

Huron Manistee National Forest

Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2019

Sustainable Upgrades



Island Lake beach area before and after retaining wall replacement

In 2019, forest engineering and recreation staff renovated Island Lake Beach Area by replacing the existing timber stairs and retaining walls with large boulders. This renovation eliminates long-term maintenance costs. Staff removed old structures, re-graded and stabilized the beach site and built the new structures. Recreation fee funds supported a total stair reconstruction at a cost of \$19,900 and the cost of replacing existing toilets with a new concrete double vault toilet building for \$33,104.

Recreation Fee Dollars

Recreation fee dollars are an investment in outdoor recreation. They support and enhance:

- Public safety
- Recreation site maintenance and improvements
- Educational experiences
- Informational wayside exhibits
- Youth programs and partnerships
- Interpretive programs

Current and future generations benefit as 80-95% of the funds are reinvested in the facilities and services that visitors enjoy, use, and value.



Improving Access

In 2019, the forest used \$70,000 in recreation fee funds to improve parking areas, camping spurs and access to fee sites, including Island lake day Use Area and Campground, Loon Lake Day Use Site, and Hungerford Recreation Area. Recreation fee funds supplemented \$106,013 of roads funding through contracts to accomplish this work.



Pavement preservation, Island Lake Day Use Area

Improving AuSable Primitive Sites

The forest reduced erosion and improved access at 18 primitive river sites on the AuSable River in 2019. The sandy soil has slowly eroded as people drag watercraft or walk down to use the river. Forest employees worked with youth conservation corps members to stabilize the river bank and build stairs in some locations. The forest used \$8,000 in recreation fee funds to leverage \$10,000 of partner funding for this work.



AuSable River site, before and after restoration work

Other Accomplishments

- Interns and seasonal river rangers provided Leave No Trace and safety education to visitors on the Pine and Pere Marquette Wild and Scenic Rivers. Funding leveraged support from the Watershed Council for the Pere Marquette River.
- Interns provided public outreach, safety patrols and noxious weed abatement in the Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area using \$17,000 in recreation fee funds to leverage Wilderness grant funding.
- Administered 58 outfitter and guide special use permits to standard on four rivers.
- Supported increased law enforcement patrols, weekend public education efforts and new posters for river landings on Wild and Scenic Rivers using \$13,000 in recreation fee dollars.
- Law enforcement efforts in eight counties were supported through cooperative law enforcement agreements and \$2,000 in equipment purchases.
- Provided clean water to visitors through well retrofitting, water testing and pre-season chlorination efforts with recreation fee funds totaling \$8,000.
- Removed snow at Pere Marquette and Manistee River Access sites during the winter months for angler access.
- Repaired water systems at two campgrounds using \$2,888 in recreation fee funds.
- Supported campground hosts who provided visitor information, monitored sites, collected trash and cleaned bathrooms.



AuSable River, view from Lumberman's Monument Visitor Center

Regional Map



Contacts

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Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$403,987	\$4,937,639
Special Uses	\$56,942	\$410,619
Interagency Passes	\$30,035	\$237,915
Total	\$490,964	\$5,586,173

Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$197,117	\$3,015,357
Visitor Services	\$197,540	\$1,016,788
Law Enforcement	\$22,508	\$284,792
Habitat Restoration	\$3,273	\$84,040
Fee Agreements	\$2,000	\$32,521
Collections/Overhead	\$56,403	\$388,730
Total	\$478,841	\$4,822,228