

FINAL REPORT
Great lakes fishery trust



Where life meets water

PROJECT PROFILE

Synopsis

Project Title: Explore the Shores: Arcadia Lake Grebe Park Fishing Access

Grantee Organization: Alliance for Economic Success

Project Team: Tim Ervin, Alliance for Economic Success
Brad Hopwood, Arcadia Township Supervisor

Contact Person: Tim Ervin, Alliance for Economic Success 231-723-4325

Grant Amount: \$48,200.00

Time Frame: 10/01/12-07/01/14

Focus Area: Access

Brief Project Summary: Consistent with the mission of Manistee's Explore the Shores program to provide superior access to water for people of all ages, needs and abilities, the Arcadia Lake Grebe Park project involved the upgrade of an existing fishing pier; originally funded in part by GLFT in 2000; the development of fully accessible restroom facilities, walkways to connect the pier, restroom, parking and picnic areas and educational/interpretive signage with a focus on teaching children how to fish. The project also includes a universally accessible kayak/canoe launch that was funded from project matching dollars. All facilities exceed ADA requirements.

Project in Context: Grebe Park is located on Arcadia Lake in Arcadia Township and has a connecting channel to Lake Michigan maintained for recreational shallow/draft use. The pier is located at the northerly end of Arcadia Lake adjacent to the Veteran's Memorial Municipal Marina and is identified by DNR Fisheries Division as outstanding for access to the lake's rich

and abundant fishery. There are no other shore bound fishing opportunities in this area. The fishing access is used year around by locals and visitors alike with no use fees charged. The park is maintained by the Village of Arcadia.

Goals of the Effort: To create opportunities on Arcadia Lake for people of all ages, needs and abilities to access and enjoy the shore-based recreational fishing, access to launch a canoe or kayak for water-based recreational fishing or lake touring, consistent with Manistee County's Explore the Shores program. To incorporate natural/indigenous plants and materials to minimize/eliminate runoff from this site along and adjacent to this site.

Results: A fully accessible facility now utilized by community members and visitors alike. Inclusion in the Explore the Shores website encourages anglers enthusiastic about the wide range of species to check it out. The integration of a universally accessible canoe/kayak launch gives all the opportunity to explore Arcadia Lake and is being heavily used. Representatives from communities throughout Northern Michigan have visited the site to see the kayak/canoe facility in use.

Products and Resources: A web site <http://www.exploreshores.org> is currently being utilized to contain detailed information about this and all Explore the Shores sites to promote and encourage their use. The web site encourages visitors to enjoy Explore the Shores sites as a "system" of destinations and/or as individual sites that correspond to their varied interests.

Final Narrative Report

Background/Overview

1. The project has been completed as originally intended. The original expectations were well thought out and complimented the existing situation to fully utilize the resources. Weather complications and delays in permitting were obstacles to a more timely project completion.

Outcomes

2. The goal was to improve the location to enable full access for all and provide amenities that would encourage site use regardless of ability
3. The intended audience for this project is the community, recreational anglers and Explore the Shores site explorers. Positive feedback from all intended audiences is coming in to local officials and businesses owners.
4. A core community group has come together to direct the implementation of the communities Master Plan.
5. Arcadia Township, a once hidden gem is becoming more known for its natural beauty and abundant natural resources. The community has recognized the unique value of their environment and are working hard to reclaim and preserve it, as well as promote the valuable history the area has to offer. As a community they are an example to be emulated.

Site Specific Information

6. The fishing pier is an “on the water” platform with a universal access ramp. The parking lot, picnic area and restroom facility are all connected via concrete walkways, making them ADA compliant.
7. Site info:
 - a. Visitors access the Grebe Park from Scenic Highway M-22, turn left onto State Street, then left onto First Street to enter the Park.
 - b. Amenities offered are barrier free access from the parking lot to the fishing pier, restroom facility, covered picnic area, benches and playground.
 - c. An Explore the Shores interpretive sign is prominently displayed, it’s emphasis on teaching children to fish.
 - d. steelhead trout
walleye
small and largemouth bass
yellow perch
brown trout
 - e. 15,000 Brown Trout, approximately 5 inches in length were released into Arcadia Lake in April of 2014.
 - f. Fishing from the pier with live or artificial baits on the bottom
 - g. Pleasant Valley Motel, Arcadia House Bed & Breakfast, Arcadia Bluffs, Portage Point Inn, Portage Lake Motel.
 - h. Other points of interest are:
 - i. Mott Preserve
 - ii. Arcadia Marsh
 - iii. Arcadia Township Lake Michigan Beach
 - i. Yes. All objectives were met. Thanks to the GLFT, Northern Michigan has another high quality, universally accessible location for all anglers to access and enjoy a high quality fishery.

Pictures:

8. Sent separately
9. Photo verification of Great Lakes Fishery Trust plaque, sent separately

Related Efforts:

10. This project is part of a series of place making initiatives that are the priority of Arcadia Township’s recently updated master plan that was completed as part of the Lakes to Land Regional Initiative involving 17 governmental jurisdictions (landstoland.org). The goal of the Township is to appropriately develop and link via non-motorized pathway the fishing pier with Arcadia Township’s Lake Michigan beach, Arcadia Marsh, Arcadia Dunes and the Arcadia Pleasant Valley Community Center as the economic/community development future of the area. Others funders involved include the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Rural Development; MDEQ Coastal Management Program; MDEQ SAW Grant program; Land Trust Fund and others.

11. Spin-off work will include the development of additional small shore based platforms around Arcadia Lake to support universal access to the diverse fishery.

Reflections:

12. Other than an exceptionally long and cold winter that impeded progress, there were no significant unanticipated events that affected the project.
13. We urge other directors of similar projects consider the universal access kayak/canoe launch which has proven to be a huge draw to all kayakers and canoers.