

Recreation Grant History

Because Manistee County does not own or operate any parks, it has not received any grants from DNR-administered grant programs. The following communities in Manistee County have received grants in the past from the DNR:

- Arcadia Township: Marina Expansion, project # TF1027, acquisition, \$95,000
- Arcadia Township: South Beach, project # TF99-127, acquisition, \$834,759
- Filer Township: Magoon Creek, project # TF390, acquisition, \$150,000
- City of Manistee: Riverwalk West, project # TF91-147, development, \$375,000
- City of Manistee: Riverfront Park, project # TF94-240, development, \$375,000
- City of Manistee: Man Made Lake, project # TF07-040, acquisition, \$2,015,000
- Manistee Township: Bar Lake Outlet, project # TF1050, acquisition, \$17,500



Freshwater fishing is one of the top 30 sports in the nation, with a growth of about 3.1% in participation between 2005 and 2006.

Accessibility Assessment

Creating a park system that is safe, accessible and usable to all individuals within the community, including those with disabilities, is essential. Data from the U. S. Census Bureau indicate that in 2000 about 19.4% of the resident population over the age of 5 in Manistee County had a disability. This is slightly higher than the State of Michigan on the whole. For comparison, Michigan had a disability rate of about 18.7% at the time of the 2000 Census count. Figure 11 shows statistics for individual communities in the county.

	Population	Disability Status (population 5 years and over)	Percent of Community Population	Percent of County Disabled Population
Arcadia Township	621	118	19.7%	2.5%
Bear Lake Township	1,269	220	15.1%	3.3%
Brown Township	712	166	23.4%	3.5%
Cleon Township	700	175	20.3%	2.7%
Dickson Township	929	251	29.6%	5.3%
Filer Charter Township	2,208	480	22.5%	10.1%
Manistee Township	3,323	520	19.0%	8.6%
Maple Grove Township	776	256	21.1%	3.6%
Marilla Township	362	78	22.8%	1.6%
Norman Township	1,676	464	29.5%	9.7%
Onkama Township	867	278	18.9%	3.0%
Pleasanton Township	817	189	24.1%	4.0%
Springdale Township	730	137	20.8%	2.9%
Stronach Township	804	148	19.5%	3.1%
Village of Bear Lake	318	61	19.6%	1.3%
Village of Copemish	232	47	20.4%	1.0%
Village of East Lake	441	110	26.3%	2.3%
Village of Kaleva	509	84	17.0%	1.8%
Village of Onkama	647	134	21.8%	2.8%
Manistee City	6,586	1,282	20.9%	26.9%
Manistee County	24,527	4,762	19.4%	100%

Figure 11: Disability status of the population over the age of 5. (Data: 2000 Census.)

Since Manistee County does not own any parks, an accessibility assessment was not performed. Future county land acquisition and recreational improvements should be handicapped-accessible and usable, based on ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) guidelines. Considerations for accessible parking, pathways, restrooms, activity areas, amenities, and signage are critical when applying for grants to the DNR.

It should also be noted that in 2007 the Alliance for Economic Success, with a grant awarded by the Easter Seals organization, completed the *Envision Accessible Manistee County* report. The main goal was to engage the community in developing an action plan for addressing the needs and inclusion of people with disabilities countywide. One of the report's recommendations was to adopt the following vision statement: "To make Manistee County the premier destination in the world for those requiring universal access to recreation, with an emphasis upon access to the county's Lake Michigan shoreline and its miles of lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands." Some of the recreation-related outcomes to be yielded from this effort include the development of a countywide recreation program that identifies current assets that serve people with disabilities and the development of new opportunities for people with disabilities that provide access to select lakes in the county.

According to the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** in a report called *2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation: State Overview* that was recently released:

- In Michigan, fishing ranked highest for total expenditures, at \$1.6 billion. Other activities included hunting (\$0.9 billion) and wildlife watching (\$1.5 billion).
- Among the 50 states, Michigan ranks fifth in terms of the total number of in-state anglers, with 1.4 million. At the top are Florida, Texas, California, and Minnesota.
- Over one-third of Michigan residents are considered "wildlife watchers" (38%).

For Manistee County, with its 25 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, 9 inland lakes over 50 acres in size, and 276 miles of rivers and streams, these findings highlight the importance of recreation and associated activities to the development of the county.

Comparison to Standards

If Manistee County owned and operated their own parks and recreation facilities, it would be helpful to compare the county's system to various standards and benchmarks. General recreation guidelines suggest there should be 5 to 10 acres of park land per 1,000

residents. This means Manistee County, with a population of 24,527 should have between 122 and 245 acres of park land to meet the general guidelines. This analysis does not account for the vast array of recreational assets already provided by other municipalities and agencies that were detailed earlier in the list of recreational assets. Manistee County can optimize the recreational resources available to all residents in the county by supporting recreation provided by these entities.

Trends

While the analysis under the previous sections provides an excellent start in understanding how the recreational assets in Manistee County compare to DNR-recommended standards, it does not provide a complete picture. Data from the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA) is another way to understand recreation trends and potentially plan for future recreational needs. The SGMA conducts annual surveys that analyze the size of sports product markets in order to determine sports participation trends. The definition of *participation* includes persons six years and older who have participated in the activity at least once during the year of the survey. Data from the latest SGMA survey show that freshwater fishing, camping, bicycling, and hiking were among the top 30 sports by participation in the United States in 2006. These activities are already popular in Manistee County and can be readily performed at various locations within the county.

Improvements to campgrounds, parks, and other destinations that facilitate the enjoyment of fishing, camping, bicycling, and hiking will serve to enhance those experiences, and can also act as a driver for economic development by attracting additional tourists to Manistee County. Already, according to the Manistee County Tourism Profile compiled by Michigan State University Extension in 2001, Manistee County ranks sixth in regards to the market share of the most frequently visited counties by campers to Michigan. These data are summarized in Appendix C and show that of the 32 campgrounds in Manistee County, 24 are commercially operated (75%), six are located on state and federal property (19%), and two are owned by local municipal governments (6%). Additional information about the total number of campsites in Manistee County and an inventory of commercial lodging facilities are also included in Appendix C.