



Request for Site Nominations 2010/2011

Issued: January 2, 2010 • Nominations Due: February 1, 2010

Alliance for Economic Success ♦ 1361 U.S. 31 South ♦ Manistee, MI 49660
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What is "Explore the Shores"

Explore the Shores is a series of places in Manistee County that provide exciting hands-on opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to learn about water stewardship and explore nature while recreating, including access to world-class sport fishing. The vision of Explore the Shores is to make Manistee County a premier destination for people to use and explore its Lake Michigan shore, 276 miles of rivers and streams, 49 inland lakes and wetlands. The program is particularly focused on helping people with special needs access and use the county's waters and supporting County tourism. Explore the Shores is a new initiative, formed in 2009. Existing sites that have been developed or funded and will be developed by 2010 include:

- Stronach Boat Launch - Universally Accessible Fishing Pier
- City of Manistee, Municipal Marina - Lift Facility
- City of Manistee, First Street Beach - Platforms to the Beach
- City of Manistee, Fifth Street Beach - Platforms to the Beach
- Arthur Street Boat Launch, City of Manistee - Fishing Pier and Boat Launch Site Improvements*
- Bar Lake Outlet - Viewing Platform and Platform to the Beach*
- Rainbow Bend, Big Manistee River, Walkways, Fishing Platforms, other Site Improvements*
- Bear Creek, Big Manistee River, Walkways, Fishing Platforms, other Site Improvements*

The ten year goal of Explore the Shores is to have a system of 50 sites throughout Manistee County that attract 1 million new visitors by the year 2020.

* Sites funded and scheduled for development during 2010

Explore the Shores Criteria

An Explore the Shores sites must be located on water and should have or be improved to have the following three characteristics:

- 1. Universal Design:** Enable people of all needs and abilities to fully access, use and enjoy the site and the site facilities (unless it is physically impossible, harmful to the natural environment, or financially impractical to do so)
- 2. Education:** Provide and support opportunities for people to learn about water resources to support stewardship
- 3. Recreation/Fishing:** Provide access for people of all needs and abilities to recreate, including fishing for a variety of species

We encourage nominators to think creatively about Explore the Shores sites, including all forms of water bodies (including wetlands) and ways in which those bodies might be accessed, developed or restored to be included in the program.

Organizations and Supporters

The Alliance for Economic Success (AES) has teamed up with the Manistee County Community Foundation (MCCF) to coordinate Explore the Shores with a Leadership Team consisting of local, state and federal governments, Michigan Easter Seals, The National Association of the Physically Handicapped; the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy; Manistee County

Convention and Visitors Bureau; Great Lakes Fishery Trust; Department of Natural Resources; U.S. Forest Service; Manistee County Sport Fishing Association; Manistee Charter Boat Association; Michigan Sea Grant and other interests. The program is supported by U. S. Senator Carl Levin, U. S. Senator Debbie Stabenow and Congressman Pete Hoekstra. Contact the AES if you're interested in joining the Leadership Team.

Request for Nominations

In coordination with the Leadership Team, the AES is seeking nominations for Explore the Shores sites from all interests including governmental units, organizations and individuals. Sites can be nominated in two categories:

- 1 - An **existing** site that needs no further improvements or modifications to meet the Explore the Shores criteria.
- 2 - A site that needs **improvements and financial support** to become an Explore the Shores site.

A subcommittee of the Leadership Team will review nominations and make final recommendations to the Leadership Team. Site nominated in 2009 are automatically included as nominations for 2010/11. The Leadership Team may:

1. Select Existing Sites/No Improvements Needed: Select sites that need no improvements or modifications as Explore the Shores sites. In these cases, funding will be sought (or provided if available) by the AES to develop signage and include the site in the Explore the Shores web site and written promotional materials.

2. Recommend Nominated Sites - Improvements Needed. Recommend that the AES, on behalf of the Leadership Team, seek funding during 2010 and/or 2011 for the site, depending upon funding availability and the schedule for grant applications, to support recommended improvements. No guarantees can be provided that the AES will secure funding for sites recommended for funding. The AES will seek funding from several sources during 2010 and 2011 in response to recommendations.

3. Decline sites recommended that need no improvements. In these cases, the nominator will receive information about if/how the site could be modified to meet Explore the Shores criteria.

4. Decline to seek funding for sites that need improvements. In these cases, the nominator will receive information about the evaluation and prioritization of the site they nominated.

2010 -11 Schedule

1. Request for Nominations	January 2, 2010
2. Nominations Due	February 1, 2010
3. Review of Nominations - Committee of Leadership Team	Mid-February
4. Leadership Team Meeting - Review of Committee Recommendations	End of February
5. Notification to Nominators	March
6. Development of Signage, etc. for Existing Sites	April and ongoing
7. Development of Grant/Funding Requests by AES for Sites needing improvements/modifications	March and ongoing

Nominations must be received by the AES by 5 p.m. on February 1, 2010. Nominations may be sent in hard copy or by email to:

By Mail: Alliance for Economic Success, 1361 U.S. 31 South, Manistee, MI 49660

By Telefax: 231-7823-3717 (AES Fax number)

By Email: cathy@allianceforeconomicsuccess.com



Nomination Form (Must be received by the AES by 2/1/10)

Please Note: sites nominated in 2009 we be automatically included in the nominations for 2010/2011. Call 231-723-4325 if you have questions about what sites were nominated in 2009.

Your Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email address _____

Category of Nomination: (Check One of the following two choices)

____ Existing site, no improvements/modifications needed.

____ Site that needs improvements/modifications requiring funding

Site Name _____

Site Location _____

Water Body (ies) _____

Existing Ownership and Maintenance (Explain who owns the site and who is or will be responsible for site maintenance)

Existing Conditions (Explain existing uses, facilities and infrastructure and common activities at the site. For sites that are nominated in the "existing site, no improvements/modifications" category, explain how the site meets the three Explore the Shores criteria.)

Explore the Shores Site Improvements (For sites that are nominated that need improvements/modifications, describe what you believe are the desired improvements and modifications that should be made to make this an ideal site for the Explore the Shores initiative and meets the three Explore the Shores criteria.)

Is there evidence of support for the recommendation(s)? (For all sites nominated, provide examples that could include: local or county recreation plan; Envision Manistee County; local or county master plan; resolutions of local governing bodies and others; availability of funding to support or match the funding required for the project; and other)

Attached extra pages if necessary.

Questions? Contact the AES at 231-723-4325 or tervin26@charter.net