



2022 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
2022	\$500,623

Organization	Project	Awarded
ACC Cross Country	Cross Country Support	\$950.00
Alpena Figure Skating Club #1	First Skater Program	\$6,500.00
Alpena Figure Skating Club #2	Operating Support	\$6,750.00
Alpena Hockey Association #1	Training Equipment Project	\$4,000.00
Alpena Hockey Association #2	Battle on the Bay Tournament	\$6,500.00
Alpena Hockey Association #3	Player Cost Reduction	\$6,500.00
Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth #1	Registration Assistance	\$12,000.00
Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth #2	Complex Fences	\$34,800.00
APS – AHS KAPUT	Activities & Events	\$13,500.00
APS – AHS Line Drive Club	Equipment Needs	\$3,248.00
APS – AHS Robotics	Programming and Support	\$16,462.00
APS – TBJHS Athletic Outreach	Athletic Outreach Program	\$9,125.00
Boys & Girls Club of Alpena #1	Open New Doors	\$40,000.00
Boys & Girls Club of Alpena #2	Triple Play Program	\$12,000.00
City of Alpena	Culligan Plaza Reconstruction	\$20,000.00
County of Alpena – Long Lake Park	Boat Launch	\$34,100.00
County of Alpena – MSU Extension	Youth Programming – 4H	\$40,000.00
County of Alpena – Plaza Pool #1	Pool Operating	\$80,000.00
County of Alpena – Plaza Pool #2	Ready, Set, Swim Program	\$7,000.00
County of Alpena – Sunken Lake Park	Bathhouse	\$40,000.00
Friends of Alpena Farmers Market	Nutrition Incentive Program	\$4,000.00
Friends of Plaza Pool	Free Family Fun Swims	\$6,000.00
MPAC #1	Free Open Skate	\$10,000.00
MPAC #2	Level Ice System	\$20,000.00
Northeast MI Center for Fine Arts	Ready, Set, Create Program	\$14,000.00
Park Family Foundation #1	APlex FIT Camp	\$4,188.00
Park Family Foundation #2	Martial Arts Scholarships	\$6,000.00
Park Family Foundation #3	Women’s Self Defense	\$5,500.00
Park Family Foundation #4	Special Needs Prom	\$6,000.00
Park Family Foundation #5	Ready, Set, Snap	\$10,000.00
Thunder Bay Curling Club #1	Curling Stones	\$10,000.00
Thunder Bay Curling Club #2	Ice Nipper	\$1,000.00
Thunder Bay Schooners Swim Club	Pool Rental and Meet Fees	\$10,500.00
	Total	\$500,523.00

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Alpena Community College – Cross Country

Project: Cross Country Support

Funded: \$950.00

The money granted by the Youth and Rec committee to benefit the Alpena Community College Cross-Country program was again a great help in covering costs in running a top-program. These dollars were used to help student athletes afford to attend Cross-Country camp to start the season. This year we attended camp at Rifle River campground outside of Rose City, MI. This has been a favorite in the past and again found it to be a fantastic place to train. The week at camp was again a huge success. This "team time" allows each member to know each other and bond as team. Besides running over 50-75 miles each, the team were able to learn about each other's backgrounds. The 2022 team is on track to become the eighth straight ACC Cross-Country team to be named Academic All-American.



Alpena Figure Skating Club #1

Project: First Skater Program

Funded: \$6,500.00

Alpena Figure Skating Club provides six months of figure skating instruction by US Figure Skating credentialed coaches and student instructors. This grant allowed the club the ability to waive the lesson fees for first year skaters, giving them the opportunity to try the sport at a greatly reduced cost, saving skaters almost \$500. The grant helped cover 14 of the 24 new skaters in Alpena County.



Alpena Figure Skating Club

Project: Operating Support

Funded: \$6,750.00

Alpena Figure Skating Club provided six months of figure skating instruction by US Figure Skating credentialed coaches and student instructors. This grant helped to offset ice fees allowing us to keep costs down for all sixty-six skaters.



Alpena Hockey Association #1

Project: Training Equipment

Funded: \$4,000.00

This grant was used to buy new equipment for AHA hockey players, this included new nets, skill equipment, hockey pucks & other equipment.



Alpena Hockey Association #2

Project: Battle on the Bay

Funded: \$6,500.00

This grant helps local Alpena kids save money with the chance to play a tournament at home in Alpena that brings in 14-16 out of town teams. This allows family members to watch these kids play that would otherwise not travel to watch kids play hockey.



Alpena Hockey Association #3

Project: Player Cost Reduction

Funded: \$6,500.00

This grant helped reduce the cost for Alpena Hockey players with the help of Youth & Rec.



Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth #1

Project: Registration Assistance

Funded: \$12,000.00

With the grant for the registration assistance, we were able to keep our registration costs at \$75 per player. Without this assistance we feel that there would be fewer Alpena County kids who play baseball and softball.



Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth #2

Project: Complex Fences

Funded: \$34,800.00

****Carryover (January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023)**

Alpena Public Schools – AHS KAPUT

Project: Activities and Events

Funded: \$13,500.00

Alpena High School Project: KAPUT Funded: \$15,500. The goal of KAPUT is to provide unique and fun alternatives to the youth of our community, free from the dangers of drugs and alcohol, while providing leadership opportunities and good communication with parents. Since the creation of KAPUT there have been zero teen deaths caused by driving under the influence of alcohol while prior to KAPUT there were multiple teen deaths each year. KAPUT puts on activity nights, Post-Prom, and Senior Celebration events every school year for Alpena High School students. This year specific to COVID guidelines, AHS held in partnership with AHS Leadership, an outdoor Homecoming Dance. It was truly epic and the weather was incredible for an October evening.



Alpena Public Schools – AHS Line Drive Club

Project: Equipment Needs

Funded: \$3,248.00

With funding obtained from the Alpena County Youth and Recreation Committee, the Alpena High School Softball program purchased a Spinball Wizard 3 wheel pitching machine that will be a big factor in helping keep the AHS Softball program for years to come. Along with AHS players using the pitching machine, ACC and various youth teams use the machine as well.



Alpena Public Schools – AHS Robotics

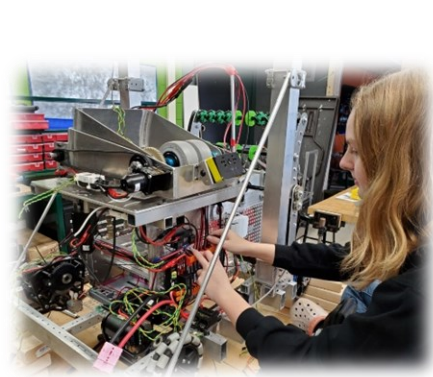
Project: Programming and Support

Funded: \$16,462.00

AHS Wildcat Robotics participates in an international competition program called FIRST Robotics (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). The Alpena High School based program consists of two teams #5230 The Resistance and #5505 V2 Volts Squared. Our program inspires young people to be leaders in science and technology while promoting hands-on training, team building, and leadership skills. Students engage in exciting mentor-based programs building skills in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). Grant money received from the 2022 Alpena County Youth and Recreation Grant enabled the fabrication and assembly of two fully operational competition robots during the 2022 season.

The dual team structure ensures students have extensive opportunities for mentor interaction, hands-on work, problem-solving, and time management. This model promotes higher skill retention because it increases student involvement. Robotics provides opportunities to work in a thrilling competitive team environment. We are grateful for our community's support over the years. This generosity is propelling Wildcat Robotics toward becoming a regional hub for STEM in northern Michigan.

Alpena Wildcat Robotics had another successful competition season in 2022. Both #5230 and #5505 competed to their maximum potential. Volts Squared, #5505, was awarded the Entrepreneurship Award at the Escanaba event for creating a comprehensive business plan. At the Walled Lake event, #5505 finished as a District Event Finalist and received the Industrial Design Award for excellent robotic design skills integrating form, function, and aesthetics. Volts Squared qualified for the Michigan State Championship and moved on to the World Championship in Houston, Texas, earning their highest international placement in school history.





Alpena Public Schools – TBJHS

Project: Athletic Outreach Program

Funded: \$9,125.00

Alpena High School conduct Volleyball, Boys Basketball and Girls Basketball during the academic calendar of 2022. We averaged about 75-100 spectators per event. Each team had 30 students participate in these respected sports. The Youth and Recreation grant allowed us to provide free admission to all JH events.



Boys and Girls Club #1

Project: Open New Doors

Funded: \$40,000.00

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 with over 1200 youth served annually and seeing larger attendance numbers every year. 2022 has been an historic year in terms of attendance, meals served, community and parent engagement. 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 will also present the youth and community with 21st century workforce 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 #2

Project: Triple Play Program – Mind, Body, Soul

Funded: \$12,000.00

During the 2022 funding period the Boys and Girls Club was able to better serve over 650 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 Mackinac Island for a fun and educational day on the Island full of activities that included the Butterfly House, carriage rides, ferry tour exploring the history of Mackinac Island. We were also able to take a group of youth to Knaebe's Apple Orchard to enjoy cider, great food, hayrides and other engaging activities. 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 has 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 has 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.



City of Alpena

Project: Culligan Plaza Reconstruction

Funded: \$20,000.00

****Carryover (January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023)**

County of Alpena – Long Lake Park

Project: Boat Launch

Funded: \$34,100.00

****Carryover (January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023)**

County of Alpena – MSU Extension

Project: Youth Programming – 4H

Funded: \$40,000.00

Michigan State University Extension Youth Programs reached 3,180 Alpena County youth during the 2022 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 nutrition. While learning these skills, youth developed positive relationships with adults and peers. 4-H has held in person and online programs and events that were attended by Alpena County youth. Popular programs this year were Breakfast on the Farm, 4-H livestock programs and club activities as well as place-based education learning and stewardship programs. Thank you for your continued partnership in our shared goal of providing educational and recreational activities for the youth of Alpena County.



County of Alpena – Plaza Pool

Project: Aquatic Operations

Funded: \$80,000.00

The Alpena County Plaza Pool has benefited from the generosity of the Youth and Recreation Committee and their continued support. Through the year 2022 more than 19,557 patrons will have taken advantage of being able to come to the plaza pool at least one time and many patrons come multiple times per week. We have a wide range of programming patrons can choose from throughout the day and evening hours. Water Walking, Volleyball, lap swim, Aqua Chi, Sculpt, bootcamp, open fit fun, Open swim, party rentals, just to name a few of the classes to choose from.



County of Alpena – Plaza Pool

Project: Ready, Set, Swim Program

Funded: \$7,000.00

Thanks to the generosity of the Alpena County Youth & Recreation Committee the Alpena County Plaza Pool has partnered with Alpena Public, Parochial and Pied Piper Schools, along with the Home-Schooling Associations to provide Free Swim Lessons to any student in the 2nd / 3rd Grades. These students came to the Plaza pool where they were taught for 4 weeks basic water safety and swimming lessons. From this starting point we have seen where many students have continued in this extremely important activity.



County of Alpena – Sunken Lake Park

Project: Bathhouse

Funded: \$40,000.00

Construction work on the Sunken Lake Bathhouse addition and remodel resumed in April, 2022 and picked up where construction had stopped in December, 2021. Plumbing resumed with the finished plumbing fixtures, all ADA compliant, including handrails, handicap shower seats, mirrors, shower curtains, shelves and hooks. On-demand water heaters supplied the new four handicap accessible bathrooms with hot water with all water supply running through a large water filter. Due to the ongoing problem with excess tannins, iron and other deposits in the water supply, a commercial grade water softener system was added to treat all the water coming into the building. Finish electric was completed with lights, receptacles, and electric hand dryers in each of the handicap baths. Exterior lighting is now supplied by soffit LED lights and the old existing lighting around the building was replaced with the same. Some of the old electric wiring was brought up to code as well. Painting included epoxy paint throughout the inside of each of the four bathrooms, two coats of concrete block exterior paint on new addition. The old portion was pressure washed and received two coats of concrete paint. All steel doors were painted as well as those on the old building. New aluminum soffit and fascia was installed on the entire building. Cedar was applied to the cathedral ceilings and gable ends and were sealed with stain and varnish. Treated porch support posts had stone applied to the bottom and cedar covering the posts. Four old showers had new shower faucets installed with scald protection to protect the user. Four old windows were replaced with new in the old portion of the bathhouse. 4" concrete sidewalks were poured around the perimeter of the new bathhouse.



Friends of Alpena Farmers Market

Project: Health & Nutrition Incentive Program

Funded: \$4,000.00

The main event in our program is our **Kids Day** that was held September 17th. Some of the completely free activities offered on this day to families were face painting, balloon animals, hay rides with the FFA, Hay bail climbing pyramid, Bounce house and slides, vegetable tasting, fire trucks, ambulances, rubber ducky races, and a free pumpkins to every child who attended. Funds were used put on our **Market Sprouts Program** that encourages and educates kids about healthier food and healthier choices. This program also allows young entrepreneurs the opportunity sell items at the market that they produce for without paying a booth fee. In addition the Friends of The Market gave a **\$500 scholarship** from the money that was raise with fundraising events. The friends booth, with almost 3000 volunteer hours from community members, organized the Alpena Farmers' Market **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program/SNAP**. This program allowed the market to accept WIC Project Fresh, Senior Project Fresh, Bridge Cards/EBT cards, and Double Up Food Bucks. The friends booth also offered **reusable bags** to the customers for free. Finally we sponsored **local musicians** to come down to the market and play for vendors and customers.



Friends of Plaza Pool

Project: Free Family Fun Swims

Funded: \$6,000.00

Free Family Fund Swims were supported by an Alpena County Youth and Rec Grant and Friends of Plaza Pool. Free Swims were held on 17 Fridays and 8 Sundays throughout the year. Families were able to attend a no cost/free two-hour period to use the Alpena County Plaza Pool utilizing certified lifeguards and pool equipment. During the 12-month period, 681 individuals ranging in age from infant to seniors attended and enjoyed the program.



MPAC #1

Project: Free Open Skate

Funded: \$10,000.00

Multi-Purpose Arena Coalition held 22 Youth & Rec Free Open Skates that served a total of 1,633 people!



MPAC #3

Project: Level Ice System

Funded: \$20,000.00

****Carryover (January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023)**

Northeast MI Center for Fine Arts

Project: Ready, Set, Create Program

Funded: \$14,000.00

Through the generosity of the Alpena County Youth and Recreation program, Art in the Loft was able to conduct a Summer Ready, Set, Create! program for over 200 Boys & Girls Club of Alpena members. The grant award also allowed for the return of the public and parochial schools Ready, Set Create! program for over 90 4th grade students. Both programs allowed for these groups to travel to the gallery and be led through four-weeks of hands-on art and culinary lessons. During the four weeks, students participated in hands-on art lessons, in conjunction with art history and a cross-curricular curriculum and walked away with four finished projects.

The Alpena County Youth and Recreation grant funds allowed Art in the Loft to provide transportation and instruction in a professional gallery setting. This program brought students a well-rounded fine arts experience, where otherwise this might not have happened.



Park Family Foundation #1

Project: APlex FIT Camp

Funded: \$4,188.00

The APLEX Tennis program had the continued opportunity to provide Free instructional Tennis Camps/Lessons for our local community. Our tennis camps directed by our Head Tennis professional alongside a team of high school and tennis volunteers provided hour-long sessions for numerous new tennis players throughout the year. These free structured tennis lessons were spread out throughout the APLEX Indoor Tennis season (October- May) allowing multiple opportunities for kids of all ages to begin their tennis career here at the APLEX.

Our tennis camp's attendance varied in group size ranging from twenty-five kids exceeding all the way to fifty coming from all around the county. The ages within our participants varied from as young as five years old ranging all the way to high school seniors. At the end of each Free Tennis Camp parents and kids were given additional information and a voucher to receive a reduced rate when enrolling in our current tennis programming. We have seen significant growth in our youth APLEX tennis programming due to our Free instructional Tennis Camps that have provided the community with a true and important lifetime sport.



Park Family Foundation #2

Project: Martial Arts Scholarship Program

Funded: \$6,000.00



Park Family Foundation #3

Project: Martial Arts Women's Self Defense

Funded: \$5,500.00

During the 2022 Fall and Winter sessions of Women's Self Defense 24 ladies were provided with full tuition for 10 weeks of Self Defense Classes. This is an excellent opportunity for any female, no matter what their age is, to learn how to safely protect themselves in a wide variety of situations. With society the way it is now in general, we are seeing the need for this class on an even larger scale. Usually, when the ladies start their classes, most are shy and reserved, some having already lived through domestic violence. However, upon graduation date, they are definitely able to completely defend themselves.



Park Family Foundation #4

Project: Special Needs Prom

Funded: \$6,000.00

Thanks to the generosity of the Youth and Recreation Committee we were able to host aprox. 350 guests along with their families/or support staff for the Special Needs Prom, Candy Land. This event provides a special night for anyone in our community with special needs, where they can come to a safe, and well supervised prom that is just for them. They are served a 3-course meal, and can dance the night away to all their favorite tunes played by a D.J. This year we had a professional photographer on site for special pictures of all who attended.



Park Family Foundation #5

Project: Ready, Set, Snap

Funded: \$10,000.00

Ready, Set, S.N.A.P is a Special Needs Adult Program that is held two times per week, here at the Apex. We have a teacher on staff for each class. Anyone in our community that has special needs can come and participate in this program. Each activity time the guests can make a craft, color, play board games, etc. They are always provided snacks during the class, and during holiday seasons there is a party for them where everyone leaves with a gift, or prize.



Thunder Bay Curling Club #1

Project: Curling Stones

Funded: \$10,000.00

For the 2022 calendar year we began our season with a Learn to Curl that introduced 17 individuals to the sport. Our main winter season consisted of 6 teams with 24 regular members and several alternates or subs. In February we hosted a student group from the college and introduced 8 ACC students to the sport. In November we hosted our Fall Learn to Curl event and had 20 participants. We began our Fall mini season on 11/27 and had as many as 25 people show up for the warm up season.



Thunder Bay Curling Club #2

Project: Ice Nipper

Funded: \$1,000.00

For the 2022 calendar year we began our season with a Learn to Curl that introduced 17 individuals to the sport. Our main winter season consisted of 6 teams with 24 regular members and several alternates or subs. In February we hosted a student group from the college and introduced 8 ACC students to the sport. In November we hosted our Fall Learn to Curl event and had 20 participants. We began our Fall mini season on 11/27 and had as many as 25 people show us for the warm up season.



Thunder Bay Schooners

Project: Pool Rental and Meet Fees

Funded: \$10,500.00

Over the 2022 year, the Thunder Bay Schooners Swim Club has had the privilege to serve the youth of Alpena County. This year we have welcomed 60 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 team work. These youth competed in many competitive meets throughout the state. Almost all of these swimmers saw the results of their hard work by improving on their personal best times, improving skill and technique, and becoming healthier with fun and demanding exercise.

