



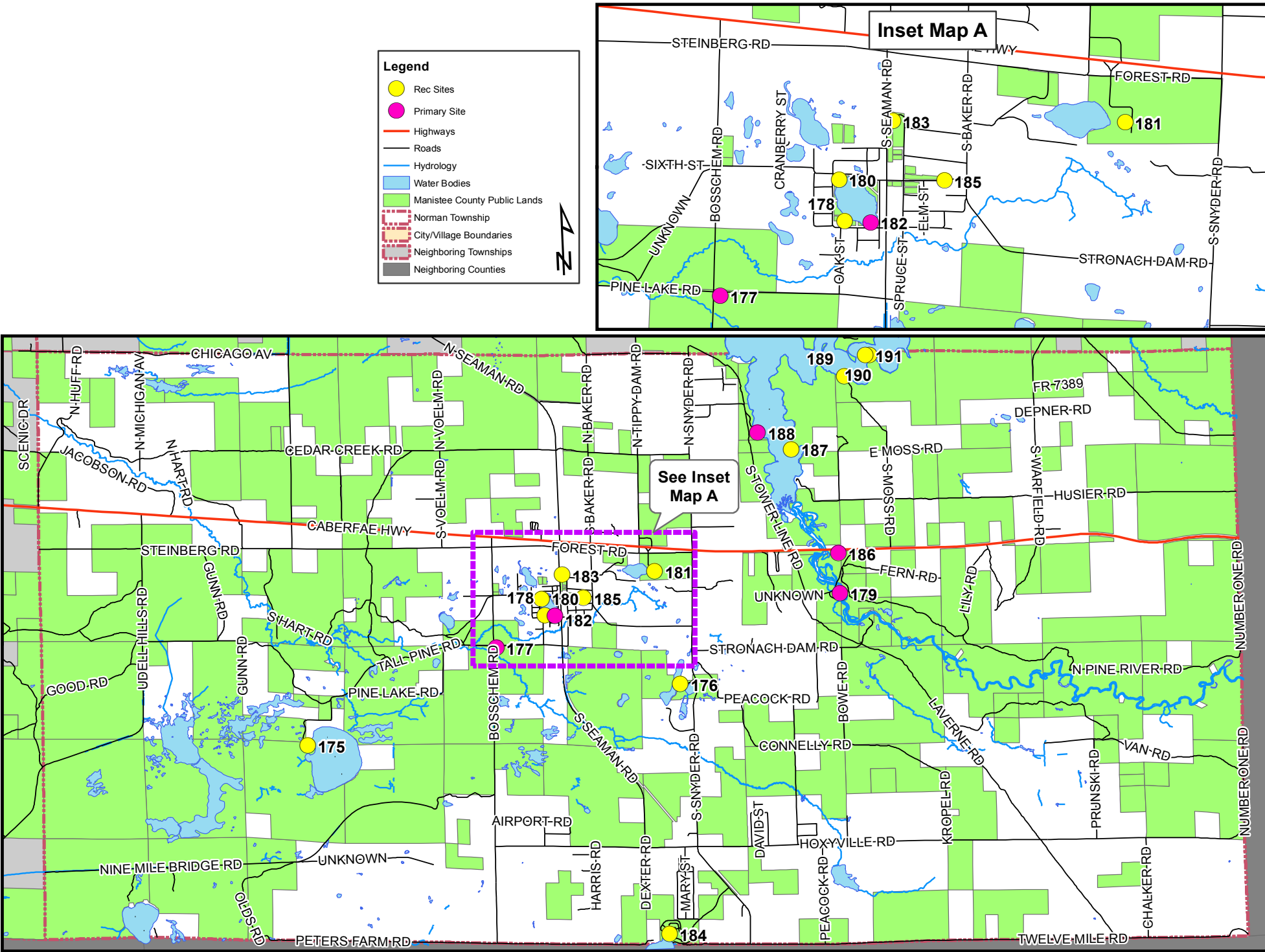
Image 3.28: Pine River Brown Trout



Image 3.29: Low Bridge River Access Signage

Norman Township Inventory Map

Map 3.18: Norman Twp. Recreation Inventory Map



3.4.17 Manistee Township

3.4.17.1 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. Access to the Township is via US 31, M-55 and M-22. The Townships is home to the County’s largest employer, the The Little River Casino Resort, Oaks Correctional Facility, West Shore Hospital, Elmers and Meijer.

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

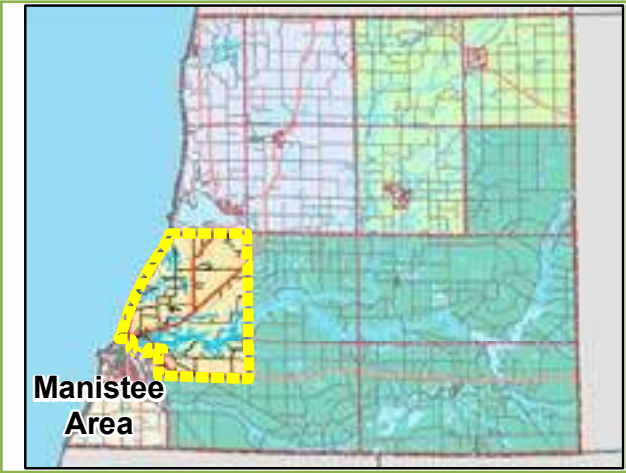
Land ownership includes the City, County, Tribal, State and Federal public lands in addition to private land ownership. Recreational opportunities abound with the natural resources of Lake Michigan and the Big Manistee River.

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. The Township is welcoming to new businesses and residents.

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	County-wide Primary	Park Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Mod., 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)	Bike Lane (Road Shoulder)	Playground Equipment	Baseball Field	Tennis Court	Volley Ball	Basketball Court			
143	M-55 Man. River Wildlife Platform	State	1	•	NRA	L	L	•				•		•	•		•	•	•													•		•										
149	Orchard Beach State Park	State	1	•	RP	•	L			•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•					•	•		•		•		•					
148	Manistee Twp Park at the Twp Hall	MAN	1		MP	L	L					•										•			•																			
150	Beech-Hemlock Nature Trailhead	State	1		PT		L				•				•																		L	•										
151	Bar Lake Outlet Beach	MAN	1		NRA		H	•		•	•	•	•	•						•						•	•	•	•				•	W	•									
311	M-55 Hole	State	1		SU		L					0																•																

Table 3.18: Manistee Twp. Recreation Inventory Table

Manistee Area Region



3.4.17.2 Inventory Discussion:
Manistee Township has abundant natural resources with which to focus resource based recreational activities. 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. Manistee Twp. has access to the Manistee River through several road ends, but lacks a properly developed safe access to the river. The M-55 Hole, a location utilized by residents for fishing the Manistee,

immediately upstream of the M-55 bridge. This site, which is informal in nature and is completely undeveloped is sought after for improved access to the river. Ultimately a boat launch and universal accessibility improvements at this site could open up the lower river to increased access through a well designed boat launch, and accessible fishing pier.

Manistee Twp. contains the only off-road, large width paved non-motorized pathway in Manistee County. This pathway located between Lakeshore Dr. and Hill road is popular and further trail segments of this nature are desired by residents. The Township supports further expansion of non-motorized pathways on public lands and existing rights-of-way and lies at a cross-roads where the potential to route pathways to various neighboring communities is a reality. The Manistee Marsh, managed by the DNR has potential for connecting trail routes and discussions with the DNR should continue regarding trail route development.



Image 3.30: Bar Lake Outlet

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	County-wide Primary	Park Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Mod., 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)	Bike Lane (Road Shoulder)	Playground Equipment	Baseball Field	Tennis Court	Volley Ball	Basketball Court		
142	Manistee Non-motorized Trail Park	CITY	2	PT	L						•	•																															
145	Bridge St Access-MR	MCRC	2	RDSU	L							0																	•	•	•				W	•							
147	Zimmerman Lane Trailhead	MCRC	2	PT	H						•	•		•																													
154	Cottonwood Ave Access-BA	MCRC	2	RDSU	L							0																															
158	Access-MI	MCRC	2	RDSU	L						•	0																		•	•	•											
159	Access-MI	MCRC	2	RDSU	L						•	0																		•	•	•											
144	Park Ave Access-MR	MCRC	3	RDSU	L							0																		•	•	•											
146	Fowler Ave Access-MR	MCRC	3	RDSU	L							0																		•	•	•											
152	Maplewood Ave Access-BA	MCRC	3	RDSU	L						•	0																		•	•	•											
153	Balsam Ave Access-BA	MCRC	3	RDSU	L							0																		•	•	•											
155	Bar Lake Unimproved Boat Launch	MCRC	3	SU	L							•							•				•						•	•	•		•										
156	Poplar Rd Access-MI	MCRC	3	RDSU	L						•	0																		•	•	•											
157	Birch PL Access-MI	MCRC	3	RDSU	L						•	0																		•	•	•											
312	Newland School	MCRC	3	SU	L				•			1						•	•					•																			

Table 3.18: Manistee Twp. Recreation Inventory Table



Image 3.31: Manistee Marsh Bird Watching Tower

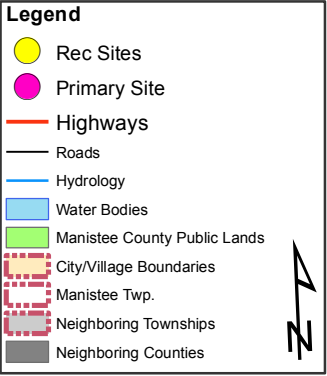


Image 3.32: Zimmerman Trail

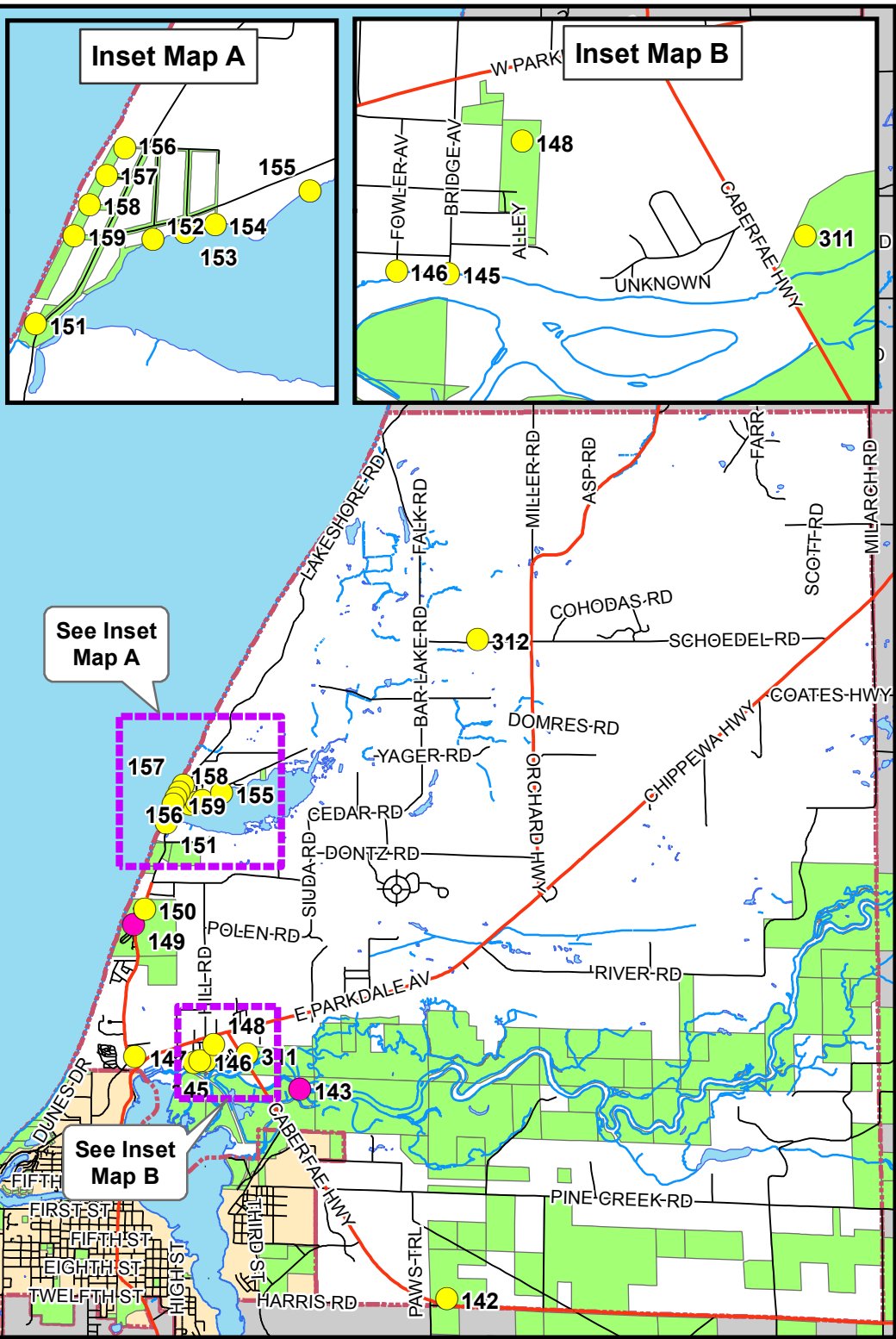
Manistee Township Inventory Map



Image 3.33: Zimmerman Trail



Map 3.19: Manistee Twp. Recreation Inventory Map



3.4.18 Eastlake Village

3.4.18.1 Community Description:

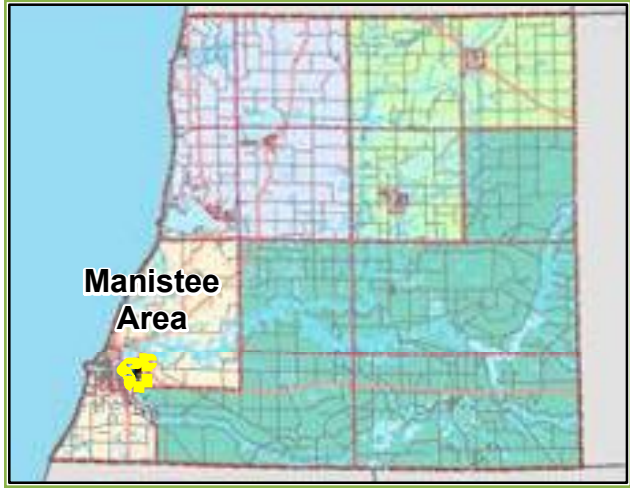
Eastlake is defined in part by its setting along the lakeshore and by the natural resources that surround it, as well as its proximity to the City of Manistee and the surrounding region. This regional context and access to natural resources have been the drivers for much of the Village’s development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

The rural character and access to water, forest, and other natural resources has been the region’s greatest economic driver. Many communities— Eastlake among them—were built up around the lumber industry, or served as major hubs for water-based or rail-based transportation. Eastlake had its beginnings in the logging boom of the nineteenth century, with the construction of a sawmill on the shore of Manistee Lake in 1870. The Village later became a stop on the Pere Marquette Railroad, which supported the logging industry and contributed to the growth of the Village, which was incorporated in 1912.

The area’s history as a thriving industrial center and commercial port has resulted in a fairly stable population base in Manistee County, when compared to the rapid growth witnessed in other parts of the region. Between 1920 and 2010, the population in many parts of the region has more than doubled. Manistee County’s population, on the other hand, has increased by about 18% during that time period.

In large measure as a result of the decline of 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

Manistee Area Region



of Eastlake residents dropped to 675 by 1920. Since that time, the population has fluctuated, with a low of 376 in 1950. The 2010 population of Eastlake was 512—a 16% increase from 2000, likely reflecting the construction of new dwelling units in the Village over that time period.

3.4.18.2 Inventory Discussion:

Eastlake Village rests along the shores of Manistee Lake, and abuts the Manistee State Game Area. The Village has neighborhood parks as well as containing a larger regional park on Manistee Lake, Penny Park. Penny Park is 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 with increased universal accessibility. The park is a popular destination for those seeking to recreate on Manistee Lake or the Manistee River.

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	County-wide Primary	Park Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Mod., High)	Explore the Shores Site	Lighting	Parking Availability	Signage Directional	Camping	RV Compatible (Camping)	Utilities/Hook-Ups (Camping)	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
94	Penny Park	ELV	1	•	CP	•	H	•	•	3	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	W			
91	East Lake Nature Trail	ELV	1		PT		L			2																				L			
93	Johnson Field	ELV	2		MP		L			3						•	•					•								•		•	
92	East Lake Playground	ELV	3		MP		L			1	•										•										•		•
95	East Lake Vil. Hall	ELV	3		SU		M		•	2	•																						

Table 3.19: Eastlake Vil. Recreation Inventory Table

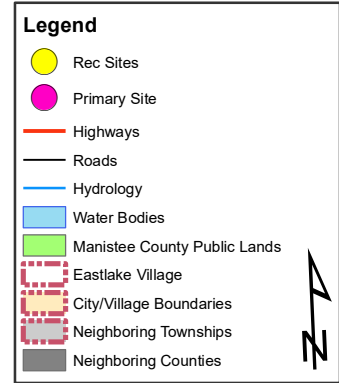
Eastlake Village Inventory Map

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

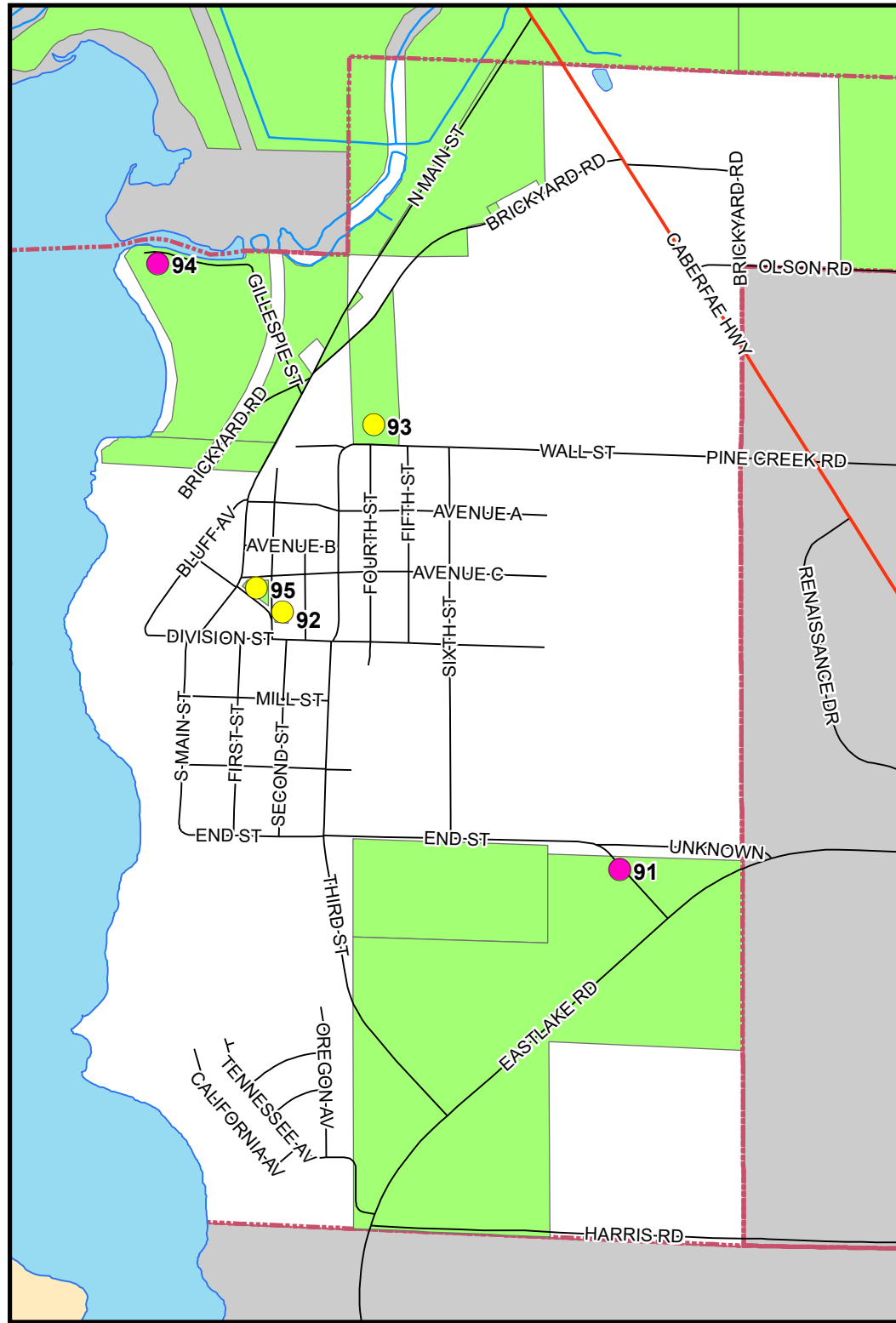
Future trail development with regional connections, expansion into the Manistee Marsh and the potential to develop a trail around Manistee Lake shows support from the public. The Village should continue to plan appropriately with neighboring municipalities for the establishment of these trail facilities.



Image 3.34: Penny Park



Map 3.20: Eastlake Vil. Recreation Inventory Map



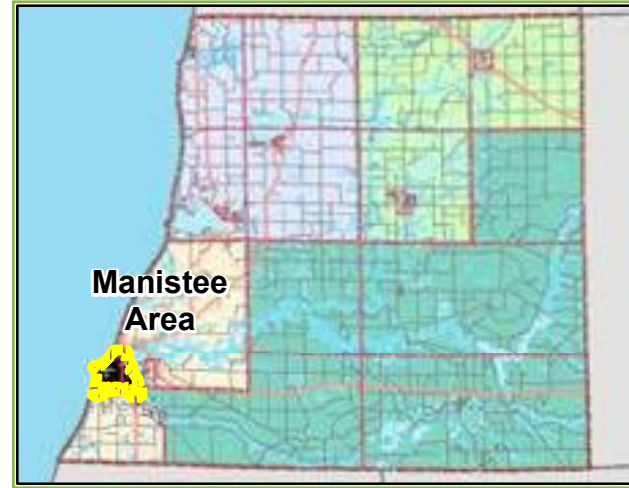
3.4.19 City of Manistee

3.4.19.1 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. Historic Manistee, the Victorian port city, has a river walk running through downtown to Lake Michigan to enjoy. You will find activities for all personalities, from the adventurous winter sports to the casual strolls along the beach. Manistee is your four season's destination for adventures, excitement and relaxation. The city is a paradise for water and sports enthusiasts and is known as the "Fishing Capitol 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.

Manistee Area Region



3.4.19.2 Inventory Discussion:

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

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

[illegible]

Table 3.20: City of Manistee Recreation Inventory Table

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

The riverwalk, a boardwalk along the Manistee River channel through the City of Manistee provides a great location for a stroll down the river, with historic information, parks linked along the linear trail and seating for those wishing to take in the view.

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



Image 3.35: Pier Fishing, 5th Ave. Beach

[illegible]

Table 3.20: City of Manistee Recreation Inventory Table



Image 3.37: First Street Beach



Table 3.20: City of Manistee Recreation Inventory Table

3.4.20 Charter Township of Filer

3.4.20.1 Community Description:

The Charter Township of Filer provides residents with a high quality of life in a varied four-season climate. The township is located on the shores of Lake Michigan in Manistee County’s southwest corner. Filer Township consists of 16.5 square miles, including four miles of shoreline on Lake Michigan and two miles on Manistee Lake. The township’s natural beauty is a product of the glaciers, resulting in some of the finest fresh water recreation opportunities in northwestern Michigan.

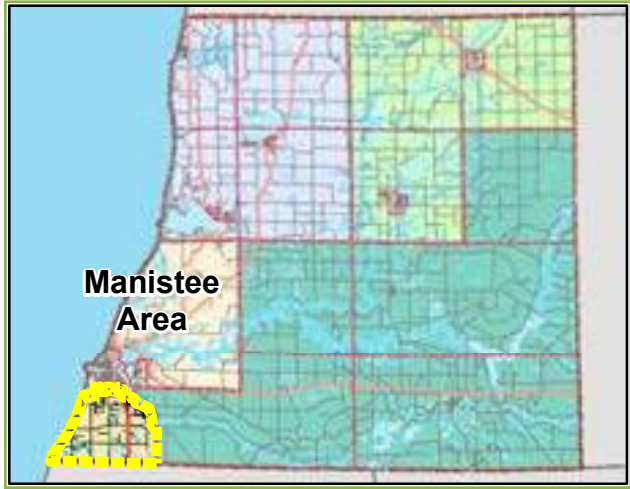
Magoon Creek Park offers 97 acres on the shores of Lake Michigan. Visitors can enjoy stunning views from the shoreline bluffs, picnicking, hiking trails and swimming in a beautiful park setting. Nearby Sundling Park provides a 66 foot easement to a pristine swimming beach on Lake Michigan.

Two small parks located in the Oak Hill and Filer City neighborhoods offer playground equipment. Our Recreation Center is used for exercise classes and community meetings. It can also be rented for family reunions, wedding receptions, parties and other activities.

Filer Township partners with Manistee Area Public Schools to support the Community Pool and the Manistee Recreation Association which offers a wide variety of recreational activities. Partially paved road shoulders used by bicyclists and pedestrians connect Filer Township to her adjacent neighbors.

The US-31 Commercial Corridor has many businesses offering a variety of retail,

Manistee Area Region



banking, medical services and leisure activities to the community.

Our Lakefront Industrial Area has been able to adapt to the changing economy, improve its environmental footprint, while employing hundreds of residents in secure and well-paid positions

3.4.20.2 Inventory Discussion:

Filer Township rests between Lake Michigan and the southern arm of Manistee Lake. The Township provides access to Lake Michigan through two recreation

Recreation Site Map ID #	Site Name	Ownership	Municipality Priority Ranking	County-wide Primary	Park Type	Fee Site	ADA Access (Low, Mod., High)	Explore the Shore Nominee	Lighting	Dark Sky Candidate	Parking Availability	Signage Directional	Signage Educational	Potable Water	Restrooms (Flush Toilets)	Outhouse (Pit Vault)	Garbage Receptacle	Picnic Table	Benches	Grill	Water Access	Beach	Canoe/Kayak Access	Boat Launch	Picnic Shelter	Band shell	Pet Waste Disposal Station	Trailhead (Water, Land)	Trails (Off Pavement)	Bike Lane (Road Shoulder)	Playground Equipment	Tennis Court	Basketball Court
96	Magoon Creek Natural Area	FIL	1	• RP		L		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•								
100	Sundling Park	FIL	2	SU		L			•		•						•	•	•														
102	Oak Hill Park	FIL	2	CP		L			•		•						•	•	•	•											•	•	•
103	Filer Twp. Recreation Center	FIL	2	SU	• M			•	•	•				•	•		•	•	•					•									
97	USFS Manistee Administration Office	USFS	3	SU	M			•	•	•			•	•	•		•	•	•					•									
98	Merkey Rd Access-MI	MCRC	3	RDSU	L			•	•																								
99	Filer Twp. Hall	FIL	3	SU	H				•	•	•				•															•			
101	Filer City Park	FIL	3	MP	L				•		0		•					•		•				•		•					•		•
104	Canfield Lake Boat Launch	State	3	SU		L			•	•	•	•									•		•	•									

Table 3.21: Filer Twp. Recreation Inventory Table

Charter Township of Filer
Inventory Map

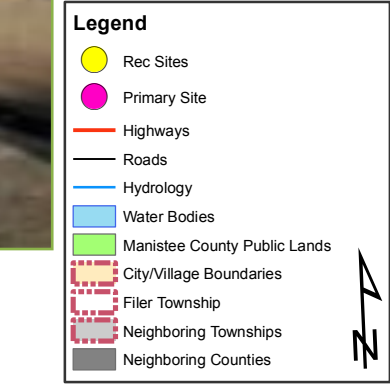
sites, Magoon Creek and Sundling Park. Magoon Creek is a primary site with various amenities such as restrooms, picnic areas and shelters. Beach access is had by following various trails to the water which wind through the park or by driving to the Beach Parking Lot and taking the short trail to the beach below the bluffs to enjoy the sandy beach and spectacular northern Michigan sunsets. Sundling Park is a largely undeveloped site with a beautiful swimming beach a small parking area and picnic table.

Access to Canfield Lake via a DNR boat launch provides additional water access within the Township.

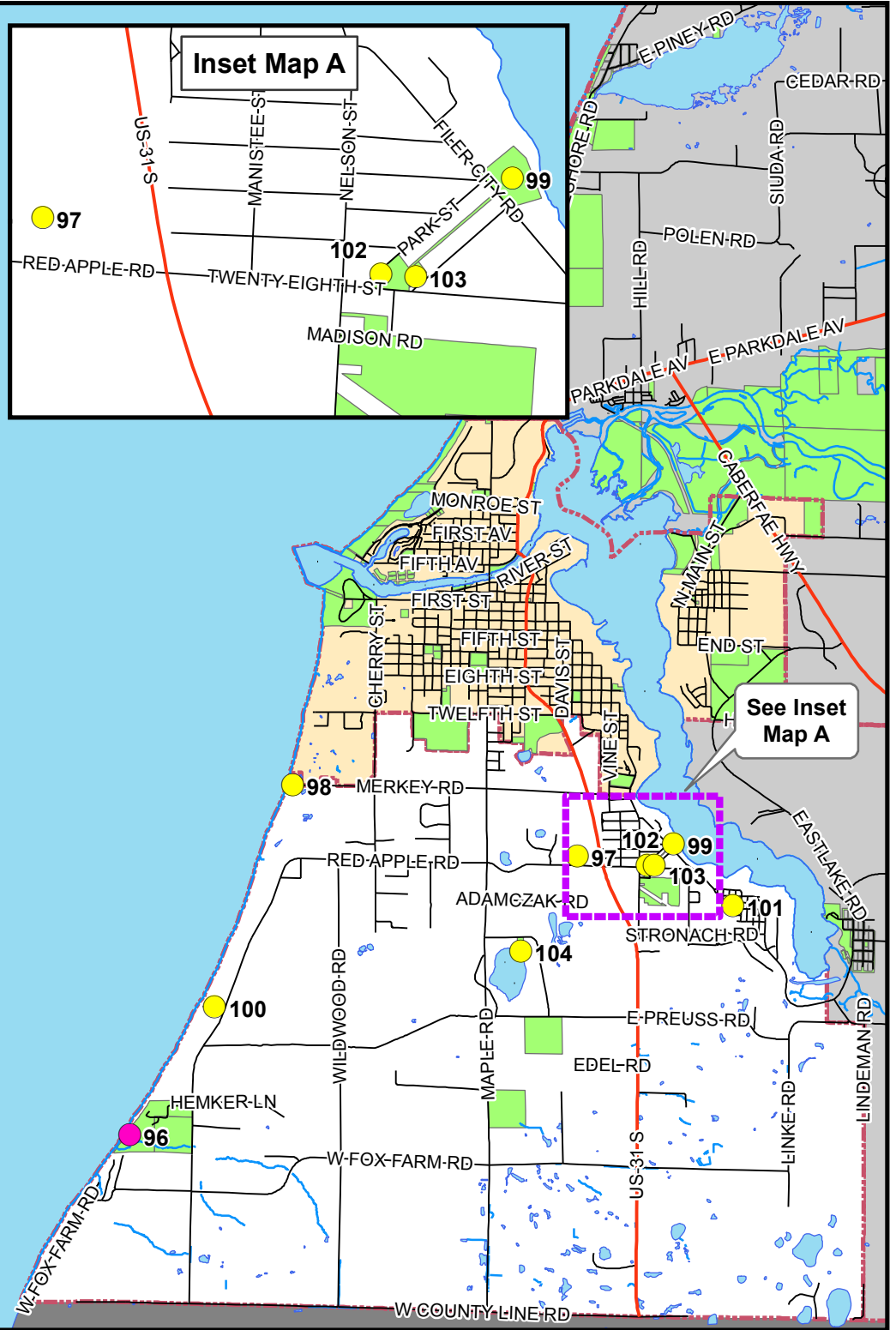
Trail systems within the Township include the localized trails of Magoon Creek and also the on-road bike facility along Red Apple Road which extends north to the City of Manistee along Cherry St. Their is a desire to see further trail development and regional connections, with the possibility of snowmobile trail connections. These efforts are supported by the community and should remain a priority for future park and recreation improvements.



Image 3.39: Magoon Creek



Map 3.22: Filer Twp. Recreation Inventory Map



Manistee Area

3.4.21 Manistee Area Public Schools

3.4.21.1 School Facilities Description:
The Manistee Area Public School System (MAPS) is integrally tied into the recreation system of the City of Manistee, surrounding townships and the County as a whole. Facilities within and adjacent to the City support both school sporting events, practices, fitness and intramural activities as well as serving the residents of the surrounding community who desire to recreate on the available facilities. A partial inventory of sites for the MAPS facilities is shared within the City of Manistee Recreation Site Inventory Tables and Maps. (See Table 3.19 and Map 3.21) A more complete list of facilities and facility assets is provided within this section.

Participation of MAPS as collaborators within the Planning Process was important in tying the City of Manistee, Manistee and Filer Townships park and recreation planning efforts into a cohesive system. As a stakeholder within the process, detailed information concerning the desired direction with which the school system would like to take with current and future facilities is outlined in the Chapter 6 Description of the Public Input Process, (See Section 6.4) and Chapter 7 Goals and Projects.(See Section 7.21)



Image 3.40:MAPS Campus Exterior

3.4.21.2 School Sites and Properties Map Description:
The Manistee Area Public School facilities inventory and site map differs from the inventoried recreation site lists provided in the municipality inventories. The recreation site ID numbers within Table 3.21 & 3.22 as well as on Map 3.23 provides some duplication of information contained within the City of Manistee site inventory and site map, although more specific referenced site numbers with appended letters displays exact facility locations on the map of the school campus with detailed asset descriptions found within the two tables.

Manistee Area Public Schools Facilities Inventory		
Site ID Number/ Facility Name	Recreational Building Components (Indoor)	Age
118-A Gymnasium	Multi-Purpose Arena with 1 main and 2 integrated hardwood Basketball /Volleyball courts. (1800 Seating Capacity w/ Restrooms, Locker Rooms, Training Room, Offices, and Concessions area.	12
118-B Indoor Walking Track Upper Deck	1/2 Mile Rubberized Walking Track	12
118-C Weight Room Workout Facility- Upper Deck	Multi-station /Free weights Exercise-Fitness Facility	12
118-D Exercise Area -Messinian Upper Deck	Open Multi-Purpose Exercise and 1200 sq Ft. Fitness Area	12
118-E Paine Aquatics Center Olympic Pool and Arena	8 lane Olympic size pool with diving venue (Restrooms, Locker Rooms, Classroom, Training Room and, Atrium) Warming-Therapeutic Pool (Physical Therapy Room and Office Space)	6
118-F MHS/MMS Commons	475 Capacity Multi-Purpose Events Venue	12
118-G MHS/MMS Auditorium	475 Capacity Multi-Purpose Events Venue	12

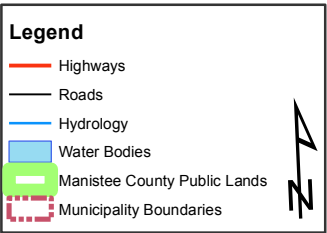
Table 3.22: MAPS Indoor Facility Recreation Inventory Table

Manistee Area Public Schools Facilities Inventory		
Site ID Number/ Facility Name	Recreational Campus Components (Outdoor)	Age
118-H Chippewa Field	Varsity Football / Soccer Athletic Complex (2500 Capacity Seating Venue w/ Restrooms, Concessions, and Supporting Structures)	12
118-I Chippewa Baseball Complex	Varsity Baseball Athletic Complex (300 Capacity Seating w/ additional capabilities, Restrooms and Concessions)	8
118-J Chippewa Softball Complex	Varsity Softball Athletic Complex (300 capacity Seating and Supporting Structures. Access to Restrooms and Concessions)	6
118-K 2 Chippewa Multi-Purpose Practice Fields	(300 capacity Seating and Supporting Structures. Access to Restrooms and Concessions)	12
118-L Centennial Track	<i>*Not in use due to safety concerns Proposed site of new Community Track Project</i>	20

Table 3.23: MAPS Outdoor Facility Recreation Inventory Table



Image 3.41:MAPS High School Gym



Map 3.23 MAPS Campus Recreation Inventory Map

Manistee High School Campus Inventory Map

Recreation Site # 118
Please refer to ID # and letter from tables 3.21 & 3.22 for map 3.23 letter reference.

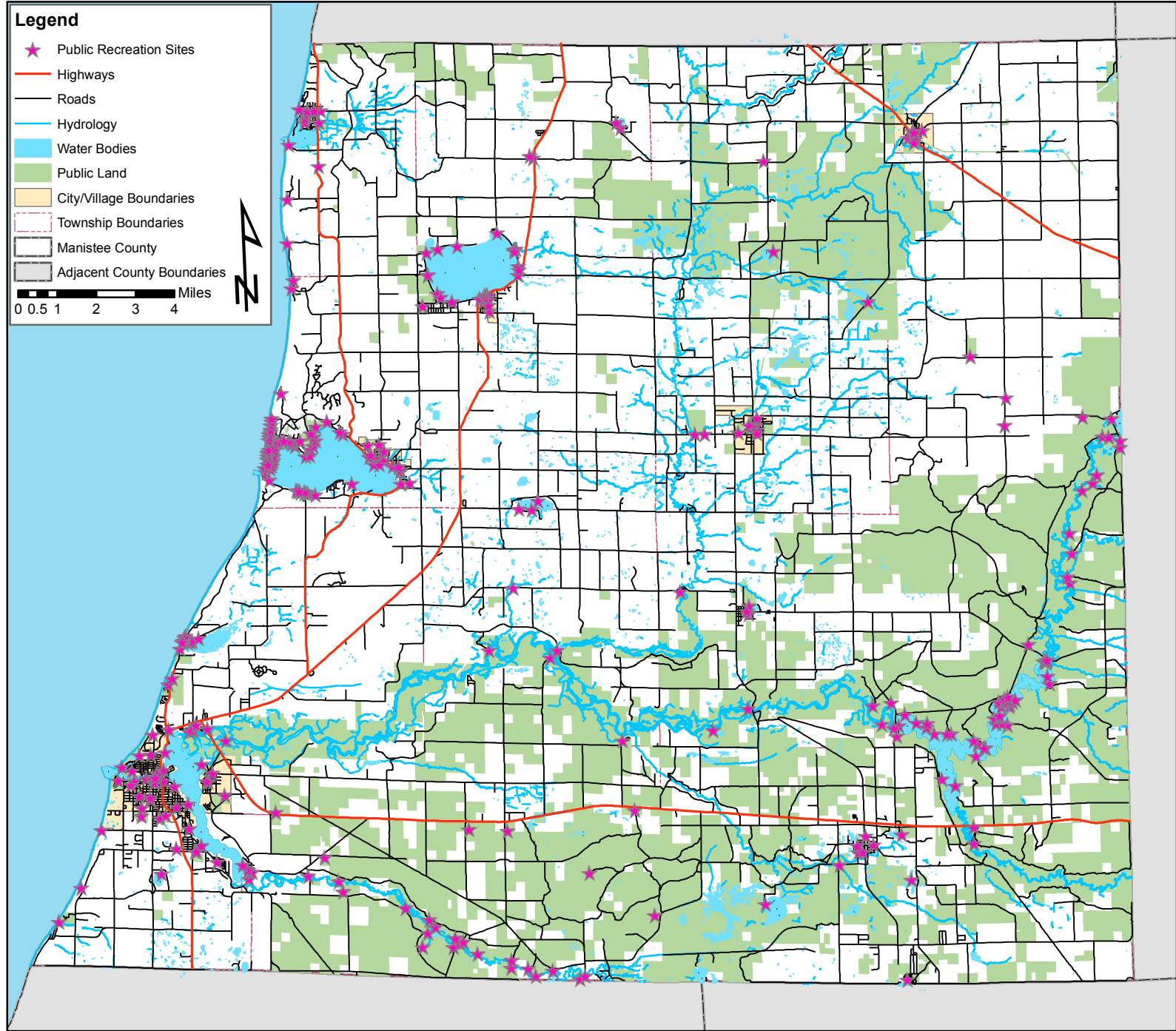


3.5 County-Wide Recreation Feature Maps

County-wide recreation site locations which are important for specific recreation activities or for the regional planning of recreation assets or locations, are identified within this section of the plan.

3.5.1 Manistee County Public Recreation Sites

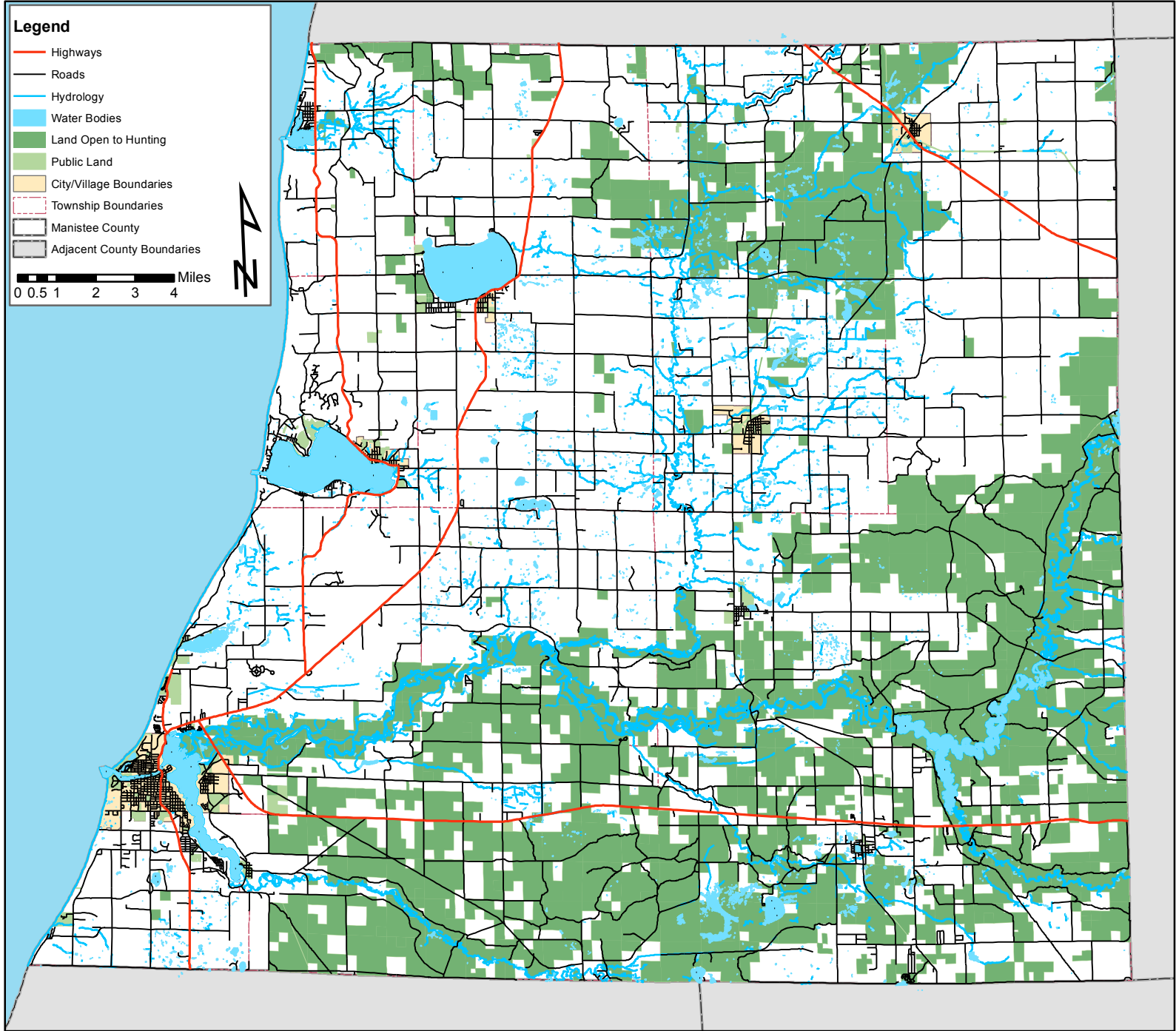
All public recreation sites within Manistee County are displayed on map 3.23.



Map 3.24: Manistee County Public Recreation Sites

3.5.2 Manistee County Public Lands Open to Hunting:

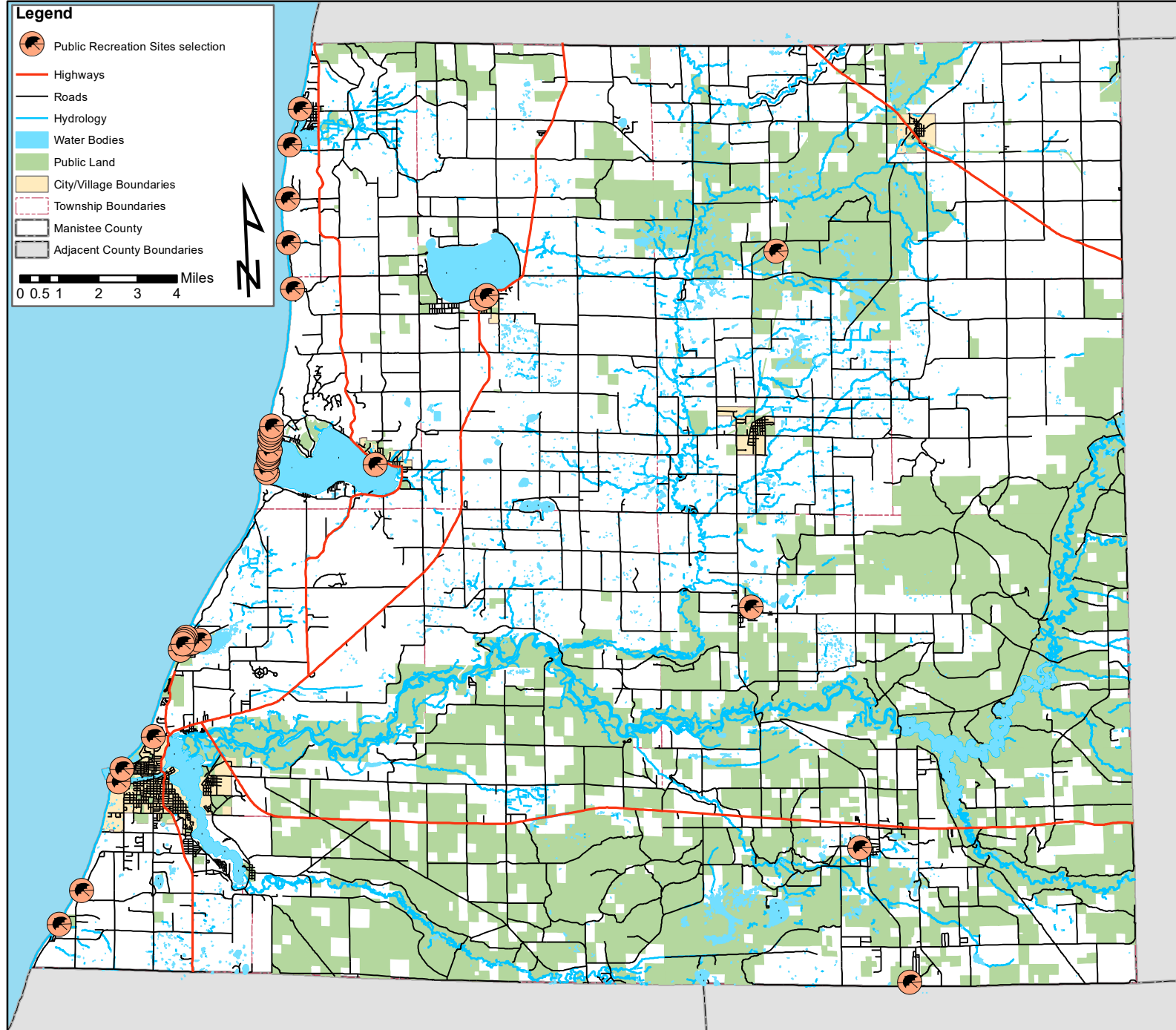
All public lands which are open to hunting are displayed on map 3.24.



Map 3.25: Manistee County Public Hunting Lands

3.5.3 Manistee County Public Beach Accesses:
All public beach access locations are displayed on map 3.25.

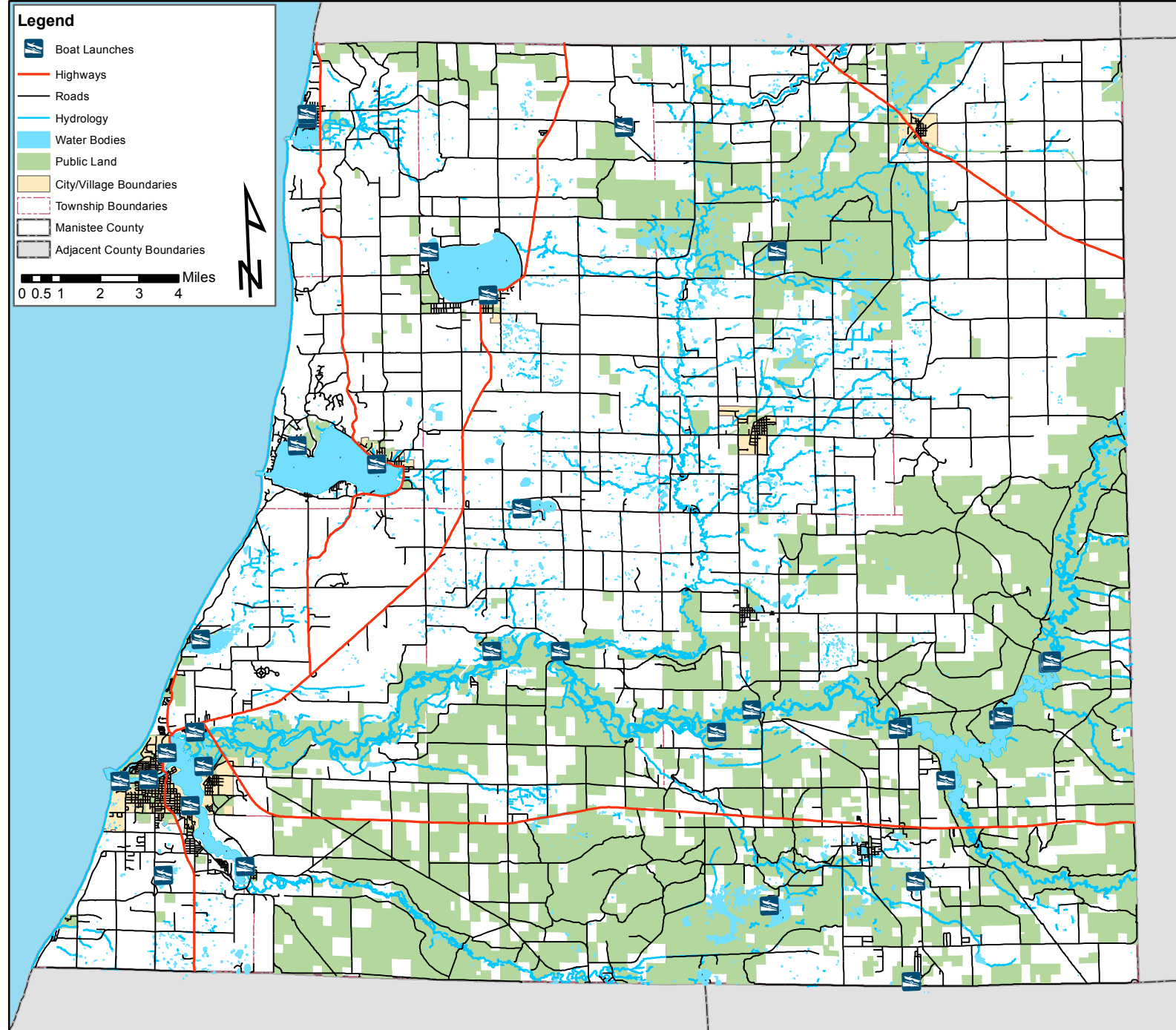
County-Wide



Map 3.26: Manistee County
Public Beach Accesses

3.5.4 Manistee County Public Boat Launches:
All public boat launch locations are displayed on map 3.26.

County-Wide

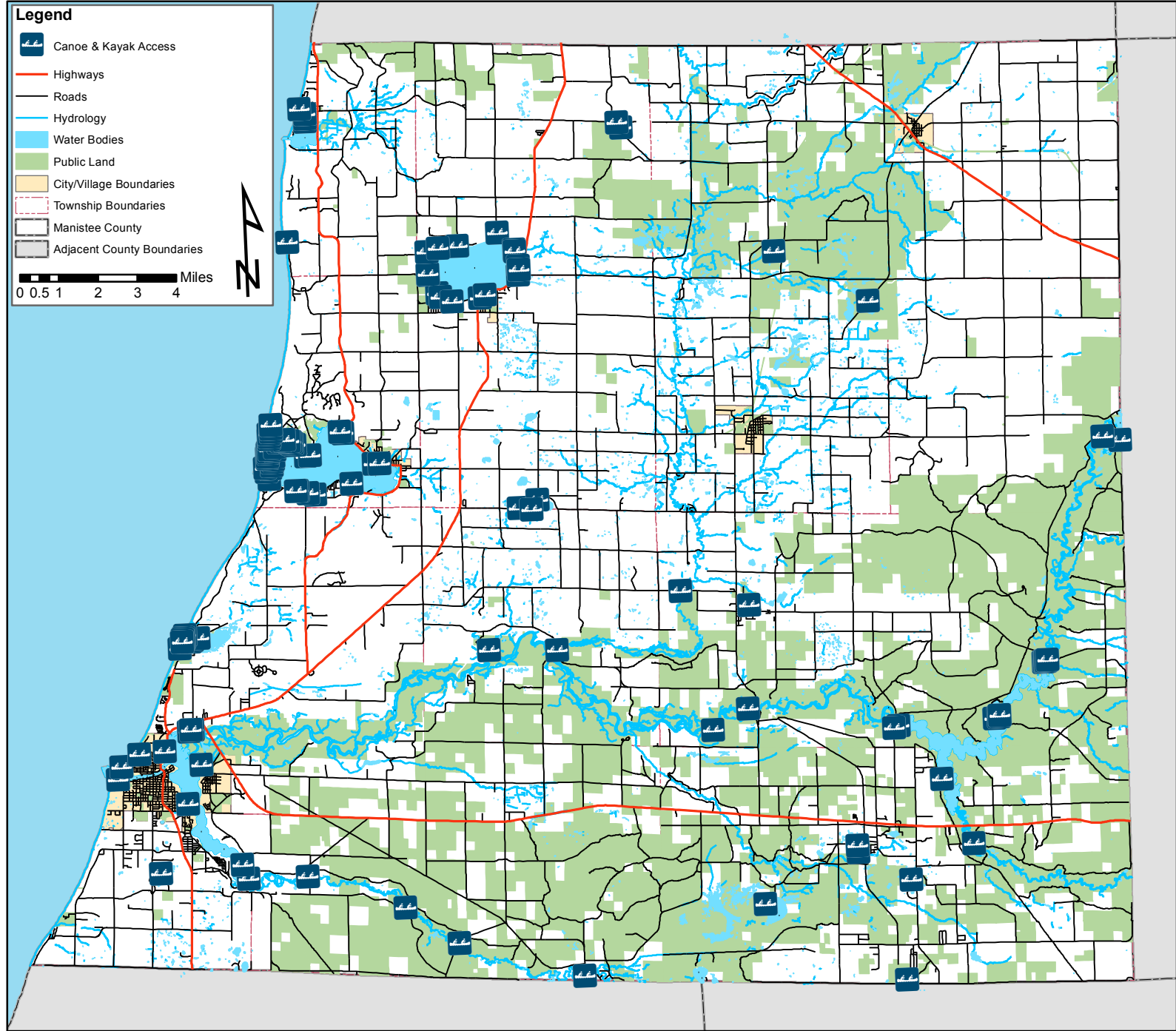


Map 3.27: Manistee County
Public Boat Launches

3.5.5 Manistee County Canoe & Kayak Accesses:

All public canoe and kayak access locations are displayed on map 3.27.

County-Wide

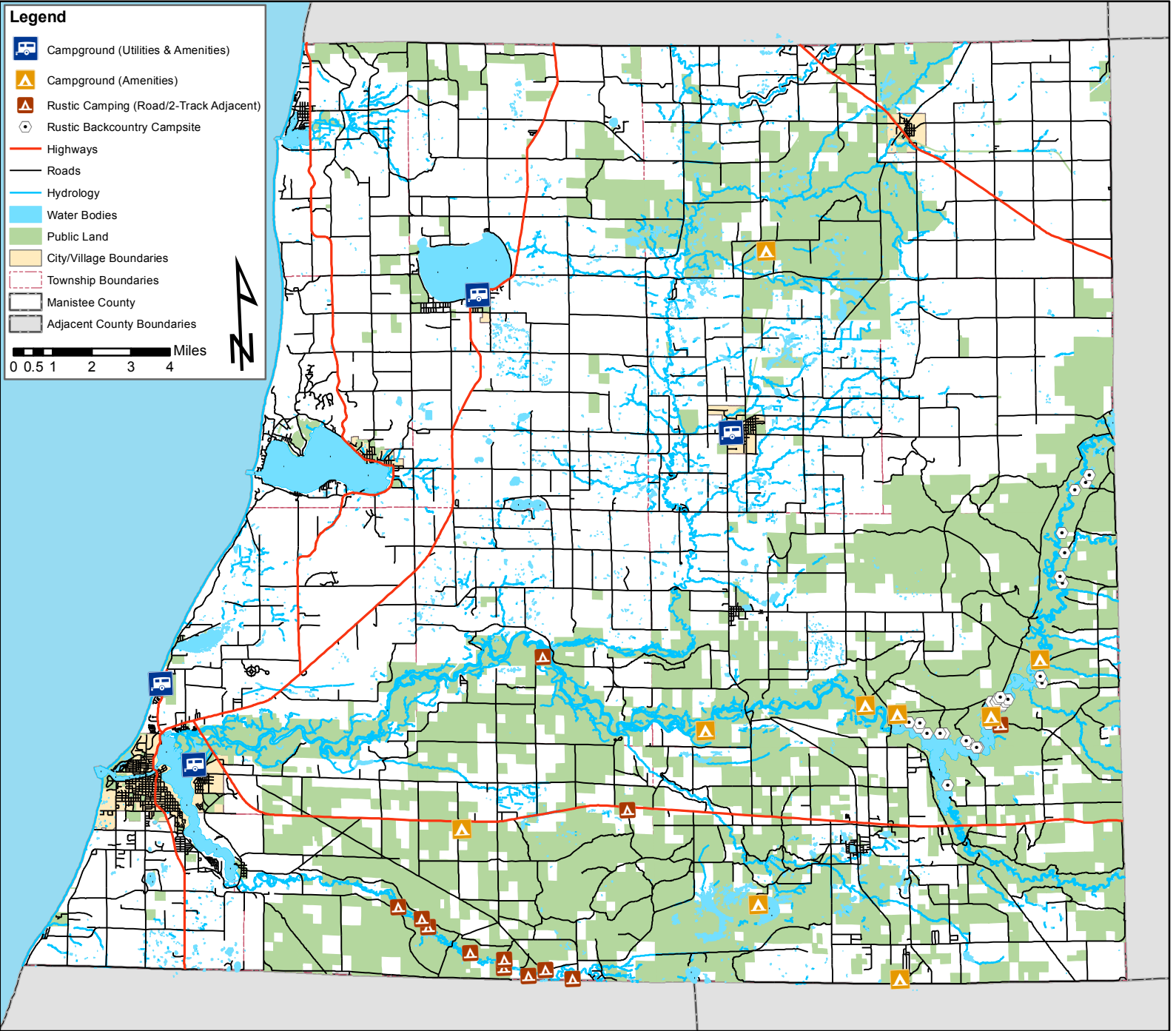


Map 3.28: Manistee County Public Canoe & Kayak Access

County-Wide

3.5.6 Manistee County Public Campground & Camping Locations

All public campgrounds and camping locations are displayed on map 3.28.

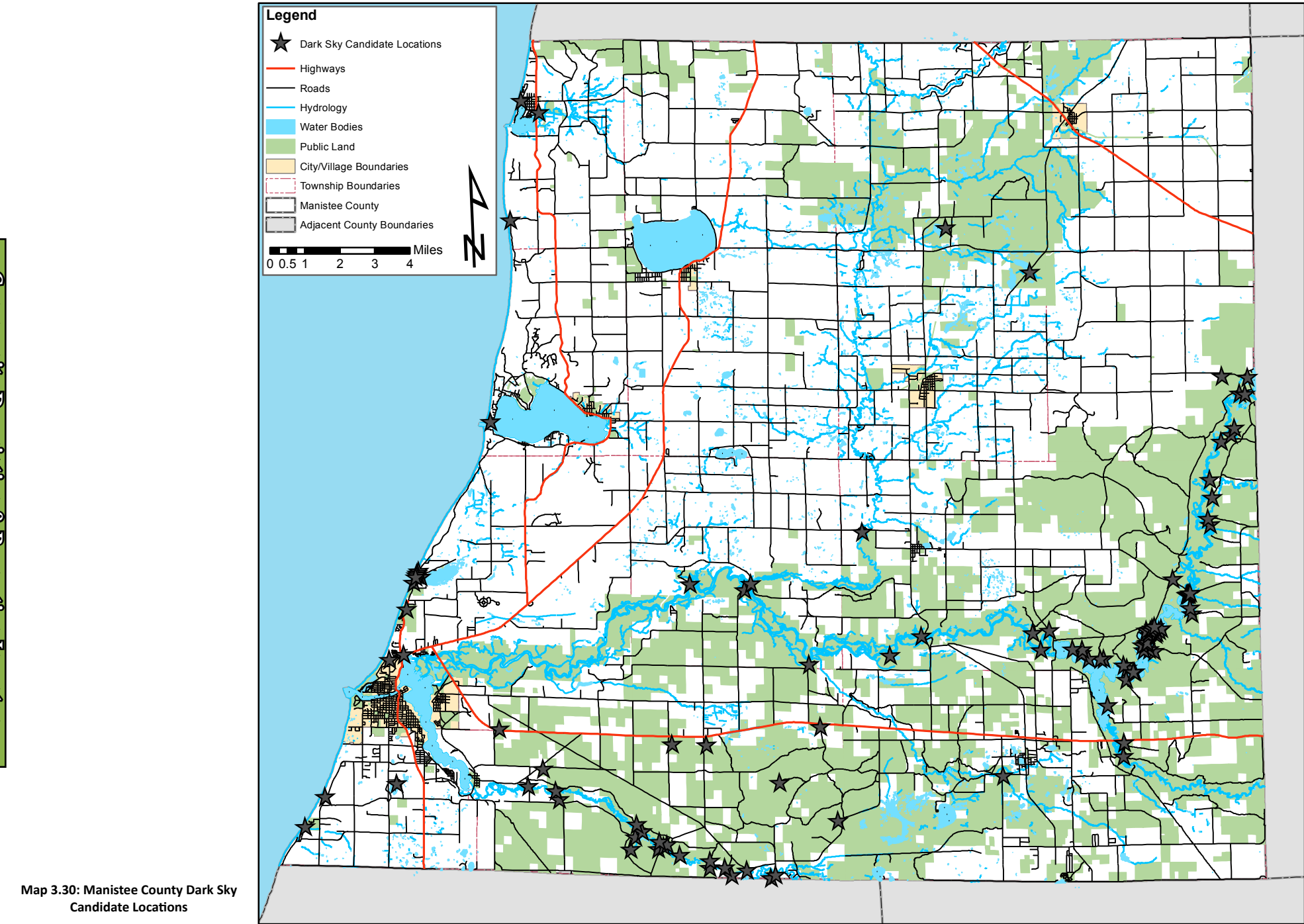


Map 3.29: Manistee County Public Campgrounds & Camping Locations

3.5.7 Manistee County “Dark Sky” Candidate Locations
All recreation sites which don’t have lighting on site are displayed on map 3.29. These sites should be further investigated after dark to identify if light pollution from neighboring areas impacts night sky viewing. Dark sky candidate locations

County-Wide

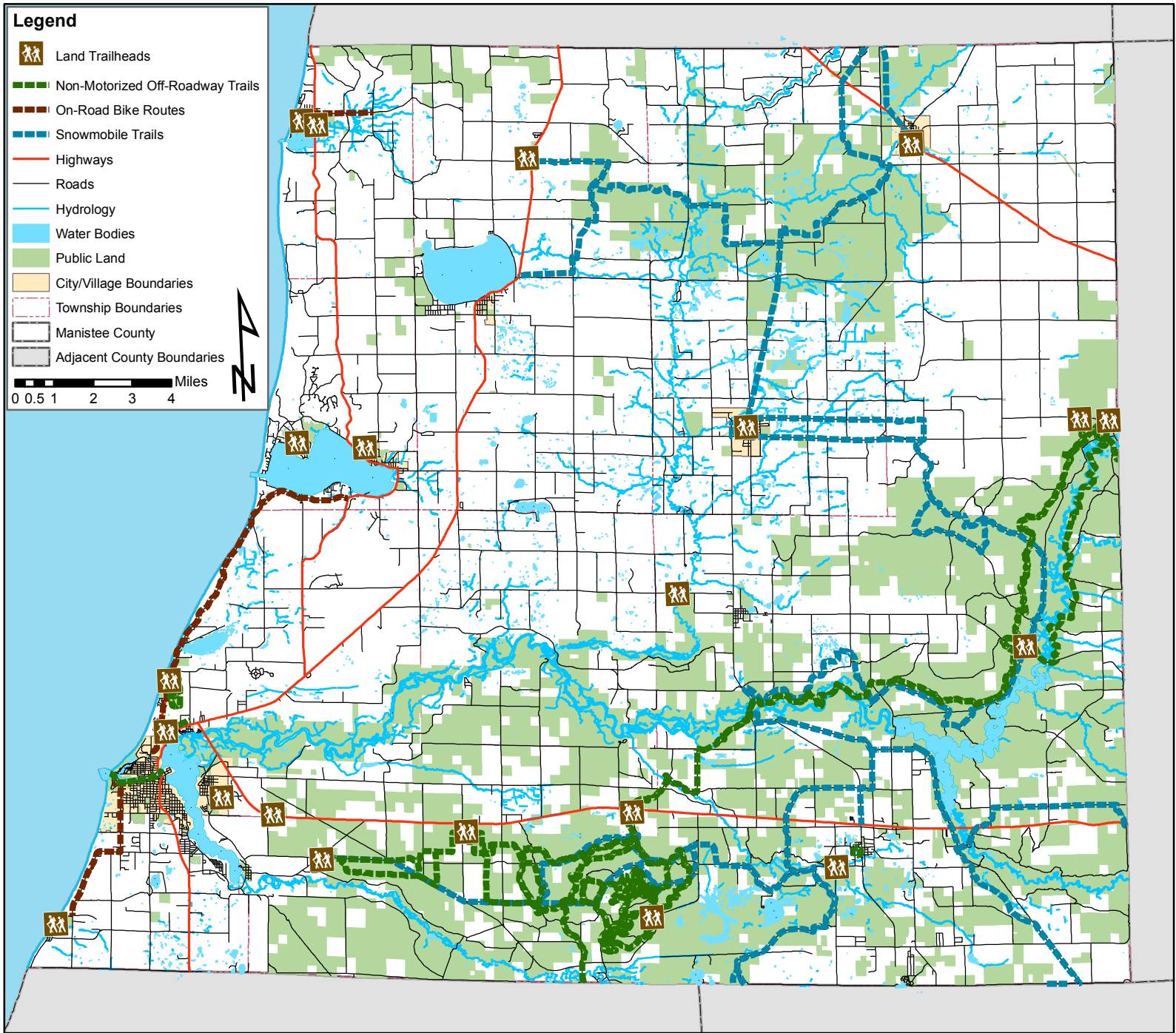
should then be narrowed down to identify potential night sky viewing areas. Please refer to section 6.2.6 for further information on “Dark Sky” parks.



Map 3.30: Manistee County Dark Sky Candidate Locations

County-Wide

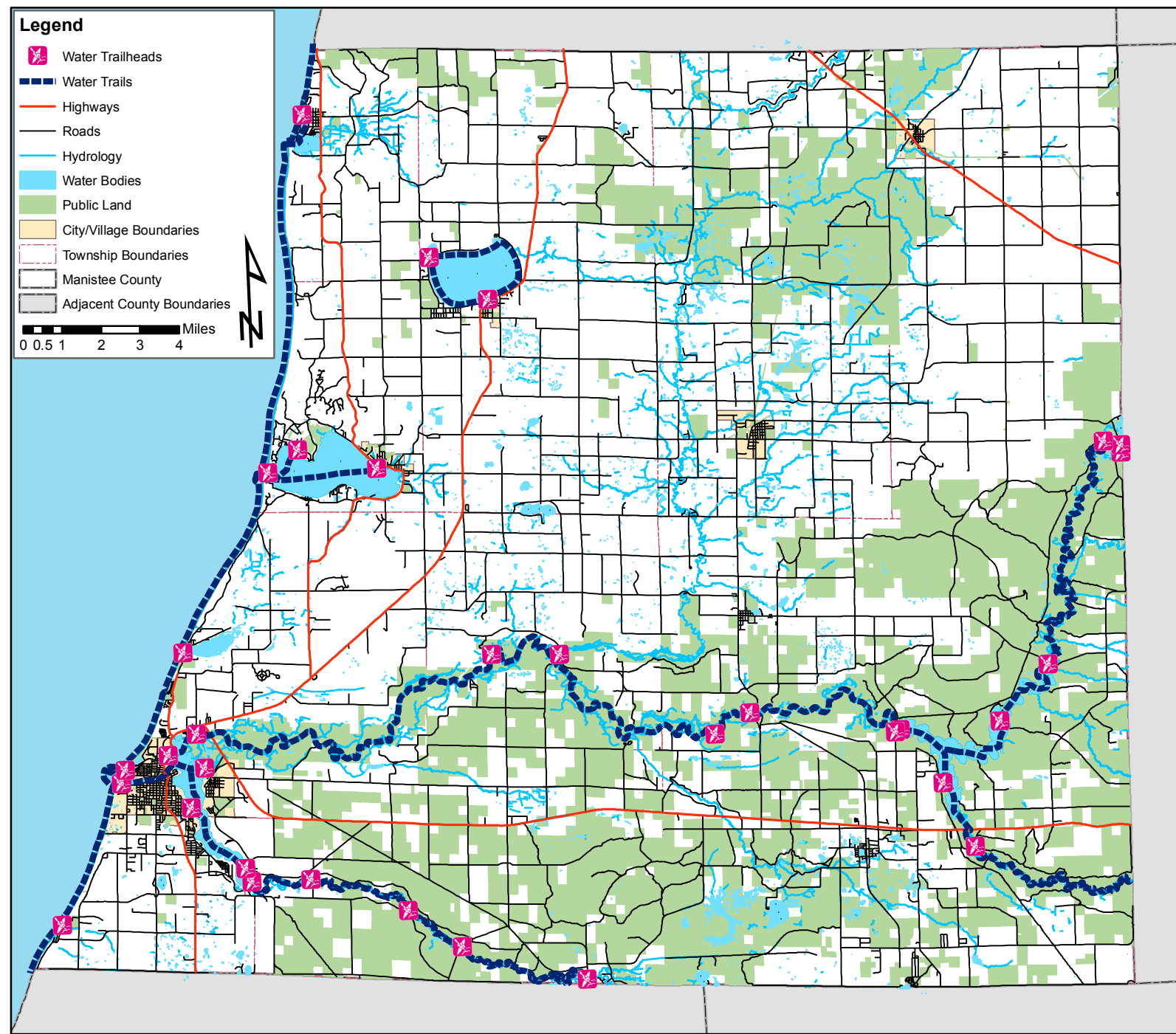
3.5.8 Manistee County Land Trails & Trailhead Locations:
All land trails and trailheads are displayed on map 3.30. Further trail information can be found in Chapter 8.



Map 3.31: Manistee County Land Trails & Trailhead Locations

3.5.9 Manistee County Water Trails & Trailhead Locations:
All water trails and trailheads are displayed on map 3.31. Further trail information can be found in Chapter 8.

County-Wide



Map 3.32: Manistee County Water Trails & Trailhead Locations



Image 3.42: Lake Michigan Coastline



Image 3.43: Manistee River Trail Suspension Bridge

Chapter 4: Resource Inventory

4.1 Resource Inventory:

Natural Resources in Manistee County as has been expressed through previous chapters in this document are the backbone for the vast majority of recreational activities pursed in the County. Our natural resources from the beaches of Lake Michigan to inland waters and forests provide many different features which our recreation sites are designed within and around. It is best to provide an inventory of these features in order to gain an understanding of the lands in which we are planning and designing recreation sites for.

4.1.1 Public Lands:

There are abundant public lands within Manistee County. The lands can be divided into different categories based upon ownership . The following land owner categories are summarized in this section and are displayed on map 4.1. (See Map 4.1)

4.1.1.1 State Lands:

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

4.1.1.2 United State Forest Service Lands:

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

4.1.1.3 Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy Lands:

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

4.1.1.4 Consumers Energy Private Lands Open to Public Use:

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

4.1.1.5 Private Lands Open to Public Use:

Private land holdings open to the public are most often organizations such

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

4.1.1.6 Local Government and School Lands:

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

4.1.2 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, smallmouth bass and pike. The major river and creek systems are displayed on map 4.2. (See Map 4.2)

4.1.3 Water Bodies:

Manistee County contains 3 harbor lakes which are connected to Lake Michigan via a channel (Manistee Lake, Portage Lake and Arcadia Lake), but also contains many inland lakes such as Bear, Lemon, Pine, Sand, Chief, Canfield, Healy, Glovers, Bar and Eleanor. Each of these lakes provides public access and a myriad of opportunities from fishing to boating and swimming. the public and private water bodies of Manistee County are displayed on map 4.3. (See Map 4.3)

4.1.4 Wetlands:

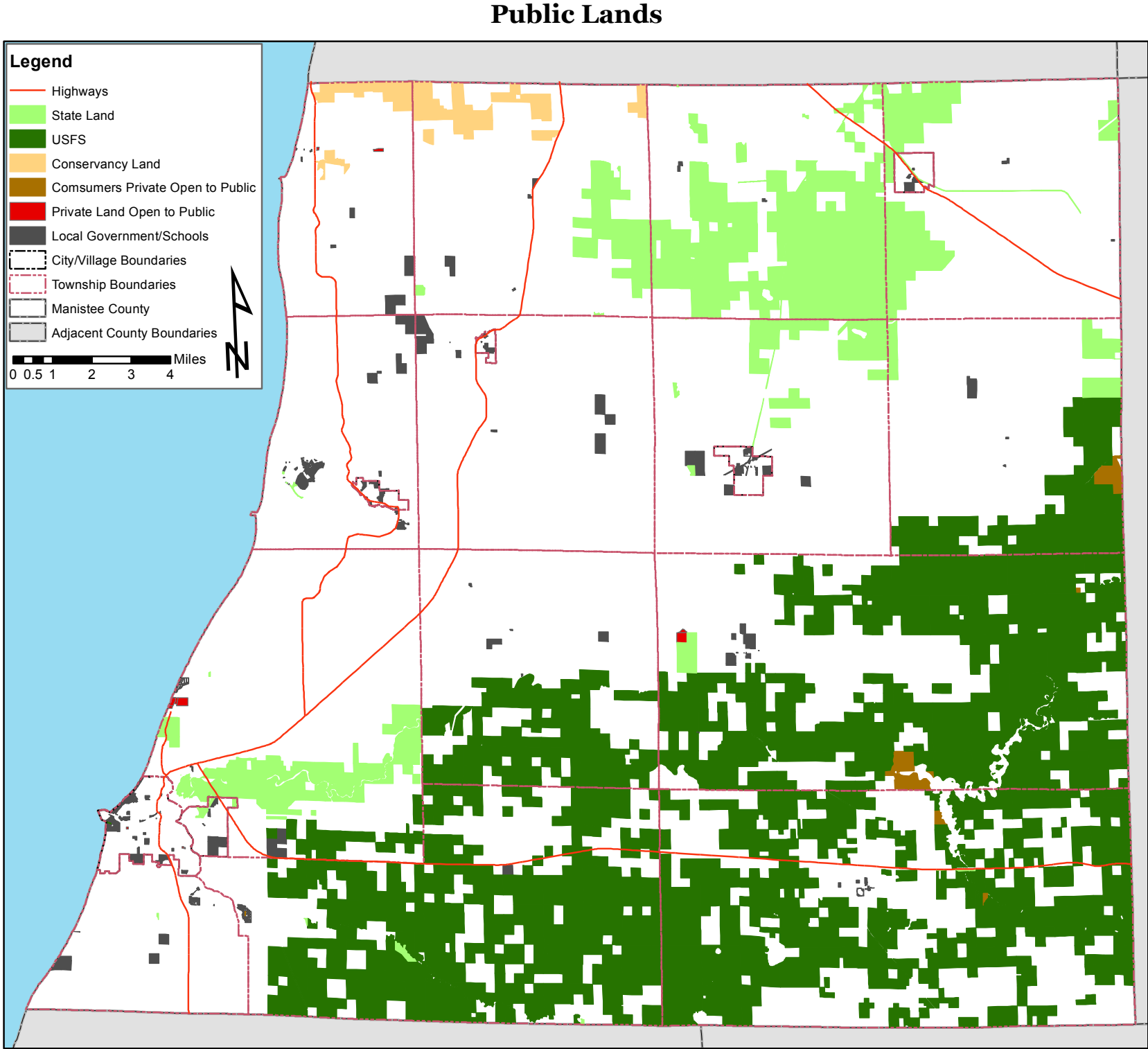
The wetlands of Manistee County are an important resource as they serve as the primary recipient of overland stormwater runoff and provide an aquifer base for the recharging of our inland lakes and streams. The wetlands within Manistee County as identified by the State of Michigan are displayed on map 4.4. (See Map 4.4)

4.1.5 Topography:

Manistee County has topography which is varied with river valleys, lowlands and rolling hills. These features are displayed on map 4.5. (See Map 4.5)

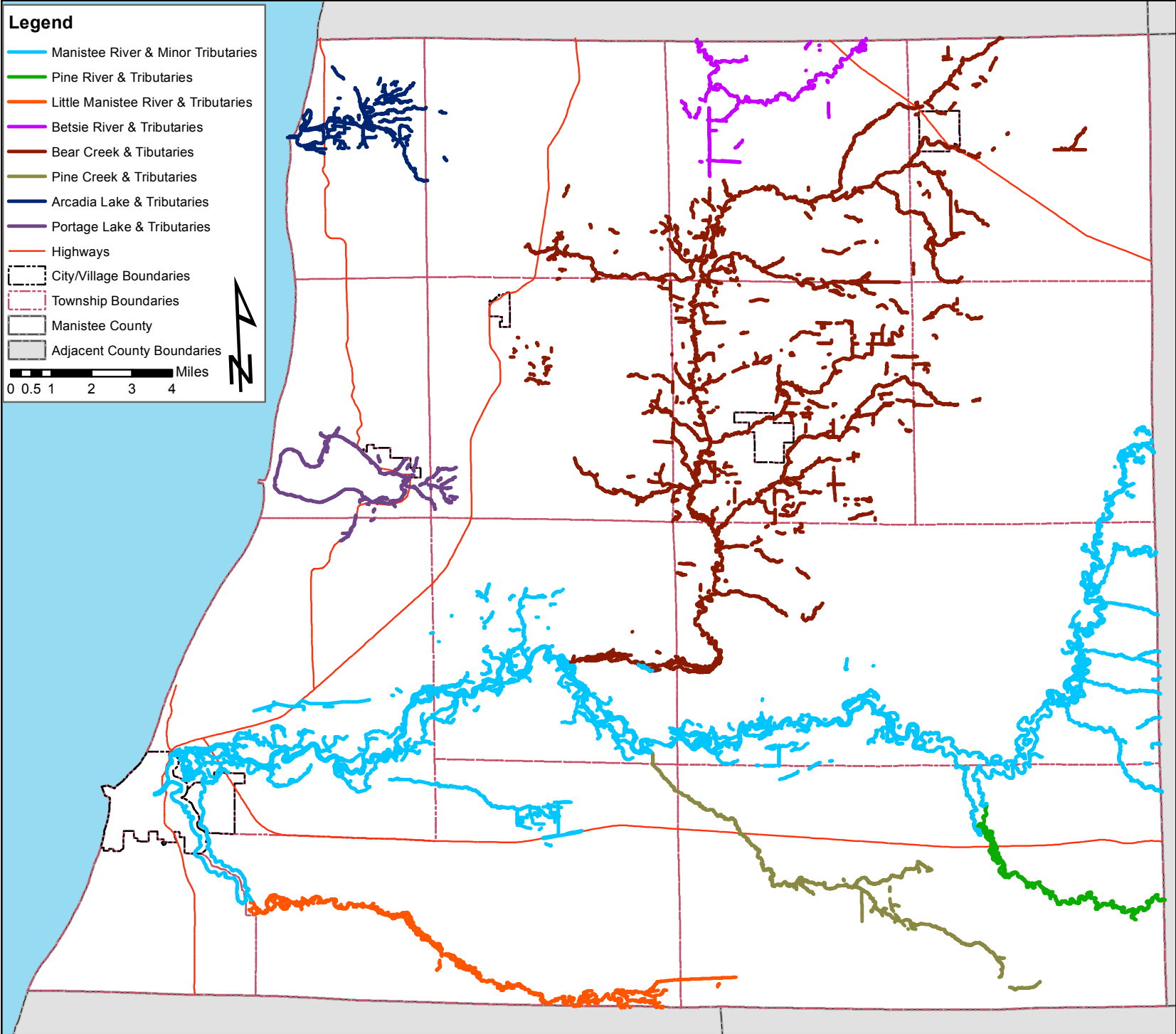
4.1.6 Resource Recreation Planning:

Discussions pertaining to the opportunity to plan for recreation site improvements/developments based upon specific natural resources are important. The thought of planning for all recreation sites along a river corridor or on specific lakes and lands is an option that should be explored in the future. This type of coordination could provide for successful implementation.



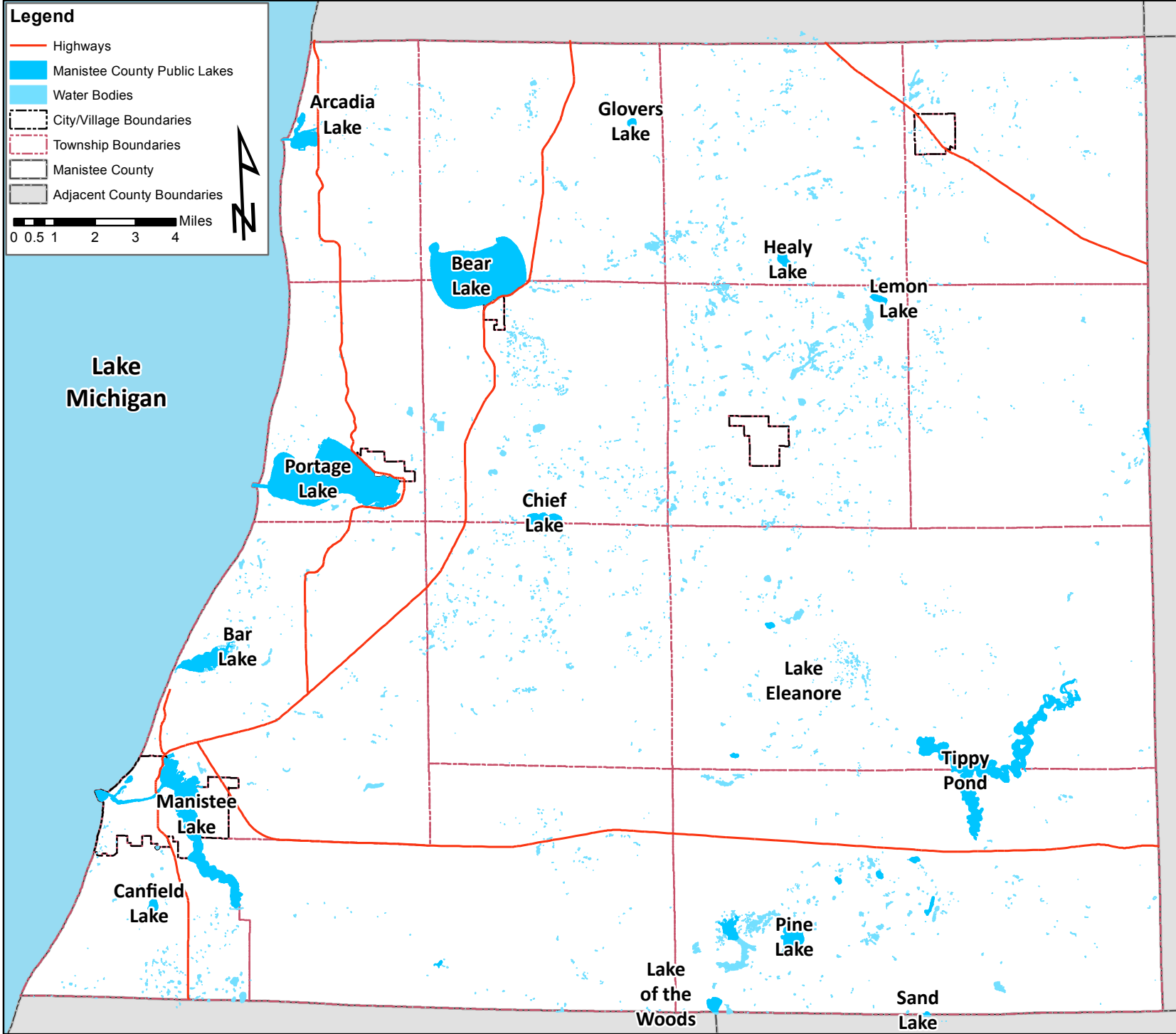
Map 4.1: Manistee County Public Lands

Rivers and Streams



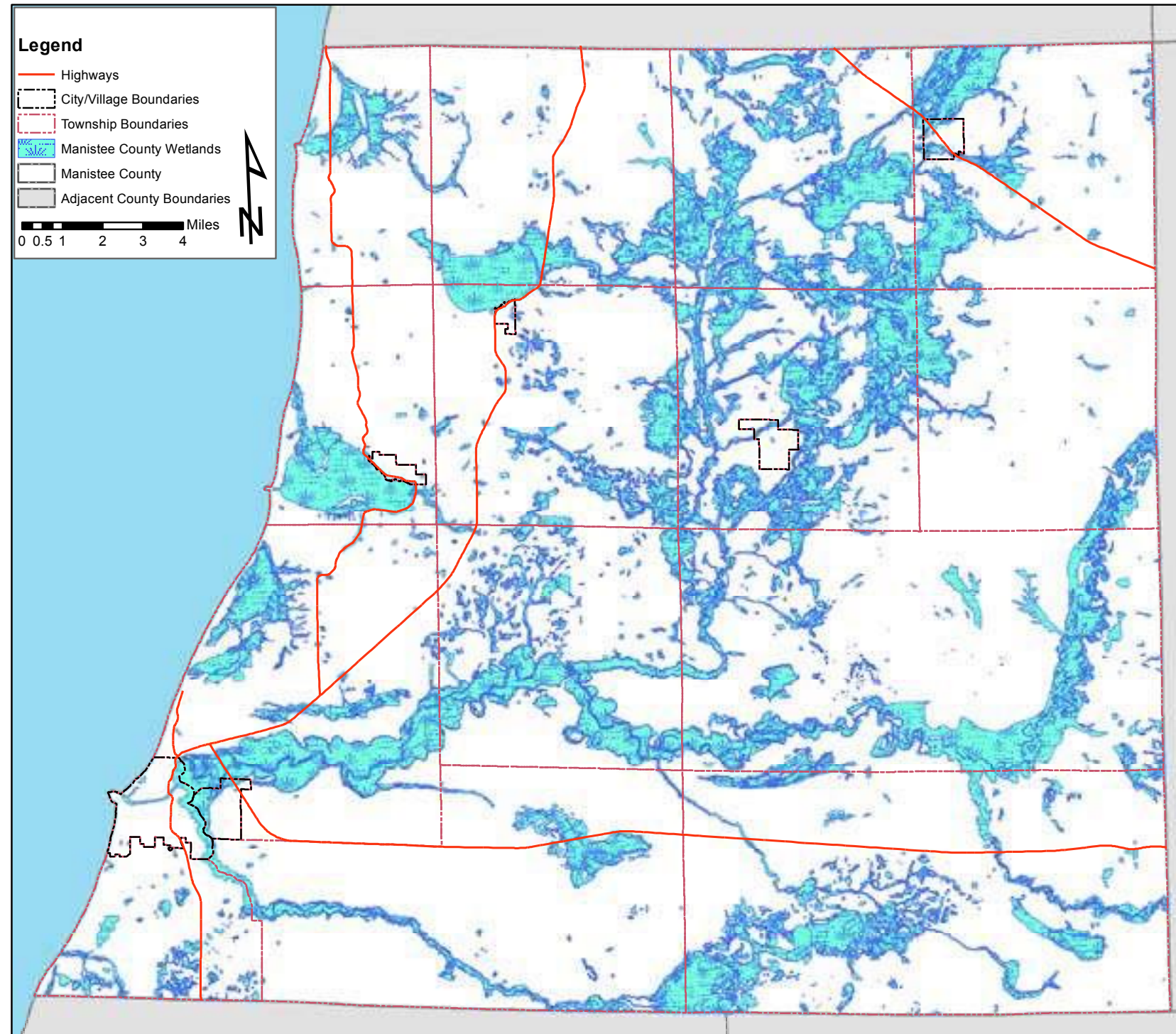
Map 4.2: Manistee County Rivers and Streams

Water Bodies



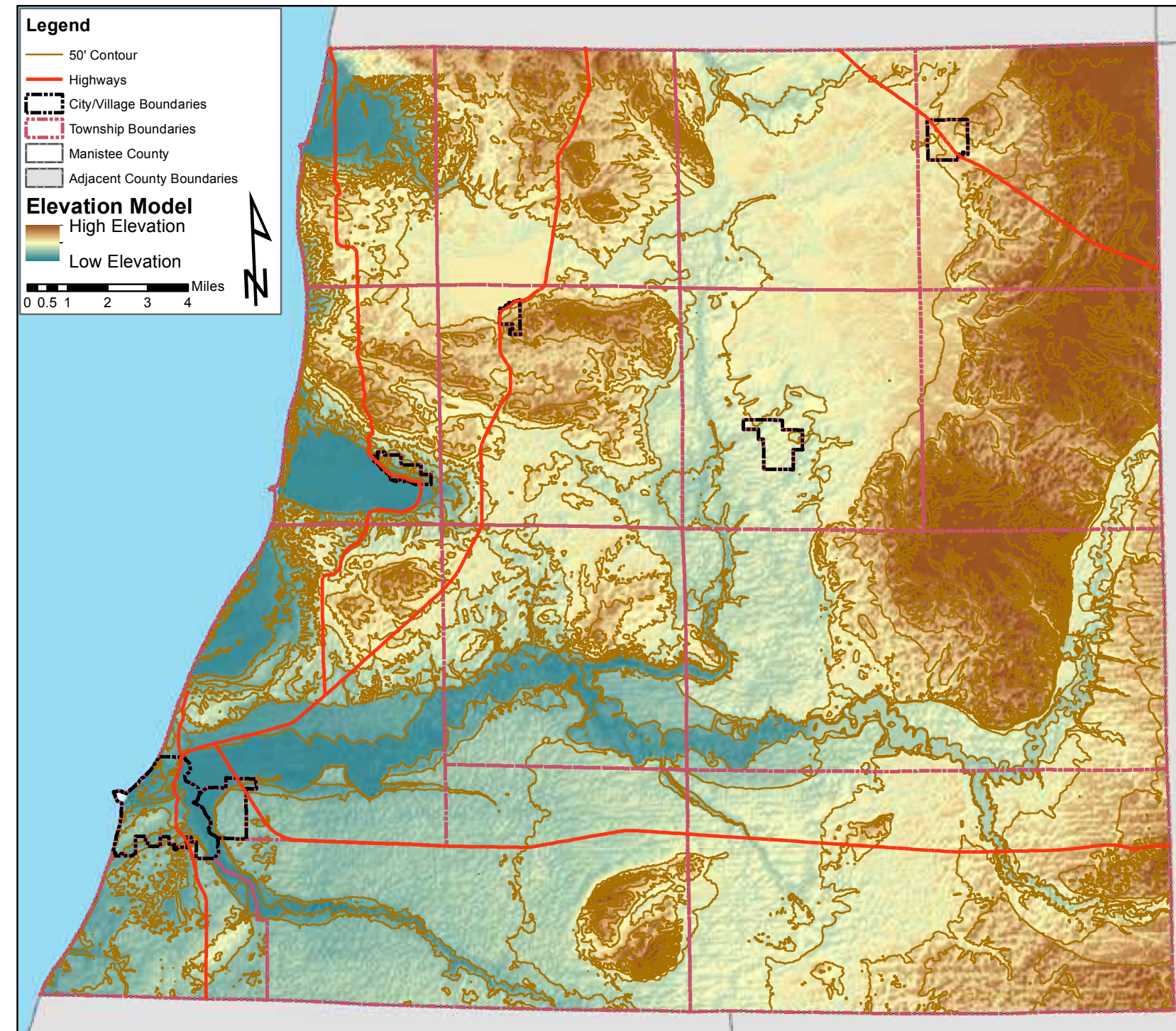
Map 4.3: Manistee County Water Bodies

Wetlands



Map 4.4: Manistee County Wetlands

Topography



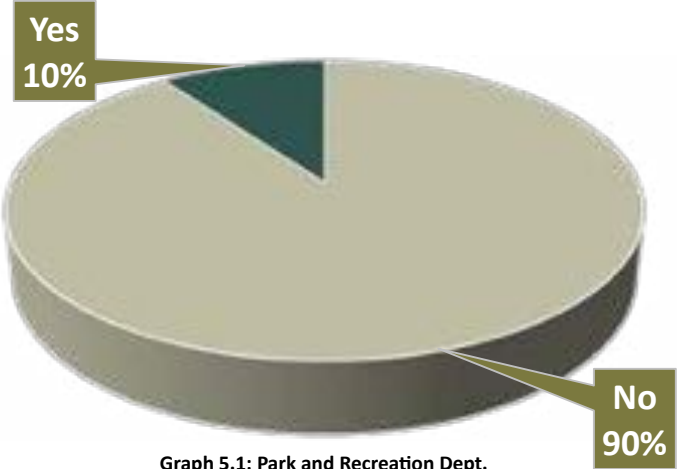
Map 4.5: Manistee County Topography

Chapter 5: Administrative Structure

5.1 Administrative Structure Survey
The Administrative Structure section is designed to respond to the specific requirements of the DNR Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans with information retrieved with the Administrative Survey Tool (see Appendix B). The Administrative Survey Questions were distributed via the online survey tool Survey Monkey to community leaders in each of the Manistee County communities. All twenty-one (21) units of government completed the survey including Manistee County. The information summarized below is based on the results. The completed survey for each with an accompanying narrative for each local body of government is also available in Appendix B.

5.2 Administrative Structure Analysis
The DNR Guidelines require that communities indicate whether or not they have a parks and recreation department, and who is in charge if they do not.

Do you have a Parks & Recreation Dept.?



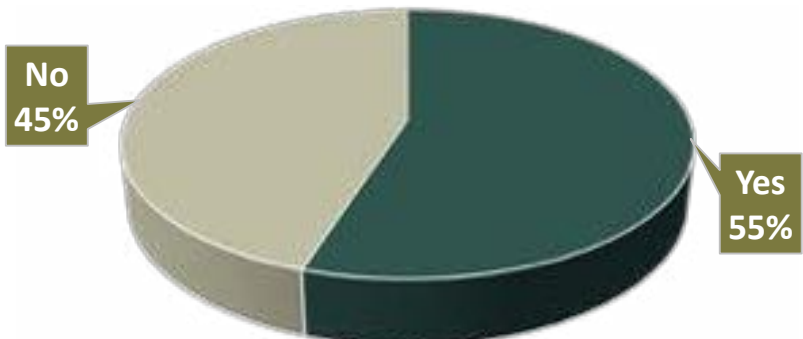
Graph 5.1: Park and Recreation Dept.

The findings conclude that out of the total twenty-one (21) communities surveyed, 19 (90%) do not have a parks and recreation department. Out of the 19 who said they do not have a parks and recreation department, the majority of the townships 11 of 14 or (78%) stated that their township board is in charge of their parks and recreation in their community and all of the villages, (100%), stated that their village council is in charge.

The local bodies of government were also asked to provide the current year

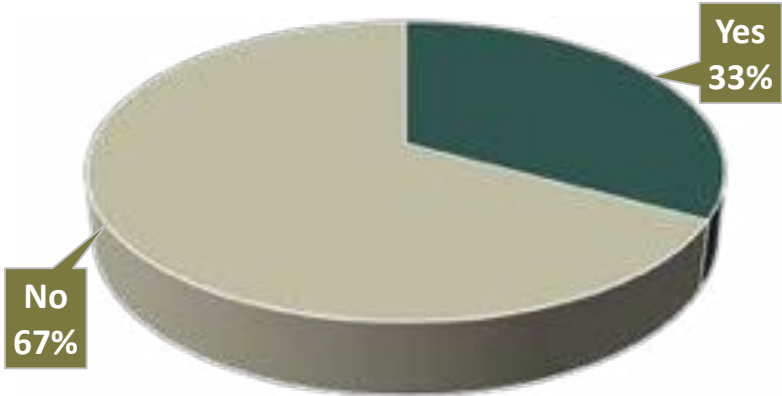
and projected annual budgets for parks and recreation in their community as well as where the communities’ main source of funding comes from. The results from the survey conclude that around half of the communities have a budget for operation and maintenance with 55% (12) saying yes and 45% (9) saying no; 14% (3) have a budget for recreation programming while the other 86% (18) do not;

Do you have funds for Operation and Maintenance?



Graph 5.2: Operation & Maintenance Funding

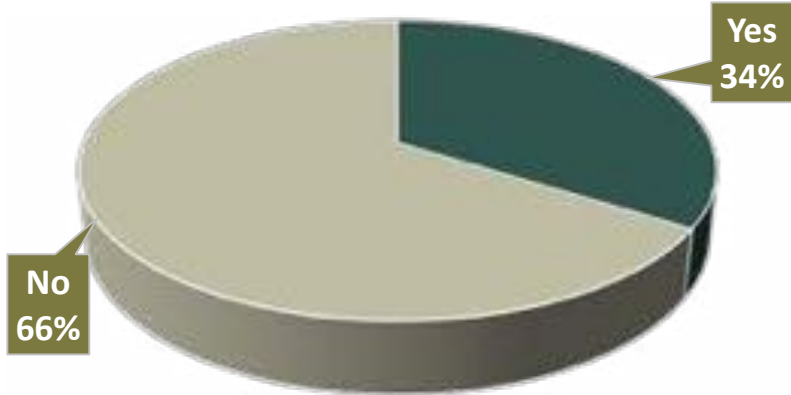
Do you have funds for Recreation Programming?



Graph 5.3: Recreation Programming Funding

and for capital improvement, 34% (7) do have a budget for capital improvements while the other 66% (14) do not. Almost all of the communities (90%) stated their source of funding for parks and recreation comes from the general fund, however some communities said they also get funding from park revenue and donations, along with the general fund. There was only one local body of government,

Do you have funds for Capital Improvements?

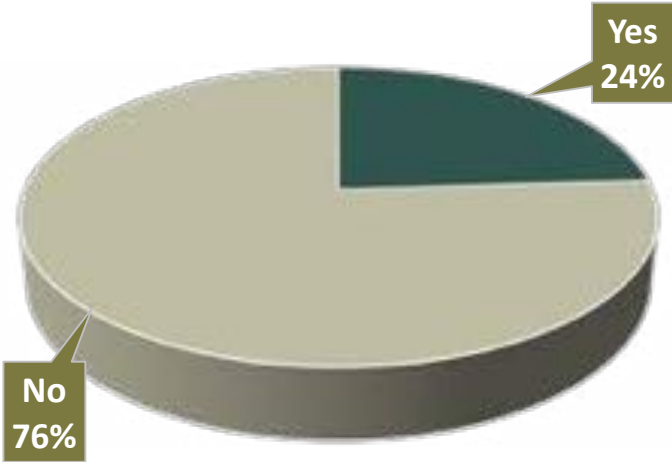


Graph 5.4: Capital Improvement Funding

Dickson Township, who reported not knowing where their source of funding comes from.

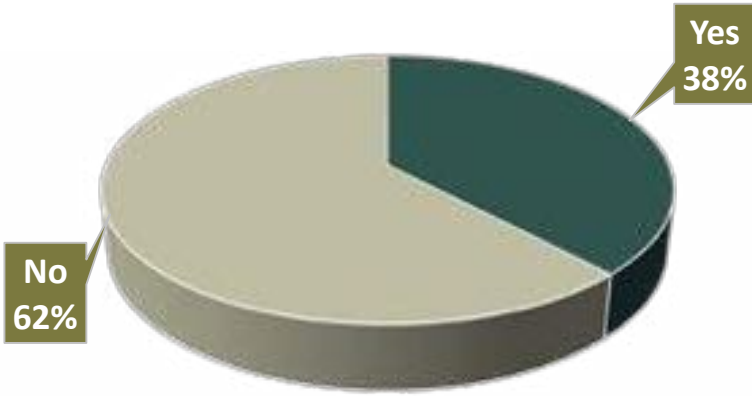
Following the current year budget and local body of government’s source of funding for parks and recreation, the DNR wants to know if the communities have any volunteers who help with their parks and recreation and if the local body of government has any partnerships with other private organizations. For volunteers, only 24% (5) of the communities have volunteers who staff their parks and recreation while the other 76% (16) do not have volunteers. As for partnerships with private organizations, 38% (8) stated they do have some sort of partnership with private organizations while the other 62% said they do not

Do they have Volunteers?



Graph 5.5: Volunteers

Do they have Partnerships with Private Organizations?

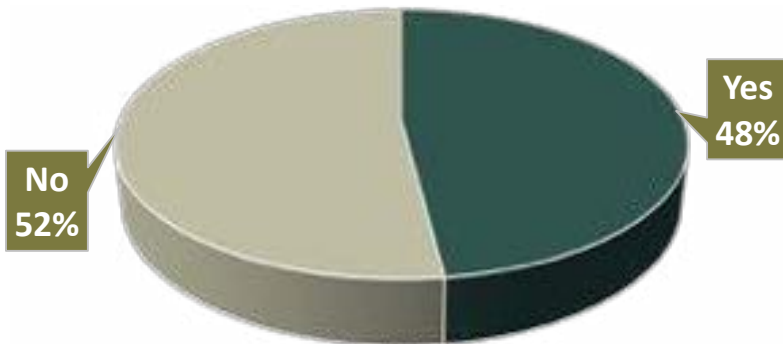


Graph 5.6: Private Organization Partnerships

have other partnerships.

The final two elements of the DNR Guidelines ask the communities whether or not they have a partnership with local school districts and if so, are they directly involved in any parks and recreation programs, and if the communities have any relationship with our public agencies. The results from the survey stated

Do they have a Relationship with Local School Districts?



Graph 5.7: School District Partnerships

48% (10) of the communities have a relationship with the local school districts while the other 52% (11) said they do not have a relationship. The percentages for whether or not the communities are involved directly with the local school districts are not as close as the previous percentages, with 95% (20) of the communities saying they are not directly involved with the local school districts

and only 5% (1) saying they are directly involved. As for relationships with our public agencies, it is split down the middle with 50% saying they do have a relationship and 50% saying they do not.

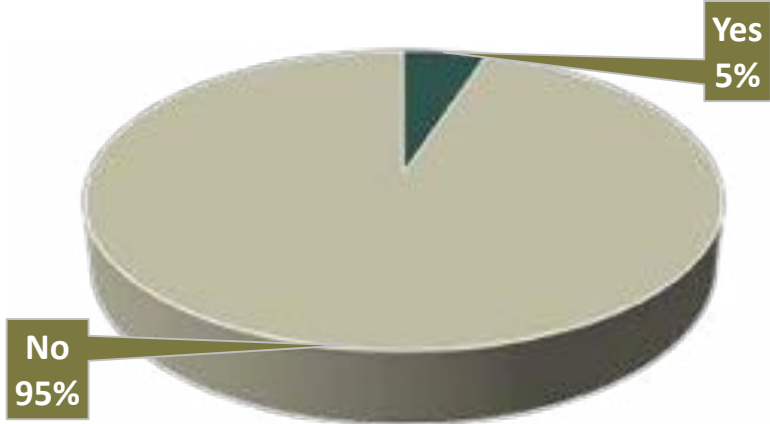
The information obtained by the Administrative Structure Survey provides a series of snapshots into recreation planning, funding and collaboration for the municipalities within Manistee County. With the vast majority of municipalities structured without a Parks and Recreation Department, as well as not having a specific Park and Recreation Budget or Staff; it is evident that collaboration and consensus building around Recreational Assets and how to maintain and manage those assets is needed.

5.3 Administrative Structure Survey Results
Table 5.1 displays the Administrative Structure survey information in a concise and easily interpreted fashion for each of the 21 municipalities.

Municipality	Governing Body Responsible for Rec. Planning	Governing Body Authorized to Commit Funds	Budget	Sources of Funds	Volunteers	Partnerships and/or Collaborative Agreements	Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)	Contribute to Paine Aquatic Center	Contribute to Manistee County Baseball League
Arcadia Twp.	Planning Commission	Township Board	\$5,000	General Fund	8 volunteers who do maintenance, planting flowers, picking up garbage, cleaning fire pits.	Encourages recreation programming by the Pleasant Valley Community Center	No	No	No
Bear Lake Twp.	Township Board	Township Board	\$25,000.00	General Fund	No Volunteers	None	Yes	No	No
Bear Lake Vil.	Village Council	Village Council	\$0	Village Park Revenue	1 Volunteer: Hopkins Park Manager	None	No	No	No
Brown Twp.	Township Board	Township Board	\$0	General Fund	No Volunteers	Yes	Yes	No	No
Cleon Twp.	Township Board	Township Board	\$0	General Fund	No Volunteers	None	No	No	No
Copemish Vil.	Village Council	Village Council	\$0	General Fund	None	None	No	No	No
Dickson Twp.	Township Board	Township Board	\$0	General Fund	No Volunteers	None	No	No	No
Eastlake Vil.	Village Council	Village Council	\$14,000.00	Line Item	No Volunteers	None	No	No	No
Charter Twp. of Filer	Township Board; Parks Department	Township Board	\$45,000.00	General Fund	No Volunteers	Yes	Yes \$10,000.00	Yes \$13,000.00	No

Table 5.1: Administrative Structure Survey Results

Are Schools involved in Parks & Rec. Programs?



Graph 5.8: School Recreation Program Involvement

Municipality	Governing Body Responsible for Rec. Planning	Governing Body Authorized to Commit Funds	Budget	Sources of Funds	Volunteers	Partnerships and/or Collaborative Agreements	Contributes to Manistee Recreation Association (MRA)	Contribute to Paine Aquatic Center	Contribute to Manistee County Baseball League
Kaleva Vil.	Village Council	Village Council	\$16,000	General Fund	40 volunteers who coordinate joint recreational activities with the Lions Club, Fireman’s Association, Historical Society	Joint recreation committee with Maple Grove Twp.	No	No	No
Manistee Twp.	Township Board	Township Board	\$0	General Fund	No Volunteers	Yes	Yes	No	No
Manistee, City	Parks Commission: Parks & Recreation Department	City Council	\$342,297.00	Line Item	Volunteers from Lions Club, Rotary, Local Veterans, Jaycees assist with various parks. An “Adopt-a-Park” program has been enacted.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maple Grove Twp.	Township Board	Township Board	\$0	Line Item	No volunteers	Kaleva, Norman, Dickson School District partnership to maintain recreational facilities at the old school building; Joint recreation committee with Village of Kaleva	No	No	No
Marilla Twp.	Township Board	Township Board	\$0	General Fund	No Volunteers	None	No	No	No
Norman Twp.	Township Board	Township Board	\$0	General Fund	No Volunteers	None	No	No	No
Onekama Twp.	Community Parks & Recreation Committee	Township Board	\$80,000.00	General Fund and the North Point Park Fund	Yes volunteers: staff events (planting trees on Arbor Day, hosting Parks Appreciation Day)	Works with the Onekama School District	Yes	No	No
Onekama Vil.	Village Council	Village Council	\$22,250.00	Line Item	No Volunteers	Partners with the Onekama Township Community Parks and Recreation Committee	No	No	No
Pleasanton Twp.	Township Board	Township Board	\$6,500.00	Line Item	No Volunteers	None	No	No	No
Springdale Twp.	Township Board	Township Board	\$9,500.00	General Fund	No Volunteers	None	No	No	No
Stronach Twp.	Township Board	Township Board	\$5,308	General Fund	No Volunteers	None	No	No	No
Manistee County	Board of Comm.	Board of Comm.			No Volunteers	Yes	yes	No	No

Table 5.1: Administrative Structure Survey Results

Chapter 6:
Description of the
Public Input Process

6.1 Community Input

The Recreation Plan planning process utilized a number of different methods of obtaining community input. The Plan utilized the results of an online survey and input given during facilitated vision sessions. The online survey utilized Survey Monkey, an online survey tool. The survey was well advertised throughout the County with the use of traditional and social media, flyers, personalized invitations to stakeholders, and public announcements at community events. The online survey was open for three months (May through July) which allowed for seasonal residents to participate as well. Paper versions of the survey were available to those who do not have online access.

Facilitated vision sessions were conducted during the month of April through June to the general public and for youth at each high school in the County, which allowed for personal feedback. Six vision sessions held once, or twice, a week in a different geographical location throughout the County allowed for the opportunity for participation by all residents who live throughout the County and in consideration of travel and scheduling constraints. No matter where you lived within the County, residents could attend any of the six general public vision sessions to have their voice heard in respect to recreation for the County as a whole or for their own respective community. Over 100 high school students were engaged and listened to about their input into recreation planning in the County.

These two methods allowed for participation that provided both qualitative and quantitative data: numerical data via the on-line rigidly controlled question and answer format and data derived via verbal responses to open ended questions providing contextual and nuanced information.

6.2 On-line Recreation Survey

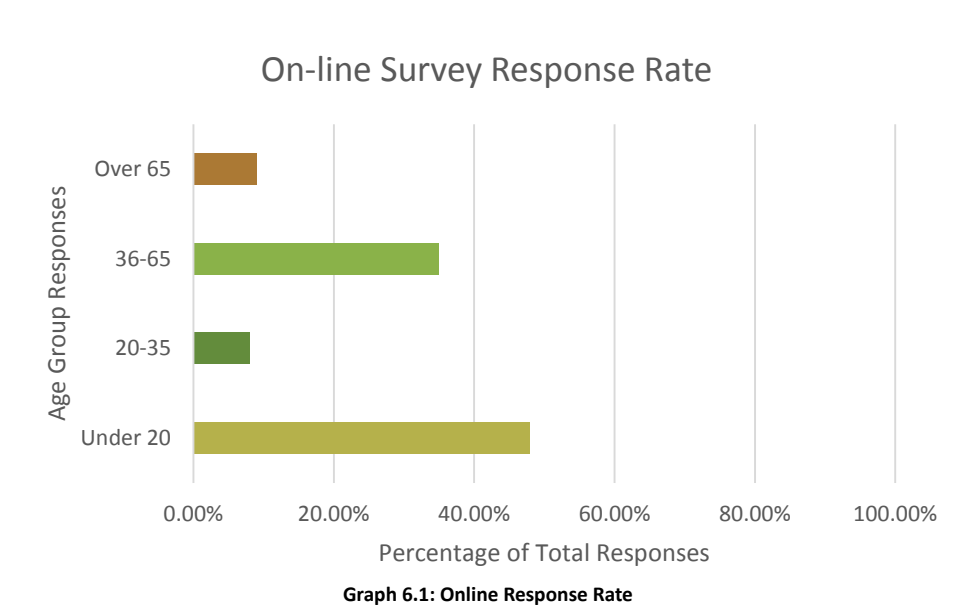
6.2.1 Manistee County Demographics

1,009 people responded to the survey. This response speaks to a 95% confidence level and a +/- 5% margin of error based on the population size of Manistee County (24, 733 person as per the 2010 Census) as it relates to the number of survey respondents. Therefore, it is with greater assurance that the answers and trends as expressed in the survey results reflect the sentiments of the population as a whole. It is important to recall that, according to the 2010

US Census, the median age in Manistee County is 47 years old; with 21% under the age of 19 and 58% between the ages of 20 and 64 years old. One quarter, or 25% of the total population of Manistee County is 62 years old or older. The US Census also predicts that as of 2014 Manistee County probably lost 313 people and that the number of youth is decreasing as the population is aging.

6.2.2 Respondent Demographics

The online survey captured the youth’s perspective as evidence by the 48% participation rate. (See Graph 6.1) The 36-65 year olds had a 35% response rate. It is not surprising that the 65 year and older had only a 9% response rate



as technology may have been a barrier to participating in an on-line survey (however, this age group was well represented in the facilitated vision sessions). What may appear, at first glance, unexpected is the 8% response rate for the 20-35 years olds. On face value, it does not appear to be a significant response rate. Statistically, this is the least represented age group in the County at 15% of the total population. However, the on-line survey captured 53% of the folks between the ages of 20-35 in Manistee County, making it a very significant and well represented group participating in the survey.

Analysis of the Data
The survey had a good response rate from all age groups and can be considered statistically a good representation of the sentiments and desires of the residents of Manistee County.

Opportunities
Efforts to keep a well represented and growing population within all the age groups may want to consider strategically planning for recreation that specifically considers the needs and emerging trends of youth through 35 years old residents. By doing so will help make Manistee County a place that youth and families will want to live, work, and play. It is imperative, however, that recreation planning pay special attention to the aging population as this is a growing population within the community.

6.2.3 Geographic Distribution of Survey Respondents

Some respondents of the survey do not live in Manistee County. The responses were not statistically significant but warrants mentioning. Those respondents represented Southeast Michigan, Benzie County, Kent County, Virginia, Illinois, Washington, Connecticut, and Germany. Most respondents have no children living at home. This is expected considering the general population trends and prevalent age cohorts; only 21.7% of the households in the County have children under 18 years old living at home.

Analysis of the Data
There were respondents from each of the 20 communities in Manistee County which indicates a well represented geographical participation rate.

Opportunities
The wide geographical representation of visitors to the County eludes to the far reaching notoriety of Manistee County’s recreational opportunities. Why they visit, what they do here, and where they spend their money are significant topics to explore in developing the local nature based economy.

6.2.4 Seasonal Recreational Preferences & Activities

While the number one activity that people enjoy is a summer activity (75% respondents swim/beach and 49% recreate in the summer), 51% of the respondents participate in recreational activities during all the seasons. 57% of respondents felt that winter months have the least amount of recreational activities available for them to participate in and 12% don’t participate in a winter activity. However, a significant number of respondents participate in the following winter based recreational activities: snowshoeing (19%), ice skating (24%), downhill skiing (18%), snowmobiling (16%), snowboarding (13%), and playing ice hockey (8%).

The top ten recreational activities people enjoy are:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Swimming/Beach Activities | 6. Playground/Play Equipment |
| 2. Hiking | 7. Fishing-Rivers & Streams |
| 3. Camping | 8. Road Cycling |
| 4. Fishing-Lake | 9. Stargazing |
| 5. Kayaking | 10. Basketball |

Analysis of the Data
The abundance of natural resources and amenities in Manistee County provides residents with year-round seasonal recreational placed based opportunities.

Opportunities
Arguably, winter place based activities are important recreational economic sectors that should be expanded upon and fostered for growth in order to capture Manistee County’s winter assets (snow, frozen rivers/lakes), especially the growing snowmobiling industry. By expanding upon the County’s winter assets could help be a catalyst for the local economy in the winter months. Trail development, programming, indoor facilities, and improved access might help to address this gap in recreational opportunities in the winter months.

6.2.5 Preferences

The results of the survey show that people utilize the recreational assets found throughout the County. They are utilizing land and water found within the interior, as well as the coastal areas, of the County. The top five places people go for recreational activities are:

1. Parks/Schools/Fields (ball & soccer) (32%)
2. Beaches & Lake Michigan (31%)
3. Public Land (10%)
4. Interior Lakes (5%)
5. Rivers (4%)

Respondents specifically mentioned Crystal Mountain, Bear Lake, Portage Lake, Magoon Creek, Manistee River, and the Paine Aquatic Center.

Analysis of the Data
All the geographic areas of the County, and their recreational assets, are used for recreational purposes.

Opportunities
Arguably the coastal areas of Manistee County are very important areas to market and promote. But, based on the use and preferences of recreation within the County a campaign to strengthen promotion and development of the interior recreational assets is supported.

6.2.6 Facility Use

A large portion of residents, 71%, recreate in Manistee County. While small, 5% of the respondents utilize recreational facilities weekly and 10% use facilities every weekend, and 39% of respondents utilize the facilities a few times a month.

The folks who leave the County for recreation report do so for recreational

opportunities that are either not found or not well developed within the County. Some of the recreational events people travel to are outside the scope a county with a population size as found within Manistee County could provide, or leave for culture based recreational pursuits.

An example of a recreational activity respondents leave the County to participate in include attending a Tiger baseball or Red Wings hockey game. Others are visiting areas that have better developed facilities, such as areas that have well developed trail systems that are connected to facilities and communities. Examples of areas with better developed trail facilities cited by respondents include the snowmobile trail system found in Kalkaska and the mountain bike trail system found in Marquette. Examples of cultural based recreation cited in the survey include participating in wine tours in Traverse City, museums found in Grand Rapids, or shopping opportunities found in Chicago. While Manistee County is rich in cultural attractions, they may need to be better developed and promoted to attract and keep folks within the County. Manistee County may have trails, such as the North Country Trail and the Manistee Trail, the results of the survey show that respondents felt that they are not connected in a cohesive and logical manner and are not connected to amenities and our communities in a thoughtful and meaningful way.

Respondents also cited that they travel outside of the County for wine tasting tours in the orchards to the north of Manistee County. The growing agricultural tourism industry is also something that Manistee County may capitalize upon and, while this industry has seen growth, as respondents pointed out, in the development of Douglas Farms as a wine tasting destination and other value added agricultural opportunities and products provided by the agricultural industry within the County, perhaps a maturation is needed to attain similar results as those found in Grand Traverse County. The survey also showed that families leave the area to participate in organized travel sports such as gymnastics events, ice hockey tournaments, and dance competitions. There may be opportunities to develop or utilize existing facilities to capture these organized travel events so that folks are visiting Manistee County rather than elsewhere.

Finally, people are traveling outside of Manistee County to take advantage of the emerging use of dark sky and star gazing parks such as the one found in Mackinaw City. Dark sky initiatives require areas that do not compete with development and the resulting lights that are required for a dense population. With much of Manistee County undeveloped as a result of large land holdings owned by the US Forest Service, the Department of Natural Resources, energy companies (Consumers Power), and Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, opportunities to develop dark sky initiatives is plentiful. Dark sky initiatives is

also an emerging goal found within many master plans written within the County (for example Arcadia Township). This emerging recreational activity is generating eco-tourism dollars for communities across the County as evidence by the work done by the International Dark Sky Association September 2015 publication titled “Bring on the Night Sky; Say UVM National Park Study” “The growing popularity of astronomical tourism provides a financial incentive for towns and cities neighboring parks to reduce light pollution and should be encouraged.”

(<http://darksky.org/bring-on-the-night-says-new-uvm-national-park-study/>)

Analysis of the Data

The large number of people and frequency of use of recreational facilities in the County points to recreational facilities that are valued and utilized which warrants their continued maintenance and improvements.

Opportunities

Explore strengthening agritourism, improving trails, strengthening cultural based recreation, becoming a destination for travel sports/events, and supporting efforts to develop dark sky initiatives.

6.2.7 Barriers to Recreation Facility Use and Participation:

The survey shows that traveling to recreational opportunities is often achieved by car, but 24% of the respondents of the survey listed a lack of transportation as a reason why they do not regularly use Manistee County’s recreational facilities.

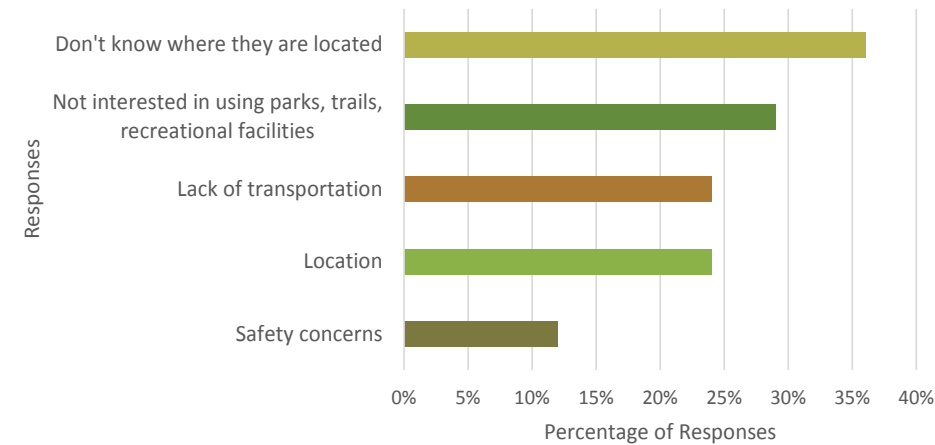
The inability to simply ride a bike or walk, or take public transportation, to and from a recreational site is creating a barrier to access to recreational facilities and opportunities. While the County does have Dial-A-Ride (a public transportation system that provides on-call service and limited set routes to the City of Manistee and its immediate environs) it does not reach into the interior of the County on a regular, well defined basis and route, nor are the buses fitted with bike carriers (although they will transport bikes for a fee). The opportunity to utilize Dial-A-Ride to transport residents (especially youth and those who do not want to drive) and visitors (especially those flying into Blacker Airport and don’t wish to rent a car) is tremendous. A discussion to understand how Dial-A-Ride may be utilized to help expand the eco-tourism initiative in the County is warranted.

In addition to looking at the barriers that a lack of reliable transportation and lack of connected trail routes causes, 36% respondents of the survey respondents also mentioned that the number one reason they don’t regularly use Manistee County recreational facilities is due to a lack of knowledge about where the facilities are located. Considering the tremendous amount of work the Visitors Bureau

has done to promote and market the recreational opportunities and facilities to visitors, this information does not appear to be trickling to the residents.

Also cited in the survey as a barrier to utilizing recreational facilities and opportunities, 29% cited a lack of interest in utilizing the developed parks. On face value it may appear that there is limited support for our parks but survey results that show some of the recreational activities folks are active in do not require a developed park, such as boating, hunting, fishing, and road cycling. These activities do require access points. The places that provide access, or the point of entry or park/facility, to the natural resources that these recreational activities utilize need to be well developed and provide accessibility for all types of user abilities. It is important to note that there are many activities folks enjoy that require a developed space, or park, for the activity. These activities cited as those that people enjoy in the County that require a park or developed space include (with the percentage of respondents who enjoy the activity), playground activities (37%), basketball (30%), ice skating (24%), baseball/softball (23%), tennis (12%), disc golf (7%), and pickleball (3%).

If you do not regularly use Manistee County parks, trails, and recreation facilities, what is preventing you from using them more often?



Graph 6.2: Reasons for Prevention of Facility Use

Analysis of the Data

Barriers to accessing recreational opportunities are a lack of transportation, which includes public transportation and a connected and looped trail system, and knowledge about where recreational opportunities exist. While parks are important to the County, people enjoy a wide range of recreational pursuits that don’t necessarily require parks but do require access points, which may in turn be a park.

Opportunities

Investigate ways to improve on the public transportation system to provide access to recreational facilities and developing a connected and looped trail system to eliminate transportation barriers to recreation. A County-wide recreational way-finding campaign would help residents and visitors navigate to recreational assets. A stronger tie and connection between communities, residents, and those who work to promote and market the County appears to be needed; the organizations that communities might want to contact to strengthen their recreational message includes, but not limited to, the Visitors Bureau, Chamber of Commerce, Alliance for Economic Success, County Planning Department, and various transportation hubs such as Blacker Airport.

6.2.8 Overall Respondent Assessment:

The top ten words people use to describe what they like most about Manistee County’s parks, trails, and recreation facilities are:

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Nature | 6. Water |
| 2. Maintained | 7. Facilities |
| 3. Beautiful | 8. Proximity |
| 4. Beaches | 9. Access |
| 5. Trails | 10. Scenery |

While 86% of the survey respondents felt that the parks, trails, and recreational facilities are fair to excellent, they did mention a number of issues which include (not in a ranked order):

- Trails:
 - Trails are not connected, not multi-use, don’t loop, are in poor condition, trailheads and access points are hard to find, need more access points, are not close to our communities, have limited accessibility features for all user abilities
- Maintenance:
 - Parks, trails, and recreation facilities are not well maintained, clean, smell like fish and trash, have dog waste, equipment need repairs, trees need to be trimmed and some removed, and trash is not removed promptly.
- Awareness:
 - Parks, trails, and recreation facilities are not well advertised, have poor mapping and other information available about them which leads to getting lost or not finding access points, lack good signage.
- Transportation:
 - There is a lack of different transportation options to access parks, trails, and recreation facilities.
- Safety/Crime/Drug Use:

- There is noticeable use of drugs at the parks, trails, and recreation facilities, crime occurs, traffic can cause safety concerns either on the access roads or while crossing major roads- need safe crossing points on high traffic volume roads.
- Facilities:
 - There are limited access points to public parks, trails, and recreation facilities, limited fresh drinking water, no bathrooms or unclean bathrooms, not enough trash receptacles, are focused on the City of Manistee and are lacking in the interior communities.
- Accessibility:
 - Boat launches are not American with Disability Act (ADA) compliant, road conditions are poor leading to recreational sites, there are a lack of loops and connections within the road and trail system, there are poor camping access points on Lake Michigan.
- Dogs:
 - Dog waste is a problem, dogs should be allowed in more recreational areas.

Respondents felt the number of existing trails, river, and lakes access points found within the County is predominately better than ok. Specifically, 88% of the respondents felt that there are adequate number of existing trails, 91% felt there are adequate number of river access points, and 92% felt that there are adequate public lake access points. This indicates that a high percentage of respondents don’t feel the County needs to develop NEW or MORE recreational trails and river/lake access points. What the survey shows is that the respondents feel that the existing access points and trails need to be better connected to each other and communities, have loops, and contain other amenities (such as drinking water, bathrooms, and trash receptacles).

Analysis of the Data

Respondents are overall positive about recreation in Manistee County and feel that existing facilities and access points are meeting the needs to the community and therefore new facility development may not be necessary.

Opportunities

There are opportunities to improve the recreational assets within the County that have to deal with trails, maintenance, awareness, transportation, safety/ crime/drug use, facilities, accessibility, and dog use.

6.2.9 New Facilities and Programming

While the survey respondents feel satisfied with the overall number of facilities and access points to natural resources in the County, the survey asked residents to express their desires for new facilities and programming. (See Tables 6.1 & 6.2) Trail development is the top recreational facility residents desire. In keeping with the survey results that show residents feel they have a lack of winter based recreational opportunities, or just are looking for ways recreate despite the cold climate, the top “wish list” items respondents expressed is a desire for indoor recreation opportunities that may be found in a sports complex (37%), such as an indoor climbing wall (35%), or indoor fitness and exercise facilities (33%). The third most desired “wish list” item is for the County is to have available a kayak and canoe public rental (37%) available to them. In the development of recreational programming, the survey results show that nature and outdoor programs (49%) is the top type of program that is most important to the respondents followed by adult wellness programs (47%), youth sports leagues (39%), back-packing/hiking programs (34%), and County wide recreation events (31%). When asked directly, 68% of the respondents felt that Manistee County should have an indoor multi-purpose recreational sports complex where racket, ball, and general fitness equipment is available for uses such as indoor soccer, basketball, weight training, indoor rock climbing wall, etc. In addition, when asked 73% respondents in an

What Recreation Facilities Would You Like to See in Manistee County?

Facility Type	Respondent Percentage
Walking/Bike Trail	53%
Sports Complex	37%
Kayak/Canoe Public Rental	37%
Climbing Wall	35%
Indoor Fitness/Exercise Facility	33%
Nature Center	33%
Pedestrian Paths/Sidewalks	31%
Picnic Facilities/Shelters	29%
Indoor Running/Walking Track	29%
Playground Equipment	25%
Outdoor Amphitheater	23%
Outdoor Gardens	23%
Small Neighborhood Parks	22%
Indoor Basketball/Volleyball	21%
Public Bike Rental	20%
Large Neighborhood Parks	18%
Soccer Fields	17%
Outdoor Basketball Courts	16%
Youth Base/Softball Fields	14%
Outdoor Tennis Courts	12%
Racquetball/Handball Courts	12%
Pickleball Courts	9%
Adult Softball Fields	8%
Outdoor Track	1%
Indoor Tennis Facilities	1%

Table 6.1: Desired Recreational Facilities

election might or would vote in favor of supporting the use of public funding for the development and operations of the types of indoor and outdoor parks, recreation and programs that are most important to their household. Only 3% would vote against, and 19% are unsure of the use of public funds for recreational purposes.

Analysis of the Data

Working to create space for indoor recreational opportunities is important to the survey respondents. Respondents would like a facility (sports complex) that would provide space for fitness and exercise, nature education and programming, running and walking, basketball and volleyball. and soccer. The question of what type of programming is important to the person taking the survey reveals strong support for the work that the Manistee Recreation Authority is doing to provide youth sports leagues but new programing needs to be developed for back-packing enthusiasts and other nature based activities (fly-fishing, kayaking/canoeing, bird watching, yoga, sailing). Adult wellness, which may go hand in hand with engaging the entire County in a County-wide recreation event, is new programming important to the respondents as well. Public funding is supported for recreational development.

Opportunities

To provide indoor recreation by developing a facility that allows residents to engage in a wide variety of indoor recreational pursuits regardless of the weather. To provide programming that takes advantage of nature based activities is sought after and important to residents.

Which Programs Are Most Important to Your Household?

Program Type	Respondent Percentage
Nature/Outdoor Programs	49%
Adult Fitness/Wellness Programs	47%
Youth Sport Leagues	39%
Back-Packing/Hiking Programs	34%
Community Wide Rec. Events	31%
Fishing/Fly-fishing Summer Programs	26%
Water Fitness	24%
Water Fitness in Lake	24%
Yoga/Palliates/Meditation	22%
Adult Art Program	20%
Rock Climbing Programs	18%
Adult Sports Leagues	16%
Snow-Shoeing Programs	15%
Cross-Country Skiing Programs	15%
Fishing/Fly-Fishing Winter Programs	14%
Downhill Skiing Programs	14%
Sailing Programs	13%
Martial Arts Programs	11%
Senior Sport Leagues	9%
Ice Sailing Programs	6%

Table 6.2: Recreational Program Importance

6.3 Public Vision Sessions

Public input is the backbone of most planning processes. The input received is utilized to shape and develop the plan, and provides information which helps generate goals. This planning process was no different, and with recreation providing activities in Manistee County across a wide demographic age group, thought was given to specifically seeking out a wide range of input from all age groups.

In order to receive input from all age groups, two separate types of public input sessions were organized. Public Input Sessions to be held at public locations spread throughout the County during the evenings in June were scheduled and advertised. These types of sessions often bring out community members who are older than 35 years of age. In order to solicit input from the younger members of our communities, student input sessions were scheduled and held in February and April at three local high schools. The combination of these two types of public input sessions would provide a range of public input spanning the range of age groups found within Manistee County.

6.3.1 High School Student Input Sessions

Input from the youth of Manistee County was a high priority during this planning process. Previous recreation planning efforts and many planning efforts in general within Manistee County, lacked the input of youth in helping to determine a plan of action and set goals for the future. In order to effectively receive the input of youth from our communities, a demographic which tends to be absent from public input sessions and charrettes; the process was developed to include specific student input forums which would be conducted at three area High Schools.



Image 6.1: Student Input Preparation

The Student Input Sessions were held at the following locations at the provided date.

- Manistee High School: February 25th, 2015
- Onekama High School: April 20th, 2015
- Brethren High School: April 20th, 2015

The format of the Student Input Sessions were conducted in a fashion that would provide information on activities pursued by the youth in Manistee County as well as the location at which those activities were pursued. This information was received through a mapping exercise which allowed the



Image 6.2: Manistee High School Student Input Session



Figure 6.1: Student Input Session Wordle

students to identify the locations of their summer and winter recreation activities. Upon completion of the mapping exercise, the students were then guided through a process which would identify strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of/for recreation and recreation sites within Manistee County.

6.3.1.1 Student Input Session Results

Student Input Session results are broken down by each individual High School session and can be located in Appendix C. The combination of all student input session results is displayed within this section. The results are organized into the Wordle, Activity Location Table, and Strengths and Weaknesses Table.

6.3.1.2 Wordle

A Wordle is a method of representing information in a manner which utilizes visual information to convey data. The size of the words in the graphic are determined by the number of responses for that particular recreational activity. The larger the word, the more times that activity was mentioned during the student input session over other activities. (See Figure 6.1)

6.3.1.3 Activity Location Table:

The Activity Location Table displays the information on the types of recreational activities pursued in Manistee County as well as the location at which those activities were pursued. The information reflects the activities identified from the student input sessions. (See Table 6.3)



Image 6.3: Onekama High School Student Input Session

Location	Summer Activities	Winter Activities
Arcadia Area	Diving for Golf Balls, Golf, Hiking, Bow fishing	Ice-Fishing
Bar Lake	Fishing	None Reported
Bear Lake Area	Fishing, Jogging, Hiking, Golf, Tubing, Horseback Riding	Ice-Fishing
Brethren Area	Jogging, Fishing, Canoeing	Jogging, Sledding, Snowmobiling
Chief Lake	Swimming, Fishing	Ice-Fishing
City of Manistee	Swimming, Jogging, Golf, Beach, Pier Jumping, Fishing, Baseball/Softball, Basketball, Tennis, Golf, Bowling	Ice-Skating
Crystal Mtn.	Swimming, Alpine Slide	Downhill Skiing, Snowboarding
Lake Michigan	Swimming, Beach Combing, Pier Jumping, Fishing, Jet ski, Boating, Waterski	Big Lake Viewing, Beach Combing, Pier Walk
Lemon Lake	Fishing	None Reported
Libraries	Read	None Reported
Little Manistee, Big Manistee and Pine Rivers	Canoeing, Kayaking, Tubing, Fishing, Camping, Swimming, Rafting	Fishing (Per Open Season)
Manistee County Public Lands	Hunting, Biking, Mushroom Hunting, Bonfires	Hunting
Manistee Lake	Fishing	Ice Fishing
Onekama Area	Playground, Golf, Jogging, Tubing, Waterski, Fishing, Swimming, Bow fishing	Sledding, ATV Riding, Snowshoeing, Ice-fishing, Ice-Skating
Public Trails	Jogging, Hiking, Biking	Jogging, Snowmobiling, Snowshoeing, Cross Country-Skiing
Tippy Pond Area	Camping, Fishing, Swimming, Mudding	Ice-Fishing, Snowmobiling
Kaleva Area	Horseback Riding, Camping, Jogging, Fishing, Swimming	Snowmobiling, Jogging, Sledding
Wellston Area	Fishing, Horseback Riding, Basketball	Jogging, Sledding, Snowmobiling

Table 6.3: Student Input Activity Location Table

6.3.1.4 Strengths and Weaknesses Table

The Strengths and Weaknesses Table displays the results from the Student Input Session. These strengths and weaknesses are a valuable resource for the development of goals for recreation in Manistee County. (See Table 6.4)

Strengths and Weaknesses	
Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• River Systems and Access• Trails• Beaches (John Langland & 1st Street)• Forest (Public Land Access)• Small and Large Game Hunting• Fishing & Hiking Spirit of the Woods• Beach, Piers• Mudding Backwaters of Tippy Dam• Mudding at Twisted Trails• Running (Glovers Lake Rd.)• Tubing on Portage Lake• Skiing @ Crystal Mtn.• Alpine Sledding @ Crystal• Orchard Beach S.P. Hiking Trails• Baseball Fields• Hiking on Old Baldy (Conservancy Lands)• Clean and nice beaches• Many places to fish• Movie theatre• Lots of places for tubing• Lots of camping places• Hiking• Ice-skating• Nice downtown	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bear Creek Launch (ramp condition)• Blacksmith Bayou (ramp condition, lack of parking, plow in winter)• More ATV access in Manistee County• North County Trail Bridge Out (Between High Bridge & Tippy)• Safer Running Environment (on and off road)• Trail Connections to denser developed areas• Open Bear Creek for canoeing• Limited Ice Skating• Limited Hockey• Bathrooms @ Langland Park• Pavilion @ Langland Park• Bathrooms @ Village Park (Onekama)• Lack of Snowmobile and Bike Trail Connections• Lack of indoor recreation center• Bear Lake Baseball Field Conditions• Hard to access places / low accessibility• Not enough bike trails and needs more protection for bicyclists on the road• Lack of information about trails to students• Lack of restaurants• Few shopping stores• Roads/sidewalks need repair

Table 6.4: Student Strengths and Weaknesses Table



Image 6.4: KND High School Student Input Session

6.3.2 Public Input Sessions

Input from members of all communities within Manistee County is desired through this planning process, but with 21 local units of government within Manistee County the idea of holding 21 separate public input sessions raised concerns. The concerns revolved around the amount of time necessary to plan, setup and effectively capture public input, but also with the potential to have some input sessions lightly attended or without any attendance by the public whatsoever.

It was decided to effectively manage the public input with notification by conducting six public input sessions spread throughout the County. The locations were chosen based upon several factors; easily identified locations, proximity to higher population centers, and ease of traveling to the location of the session for the public which resided in that region.

The Public Input Sessions were held at the following locations at the provided date and time.

• Marilla Township Hall:	June 2nd, 2015
• Stronach Township Hall:	June 9th, 2015
• Brethren High School:	June 11th, 2015
• Bear Lake United Methodist Church:	June 16th, 2015
• Springdale Township Hall:	June 23rd, 2015
• Manistee High School:	June 30th, 2015

The format of the Public Input Sessions were conducted in a similar fashion to those for the Student Input Sessions. Through following that base format, the resulting information from all input sessions can be compared against each other. As with the student sessions, large maps were utilized to ascertain where and what type of activities in which were participated, within Manistee County. After then a discussion with three main questions was posed to the group. The questions outlined the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities (SWO) of/for recreation within Manistee County.

Unlike the student input sessions, the general public input sessions went *one step further* in order to prioritize opportunities which would help shape the goals and identify the projects needed to achieve the goals for each of the individual municipalities and County as a whole. The prioritized goals for each municipality at the conclusion of all public input sessions could then be reviewed and revised by individual planning commissions and boards/councils with assistance by the leadership team member.

6.3.2.1 June Vision Session Results:

The combination of all input session results follows. The results show two



Image 6.5: Stronach Public Input Session

types of information and are organized into two forms: the Wordle and Activity Location Table, as well as, a summary outlining the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities by recreation region. A strength, weaknesses, and opportunity (SWO) analysis helps community members analyze their community in a structured manner that leads to a positive problem solving thought process. It also assists community members to see all the positive aspects of their community that they can be proud of and build upon in shaping recreational opportunities.

A table outlining the SWO analysis for each recreation region can be found in Appendix C, as can the individual results from each public input session. Both should be utilized as a reference through plan implementation.

6.3.2.2 Strength, Weaknesses, and Opportunities Analysis Results Summary:

Strengths:

The SWO analysis reveals that the residents of Manistee County feel that there are an abundance of recreational strengths. Many of them are a result of the natural resources found within the County: rivers, lakes forests, wetlands. These natural resources are used for activities such as boating, hiking, cycling, skiing, snowmobiling, nature watching, fishing, and hunting. Residents also see the potential to use the natural resources for emerging adventure based recreation such as rock climbing, use of zip lines, and outdoor survival activities. The County is rich in facilities that allow for the use of the natural resources such as boat launches, trails, parks, and campgrounds. The residents of the County also enjoy recreation for their wellness and fitness, as well as for competitiveness, playing

all different types of sports such as basketball, volleyball, soccer, baseball, softball, disc ball, and pickleball. They utilize facilities found at the parks, school gymnasiums, and private facilities to engage in these sport activities.

The use of trails emerged as a strength worth singling out for discussion. There are existing trails found throughout the County. Existing trails are used for hiking, biking, snowmobiling, and snowshoeing, as well as, general access to water and land. This strength was repeated throughout the vision sessions for both youth and the general public.

Weaknesses:

While residents expressed that the County is home to great recreational strengths, weaknesses may be found. The vision session respondents cited as weaknesses a lack of access to water for boating, fishing, and general recreational use. The lack of access may be either because an access point does not exist (examples include Bear Creek, Betsie River) or the access point is poorly developed (examples include Lemon Lake, Hodenpyle Stretch on the Manistee River). Access may also be hampered, according to vision session respondents, simply because users are unfamiliar with where to go to access a recreational facility; they need directions and sites need to be marketed and promoted better. In addition, respondents felt that the winter based recreational opportunities are underdeveloped and not marketed and promoted (ice fishing, ice sailing, skiing, snowshoeing). Existing parks are valued but there are a number of park improvements that are identified within the communities across the County. The improvements cited deal with improving access to water (boat/kayak launches), parking, pavilions, restroom facilities, children’s playground equipment, American with Disability Act compliance, ball fields, trails, and cycling amenities.

Trails are of great concern for the residents as they expressed that while the County has a number of developed trails (examples include the North Country Trail and the Manistee River Trail), the trails are not connected to each other and natural resources, in a comprehensive manner that makes sense, is easy for the users to understand, and in some cases, are unsafe (when crossing busy streets). The trails also have few loops, have little to no amenities, and have maintenance issues. Session participants also felt that a better job could be done at forming partnerships and collaborating with stakeholders, such as the US Forest Service, Department of Natural Resources, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, Consumers Powers, and the railroad companies.

Of concern to residents is the ability to maintain and sustain existing and future recreational facilities. The perceived current inability of communities and the County government to fund site improvements and acquisition, as

well as, comprehensively address recreation parks, trails, and programming is a weakness identified. Residents also found that the economic development climate in the County has not capitalized on developing a nature based, or eco-tourism, economy so the lack of businesses that cater to nature based recreation is a missed opportunity and a weakness that affects economic prosperity for the communities.

Opportunities:

By understanding your strengths and weakness a clearer path to developing opportunities emerges. The opportunities may be categorized into the following areas of focus:



Residents felt that access to land and water is something that needs attention. While there may be new access points needed (Bear Creek and the Betsie River being the most mentioned), for the most part respondents felt that time, energy, and resources should be focused on existing sites. What improvements



Image 6.6: Marilla Public Input Session

are needed may be found in site prioritization and assets inventory tables. Continued natural resource stewardship, a goal of the County Board of Commissioners, is evident by the respondents who want to keep the natural habitat in tact for hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. Some respondents recommended speed limitations on the Hodenpyle Stretch of the Manistee River and other key locations to better harmonize the co-existence of recreational users.

Equally on par with the use of natural resources for outdoor and adventure based recreational activities, the built environment for recreation is equally important to vision session participants. The many parks and other facilities found throughout the County provide enjoyment for all users regardless of interest, age, and abilities. A desire to see additional facilities built within the community parks for youth is expressed with suggestions for sledding hills, ice skating areas for figure skating and hockey, skate park, winter sports park, American Disability Act compliant playground, rock climbing wall, and archery area. Again, respondents were not looking to develop new land for these activities but to utilize existing park and open space for these uses.

With an understanding that others may like the recreational assets found within the County, especially the natural resources based recreational activities (hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, skiing, boating, etc.) an opportunity exists to develop a segment of the economy that caters to the needs of these users. Vision session participants discussed the need and opportunities for the development of business ventures such as liveries, equipment rental businesses, retail, and other outfitter type establishments. Respondents linked the location of these businesses to where existing recreational assets and future trail hubs will be, or should be, located.

If the County vision participants (and most of the 1009 survey respondents) were to collectively scream the one recreational opportunity that they would like developed, the word “trails” would be loud and clear. Vision session participants expressed clearly that trail development is an opportunity of which Manistee County must take advantage. The respondents saw an opportunity to link water, communities, and natural resources through a collection of inter-connected multi-use trails laced throughout the County. Building upon the existing trails, connections should be made, loops constructed, trail hubs developed, a way-finding program implemented, and a fierce marketing and promotion needs to occur. In regards to trails, the voice of the community was loud and clear: build trails.

Respondents expressed that the lack of an assured local and County maintenance and funding program for recreation is a weakness. But the opportunity exists, and

appeared anecdotally supported, to create an organizational structure that would sustain recreational planning, development, and implementation. Specifically, respondents are interested in ensuring that both maintenance of existing and future recreational improvements are sustained and funding is assured. The type of organizational structure was not suggested, but it was suggested that models found elsewhere in the State where recreational authority's are utilized should be looked at and considered. Marquette's Recreation Authority and the City of Traverse City and Garfield Township Recreation Authority are two examples of the use of a recreational authority where trail development and other recreational opportunities have been developed and sustained.

In addition to ensuring that the future of recreation has a plan for maintenance and funding, the participants were looking for other ways to be successful in

implementing this Recreation Plan and focused on the use of collaboration and building partnerships to help. Collaboration and partnerships, respondents felt, would help develop and pull together resources, create efficiencies, share resources, and create a collective force that would drive developing recreation as expressed in this Plan.

6.3.2.2 Wordle

A Wordle is a method of representing information in a manner which utilizes visual information to convey data. The size of the words in the graphic are determined by the number of responses for that particular recreational activity. The larger the word, the more times that activity was mentioned during the public input session over other activities. (See Figure 6.2)



Figure 6.2: Public Input Session Wordle

6.3.2.3 Activity Location Table

The Activity Location Table displays the information on the types of recreational activities pursued in Manistee County as well as the location at which those activities were pursued. The information reflects the June public input sessions. (See Table 6.5)



Image 6.7: City of Manistee Public Input Session

6.4 Stakeholder Input:

Stakeholders are those groups and agencies which have a strong stake in recreation within Manistee County. Staff and leadership team members worked diligently to see that a complete list of stakeholders was created and that those stakeholders were invited to engage in the process. As the planning process moved forward and the public input aspects of the plan were underway, the stakeholders were mailed letters notifying them of the availability of the online survey as well as the date, time and location for each of the public forums.

6.4.1 Stakeholder Discussions:

- Several stakeholders including governmental agencies and large land owners were contacted and meetings were set with staff. At these meetings the recreation planning process was explained and the goals of the plan were clarified. Staff met with the following governmental agencies or groups either in person or via teleconference.
- Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
 - State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources
 - United States Forest Service
 - Consumers Energy
 - Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy

The discussions that ensured from the meetings listed above were very positive

Location	Summer Activities	Winter Activities
Arcadia Area	Boating, Fishing, Beach, Swimming, Birding, Biking	Cross-Country Skiing, Ice-Fishing
Bar Lake Area	Swimming, Birding, Biking, Walking, Paddle-Board, Hiking	None Reported
Bear Lake Area	Fishing, Hunting, Boating, Biking, Picnic, Golf, Swimming, Walking	Walking, Snowshoeing, Cross-Country Skiing, Ice-Fishing, Hunting
Dickson & Norman Twps.	Kayak, Hiking	Snowshoeing, Cross-Country Skiing, Hunting
City of Manistee	Beach, Walking, Summer Music Concerts, Swimming	None Reported
Springdale & Cleon Twps.	Hunting, Snowmobiling	Snowshoeing, Skiing
Filer Twp. Area	Beach, Biking, Hiking, Swimming	Snowshoeing, Cross-Country Skiing, Snowmobiling, Hiking
Lemon Lake	Fishing	Ice-Fishing
Little Manistee, Big Manistee and Pine Rivers	Kayaking, Canoeing, Fishing, Boating	Fishing
Manistee County Public Lands	Hunting, Mushrooming	Hunting, Snowshoeing
Manistee Lake Area	Birding, Canoeing, Fishing	Ice-Fishing
Marilla Area	Picnicking, Hunting	Hunting, Snowshoeing, Snowmobiling
Portage Lake Area	Biking, Fishing, Swimming, Boating, Birding, Sailing, Waterski	Ice-Fishing
Public Trails	Walking, Hiking, Backpacking, Biking, Horseback Riding	Snowshoeing, Snowmobiling, Cross-Country Skiing, Biking
Stronach Area	Hunting, Fishing, Biking, Kayaking, Canoeing, Hiking	Sledding, Cross-Country Skiing, Snowshoeing, Hunting
Tippy Pond Area	Canoeing, Hiking, Backpacking, Kayaking	Ice-Fishing
Village of Kaleva	Skeet-Shooting	Snowmobiling
Wellston Area	Fishing, Hunting, Kayaking	Snowmobiling

Table 6.5: Public Input Activity Location Table

and support for recreation planning within the County was evident. Though each group had specific stances on how they perceive recreation within the County, all felt it was a worth-while endeavor to move forward with the collaboration and consensus that had been built through the planning process in order to have a working document which captured so much information for so many groups and laid a framework for county-wide recreation goals.

If there is one item that stuck out of each discussion that was held; it was to remain transparent and to ensure that each of these groups is included in any initial conversations concerning recreation with which they have a stake and/or own property. The importance the document places on collaboration and consensus is the frame with which the plan is built. The idea of inclusion of stakeholders during initial conversations is embraced and supported, and will most certainly occur as the plan is implemented.

6.4.2 Stakeholder List:

Each of the listed stakeholders were mailed information concerning the online survey as well as the public input sessions which were held in June of 2015. The stakeholders are also notified upon completion of the plan so that they may review the draft plan during the public comment period.

- Manistee Area Public Schools (MAPS)
- Onekama Consolidated School District
- Kaleva Norman Dickson School District
- Benzie School District
- Cross Country Ski Council
- Shoreline Cycle Club
- Manistee County Chamber
- Manistee County Visitors Bureau
- Manistee Healthy Coalition
- North County Trail Association
- Watershed Councils
- DNR
- US Forest Service
- Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy
- Bear Lake Promoters
- Portage Lake Association
- Portage Point Yacht Club
- Manistee Muzzle Loading Club
- Rolling Thunder
- Spirit of the Woods
- Boy and Girl Scouts
- Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

- City of Manistee Beautification Committee
- Bear Lake Property Owners Association
- Crystal Mountain
- Various Service Groups: Rotary, Elks, etc.
- Caberfae
- Manistee Council on Aging
- Golf Courses
- Marinas
- City of Manistee Non-motorized Committee
- Pleasant Valley Community Center
- Historic Associations
- Blacker Airport
- Twisted Trails
- Northern MI Drag-strip
- Manistee Snowbirds
- Big Bear Sportsman Club
- Consumers Energy Company
- West Shore Hospital
- Camp Arcadia
- Audubon Society
- Ducks Unlimited

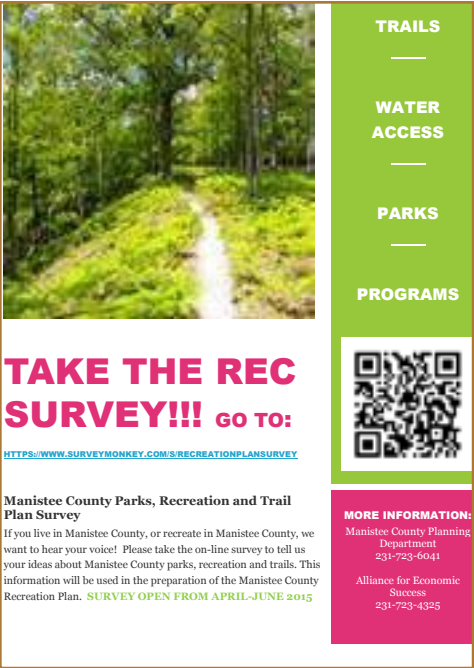


Image 6.8: Recreation Survey Flyer



Image 6.9: Recreation Public Input Meeting Flyer

Chapter 7:
Goals & Projects

7.1 Arcadia Township Goals and Projects

1. Goal: Develop multiuse trails that are connected to a County wide trail system

PROJECTS:

Snowmobile Trails:
Develop a snowmobile trail that is connected to the County wide system

Trail Facilities:
Facilities such as trash receptacles, signage, ADA compliant bathrooms, and fitness stations, will be provided at specified locations throughout the Township and made available at existing facilities such as the PVCC, Finch Park and Grebe Park.

Snow-Shoe and Cross-Country Ski Trails:
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.

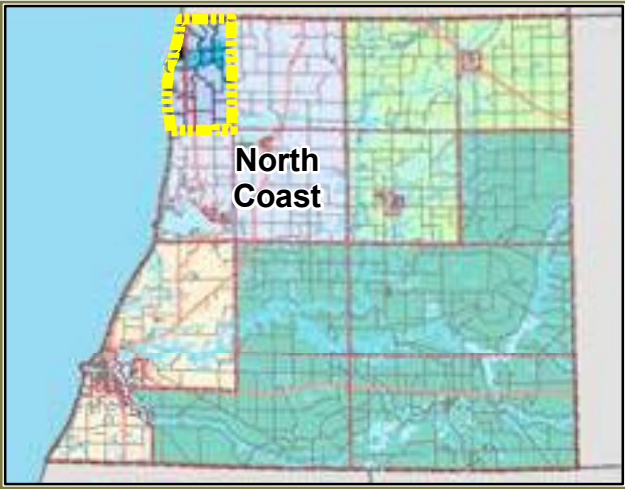
Trail Route:
The trail route will connect existing neighborhoods, parks, community and economic centers, and conservancy lands within the Township utilizing on-road connections, easements across private property and existing trails. Including a trail through the GTRLC wetland.

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

PROJECTS:

Grebe Park, Sunset Station & Arcadia Natural Beach Area, Veterans Memorial Park and Marina:
Implement the park improvement plans. (In Progress)

North Coast Region



Pickert Park:
Develop a site specific park plan including but not limited to improving landscaping, replacing play structure, replacing swing set that includes an ADA compliant child seat and reusing existing features in a new creative way.

Finch Park:
Develop a site specific park plan including but not limited to improved landscaping, repairing restrooms, fix picnic tables, paint pickleball lines on tennis court and developing a venue for community concerts.

Signage Update:
Replace and provide unified designed signs for all parks in the Township. Addition of PVCC Kiosk.

Dredging Spoils and Beach Nourishment:
Work with the Army Corps of Engineers and the DEQ to secure dredging spoils from the Arcadia Lake Channel dredging to supplement beach sand at the Arcadia Beach Natural Area.

3. Goal: Develop new park and recreational facilities that are tailored toward both organized and individual recreational opportunities, that are accessible by all users, and meets the needs of a wide variety of residents.

PROJECTS:

Community Group Meeting:
Facilitate meetings with community groups (ie Lions, PVCC, Arcadia Garden Club) to understand their individual goals as they relate to this recreation plan and the Township Master Plan in order to identify priorities that can be worked on collaboratively.

Adult Porch Swings and Benches:
Place adult porch swings and benches throughout the Township for individuals who are moving throughout the community so that they can rest and enjoy the views.

Rinks, Fields, Games and Gardens:
Develop the following new facilities at the PVCC or on Township owned property: ice skating rink, outdoor pickleball and community garden.

Interpretive Center and Trail System Hub:
Develop an Interpretive Center and Trail Hub at the PVCC for the trail system, Arcadia marsh, Arcadia Natural Beach Area and any other natural area that can be used for environmental educational purposes.

Campground:
Develop the Arcadia Campground property on Arcadia Lake in keeping with this Recreation Plan and the Master Plan

4. Goal: Develop Township policies that promote recreation.

PROJECTS:

Fishing off docks policy:
Fishing to be allowed to occur off the docks at the municipal marina. Improve site at the M-22 Causeway.

Collaboration with the PVCC Policy:
Formalize a collaborative partnership with the PVCC to recognize their role as catalyst for recreation initiatives, programming, and to be a location for recreation scheduling and point of communication for residents regarding recreational opportunities. Seek out and help to fund a part time staff member for programing throughout the township and at the PVCC.

Streetscape Improvement Policy:
Initiate efforts to care for the aesthetics of the community through streetscape

improvements such as tree planting, ADA compliance, way-finding. Discuss the Idea of traffic calming measures between Oak and State streets on M-22 corridor.

Regional Collaboration Policy:
Seek out regional collaborative partners to identify opportunities for developing recreational opportunities that cross municipal boundaries such as trail systems, harbor dredging, and program development.

5. Goal: Create and improve recreational programming and opportunities

PROJECTS:

Youth Programming:
Improve the parks so that youth of all ages have more recreational opportunities

Promote the MRA:
Increase MRA'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.

PVCC Programming Review and Community Collaboration:
Evaluate, collaborate and improve recreational programming at the PVCC. May require a part time staff member.

Concert Series:
Create a subcommittee made up of residents to develop a concert series that would be primarily hosted at Finch Park.

“Explore Arcadia” Driving Tour:
Create a subcommittee to develop an organized, well communicated driving 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.

Parks and Recreation Website:
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 scheduling of activities and also work with the PVCC to ensure the information is posted regularly. (visitarcadiami.com)

7.2 Pleasanton Township Goals and Projects

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

PROJECTS:

County-wide Trail System Collaboration:
Continue to work collaboratively in developing the County wide trail system

Equestrian Trail:
Work with the Conservancy to develop an equestrian trail system that allows for horseback riding, horse carts, and camping with horse trailer

Safe Crossing:
Improve safety for trail users by developing safe crossing points on major road.

Snowmobile Trail:
Ensure a well connected snowmobile trail throughout the Township.

Trail that encircles Bear Lake:
Develop a trail that circles Bear Lake including mile markers to help measure distance.

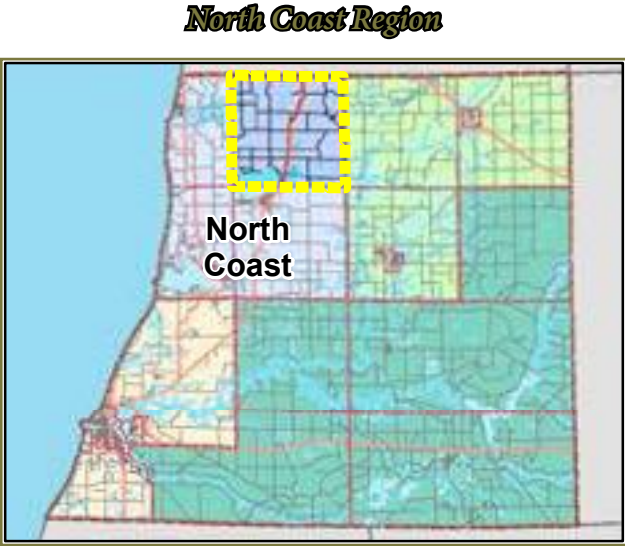
2. Goal: Improve the use of Township parks.

PROJECTS:

Township Hall Park:
Improve the park facilities at the Township Hall Park including updating the lighting at the sports field, develop an outdoor restroom, provide frost free drinking water, create a trail head with signage for snowmobile use and other multi-use trail users.

Lakeside Avenue Township Park:
Develop restroom facilities at the Lakeside Avenue Township Park.

Lakeside Park:
Install and improve playground equipment and picnic tables at Lakeside Park.



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

PROJECTS:

Butwell Road End Land Acquisition:
Purchase adjacent land to the Butwell Road access to Bear Lake in order to develop a new park area complete with restrooms and a picnic area.

All Access Points to Bear Lake:
Install adult porch swings at all the access points to Bear Lake.



Image 7.1: Pleasanton Twp. Park

7.3 & 7.4 Onekama Township & Onekama Village Goals and Projects

1. Goal: Highlight, enhance, and preserve the natural beauty of the flora and fauna, the wetlands, and the water quality of the lakes and streams in Onekama Village and Township for residents, seasonal residents, and visitors to enjoy

PROJECTS:

Water:
Continue to support the monitoring of the lake waters by the Watershed, Township, and School

Water:
Support the enforcement of the County-wide program of the monitoring of septic systems

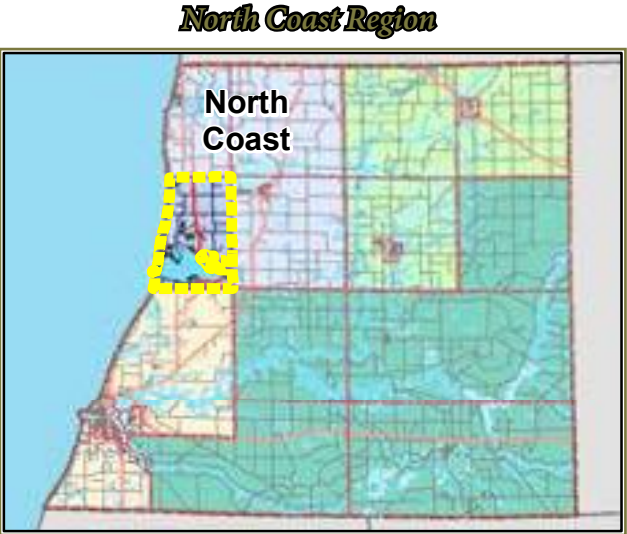
Water:
Support the extension of the sewer system into areas where septic system contamination of the lakes exist

Land:
Acquire State-owned and private lands that are critical to the protection and preservation of the Portage Lake Watershed and that contain natural beauty and wetlands that would be offered to governmental units and then the public, if governmental units do not want them

Land:
Support subcommittee of the Portage Lake Watershed Forever to obtain and study updated wetland maps to determine critical wetlands that should be purchased

Plant Life:
Support the education of the public of need to control invasives and prescribe proper methods of control

Plant Life:
Involve community organizations in efforts to identify and control invasive species in and around Portage Lake



Plant Life:
Support the Portage Lake Management Plan and the financing of it for the control of invasives both in and around Portage Lake

Habitat Protection:
Plant trees near North Point Park perimeter as wildlife habitat and create arboretum

Habitat Protection
Continue the annual survey and treatment of invasive plants and shrubs in this Park as well as others

2. Goal: Provide opportunities for enjoying lake views, utilizing beaches, and accessing waters of Portage Lake and Lake Michigan in Onekama Township and Village

PROJECTS:

Views:
Upgrade the gazebo complex so that viewing of Lake Michigan and its sunsets may continue despite encroaching sand dune in Langland Park (Channel Turnaround

Views:
Build permanent restrooms for people using Langland Park for viewing Lake Michigan and for other recreational purposes

North Point Park:
Plant dogwood, hawthorn, pine, and spruce

Langland Park:
Mechanically groom beach

Langland Park:
Maintain fire rings for beach cleanliness and safety

Langland Park:
Maintain facilities such as mobi-mats, restrooms, beach, fire rings and other amenities.

6. Goal: To promote healthful living for adult and youngster residents and seasonal residents—provide new facilities and enhance existing facilities for walking, hiking, exercising, biking, sports, roller skating/blading, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and ice skating

PROJECTS:

Sidewalks:
Clean debris from and repair or replace existing sidewalk where needed on west edge of Portage Point Road south of the Portage Point Inn; extend sidewalk along Second Street to Langland Park

Sidewalks:
Replace sidewalk on Lakeview Avenue from Outlet Avenue to Portage Lake Avenue in Portage Park buried during seawall construction along Portage Lake

Programming:
Continue to advertise the programs through publications and newsletters

Programming:
Encourage offering fitness and recreation classes after school, during evenings, and during summer through community education program

Multi-Use Trails:
Purchase and develop appropriate private land (abandoned railroad right-of-way) that could be used for a variety of trails, including those for cross-country skiing and snowmobiling

Multi-Use Trails:
Through an easement, purchase of land, or rerouting of trail at the north boundary of Glen Park remedy the situation existing at present where the trail is illegally on the adjoining property to the north

Exercise Trail:
Establish a fitness circuit in Rotary Park and/or North Point Park

Ice Skating:
Create an area for winter ice skating with a fire ring for daytime and evening use by adults and youngsters that would also promote fellowship among the participants

Way-finding and Information Signs:
Post signs showing map of Trail at two entrances of North Point Park

Way-finding and Information Signs:
Post signs showing map of trail at two entrances of Glen Park

Pickleball Court:
Provide a pickleball court and acquaint the public with pickleball

7. Goal: Provide recreation programs for resident and seasonal youth, including challenged youth, of the Community in parks and school facilities in association with the Manistee Recreation Association, the Onekama Consolidated Schools, and other organizations

Recreation Lessons and Instruction:
Promote and continue to use the Manistee Recreation Association program for participants in Onekama Township and Village

8. Goal: Highlight, enhance, and preserve the historical resources of Onekama Village and Township

Historical Way-Finding:
Publicize and encourage use of Glen Park through historical brochure with map of trails, and identification of flora and fauna (brochure similar to Walking with Nature published for North Point Park)

Historical Way-Finding:
Establish a museum in a building that would accommodate exhibits recalling the history of the Village and Township and their lakes

9. Goal: Highlight and enhance the cultural resources of Onekama Village and Township

Use of School Auditorium:
Support presentation of concerts year-around by local and regional artists for enjoyment of residents, seasonal residents, and visitors



Image 7.2: Vintage Snowmobile Race



Image 7.3: Sunset Swim in Lake Michigan

7.5 Bear Lake Township Goals and Projects

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

- PROJECTS:**
- Trail Connections:*
Develop a trail connection that would use Potter Road to connect US 31 to M-22.
- Way-finding Signage:*
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).

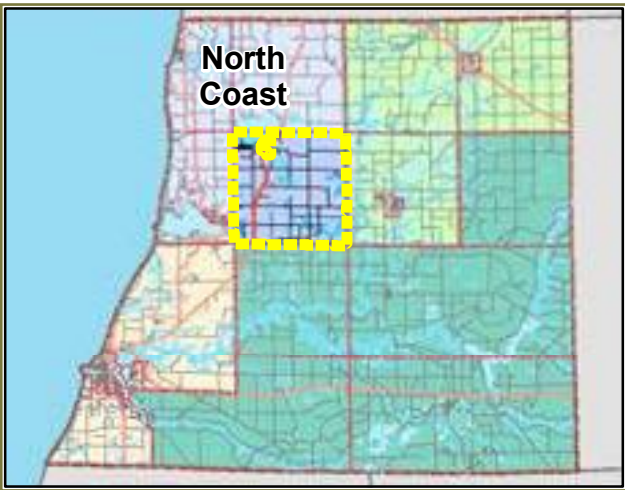
2. Goal: Develop facilities and purchase land that will be used for increasing recreational opportunities while also serving other municipal purposes and goals

- PROJECTS:**
- Multi-Use Township Hall:*
Build a new Township Hall that would allow for the development of recreation facilities such as ball field, shelter, picnic area, bird watching, informational kiosk
- Land Acquisition:*
Identify sites on Bear Lake and Chief Lake to purchase.



Image 7.4: Rolling Thunder Ride Bear Lake Michigan

North Coast Region



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

- PROJECTS:**
- View Shed Plan:*
Identify sites that preserve scenic vistas as well as cultural and historic sites. Prepare a view shed map. Special consideration given to Windy Ridge, Potter Road, Spruce Ridge, 9 Mile, 11 Mile, Maidens Road, and Chief Road. Create the regulatory mechanisms (zoning) to preserve the vistas
- Dark Sky Park Plan:*
Identify sites that may be used for the development of a Dark Sky Park

4. Goal: Support the creation of a County wide recreation authority

- PROJECTS:**
- Continued Collaboration:*
Work Support exploration of a recreation authority which would have sound representation of all local units of government.

5. Goal: Improve recreational opportunities for youth

- PROJECTS:**
- Youth Polling:*
Conduct a survey of local youth to identify exact local needs.
- Current Maintenance of Facilities:*
Maintain existing park spaces and equipment which are utilized by youth. Support maintenance of Bear Lake School Forest.

6. Goal: Improve access to Bear Lake and Little Beaver Creek

- PROJECTS:**
- Create Access to 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
- Explore the Shores Site:*
Partner with Explore the Shores Program to develop the access sites to be compliant for all types of users.

7. Goal: Develop an eco-tourism economy

- PROJECTS:**
- Marketing:*
Meet with the County Visitors Bureau to improve marketing of the Township to increase tourism
8. Goal: Maintain good stewardship of the natural resources within the Township while also developing recreational opportunities.

- PROJECTS:**
- Boat Cleaning Station:*
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.



Image 7.5: Bear Lake Welcome Sign

7.6 Bear Lake Village Goals and Projects

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

PROJECTS:

County-Wide Trail System Collaboration:
Continue to work with the County in developing the County wide trail system.

2. Goal: Increase the utilization of Hopkins Park

PROJECTS:

Parking for Cars with Boat Trailers:
Develop parking areas for folks with boats.

Campground:
Improve the bathrooms and playground equipment.

3. Goal: Improve recreational opportunities for residents

PROJECTS:

Create Teen Park:
Teenage/Young adult park with disc ball/golf, rocking climbing, etc

Create a Soccer Field:
Develop a soccer field

Adult Programming Evaluation:
Evaluate and improve gaps in programming for adults

4. Goal: Develop an eco-tourism economy

PROJECTS:

Visitors Bureau Meeting:
Meet with Visitors Bureau to educate them about the Village recreational opportunities in order to improve marketing to increase tourism

North Coast Region

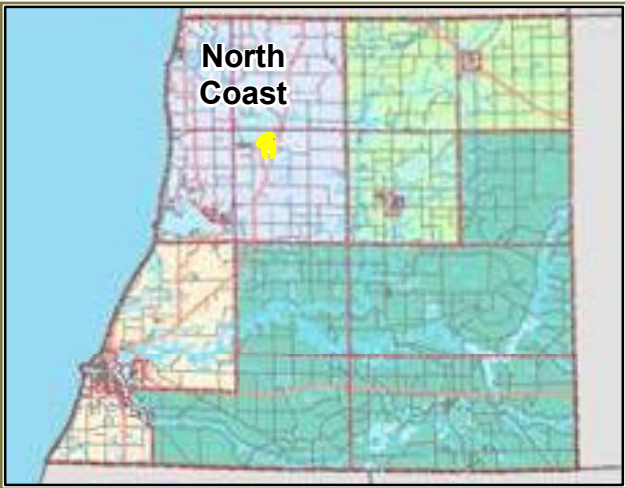
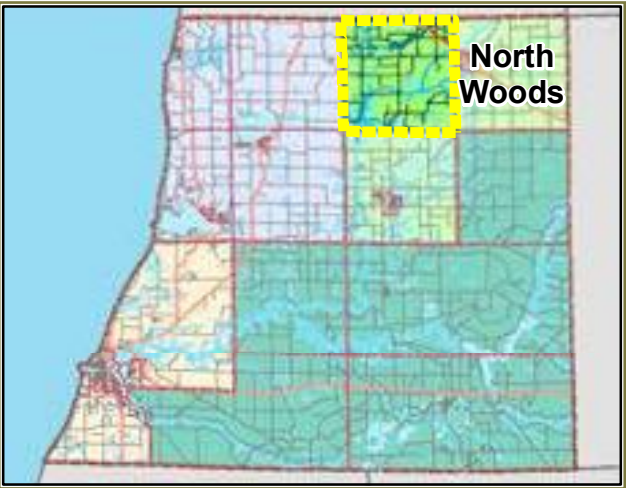


Image 7.6: Castle Beach, Bear Lake Village

North Woods Region



7.7 Springdale Township Goals and Projects

1. Goal : Improve access to our surface water resources

PROJECTS:

Access at Moore/County Line Rds. AND/OR Dzuibanek/Kurick Rds.:
Improve access to the Betsie River by creating an access point at Moore Road & County Line Road and or at Dzuibanek & Kurick roads. State land is present at both locations.

Universal Accessibility at Healy Lake State Forest Campground:
Make Healy Lake universally accessible for all users; consider becoming a part of the Explore the Shores program.

Fishing Platform:
Develop a fishing platform at Healy Lake for easier access to the water.

Goal 2: Improve clean drinking water access at the Healy Lake State Forest Campground

Add Electricity to the Campground
Run power a line into the campground.

Eliminate the Use of Hand Pumps at the Campground
Install a new electric water pump & well.

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

PROJECTS:

Township Railroad Grade Reuse:
Make the railroad grade a priority in developing the trail connections.

County-Wide Trail System Collaboration:
Continue to work collaboratively in developing the County wide trail system.

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



Image 7.7: Moore & County Line Unimproved Betsie River Access

North Woods

7.8 Cleon Township Goals and Projects:

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

PROJECTS:

Existing Railroad Grade:

Use the railroad grade as a trail for connections to Wexford County and Benzie County.

Trail Hub:

Locate a trail hub that will serve the convergence of trails from three counties

Blue Water Trail:

Support the Betsie River Blue Water Trail system

Cross Country Trail Connection:

Connect to the Betsie Valley Trail in Benzie County

2. Goal: Work corroboratively with Copemish Village and support recreation park improvements within the Village.

PROJECTS:

Annual Meetings:

Meet annually or biannually with the Village to discuss park improvements and to offer support.

Support Park Improvements:

The Village Parks located in Copemish serves the greater area of Cleon Township. Show support for park improvements by supporting grant applications with letters of support.

3. Goal: Work to develop a Township Picnic Area.

PROJECTS:

Picnic Area Development:

Develop a picnic area at the Township Hall and Fire Station with a pavilion shelter and picnic tables.

Image 7.8: First Creek, Cleon Township



North Woods Region

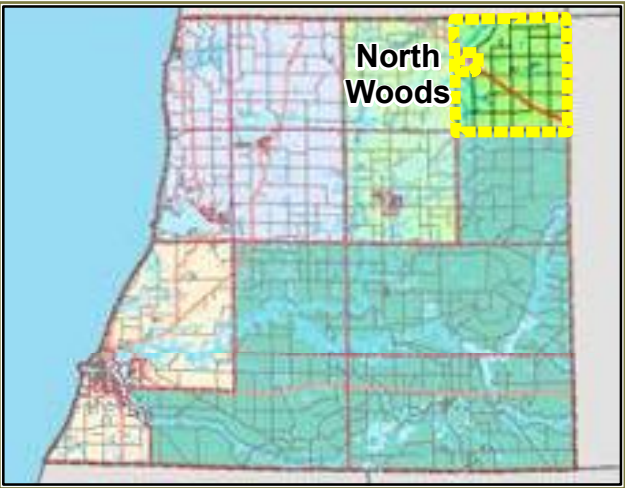
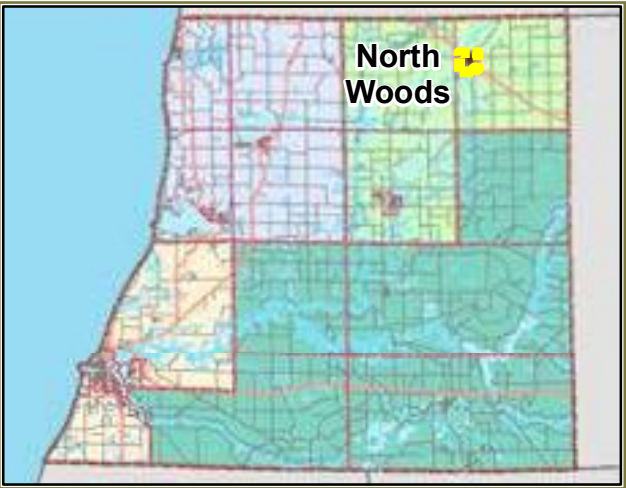


Image 7.9: Webber Walkway, Copemish Village



North Woods Region



7.9 Copemish Village Goals and Projects

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

PROJECTS:

Abandoned Railroad:

Acquire use of and improve the abandoned railroad bed in create a trail segment that connects to the County wide trail system and the Betsie Valley Trail system.

2. Goal: Improve recreation facilities

PROJECTS:

Recreation Site #70 Lewis Park:

Enlarge Lewis Park’s pavilion, create pathways around park, provide fresh drinking water, restrooms, new playground equipment, and ensure the Park is American with Disabilities Act compliant.

North Woods

7.10 Maple Grove Township Goals and Projects:

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

PROJECT:

Site Improvement on Bear Creek:
Create site improvements at Bear Creek utilizing sites #160 and/or #161.

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

PROJECT:

County-Wide Trail System Collaboration:
Continue to work collaboratively in developing the County wide trail system

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

PROJECT:

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

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

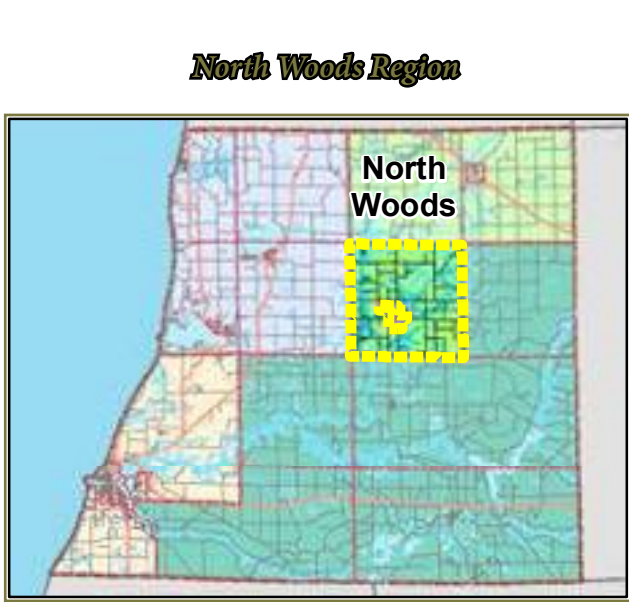
PROJECT:

40 Acre parcel Section 29:
Improve the KND property for multi use trails, snow shoeing, restroom facilities, shelter, parking, and to harvest the timber for revenue.

160 Acre Parcel Section 19:
Improve the KND property for multi-use trails, restroom facilities, parking, fishing placed-based learning opportunities, bird watching and events.



Image 7.10: Lemon Lake, Maple Grove Twp.



7.11 Kaleva Village Goals and Projects

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

PROJECT

County-Wide Trail System Collaboration:
Continue to work collaboratively in developing the County wide trail system.

2. Goal: Develop an eco-tourism economy

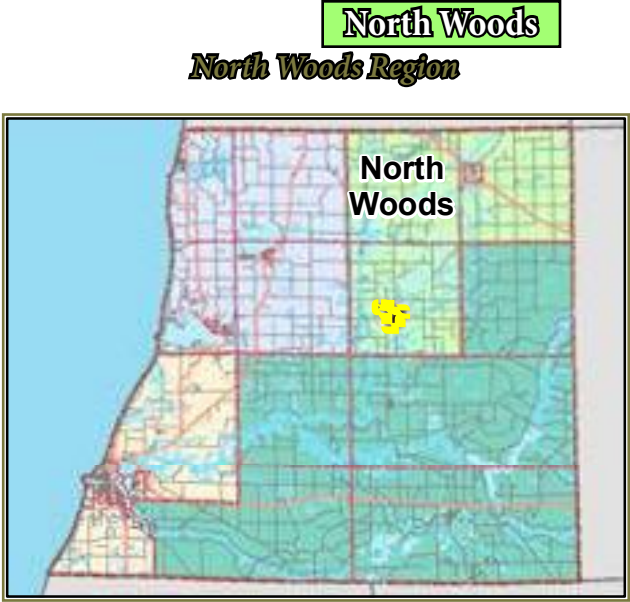
PROJECTS:

Meet with the Manistee County Visitor’s Bureau:
Meet with Visitors Bureau to educate them about Kaleva recreational opportunities

Marketing Materials:
Develop marketing materials to increase tourism



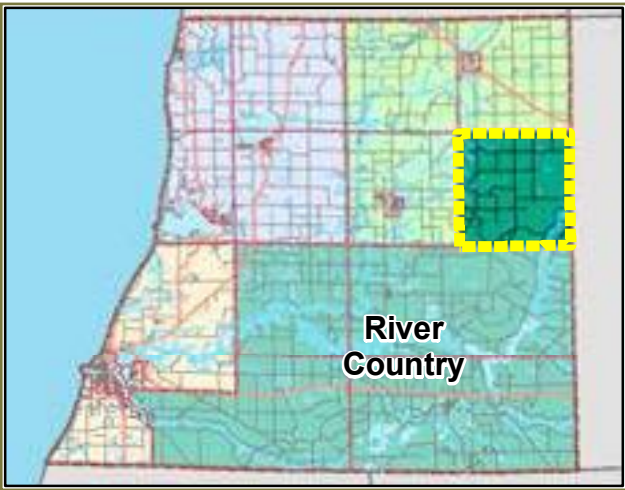
Image 7.11: Bottle House Museum, Kaleva Village



7.12 Marilla Township Goals and Projects:

1. Goal: Improve access to the Manistee River
PROJECTS:
Suspension Bridge Improvements: Improve the suspension bridge to ensure it is ADA compliant with improved parking
Woodpecker Creek Access Site: Improve access at Woodpecker Creek, improve boat slide and parking
Explore the Shores Site: Develop an Explore the Shores site on the Hodenpyle Stretch
Recreation Site #169: Hodenpyle North Tailwater Access and Canoe Portage: Upgrade boat launches to allow for easier access for canoes and drift boats.
2. Goal: Develop multi-use trails that are connected to a County wide trail system
PROJECTS:
County-Wide Trail System Collaboration: Continue to work collaboratively in developing the County wide trail system
Connecting Places: Link existing trails to the Marilla Township Hall
3. Goal: Develop an eco-tourism economy
PROJECT:
Ordinance Review: Evaluate zoning ordinances to ensure that eco-tourism relevant businesses are permitted

River Country Region

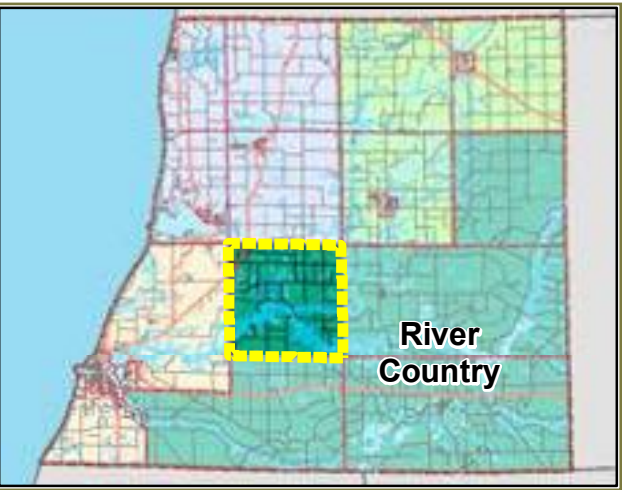


4. Goal: Promote and maintain recreational opportunities so that the Township is a year-round tourist destination
PROJECT:
Promotional Materials: Create and produce materials which point out the recreational opportunities within the Township
5. Goal: Improve existing recreation facilities
PROJECTS:
Recreation Site #175: O.D. Stark Memorial Forest: Develop hiking, snowshoe, and cross country ski trails on the Township owned 80 acres of land.
Recreation Site #173: Marilla North Country Trailhead: Improve existing parking, restrooms, and eliminate parking fees.
Recreation Site #171: Township Park: Install new toilets, pavilion, picnic tables, and basketball court.

7.13 Brown Township Goals and Projects:

1. Goal: Continued collaboration with all municipalities within the County.
PROJECTS:
Recreation Authority: Support research of a recreation authority which has representation of all municipalities and represents the County-wide recreation interests and development.
2. Goal: Improve Water Access
PROJECTS:
Explore the Shores Site: Explore the Shores Site on Chief Lake (They would also like to coordinate with Bear Lake Twp. in order to receive their support, but the most logical access site is located in Brown Twp.)
Recreation Site #36 Chief Lake Public Access: 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 enlarge area, and ensure that the facility meets Universal Design Standards.
Bear Creek Boat Launch: Support USFS restructuring of Bear Creek Boat Launch on the Manistee River
3. Goal: Create a community recreational gathering place.
PROJECTS:
Recreation Site #35 Township Hall: Improve the Township Hall in order to make it the place to gather for recreational purposes. Improvements include ensuring ADA access, build a picnic shelter, improve playground equipment, resurface parking lot, build a retaining wall on the north side near Coates Hwy.

River Country Region



4. Goal: Acquire land for recreation development.
PROJECTS:
Chief Creek Land Acquisition: Acquire land adjacent to the Township Hall on the west side (3 Acres +/-) that abuts Chief Creek (which is a trout stream of a size that can be fished).
5. Goal: Support Trail Development
PROJECTS:
Trail Implementation Team: Support establishment of a Trail Implementation Team which will look to identify and develop trail routes through Manistee County and Brown Township.
Bridge Development at Bear Creek: 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.
Collaborate with USFS: Coordinate with USFS for trail development and location of the trails developed.

7.14 Dickson Township Goals and Projects:

1. Goal: Improve parks
PROJECTS: <i>Baseball Field Lighting:</i> Move lighting at the baseball diamond <i>Volleyball Courts:</i> Install volleyball courts with a sand court <i>Archery Range:</i> Develop designated space both indoors and outdoors for an archery range
2. Goal: Develop multi-use trails that are connected to a County wide trail system
PROJECTS: <i>County-Wide Trail System Collaboration:</i> Continue to work collaboratively in developing the County wide trail system
3. Goal: Improve access to the Manistee River
PROJECTS: <i>River Fishing Platforms:</i> Develop river fishing platforms at key points on the Manistee River for easier access to the water <i>Blacksmith Bayou:</i> Plough the boat launch in the winter months at Blacksmith Bayou <i>Explore the Shores Site:</i> Further development of the Explore the Shores site at Tippy Dam to include a Universally Accessible Kayak Launch. <i>Explore the Shores Site:</i> Development of an Explore the Shores site at the USFS High Bridge Access to include a Universally Accessible Kayak Launch.

River Country Region

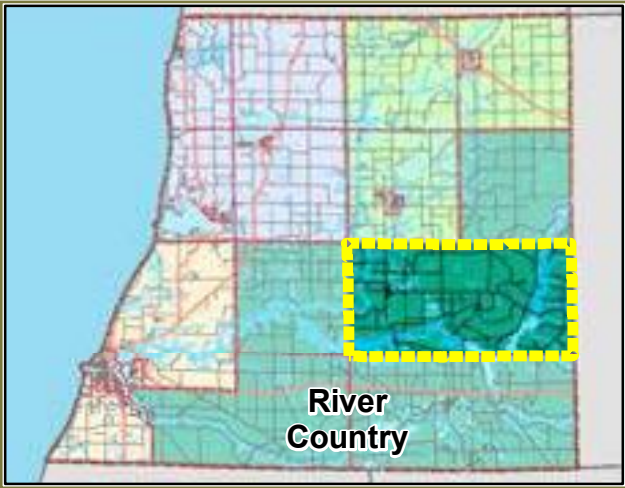
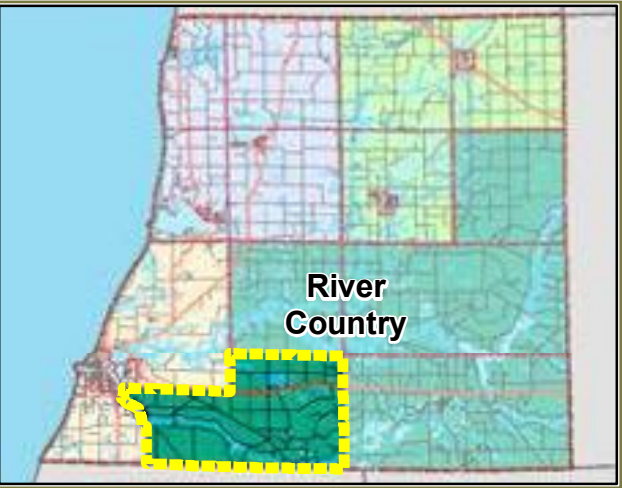


Image 7.12: Red Bridge Color Viewing, Dickson Twp.

7.15 Stronach Township Goals and Projects:

1. Goal: Increase awareness about natural resource and recreational opportunities
PROJECTS: <i>Visitors Bureau Meeting:</i> Meet with Visitors Bureau to educate them about the Township recreational opportunities <i>Brainstorming Meeting:</i> Explore ways that the Township can use technology to promote recreation
1. Goal: Develop multi-use trails that are connected to a County wide trail system
PROJECTS: <i>County-Wide Trail System:</i> Continue to work collaboratively to develop a County wide trail system <i>Skocelas Bike Lane:</i> Expand and improve the shoulder on Skocelas Road to use for a bike lane.
2. Goal: Improve parks
PROJECTS: <i>Stronach Park Improvements:</i> Add bleachers, develop ADA accessible restrooms and improve parking at Stronach Park with a paved parking area along Stronach Road. <i>Claybank Park:</i> Improve Claybank Park by adding grills, graveling the parking lot and driveway, and developing the park as a trailhead. <i>Long Term Maintenance and Funding Planning:</i> Plan for maintenance and funding of recreational facilities <i>Stronach Boat Launch on Manistee Lake Improvements:</i> Develop a fish cleaning station at the boat launch which would be convenient for those fishing Manistee Lake and the Little Manistee River.

River Country Region



3. Goal: Develop an eco-tourism economy
PROJECTS: <i>Ordinance Review:</i> Evaluate zoning ordinances to ensure that eco-tourism relevant businesses are permitted



Image 7.13: Claybank Park Signage, Stronach Twp.

River Country

7.16 Norman Township Goals and Projects:

1. Goal: Increase awareness about natural resource and recreational opportunities

PROJECTS:

Visitors Bureau Meeting:

Meet with Visitors Bureau to further educate them about the Township recreational opportunities

1. Goal: Support work for establishment of trail connections to neighboring communities

PROJECTS:

County-Wide Trail System:

Continue to work collaboratively to develop a County wide trail system

Trail Leadership Team:

Continue to support and have a representative serve on a trail planning and implementation team

2. Goal: Park improvements

PROJECTS:

Site #188 Norman Township Tippy Pond Boat Launch:

Support development of a universally accessible fishing platform.

3. Goal: Rustic trails and blueways

PROJECTS:

Pine River Pathway:

Encourage and support development of a back-country loop trail with campsites on USFS lands around the Pine River.

Pine River Blueway:

Further promote the beauty of the Pine River as a blueway trail.

No-Trace Education:

Support education efforts for “leave no-trace” practices for visitors and residents.

River Country Region

River Country

Image 7.14: Crystal Lake, Norman Twp.

Manistee Area

7.17 Manistee Township Goals and Projects:

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

PROJECTS:

Recreation Site #145 Bar Lake Outlet:

Improve parking at Bar Lake Outlet by creating a safer parking area

Township Boat Launch (Manistee River):

Support of establishment of a boat launch with fishing platform at the M-55 Hole, on Manistee State Game Area Lands behind Meijer.

Wildlife Viewing Platform & Parking:

Create improved access and parking to the Manistee State Game Area wildlife viewing platform. Work in collaboration and support the DNR as they work to revitalize the Manistee Marsh.

Lake Michigan Access:

Explore options for increasing access to Lake Michigan. Options including increased access to Lake Michigan at Orchard Beach State Park would alleviate excessive use of the Bar Lake Outlet.

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

PROJECTS:

Off-Road Bike Path:

Create a separate bike path from the roads giving careful consideration to incorporating Zimmerman Lane

Multi-User (Non-motorized/Snowmobile) Bridge Along M-55:

Build a multi-user bridge across the Manistee River adjacent to M-55

Multi-Use Paths:

Create paths that will accommodate cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling trails

Public Safety:

Improve safety by creating safe crossing areas across large roads with specific focus on the Lakeshore Road and Memorial Parkway intersection

Manistee Area

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Manistee Area

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

PROJECTS:

Way-finding Committee:

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

4. Goal: Improve existing recreation facilities.

PROJECTS:

Recreation Site #137 M-55 Viewing Platform:

Improve the parking and access to the Manistee State Game Area off M-55.

Recreation Sites #146 Maplewood, #147 Balsam, #154 Cottonwood, AND #149 Bar Lake Launch:

Evaluate the sites to determine frequency of use and then take steps accordingly to improve the site based on what the site is used for and how often the site is used.

Recreation Sites #150 Poplar, #151 Birch, #152 Right-of-Way, #153 Right-of-Way:

Improve Parking

Recreation Site #148 Manistee Twp. Park at Twp. Hall

Improve tennis courts, picnic area, ball field, playground and parking.

140

141

7.18 Eastlake Village Goals and Projects:

1. Goal: Improve parks

PROJECTS:

Explore the Shores:
Develop an Explore the Shores site.

Johnson Field:
Improve Johnson Field by installing cameras, ensuring accessibility for all users, providing adequate parking, improving landscaping and lighting, and building a gazebo.

Nature Walk:
Improve Nature Walk by ensuring accessibility for all users, providing adequate parking, develop a gazebo or picnic area.

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

PROJECTS:

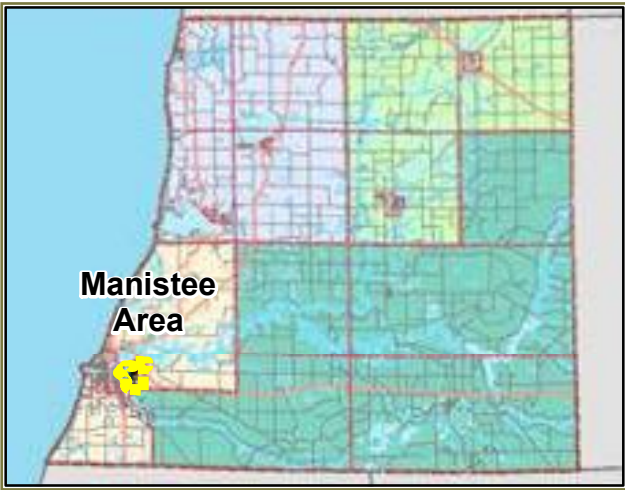
County-Wide Trail System Collaboration:
Continue to work collaboratively in developing the County wide trail system

Snowmobile Route:
Develop a “snowmobile route” with posted signage from Nature Walk trail throughout the Village

Making Connections Within the Community:
Explore and consider implementation of a trail or walkway providing access to Penny Park/Manistee Lake shoreline from Village residential areas.

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

PROJECTS:

Park Improvement Committee:
Appoint a 5-7 member recreation committee to oversee park improvements and activities and make recommendations on park activities and budget to the Village Council



Image 7.15: Tree Tunnel, Eastlake Village

Manistee Area

7.19 City of Manistee Goals and Projects:

1. Goal: Improve the parks

PROJECTS:

Park Improvements:
See the City of Manistee Park Improvements 2016 Table for specific park improvements. The park improvements listed are improvements that need to be taken to improve the specific park mentioned. (See Table 7.1)

2. Goal: Acquire land for future recreational opportunities

PROJECTS:

Trail Route Around Manistee Lake:
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.

Splash Pad Park:
Acquire property downtown to build a splash pad park.

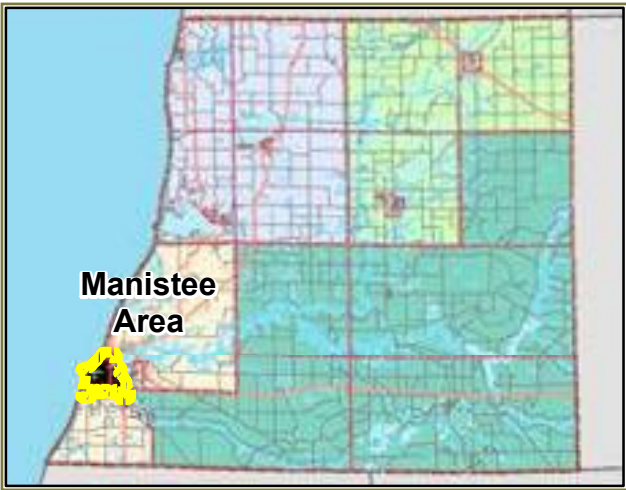
Consumers Property-Arthur Street Parcel:
Acquire the Consumers Property- Arthur Street Parcel #51-101-300-01 which is a 13.6 acre parcel for the purpose of overflow parking for the Arthur Street Boat Launch and possible location for a trail segment.

Mack Park:
Acquire the Morton Salt Inc. Property (portion that is south of the park) part of Parcel #06-424-709-01 to allow for the expansion of Mack Park

Ninth Street Boat Launch:
Acquire the Consumers Power Company Parcel #51-712-475-01 and Morton Salt Parcel #51-712-150-01 in order to make improvements to the Ninth Street Boat Launch and in reserve for the adjacent City of Manistee Waste Water Treatment Facility located north of the launch

North Riverwalk/Memorial Park:
Acquire the property west of Washington Street to Harbor Village Channel to

Manistee Area Region



extend Riverwalk to the Harbor Village Channel

South Riverwalk-Various Parcels:
Acquire the property(s) east of the Chamber of Commerce building in order to complete the Riverwalk through and around the Peninsula to the east portion of Manistee Lake ultimately connecting to a County wide trail system

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

PROJECTS:

Trail Development:
Create a network of trails and bike paths, on road and off road routes, that features the best of Manistee connecting Lake Michigan, River Street, neighborhoods, wooded areas, parks, and any areas considered “Best of...” that have facilities such as trash receptacles, signage, ADA compliant bathrooms, and fitness stations at key locations.

County-Wide Trail System Collaboration:
Continue to work with collaboratively in developing the County wide trail system.

Safe Pedestrian Crossings:
Improve safety by creating safe crossing areas across large roads with specific focus on US 31 between 8th Street and Merkey Road

Become a part of the Blue Water Trail network.

Develop a “snowmobile route” with way-finding signage that is connected to the great Manistee County Snowmobile Trail System.

PROJECTS:

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.

Create a canoe and kayak launch at the south portion of Riverwalk

Create an area within the City for crewing

Create an universally accessible floating dock at the Municipal Marina

Create a pier on Man Made Lake and improve the pier at Douglas Park and the Ninth Street Boat Launch

PROJECTS:

Encourage the start up of an outdoor rental business

Meet with the visitors bureau to discuss further information concerning recreation.

PROJECTS:

Support research of a County wide Recreation Authority

PROJECTS

Evaluate and improve gaps in programming for youth.

Evaluate and improve gaps in programming for adults.

PROJECTS:

Create a community ice arena

Create a specific park accessible for all kids with no barriers and a wheelchair accessible playground structure

Build an outdoor amphitheater.

Build an outdoor pool

Build a community recreation center with a climbing wall, indoor pool, childcare, etc.

City of Manistee Park Improvement Table

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Table 7.1: City of Manistee Park Improvement Table

7.20 Charter Township of Filer
Goals and Projects:

1. Goal: Improve parks

PROJECTS:

Specific Park Improvements:
See the Filer Township Park Improvements 2016 table for specific park improvements. The park improvements listed are improvements that need to be taken to improve the specific park mentioned. (See Table 7.2)

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

PROJECTS:

Separate Pathway From Roadway:
Create a separate bike path from the roads

Safe Pedestrian Crossings:
Improve safety by creating safe crossing areas across large roads

Railroad:
If the existing railroad is relocated or other old railroad beds become available (Indian Trail), utilize the land for trails.

Paved Road Shoulder Loop Trail:
Create a looped paved road shoulder trail loop that connects Red Apple Road, Fox Farm Road, and Wildwood Roads.

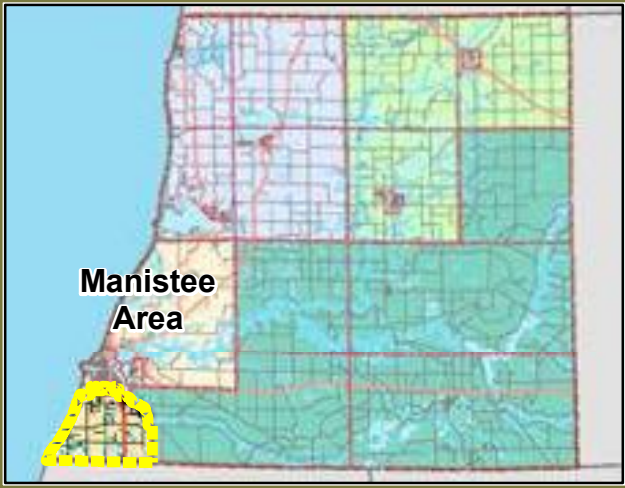
Connect Trail to School Facilities:
Create a trail connection throughout the community to school facilities.

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

PROJECTS:

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

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GOAL: PARK IMPROVEMENTS DESIRED	Benches	Bike Rack	Boardwalk and 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 Recepticles
Canfield Lake Boat Launch	•							•							•
Filer City Park Filer	•	•													
Township Hall	•	•													
Filer Township Rec Center	•	•		•						•	•				
Magoon Creek		•	•		•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	
Oak Hill Park	•	•													
Sundling Park	•	•									•				

Table 7.2: Filer Twp. Park Improvement Table

7.21 Manistee Area Public Schools
Goals and Projects:

1. Goal: Create a new “Centennial” community track venue

PROJECTS:

Track Development:
Construct an eight lane competitive track with internal multi-purpose field for Manistee Recreation Association/Community Events. Amenities would include 1,500 seating capacity, restrooms, concessions and supporting structures.

2. Goal: Create a new community softball field and venue

PROJECTS:

Softball Field Development:
Construct a new community softball field adjacent to the current complex. Amenities would include a 400 person seating capacity with tournament status and supporting structures.

3. Goal: Create a new community tennis court complex

PROJECTS:

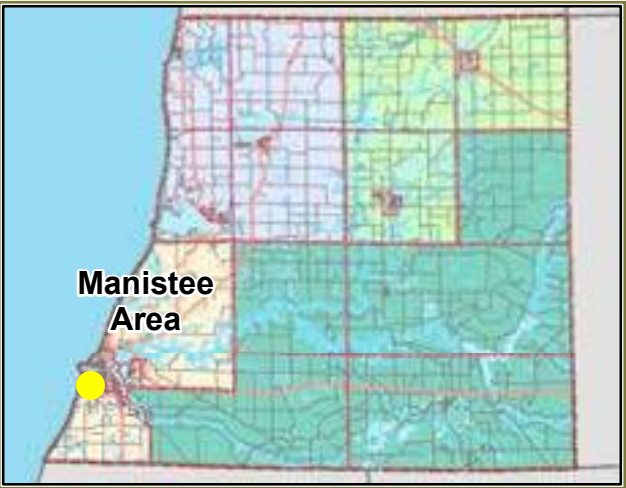
Tennis Court Development:
Construct a new 8 court tennis complex. Amenities would include 400 person seating capacity with tournament status and supporting structures.

4. Goal: Create a winter park with sledding hill

PROJECTS:

Sledding Hill/Winter Park Development:
Construct a 75 yard sledding hill with stairway system, benches, warming area and parking.

Manistee Area Region



5. Goal: A campus fitness trail way system with 12 fitness stations

PROJECTS:

Internal Campus Fitness Trail Development:
Contract 1.5 to 2 miles of trail with fitness stations

Campus and Twelfth Street Fitness Trail Development:
Construct 2 to 2.5 miles of trail with fitness stations

Campus, Twelfth Street and City Property Fitness Trail Development:
Construct 2.5 to 3 miles of trail with fitness stations and rest stations

6. Goal: Create trailhead connectors, and proposed south trail corridor development

PROJECTS:

Connection of internal fitness trail system with proposed off campus trails:
The internal fitness trail project outlined under goal #3 should be connected with future on-road and off-road trail systems proposed for Merkey Road, Cherry Street, Twelfth Street and Maple Street.

7. Goal: Site improvements at Kennedy Elementary
PROJECTS:
<i>Kennedy Elementary School Outdoor Site Improvements:</i> Creation of a football/soccer field and a multi-station playground
<i>Kennedy Elementary School Indoor Site Improvements:</i> 1,000 seat capacity gymnasium
8. Goal: Site improvements at Jefferson Elementary
PROJECTS:
<i>Jefferson Elementary School Outdoor Site Improvements:</i> Creation of a multi-station playground
<i>Jefferson Elementary School Indoor Site Improvements:</i> 150 seat capacity gymnasium
9. Goal: Site Improvements at Madison Elementary
PROJECTS:
<i>Madison Elementary School Outdoor Site Improvements:</i> Creation of a multi-station playground and activity fields
<i>Madison Elementary School Indoor Site Improvements:</i> 125 seat capacity gymnasium



Image 7.16: Auditorium, Manistee High School



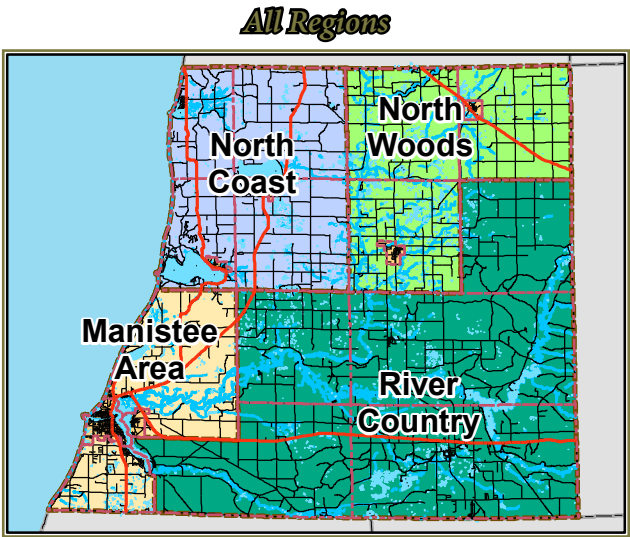
Image 7.17: Paine Aquatic Center, Manistee High School



Image 7.18: Commons Area, Manistee High School

7.22 Manistee County Goals and Projects:

1. Goal: The Review, Update and Implement the 5-Year Manistee County Recreation Plan
OUTCOME: Identified recreational opportunities based upon natural resources features/systems.
PROJECTS:
1. <u>NATURAL RESOURCES FEATURES/SYSTEMS MAP</u> Create a map that identifies the large natural resource features/systems found within the County (i.e. Manistee River, DNR land, USFS land, Lake Michigan shoreline)
2. <u>GOALS ASSOCIATED WITH NATURAL RESOURCES FEATURES</u> Allocate and assign the various goals, where appropriate, identified by each community to the natural resource features/systems map.
3. <u>FUNDING BASED ON NATURAL RESOURCE FEATURES/SYSTEM MAP</u> Use the Natural Resource Features/Systems and Community Goals Map to seek funding sources for implementation.
OUTCOME: A dedicated organization that is responsible for recreation within the County.
PROJECT:
4. <u>RECREATION AUTHORITY</u> Educate and inform community leaders about the use of recreation authorities in the State of Michigan.
OUTCOME: The development of recreation committees: Land & Water Access Committee, Natural Resource Stewardship Committee, Trails Committee, Funding Committee, Economic Development Committee, Recreational Opportunities: Parks, Programming, Facilities Committee, Collaboration & Partnerships Committee.
PROJECT:
5. <u>RECREATION SUMMIT</u> Convene and host a Recreation Summit to seek volunteers for the Committees and to assist them in getting started.



OUTCOME: Empowered residents who are able to implement the Recreation Plan
PROJECT:
6. <u>GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP</u> Teach people how to write grants by hosting a grant writing workshop.
7. <u>DNR GRANTS COORDINATOR</u> Invite the DNR Grants Coordinator to Manistee County to speak and education the communities about recreation, grants, and other implementation opportunities.
8. <u>SHARED-USE & COMMUNITY PARTNERS AGREEMENTS</u> Provide communities with the Shared-Use and Community Partners Agreements
OUTCOME: Zoning Ordinances and Master Plans that reflect the goals of the Manistee County Recreation Plan.
PROJECT:
9. <u>PLANNING AND ZONING</u> The County Planning Commission will review all new zoning ordinance and master plans, and their amendments, with the goals of the Manistee County Recreation Plan as a bench mark for leading practices specifically looking to ensure that concepts such as walkability, forming connections and developing opportunities to create pathways/ trails, protection of natural resources, creating access to recreational assets, and watershed protection are included and addressed.