

Manistee River

Upper River and National Recreation River



Bear Creek



Suicide Bend



Red Bridge

Access Sites

Red Bridge—From Manistee -

- Travel east on M-55 for 15 miles.
- Turn left and travel north on High Bridge Rd. for 6 miles.
- Turn right and travel east on Coates Hwy. for 8 miles.

GPS Coords. - X: -85.861726 Y: 44.28.39.43

Government Landing—From Manistee -

- Travel to Coates Highway (see Red Bridge)
- Turn right and travel east on Coates Hwy. for 3.5 miles.
- Turn right and travel south on Dilling Rd. for 2.5 miles.
- Turn left and travel northeast on Upper River Rd. for 2.5 miles.

GPS Coords. - X: -85.53.14 Y: 44.15.46

Suicide Bend/Sawdust Hole—From Manistee -

- Travel east on M-55 for 15 miles.
- Turn left and travel north on High Bridge Rd. for 6 miles.
- Turn right and travel east on Coates Hwy. for 3.5 miles.
- Turn right and travel south on Dilling Rd. for: Sawdust Hole: 2 miles, Suicide Bend 2.5 miles.

GPS Coords. - X: -85.943474 Y: 44.268184

Tunk Hole—From Manistee -

- Travel east on M-55 for 19 miles.
- Turn left and travel north on Tippy Dam Rd. for 2 miles.
- Turn left and travel west on Old House Rd. for 1.5 miles.
- Turn right and travel north on FR 8799.

GPS Coords. - X: -85.947431 Y: 44.262936

High Bridge—From Manistee -

- Travel to High Bridge Rd. and turn left.
- Travel north on High Bridge Rd. for 3 miles.

GPS Coords. - X: -86.015563 Y: 44.268242

Blacksmith Bayou—From Manistee -

- Travel to High Bridge Rd. and turn left.
- Travel north on High Bridge Rd. for 2 miles.

GPS Coords. - X: -86.033027 Y: 44.259178

Udell Rollways—From Manistee -

- Travel east on M-55 for 11.5 miles.
- Turn left and travel north on Horseshoe Bend Rd. for 2 miles.
- The road terminates at the site.

GPS Coords. - X: -86.080124 Y: 44.258357

Bear Creek—From Manistee -

- Travel to High Bridge Rd. and turn left.
- Travel north on High Bridge Rd. for 3.5 miles.
- Turn left and travel west on River Rd. for 5.5 miles.

GPS Coords. - X: -86.114105 Y: 44.291727

Rainbow Bend—From Manistee -

- Travel north on US 31 for 2 miles.
- Turn right and travel east on River Rd./Milarch Rd. for 4 miles.
- Turn right and travel east on River Rd. for 2 miles.
- Turn right and travel .7 miles to the parking lot.

GPS Coords. - X: 86.151398 Y: 44.29352

** - indicates a Recreation Enhancement Act Fee Pass is required at this site.*

National Recreation River

The Manistee River between Tippy Dam and the M-55 Bridge was designated as a National Recreational River in 1996. The river is wide and characterized by sandy banks and with a slow current and mostly slow, wide bends. The river corridor supports a wide variety of recreational activities throughout the year, including hiking on the North Country National Scenic Trail and Manistee River Trail.

Backwater bayous, extensive riparian areas and mature forest communities provide habitat for a diverse wildlife and plant species.



Blacksmith Bayou

Recreation Enhancement Act Fee

Recreation fees help pay for the facilities and services that you will be using.

You can deposit the fee at each site or you can choose to purchase from a variety of recreation passes. The two main types are The America the Beautiful Interagency Passes or the Huron-Manistee National Forests Recreation Passes.

These passes are only sold at Forest Service Offices. For a list of vendors please contact a Forest Service Office.

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Contact Information

Toll Free: 1-800-821-6263

Website: www.fs.usda.gov/hmnf/

Manistee Ranger Station

Phone: (231) 723 - 2211

TTY: (231) 723 - 0124

Supervisor's Office

Phone: (231) 775 - 2421

TTY: (231) 775 - 3183

Conduct and Ethics

To protect the river and provide an enjoyable paddling experience for all visitors, the following restrictions apply:

- Each paddler needs a Personal Flotation Device (PFD). Children 12 and under must wear a PFD at all times.
- Fasten all equipment, bottles and containers to the watercraft.
- Pack out all trash. Litter bags are available at liveries and Forest Service Offices.
- Paddlers are encouraged to stop erosion by not climbing river banks.
- The following are prohibited:
 - Fireworks,
 - Nudity,
 - Drunk and disorderly/underage,
 - Drugs,
 - Harassing wildlife,
 - Diving or standing in watercraft,
 - Trespassing on private property,
 - Collecting animals, plants or driftwood,
 - Glass, Styrofoam and balloons.
- Use public sites for rest stops.
- Camping is permitted at Red Bridge, Government Landing, Sawdust Hole, Blacksmith Bayou.

Camping

North of Red Bridge there are 43 designated primitive campsites. Camping is allowed 200 feet or more from the river, in addition to designated campgrounds and primitive campsites. Camping is not allowed on the islands, except Government Island at designated campsites.

Fishing

Mesick



- Paddling the River*



Marilla Road

Site	Hours	Total Hours
Hodenpyl Dam	to	
Red Bridge	3.5	3.5
Government Landing	2.5	6
Tippy Dam	3	9
High Bridge	2	11
Blacksmith Bayou	.5	11.5
Bear Creek	3.5	15
Rainbow Bend	.75	15.75

Site Name	Fee Area								
	Drinking Water								
	Restrooms	<	<	<					
	Picnic Area	<							
	Scenic View								
	Campsites								
	Swimming								
	Disc Golf								
	Fishing	<	<	<	<				<
	Bear Creek	<							
Tunk Hole			<					<	
Rainbow Bend	<		<	<				<	
Suicide Bend									

