



The City of Manistee Non-Motorized Transportation Master Plan



MISSION STATEMENT

The City of Manistee Non-Motorized Transportation Committee will work to provide safe, scenic routes, accessibility for people of all abilities, throughout the City and also encourages non-motorized transportation and water trails for fitness, transportation and tourism while enhancing the City's attributes and appeal and connecting the City to surrounding communities.

OVERVIEW

The City of Manistee Master Plan establishes that there historically and currently is an interest in non-motorized facilities and water trails within the City of Manistee. Established non-motorized facilities are those improvements and provisions made to enhance bicycling and walking such as bike lanes, bike racks, sidewalks, river walk, etc. Develop water trails within the City of Manistee designed for people using small boats. Creating a transportation environment that provides universal accessibility and encourages bike usage, walking and the combined use of aforementioned and public motorized transportation (dial-a-ride) will enhance the City in providing for the following:

- Increased safety for pedestrians, persons with wheelchairs/disabilities and cyclists;
- Other transportation and fitness opportunities;
- Alternatives for maintaining a healthy lifestyle;
- Environmental stewardship;
- Increased awareness for community sustainability;
- Connectivity, being the linkage between various destination points in the community and surrounding communities;

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this plan, bike lanes, bike routes, bike paths are based upon the "Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities" prepared by the AASHTO Task Force and published by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and are as follows:

- **Bike Lane:** A portion of a roadway which has been designated by striping, signing and/or pavement markings for the preferential or exclusive use for bicyclist.
- **Bike Route:** A segment of a system of designated bike ways that have appropriate directional and informational markers.
- **Bike Path:** A bike lane physically separated from motorized vehicular traffic.
- **Bike Way:** A generic term for any road, street, path or way which in some manner is specifically designated for bicycle travel, regardless of whether such facilities are designated for the exclusive

- use of bicycles or are to be shared with other transportation modes.
- **Rail-Trail:** A shared use path, either paved or unpaved, built within the right-of-way of an existing or former railroad.
- **Sidewalk:** The portion of a street or highway right-of-way designed for preferential use by pedestrians and wheelchairs.
- **Sustainable development:** Sustainability is defined for the purposes of this master plan as development that meets the needs/ best outcomes of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It relates to the continuity of economic, social, institutional and environmental aspects of human society, as well as the non-human environment.
- **Wheelchair:** A wheelchair is a personal mobility assistance device such as a wheelchair, electric scooter, transport chair, and power wheelchair. Wheelchairs are used by people for whom walking is difficult or impossible due to illness, injury, or disability.

For the purpose of this plan, water trails are the five distinct water bodies adjacent to the City of Manistee. These water bodies are Lake Michigan, Manistee River Channel, Manistee Lake, Big Manistee River and Little Manistee River.

- **Water Trail:** Any traditionally navigable waterway defined as having the capacity, in terms of length, width, and depth, to enable a kayak, canoe, stand up paddle board or other type of craft to make successful progress through a waterway, regardless of the presence of shallow rapids, exposed cobble, or other objects that may impede passage. In practice water trails span a wide array of levels of challenge, from standing water to challenging whitewater.

ACTION PLAN

Goal: Create a transportation environment that encourages non-motorized alternatives throughout the city of Manistee and increase connectivity to routes outside the city limits.

Objectives:

1. Maintain an active Non-Motorized Transportation Committee.
 - Coordinate the implementation of the goals and objectives of the City of Manistee Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.
2. Increase Awareness
 - Bike/Hike to Work/School day or week

The City of Manistee will sponsor a day or week each year to promote non-motorized transportation. Various activities during this time will be designed to encourage bicycling and walking and generate enthusiasm. This day or week will focus on safety as well and community involvement.
 - Promotion of State Wide Non-motorized and Water Trail Events

The City of Manistee will assist in promoting various annual tours and races of non-motorized nature. Notices will be posted in appropriate publications and locations.
3. Develop non-motorized routes within City limits.
 - Sidewalk enhancements
 - Bicycle Route Map

The City of Manistee will develop a map that delineates the location of bike lanes and routes within the city limits that will showcase the City's attributes increase City appeal and provide safe, scenic routes that encourage non-motorized use. The map will be distributed in a brochure form as well as be distributed to surrounding communities and similar state wide organizations. The map will be designed with the foresight of connecting to such facilities outside the city limits. **See Appendix A.**

- Non-Motorized Facilities Map
The City of Manistee will develop a map that illustrates all non-motorized facilities including but not limited to bike lanes and routes and sidewalks, pathways, walking routes, and the riverwalk.
 - Visual indicators of Non-motorized facilities
The City of Manistee will assist in securing signs, paint, stencils, pavement preparation for paint application and other necessary tool needed to apply visual cues regarding the location of the bike lanes. This information will also be illustrated on the bicycle route map and the non-motorized transportation facilities map. Signs will be designed and erected along non-motorized routes and pathways that indicate the presence of such facilities as well as guide users to points of interest.
4. Provide non-motorized storage facilities and amenities
- Bicycle Racks and Benches
The City of Manistee will assist in securing permanent bike racks for various points of interest along the routes and pathways. Additional racks and benches may be purchased by privately owned entities by either donations that commemorate an individual and are shown their respect through a mounted memorial plaque located on or near the rack or bench. The committee will provide recommended locations to the city for bike racks and benches and other non-motorized facilities. The City will provide and strategically place portable racks and benches during city events.
 - Dial a Ride
The City of Manistee will work with Dial-a-Ride and other systems of public transportation to provide a means of storage and transport of bicycles and other modes of non-motorized transportation.
5. Work with adjacent municipalities and the State of Michigan to connect and lengthen the City of Manistee's non-motorized routes and pathways.
- Identify non-motorized facilities outside and adjacent to City of Manistee's limits.
 - Develop a draft of a map that highlights where existing and planned routes and pathways inside the City limits can be joined to such facilities outside of the City limits.
 - Communicate with surrounding communities and the State of Michigan to develop an ongoing creative, cooperative relationship that results in action plans which are capable of implementation.
 - Support the development of a non-motorized facility plan for Manistee County and the State of Michigan.
6. Maintain Non-motorized Transportation Facilities
- Encouraging the Maintenance of the facilities of this community is an important component of this plan. Yearly inspection of pavement and sidewalk surface structural integrity, visual indicators, racks and benches is essential to a healthy system. Funding for maintenance should

- be a component of the City's yearly budget.
- Sidewalk inspection
- 7. Emphasize Non-motorized Transportation facilities when designing construction/reconstruction projects.
 - As a matter of public policy, the City of Manistee will consider non-motorized transportation amenities when undertaking road construction or reconstruction projects. The City of Manistee will, to the best of their ability, influence County and State road projects to consider the inclusion of non-motorized facilities.
 - Manistee City Planning Commission will consider non-motorized facilities when working on zoning, special use permits, and new projects that occur within the City.
 - The City of Manistee shall make every effort to keep this committee aware of new construction and opportunities that could include non-motorized transportation facilities.
- 8. Development of Water Trails and amenities.
 - Provide a safe, unique and exciting recreational experience for residents and visitors of all abilities to enjoy as they navigate the five distinct water bodies adjacent to the City of Manistee.
 - Develop a water trails map that includes locations for zero entry access allowing people of all abilities to participate. Work with the City of Manistee on locations/lockers for storage of kayaks, canoes, stand up paddle boards or other non-motorized water craft.
- 9. Goals
 - The Non-Motorized Transportation Committee will hold a goal setting meeting every year to review the past and present year's progress and set forth goals for the following year. These goals shall be presented to the City of Manistee's City Council, Parks & Beautification Commission and Planning Commission to make them aware of the objectives and action plans.

[Annotation - On February 13, 2014 the Non-Motorized Transportation Committee amended their Master Plan as follows:
Mission statement was amended by adding "accessibility for people of all abilities and water trails"
Overview as amended by adding "water trails and develop water trails within the City of Manistee designed for people using small boats."
Section on Water Trails was added to Definitions
Objectives
"and amenities" was added to item 4
Item 8 Development of Water Trails and amenities was added
Parks Commission was changed to "Parks and Beautification Commission" under Goals renumbered from Item 8 to Item 9]