The Manistee River below Tippy Dam to the M-55 Bridge was designated as a National Recreational River in 1996. The extensive riparian areas and mature forest communities along the river corridor are among the most extensive, and least disturbed, remnants of red-shouldered hawk habitat in Michigan. Remember to observe wildlife from a distance.

Paddling and Boating - The river is wide and characterized by sandy banks and with a slow current.

Fishing - The river is popular for many types of fishing, especially salmon and steelhead. Consult the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fishing Guide or MI-DNR website: www.michigan.gov/dnr for complete information.

Camping - There are designated campgrounds at several of the river access sites along the river. No camping within 1/4 mile of the river corridor.

If you camp, remember to dispose of human waste properly by putting disposal areas 200 feet from water, camps and trails. And always make sure your campfire is cold to the touch before leaving it!

Disc Golf - Visitors can also while away an afternoon at the Udell Rollways Disc Golf Course, an 18-hole course.

A National Scenic River

Contact Information

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Toll Free: 1-800-821-6263
Manistee Ranger Station
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Manistee National Recreation River
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Visit http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/ for more information on PFDs, including which types to use.

Be ready for sudden weather changes.

High water levels can be unsafe for river travel.

Fasten all valuables and equipment to your watercraft to prevent loss and littering.

Be aware of your surroundings and of river conditions.