

The City of Manistee has 182.8 acres of developed park facilities and 3.49 of bike paths and river walks in the City Limits. Additionally there are 42.5 Acres of private or non-city developed park lands in the City. This does not include the 173 acres on M-55 where a Non-Motorized Trail Park is being constructed. The City takes great pride in the recreational opportunities that are available to the citizens and visitors to the community from the world class beaches on Lake Michigan to the ball parks and playgrounds. There is a nice mix of recreational opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy. The [City Parks Department](#) is responsible for maintaining all of the city's parks, park facilities, the Riverwalk and beaches. The City of Manistee's [Adopt-A Park program](#) aims to unite, support and educate all people interest in preserving and maintaining our beautiful park system.

**Arthur Street Boat Launch**

The site was purchased by the City in the 1930's and is located on Arthur Street (US-31). There is a fee to use this facility. In 2010 Arthur Street Boat Launch received a major face lift after receipt of a Great Lakes Fishery Trust Grant. Improvements to the facility included; improved entrance/exit to facility, designated mooring area and docking for small boats, improved and enlarged ramps, expanded parking lot and reconfigured lot for trailer parking, Universally Accessible Fishing Dock and pier, restrooms were upgraded and are now Universally Accessible.



**DOUGLAS RECREATION AREA / FIRST STREET BEACH**



Located at the west end of First Street on Lake Michigan, this is the largest City-owned recreation area. There is a boat launch into the Manistee River near Lake Michigan with docks and a fish cleaning station. A picnic area with pavilions overlooks Lake Michigan and a short fishing pier. There is a large lakefront beach with play equipment, volleyball courts and restrooms. In 2010 upgrades to the First Street Launch Ramps were made and four of the eight ramps are now Universally Accessible.

In adjacent off-beach areas there are two children's playgrounds, Dog Park, lighted tennis courts, a basketball court, volleyball court and two lighted softball fields with restrooms. There is also some natural area. Adequate parking is available throughout the park.

Grants paid for the construction of softball fields and tennis courts in the mid-1970's. The Lions Club contributed for the construction of several large pavilions. The Rotary Club and local businesses contributed for the construction of a playground, a volleyball court and a basketball court in 1988, and playground additions and a gazebo in 1995. A volunteer group constructed an "Imagination Station" playground in 1995. A one and a half mile Riverwalk from the downtown, constructed in 1994-95 ends at the park. A Master Plan for the park developed in 1992/93 suggests walk/bikeways throughout the park. The area was purchased by the City in 1919. A Coastal Zone Management Grant in 1999 continued the Riverwalk via a sidewalk to the Concession Stand. In 2012 funds were received from the Michigan Natural Trust Fund and Land and Water Conservation Funds that were used to construct a new beach pavilion and fish cleaning station.



## DUFFY PARK

Neighborhood Park located on the north side of Manistee on Monroe Street (Ford Street on the west and Washington Street on the east). Long City property, this park had laid dormant for years. City and volunteer efforts in 1994/95 installed a full size little league baseball field, playground and parking lot. Property was acquired from Sand Products Corporation in 1999 adjacent to Duffy Park on the north to South Glocheski Drive. In 2000 full sized and junior soccer fields with irrigation were added. In 2003 a Universally Accessible restroom and Concession Stand was constructed with the assistance of a MSHDA Neighborhood Preservation Program Grant along with a Basketball Court and other equipment were added



## FIFTH AVENUE BEACH



The beach area was purchased by the City in 1912. Fifth Avenue Beach is located on the north side of Manistee at the west end of Fifth Avenue on Lake Michigan. The Coast Guard facility is adjacent to the park. There is a large lakefront beach with a new Universally Accessible Beach House (including concession/vending) that was constructed next to the playground and parking lot. Universal Access from the Beach House to the beach is made possible by the installation of "Brock" decking.

The Manistee North Pierhead Lighthouse and catwalk are adjacent to the Coast Guard Station. In 2011 the City acquired the Lighthouse from the Department of the Interior and entered into a Concession Agreement with the Historical Museum who will oversee operation of the Lighthouse. While the Lighthouse is not universally accessible plans are for a tour of the structure will be available on the City's web page for people of all abilities. Pedestrian traffic and fishing are permitted on the pier. There is a tennis court and picnic area with green space across from the Coast Guard Station. Parking and traffic flow improvements were made in 1992/93.



### **FIRST STREET BOAT LAUNCH**



First Street Boat Launch is adjacent to Douglas Park with eight launch ramps, four are universally accessible and a large parking long. A new fish cleaning station with restrooms was constructed in 2012. There is a fee to use this facility.

### **MACK PARK (GOLDEN ACRES PARK)**

Mack Park was named for City Councilman Robert Mack in 1981 and is sometimes called Golden Acres Park after the residential area which it is adjacent. The park is located on the south side of Manistee on the corner of Fourteenth and Greenwich Streets. There is children's playground area, a basketball court and a small fenced baseball diamond which is home to area T-Ball games. Street parking is available.



### **MAN-MADE LAKE**



Man Made Lake is an extension of City property north of Fifth Avenue Beach. On June 26, 2009 a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant with matching funds from Sand Products Corporation, Area Citizens, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy and the City of Manistee made possible the acquisition of previously lease property. There is one remaining privately owned parcel on the lake. The acquisition of Lake Michigan frontage created a mile and a quarter of publicly owned beach with access on the north end through the North Beach Access Park and the south by Fifth Avenue Beach. Universal access to the Man Made Lake beach areas is currently achieved through a plank walkway leading from the parking lot through the trees to the beach.

Local citizen Bob Adams has spent a lifetime researching the actual location that Pere Marquette died along the West Michigan coastline. Based upon his information it is believed to be the northwest corner of Man-Made Lake. On October 18, 2011 City Council approved the location of a placement marker honoring the death place of Pere Marquette on the northwest corner of Man-Made Lake.

### MORTON PARK



Morton Park was added to the Parks system in 1995 through a long term lease from Morton International. The park is located on the east side of Manistee at the east end of Third Street. Currently being developed as a neighborhood park.

### NINTH STREET BOAT LAUNCH

Ninth Street Boat Launch Area was established by the City in 1987 and is located on the east side of Manistee at the east end of Ninth Street. There is a boat launch into Manistee Lake, a dock and a lighted parking area. There is no charge for use of this area.



### NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL PARK (OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS)



In 1943 the property was originally optioned by the City from the State for construction of an airport. This is a 173 acre parcel east of the City on State Highway 55 (M-55). When the airport was built on US 31 the Attorney General ruled that the property should be dedicated to public purposes. In 1991 City Council determined the property should be preserved for public recreation purposes.

Since 2010 the City of Manistee Non-Motorized Transportation Committee and the Shoreline Cycling Club have been developing a plan to build multi-use trails and a mountain bike skills park on this parcel. April 2011 the Manistee City Council unanimously approves the trail plan and development of the trails began in the spring of 2011. This is a four season City of Manistee Park for Mountain Biking, Walking, Running and Cross Country Skiing.

## **NORTH BEACH ACCESS PARK**



Lake Michigan frontage connects North Beach Access Park located at the north City limits to Man Made Lake and Fifth Avenue Beach. In 1996 the City acquired a thirty foot right-of-way from Harbor Village that provides public access to Lake Michigan. A Universally Accessible walkway/boardwalk from the parking lot leads to viewing platforms overlooking Lake Michigan. View Platforms have built in benches and a telescope. Stairs lead down to the Beach.

## **NORTH RIVERWALK AND VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK**

The North Riverwalk was constructed in 1983 utilizing grants and Michigan Youth Corps labor and is located on the north bank of the Manistee River between Maple Street and the US-31 Bridge. There is a Universally Accessible boardwalk with benches and fishing decks along the riverbank as well as shrubs, trees and grassy sloped areas ending at a gazebo constructed by the Jaycees. Summer concerts are held weekly at the Park.

In Memorial Park there is a stone monument and flag to commemorate those lost in battle, 27 Hackberry Trees along Memorial Drive commemorate the same number of soldiers from Manistee lost in the World War II. The Corps of Engineers did extensive bank stabilization work in 1994. There is a large parking area serving the park and the Central Business District and is home to a Saturday Farmers Market.



## **RED SZYMAREK PARK**



The Park was purchased by the City in 1912 and is located on the north side of Manistee on Fifth Avenue and Monroe Street, about one-half mile east of Lake Michigan and the Fifth Avenue Beach. There is a child's playground and picnic tables. The park is heavily wooded with a mature oak stand. A Disc Golf Course was added to the site in 2009.

## RIETZ PARK

On August 5, 1908 the heirs of Charles Rietz donated property on Rietz Hill to the City for a public park and pleasure grounds. The only provision made was that it shall be named after Charles Rietz. The park is located on the southeast of Manistee, bounded by Vine, Forest, Park and Main Streets. There is a fenced baseball diamond with bleachers. Also available are picnic tables, playground equipment and a basketball court in the adjacent park area. Universally Accessible Restrooms were constructed and a new ball field perimeter fence was installed in 1996. In 2001 the infield was entirely reconstructed. Additional Playground equipment was installed in 2002.



## SANDS PARK



The City and Manistee Area Public Schools jointly own and maintain the Sands Park which is located on the south side of Manistee adjacent to Kennedy Elementary School at the corner of Maple and Eighth Streets. There is tennis courts, a child's playground and a baseball/football field also used for ice skating in the winter. A Kellogg Foundation and a Michigan Department of Natural Resources grant in 1992 permitted construction of a Teen Center/warming shelter. The Grade School adjacent to the park has another football field, gymnasium, a weight room, showers, etc. which are accessible to community for recreation. The ball field and winter skating area

lighting was added in 2001 as a cooperative effort between the School and City. A skate park was added in 2004 through a community-build project funded in part by the Rotary and the Local Revenue Sharing Board.

## SOUTH RIVERWALK

The South Riverwalk runs along the south Manistee River bank behind a major portion of the Central Business District along River Street. The Riverwalk extends east to the US-31 Bridge and west to Lake Michigan. The walkway includes benches, planters, and fishing piers. A Coastal Zone Management Grant in 1999 helped establish historical markers and a Net Shed Museum along the riverwalk.



The following is a summary of rules designed to ensure everybody's enjoyment of the Manistee Parks System. A full set of the detailed rules is available at City Hall.

- All parks are open from 5 am to 11 pm unless otherwise posted. Longer hours are available for pier and beach fishing, in season. Quiet hours are between 11 pm and 7 am except during special events. Please be considerate of the people around you and keep all noise and music volumes low.
- Picnicking in City Parks is on a first come, first serve basis. Reservations are ONLY available for the Lions Pavilion in Douglas Recreation Area. Overnight camping is not allowed in any City Park. Public and private campgrounds are available close to the City.
- Fires are only permitted in picnic grills or the designated fire rings on the beaches. Please be careful with fire and hot ashes.
- People of legal age may consume alcoholic beverages in City Parks and on the beaches in a responsible manner. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the Riverwalk or outside of designated park boundaries unless in the Social District in an authorized Social District cup. Disorderly conduct will result in immediate eviction.
- No glass containers of any kind are allowed on the beaches, in the parks or on the Riverwalk. Broken glass is a safety hazard.
- Please take the time to properly dispose of litter or trash. Each of us has a responsibility to help keep our parks clean.
- Commercial activities in City Parks are not allowed unless specifically authorized by the City. The sale of food, beverages, merchandise or solicitation or hand bill distribution is not allowed except as specifically approved by the City.
- Fishing is available from the beaches (except within designated swimming areas), the piers and the Riverwalk. State license and regulations apply. Please use available fish cleaning stations.
- Due to boat traffic and strong current, swimming is not permitted in the Manistee River between Lake Michigan and Manistee Lake, diving or jumping from the piers is not safe and is not allowed.
- A no wake zone exists in the river between Manistee Lake and the end of the piers. Please be considerate.
- The riverwalk is for pedestrian use only. Rollerblades, roller skates, skateboards and bicycles are not allowed there or on the piers.
- Dogs and other pets are not permitted on the section of the Riverwalk from the west end of the City Marina to the west end of the Riverwalk or other posted areas. Dogs and other pets may be at other park properties when on a leash and under immediate control. The pet owner is responsible to clean up after the pet in all public areas.