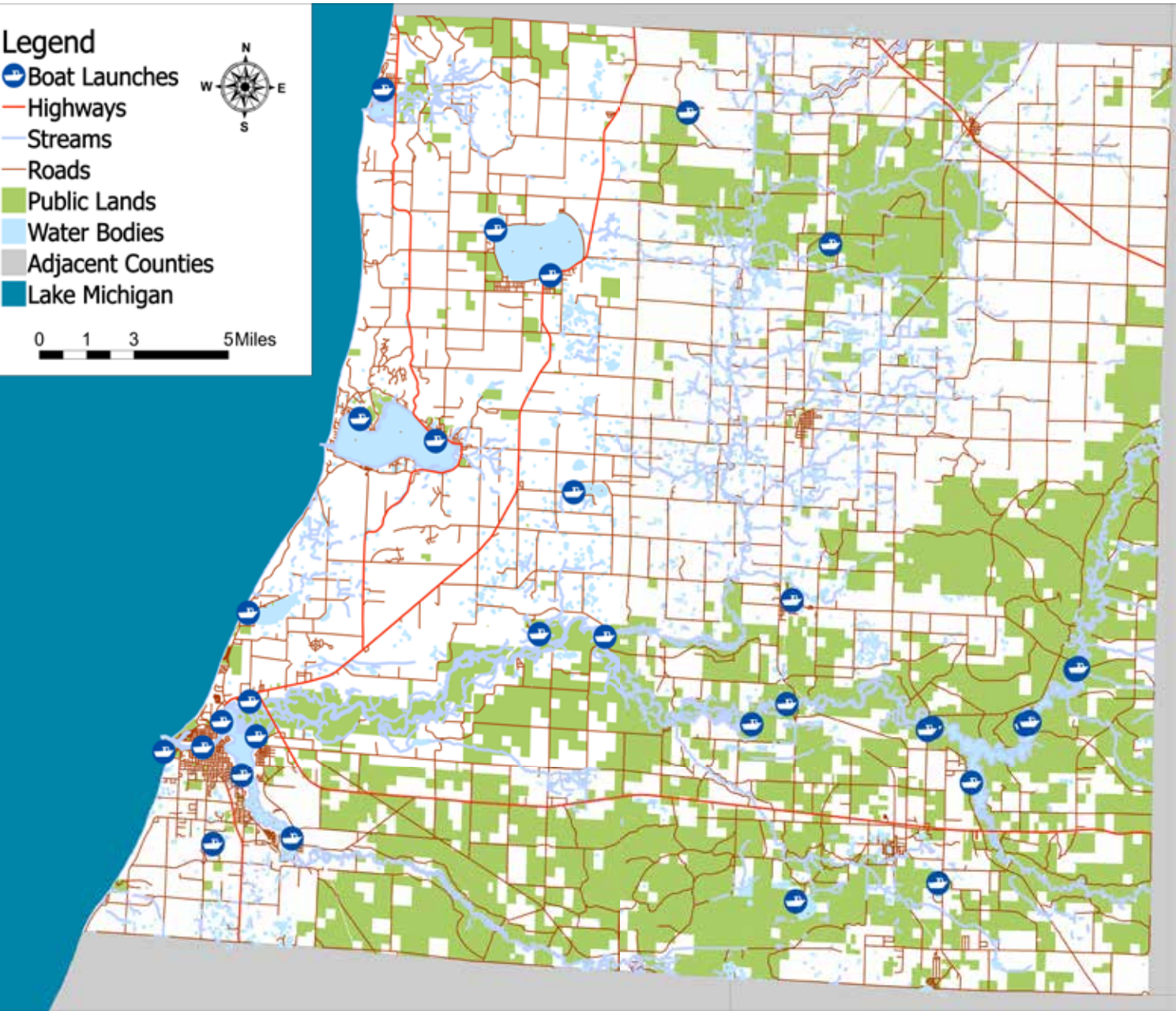
All public beach access locations are displayed on Map C-3.



Appendix C - Manistee County Recreation Sites

Map C-4 - Public Boat Launch Sites

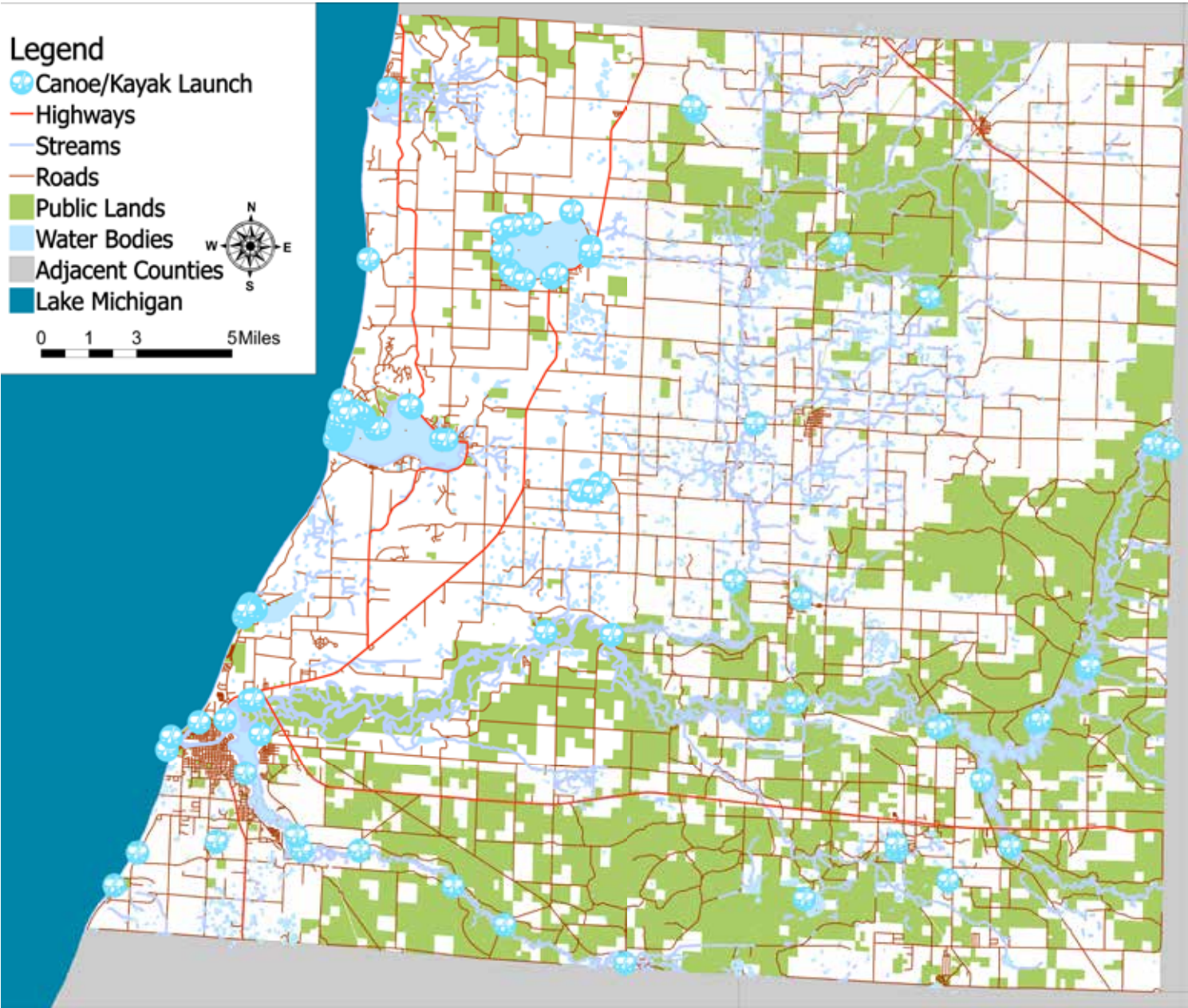
All public boat launch locations are displayed on Map C-4.



Appendix C - Manistee County Recreation Sites

Map C-5 - Public Canoe and Kayak Access Sites

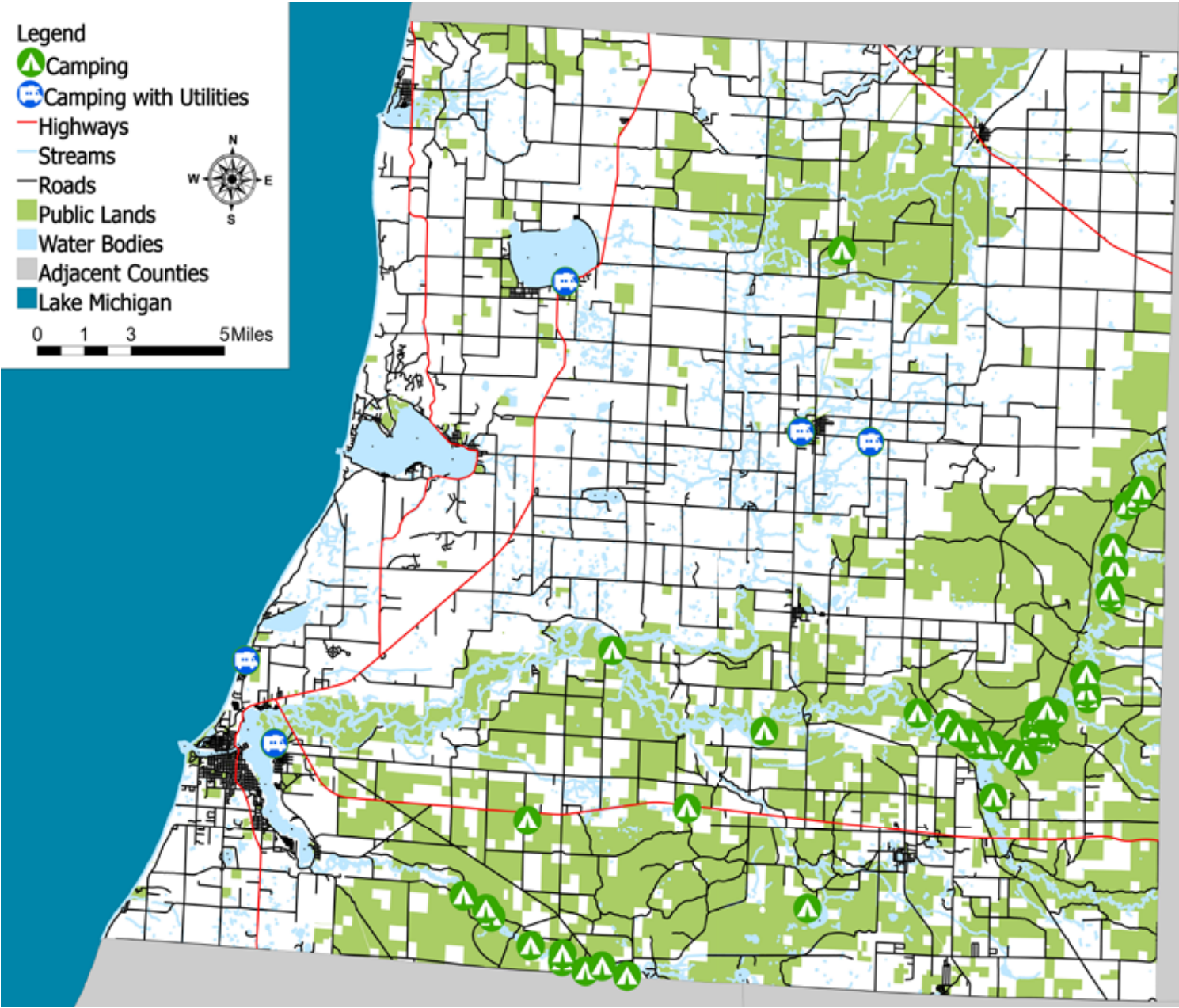
All public canoe and kayak access locations are displayed on Map C-5.



Appendix C - Manistee County Recreation Sites

Map C-6 - Public Campgrounds and Camping Sites

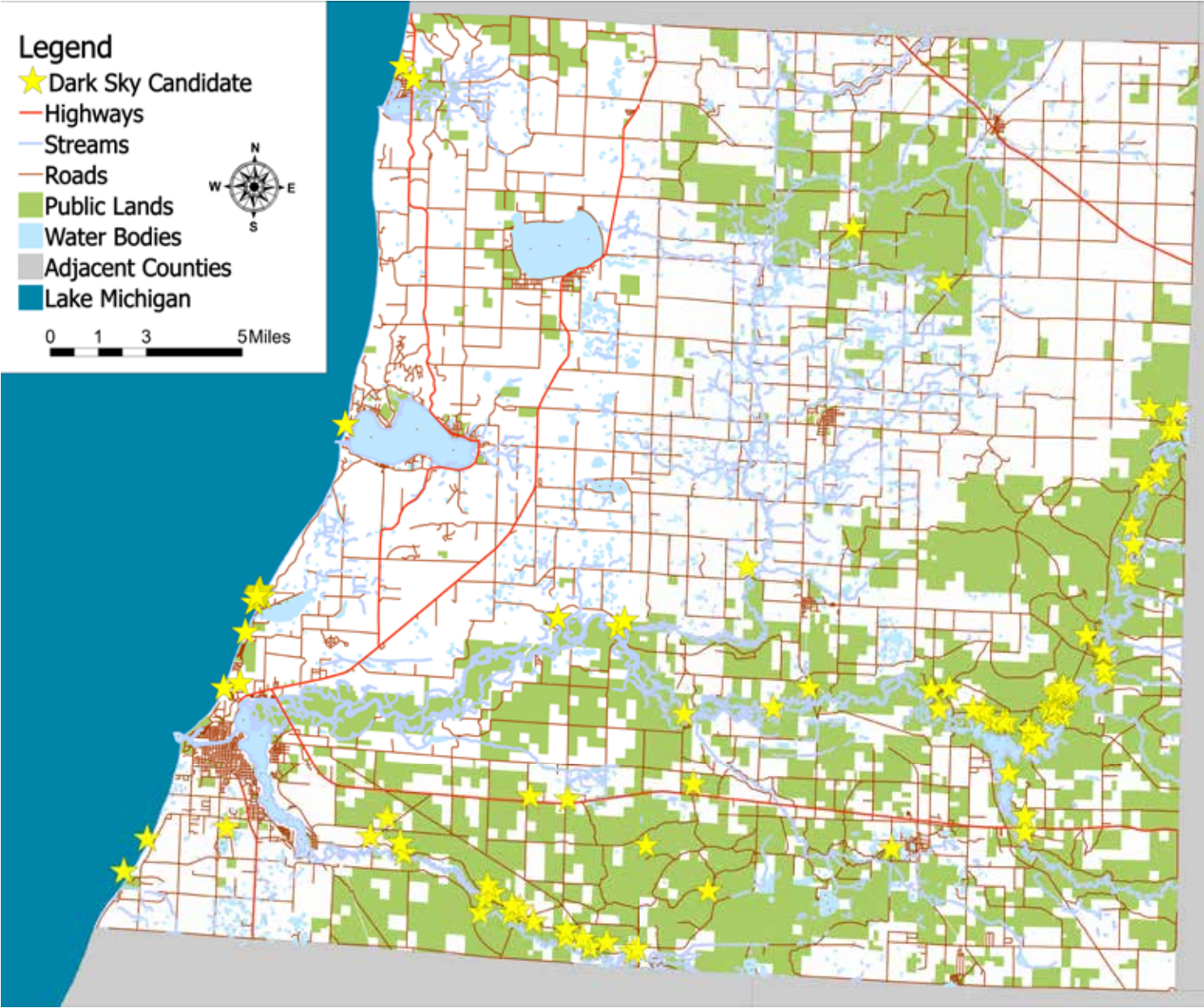
All public campground and camping locations are displayed on Map C-6.



Appendix C - Manistee County Recreation Sites

Map C-7 - “Dark Sky” Candidate Locations

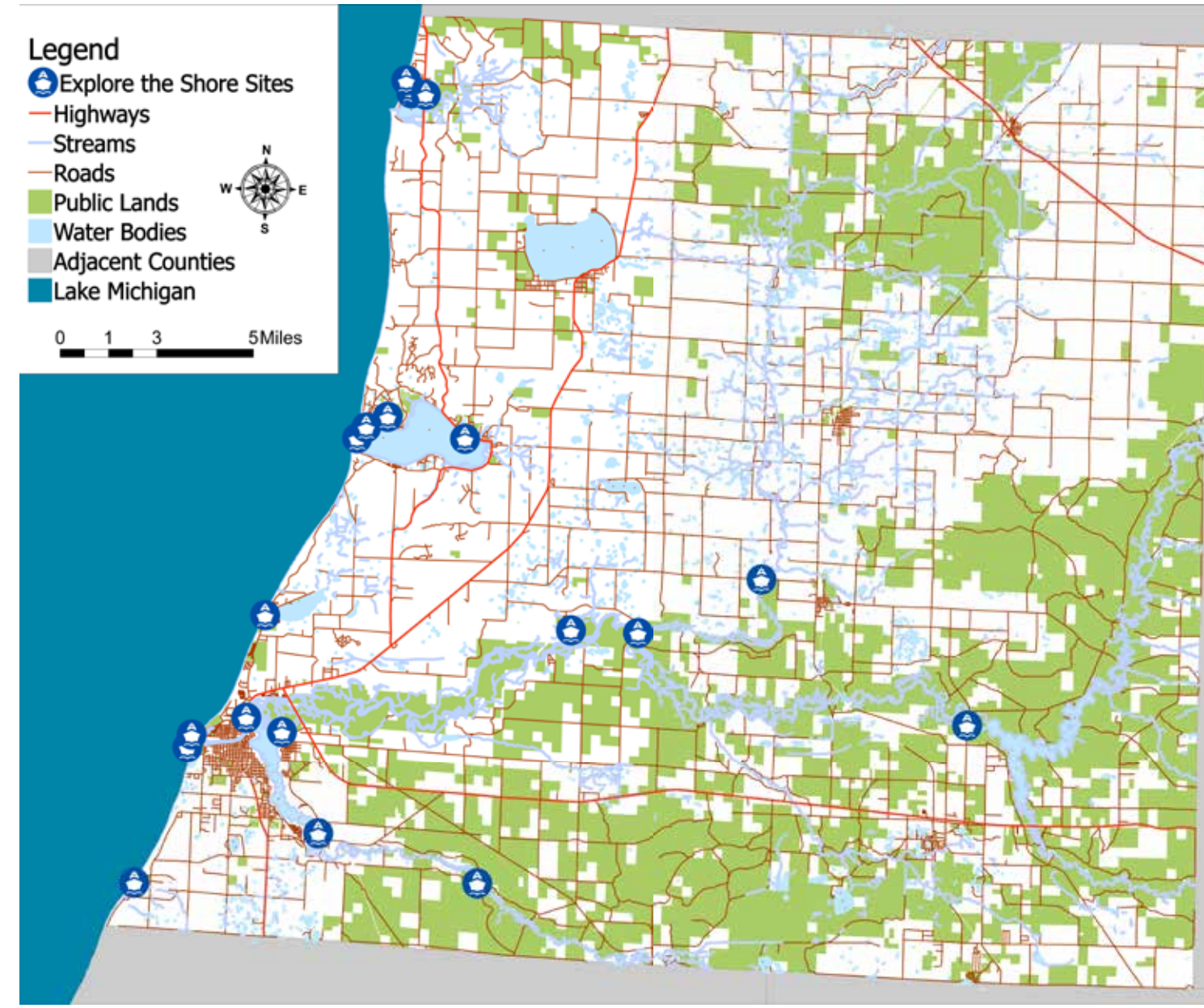
All recreation sites that don’t have lighting on site are displayed on Map C-7. These sites should be further investigated after dark to identify if light pollution from neighboring areas impactsnight sky viewing. Dark sky candidate locations should then be narrowed down to identify potential night sky viewing areas.



Appendix C - Manistee County Recreation Sites

Map C-8 - Explore the Shores Program Sites

All existing Explore the Shore sites are displayed on Map C-8. Although the program is not currently active, nearly all sites established through the program since 2008 still exist and provide accessibility for residents and visitors alike.



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Appendix D - Trail Planning in Manistee County

History & Background

Trails and trail use have been activities associated with Manistee County for decades. From narrow paths to favorite water accesses and fishing holes to extended shoulder bike lanes and snowmobile trails, many types of trails exist throughout the County. Processes and initiatives of the past have developed some isolated trail parks and have facilitated expansion of snowmobile routes that seek to connect our communities while spanning extensive sections of public forests. Support for trails and trail planning efforts extend back many years and can easily be found in Master Plan documents from local units of government and the County over the past 30 to 40 years.

Initiated in 2014, a County-Wide approach to recreation planning outlined much of the same support and goals for trail development that had been found in previous plans. The difference with this specific endeavor was the community collaboration and consensus building of a singular plan with a more focused approach that spanned the entirety of the County. The completion of the planning process in 2016 provided sound public support for the development of trails and began a trajectory for a passionate group of residents to begin the necessary steps towards implementation of that shared vision. This vision continues to be reinforced through public input collected during subsequent planning processes. What began with the 2016 planning process continues to serve as a framework for trail development and will remain a guiding vision until additional trail goals are achieved or future public input indicates a shift in priorities.

The foundation for achieving success in trail planning and development began with the completion of necessary actions. These actions include:

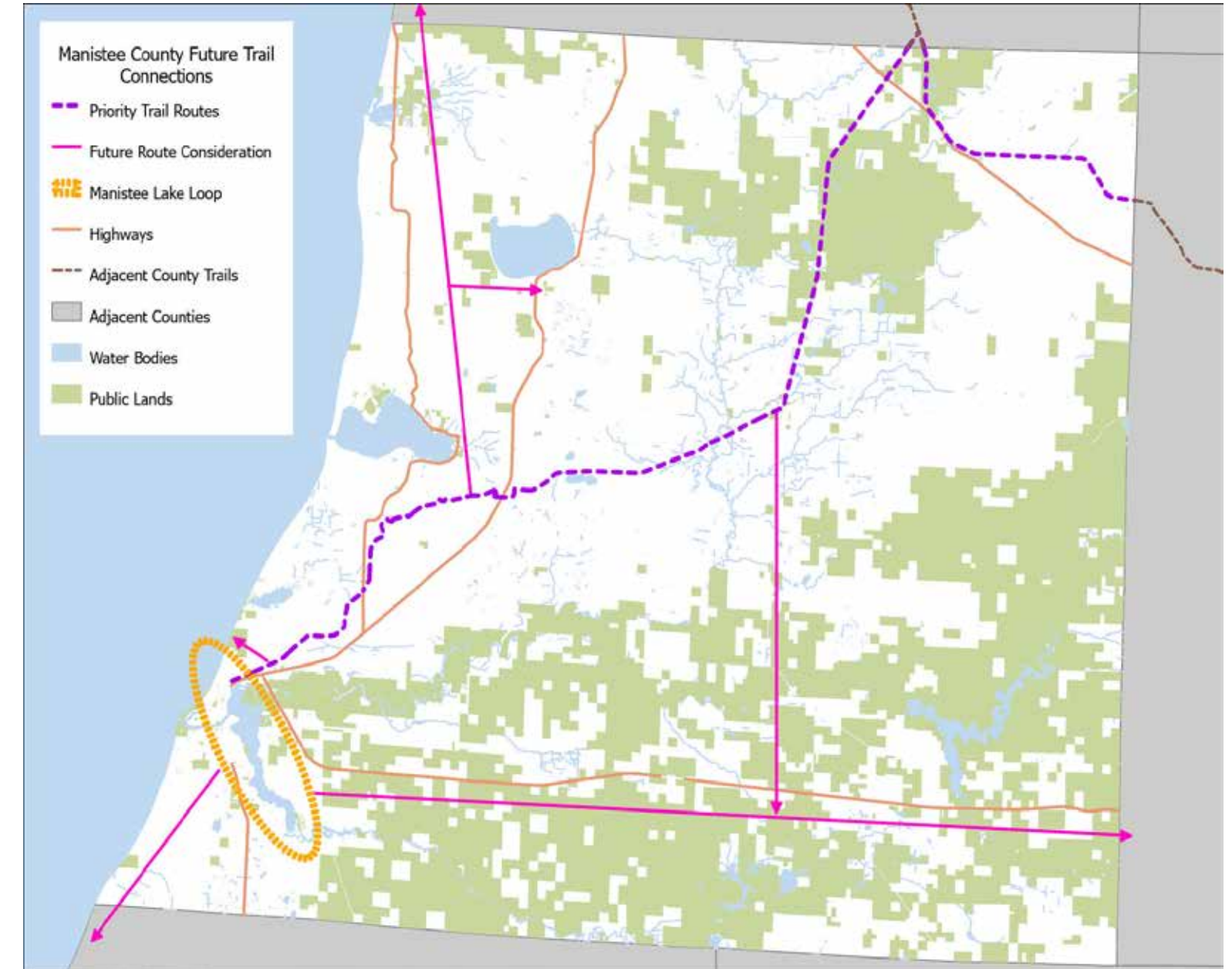
- Completion of the 2016 County-Wide Recreation Plan with local and State approval;
- Establishment of broad brush stroke trail routes and trail hubs;
- Establishment of the Manistee County Recreation Commission;
- Establishment of the 501(c)(3) Friends of SMARTrails;
- Refinement of trail routes and prioritization of section implementation;
- Completion of individual stand-alone non-motorized and regional trail route planning documents;
- Communication with the State of Michigan on localized efforts and their support of those efforts;
- Revision of the Recreation Plan in 2021 and 2026 for recertification and approval by the State; and
- Inclusion of individual regional trail and non-motorized plans within a single primary document (this Appendix D) that presents a full comprehensive plan for recreation and trail development in Manistee County.



Methodology

Extremely comprehensive in nature, the existing efforts for trail planning shape the methodology of this appendix. Since 2016 a steering committee of Manistee County residents has led efforts for trail implementation guided by information and assistance provided by County Planning Department Staff. Initial trail planning as outlined in the 2016 County-Wide Recreation Plan was superficial in nature and directed the County towards more in-depth trail planning in several areas that included both trail types/uses as well as the appropriate structure and process for implementation efforts. This led to the establishment of the County Recreation Commission and the Friends of SMARTrails, focused attention on multi-use trail route delineation, outlined non-motorized transportation planning in the vicinity of Manistee Lake, continued advocacy for increased single-track back-country loops and connections within the vast public lands of Manistee County, and increasing knowledge of Off Road Vehicle (ORV) users on established and available routes. These tasks were identified and advanced since 2016 and continue to inform trail planning priorities and decision-making today.

Map D-1. Broad Brush Stroke Trail Connections



These routes were designated as priorities due to their strong potential to connect existing trail systems and communities, the presence of substantial publicly owned land along the corridors, and the availability of continuous former railroad beds. Collectively, these characteristics make the priority routes the most feasible candidates for near-term implementation.

Trail Mapping and Navigation Resources

The Manistee County Tourism Authority has made a great effort to provide a variety of trail maps and outdoor recreation resources to assist residents and visitors in accessing the County’s extensive trail network. Available resources include maps for the North Country Trail, Manistee River Trail/North Country Trail Loop, Arcadia Dunes: C.S. Mott Preserve, Big M Recreation Area, Magoon Creek Nature Area, Orchard Beach State Park, and other regional trail systems. These resources support hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and other non-motorized recreational activities throughout Manistee County.

The availability of publicly accessible trail maps improves trail awareness, encourages responsible use of recreation facilities, and supports the County’s goal of connecting residents and visitors with natural resources while promoting a variety of outdoor recreation experiences.

The Manistee County Tourism Authority also provides water-based recreation mapping resources, including river maps for the Big Manistee River, Little Manistee River, and Pine River, as well as lake and boat launch information. These resources identify opportunities for paddling, boating, fishing, and other water-based activities while helping users locate access points and plan recreational trips.

The County’s rivers, lakes, and Lake Michigan shoreline represent significant recreational assets. Maintaining accurate access information and promoting available mapping resources helps enhance user experiences and supports continued investment in water-based recreation infrastructure.

Available Maps can be found by visiting The Tourism Authority’s website: <https://www.visitmanisteecounty.com/things-to-do/>



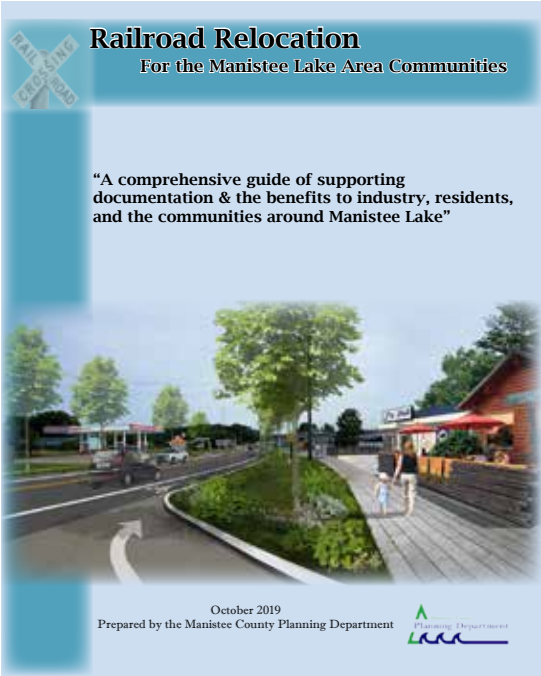
Trail & Non-Motorized Multi-Modal Opportunities

Localized Manistee Lake Area Communities Non-Motorized Improvements

The Manistee Lake Area contains the largest population concentration within Manistee County within the jurisdictions of the City of Manistee, Manistee Township, Village of Eastlake, Stronach Township and the Charter Township of Filer. A planning effort undertaken with collaboration of these entities and area stakeholders in 2019, led to the development of the Manistee Lake Area Non-Motorized Trail Plan. This plan outlined localized improvements to non-motorized facilities and included desired connections of the regional multi-use trail system to the area. The efforts of the document were founded in strong public and stakeholder participation which led to the identification and desired location of the improvements. Improvements in part drew upon on-going recommendations for relocation of the railroad from a significant portion of the Manistee Lake shoreline, opening an expansive linear corridor around the lake that could be converted to a non-motorized pathway that would connect to existing and future facilities. The recommendation for relocation of the railroad can be extensively reviewed in the Railroad Relocation Guide. Recommended improvements are numerous for this area and those that are most noteworthy are identified below:

- Relocation of railroad and conversion to non-motorized pathway
- Placement of a sidewalk along US 31 from the north side limits of the City of Manistee to the Manistee Blacker Airport
- Placement of a sidewalk along US 31 from the south side limits into Filer Township to Merkey Road
- Placement of numerous pedestrian crossings across US 31 with signage and refuge islands in Filer and Manistee Townships and the City of Manistee
- Expansion of sidewalks in areas of residential land uses in the City of Manistee, Filer Township and Manistee Township
- Connection of multi-use trails to the edge of the urban areas of these communities to facilitate snowmobile access during the winter and non-motorized access during warm months

Each of the identified improvements is a recommendation for incorporation; thus, each is considered a technical improvement that aligns with goals that are structured to “improve” non-motorized assets, features and overall functionality.



It is important to note that many of the recommended improvements identified above are anticipated to be implemented in conjunction with the \$39.5 million reconstruction of US-31, currently planned for 2027–2028. As part of this project, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will undertake a complete reconstruction of the 4.8-mile corridor from Stronach Road in Filer Township to M-55 in Manistee Township. Planned improvements include the construction of sidewalks along the entire corridor, as well as several new pedestrian crossings, some featuring refuge islands. The locations and design of these improvements were informed through extensive public input and visioning sessions conducted by MDOT.

Significant progress has also been made toward relocating the railroad corridor along Manistee Lake. In 2022, Manistee County was awarded a \$530,000 grant through the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), funded with an 80 percent federal share and a 20 percent local match provided by Manistee County and the Manistee County Community Foundation. Funding for the design phase is expected to come primarily from an additional FRA grant, while future construction funding is anticipated to include FRA assistance and potentially support from MDOT.

In response to longstanding concerns related to public safety, traffic delays, economic development, and freight rail operations, the 2025 Manistee County Safer Southern Rail Route Study proposes construction of a new southern rail corridor. The proposed route would eliminate five at-grade crossings, three aging rail-marine bridges, and the existing rail car staging area located on CSX right-of-way. As part of the study, Manistee County evaluated multiple southern rail alignment alternatives to identify a preferred route.

Once the US-31 reconstruction project is completed and the rail relocation effort advances further, it may be beneficial to revisit and update both the Manistee Lake Area Non-Motorized Plan and the Rail Relocation for the Manistee Lake Area Communities Plan to reflect changing conditions, completed improvements, and future opportunities for connectivity and redevelopment.

Regional Multi-Use Trail Development Routes & Connections

Establishment of off-road or separated trails for multi-use (snowmobile in winter, nonmotorized during warm months) and providing regional connections continues to be a primary objective of the Friends of SMARTrails and the Recreation Commission. With many months spent planning and establishing the locations of routes throughout the County, first as broad-brush strokes and then refined to identify recommended placement, the initial priority routes were established.

Priority Route Segments

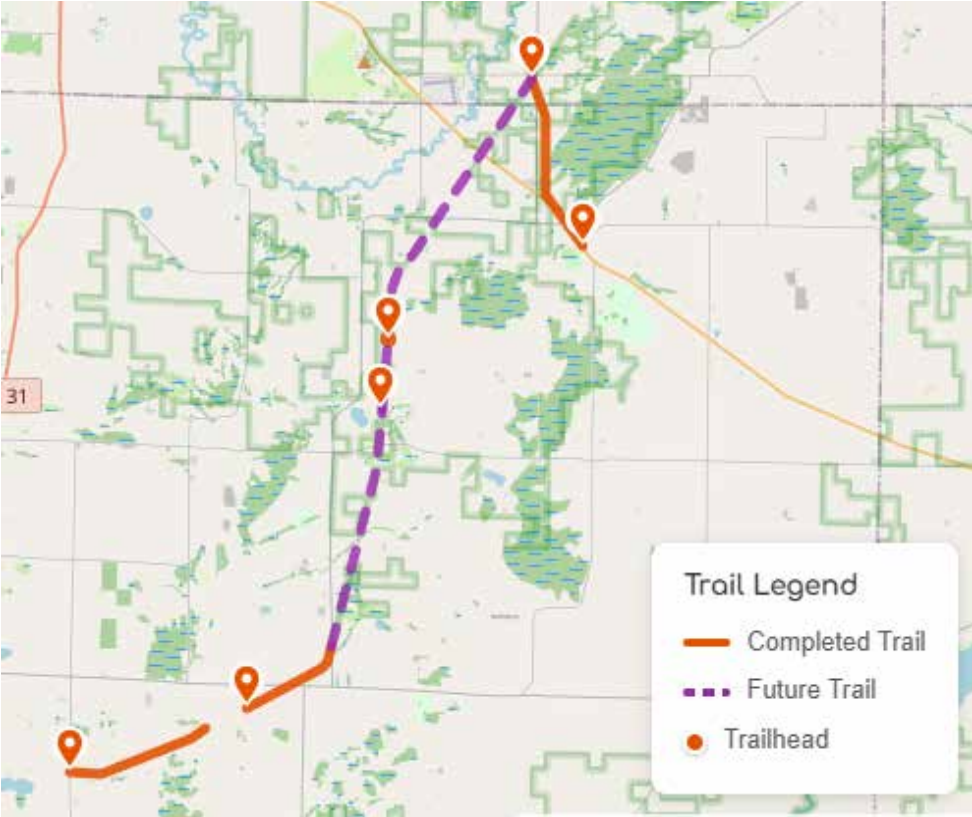
There are three primary prioritized segments of multi-use regional trails that are in a position for implementation efforts. They are:

1. The Betsie Valley Trail extension from Thompsonville, Southeast and East along the abandoned railroad corridor into Cleon Township and the Village of Copemish, exiting east into Wexford County towards Mesick. Significant progress has been made toward this goal through the completion of the Thompsonville-Copemish Trail Project, which improved 3.4 miles of former railroad corridor with a crushed limestone trail surface, added a trailhead and parking area in the Village of Copemish, and constructed a new bridge over Bear Creek in Springdale Township. The project created a finished non-motorized trail surface and was funded through a partnership that included the Economic Development Administration (EDA), Manistee County Community Foundation (MCCF), Manistee County Recreation Commission, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, and the Benzie-Manistee Snowbirds. Networks Northwest served as a co-applicant and project administrator for the project. Photos are included on the next page (Page D-7).
2. The Betsie Valley Trail extension from Thompsonville, South along the abandoned railroad corridor into Springdale Township, continuing South into Maple Grove Township and the Village of Kaleva, through Bear Lake Township ending at Chief Lake (See Map D-2).
3. The extension of the priority trail route # 2 from Kaleva to the West and Southwest into Brown Township and Northern Manistee Township turning south towards Tribal areas of the Little River Band and terminating in Southern Manistee Township near the City of Manistee.

Priority segments 1 and 2 are under full public ownership with property records detailing that the abandoned railroad corridor is owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Priority segment 3 has a combination of public and private ownership along its course. Discussions with landowners have been ongoing thanks to the efforts of the Benzie-Manistee Snowbirds Snowmobile Club.



Map D-2. Friends of SMARTrails Map



Much of the support for and development of snowmobile trails in Manistee County can be attributed to the Benzie-Manistee Snowbirds Snowmobile Club. The organization has served the region for nearly 60 years, with its clubhouse in the Village of Kaleva established in 1968. The club incorporated in 1978 and became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 2017. The Snowbirds are also active members of the Northwest Michigan Snowmobile Council and the Michigan Snowmobile and Off-Road Vehicle Association (MISORVA).

For more than 50 years, the Snowbirds have played a leading role in the development, maintenance, and promotion of snowmobile trails throughout Manistee County and neighboring communities. Recent trail improvement efforts have included Trail #386 (Bear Lake Spur), Trail #33 (Brethren Express), Trail #313 (Chief Grade), the Hodenpyl Dam Trail, and most recently, the Thompsonville Express (see Map D-3).

They maintain roughly 160 miles of trails in three Northern Michigan counties with a crossroads of trails in Thompsonville in Benzie County. The Snowbirds partner with Betsie Valley Trail and Friends of Betsie Valley Trail groups on trail maintenance in Benzie County, and continue to support trail efforts in Manistee County through

Map D-3. Snowmobile Trails



the Manistee County Recreation Commission and Friends of SMARTrails. Current snowmobile trail priorities include:

1. Connect Interlochen State Park, 1st State Park in lower Michigan to Orchard Beach State Park, 2nd State Park in lower Michigan with a Hike, Bike and Snowmobile trail.
2. Connect the White Pine Trail from Cadillac to Betsie Valley trail in Thompsonville to connect the White Pine to Lake Michigan with a Hike, Bike and Snowmobile trail. Much of this system is currently DNR owned.
3. The common denominator in all of these is Snowmobile trail #3, that had been maintained by the Snowbirds for the last 50+ years; this opportunity will connect over 20 rural communities to add economic value and additional recreational opportunities in our state.

While implementation efforts are on-going for the preceding priority routes, it is recommended that Manistee County and the Local Units of Government continue to determine routes that are currently only identified by a broad-brush stroke. Successful determination of the appropriate placement of a route is a process that needs to be conducted with full transparency. Local community leaders must work together coordinating meetings that seek the input of residents and property owners. Stakeholders included in this process should include local snowmobile and cycling clubs, Friends of SMARTrails, County Road Commission, MDOT when applicable along with other interested parties. The following routes have been identified as desired connections but have not made it past the broad-brush stroke stage. Feasibility of each route is largely dependent on landownership, natural features, community support and anticipated costs.

- There is strong community support for a lakeshore route that would connect the City of Manistee, Onekama Township and Arcadia Township continuing North towards Frankfort. Determining a route is particularly challenging as the lakeshore has very limited public land when compared to the interior portions of the County. One option is to work with road agencies for utilization of road right-of-way, with another option to work with utility easements that may allow for trail placement.

- In the southern portion of the County there is opportunity for a West to East route that would span Stronach and Norman Townships. This route is very feasible with abundant public land contained within the Manistee National Forest. Connections from Manistee to Wellston could be planned more easily with this public land in mind. The route could allow for connections towards the East into Wexford County.

- In the central Eastern portion of the County a route can be planned for a South to North connection that would provide linkages from Wellston North through Brethren and connecting to the segment of trail in Kaleva.

- Linkage to the Bear Lake area. It largely makes sense to connect Bear Lake along

the lakeshore trail. There are a couple of options from creating a separate connector trail to routing the trail away from the lakeshore into Bear Lake. A third option is to create an entirely new trail segment that would connect the lakeshore trail to Bear Lake and continuing into the interior of the County towards Kaleva and Copemish. The Manistee River Loop, a 20-mile loop trail that circumvents the Hodenpyl stretch of the Manistee River via the Manistee River Trail and a section of the North Country Trail, has become a huge draw to our area in the last 10 years. The primary use is for overnight backpacking treks along the loop but also provides opportunities for shorter in and out day hikes. The loop has become a symbol of “Loving a natural area death,” with the amount of use that it currently receives. A typical weekend will find all parking areas filled with Coates Highway containing overflow along the shoulders of the roadway. In recent years during mid-week the parking areas have continued to fill to capacity.

The extensive existing public use along with public input from work sessions and surveys has identified a strong desire for loop backpacking routes within the County. Existing recommendations from the 2016 plan identified a need to work with the United States Forest Service (USFS) in support of implementation of these trail types. The existing plan called for exploration of backcountry trails that circumvented the Little Manistee River and Pine Rivers. These projects should continue to be supported, but it may be beneficial to work with the USFS in developing a backcountry trail forest use plan. Connection of the Little Manistee, Pine and Manistee River corridors with overland routes that connect Big M and other areas of extensive forest in Manistee County would be a huge draw for users and would spread use out across the forest instead of the continued extensive use of the Red Bridge area.

The ORV community is a strong and vocal advocate for expanded riding opportunities on both trails and public roads. Survey responses collected between July 2025 and June 2026 indicate that a significant portion of both permanent residents and visitors support increasing ORV access throughout Manistee County. At the same time, studies have demonstrated the importance of separating motorized and non-motorized recreation users where feasible to minimize conflicts and enhance user experiences for all trail users.

As future recreation planning and implementation efforts move forward, it is recommended that Manistee County continue to focus on developing designated ORV routes and improving rider information. One potential project would be the creation of an informational map or pamphlet identifying legal ORV routes while also highlighting local businesses, attractions, and destinations accessible by ORV. Numerous local units of government have opened the shoulders of public roads to ORV use, while the State of Michigan and the U.S. Forest Service provide extensive access to forest roads throughout the Pere Marquette State Forest and Manistee

National Forest. Given this existing network, evaluating opportunities to establish signed loop routes that connect communities, scenic areas, and public lands would be beneficial. Efforts toward this goal are already underway through the work of the Benzie-Manistee Dirt Birds.

The Benzie-Manistee County Dirt Birds are a nonprofit ORV and side-by-side riding organization based in Kaleva that was founded in 2023 to promote responsible off-road recreation, trail connectivity, and economic development in northern Michigan. The organization has experienced rapid growth and works closely with local governments, the Benzie-Manistee Snowbirds, and other partners to develop a signed regional ORV route network connecting communities in Manistee, Benzie, and Wexford Counties. The group emphasizes safe and lawful riding, respect for local residents, and support for local businesses by encouraging riders to patronize area restaurants, fuel stations, lodging establishments, and other services. Their long-term vision is a connected regional ORV network that links existing trail systems while improving navigation, reducing unauthorized riding, and supporting tourism-related economic activity.

Continued planning efforts focused on establishing designated ORV routes may help reduce the need to accommodate ORV use on trails developed primarily for hiking, bicycling, and other non-motorized recreation. Manistee County already maintains substantial GIS data identifying roads that are open to ORV use, providing a strong foundation for future route planning and mapping efforts.

A significant step toward achieving this objective occurred in 2026 with the adoption of a Countywide ORV Ordinance. The ordinance established a consistent regulatory framework for ORV operation on public roads throughout Manistee County. By creating uniform operating standards across municipal boundaries, the ordinance improves rider understanding, streamlines enforcement, simplifies signage and administration, and promotes safe and responsible ORV recreation while preserving local control over road access decisions (See Map D-4).



Map D-4. County-Wide ORV Ordinance Map



Future Route Planning

Manistee County Trails Discussion

There is consensus for trail development within Manistee County and support for snowmobile trails as well as non-motorized trails (hiking, biking, equestrian, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing) development is evident. All future trail development should focus on these user groups, and consideration for collaboration for the development of multi-user trails is a priority. Examples of shared use for trails allowing snowmobiling as well as non-motorized use exist outside our County, and these best management practices should be reviewed for consideration within Manistee County.

Trailheads:

Trailhead placement and proper development are of utmost importance to trail design and implementation. Consideration of parking, amenities such as restrooms, picnic tables or seating, potable water source, informational signage and bike racks and canoe/kayak cradles is very important dependent upon the trailhead use and location. Trailhead design should have some uniformity throughout the County so that a common theme is easily distinguishable. These types of themes are already present across the Manistee National Forest at USFS Recreation Sites. A theme can assist with identification and promotion of sites and allows people to know that they have arrived.

Way-finding:

Way-finding is an important consideration during trail implementation efforts. Through directional maps, signage and trail markers or blazes; trail use is planned, route choice is determined, and identification of location is known. Thoroughly identified routes ensure that trail users can reasonably find there way from one destination to another, without wrong turns occurring at junctions, or wrong route selection. Similar to trailheads, way-finding signage should carry common themes which are specific to individual routes or trail types. Through unique characteristics one can more easily identify when they are utilizing a specific trail or trail type.

Land Trail Type Discussion:

There are many different trail types pertaining to the design, construction and makeup of the trail surface. Different uses require different widths, surfaces, grades and design. What follows are the most common constructed trail types recommended to be utilized within Manistee County for various trail routes and segments.

Single Track Natural Surface Trail:

Single track natural surface trails are most often utilized for hiking, backpacking and biking during the summer months and snowshoeing during the winter months. Single tracks are designed for the width of a single person or biker so the tight

confines of the space limit snowmobile use and become congested quicker in areas of high use.

Natural Surface Trail 4’-8’:

4’-8’ natural surface trails are often utilized in areas for cross-country skiing and snowmobile use during the winter (allowance for grooming equipment) and unimproved non-motorized uses such as hiking and biking which facilities easier travel compared to single track trails in many cases This also affords room for multiple users to hike or ride side by side as well as for allowance for easier passage in opposing directions.

Hard Packed Surface Trail 8’-12’:

8’-12’ hard packed trails are designed and constructed to provide ease of travel for the user and to allow for both snowmobile use as well as non-motorized uses during the summer months. Hard packed often refers to crushed limestone, but can also consist of road gravel, crushed concrete or other suitable packable stable material.

These trails are often constructed along trail segments further away from population centers and popular recreation sites, where paved trails should be utilized to facilitate universal accessibility. The cost of hard-packed vs. paved trails should be explored for more remote trail segments, as maintenance for hard packed may be significantly less than costs of resurfacing paved trails.

Paved Trails 8’-12’:

8’-12’ paved trails are utilized for non-motorized use as well as being available to snowmobile use. Often constructed in high use routes, populated areas and adjacent to popular recreation sites, these trails provide for universal accessibility as they provide a very stable platform for transportation.

Extended Road Shoulder 1-4’:

Extended road shoulders are often added to roads to facilitate on-road bicycle use. For experienced riders extended road shoulders are easily and comfortably utilized, but they are seen as less desirable by less experienced riders as well as young riders and families. Road shoulders should continue to be pursued for designated on-road bike routes, although more support for establishment of off-road facilities is evident through public input gathered in Manistee County.

Land Trail Maintenance:

Maintenance of trail systems is an important consideration during trail implementation. Agencies tasked with management and upkeep of public lands often lack budget funding for the addition of miles of land trails and can be cautious of adding additional trail miles to public lands. This caution is warranted and

discussions early on in a process concerning maintenance and how it will be paid for with monetary funds and/or volunteer hours can ease the implementation and construction of trail segments.

Trail maintenance tasks include:

- Clearing debris and garbage
- Maintaining pavement
- Grading of hard surfaces
- Mowing of vegetation
- Grooming of snow

Developing a Framework for Implementation:

As the need, desire, and support is established by this recreation plan to develop multi-use trails, work needs to commence to plan a well designed trail system. By doing so, trail planners have continuously found that good advance planning will result in decreased long term maintenance costs, thoughtful connections and preservation of natural and cultural resources; as well as having a more meaningful economic development impact on the local economy. Meeting the recreational and destination needs, as promoting a healthy lifestyle, of residents is very important. Using the trail system to help promote our communities in order to increase prosperity is also a very important factor. Ultimately, communities will work together to plan and implement the trail plan in a collaborative manner unlike previously seen in Manistee County.

Implementation Framework:

Utilizing the information collected within this plan and synthesized within this chapter, leadership members for trail implementation have a tool box with which to move forward. Moving forward requires utilizing these tools and the framework for future steps for regional trail planning which are broken into the three categories of: visioning, collaboration, implementation.

Visioning:

Identifying and analyzing:

- More refined locations of the trail corridors
- Potential funding sources
- Trail layout, design, and trail use
- Landowner/stakeholder identification and outreach

Collaboration:

Identifying stakeholders to collaborate and partner with and seeking to:

- Understand different user groups, their interests and concerns
- Reconcile different goals and needs.
- Obtain ideas for design, locations, and types of uses for the trails

Implementation:

Building the trail planned for will require the following issues/goals accomplished:

- Purchasing of land, receiving donations, or obtaining easements for trail segments.
- Liability issues resolved.
- Accessibility, including being compliant with the American Disability Act, issues highlighted and resolved.
- A trail maintenance and operations policy which includes seeking and cementing a strong trail volunteer group who will assist in day to day operations of caring for the trail system.
- Jurisdictional issues will need to be resolved.
- A general management structure in place for various tail segments.
- The development of a way-finding system.
- Ensuring that the Manistee County Tourism Authority and other methods of promoting the County are involved and have all the most update information available.

Identified Loops Non-motorized Loops

Non-motorized loop trail systems are desired of residents and visitors. Loop trails are desired as they provide for continuous travel along a linear trail providing unique views along the entire route while returning to the initial starting point. Public input as well as the local knowledge of leadership team members identified two locations for desired loop trail implementation.

Manistee Lake Trail Loop:

The Manistee Lake Trail is suggested as a non-motorized trail route which would encompass the entirety of Manistee Lake, linking all communities which surround the Lake. Discussions concerning the establishment of a loop trail around Manistee Lake need to include all municipalities which surround the lake, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, the railroad company, all industries along the lake, the DNR, as well as local residents. (See Map D-5)

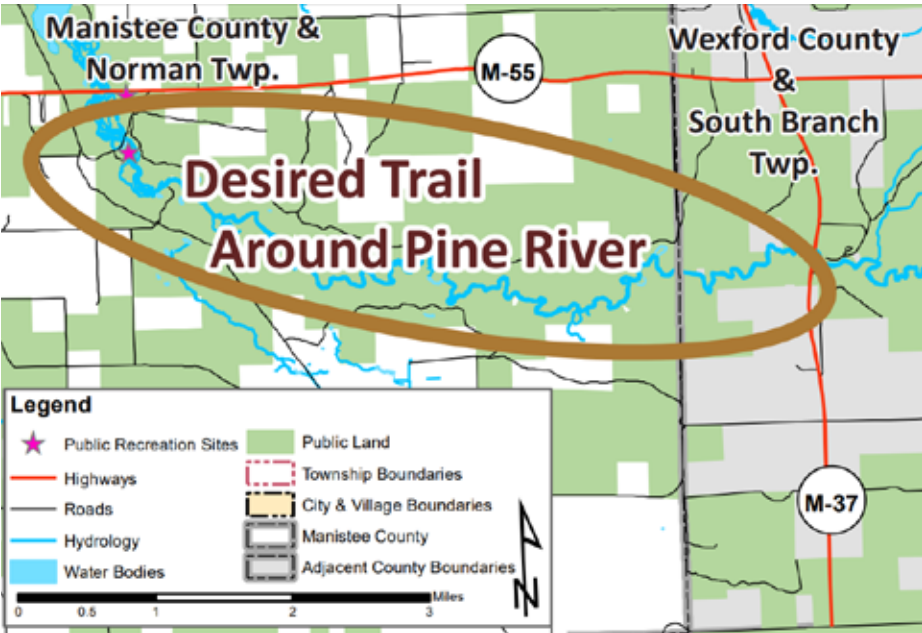
Map D-5. Manistee Lake Loop



Pine River Trail:

With the popularity of the Manistee River Trail-NCT Trail loop with hikers and particularly overnight backpacking enthusiasts, it is suggested that a natural surface single track loop trail along the Pine River Corridor in Manistee and Wexford Counties be explored. This beautiful river valley landscape which is contained within the Pine River Corridor, has special regulations for use and any trail implementation efforts must first approach the USFS to initiate conversation. Full collaboration with the USFS is required as the vast majority of land within the corridor is contained within the Manistee National Forest. Collaboration between Manistee and Wexford Counties as well as Norman and South Branch Townships is advised as the trail would likely fall within these municipalities. (See Map D-6)

Map D-6. Pine River Loop





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Appendix E - Local Jurisdiction Goals & Objectives

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 Aracdia Community Center (ACC), 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.
- Implement a walking path on Lake Street the connects First Street to Arcadia Beach Natural Area.

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 Arcadia Beach Natural Area and Veterans Memorial Park & Marina.
- Develop site specific park plan for Pickert 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, refinishing/revitalizing the shuffleboard courts, purchasing shuffleball equipment, installing an ice rink, making the site ADA accessible, improving lighting and developing a venue for community concerts.
- Install new playground equipment at Grebe Park.
- 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).

- 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 ACC.
- 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.
- At the newly aquired property adjacent to Arcadia Beach and Nature Area on Parcel ID 01-600-094-00, install walking paths, trees/landscaping, shelter-type structure, and electricity.

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, ACC, 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 ACC 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 recently aquired 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.

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 ACC to recognize their role as a catalyst for the development of recreation initiatives and programming. The ACC is also a suitable location for recreation scheduling and a point of communication for residents regarding recreational opportunities.
- Work with the ACC to assess the possibility of funding a part-time staff member for programing throughout the township and at the ACC. 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 Association’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 ACC. 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 ACC to ensure this information is posted regularly.
- Add useful links to the Township webpage, including but not limited to, the Manistee Recreation Association and the Council on Aging.
- Provide adult education and fitness classes at the ACC.

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.
- Add amenities such as playground equipment, shelters, a picnic area, etc. to newly aquired property (Parcel ID 02-641-761-03).

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.
- If Explore the Shores Program is reestablished, participate in program to develop access sites to be compliant for all types of users.

Goal 6: Develop an eco-tourism economy.

- Meet with the County Tourism Authority 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 or rennovate the bathrooms in the lower floor of the old DPW Building for public use. Ensure any new facilities are ADA Accessible.
- Provide potable water to campsites.
- Improve or replace existing beach pavilion.
- Add a mobi mat or other accessible pathway on the beach.

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 Tourism Authority 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 if the program is reestablished.
- 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.

Cleon Township

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

- Continue to collaborate with SMARTrails, the Manistee County Planning Department, the Manistee County Recreation Commission and neighboring jurisdictions on multi-use trail development efforts.
- 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 Betsie River Blue Water Trail system.
- Connect to the Betsie Valley Trail in Benzie County.
- Continue to support the allowance of ORV use on designated trails and the creation of new ORV trails in appropriate areas.

Goal 2: Work collaboratively with Copemish 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 Copemish serve the greater area of Cleon 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 Cleon 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 Copemish

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

- Host more public events that celebrate the community’s history and unique attributes (similar to Copemish 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 Copemish. 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 Copemish.
- 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.
- Research potential opportunities to add unique recreational experiences into Copemish’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.
- Provide drinking fountains at Louis Memorial and Mish-a-Mish Park.
- Improve lighting at park facilities.
- Add a covered picnic structure at Mish-a-Mish Park.
- Add more parking and better bathrooms 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 Copemish’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.
- Identify the location for and construct an ORV trail for riders to access the gas station in town. Ideally, this would be a trail through woods, primarily on Village-owned property off Cedar Street.
- Install a crosswalk to connect Bestie Valley Trail to sidewalks along M-115 and buses.
- Continue to participate and retain a member with SMARTrails, the county-wide trail committee.*
- Continue to collaborate with SMARTrails, 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 Copemish on the Village website.
- Add directional signage along the Betsie Valley Trail segment that lies within Copemish to endorse local points of interest and to further link the trailway to the village.
- Improve non-motorized connectivity and safety between Louis 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.
- Encourage and support beautification of the township and it’s non-motorized connections to parks as it relates to signage and sidewalk repairs.
- Incorporate a campground into the Manikiwa Park (Site #49) and improve park facilities around Lake Eleanor.

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, the Benzie-Manistee Snowbirds, 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.
- If the program is reestablished, create an Explore the Shores site at the USFS High Bridge Access that includes a Universally Accessible Kayak Launch.
- Improve the parking lot at Red Bridge River Access (Site #80).

Village of Eastlake

Goal 1: Improve the Village of Eastlakes 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, and 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 2026 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 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	X			
Magoon Creek		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 Tourism Authority, 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 lighting at park facilities.
- Promote open and existing uses in village.

Goal 3: Develop recreation site improvements at the Kaleva Village Roadside Park and Campground.

- Provide electricity to more campsites.
- Assess the feasibility of adding a pool on-site.
- 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. This would include a trailhead/bathroom facility flush toilets, showers and electricity to be utilized by trail users and campground patrons on Parcel ID 38-021-350-02.

Goal 4: Improved Outdoor Recreation Facilities at Maple Township Community Center.

- Outdoor pickleball court.
- Improved Basketball Court.
- Restroom facilities and recepticals.
- Negate vandalism and nefarious activity through neighborhood watch, etc.

Manistee Township

Goal 1: 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 high traffic roads.
- Extend snowmobile trails from M-22 to the northeast.

Goal 2: 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 3:Improve/expand existing recreation facilities.

- Inventory recreation sites for frequency of usage, user needs and opportunities to expand the types of recreation offered at each site.
- At the Township Hall Park, expand and improve pickleball courts. Acquire additional land to construct a larger pickleball facility with amenities and appropriate parking. Add restrooms at the Township Hall Park.
- At the Township Hall Park, improve the picnic area, add playground equipment and develop additional recreation opportunities within the unused space.

Goal 4: Improve Public access to Lake Michigan and the Manistee River.

- Improve parking at Bar Lake Outlet Park by creating a safer parking area. Increased access to Lake Michigan at Orchard Beach State Park would alleviate excessive use and parking issues at the Bar Lake Outlet Park.
- Enhance accessibility at Bar Lake Outlet Park. Add mobility mats on the beach.
- 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 and improving parking to Lake Michigan as well as all water access sites.

City of Manistee

Goal 1. Implement improvements to the City’s parks and other recreation sites.

- See the City of Manistee Park Improvements - 2026 table for specific park improvements. The park improvements listed are improvements that need to be taken to improve the specific park mentioned.
- Improve the existing skate park at Sands Park - Parcel ID 51-311-400-22 (Site #115), with new equipment and surfacing.
- Implement the improvements identified in the City of Manistee Beach Master Plan: <https://www.manisteemi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5657/Beach-Master-Plan->

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 ID 1-101-300-01 which is an approximately 12-acre parcel, for the purpose of overflow parking for the Arthur Street Boat Launch and possible location for a trail segment, kayak launch, and low impact park amenities. If acquisition by the City is not feasible, coordinate with Consumers Energy to support the site as a recreational resource for the community and acquire a long-term lease or easement in perpetuity for utilization of the site.
- Acquire a suitable location for Pickle Ball Courts within the City Limits. Hamlin Field – Parcel ID 51-340-703-05 (Site #142), is noted as a priority location being immediately adjacent to the Armory Youth Project (AYP) where there is existing indoor pickle ball for winter months and City-owned parking. If acquiring the property is not feasible, a long-term lease or easement in perpetuity may be an option.
- Coordinate with Morton Salt Inc. to support their property (portion that is south of the park; Parcel ID 51-712-150-20) to allow for improvements and expanded uses as outlined in the park’s master plan.
- Pursue acquisition of Consumers Energy Parcel ID 51-712-475-01 and other nearby properties to expand and enhance the Ninth Street Boat Launch while also reserving land for future needs associated with the adjacent City of Manistee Wastewater Treatment Facility. Where acquisition is not feasible, explore long-term lease agreements or perpetual easements as alternative means of securing access and future use.
- Acquire the property west of Washington Street to Harbor Village Channel to extend the Riverwalk to the Harbor Village Channel.
- Continue to encourage landowners to grant easements for expanding the Riverwalk East of the US-31 bridge, or acquire the property immediately adjacent to the river channel to further 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.
- 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 with an area for storing/locking equipment at the south portion of the riverwalk or at any other suitable launch sites, such as the Ninth Street Boat Launch.
- Create an area within the city for crewing.
- Create an area within the city for sport fishing.
- Create a pier on Man Made Lake and improve the pier at Douglas Park and the Ninth Street Boat Launch.

Goal 5: Develop an eco-tourism economy.

- Attract more, and continue to support existing, outdoor rental businesses.
- Continue to meet with the Manistee Tourism Authority 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.
- Continue to maintain and improve the outdoor community ice arena at Sands Park – Parcel ID 51-311-400-22.

Goal 7: Create new recreational opportunities.

- Create a specific park accessible for all kids with no barriers and a wheelchair accessible playground structure.
- Build an outdoor amphitheater at First Street Beach – Parcel ID 51-310-400-00.
- 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 competitive disc golf course within a city park.
- Develop a dog park at Morton Park.
- Develop a pocket park within the City; a suitable location may be Parcel ID 51-612-375-15.

Table F-2. City of Manistee Park Improvements

	Arthur Street Boat Launch	Douglas Park	Duffy Park	Fifth Avenue Beach	Mack Park	Man Made Lake	Municipal Marina	Morton Park	Ninth Street Boat Launch	Ninth Street Hill	Non- Motorized Park	North Beach Access	North Riverwalk Memorial Park	Red Szymarek Park	Reitz Park	Sands Park	South Riverwalk
Amphitheater at Kite-Flying Area		X															
Ball Field: Improvements/Add		X	X					X								X	
Batting Cages			X														
Benches	X	X		X	X		X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Bike Lanes		X		X								X					
Bike Rack	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Bike Repair Station		X		X			X					X					
Blue Trail Access Point	X								X								X
Boardwalk: New, at grade						X											
Boat Launch: Improvements/New	X	X							X								
Canoe/Kayak Launch	X								X								X
Crewing/Rowing Facilities: New									X								
Disc Golf, Competitive											X						
Docks: Improvements/New							X		X								
Dog Park/Run								X									
Fencing: Improvements/New		X															
Green Space Area/Contemplative Park		X								X							
Grills		X	X	X	X		X							X			
Ice Skating Improvements																X	
Interactive Art		X															
Landscaping		X													X		X
Lighting Improvements/Add							X						X	X			X
Little Library Book House		X			X					X							
Mobi Mat Beach Access		X		X													
Multigenerational Area		X															
Outdoor Fitness Stations/Area		X														X	
Overlook						X											
Parking Lot Improvements/Add	X	X	X	X		X		X	X			X		X			
Pavilion, Multipurpose/Gazebo/Shelter		X														X	
Picnic Area					X									X			
Pier Improvements/Addition		X							X								
Playground Equipment		X	X	X	X			X						X	X	X	
Ramp Improvements		X							X								
Restrooms		X				X						X					
Shade Structures		X		X	X												
Sidewalks: Repair Existing															X		
Sign Improvements/Wayfinding	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Skate Park Improvements																X	
Splash Pad		X															
Sprinkler System													X				
Telescope	X											X					
Tennis Courts: Improvements/Add		X														X	
Tetherball: Improvements/Add		X	X	X				X									
Trail: within park/connected		X	X	X		X					X	X				X	
Universal Accessibility		X		X					X								
Volleyball: Add/Improvements		X	X	X										X			
Water Station/Drinking Water	X	X		X			X		X				X	X			X

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 #161 (Bear Creek Access) to provide more parking, seating and signage that describes the site’s unique ecological features.
- Improve Site # 163 (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.
- Incorporate paved bike trails throughout the Township to connect parks and other recreational assests.

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.
- Continue to make improvements to the Maple Grove Community Center including Universally Accessable upgrades to outdoor recreation features.

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.
- If the program is reestablished, 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 North Country Trail - 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 Tourism Authority 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: Manage and maintain Township parks to balance recreation, access, and environmental health — ensuring safe, consistent, and sustainable use.

- Maintain clear, visible signage that defines the use and purpose of each park.
- Inspect and maintain parks regularly to ensure safety, access, and environmental care, addressing maintenance needs and small improvements as they arise.
- Provide accurate and accessible Parks information through signage and the communication platforms most used by the community.
- Encourage responsible and respectful use of Township parks.

Goal 2: Strengthen partnerships with local and regional organizations to expand recreation opportunities, share resources, and coordinate long-term planning.

- Encourage collaboration between Onekama Township and the Village of Onekama on projects or priorities of mutual benefit.
- Collaborate with the County, schools, and civic partners to improve trail and park connectivity.
- Explore opportunities to coordinate park and recreation efforts or exchange knowledge with nearby jurisdictions when beneficial.
- Support invasive-species management at the Township parks and coordinate with other community organizations serving the Portage Lake Watershed.
- Partner with schools and associations to expand recreation programs for all ages and abilities.

Goal 3: Enhance and expand recreation facilities and connections to provide accessible, inclusive, and diverse opportunities for residents and visitors.

- Prioritize ADA improvements and safe access at all Township sites.
- Continue pursuing grants for parks and recreation initiatives.
- Support development of new recreation features based on community interest and survey results, including features to encourage wellness and fitness.
- Protect and preserve land that enhances recreation and environmental quality, including protecting the natural features of our parks for nature studies and enjoyment.
- Evaluate activities and expenses for parks and recreation to ensure the honorable stewardship of the taxpayer’s resources.
- For a current list of specific projects in development that support these goals, visit the ‘Potential Projects’ section at onekamatwp.org/parks-recreation/parks-planning

Goal 4: Increase community awareness, participation, and pride in Township parks through clear communication, events, and partnerships.

- Promote local park programs and events through multiple platforms.
- Update and maintain a community map of Township Park and Recreation sites.
- Evaluate long-term funding options, such as grants, partnerships, or local contributions, to support park improvements.
- Recognize community volunteers, donors, and program partners annually.

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.

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.

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 source, creating a trailhead with signage for snowmobile use and other multi-use trail users and improving seating.
- Develop restroom facilities at Pleasanton Township Park (Site #262).
- Improve parking, playground equipment and seating at Pleasanton Township Park (Site #262).
- 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 Betsie River access sites at Moore Road & N County Line Road and at Dzuibanek & 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.
- If the program is reestablished, consider making Healy Lake State Forest Campground part of the Explore the Shores program.
- Develop an on-shore fishing platform at Healy Lake for improved access to the water.

Goal 2: Improve recreation sites within Springdale Township.

- Improve and develop ball fields and athletic equipment 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 Betsie Valley Trail, develop Healy Lake State Forest Campground as an established trailhead.

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

- 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 Tourism Authority 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 boat launch that would be convenient for those fishing Manistee Lake and the Little Manistee River.
- Maintain a proactive approach to safety and security at Township facilities and public spaces by monitoring public assets, addressing security concerns, and taking measures to prevent vandalism and property damage.

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