



The Recreation Planning Process

In an effort to provide quality recreational opportunities for its citizens, Manistee County has developed this recreation plan as a tool to guide the development of park and recreational facilities over the next five years. This plan represents a renewed interest by the county to establish recreational goals and objectives for the community. The plan will also provide Manistee County with eligibility for grants from the Department of Natural Resources to assist the county in reaching its recreational goals.

To start, Manistee County contracted with Spicer Group of Saginaw to assist the Planning Commission with the completion of this plan. Guiding the mechanics of the development of this planning document was a Working Group, comprised of Manistee County staff, representatives from the Alliance for Economic Success, and the Spicer Group recreation planners, that met three times over the course of the project. The first meeting was held in Manistee in August 2007. As part of an inclusive process to engage all community interests, a Steering Committee of 26 unique individuals with local recreational knowledge and expertise was created to shape the content of the plan and to formulate goals. The

Steering Committee met four times prior to the public hearing with the Planning Commission in May 2008.

Data was collected about Manistee County, such as demographics and an inventory of existing recreational assets. This data was gathered from a number of resources such as the county planner, the 1979 Manistee County Recreation Plan, planning documents from individual communities, the Manistee County Master Plan and related resource books, the enVision Manistee County Fact Book, the Steering Committee members, the Manistee County Road Commission, maps developed by the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments, the Conservation and Recreational Lands database developed by the Nature Conservancy and Ducks Unlimited, research of aerial images provided by the Michigan Geographic Data Library and Google Earth, various web sites (Census, Manistee County, U. S. Forest Service) and through field observations. This information helped determine where Manistee County was in terms of providing recreational facilities in comparison to recommended standards.

A total of three opportunities for input and participation were provided during the development of this plan. The results of these efforts are described in the following section titled Public Input. Based upon the existing information and the public input, the Steering Committee developed goals for parks and recreation in Manistee County. The Steering Committee also planned for an action program to accomplish the goals of the plan.

Spicer Group completed a draft recreation plan and was subsequently available for review on _____, 2008 at the County Building in Manistee, the County Library, and online at manisteecounty.net. The 30 day Notice of Review was published in the Local Paper on _____, 2008. The third and final opportunity for community input occurred at the advertised public hearing held prior to adoption of the plan, which was held on _____, 2008, with the Planning Commission. Manistee County passed a resolution to adopt this recreation plan at the Board of Commissioners meeting on _____, 2008. Copies of the recreation plan were transmitted to the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in _____, 2008. Copies of the notification advertisements, the public hearing minutes, the resolution, and the transmittal letters are included in the appendix.