



Action Program

With goals and objectives in place, the Steering Committee developed the following action program to work toward implementation of those goals over the next five years. Since Manistee County does not own any developed park land of its own, the majority of efforts will be spent on developing new facilities on existing county property, coordinating activity between various agencies and organizations to improve parks owned by other entities, promoting non-motorized trail linkages throughout the county, and securing appropriate funding for countywide recreational activities.

All of the action items that follow relate directly to the goals in the previous section, and at the time of adoption of this plan, reflect the primary recreational activities to be initiated over the next five years by the Planning Commission and other Manistee County agencies and stakeholders.

Action Items

A) Establish a recreation group such as an authority, parks commission, or advisory group for Manistee County that reflects the diversity and represents the political entities of the entire county.

Implements the following goals:

- Create community awareness of countywide recreational opportunities and promote them to citizens and tourists (Goal 1).
- Identify and encourage accessibility improvements at recreational assets by incorporating Universal Design in all new updates and when upgrading existing amenities, as appropriate (Goal 2).
- Further develop a multi-use pathway system throughout Manistee County (Goal 3).
- Promote and provide diverse recreational opportunities to satisfy all age groups and levels of ability (Goal 4).
- Preserve, protect, and enhance natural, cultural, and historical resources by maintaining their significance within Manistee County, while minimizing environmental impacts (Goal 5).

Responsible Parties: Manistee County Planning Commission, Manistee Recreation Authority.

Completion Date: By the end of 2008.

B) Meet and form a group that is responsible for the development of the recreational asset database and guidebook.

Implements the following goal:

- Create community awareness of countywide recreational opportunities and promote them to citizens and tourists (Goal 1).

Responsible Parties: Manistee County Planning Commission, Manistee County Board of Commissioners, newly-formed recreation group described in Action Item A.

Completion Date: Database and guidebook completed by the end of 2009.

C) Continue to seek funding for universal access to select lakes and rivers.

Implements the following goal:

- Identify and encourage accessibility improvements at recreational assets by incorporating Universal Design in all new updates and when upgrading existing amenities, as appropriate (Goal 2).

Responsible Parties: Envision Accessible Manistee County Task Force, Manistee County Planning Commission, various local municipalities, state and federal agencies.

Completion Date: Continuous and for the term of the recreation plan through 2013.

D) Develop a countywide pathway system using existing resources already developed as base information. Work at the county level to secure path easements.

Implements the following goal:

- Further develop a multi-use pathway system throughout Manistee County (Goal 3).

Responsible Parties: Manistee County Planning Commission, Manistee County Board of Commissioners, Manistee County Road Commission, various local municipalities, newly-formed recreation group described in Action Item A.

Completion Date: Continuous and for the term of the recreation plan through 2013.

E) Acquire additional land or develop existing county property holdings for use as county parks.

Implements the following goals:

- Promote and provide diverse recreational opportunities to satisfy all age groups and levels of ability (Goal 4).
- Preserve, protect, and enhance natural, cultural, and historical resources by maintaining their significance within Manistee County, while minimizing environmental impacts (Goal 5).

Responsible Parties: Manistee County Planning Commission, Manistee County Board of Commissioners, newly-formed recreation group described in Action Item A.

Completion Date: Continuous and for the term of the recreation plan through 2013.

F) Investigate alternative funding sources for long-term maintenance and funding for countywide recreation.

Implements the following goals:

- Promote and provide diverse recreational opportunities to satisfy all age groups and levels of ability (Goal 4).

Responsible Parties: Alliance for Economic Success, newly-formed recreation group described in Action Item A.

Completion Date: Completed by the end of 2009.

Funding Opportunities

Potential funding sources from outside entities for recreation, non-motorized, acquisition, and environmental restoration projects change and evolve on a regular basis.

Understanding available funding programs, their requirements and deadlines requires continuous monitoring. A few of the more common funding sources have been detailed here as a reference and resource. These are in addition to traditional funding methods such as the general fund.

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) provides funding for both the purchase of land for recreation or protection of land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty and the appropriate development of land for public outdoor recreation use. Goals of the program are to:

- 1) Protect Michigan’s natural resources and provide for their access, public use and enjoyment,
- 2) Provide public access to Michigan’s water bodies, particularly the Great Lakes, and facilitate their recreation use,
- 3) Meet regional, county and community needs for outdoor recreation opportunities,
- 4) Improve the opportunities for outdoor recreation in Michigan’s urban areas and,
- 5) Stimulate Michigan’s economy through recreation-related tourism and community revitalization.

All proposals for grants must include a local match of at least 25% of the total project cost. There is no minimum or maximum for acquisition projects. For development projects, the minimum funding request is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$500,000. Applications are due

in April and August for acquisition projects, and in April for development projects. The MDNR administers the \$20-\$25 million program.

Land and Water Conservation Fund The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federal appropriation to the National Park Service who distributes funds to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for land acquisition and development of outdoor recreation facilities. Due to limited funds within this program, the MDNR has focused funding on outdoor development projects. Applications are due in April and the LWCF program requires a 50% local match. The LWCF program uses a similar application like the MNRTF program.

Transportation Enhancement Funds Transportation Enhancements (TE) activities are federally funded, community-based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the transportation infrastructure. To be eligible, a project must fall into one of the 12 TE activities and relate to surface transportation. Some activities that relate to the implementation of this Parks & Recreation Master Plan include the provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles such as bike lanes, shared use paths ten-feet wide or greater, path/trail user amenities, and grade separations. The current federal bill that authorizes surface transportation spending through 2010 is called the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). In Michigan, MDOT administers the program.

Access to Recreation Access to Recreation projects will provide universal access for people of all abilities to a wide variety of recreation opportunities, such as nature viewing and photography areas, hiking trails, scenic outlooks, waterfalls and water activities of all kinds, beaches, fishing and boating, playgrounds, picnic areas, campgrounds, and much more. There are two primary grant programs under this project:

- 1) *Recreation Access Matching Grant*: Provides up to 50% matching funds (up to \$10,000) for the purchase of universally accessible recreation equipment and materials (such as all-terrain hiking wheelchairs, pool lifts, accessible playground surface, transfer systems, beach access mats, trail surface enhancements, accessible picnic tables, etc.) that enhance recreation participation by people with disabilities.

- 2) *Accessible by Design Awards*: Designed to stimulate the development of creative universally designed recreation experiences that invite, welcome, and support the inclusion of all people of all abilities. Winning designs will demonstrate how going above and beyond the minimum requirements of the ADA can create greater access and usability for all people of all abilities in the community. Winning designs will be awarded cash prizes to build the projects. Awards up to \$250,000 and 25% minimum match.

DEQ Coastal Management Program The Department of Environmental Quality administers grants to qualifying communities and organizations through its Coastal Management program. The Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), passed in 1972, enables Michigan to develop a coastal management program to improve protection of sensitive shoreline resources, to identify coastal areas appropriate for development, to designate areas hazardous to development, and to improve public access to the coastline. Grants are passed through each year to local communities and non-profit organizations located on the Great Lakes shoreline for a variety of projects. Michigan's coastal zone boundary extends a minimum of 1,000 feet inland from the Ordinary High Water Mark of the Great Lakes and connecting channels, or further to include coastal lakes, river mouths and bays, floodplains, coastal wetlands, designated sand dunes, public parks, and recreation areas. All of the approximately 300 shoreline communities that are located within the coastal boundary are eligible to participate in the program. An estimated 40 projects are approved for funding each year, ranging up to \$50,000 of federal funding. Section 306 and 306A of the CZMA are the two most common types of grants available through the Coastal Program and require match in an amount equal to the grant. Project selection is competitive and is based on how well each project meets Coastal Program objectives. Section 306 funds are used for planning activities, site design, engineering, feasibility and natural features studies, historic preservation projects, coastal education materials, developing portions of local zoning ordinances, master planning of coastal significance, and waterfront redevelopment studies. Section 306A funds are used for low-cost construction projects such as resource protection, trails, boardwalks, scenic overlooks, education and/or interpretive displays, restoration of historic coastal structures, and barrier-free retrofitting.

The Trust for Public Land Founded in 1972, the Trust for Public Land (TPL) is the only national non-profit working exclusively to protect land for human enjoyment and well-being. TPL helps conserve land for recreation and spiritual nourishment and to improve the health and quality of life of American communities. TPL's legal and real estate specialists work with landowners, government agencies, and community groups to:

- 1) Create urban parks, gardens, greenways, and riverways,
- 2) Build livable communities by setting aside open space in the path of growth,
- 3) Conserve land for watershed protection, scenic beauty, and close-to-home recreation, and
- 4) Safeguard the character of communities by preserving historic landmarks and landscapes.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality: Nonpoint Source Pollution Control

Grants – Clean Michigan Initiative and 319 Program The mission of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program is to:

- 1) Proactively reduce and prevent nonpoint sources of pollution in order to provide for healthy and diverse aquatic ecosystems, protect public health, and enhance environmentally compatible recreation opportunities,
- 2) Develop public recognition of the value of Michigan's lakes, streams, wetlands and groundwater, and
- 3) Encourage stewardship of these resources.

The CMI and 319 programs are water quality grants offered by the Environmental Science and Services Division (ESSD) of the DEQ using funding from Section 319(h) of the federal Clean Water Act, and from the Clean Michigan Initiative Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grants and Clean Water Fund. Approximately \$2.6 million from federal funding and approximately \$3.1 million of CMI funding was available in 2006. Proposals are due to the DEQ in March. The programs cover three categories of project types:

- 1) Projects for the development of watershed management plans. Plans developed under this category must meet DEQ and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) criteria on watershed management planning.
- 2) Projects implementing elements of approved watershed management plans which control nonpoint sources of pollution. Watershed plans must meet USEPA criteria and be previously approved under the Clean Michigan Initiative criteria.

- 3) Projects implementing water quality elements contained in plans developed under a Watershed-Based Municipal Storm Water Permit (Voluntary Storm Water Permit).

Safe Routes to School The Safe Routes to School program (SR2S) is a national movement to make it safe, convenient and fun for children to bicycle and walk to school. When routes are safe, walking or biking to and from school is an easy way to get the regular physical activity children need to succeed. In Michigan, the program is sponsored by the Michigan Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and has gained momentum over the past few years. With the passage of the federal transportation legislation in 2005, Michigan's SR2S program will make schools eligible for transportation enhancement funds, providing for infrastructure improvements and education campaigns. The purpose of the program as defined in the federal legislation is:

- 1) To enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school,
- 2) To make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age,
- 3) To facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

The program authorizes \$612 million over the five fiscal years beginning with 2005. MDOT estimates that Michigan's total apportionment over the five years will be roughly \$19 million. Schools must be registered, attend a day long training session, and develop a Walking Audit in order to be eligible to apply. SR2S funding is 100% federal with no required local match. The rules state 70% of the funding must be used for infrastructure projects, 10% for non-infrastructure projects, and 20% for either.

Great Lakes Fishery Trust The mission of Great Lakes Fishery Trust (GLFT) is to provide funding to enhance, protect and rehabilitate Great Lakes fishery resources. A primary objective is to improve or create shore-based Great Lakes recreational access. Projects must be located on the Great Lakes or lower portions of major tributaries. Matching funds are not required, but projects with local funding will be favored. Applications are due in early September.