



2021 YOUTH AND RECREATION PROJECTS

Mission Statement

The Committee serves as an advocate for the citizens of the County. The Committee is charged with the sole purpose of providing recreational activities for youth and recreation for Alpena County residents, as well as, recreational service and improvement or development of recreational sites. The Committee is also responsible for recommending to the County Board of Commissioners, hereinafter referred to as “Commissioners”, the prudent spending of public funds to promote youth and recreational opportunities to Alpena County citizens.

The Alpena County Youth and Recreation Committee, hereinafter referred to as “Committee”, was officially established on September 28, 2010. The committee consists of one representative from each of the districts of the Alpena County Board of Commissioners. Terms of office for representatives from the County Commissioner districts are established to be the same as the elected members of the Board of Commissioners districts, which is a two-year term.

Operating Millage Proposition For Youth and Recreation

"Shall the limitations on the amount of taxes which shall be assessed against all property both real and personal in Alpena County, Michigan be increased as provided in Section 6, Article IX of the Michigan Constitution, and the Alpena County Board of Commissioners be authorized to levy a tax not to exceed one half of one (1/2) mill (\$.50 on each \$1000 of Equalized State Taxable Value) for a period of four years starting with the Levy made December 1, 2010, for the sole purpose of providing "Recreational Activities" for Youth and Recreation for Alpena County residents, as well as, recreational service and improvement or development of recreational sites? (The estimate of revenue the County of Alpena will collect if the millage is approved and levied in the first year (2010) is \$483,000".

Total Amount Appropriated Per Year:

2011	\$303,193
2012	\$421,941
2013	\$629,960
2014	\$467,613
2015	\$393,680
2016	\$572,230
2017	\$651,149
2018	\$541,756
2019	\$545,223
2020	\$550,743
2021	\$648,901

Organization	Project	Awarded
ACC Cross Country	Operating Support	\$2105.00
Alpena Figure Skating Club	Operating Support	\$5,000.00
Alpena Gymnastics	Camera Support	\$1,500.00
Alpena Hockey Association	Tournament Experience	\$5,000.00
Alpena Hockey Association	Player Cost Reduction	\$7,000.00
Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth	Complex Fences	\$55,750.00
Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth	Operational Assistance	\$9,750.00
AMA ESD Pied Piper School	Playground Improvement	\$86,000.00
APS – AHS Basketball	Boys & Girls Support	\$7,500.00
APS – AHS KAPUT	Activities & Events	\$14,000.00
APS – The Woods Track Club	Supplies	\$552.00
APS – AHS Track and Field	Field Equipment Replacement	\$20,445.00
APS – AHS Robotics	Programming and Support	\$35,000.00
APS – Sanborn Elementary	Playground Improvements	\$9,870.00
APS – TBJHS	Athletic Outreach Program	\$12,980.00
Alpena High School Band Boosters	Junior High Uniform Replacement	\$19,000.00
Besser Museum for NE MI	Preserving 1898 Log Cabin	\$25,000.00
Boys & Girls Club of Alpena	Capital Project	\$66,410.00
Boys & Girls Club of Alpena	Triple Play Program	\$14,000.00
County of Alpena – MSU Extension	Youth Programming – 4H	\$40,000.00
County of Alpena – Parks and Recreation	Sunken Lake Bathhouse	\$41,125.00
County of Alpena – Plaza Pool	Aquatic Operations	\$80,000.00
County of Alpena – Plaza Pool	Ready, Set, Swim Program	\$6,750.00
Friends of Alpena Farmers Market	Youth Programming/Nutrition Program	\$4,000.00
Friends of the APlex Courts	Learn to Play Tennis Program	\$4,000.00
Friends of Plaza Pool	Free Family Fun Swims	\$6,664.00
Green Township	Playground Equipment	\$1,500.00
Northeast MI Center for Fine Arts	Ready, Set, Create Program	\$20,500.00
Park Family Foundation	Ready, Set, Snap Program	\$9,500.00
Park Family Foundation	Special Needs Prom	\$5,000.00

Sanborn Township Planning Commission	Beach Volleyball	\$2,000.00
Thunder Bay Martial Arts	Scholarships	\$7,500.00
Thunder Bay Martial Arts	Women's Self Defense Training	\$3,000.00
Thunder Bay Arts Council	Bi-Path Sculpture	\$10,000.00
Thunder Bay Schooners Swim Club	Pool Rental and Meet Fees	\$10,500.00
	Total	\$648,901.00

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Alpena Community College – Cross Country

Project: Operating Support

Funded: \$2,105.00

The money granted by the Youth and Recreation committee to benefit the Alpena Community College Cross-Country program was again a great help in covering costs in running a top-notch athletic program. These dollars were used to help student athletes afford to attend Cross-Country camp at Wilderness State Park to start the season and helped supply the team with sweat jackets and sweatpants. The week at camp was again a huge success. This 'team time' allows each member to know each other and bond as a team. Besides running over 50-75 miles each, the team was able to swim, play volleyball and euchre along with camp time. The 2021 team is on track to become the seventh straight ACC Cross-Country team to be named Academic All American.



Alpena Figure Skating Club

Project: Operating Support

Funded: \$5,000.00

The funds awarded by the Alpena County Youth and Rec committee was put towards reducing operating costs by way of ice fees for the Alpena Figure Skating Club. By doing so, the Alpena Figure Skating Club was able to keep skating costs at the same (reduced) price as the 2020-2021 season. The current prices are 20% lower than they were before 2020. Keeping skating costs low is a wonderful thing to be able to offer, especially since the cost of ice increased in 2020. A total of 50 skaters benefited from the reduced skating prices.

Alpena Gymnastics

Project: Camera System

Funded: \$1,500.00

Alpena Gymnastics used funds received from this grant to help purchase a camera system. This system was mounted to the wall to continually record the bars and floor. The TV is connected to the camera system and is set to playback after a delay. As soon as the gymnasts finish their skill they look over at the TV. This way the gymnasts can receive instant feedback on their skills. As the cliché states, "A picture is worth a thousand words." Many gymnasts have gained skills by using this top-notch camera system.



Alpena Hockey Association

Project: Tournament Experience

Funded: \$5,000.00

Thank you for the use of the Youth and Rec Grant funds to allow AHA to hold multiple Battle on the Bay Tournaments in the Alpena area. These tournaments allowed Alpena youth hockey players to participate in competitive and fun hockey games on their home ice while hosting 25+ out of town hockey teams. It also gave opportunities for family and friends to get in on the excitement of the games.





Alpena Hockey Association

Project: Player Cost Reduction

Funded: \$7,000.00

AHA is thankful to the Youth and Rec Grant as well as the community of Alpena to allow our association to provide a reduced pricing for our youth to learn, development, and enjoy the game of hockey. With the help of these funds, over 140 youth hockey players were able to take to the ice this year to learn to skate, learn to play, and to improve upon their hockey and leadership skills.



Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth

Project: Complex Fences

Funded: \$55,750.00

The Complex Fences project allowed us to replace all of the fencing on two of our main fields at the US 23 N. Complex. The fences that were replaced were over 40 years old and were becoming unsafe. The new fences include vinyl covered chain link for safety and taller backstops to help contain foul balls on the fields.



Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth

Project: Operational Assistance

Funded: \$9,750.00

With the operational Assistance grant we were able to keep our registration costs lower for players. Without this assistance we would have to raise our fees to cover the costs of operating the league. With higher fees we see a drop off of the number of kids who play ball.



AMA ESD Pied Piper School

Project: Playground Improvement

Funded: \$86,000.00

For the past 50 years, the playground at Pied Piper School has been a location for self-directed play and enjoyment for both the students who attend the school as well as for the children who live in Alpena County. In 1998, the playground received upgrades to improve accessibility for users with mobility related impairments. This current improvement, thanks to the funds provided by the Alpena County Youth and Recreation millage, increases that accessibility for the 43 students who attend the school as well as the undetermined amount of public users.





Alpena Public Schools – AHS Basketball

Project: Boys & Girls Support

Funded: \$7,500.00

The money helped to fund the boys and girls basketball teams at AHS. The money was used for supplementing the cost of transportation and participation fees. The millage money helped to save the families hundreds of dollars each. There was also less fundraising needed and it helped save community members from being approached asking for more money.



Alpena Public Schools – AHS KAPUT

Project: Activities and Events

Funded: \$14,000.00



Alpena Public Schools – AHS Track & Field / The Woods Track Club

Project: Field Equipment Replacement / Supplies

Funded: \$20,445.00 / The Woods Track Club \$552.00

The track is used by many in the community. Having a place that promotes a healthy lifestyle is crucial to any community. Alpena High School and Thunder Bay Jr. High use the track for athletic programs as well as physical education classes. Other programs such as Girls on the Run rely on a quality facility too. Our pole vault and high jump pits are in terrible condition, as is the track itself. We have fundraised for enough money to redo the track, but we also need the equipment to be updated. In the past few years we have had other schools refuse to come to Alpena for a track meet because of the condition of the track and equipment. Some schools pull their jumpers out of those events because the high jump and pole vault pits aren't safe and/or up to current standards. We had a state champion pole vaulter that would vault other places due to our situation. The upgrades to the track and equipment will benefit over a thousand residents throughout the year. This includes all of the athletic teams at AHS and TBJH, the physical education classes, local clubs, as well as the direct community.

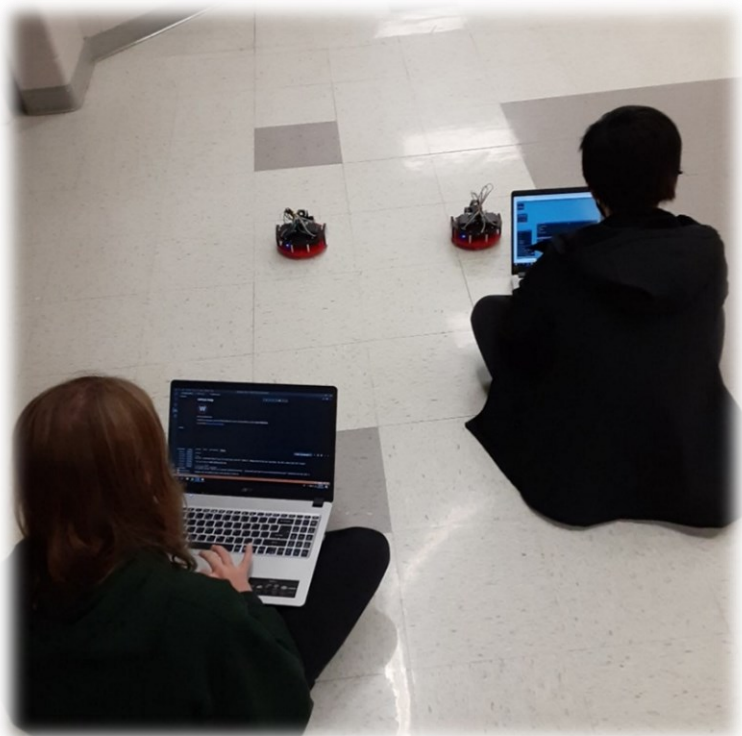


Alpena Public Schools – AHS Robotics

Project: Programming and Support

Funded: \$35,000.00

In 2021 AHS Robotics Club, despite being in a remote learning format for most of the school year, the students were able to complete all competition requirements and continue to grow the club. This year the AHS Robotics Club created a new workspace for the club that is twice the original size. With the support of the Alpena County Youth & Recreational Grant, we were allotted the opportunity to reallocate funds to develop the AHS Robotics Lab with new equipment and develop a feeder robotics program at the 6th - 8th-grade level. This will allow the program to develop student interest well before they arrive at AHS.



Alpena Public Schools – Sanborn Elementary School

Project: Playground Improvements

Funded: \$9,870.00

We would like to thank the Alpena County Youth and Recreation Committee for allowing us to update and enhance our elementary playground that is utilized by our Sanborn school students and community families as well. Our new equipment is inviting and entertaining to help facilitate physical fitness for our young people now and for years to come. Our playground is used daily throughout the school year by students and year around by local community members and all of Alpena County.



Alpena Public Schools – TBJHS
Project: Athletic Outreach Program
Funded: \$12,980.00



Alpena High School Band Boosters

Project: Junior High Uniform Replacement

Funded: \$19,000.00 (Funds not used in 2021)

The Thunder Bay Junior High Band Boosters is the organization that works with the Thunder Bay Junior High Band program in raising money to supplement school funds to support this program. The money raised by Boosters goes towards instruments, fees, food during events, transportation costs, and in this case, band uniforms. The funded program was named the Thunder Bay Junior High Band Uniform Upgrade which has served 150 students. The Thunder Bay Junior High Band program is the major source of education concerning beginning band students throughout the community. It teaches students how to play their instruments and how to play in an ensemble. The upgraded uniforms funded by this program would improve the image the band projects as representatives of Alpena County at many district events such as the District IX Band Festival and the District IX All-Star Band. Thanks to the Youth and Recreation Committee, the band will have a more polished look to better showcase the importance and seriousness of the band program when playing for the community, district, and state.

Besser Museum for NE MI

Project: Preserving 1898 Log Cabin

Funded: \$25,000.00

The Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan's mission is to preserve and interpret the cultural heritage of Alpena County and Northeast Michigan for current and future generations. This mission is achieved through collecting and maintaining unique artifacts, such as the 1898 Log Cabin. The Besser Museum holds these cultural artifacts in public trust for all generations. Used for education, exhibition, and research, these valuable resources help bring a better understanding and appreciation of past and present cultures to over 20,000 museum visitors annually. The Besser Museum is extremely grateful to the Alpena County Youth and Recreation Millage for the financial support provided to help with the restoration of the 1898 Log Cabin. Without that support the 1898 Log Cabin would have been lost forever.

Boys and Girls Club

Project: Capital Project

Funded: \$66,410.00

Since 1926, Boys and Girls Club of Alpena has served young people from every walk of life, especially vulnerable youth at risk. Nine decades later, we have cemented ourselves as a premiere youth development organization in over 1200 youth annually and seeing larger attendance numbers every year. The new building will include a teen center designed with input from club members, a technology center; education and specialty learning space; Multimedia/STEM lab, a game room; a teachable and commercial kitchen, gymnasium, outdoor play area and more. The features of the new facility will help our members develop the skills they'll need to compete in a complicated, technology-based world. Our ability to provide technological learning experiences will be substantially upgraded, which will help bridge the digital divide that many of our members now face. We also will present the youth and community with 21st century work skills as well as updated amenities to help our youth thrive. The funds that we received through the Youth and Recreation Millage supports all facets of the new building and will also be matched by a local foundation to double the impact.



Boys and Girls Club

Project: Triple Play Program – Mind, Body, Soul

Funded: \$14,000.00

During the 2021 funding period the Boys and Girls Club was able to better serve over 600 youth participants in the Club's Triple Play/Wanna Play program. The youth participants were able to build self-confidence and skills through physical fitness activities, healthy nutrition/dietary planning and be recognized and rewarded for positive behaviors. We held monthly recognition parties for participants that met program expectations. Participants were able to take home a workbook to track their progress outside the Club and participate in community service projects. The parents really continue to support the program which helped the success and message of the initiative. At the end of the summer session we took a group of youth that met or exceeded program requirements to the Roscommon Zoo and to Bob's Bullpen for a fun day of activities that included exploring the zoo and learning about animals, a movie viewing, refreshments and video arcade games. After comparing the pre/post test scores, youth showed an increase in their knowledge of healthy nutrition, improved physical activity skills and felt more supported by their community and home environment. The addition of the community service aspect really allowed youth to see more value in their community and see ways they can make a difference. The funds continue to bring more exposure to the program, provide updated programming materials and allowed the youth to participate in special events that we were not able to provide in prior years. The consistency of the program, due to the funds received, helps youth, parents and our organization plan for the program and continue building upon the program each year.



County of Alpena – MSU Extension

Project: Youth Programming – 4H

Funded: \$40,000.00

Michigan State University Extension Youth Programs reached 2,868 Alpena County youth during the 2021 programming year. Youth participated in MSU Extension 4-H, Health and Nutrition programming, Agriculture and Horticulture Education, and Natural Resources education through Michigan Sea Grant, which is also part of MSU Extension. These learning opportunities focused on essential skills such as problem solving, financial literacy, science, decision-making, natural resources, leadership, resiliency, agriculture, gardening, food systems and communication. While learning these skills, youth developed positive relationships with adults and peers. 4-H has held online and in person programs and events that were attended by Alpena county youth. Popular programs this year were the summer day camp series and County fair programs as well as 4-H Club activities. Thank you for your continued partnership in our shared goal of providing educational and recreational activities for the youth of Alpena County.

While Michigan State University Extension continues to collaborate with many organizations in Alpena County on a regular basis, we did not establish any new partnerships during 2021, but did continue working with our many existing partnerships during the year. There were also new partnerships in the works that were put on hold due to pandemic restrictions that we hope to be able to report on next year.

4-H continues to do fund raising projects in order to send youth on travel opportunities, such as camps, Capitol Experience, and other statewide and nationwide 4-H events.

Education and recreational opportunities for the Youth of Alpena County. MSU Extension helps youth grow life skills, such as Great Lakes literacy and stewardship, planning and organizational skills, career path options, and healthy eating and living choices. Through early involvement and active engagement, youth develop a stronger sense of belonging, community ownership, and overall leadership capacity. In addition to meeting the needs of youth in Alpena County, MSU Extension also provides numerous programs that promote healthy families and focus on Parents and caregivers.





County of Alpena – Parks & Recreation

Project: Sunken Lake Bathhouse

Funded: \$41,125.00

Preparation for the new bathhouse addition began May 1st with the removal of large trees and digging out of stumps. This work was performed with volunteers. Construction on the building was planned to be started at the end of the busy camping season. It was September before drawings were complete and building permits could be pulled. Bids were obtained for block and masonry work, roof trusses and shingling, rough-in electrical and rough-in plumbing. Footings, concrete blocks and concrete floors were finished by about December 1st. Roof construction, shingling, rough-in electric and plumbing were all completed by December 31. During this same period two existing septic tanks were renovated to service the new and old building by volunteers. All septic work was permitted and approved by District 4 Health Department.



County of Alpena – Plaza Pool

Project: Aquatic Operations

Funded: \$80,000.00

Over the course of the past year we have had the privilege to have aprox. 3,000 people attend a wide variety of classes, activities and events at the Alpena County Plaza Pool. This is ranging from infant / toddler swim lessons through all ages and abilities to our Senior Fitness camp and Water Walking. For our Seniors, this time at the pool is their only social activity they may participate in.



County of Alpena – Plaza Pool

Project: Ready, Set, Swim Program

Funded: \$6,750.00

There was a bit of a change with this program this year due to Covid -19. Instead of bussing the kids to the pool during the school day we provided Ready, Set, Swim certificates to all 3rd graders in the community through the school system as well as home school and Pied Piper School. These kids will then have the opportunity to come to the pool at a time that works best for their family and participate in free swim lessons.



Friends of Alpena Farmers Market

Project: Youth Programming/Nutrition Program

Funded: \$4,000.00



Friends of the APlex Courts

Project: Learn to Play Tennis Program

Funded: \$4,000.00

Through the APlex Tennis - F.I.T (Free Instructional Tennis) camp we were able to serve aprox 200 kids from our community that had the opportunity for Free Instructional Tennis time with our Tennis Pro, Aaron Pokorzynski. At these camps the students are given basic tennis instructional and introduction to tennis, we provide the rackets, balls and snacks for the kids.

Friends of Plaza Pool

Project: Free Family Fun Swims

Funded: \$6,664.00

Free Family Fun Swims were offered over 20 Fridays in 2021 as well as 8 Sundays. The grant allowed families to swim free for two hours. The grant funded two hours of pool time, plus two certified lifeguards using safe pool equipment over the 28 days. A total of 633 participants utilized the Alpena County Plaza Pool during these free events because of the support of Youth and Rec Millage Funds.



Green Township

Project: Playground Equipment

Funded: \$1,500.00

Green Township was awarded \$1500.00 for purchasing Playground Equipment to further enhance their recreation facility. Toddler playground equipment was chosen and purchased which include a Farm Truck Spring Rider and a Derby Horse Spring Rider of which both are examples of the rural area the township is in. Children have taken great pride in “their” playground and it provides equipment for the little ones to use. Green Township thanks the Youth & Recreation Fund for providing money to purchase equipment for all Alpena county residents to use.



Northeast MI Center for Fine Arts

Project: Ready, Set, Create Program

Funded: \$20,500.00

a. Through the generosity of the Alpena County Youth and Recreation program, Art in the Loft was able to conduct a revised version of its longest running program, "Ready, Set, Create!". The grant award allowed roughly 160 students (K-12) to travel to the gallery and be led through 8-weeks of hands-on visual and culinary arts lessons led by local artist, Elisa Chavarri and retired teacher of 35 years, Denise Cooper.

b. Due to the novel virus, Covid-19, the normal public, parochial, home-school and Pied Piper program could not take place due to the restrictions placed on off-site field trips. In April of 2021, the Loft received permission to use awarded funds towards a different approach to Ready, Set, Create. This was in the form of an 8-week summer program for the members of the Boys and Girls Club of Alpena. For 8 consecutive weeks they received 2-hours of visual art and culinary arts programming.



Park Family Foundation

Project: Ready, Set, Snap Program

Funded: \$9,500.00

Our Ready, Set, S.N.A.P program is designed especially for our Special Needs Adult Program, where they can come and make crafts, play games and build friendships and socialization skills.



Park Family Foundation

Project: Special Needs Prom

Funded: \$5,000.00



Sanborn Township Planning Commission

Project: Beach Volleyball

Funded: \$2,000.00

The Beach Volleyball Court set up at the Ossineke beach has been used all summer by many people from the area and also by many visitors to our area. It gives the kids something fun to do, that's also giving them some good exercise.



Thunder Bay Martial Arts-Park Family Foundation

Project: Scholarships

Funded: \$7,500.00

This year we were able to provide full scholarships to 30 students that normally would not have had the opportunity to participate in the program. This provides the benefits of learning the discipline of a healthy lifestyle for these students.



Thunder Bay Martial Arts-Park Family Foundation

Project: Women's Self Defense Training

Funded: \$3,000.00

This year we were able to help 24 Women in our community by providing them full scholarships for the Women's Self Defense program. This program helps women of all ages, from all walks of life learn how to protect and defend themselves should the need ever arise. It builds their confidence level as well as their physical strength.



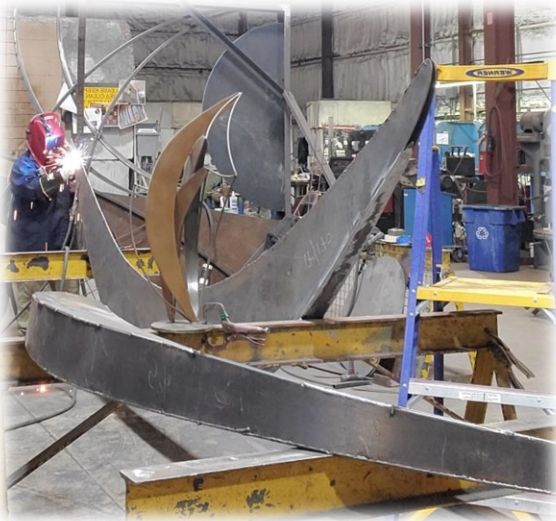
Thunder Bay Arts Council

Project: Bi-Path Sculpture

Funded: \$10,000.00

The Thunder Bay Arts 2021 Bi-Path Sculpture Project - Regatta Sails added an additional collection of sculptures to the Alpena Bi-Path. Inspired by the rich recreational and industrial nautical history of Alpena and Thunder Bay, Regatta Sails by Ann Gildner is the latest addition to a growing collection of large-scale public sculptures in local parks intended to inspire people of all ages, youth and adults, locals and visitors alike, to contemplate and recreate with art and history in nature in the open-air with free access along the Alpena Bi-Path all year long for years to come. From the youthful Ynglings and yachts that sail about the horizon to Alpena's historic fleet of catboats and the collection of shipwrecks that have graced these waters, Regatta Sails symbolizes the spirit of nautical life, industry and recreation at Thunder Bay, Alpena - Bay View Park. Aside from sailing along the horizon with a sunrise or sunset moon, what better way is there to capture the spirit of recreating with art in nature than with a sculpture of sailboats in full regatta.

Conceived in 1974-76 to commemorate the nation's Bicentennial, the Alpena Bi-Path (originally the Alpena Sculptured Bikeway and Walkway) was intended to feature public sculptures along the way. Sculptured Fountain at Besser Museum was the first sculpture in 1978 and the last until the 45th Anniversary of Thunder Bay Arts Council, Inc. when the sculpture component of the Bi-Path plan was resurrected. From inception the Alpena Bi-Path has been extended to nearly 20 miles throughout the center of the Alpena community. Since 2017, more than a dozen new sculptures have been added along the Alpena Bi-Path. Sculptures of various genre and materials depict the themes of running waters of the forest, blue herons, armillary globe, history of industry series, celebration of American dogs, Alpena pride, cat boats, the Thunder Bay River, and water and limestone. Regatta Sails commemorates Thunder Bay Arts 50th Anniversary, proud to be among the oldest continuous arts councils in the State of Michigan





Thunder Bay Schooners

Project: Pool Rental and Meet Fees

Funded: \$10,500.00

Over the 2021 year, the Thunder Bay Schooners Swim Club has had the privilege to serve the youth of Alpena County. This year we have welcomed 53 swimmers in the club ranging in ages from 5 to 18, beginning swimmers to seasoned competitors. We have tried to instill in each one of these swimmers the importance of hard work, dedication, and teamwork. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, no competitive swim meets were held. The team still practiced for the entire season and focused on improving their skills and having fun participating in a lifetime sport.

