

Synopsis

- Project Title: Fish Manistique
- Grantee Organization: The City of Manistique
- Project Team:
 - Sheila Aldrich – City of Manistique - City Manager
 - Corey Barr – City of Manistique – Water/Wastewater Superintendent
 - Nick Bosanic – City of Manistique – DPW Superintendent
 - Kevin Trevillian, P.E. – Coleman Engineering – Principal
 - Scott Nowack, P.E. – Coleman Engineering – Project Manager
 - Todd Olsen – Olsen & Olsen Building Contractors – Contractor
- Contact Person: Sheila Aldrich – City of Manistique – saldrich@chartermi.net
- Grant amount
 - Engineering/Design: \$26,400
 - Roadway/Parking: \$19,000
 - Restroom & Utilities: \$75,000
 - Total Grant \$120,400
- Time Frame: July 2016 – September 2017
- Focus Area: Creation of a public location with accessibility for fishing at the mouth of the Manistique River.
- Summary: The purpose of the Fish Manistique project was to provide access to the Lake Michigan fishery at the mouth of the Manistique River. An accessible parking lot with pavilion and restrooms was constructed.

Project in Context

- The Fish Manistique project is part of an ongoing effort by the City to improve recreational opportunities in the area near the mouth of the Manistique River. The City acquired a 23-acre parcel on Lake Michigan with assistance from a MDNR Trust Fund acquisition grant in 2014. This, then undeveloped, parcel is adjacent to the existing breakwater that protects the mouth of the river. The Manistique Lakeshore Campground, a 50 RV campsite campground along with a restroom/shower facility, 6 tent sites and trails to the lake shore have also since been constructed on the parcel. The Fish Manistique project includes site enhancements that will safely provide shore-based fishing access for users of all abilities. A paved roadway will connect Trader's Point Drive to the proposed parking area. Accessible restroom facilities are located near the parking lot and accessible sidewalk and boardwalks will connect the parking lot to the Lake Michigan shoreline and west breakwater area.
- For more information, please <https://manistiquelakeshorecampground.org/>

Final Narrative Report

Background/Overview

The project was not completed as originally intended. ADA access to the breakwater via an elevated boardwalk with access from the parking lot/pavilion area was completed, however, perceived structural deficiencies at the breakwater have delayed the breakwater treatment and railing installation as parts of the project scope. There is still access to the beach and breakwater areas, however these do not meet handicap accessible regulations. ADA requires that state and local governments ensure that persons

with disabilities have access to the pedestrian routes in the public right of way. The City intends to complete the project scope independent of the GLFT Funding.

Construction of the parking and restroom / pavilion facilities was not hindered. The parking lot and pavilion with public restrooms were finished in a timely fashion and have proved to be very beneficial as a day use area along Lake Michigan. Transient campers as well as the local population were the target audience for the completion of the day use area. Positive feedback has been received from locals who frequently walk the shoreline and from campers who are enjoying a weekend at the new Manistique Lakeshore campground.

Outcomes

The City of Manistique along with the local community, campers traveling from near and far, as well as local stores have all continued to grow their work relationships and work together to ensure all benefit from the ease of accessing the lakeshore.

One of the most important benefits the community as a whole accomplished was encouraging travelers to stop, even if for a quick break from their drive, and experience the beauty and convenience of Manistique and all that it's section of Lake Michigan lakeshore has to offer.

Site-Specific Information

The Day Use Area driveway is located approximately 0.2 miles southeast of US-2 on Traders Point Drive. A 24-spot parking lot surrounds a beautiful 32'x64'pavilion that contains a men's and a women's restroom facility. There is a 10' wide sidewalk on the southwest side of the day use pavilion leading west towards the elevated boardwalk.

The day use area site offers a 32-foot by 64-foot pavilion, open on the west, south and eastern sides. There are 6 picnic tables, recessed lighting and flood lighting (during night hours). The building is equipped with a women's restroom and a men's restroom open for public use. Handicapped parking is located on the north side of the pavilion, with an ADA ramp and sidewalks surrounding the pavilion.

The City intends to install interpretive educational signage around the day use and new campground areas.

Fishing opportunities include walleye, brown trout and rainbow trout can in April and May. Chinook salmon are best caught in September and October.

The DNR does regularly stock fish in the Manistique River. Brown trout, Rainbow trout and Coho salmon are generally planted in mid to late April, where Chinook salmon are planted in early to mid-May.

Rapalas or other stick baits, spoons, or spawn sacks are recommended for use in catching all of the above species of fish.

In addition to the construction of the day use area pavilion and parking lot, the City of Manistique constructed a 50 RV site, 6 tent site campground (Manistique Lakeshore Campground) adjacent to the day use area. There is a trail connecting the day use area and campground. Many hotels are also available within town that offer a breathtaking view of the Lake Michigan shoreline.

The objective for the project was to provide access for all to the Lake Michigan fishery. Ultimately this objective will be achieved.

Pictures



Related Efforts

The 50 RV site, 6 tent site Manistique Lakeshore Campground along with the construction of a kayak launch at the West side marina were additional compilations to make up the entire project. In addition to the Great Lakes Fishery Trust Grant, the Manistique DDA and Michigan DNR Waterways Grant provided funding for the project.

Reflections

One major unanticipated challenge was the level of the lake, which resulted in a higher water table than originally anticipated. This made for a bit more intensive excavation process and implementation of a dewatering system used during construction of the pavilion and parking lot areas.

The conditions of the breakwater and the plan to install a boardwalk and railing system were impacted by reduced funding. The City of Manistique is currently looking at funding options to complete the railing and breakwater surface repairs in the summer of 2018.