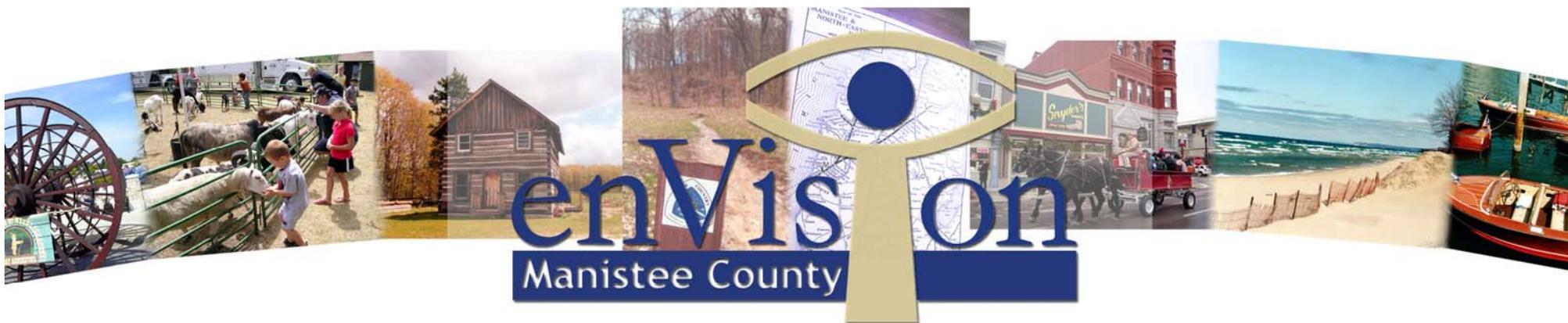




enVision the Possibilities



enVision
Manistee County

May 2006

Prepared by



for



www.envisionmanistecounty.org

For more information on this publication or the enVision Manistee County process please contact:



MANISTEE COUNTY
community foundationSM

Building a stronger, healthier community
For Good. For Ever.

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enVision the possibilities...



May 4, 2006



Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure that we submit to each of you the final report for the first phase of enVision Manistee County. This report will be used as a guide to enrich the quality of life in Manistee County now and in the future.

The process and accompanying visions described in this document are the result of the work and enthusiasm of countless volunteers over the last 16 months.

The participants in enVision Manistee County joined together in an open and participatory process that will help guide infrastructure, programs, and services in Manistee County. It has been an honor for the Manistee County Community Foundation to serve as coordinator for this initiative.

The primary outcome of enVision Manistee County has always been and continues to be the realization of visions and strategies spelled out in the following pages. We hope all of you will envision the possibilities and take an active role in converting visions into reality.

enVision Manistee County is only the beginning....the best is yet to come!

On behalf of all enVision Manistee County participants,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Ervin".

Tim Ervin
President, MCCF

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bruchan".

Karen Bruchan
Executive Director, MCCF

What is “visioning?”

The American poet Carl Sandburg said, “Nothing happens unless first a dream.” Visioning is simply the first step in a community for people to come together to talk about their dreams and aspirations and develop visions and strategies to guide their future.

Why visioning?

We are increasingly becoming a global community. Throughout the world, nation and state change is occurring at a more rapid pace than ever before. At a community level, the options and choices for the future are complex and often competing. Progressive communities are taking steps to anticipate and accommodate change so that they can be proactive rather than reactive in managing their future.

Manistee County is facing change on all fronts, including economic, demographic, technological, social, and environmental. As a result, community members chose to participate in a visioning process to shape the future of their County.

Does visioning replace community and organizational planning?

No. Visioning does not replace other forms of planning. However, visioning has significant value in planning processes. Visioning defines the big picture – the ideal state – that should guide decisions and plans in a community. Ultimately, individual jurisdictions, agencies, and organizations will decide how to best integrate visions and strategies into their respective activities.



enVision Manistee County History

Like many northern Michigan counties, Manistee County has an abundance of natural resources, rural character, recreational opportunities, and people who are passionate about their quality of life. It also has unique attributes, character and cultures.

The Manistee County Community Foundation (MCCF) Board of Directors, in conjunction with other organizations in the community, felt that a visioning initiative would help sustain and enhance the quality of life in the county and provide a way for all interests to have a role in establishing the future direction, priorities and focus for the County.

That community discussion expanded into *enVision Manistee County*, with initial support garnered from a variety of stakeholders, including:

- City of Manistee
- Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
- Manistee County Board of Commissioners

- Manistee County Human Services Collaborative Body
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- Manistee Economic Council & Chamber Alliance
- Office of Senator Carl Levin
- Office of Congressman Peter Hoekstra
- Office of State Representative David Palsrok
- West Shore Medical Center
- United Way of Manistee

In the Fall of 2004, the MCCF contracted with the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (NWMCOG) to act as the project consultant. The NWMCOG assisted in process design, facilitated community dialogue, information gathering, and provided support for the project steering committee and work groups.

From the outset, several factors made enVision Manistee County unique. First, it was the first such effort ever undertaken in Manistee County. Second, a primary goal of enVision Manistee County was to involve all interests in the process from the outset. Third, the intensity of the initiative made it unique. It encompassed all elements of the quality of life in the county. It involved countless volunteers from throughout the county that were the heart and sole of the process. Finally, the visioning process in Manistee county has been rarely done in rural areas. It is a credit to the county and the participants that Manistee county is leading the way as a progressive rural county to plan and manage its future.



Manistee County, Michigan



enVision Manistee County Process



A “cookie-cutter” approach to visioning cannot work because every community is different. As a result, the enVision Manistee County process was designed to accommodate the unique needs of Manistee County.

To be effective, enVision Manistee County had to invite and embrace the involvement and input of the community. Additionally, enVision Manistee County needed to be a process that produced results. A vision is important, but action is key.

The enVision Manistee County participant groups included:

Project Management – The MCCF served as the “neutral convener” throughout the process, in keeping with one of their primary roles as a community foundation. The MCCF will also use the results of Envision to guide their grant making and in helping to link the priorities of the county with charitable giving.

Steering Committee – Community input directed the outcome, but the Steering Committee was ultimately responsible for providing the focus for the visioning process. Comprised of members representing a cross-section of agencies and organizations, the responsibilities of the Steering Committee included developing the scope of the project and promoting county-wide participation.

County-Wide Stakeholder Group – In order to ensure the broadest community representation and support, a stakeholder group met three times throughout the process.

The Stakeholder Group meetings, involving hundreds of participants, were held to update community members on progress and gain input from a wider representation of community leaders.

Work Groups – Work Groups addressed each of the six quality of life topic areas and acted as advisory bodies to the Steering Committee. Work Groups defined community needs, issues, opportunities and priorities within their defined area of focus. Their deliberations were supported by information gathered through public meetings, surveys, interviews, informal conversations and web site interaction.

More detailed information on the Work Groups can be found on page 5.





enVision Manistee County Process *cont.*

Citizen Input – Continuous citizen input was critical to the success of the visioning process in order to ensure ownership, continuity, and implementation of the results. To be legitimate, the visioning process requires the participation of a broad and diverse base of people that reflects the community. In addition to the Steering Committee, Stakeholder Group Meetings and Work Groups, opportunities for citizen involvement included:

- Public meetings;
- Website comments;
- Stakeholder meetings;
- Perception surveys.

enVision Manistee County was created using a variety of methodologies unique to the project, but the basic concept was developed after the “Oregon Model” (S. Ames, 1992), in which the visioning process is followed in four distinct steps:

1. Profiling the Community

During the first phase of the project, NWMCOG compiled a variety of data relevant to quality of life in Manistee County. The “enVision Manistee County Fact Book” was created to provide the community baseline information about the county as a jumping off point for the visioning process.

2. Analyzing the Trends

The second phase of the project assessed current and projected trends and their potential impact on the county. Using the Fact Book as baseline knowledge, residents and work groups assessed community values and projected trends impacting quality of life in the county.

Also, community surveys were used as a component of this phase. The first survey was a youth survey given to Manistee County high school students. The second survey, administered by Northwestern Michigan College’s

M-TEC department, was a random telephone survey administered to a scientifically valid sample of Manistee County’s residents.

3. Creating the Vision

During the third phase of enVision Manistee County, the community created the enVision Statements describing what it wants to become. During this phase, the work groups created their vision for 2015 within their quality of life area.

4. Developing an Action Plan

The fourth phase of the project produced goals, strategies, and action plans to attain the visions. Each work group created an “enVision Action Matrix” that collectively displays over 100 actions to improve quality of life in Manistee County.



enVision Manistee County Work Groups

Six enVision Manistee County Work Groups established visions, goals and strategies for the following quality of life areas:

- Arts, Culture, & Humanities
- Economy & Employment
- Government & Infrastructure
- Health & Human Services
- Natural Environment & Recreation
- Youth & Education



NWMCOG staff facilitated 36 work group meetings. Two local residents per work group were asked to serve as co-facilitators.

Each work group was responsible for the detailed exploration of issues relevant to their Quality of Life area, creating a vision statement, and developing accompanying action plans to address the vision statement.

To encourage full participation and reflect county-wide concerns and issues, it was determined that the work group meetings should be held in a variety of locations throughout the county, including:

- Stronach Township Hall
- Manistee County Road Commission
- Benzie/Manistee County Community Mental Health Building
- Onekama High School
- Brethren High School
- Trinity Lutheran Church
- Bear Lake High School

Additionally, three meetings were held to provide a forum for co-facilitators networking and training.

Each enVision Manistee County Work Group has its own section in the following pages of this report. While the reporting format for each work group is fairly consistent, there is some variability in outcomes due to the unique approach of each work group.





Arts, Culture, & Humanities

Arts and cultural opportunities are of immense significance to Manistee County..

Museums, musicians, festivals, artists and other art and culture assets are important to the community's social and economic health. A thriving arts and culture community benefits residents, visitors, and businesses alike. It is vital to education and brings depth, perspective and diversity to the County. It is a factor that can increasingly differentiate Manistee County's quality of life.



enVision Statement:

"In the year 2015, Manistee County boasts a thriving arts and cultural environment that reflects a dynamic quality of life. People of all ages participate in diverse forms of creative expression flowing through and strengthening communities. Arts, culture, and humanities encompass a way of thinking and living that identify Manistee County as a place to live the arts."

Work Group Activities:

This work group held six meetings to discuss the current status of Manistee County, review trends, identify present and future needs, and to recommend implementation options relating to the arts, culture, and humanities in Manistee County.



In the beginning of the work group phase, the Arts, Culture, and Humanities Work Group identified strengths and challenges including:

Strengths:

- Natural beauty of the area;
- The presence of theater arts;
- Community support for the arts;
- Residents with artistic talent;
- Multitude of cultural opportunities in a variety of venues.

Challenges:

- Cooperation among various arts and cultural groups;
- A feeling of disconnect from the arts in general;
- Funding;
- Opportunities for younger people.



Work Group Activities *cont.*:

Using maps of the Manistee County area, the Arts, Culture, & Humanities Work Group also identified primary assets and visions, including:

Assets:

- County-wide library system;
- Downtown City of Manistee cultural opportunities;
- Artistic scenery;
- Music festivals;
- Strong cultural base.

Visions:

- County cultural center;
- Downtown City of Manistee movie theater;
- Lake Michigan shoreline visual and performing arts center;
- Additional library branches;
- Scenic cleanup of Manistee Lake.



The Arts, Culture, and Humanities Work Group spent significant time creating a vision statement that would best reflect the ideal state of arts, culture, and humanities in 2015.

Individually and as a group the work group was asked to describe a realistic, ideal state for arts, culture, and humanities in 2015. Through facilitated discussion, the group created a consensus vision statement. Finally, the group used the vision statement to define action strategies.

The Arts, Culture, & Humanities enVision Statement can be found on the preceding page.

Action Planning:

The Arts, Culture, and Humanities Work Group identified twelve action items that support their vision for the future.

Of the twelve action items developed by this work group, four were considered to be priorities, including:

- Create a Manistee County Arts Alliance;
- Create an Arts Resource Directory;
- Implement a “Random Acts of Art” Program;
- Create a Manistee County Arts & Culture promotional package.



enVision Manistee County Arts, Culture, & Humanities Action Matrix

enVision Statement:

"In the year 2015, Manistee County boasts a thriving arts and cultural environment that reflects a dynamic quality of life. People of all ages participate in diverse forms of creative expression flowing through and strengthening communities. Arts, culture, and humanities encompass a way of thinking and living that identify Manistee County as a place to live the arts."

enVision Statement Focus Area: Boasts a thriving arts and cultural environment								
Strategy	Seek coordinated and collaborative efforts towards enhancing Manistee County's artistic and cultural activity.				Timeline			
Action 1.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Manistee County Arts Alliance	Create and implement a county-wide "arts alliance" to support and promote collaborative arts and cultural activities throughout Manistee County.	Area schools, Beautification Committee, Chamber of Commerce, CVB, Dickson School Cultural Center, DDA, galleries, local units of government, LRBOI, MAI, Manistee Civic Players, Manistee Historical Society, Ramsdell Theatre, Shoreline Showcase, Spirit of the Woods, WSCC	Youth & Education Work Group	MCCF, member fees, public & private grants, MI Arts Council, Revenue Sharing Board, sponsorships, Traverse Arts Council	X	>	>	>
Action 1.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Grant Writing Resources	Create a non-competitive environment for grant application skill building and joint ventures relating to the arts and cultural activities of Manistee County.	Area schools, Manistee County Arts Alliance, Beautification Committee, Chamber of Commerce, CVB, Dickson School Cultural Center, DDA, galleries, local units of government, LRBOI, MAI, Manistee Civic Players, Manistee Historical Society, NWMCOG, Ramsdell Theatre, Shoreline Showcase, Spirit of the Woods, WSCC	All enVision Manistee County Work Groups	MCCF, member fees, public & private grants, MI Arts Council, Revenue Sharing Board, sponsorships, Traverse Arts Council		X	>	>
Action 1.3	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Arts Resource Directory	Create and implement a local arts resource directory (hard copy and Internet based) where information can be easily found by subject or artist name.	Area schools, Manistee County Arts Alliance, Beautification Committee, Chamber of Commerce, CVB, Dickson School Cultural Center, DDA, galleries, local units of government, LRBOI, MAI, Manistee Civic Players, Manistee Historical Society, Ramsdell Theatre, Shoreline Showcase, Spirit of the Woods, WSCC	Economy & Employment Work Group	MCCF, member fees, public & private grants, MI Arts Council, Revenue Sharing Board, sponsorships, Traverse Arts Council		X	>	>

enVision Statement Focus Area: People of all ages participate								
Strategy	Seek cross-generational arts / culture training and demonstration in the school system.				Timeline			
Action 2.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Local Art in Education Program	Create and implement strategies focusing on integrating local artist knowledge into the classroom through demonstration and educational forums specific to the artist's area of expertise.	Area schools, Manistee County Arts Alliance, Beautification Committee, Chamber of Commerce, CVB, Dickson School Cultural Center, DDA, galleries, local units of government, LRBOI, MAI, Manistee Civic Players, Manistee Historical Society, Ramsdell Theatre, Shoreline Showcase, Spirit of the Woods, WSCC	Youth & Education Work Group	MCCF, member fees, public & private grants, MI Arts Council, Revenue Sharing Board, sponsorships, Traverse Arts Council		X	>	>
Action 2.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Historic Preservation Programs`	Create and implement historic preservation programs that encourage and strengthen public awareness to historic preservation in Manistee County.	Area schools, Manistee County Arts Alliance, Beautification Committee, Chamber of Commerce, CVB, Dickson School Cultural Center, DDA, local units of government, LRBOI, MAI, Manistee Historical Society, Ramsdell Theatre, Shoreline Showcase, Spirit of the Woods, WSCC	Economy & Employment / Government & Infrastructure Work Groups	MCCF, member fees, public & private grants, MI Arts Council, Revenue Sharing Board, sponsorships, Traverse Arts Council		X	>	>
Action 2.3	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Youth Music Showcase	Create and implement a youth music showcase to regularly highlight local, youth bands in the area.	Area schools, Arts Council, Manistee Arts Institute, Ramsdell Theater, local governmental units, Manistee Civic Players, Jaycees, Big Brothers/Sisters, Junior Achievement, parent groups, YAC	Natural Environment & Recreation Work Group	Local, private foundations, YAC, revenue sharing board, schools, service organizations		X		

Please note:

- Every action item supports a key focus area (underlined in the enVision statement) and strategy;
- Assigned numbers are meant for referencing purposes only;
- All acronym definitions can be found in the Appendix section of this document.

LEGEND:

- =Implemented
- × =To be implemented
- > =Ongoing
-  =Priority Item

enVision Statement Focus Area: Diverse forms of creative expression								
Strategy	Seek unique ways to represent Manistee County's artistic and cultural base.				Timeline			
Action 3.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
"Random Acts of Art" Program	Create and implement a "random acts of art program" that would allow local artists to display their creations in highly visible, unique locations.	Area schools, Manistee County Arts Alliance, Beautification Committee, Chamber of Commerce, CVB, Dickson School Cultural Center, DDA, galleries, local units of government, LRBOI, MAI, Manistee Civic Players, Manistee Historical Society, Ramsdell Theatre, Shoreline Showcase, Spirit of the Woods, WSCC	Economy & Employment / Government & Infrastructure Work Groups	MCCF, member fees, public & private grants, MI Arts Council, Revenue Sharing Board, sponsorships, Traverse Arts Council		X	>	>
Action 3.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Manistee County Brand Identification	Seek ways to creatively enhance Manistee County's "brand" through local artist input and collaboration.	Area schools, Manistee County Arts Alliance, Beautification Committee, Chamber of Commerce, CVB, Dickson School Cultural Center, DDA, galleries, local units of government, LRBOI, MAI, Manistee Civic Players, Manistee Historical Society, Ramsdell Theatre, Shoreline Showcase, Spirit of the Woods, WSCC	Economy & Employment / Government & Infrastructure Work Groups	MCCF, member fees, public & private grants, MI Arts Council, Revenue Sharing Board, sponsorships, Traverse Arts Council		X		X
Action 3.3	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Manistee County Cultural Center	Seek strategies towards the creation of a county cultural center that would celebrate Manistee County's cultural heritage.	Area schools, Manistee County Arts Alliance, Beautification Committee, Chamber of Commerce, CVB, Dickson School Cultural Center, DDA, galleries, local units of government, LRBOI, MAI, Manistee Civic Players, Manistee Historical Society, Ramsdell Theatre, Shoreline Showcase, Spirit of the Woods, WSCC	Government & Infrastructure Work Group	MCCF, member fees, public & private grants, MI Arts Council, Revenue Sharing Board, sponsorships, Traverse Arts Council		X		

enVision Statement Focus Area: Arts, culture, and humanities encompass a way of thinking and living								
Strategy	Promote Manistee County arts, culture, and humanities as a strength of the community.				Timeline			
Action 4.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Arts / Culture Promotional Package	Create and implement a local arts / culture promotional package that effectively communicates the county's creativity base.	Area schools, Manistee County Arts Alliance, Beautification Committee, Chamber of Commerce, CVB, Dickson School Cultural Center, DDA, galleries, local units of government, LRBOI, MAI, Manistee Civic Players, Manistee Historical Society, Ramsdell Theatre, Shoreline Showcase, Spirit of the Woods, WSCC	Economy & Employment Work Group	MCCF, member fees, public & private grants, MI Arts Council, Revenue Sharing Board, sponsorships, Traverse Arts Council		X		
Action 4.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Local Artist Celebration	Create and implement a county-wide art celebration that highlights the works of local artists.	Area schools, Manistee County Arts Alliance, Beautification Committee, Chamber of Commerce, CVB, DDA, galleries, local units of government, LRBOI, MAI, Manistee Civic Players, Manistee Historical Society, Ramsdell Theatre, Shoreline Showcase, Spirit of the Woods, WSCC	Economy & Employment Work Group	MCCF, member fees, public & private grants, MI Arts Council, Revenue Sharing Board, sponsorships, Traverse Arts Council		X	>	>
Action 4.3	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
ACH Outreach & Education Program	Create and implement a regular appearance in local media to highlight and educate the public on current and upcoming artistic /cultural activities.	Area schools, Manistee County Arts Alliance, Beautification Committee, Chamber of Commerce, CVB, Dickson School Cultural Center, DDA, galleries, local units of government, LRBOI, MAI, Manistee Civic Players, Manistee Historical Society, Ramsdell Theatre, Shoreline Showcase, Spirit of the Woods, WSCC		MCCF, member fees, public & private grants, MI Arts Council, Revenue Sharing Board, sponsorships, Traverse Arts Council		X	>	>

Please note:

- Every action item supports a key focus area (underlined in the enVision statement) and strategy;
- Assigned numbers are meant for referencing purposes only;
- All acronym definitions can be found in the Appendix section of this document.

LEGEND:

- =Implemented
- =To be implemented
- > =Ongoing
- =Priority Item



Economy & Employment

The economic health of a community is fundamental to its quality of life. A community with economic difficulties has limited resources to address its quality of life priorities.

Improving health care, housing, transportation, social programs, public safety and education can be difficult when the economy slows. In a poor economy, wages may suffer, tax revenues will decline and property values can stagnate.

Understanding and shaping the economic environment is a key step toward understanding and enhancing quality of life in Manistee County.



enVision Statement:

"In the year 2015, Manistee County has good cooperation at all levels of the community, a highly educated / skilled workforce, a diverse and growing economy and a reputation as a business-friendly community that recognizes the importance of sustaining and expanding its economic base. The County also has a common vision that can be adapted to changing conditions, a balanced quality of life, and a reputation for natural beauty and a strong commitment to environmental stewardship."

Work Group Activities:

This work group held six meetings to discuss the current status of Manistee County, review trends, identify present and future needs, and to recommend implementation options relating to the economy and employment in Manistee County.



In the beginning of the work group phase, the Economy & Employment Work Group identified strengths and challenges, including:

Strengths:

- Natural resources;
- Existing manufacturing base;
- Strong public school system and community college;
- Growth of tourism.

Challenges:

- Lack of unity on what type of economic growth is needed;
- Lack of governmental cooperation;
- Resistance to change;
- Industrial jobs decreasing along with average annual wages.
- Attracting technology firms and jobs.



Work Group Activities *cont.*:

Using maps of the Manistee County area, the Economy & Employment Work Group also identified primary assets and visions, including:

Assets:

- Outdoor recreation opportunities;
- Economic vitality of Downtown Manistee;
- Manufacturing base;
- Road system.

Visions:

- Increase industrial park development in Manistee and Kaleva;
- Greater use of Renaissance Zones;
- Additional recreational opportunities throughout the county;
- Improve multi-modal transportation systems;
- Increase workforce development;
- Increase technical jobs and infrastructure.



The Economy & Employment Work Group spent significant time creating a vision statement that would reflect the ideal state of the economy and employment in 2015.

The work group was asked to describe a realistic, ideal state for the economy and employment in 2015. Then, through facilitated discussion, the group create a consensus vision statement. Finally, the group was asked to identify action strategies based upon their vision.

The Economy & Employment enVision Statement can be found on the preceding page.

Action Planning:

The Economy & Employment Work Group identified twenty-four action items to attain their vision for the future.

Of the twenty-four action items developed by this work group, nine were considered to be priority items, including:

- Create a Manistee County economic development policies and programs resource guide;
- Enhance career skills and basic education training;
- Create an economic best practices committee;
- Continuously update, review, and analyze pertinent Manistee County economic data;
- Survey employer needs;
- Survey employment skill base;
- Create a small business “Red-Tape Cutter” program;
- Create value-added agriculture programs;
- Create a county-wide economic development marketing plan.

enVision Manistee County Economy & Employment Action Matrix

enVision Statement:

"In the year 2015, Manistee County has good cooperation at all levels of the community, a highly educated / skilled workforce, a diverse and growing economy and a reputation as a business-friendly community that recognizes the importance of sustaining and expanding its economic base. The County also has a common vision that can be adapted to changing conditions, a balanced quality of life, and a reputation for natural beauty and a strong commitment to environmental stewardship."

enVision Statement Focus Area: Good cooperation at all levels of the community								
Strategy	Seek opportunities to collaborate, cooperate and communicate with the County, City, Tribe, villages, townships, regional agencies, and non-profits to address common issues and concerns relating to the economic health of Manistee County.				Timeline			
Action 1.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Government Master Plan Collaboration	Enhance collaboration with the business community and local units of government in creating and updating master plans.	Local businesses, MECCA, DDA, Chamber of Commerce, Mfg. Council, IDC, local units of government, LRBOI, NWMCOG	Government & Infrastructure Work Group	None needed.		X	>	>
Action 1.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Economic Development Regional Forums	Create economic development regional forums that will focus on locally-based industries and businesses to serve the needs of local enterprise and promote stable employment.	NWMCOG, MEDC, Chamber of Commerce, Northwest Lower Michigan units of government, WSCC, EDOs, tribal gov'ts		Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>

enVision Statement Focus Area: Good cooperation at all levels of the community								
Strategy CONTINUED	Seek opportunities to collaborate, cooperate and communicate with the County, City, Tribe, villages, townships, regional agencies, and non-profits to address common issues and concerns relating to the economic health of Manistee County.				Timeline			
Action 1.3	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Economic Development Policies and Program Resource	Create a county-wide economic development policies and programs resource guide for use by local governments and potential business owners.	Local businesses, MEDC, Chamber of Commerce, DDA, NWMCOG, MECCA, Mfg. Council, SBTDC, IDC, local units of government, LRBOI		Local units of government, public & private grants		X		
Action 1.4	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Transportation Port Authority	Use intergovernmental exploration and cooperation towards the possible creation of a Transportation Port Authority to address transportation infrastructure issues related to the economic health of Manistee County.	Local units of government, LRBOI	Government & Infrastructure Work Group	Local units of government, public & private grants			X	

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enVision Statement Focus Area: Highly educated / skilled workforce								
Strategy	Teach career specific skills and demonstrate a positive work ethic to potential employees.				Timeline			
Action 2.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Business Internship Programs	Create internship and apprenticeship programs for persons entering and re-entering the workforce.	Local businesses, local units of government, Chamber of Commerce, LRBOI, WSCC, SBTDC, MI Works, area schools	Youth & Education Work Group	Local units of government, area schools, public & private grants		X	>	>
Action 2.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Career Skills & Basic Education Training	Enhance current career skills training opportunities to focus on local / regional employment needs.	Local businesses, local units of government, LRBOI, SBTDC, WSCC, NWMCOG, MI Works, area schools	Youth & Education Work Group	Local units of government, area schools, public & private grants	X	>	>	>
Action 2.3	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Life Skill Training Programs	Enhance current life skill training (i.e. attitude, professionalism, work ethic, etc.) opportunities to focus on how such skills improve employability.	Local businesses, area schools, parent groups	Youth & Education Work Group	Local units of government, area schools, public & private grants		X	>	>
Action 2.4	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Migrant Worker Services	Support and enhance current migrant worker services to assist in migrant worker issues.	Local units of government, state/federal units of government, agricultural community	Youth & Education / Health & Human Services Work Groups	Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>

enVision Statement Focus Area: Diverse and growing economy								
Strategy	Accept and expect change in order to explore opportunities for increasing the economic health of Manistee County.				Timeline			
Action 3.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Broadband Implementation	Create and implement strategies to create a county-wide, high speed internet network.	Area schools, Local governmental units, MEDC, EDA, LRBOI, MECCA	Government & Infrastructure Work Group	Local units of government, public & private grants		X		
Action 3.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Economic Best Practices Committee	Create an Economic Best Practices Committee in order to recognize current and future economic trends affecting Manistee County and to explore options for the County to positively adapt to such changes.	Local businesses, CVB, Chamber of Commerce, MECCA, Mfg. Council, SBTDC, IDC, local units of government, LRBOI, NWMCOG		None needed.		X	>	>
Action 3.3	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Risk Management Program	Create and implement methodologies for analyzing the reasons behind small business failure in Manistee County. Learn from past failures through the dissemination of such knowledge.	Local businesses, MECCA, Mfg. Council, SBTDC, IDC, WSCC, LRBOI, NWMCOG		Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>

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enVision Statement Focus Area: Reputation as a business-friendly community								
Strategy	Assess Manistee County's economic base.				Timeline			
Action 4.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Survey Employer Needs	Create and deliver a survey geared specifically at assessing the employment needs of area business.	Local businesses, CVB, WSCC, area schools, MECCA, LRBOI, Mfg. Council, MEDC, IDC, local units of government, NWMCOG	Youth & Education Work Group	Local units of government, public & private grants	X		X	
Action 4.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Survey Employment Skill Base	Create and deliver a survey geared specifically at assessing and rating the employability of Manistee County residents.	Local businesses, CVB, WSCC, MEDC, area schools, LRBOI, MECCA, Mfg. Council, IDC, local units of government, NWMCOG	Youth & Education Work Group	Local units of government, public & private grants		X		X
Action 4.3	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Economic Data Analysis	Review and update on a regular basis relevant and locally identifiable economic data to better demonstrate possible trends and economic viability issues.	Local businesses, CVB, WSCC, area schools, MECCA, MEDC, Mfg. Council, IDC, local units of government, MDOT, energy providers, LRBOI, airport, shipping carriers, NWMCOG		Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>
Action 4.4	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Infrastructure Assessment	Create a thorough analysis of current infrastructure (transportation, broadband internet, utilities, etc.) as it relates to the economic health of Manistee County.	Local businesses, WSCC, CVB, MEDC, area schools, MECCA, Mfg. Council, IDC, local units of government, MDOT, energy providers, LRBOI, airport, shipping carriers, NWMCOG	Government & Infrastructure Work Group	Local units of government, public & private grants		X		X

Strategy	Create a financial support system for small business.				Timeline			
Action 5.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Small Business "Red Tape Cutter" Program	Create and/or enhance a program to assist in removing many of the bureaucratic controls for new or existing businesses.	MECCA, local units of government, DDA, SBTDC	Government & Infrastructure Work Group	MECCA, local units of government		X	>	>
Action 5.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Small Business Low-Interest Loan Program	Create and implement a locally driven small business loan program to promote and sustain small business development.	Financial institutions, MECCA, IDC, DDA		Financial institutions, MECCA, IDC, DDA		X	>	>
Action 5.3	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Small Business Tax Incentives Program	Create and implement a locally driven tax incentive program to promote and sustain small business development.	Local units of government, Chamber of Commerce, MECCA, IDC, DDA	Government & Infrastructure Work Group	Local units of government, MECCA, IDC, DDA		X	>	>
Action 5.4	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Small Business Angel Funding Network	Create and implement a locally driven angel funding network, where individuals or groups provide capital to one or more startup companies.	Financial institutions, investors, MECCA, Chamber of Commerce, DDA		Financial institutions, investors, MECCA		X	>	>

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enVision Statement Focus Area: Sustaining and expanding Manistee County's economic base								
Strategy	Support existing businesses to promote organic growth.				Timeline			
Action 6.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Small Business Networking	Create regular opportunities for local business owners to share experiences and best practices from outside sources and with one another.	Local businesses, MECCA, Chamber of Commerce, SBTDC		Local units of government, MECCA, IDC, DDA		X	>	>
Action 6.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Value-Added Agriculture	Create and implement strategies to explore value-added agricultural opportunities throughout Manistee County.	Local businesses, WSCC, MEDC, CVB, MSUE, MECCA, local units of government, LRBOI, NWMCOG, MLUI, agricultural community	Natural Environment & Recreation Work Group	Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>

enVision Statement Focus Area: Common vision that can be adapted to changing conditions								
Strategy	Develop a community identity program that reflects the community's character and promotes economic opportunity in Manistee County.				Timeline			
Action 7.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Economic Development Marketing Plan	Create a collaborative economic development marketing plan to target specific industry sectors best suited for the market conditions of Manistee County.	All Manistee County residents, governments, and businesses	All enVision Work Groups	Local units of government, MECCA, public & private grants		X		X
Action 7.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Signage Development and Implementation Program	Develop a signage program, incorporating Manistee County logo and motto, and include community gateways and township / village components.	Local governmental units, local businesses, Road Commission, LRBOI, MECCA	Government & Infrastructure Work Group	Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>
Action 7.3	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Manistee County Logo / Motto	Establish, through a community process, a Manistee County logo and motto which represents the community's unique identity.	All Manistee County residents, governments, and businesses	All enVision Work Groups	Local units of government, public & private grants	O (logo, no motto)	X		X

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Government & Infrastructure

Local government services are directly related to quality of life. All governmental units in Manistee County provide a variety of essential services, from maintaining public safety to protecting the natural environment.

Adequate infrastructure is also essential for Manistee County's health and vitality. Infrastructure guides community growth and is fundamental to the well-being of a community.

Understanding the issues relating to government and infrastructure creates opportunities for inclusive decision making and sustainable growth throughout Manistee County.



enVision Statement:

"In the year 2015, individuals, groups, and governmental units continue their collaborative efforts to promote exceptional quality of life for all. Infrastructure is well maintained and expands to provide affordable, convenient access, while being environmentally sensitive. Broad participation in the government process makes Manistee County a dynamic community in which to live, grow, and prosper."

Work Group Activities:

This work group held six meetings to discuss the current status of Manistee County, review trends, identify present and future needs, and to recommend implementation options relating to government and infrastructure in Manistee County.



In the beginning of the work group phase, the Government & Infrastructure Work Group identified strengths and challenges including:

Strengths:

- Natural resources;
- Local hospital;
- Strong public school system;
- Deep water port;
- Quality and availability of east/west and north/south highways.

Challenges:

- Determining what type of new businesses to attract;
- Creating opportunities for younger residents;
- Intergovernmental cooperation and communication.



Work Group Activities *cont.*:

Using maps of the Manistee County area, the Government & Infrastructure Work Group also identified primary assets and visions, including:

Assets:

- Abundance of recreational opportunities;
- Existing manufacturing base;
- Public safety system;
- City of Manistee;
- Airport;
- Public transit system;
- Abundance of public lands.

Visions:

- Expand broadband coverage;
- Fill industrial parks;
- Improve park and trail systems;
- Improve recycling program;
- Improve water quality monitoring;
- Expand sewer and water;
- Improve intergovernmental cooperation.



The Government & Infrastructure Work Group spent significant time creating a vision statement that would reflect the ideal state of government and infrastructure in 2015.

The work group was asked to describe a realistic, ideal state for government and infrastructure in 2015. Then, through facilitated discussion, the group created a consensus vision statement. Finally, the group was asked to determine action strategies to attain the visions.

The Government & Infrastructure enVision Statement can be found on the preceding page.

Action Planning:

The Government & Infrastructure Work Group identified twenty-two items that support their vision for the future.

Of the twenty-two action items developed by this work group, seven were considered to be priority items, including:

- Create a forum for local planning collaboration;
- Create a county road / recreation map;
- Seek way to connect existing trail systems;
- Create a Manistee County Recreation Plan;
- Create a county-wide recycling program;
- Create a Citizen Involvement Committee;
- Create a county-wide broadband network.

enVision Manistee County Government & Infrastructure Action Matrix

enVision Statement:

"In the year 2015, individuals, groups, and governmental units continue their collaborative efforts to promote exceptional quality of life for all. Infrastructure is well-maintained and expands to provide affordable and convenient access, while being environmentally sensitive. Broad participation in the government process makes Manistee County a dynamic community in which to live, grow, and prosper."

enVision Statement Focus Area: Collaborative efforts to promote exceptional quality of life								
Strategy	Seek collaborative ways to enhance current governmental functions.				Timeline			
Action 1.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Local Governmental Units Planning Collaboration	Create and implement quarterly meetings between planning / zoning boards to share best practices	Local governmental units		None needed		X	>	>
Action 1.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Michigan 2-1-1 Comprehensive Information and Referral System	In coordination with the healthcare community, create and implement a county-wide 2-1-1 service to provide callers with information about and referrals to human services for every day needs and in times of crisis	HSCB, HHS Council, MCCF, LRBOI, business & industry, government, MECCA, MCCVB, media outlets	Health & Human Services Work Group	WSMC, MCCF, Revenue Sharing Board, public & private grants, UW, DHS, WSCC		X	>	>
Action 1.3	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Blight / Trash Ordinance	Create, implement, and enforce a coordinated blight / trash ordinance throughout Manistee County.	Local townships, cities, and villages		Manistee County		X		

Strategy CONTINUED	Seek collaborative ways to enhance current governmental functions.				Timeline			
Action 1.4	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Multi-jurisdictional Planning	Seek ways to better enhance current multi-jurisdictional planning efforts in Manistee County.	Local governmental units		None needed	X	>	>	>
Action 1.5	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Enhancing Manistee County's "Character"	Seek ways to promote and enhance Manistee County's rural or village character where appropriate.	Area schools, League of Women Voters, Local governmental units, LRBOI, MECCA, Onsite Wastewater Task Force, Road Commission, service organizations, U.S. Forest Service	Art, Culture, & Humanities / Economy & Employment Work Groups	local units of government, revenue sharing board, MSU STDI, private & public grants, service organizations		X	>	>

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Strategy	Seek collaborative ways to better promote recreational opportunities in the county.				Timeline			
Action 2.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Road / Recreational Map	Create and distribute a county specific road / recreation map that would show access points to recreational opportunities via the county road system.	NWMCOG, Local governmental units, Road Commission, service organizations, MDNR, U.S. Forest Service	Natural Environment & Recreation Work Group	Local units of government, public & private grants		X		X
Action 2.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Recreational Trail Connectivity	Create and implement strategies to connect existing trail systems in Manistee county.	Local governmental units, Road Commission, service organizations, MDNR, U.S. Forest Service	All enVision Manistee County Work Groups	Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>
Action 2.3	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Large Boat Harboring	Explore opportunities to allow the harboring of large (>60') boats.	Local marinas, Local governmental units, LRBOI, MECCA	Natural Environment & Recreation / Economy & Employment Work Groups	Local units of government, public & private grants		X		

Strategy CONTINUED	Seek collaborative ways to better promote recreational opportunities in the county.				Timeline			
Action 2.4	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
County Recreation Plan	Create and implement a county recreation plan to address a wide range of recreational issues facing residents and visitors alike.	Local governmental units, Manistee County residents, NWMCOG	All enVision Manistee County Work Groups	Local units of government, public & private grants		X		X
Action 2.5	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Recreation Commission	Create a county-wide recreation commission to oversee and implement county recreation plan strategies.	Local governmental units, MDNR, U.S. Forest Service	All enVision Manistee County Work Groups	Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>
Action 2.6	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
County Road Bicycling Access	Create and implement strategies to allow for the increased shoulder width of county roads to better allow for bicycle traffic.	Local governmental units, MDOT, Road Commission	Natural Environment & Recreation Work Group	Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>

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Strategy	Seek collaborative ways to promote environmental responsibility in the county.				Timeline			
Action 3.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
County-wide Recycling Program	Create and implement a county-wide recycling program that includes a wide range of recycling needs in the county (paper, glass, plastic, hazardous waste, electronics, etc.).	Area schools, local governmental units	Natural Environment & Recreation Work Group	Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>
Action 3.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Spring Cleanup Program	Create and implement a county-wide spring cleanup program.	Local governmental units, Road Commission, service organizations	Natural Environment & Recreation Work Group	Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>
Action 3.3	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Septic Tank Inspections	Create and implement a county-wide ordinance and educational series promoting the regular inspection of septic tank systems in Manistee County.	Local governmental units, Onsite Wastewater Task Force	Natural Environment & Recreation Work Group	Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>

Strategy CONTINUED	Seek collaborative ways to promote environmental responsibility in the county.				Timeline			
Action 3.4	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Clean Drinking Water Programs	Seek strategies to promote clean drinking water as an asset to Manistee County.	Local governmental units, Onsite Wastewater Task Force	Natural Environment & Recreation Work Group	Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>
Action 3.5	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Abandoned Well Inspections	Seek strategies towards the regular inspection of abandoned wells (oil, gas, water) in Manistee County.	Local governmental units, Onsite Wastewater Task Force	Natural Environment & Recreation Work Group	Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>

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enVision Statement Focus Area: Infrastructure is well maintained and expands								
Strategy	Seek best practice methodologies to improve upon Manistee County's current infrastructure.				Timeline			
Action 4.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Road Quality / Traffic Task Force	Enhance current road quality / traffic analysis programs.	Local governmental units, Road Commission, MDOT	Economy & Employment Work Group	Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>
Action 4.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Broadband Implementation	Create and implement strategies to create a county-wide, high speed internet network.	Area schools, Local governmental units, LRBOI, MECCA	Economy & Employment Work Group	Local units of government, public & private grants		X		
Action 4.3	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Public Water / Sewer Systems	Explore opportunities to create public water / sewer systems in appropriate areas.	Local governmental units, Onsite Wastewater Task Force	Natural Environment & Recreation Work Group	Local units of government, public & private grants		X		

enVision Statement Focus Area: Broad participation in the government process								
Strategy	Involve citizens in the governmental process.				Timeline			
Action 5.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Citizen Involvement Committee	Create and implement a county-wide citizen involvement committee to organize opportunities for direct interaction with elected and appointed officials and to gauge perception of residents.	Area schools, League of Women Voters, Local governmental units, MECCA, service organizations	All enVision Manistee County Work Groups	Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>
Action 5.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Election Education Forums	Create and implement non-partisan forums to inform and educate the public to election year issues and candidates.	Area schools, League of Women Voters, Local governmental units, MECCA, service organizations	All enVision Manistee County Work Groups	Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>
Action 5.3	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Communications Clearinghouse	Create and implement a communications clearinghouse to provide a singular source for government postings, announcements, and minutes.	enVision Manistee County, League of Women Voters, Local governmental units, NWMCOG, service organizations		Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>

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Health & Human Services

Health is fundamental to quality of life. People suffering from health problems face considerable challenges in addressing other aspects of life. Preventive health care can also be critical for communities, and can potentially save considerable resources. Access to health and human services can pose significant barriers which communities must address.

Additionally, the health of an area's social environment is an important quality of life factor. Manistee County's social environment takes into account poverty, mental health, and family dynamics - issues that impact everyone in the community.

If Manistee County fails to address the health and human services needs of those in the community, it will face tremendous challenges in the future.

enVision Statement:

"In the year 2015, Manistee County is an educated and informed community that values the diversity of individuals and that brings together a variety of resources to meet identified needs for universal access to high quality health and human services."

Work Group Activities:

This work group held six meetings to discuss the current status of Manistee County, review trends, identify present and future needs, and to recommend implementation options relating to health and human services in Manistee County.



In the beginning of the work group phase, the Health & Human Services Work Group identified strengths and challenges, including:

Strengths:

- High levels of volunteerism;
- Financially stable hospital;
- 10-County health plan for those not covered by Medicaid;
- Human Services Collaborative Body.

Challenges:

- Educating people about preventative health;
- Rise of health care costs;
- Aging population issues;
- Federal and state advocacy abilities;
- Reduced health care budgets.



Work Group Activities *cont.*:

Using maps of the Manistee County area, the Health & Human Services Work Group identified primary assets and visions, including:

Assets:

- County-wide health delivery system;
- Community mental health system;
- County-wide affordable housing;
- Emergency medical service;
- Senior services.

Visions:

- Primary health services in every rural community;
- 2-1-1 system;
- More dental providers;
- Enhanced mental, substance abuse programs;
- Effective public transportation system;
- Mobile hospital services;
- Migrant family services;
- Free medical clinic.



The Health & Human Services Work Group spent significant time creating a vision statement that would best reflect the ideal state of health and human services in 2015.

The work group was asked to describe a realistic, ideal state of health and human services in 2015. Then, through facilitated discussion, the group created a consensus vision statement. Finally, the group was asked to define strategies based upon its vision.

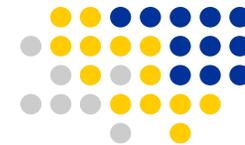
The Health & Human Services enVision Statement can be found on the preceding page.

Action Planning:

The Health & Human Services Work Group identified eighteen action items that support their vision for the future.

Of the eighteen action items developed by this work group, five were considered to be priority items, including:

- Create a health and human services communication / information strategy;
- Implement a Michigan 2-1-1 comprehensive information and referral system;
- Form a Health & Human Services Council;
- HHS transportation system;
- Implement a county-wide health and human services needs assessment.



enVision Manistee County Health & Human Services Action Matrix

enVision Statement:

"In the year 2015, Manistee County is an educated and informed community that values the diversity of individuals and that brings together a variety of resources to meet identified needs for universal access to high quality health and human services."

enVision Statement Focus Area: Educated and informed community								
Strategy	Provide widely available public resources for education and information regarding health and human services.				Timeline			
Action 1.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
HHS Communication / Information Strategy	Create and implement communication venues supplemental to current and future HHS systems to educate and inform those in need of specific HHS resources.	HSCB, UW, MCCF, HHS Council, business & industry, government, MECCA, MCCVB, LRBOI, media outlets	Youth & Education / Government & Infrastructure Work Groups	WSMC, MCCF, Revenue Sharing Board, UW, DHS, WSCC		X	>	>
Action 1.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Michigan 2-1-1 Comprehensive Information and Referral System	Implement 2-1-1 service in Manistee County to provide information about and referrals to HHS Agencies. Promote 2-1-1 to educate and inform citizens, businesses, and organizations throughout Manistee County.	HSCB, HHS Council, MCCF, LRBOI, business & industry, government, United Way, MECCA, MCCVB, media outlets	Government & Infrastructure Work Group	WSMC, MCCF, Revenue Sharing Board, UW, DHS, WSCC		X	>	>
Action 1.3	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
HHS Education Programs	Create and implement a systematic approach to assure that appropriate HHS programs meet identified community needs.	MSUE, District 10 Health Dept, HHS Council, SFSC, LRBOI, WSCC, DHS, CTF, MISD, MSUE	Youth & Education Work Group	District 10 Health Dept, WSCC, DHS, SFSC, CTF, MISD		X	>	>

enVision Statement Focus Area: Values the diversity of individuals								
Strategy	Increase the diversity (race, sex, age, economic, social, etc.) of individuals receiving and providing health and human services.				Timeline			
Action 2.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Diversity Awareness Program	Promote diversity awareness training to various agencies and groups, including inter-agency training opportunities.	Area schools, MISD, student organizations, MSUE, MCFA, DHS, LRBOI, service groups, Michigan Works, WSMC, MCCF	Arts, Culture, & Humanities / Economy & Employment Work Groups	MSUE, District 10 Health Dept, WSCC, DHS, CTF, LRBOI, MISD		X		
Action 2.3	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Diverse Choices of Treatment Strategy	Provide treatment choices (i.e.: holistic, faith-based, alternative medicine, etc.) for HHS clients throughout Manistee County.	HHS Council, LRBOI, organizations of holistic & alternative treatment providers		HHS Providers		X		
Action 2.3	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Cultural Awareness Events	Encourage and support events that showcase diversity within Manistee County.	MECCA, LRBOI, CVB, MEA	Arts, Culture, & Humanities / Economy & Employment Work Groups	MCCVB, MECCA, LRBOI		X	>	>

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enVision Statement Focus Area: Brings together a variety of resources								
Strategy	Seek opportunities to collaborate, cooperate and communicate with health and human services agencies to address common issues and concerns related to the physical, social, and mental health of Manistee County.				Timeline			
Action 3.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
HHS Council	Form a council of multiple HHS agency heads and other decision-makers that convenes regularly to support and advance a cohesive system for maximizing resources and to implement HHS strategies of enVision Manistee County.	WSCC, WSMC, 9 -1-1, MCISD, CMH, United Way, MCCF, 2-1-1, Love INC		HHS Council Member Agencies		X	>	>
Action 3.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Grant Resources Program	Create and implement a non-competitive environment for building grant writing skills and developing collaborative grant application processes. Regularly provide inter-agency grant writing workshops. Develop a system for identifying grants.	WSCC, HSCB member agencies, HSCB Exec. Comm., MI Works, LRBOI, NWMCOG, MECCA	All enVision Manistee County Work Groups	HSCB member agencies and grants (UW, MCCF, State of Michigan), WSCC		X	>	>
Action 3.3	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Human Services Collaborative Body (HSCB)	Enhance and support current HSCB activities that focus on collaborative efforts to improve the physical, social, and mental health of Manistee County and to promote collaboration and cooperation between various groups to develop education & training opportunities.	HSCB member agencies, SFSC, HSCB Exec. Comm.		HSCB member agencies and grants (UW, MCCF, State of Michigan), SFSC	O	>	>	>

enVision Statement Focus Area: Meet identified needs								
Strategy	Explore opportunities to maintain and improve physical, mental and social health in response to changing needs of Manistee County.				Timeline			
Action 4.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
HHS Resources Inventory	Identify and implement tools for continuous, real-time inventory of HHS services and programs.	2-1-1 contact hub, SFSC, all HHS providers	Economy & Employment Work Group	State, MCCF, UW, WSMC, SFSC		X		X
Action 4.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Community HHS Needs Assessment	Identify and implement HHS assessment tools, communication, and data-gathering systems to connect those in need with the resources available.	WSMC, Love INC, 2-1-1 contact hub, local media	Economy & Employment Work Group	MCCF, UW, WSMC, FEMA		X		X
Action 4.3	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Community Volunteer System	Create and implement a system for volunteers to identify and connect with opportunities for meaningful and effective use of their interests and abilities.	WSMC, Love INC, MISD/Schools, 2-1-1 contact hub, LRBOI, Senior Center, WSCC	All enVision Manistee County Work Groups	WSMC, MCCF, Revenue Sharing Board, UW, DHS, WSCC		X	>	>

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enVision Statement Focus Area: Universal access								
Strategy	Ensure universal access to healthcare for all Manistee County residents.				Timeline			
Action 5.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Community / State / Federal Aid Identification and Advocacy Program	Create and implement a system for identifying available aid and for informing/mentoring those in need to ensure they have access to these resources. Establish a county advocacy system to communicate with high-level decision makers.	WSMC, WSCC, FiveCap, DHS, Love INC, MECCA, Health Dept., Community Mental Health, Continuum of Care, Manistee County State legislators, local media	All enVision Manistee County Work Groups	DHS, local media		X	>	>
Action 5.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
HHS Transportation Program	Assess needs for HHS-related transportation. Identify, support, and improve county-wide, low-cost or free transportation to HHS appointments.	Little River Casino Resort Shuttle, Manistee County Transportation, Volunteer System	Government & Infrastructure Work Group	Manistee County Transportation, LRBOI		X	>	>
Action 5.3	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Community Centers	Identify or establish gathering places throughout the county where community members would interact. Expedite accessibility & delivery by providing services on-site whenever possible. Integrate a variety of uses (i.e.: town meetings, health education, teen activities, fitness).	Local govt's., HHS Council, schools, Dickson School Cultural Ctr., MECCA, MSUE, LRBOI	Arts, Culture, & Humanities / Government & Infrastructure Work Groups	Local govt's., HHS Council, schools, MSUE, LRBOI	O	>	>	>
Action 5.4	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Telephone / Internet HHS Communication	Identify and implement a means of universal telephone and internet access to HHS information.	Senior Center, 2-1-1 contact hub, Manistee County Library, developers of community centers (i.e.: Dickson Cultural Center)	Government & Infrastructure Work Group	Senior Center, Manistee County Library, developers of community centers (i.e.: Dickson Cultural Center). State of Michigan		X	>	>

enVision Statement Focus Area: High-quality health and human services								
Strategy	Ensure high-quality health and human services				Timeline			
Action 6.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
HHS Benchmarking	Study best practices in serving community needs within and outside HHS industry to identify and define quality. Identify, monitor and adopt best practices which support cultural/community expectations for excellence.	MQC, MBNQA, WSMC, WSCC, HHS Council		HHS Council Member Agencies		X	X	X
Action 6.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
HHS Continuous Quality Improvement	Establish defined criteria for excellence beyond state/federal minimum requirements and develop continuous feedback mechanisms from all stakeholders to ensure information is timely and utilized for improvement.	MQC, MBNQA, HHS Council, Manistee County HHS providers with current CQI programs.		HHS Council Member Agencies		X	X	X

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Natural Environment & Recreation

The natural environment and recreation are key elements to quality of life in Manistee County. The county's natural beauty, resources, and recreational opportunities provide immeasurable benefits—profoundly influencing the county's quality of life.

Without doubt, Manistee County's great appeal is intrinsically linked to its natural environment and the resources and recreational opportunities it affords. Manistee County should take care in decision-making affecting these two issue areas.



enVision Statement:

"In the year 2015, Manistee County's geography is the magnet, and broad-based collaboration is the means, based on fact based decision making, technology and analysis. This results in improved natural resources, natural environment, individual health, and recreation opportunities."

Work Group Activities:

This work group held six meetings to discuss the current status of Manistee County, review trends, identify present and future needs, and to recommend implementation options relating to the natural environment and recreation in Manistee County.

In the beginning of the work group phase, the Natural Environment & Recreation Work Group identified strengths and challenges, including:



Strengths:

- Abundance of public lands;
- Availability of water;
- Diverse recreational opportunities;
- Abundant, existing recreation infrastructure.

Challenges:

- County-wide recreation plan;
- Providing recreational opportunities for young people;
- Finding a balance between a growing economy and the environment;
- Lack of coordinated planning.

Work Group Activities *cont.*:

Using maps of the Manistee County area, the Natural Environment & Recreation Work Group identified primary assets and visions, including:

Assets:

- Abundance of trail systems;
- Abundance of public lands;
- Winter activities;
- Fisheries;
- Lake Michigan beachfront;
- City of Manistee Riverwalk.

Visions:

- Improve communication / cooperation among governmental entities;
- Connect existing trail systems;
- Create better public access to water;
- Create a multi-sport, intergenerational recreation complex;
- Create better maps/signs of recreational opportunities.



The Natural Environment & Recreation Group spent significant time creating a vision statement that would reflect the ideal state of the natural environment and recreation in 2015.

The work group was asked to describe a realistic, ideal state of the natural environment and recreation in 2015. Then, through facilitated discussion, the group create a consensus vision statement. Finally, the group was asked to define strategies to attain the vision.

The Natural Environment & Recreation enVision Statement can be found on the preceding page.

Action Planning:

The Natural Environment & Recreation Work Group identified twenty-seven action items that support their vision for the future.

Of the twenty-seven action items developed by this work group, six were considered to be priority items, including:

- Create a Manistee County Recreation Plan;
- Create a Recreation Intergovernmental Sharing Agreement;
- Create an Environmental Intergovernmental Sharing Agreement;
- Create a natural environmental and recreation outreach and education program;
- Implement a program to connect existing trail systems;
- Create a septic tank inspection program.

enVision Manistee County Natural Environment & Recreation Action Matrix

enVision Statement:

"In the year 2015, Manistee County's geography is the magnet and broad-based collaboration is the means used in fact based decision making, utilizing the best technology and thorough analysis. There is an improved natural environment, resulting in enhanced recreational opportunities and individual health, and sustainable use of our natural resources.

enVision Statement Focus Area: Broad-based collaboration								
Strategy	Create a more inclusive structure for intergovernmental cooperation within Manistee County.				Timeline			
Action 1.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
County Recreation Plan	Create and implement a county recreation plan to address a wide range of recreational issues facing residents and visitors alike.	Local governmental units, LRBOI, Manistee County residents, YMCA, CVB, NWMCOG	All enVision Manistee County Work Groups	Local units of government, public & private grants		X		X
Action 1.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Recreation Commission	Create a county-wide recreation commission to oversee and implement county recreation plan strategies.	Local governmental units, LRBOI, MDNR, U.S. Forest Service	All enVision Manistee County Work Groups	None needed		X	>	>
Action 1.3	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Recreational Infrastructure Training	Create and implement regular training programs for government officials responsible for recreational planning.	Local governmental units, MDNR, MSUE, U.S. Forest Service	Government & Infrastructure Work Group	Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>

Strategy CONTINUED	Create a more inclusive structure for intergovernmental cooperation within Manistee County.				Timeline			
Action 1.4	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Recreation Inter-governmental Sharing Agreement	Create and implement an intergovernmental sharing agreement regarding recreational data and information.	Local governmental units, LRBOI	Government & Infrastructure Work Group	None needed		X		
Action 1.5	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Environmental Inter-governmental Sharing Agreement	Create and implement an intergovernmental sharing agreement regarding environmental data and information.	Local governmental units, LRBOI	Government & Infrastructure Work Group	None needed		X		

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enVision Statement Focus Area: Improved natural environment								
Strategy	Improve citizen awareness and access to environmental awareness.				Timeline			
Action 2.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Manistee County Environment Bulletin	Create and regularly distribute a non-partisan environmental news bulletin specific to Manistee County issues.	Area schools, local units of government, MSUE, LRBOI, property owner associations, sportsman's groups, watershed organizations, MDNR, U.S. Forest Service		Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>
Action 2.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Environment Oriented Celebrations (Earth Day, Arbor Day, etc.)	Enhance current celebratory activities to include educational forums and involvement programs.	Area schools, local units of government, LRBOI, sportsman's groups, watershed organizations, MDNR, U.S. Forest Service	All enVision Manistee County Work Groups	Area schools, local units of government, public & private grants, MDNR, U.S. Forest Service		X	>	>
Action 2.3	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Manistee County-specific Environmental Education	Enhance current environmental education activities to include topic areas that are specific or unique to the natural environment in Manistee County.	Area schools, local units of government, MSUE, LRBOI, property owner associations, sportsman's groups, watershed organizations, MDNR, U.S. Forest Service	Youth & Education Work Group	Area schools, Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>

Strategy CONTINUED	Improve citizen awareness and access to environmental awareness.				Timeline			
Action 2.4	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Environmental Education Speakers List	Create a designated speakers list of qualified individuals to speak on a variety of natural environment issues.	Area schools, local units of government, LRBOI, property owner associations, sportsman's groups, watershed organizations, MDNR, U.S. Forest Service	Government & Infrastructure / Youth & Education Work Group	Area schools, local units of government, public & private grants, MDNR, U.S. Forest Service		X	>	>
Action 2.5	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Media Outreach & Education Program	Create and implement a regular appearance in local media outlets to highlight and educate the public on current and upcoming natural environment issues.	Area schools, local units of government, local radio, local tv, local newspapers, LRBOI, property owner associations, sportsman's groups, watershed organizations, MDNR, U.S. Forest Service		Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>
Action 2.6	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
County-wide Youth Summer Camp	Create and implement a county-wide summer camp program to focus on natural environment issues specific to the area.	Area schools, local units of government, LRBOI, sportsman's groups, watershed organizations, YMCA, WSCC, MDNR, U.S. Forest Service	Youth & Education Work Group	Area schools, Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>

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enVision Statement Focus Area: Enhanced recreational opportunities and individual health								
Strategy	Explore opportunities to enhance the current recreational infrastructure of Manistee County.				Timeline			
Action 3.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Activity Specific Recreation Map	Create and distribute maps outlining activity specific opportunities in Manistee County.	Local governmental units, MDNR, CVB, LRBOI, Road Commission, NWMCOG, MDOT, U.S. Forest Service	Government & Infrastructure Work Group	Local units of government, public & private grants		X		X
Action 3.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Activity Specific Outreach	Obtain feedback from specific recreational groups regarding improvement opportunities.	Local governmental units, MDNR, LRBOI, YMCA, U.S. Forest Service, recreation clubs, area schools	All enVision Manistee County Work Groups	Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>
Action 3.3	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Recreational Kiosks	Create and implement a recreation kiosk program that displays recreational opportunities in the county.	Local units of government, LRBOI, CVB, local businesses	All enVision Manistee County Work Groups	Local businesses, local units of government, public & private grants		X		

Strategy CONTINUED	Explore opportunities to enhance the current recreational infrastructure of Manistee County.				Timeline			
Action 3.4	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Manistee County Passport Program	Create and implement a county-wide passport program in which residents and visitors alike can record visitations to identified area of significance throughout the county.	CVB, Local units of government, MDNR, U.S. Forest Service, LRBOI, local businesses	Economy & Employment Work Group	Local businesses, local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>
Action 3.5	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Recreational Trail Connectivity	Create and implement strategies to connect existing trail systems in Manistee county.	Local governmental units, MDNR, LRBOI, U.S. Forest Service	All enVision Manistee County Work Groups	Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>
Action 3.6	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Recreation Signage Program	Create and implement a county recreational signage program to better display recreational access points relative to a variety of activities in Manistee County.	Local governmental units, MDNR, LRBOI, Road Commission, MDOT, U.S. Forest Service	Government & Infrastructure Work Group	Local units of government, public & private grants		X		X

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Strategy CONTINUED	Explore opportunities to enhance the current recreational infrastructure of Manistee County.				Timeline			
Action 3.7	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Village Center Trail Connections	Explore opportunities to connect Manistee County villages and cities via non-motorized trailways.	Local governmental units, MDNR, Road Commission, MDOT, U.S. Forest Service	Government & Infrastructure / Economy & Employment Work Groups	Local businesses, local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>
Action 3.8	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Limited Mobility Recreational Opportunity	Create and implement a variety of limited mobility recreational opportunities for disabled and elderly individuals.	Local governmental units, Council on Aging, WSMC, MDNR, LRBOI, Road Commission, MDOT, U.S. Forest Service	Government & Infrastructure / Health & Human Services Work Groups	Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>
Action 3.9	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Recreation Programs	Seek county-wide, collaborative strategies towards the creation of a county-wide indoor recreation program that provides year-round recreational activities for a variety of age groups.	Area schools, Big Brothers/Sisters, Junior Achievement, YMCA, West Shore Medical Center, WSCC, parent groups, YAC	Arts, Culture, & Humanities / Health & Human Services Work Groups	Local, private foundations, revenue sharing board, schools, service organizations		X		
Action 3.10	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Coach Recruitment Program	Create and implement a coach recruitment program to assist in the after school athletic (traditional & non-traditional) programs.	Area schools, Big Brothers/Sisters, Junior Achievement, Love INC, YMCA, parent groups, YAC	Arts, Culture, & Humanities Work Group	Local, private foundations, revenue sharing board, schools, service organizations		X		

Strategy	Identify emerging recreational activities and seek ways to incorporate into the current recreational infrastructure.				Timeline			
Action 4.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Frisbee Golf	Create and implement strategies to integrate "Frisbee Golf" into current public lands and / or parks.	Area schools, local units of government, CVB, LRBOI, property owner associations, sportsman's groups, watershed organizations	Youth & Education / Government & Infrastructure Work Groups	Local units of government, public & private grants		X		
Action 4.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Geocaching	Create and implement strategies to fund a "Geocaching" program in the county.	Area schools, local units of government, CVB, LRBOI, property owner associations, sportsman's groups, watershed organizations	Youth & Education / Government & Infrastructure Work Groups	Local units of government, public & private grants		X		
Action 4.3	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Large Boat Harboring	Explore opportunities to allow the harboring of large (>60') boats.	Area schools, local marinas, MECCA, local units of government, LRBOI, property owner associations, sportsman's groups, watershed organizations	Economy & Employment / Government & Infrastructure Work Groups	Local units of government, public & private grants		X		
Action 4.4	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Bike Tours	Create and implement a Manistee County bike tour program.	Area schools, local units of government, LRBOI, bike clubs	All enVision Manistee County Work Groups	Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>

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enVision Statement Focus Area: Sustainable use of our natural resources								
Strategy	Obtain a high level of natural resources management best practices.				Timeline			
Action 5.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Private Landowner Educational Forums	Create and implement a timber management educational forum for private landowners.	Local governmental units, MDNR, LRBOI, Road Commission, property owner associations, NWMCOG, MDOT, U.S. Forest Service	Government & Infrastructure Work Group	Local units of government, public & private grants		X	>	>
Action 5.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Septic Tank Inspections	Create and implement a county-wide ordinance and educational series promoting the regular inspection of septic tank systems in Manistee County.	Local units of government, health dept., property owner associations, realtors	Government & Infrastructure Work Group	Local, private foundations, revenue sharing board, service organizations, state/federal grants		X	>	>

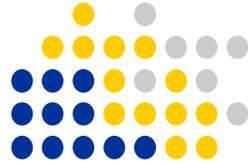
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Education is important to Manistee County and some would argue it is the most important aspect surrounding the future health of the community. The local educational system develops area youth and adults, motivates decisions regarding where people live, creates a skilled labor force, and provides a tremendous resource to improve the quality of life.

The success of local youth is directly tied to the future success of Manistee County. Additionally, the community should not undervalue the importance of education, not only for its youth, but also for lifelong learners and job seekers.



enVision Statement:

"In the year 2015, Manistee County provides youth with the educational foundation to become confident, lifelong learners who are able to recognize the values necessary to become productive citizens. Additionally, community members have the means to explore a broad spectrum of opportunities that results in their ability to obtain employment and fulfill human needs permitting individuals and families to live happy, comfortable, and self-satisfying lives."

Work Group Activities:

This work group held six meetings to discuss the current status of Manistee County, review trends, identify present and future needs, and to recommend implementation options relating to youth and education in Manistee County.

In the beginning of the work group phase, the Youth & Education Work Group identified strengths and challenges, including:

Strengths:

- Rural pace vs. urban issues;
- Endless enthusiasm and possibilities for youth;
- Very good public school system;
- Quality of youth groups;
- Youth want a say in decision-making;
- Number of schools in the county, student / teacher ratio.

Challenges:

- Lack of jobs for youth;
- Lack of career exploration;
- An understanding of how the community is preparing youth for the future;
- Disenfranchised students;
- Recreational opportunities for youth.



Work Group Activities *cont.*:

Using maps of the Manistee County area, the Youth & Education Work Group also identified primary assets and visions, including:

Assets:

- County-wide library system;
- Public school system;
- Natural resources;
- Traditional sports opportunities.

Visions:

- Lifelong learning centers throughout the county;
- Visual arts education center;
- County-wide mentoring program;
- Parenting classes;
- Enhancement of pre-school activities;
- Visual arts education center;
- Enhance technical training opportunities.



The Youth & Education Work Group spent significant time creating a vision statement that would best reflect the ideal state of youth and education in 2015.

The work group was asked to describe a realistic, ideal state for youth and education in 2015. Then, through facilitated discussion, the group created a consensus vision statement. Finally, the group was asked to identify key focus areas within the statement to better target action strategies.

The Youth & Education enVision Statement can be found on the preceding page.

Action Planning:

The Youth & Education Work Group identified ten action items that will support their vision for the future.

Of the ten action items developed by this work group, five were considered to be priority items, including:

- Create a community Career Learning Program;
- Local Job Market Analysis;
- Career education training;
- Anti-bullying Program;
- Youth substance abuse education and outreach



enVision Manistee County Youth & Education Action Matrix

enVision Statement:

"In the year 2015, Manistee County provides youth with the educational foundation to become confident lifelong learners, who are able to recognize the values necessary to become productive citizens. Additionally, community members have the means to explore a broad spectrum of opportunities that result in their ability to obtain employment and fulfill human needs permitting individuals and families to live happy, comfortable, and self-satisfying lives."

enVision Statement Focus Area: Provides youth with the educational foundation								
Strategy	Seek activities to "broaden" the educational experiences of area youth.				Timeline			
Action 1.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Art / Culture Education Enhancement	Create and implement an arts enhancement program to better integrate arts education into all educational programs.	Area schools, Arts Council, Manistee Arts Institute, Ramsdell Theater, LRBOI, Manistee Civic Players, MI Works, Jaycees, Big Brothers/Sisters, Junior Achievement, Love INC, parent groups, local artists, YAC, MISD	Arts, Culture, & Humanities Work Group	Local, private foundations, revenue sharing board, schools, service organizations		X	>	>
Strategy	Coordinate career preparatory activities with peers, post-secondary institutions, and local employers.				Timeline			
Action 2.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Community Career Learning Program	Create and implement strategies to better integrate area employers with the schools by providing opportunities to receive "hands on" learning and employer involvement throughout the county.	Area schools, Big Brothers/Sisters, local businesses, Chamber of Commerce, West Shore Medical Center, Junior Achievement, MECCA, Mfg. Council, SCORE, MISD, MI Works, WSCC, parent groups, YAC	Economy & Employment Work Group	Local, private foundations, revenue sharing board, schools, service organizations		X	>	>

Strategy CONTINUED	Coordinate career preparatory activities with peers, post-secondary institutions, and local employers.				Timeline			
Action 2.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Education Interest Surveys	Survey area youth, lifelong learners, and employers regarding interest areas to create corresponding course offerings.	Area schools, MECCA, Mfg. Council, SCORE, NWMCOG, MISD, MI Works, WSCC, parent groups, YAC	Economy & Employment Work Group	Local, private foundations, revenue sharing board, schools, service organizations		X		X
Action 2.3	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Youth Best Practices Committee	Create and implement a forum in which youth service providers can share best practices with other youth oriented professionals in Manistee County.	Area schools, Big Brothers/Sisters, Junior Achievement, MISD, Love INC, parent groups, YAC	All enVision Manistee County Work Groups	Local, private foundations, revenue sharing board, schools, service organizations		X	>	>
Action 2.4	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Valuing Youth Program	Create and implement a youth recruitment program for interested youth to assist in county-wide decision making activities.	Area schools, Big Brothers/Sisters, Junior Achievement, MISD, LRBOI, Service Clubs, Love INC, parent groups, YAC	All enVision Manistee County Work Groups	Local, private foundations, revenue sharing board, schools, service organizations		X	>	>

Please note:

- Every action item supports a key focus area (underlined in the enVision statement) and strategy;
- Assigned numbers are meant for referencing purposes only;
- All acronym definitions can be found in the Appendix section of this document.

LEGEND:

- =Implemented
- > =Ongoing
- × =To be implemented
-  =Priority Item

enVision Statement Focus Area: Means to explore a broad spectrum of opportunities								
Strategy	Broaden career exploration opportunities for all Manistee County residents.				Timeline			
Action 3.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Local Job Market Analysis	Survey area employers to determine the skill sets necessary to enter the local job market.	Area schools, local units of government, LRBOI, MISD, NWMCOG, Little River Casino, MECCA, Mfg. Council, SCORE, West Shore Hospital, MISD, MI Works, WSCC, parent groups, YAC	Economy & Employment Work Group	Local, private foundations, revenue sharing board, schools, service organizations		X		X
Action 3.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Career Education Training	Enhance current career education programs to allow for individualized selection of vocational and/or professional job training.	Area schools, Big Brothers/Sisters, Junior Achievement, LRBOI, MECCA, Mfg. Council, SCORE, MISD, MI Works, WSCC, parent groups, YAC	Economy & Employment Work Group	Local, private foundations, revenue sharing board, schools, service organizations	X	>	>	>
Action 3.3	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Mentor Recruitment Program	Create and implement a mentor recruitment program for interested youth to assist in the pursuit of individual excellence.	Area schools, Big Brothers/Sisters, Coalition of Youth, MISD, YMCA, LRBOI, Junior Achievement, Love INC, parent groups, YAC, Women's Network	All enVision Manistee County Work Groups	Local, private foundations, revenue sharing board, schools, service organizations		X		

Strategy	Seek activities to increase the physical and mental health of Manistee County youth.				Timeline			
Action 4.1	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Anti-bullying Program	Create and implement a county-wide program to address the four types of bullying in schools: physical, social, verbal, and electronic.	Youth & Family Council, Law Enforcement, MISD, Coalition for Youth Success, Area schools, Big Brothers/Sisters, Junior Achievement, Love INC, parent groups, YAC	Health & Human Services Work Group	Local, private foundations, revenue sharing board, schools, service organizations	X	>	>	>
Action 4.2	Description	Potential Partners	enVision Partners	Possible Funders	<2006	2006-2009	2010-2013	2014+
Youth Substance Abuse Education / Outreach	Create and implement county-wide programs that provide early education about drugs / alcohol, open communication, good role modeling, and early recognition of substance abuse.	YAC, Area Schools, local governmental units, MISD, YMCA, law enforcement, DARE, LRBOI, Coalition for Youth Success, LOVE INC., parent groups	Health & Human Services Work Group	Local, private foundations, YAC, revenue sharing board, schools, service organizations	X	>	>	>

Please note:

- Every action item supports a key focus area (underlined in the enVision statement) and strategy;
- Assigned numbers are meant for referencing purposes only;
- All acronym definitions can be found in the Appendix section of this document.

LEGEND:

- =Implemented
- > =Ongoing
- x =To be implemented
- =Priority Item



The best is yet to come!

The enVision Manistee County process and results are a product of countless hours of hard work by a large number of volunteers throughout Manistee County. It is a remarkable reflection of the dedication, loyalty and commitment that people selflessly bring to making Manistee County a better place.

It is of great importance that implementation is underway. Examples include:

- The United Way of Manistee County and the Manistee County Community Foundation have taken the unprecedented step to develop a collaborative grant process with the collective grant funds of both organizations to be focused on the priorities and recommendations of enVision Manistee County (Grant applicants must refer to the complete enVision Manistee County document in preparing their grant applications. Go to www.envisionmanisteecounty.org.)
- Michigan State University's Small Town Design Initiative has approved an application to bring the faculty, staff and fifth-year students from the renown Landscape Architecture School to Manistee County. During 2006 and continuing into 2007, they will lead a community-driven process to provide physical designs of all of Manistee County's communities and environs. This MSU program has provided similar assistance to over 40 Michigan communities and this will be the first time in the history of their program that they have dedicated their resources to an entire county.
- Plans are being prepared to assess how we bring new essential services to our county: Broadband (high speed internet service) and "2-1-1"
- Three significant private foundations are in the final stages of their review of funding applications to support the implementation of enVision Manistee County.
- West Shore Community College will soon announce plans to bring a new Leadership Institute to Manistee County to support enVision Manistee County.
- The Youth Advisory Committee to the Manistee County Community Foundation has launched a new two-year fund development program to make grants to help respond to the priorities of youth identified through enVision Manistee County.





The best is yet to come! *cont.*

- The Manistee County Community Foundation and the United Way will use the visions and priorities of enVision Manistee County as a guide for existing and new philanthropy – to focus time, treasures and talent on addressing the needs identified through this open, county-wide process.

The best is truly yet to come. We plan to formally update enVision Manistee County every five years to meet the evolving needs and opportunities of the County. We ask each of you to “enVision the Possibilities” and take an active role in converting visions into action and results!





Appendix: Acronym Definitions

ACH	Arts, Culture, & Humanities	MEA.....	Michigan Education Association
CMH	Community Mental Health	MEDC.....	Michigan Economic Development Corporation
CQI.....	Continuous Quality Improvement	MISD.....	Manistee Intermediate School District
CTF.....	Children’s Trust Fund	MLUI	Michigan Land Use Institute
CVB	Convention & Visitor Bureau	MQC	Michigan Quality Council
DDA	Downtown Development Authority	MSUE.....	Michigan State University Extension
DHS.....	Department of Human Services	NWMCOG	Northwest Michigan Council of Governments
EDO.....	Economic Development Organizations	NER.....	Natural Environment & Recreation
EE.....	Economy & Employment	SBTDC	Small Business & Technical Development Center
GI.....	Government & Infrastructure	SCORE.....	Service Corps of Retired Executives
HHS.....	Health & Human Services	SFSC.....	Strong Families / Safe Children
HSCB.....	Human Services Collaborative Body	UW	United Way of Manistee County
IDC	Industrial Development Corporation	WSCC	West Shore Community College
LRBOI	Little River Band of Ottawa Indians	WSMC	West Shore Medical Center
MAI	Manistee Arts Institute	YAC	Youth Advisory Committee
MBNQA.....	Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Program	YE.....	Youth & Education
MCCF.....	Manistee County Community Foundation	YMCA.....	Young Men’s Christian Association
MCFA	Manistee County Family Advocates		
MEA	Michigan Education Association		
MDNR.....	Michigan Department of Natural Resources		
MDOT	Michigan Department of Transportation		
MECCA	Manistee Economic Council & Chamber Alliance		

