



**2023 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
2023	\$564,800

Organization	Project	Awarded
ACC Cross Country	Cross Country Support	\$ 950.00
AHS – KAPUT	Activities & Events	\$15,500.00
AHS – Robotics	Programming and Support	\$22,000.00
Alpena Figure Skating Club	First Skater Program	\$ 8,000.00
Alpena Figure Skating Club	Operating Support	\$ 6,750.00
Alpena Hockey Association	Battle on the Bay Tournament	\$ 7,000.00
Alpena Hockey Association	Player Cost Reduction	\$10,000.00
Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth	Registration Assistance	\$13,700.00
Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth	Complex Fences	\$40,000.00
Alpena Jets Football	Updated Equipment	\$10,000.00
Besser Museum	Discover NE MI History Exhibit	\$75,000.00
Boys & Girls Club of Alpena	Triple Play Program	\$15,500.00
City of Alpena	Mich-e-ke-wis Playground Updates	\$15,000.00
County of Alpena – Long Lake Park	Day Use Enhancements	\$10,000.00
County of Alpena – Plaza Pool	Pool Operating	\$90,000.00
County of Alpena – Plaza Pool	Ready, Set, Swim Program	\$ 7,500.00
Friends of Plaza Pool	Free Family Fun Swims & Aqua Equipment	\$ 7,500.00
Friends of Alpena Farmers Market	Nutrition Incentive Program	\$ 4,000.00
Girl Scouts of MI Shore to Shore	Camp Woodlands-Kitchen & Activity Room Renovation	\$45,000.00
MPAC	Free Open Skate	\$ 5,400.00
MPAC	Rental Skates & Helmets	\$ 7,500.00
MSU Extension	Youth Programming – 4H	\$40,000.00
Northeast MI Center for Fine Arts	Ready, Set, Create Program	\$23,000.00
Park Family Foundation	APlex FIT Camp	\$ 5,000.00
Park Family Foundation	Martial Arts Scholarships	\$ 6,000.00
Park Family Foundation	Women's Self Defense	\$ 6,000.00
Park Family Foundation	Special Needs Prom	\$ 7,000.00
Park Family Foundation	Ready, Set, Snap	\$10,000.00
Thunder Bay Schooners Swim Club	Pool Rental and Meet Fees	\$11,500.00
Wolf Creek Park Commission	Wolf Creek Park Improvements	\$40,000.00
	Total	\$564,800.00

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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 2023 team had one of its best seasons in school history is on track to become the 10th straight ACC Cross-Country team to be named Academic All-American.



Alpena Public Schools – AHS KAPUT

Project: Activities and Events

Funded: \$15,500.00

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 Robotics

Project: Programming and Support

Funded: \$22,000.00

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 competes under the team name and number V2 Volts Squared #5505. Our program continues to inspire young people to be leaders in science and technology while promoting hands-on training, team building, and leadership skills since its rookie season in 2014. Students engage in exciting mentor-based programs building skills in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). Grant money received from the 2023 Alpena County Youth and Recreation Grant enabled the fabrication and assembly of a fully operational competition robot weighing up to 125 lbs. Each year a completely new robot is created from concept, design, fabrication and assembly to address each year's unique game challenge. The 2023 district competitions successfully ended with qualification to the Michigan State Championship held in Saginaw, MI. Volt's Squared finished ranked 52 out of 636 teams in Michigan qualifying for and competing in the 2023 world championship event, held in Houston, TX. Overall, Volts Squared has qualified for and attended the Michigan State Championship each year since 2015 and World Championships 6 of 7 years. We plan to continue our work by growing our community and giving students more educational opportunities. Wildcat Robotics has had an astonishing 2023 season and plans to advance our technical skills through an advanced swerve drive system and computer aided designs in 2024. We take pride in our team having a variety of educational interests within mechanical, electrical, computer aided design, programming, business, and media groups. We are proud members of the Alpena community and are grateful for the support of the Alpena County Youth and Recreation Committee.



Alpena Figure Skating Club

Project: First Skater Program

Funded: \$8,000.00

The Alpena Figure Skating Club provides six-months' worth of figure skating instructed by U.S. Figure Skating credentialed coaches and student instructors. The Youth and Rec Grant allows the club the ability to waive lesson fees for first time Alpena County resident skaters (a \$380 cost) making the cost to registering for the year very affordable. This year our club gained 32 new skaters: 29 of those from Alpena County. The grant helped to cover lesson costs for 20 of the 29 new skaters.



Alpena Figure Skating Club

Project: Operating Support

Funded: \$6,750.00

The Alpena Figure Skating Club provides six-months of figure skating instructed by U.S. Figure Skating credentialed coaches and student instructors. The Youth and Rec Grant helps to pay a portion of our ice fees and in turn we are able to keep skating fees lower and reasonable so all skaters may embrace participating in a life-long sport.



Alpena Hockey Association

Project: Player Cost Reduction

Funded: \$10,000.00

This Youth & Rec grant helps to offset hockey costs for over 170 local Alpena area players and families. Through the support of the Youth & Rec committee and it's grants, many local families are provided the opportunity to play hockey.



Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth

Project: Registration Assistance

Funded: \$13,700.00

The registration assistance funding helped to offset the cost of playing baseball and softball for 647 kids this past season. Without the assistance we would have to charge more to play baseball and softball which could make it too expensive for some kids to play.



Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth

Project: Complex Fences

Funded: \$40,000.00

This funding helped us replace the fencing on Reynolds Field at our US 23 N Complex. With the last field completed it will allow us to offer a safer playing field for the 647 kids in our program. The new backstop will prevent most foul balls from leaving the playing field and possibly injuring spectators. The new outfield fence is lower which lowers the chances of a player running into and hitting their head on the top rail.



Alpena Jets Youth Football

Project: Equipment Needs

Funded: \$10,000.00

Thanks to the generosity of the Alpena County Youth and Recreation Grant, the Alpena Jets were able to purchase updated equipment for our football players. This included; 40 pairs of padded football pants, 20 reversable jerseys, and 30 flex helmets. The Alpena Jets had an incredible increase in the number of children participating in the program this year and these funds helped us provide gear to 150 football players.



Besser Museum

Project: Discover NE MI History Exhibit

Funded: \$75,000.00

The Besser Museum is transforming 3000 square feet of outdated exhibit space into a modern, interactive, and immersive regional history experience. The new design for the Discover Northeast Michigan History Exhibit will create a family-friendly environment chronicling eleven time periods celebrating Northeast Michigan's heritage. The Besser Museum board of trustees has committed \$1.8 million to complete this capital improvement project. The \$75,000 funding the museum received from the 2023 Youth and Recreation 2023 was used during Phase 1 to renovate and prepare the exhibit gallery for the installation of the new exhibit components. During Phase 2, the new exhibit components will be installed. The project is scheduled to be completed and opened to the public in December 2024. This new exhibit will serve Alpena County citizens of all ages for years to come.



Boys and Girls Club**Project: Triple Play Program****Funded: \$15,500.00**

During the 2023 funding period the Boys and Girls Club was able to better serve over 675 youth participants in the Club's Triple 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 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 YMCA Camp Timbers in Saginaw. Youth were able to enjoy outdoor recreation like zip lining, hiking, kayaking, arts/crafts, STEM activities and more. 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 youth were able to acquire outdoor gardening supplies to help understand the importance of creating, tending and utilizing locally grown and sourced vegetables and fruits. 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: Mich-e-ki-wis Playground Updates

Funded: \$15,000.00

****Carryover (January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024)**

County of Alpena – Long Lake Park

Project: Day Use Enhancements

Funded: \$10,000.00

Renovations started with clearing property of dead trees and stumps. Continued with clearing beach area of debris. Construction started in June 2023. Fill brought in as Park Budget allowed to cover area and level. Foundation was poured to provide for picnic tables, benches, and grills. Work performed by members of County Parks Commission and Long Lake Park Committee Members. Benches, tables, grills, and canopies were ordered for each position, four of each; all ordered through County Youth & Recreation Grant. Delivered to park late October 2023 prior to park closing in November 2023.



County of Alpena – Long Lake Park

Project: Boat Launch

Funded: \$34,100.00

Long Lake Park is utilized to launch boating from all over the State of Michigan. The present boat launch has been displaced and repaired by Long Lake Park Managers and Long Lake Park Committee members for the past 6 years. Wind and careless speed docking attribute to damage.

A new site with large launch area was sought after with less wind conditions and land lake bottom that allowed for dredging once the site was selected, surveying was accomplished to assure the site was appropriate. Next step was to secure funding for the vast project.

Project included new road to launch area specific to boat traffic. Enlarge and paved parking area near new boat launch site. Lighting for launch area at mouth of bay. Launch site for up to four boat launches at a time. Lift station toilet at launch site and buoys marking channel.



County of Alpena – Plaza Pool

Project: Ready, Set, Swim Program

Funded: \$7,500.00

There were 11 schools from Alpena County, along with Hillman Public Schools as a private pay. 16 separate classes were held for a total of 1692 swim lessons. The students came for a total of 4 lessons (weeks) per class and learned the basic of water safety and beginning swim lessons. The final day of their lessons they earned "Free Time" to show off all the new skills they learned and could play on the waterslide also. These classes are critical for our kids safety living so close to Lake Huron plus all the other water outlets, and possibilities throughout the county.



County of Alpena – Plaza Pool

Project: Plaza Pool Operations

Funded: \$90,000.00

The Alpena County Plaza Pool has benefited from the generosity of the Youth and Recreation Committee and their continued support. 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.



Friends of Plaza Pool

Project: Free Family Fun Swims & Aqua Equipment

Funded: \$7,500.00

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.



Friends of Alpena Farmers Market

Project: Health & Nutrition Incentive Program

Funded: \$4,000.00

With this program we able to provide free educational and fun events to Alpena County with our Save-A-Life Saturday, Home Grown Music Programs, Market Sprouts Programs, and Optimist Spring Break Fun Day, and Fall Kids Day. These funds were also used to help support our Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP) including: EBT, WIC Project Fresh, and Senior Project Fresh.



Girl Scouts of MI Shore to Shore

Project: Camp Woodlands-Kitchen & Activity Room Renovation

Funded: \$45,000.00

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity given by the Alpena Youth and Recreation grant. With the funds received, Girl Scouts of Michigan Shore to Shore (GSMISTS) have advanced our work to nurture the well-being and leadership of our Girl Scouts, empowering them to change the world.

Through the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, girls discover themselves, connect with others, and take action to make the world a better place. Girl Scouts provides girls and families with a clear road map for success, focusing on four pillars: STEM, the outdoors, life skills, and entrepreneurship. With a grant from the Alpena Youth and Recreation Fund, GSMISTS renovated Camp Woodlands, a facility that supports programming for STEM, life skills, and outdoor and overnight adventures for Girl Scouts and others in the region.

Camp Woodlands kitchen and activity rooms were renovated to enable Girl Scouts to participate in STEM, outdoor activities, and food preparation and learn about food and health. The renovation is ADA-compliant. The lodge can entertain up to 100 people during day use and 20 individuals overnight.

The renovations of Camp Woodlands will increase the sleeping quarters for Girl Scouts, while the renovations to the kitchen have updated the plumbing, cabinets, and windows. These updates will provide a sanitary and safe environment for girls and adults to use the facility for programs and overnight stays.



MPAC

Project: Rental Skates & Helmets

Funded: \$7,500.00



MPAC

Project: Youth & Rec Open Skate

Funded: \$5,400.00



County of Alpena – MSU Extension

Project: Youth Programming – 4H

Funded: \$40,000.00

Michigan State University Extension Youth Programs reached 3,265 Alpena County youth during the 2023 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 4-H livestock programs, summer camp 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!



Northeast MI Center for Fine Arts

Project: Ready, Set, Create Program

Funded: \$23,000.00

Through the generosity of the Alpena County Youth and Recreation program, Art in the Loft was able to conduct the flagship arts education program entitled “Ready, Set, Create!”. The grant award allowed for 333 Alpena-county students (mostly 4th grade) to travel to the gallery and be led through four-weeks of hands-on art 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

Project: Martial Arts Scholarship Program

Funded: \$6,000.00

The Karate Registration Assistance Program benefits families in our area that may not be able to afford the full price of the Class Registration for our Martial Arts/Karate classes. These Classes are vital to so many kids because they teach self-confidence, balance, self-control, discipline, just to name a few of our core values. With this program the Registration fee is cut in $\frac{1}{2}$ for 18 students per semester.



Park Family Foundation

Project: Martial Arts Women's Self Defense

Funded: \$6,000.00

The Women's Self Defense Program teaches women the skill of being able to defend themselves in bad situations, becoming aware of their surroundings at all times, builds self-esteem and self-confidence.



Park Family Foundation

Project: Ready, Set, Snap

Funded: \$10,000.00

Ready, Set S.N.A.P. stands for Special Needs Adult Programming. This is where anyone with in our community can come to the APlex 2x a week (Tuesday & Thursday) and enjoy an activity, a snack and friendship building time. This is a supervised time where the instructor always has an activity planned and ready to run for them.



Park Family Foundation

Project: Special Needs Prom

Funded: \$7,000.00

Thanks to the generosity of the Youth and Recreation Committee we were able to host approx. 350 guests along with their families/or support staff for the Special Needs Prom, Wild West. 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.



Thunder Bay Schooners

Project: Pool Rental and Meet Fees

Funded: \$11,500.00

Over the 2023 year, the Thunder Bay Schooners Swim club has had the privilege to serve the youth of Alpena County. This year we have welcomed 55 swimmers in the club ranging in ages from 6 to 18 that consist of both beginning swimmers and seasoned competitors. Our program strives to instill the importance of hard work, dedication, teamwork and staying fit and physically active. Most of our participants 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.



Wilson Creek Park Commission

Project: Wolf Creek Park Improvements

Funded: \$40,000.00

Wilson Township Park is a public park that serves all of Alpena County and beyond. The Youth & Recreation Grant for 2023 was used for park improvements. Excavating work was completed to assist in drainage issues so areas did not continue to be flooded. New sidewalks and walkways were poured with cement to ease navigation throughout the park. New cement pads were poured for the new benches, picnic tables, and charcoal grills. An old, dilapidated shed was removed and new grass seed planted. The park is a beautiful place for everyone to enjoy. You can fish at the river or just sit on a new bench with a good book or grill some burgers and enjoy a picnic.

