



2024 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
2024	\$555,910

Organization	Project	Awarded
AHS – Band Program	Marching Band Bass Drums	\$7,600.00
AHS – Robotics	Tournament Registration	\$14,000.00
Alpena Figure Skating Club	First Skater Program	\$ 8,500.00
Alpena Figure Skating Club	Operating Support	\$ 7,750.00
Alpena Gymnastics	Competitive Entry Fees	\$10,000.00
Alpena Hockey Association	Battle on the Bay Tournament	\$ 8,075.00
Alpena Hockey Association	Hockey Equipment	\$ 4,000.00
Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth	Registration Assistance	\$15,000.00
Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth	Complex Lights	\$10,000.00
Alpena Jets Football	Updated Equipment	\$22,000.00
Alpena Montmorency Alcona ESD	ADA Accessible Playground	\$36,500.00
Boys & Girls Club of Alpena	Triple Play Program	\$17,625.00
County of Alpena	APlex Expansion-Conceptual Design	\$ 7,500.00
County of Alpena – Beaver Lake Park	Day Use Enhancements	\$13,750.00
County of Alpena – Sunken Lake Park	Mobi Mat and Kayak Launch Dock System	\$12,000.00
County of Alpena – Plaza Pool	Pool Operating	\$90,000.00
County of Alpena – Plaza Pool	Ready, Set, Swim Program	\$ 7,000.00
Friends of Plaza Pool	Wibit Modular Inflatables	\$14,000.00
Friends of Alpena Farmers Market	Nutrition Incentive Program	\$ 4,000.00
Green Township	Recreation Facility Expansion	\$ 6,000.00
Hubbard Lake Lions	Tennis/Pickleball Refurbishment	\$40,000.00
Michigan Crossroads Council, Boy Scouts of America	Special Assistance Fund for Alpena Scouting	\$ 9,000.00
MPAC	Free Open Skate	\$ 5,760.00
MPAC	Rental Skates	\$10,250.00
MSU Extension	Children & Youth Programming	\$41,200.00
Northeast MI Center for Fine Arts	Ready, Set, Create Program	\$20,000.00
Park Family Foundation	Ready, Set, Snap	\$12,000.00
Park Family Foundation	Special Needs Prom	\$ 6,500.00
Park Family Foundation	Martial Arts Scholarships	\$ 5,000.00
Park Family Foundation	Women's Self Defense	\$ 5,500.00
Thunder Bay River Center, Inc.	Thunder Bay River Center Phase I	\$73,400.00
Thunder Bay Schooners Swim Club	Pool Rental and Meet Fees	\$12,000.00
	Total	\$555,910.00

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Alpena Public Schools – AHS Band

Project: New Bass Drums for Marching Band

Funded: \$7,600.00

The Alpena County Youth and Recreation Committee provided for a massive upgrade in the equipment that the Alpena High School Marching Band has to use during their frequent Friday night shows throughout fall at Wildcat Stadium. The AHS Drumline Bass Drum players were all fitted with not only brand-new Pearl Bass Drums, but also comfortable, ergonomic harnesses, upright stands and mallets. Considering that our former bass drums were exceedingly battered, poorly tuned, and had shredded wooden edges due to years of over enthusiastic stick clicks, this is a major improvement, and we are incredibly grateful. This will benefit the many many students using them through the years as well as all the hundreds and hundreds of appreciative fans in the stadium under the Friday night lights.



Alpena Public Schools – AHS Robotics

Project: Tournament Registration

Funded: \$14,000.00

Since 2015, AHS Wildcat Robotics, team Volts Squared #5505 has participated in FIRST Robotics (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). The program provides high school students with highly interactive direct hands-on mechanical, electrical, computer programming, CAD (Computer Aided Design), business, videography, social media, and safety management skills. Volts Squared ultimately qualified for the Michigan State Championship finishing 89th of 622 Michigan teams for the 2024 competition season. Our season achievements included a First Place finish and the Spirit Award at the Central Michigan University district event. We produced the event's high score and received the Sustainability Award in Lake City. This award specifically recognized teams for community support of the local economy and environment. Volts Squared partners with All Saints Catholic School (FLL and FTC robotics programs), Feed the Need, Great Lakes Responsibility, and dove headfirst into a lifelong project with NOAA / Huron Pines and NorthPoint Nature Preserve.



Alpena Figure Skating Club

Project: First Skater Program

Funded: \$8,500.00

The Alpena Figure Skating Club provides six-month's worth of figure skating instructed by US Figure Skating credentialed coaches and student instructors. The Youth and Rec Grant allowed the club the ability to waive lesson fees for first time Alpena County resident skaters (a \$340 cost) making the cost to registering for the year more affordable. This year our club gained 31 new skaters; 30 of those from Alpena County. The grant helped to cover lesson costs for 23 of the 31 new skaters.

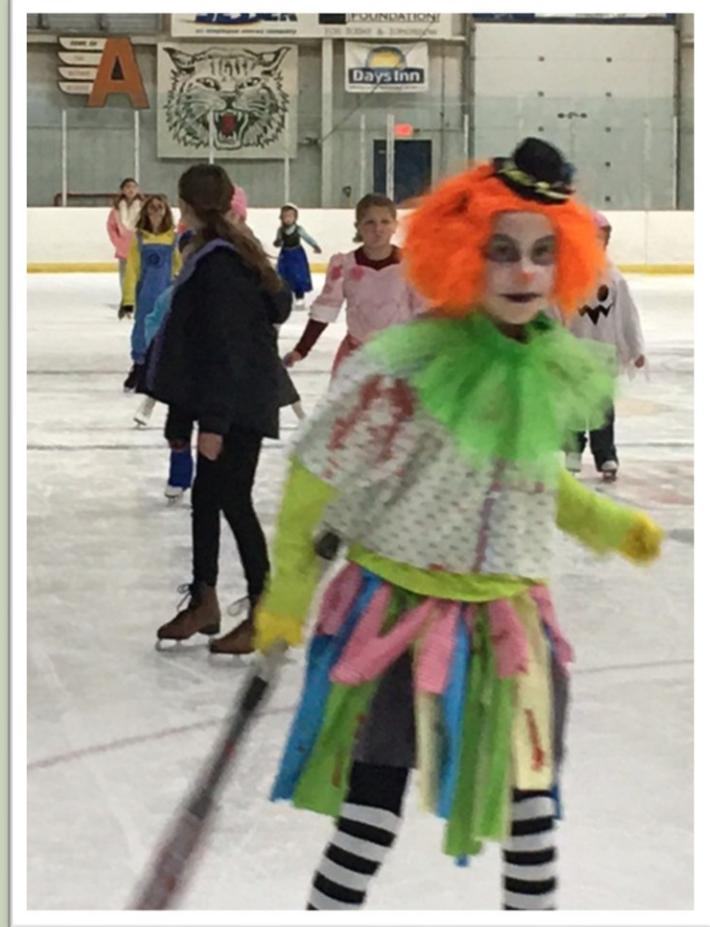


Alpena Figure Skating Club

Project: Operating Support

Funded: \$7,750.00

The Alpena Figure Skating Club provides six-months' worth of figure skating instructed by US Figure Skating credentialed coaches and student instructors. The Youth and Rec Grant helped to pay a portion of ice fees and in turn we were able to keep skating fees lower and reasonable for all skaters.



Alpena Hockey Association

Project: Battle of the Bay Tournament Series

Funded: \$8,075.00

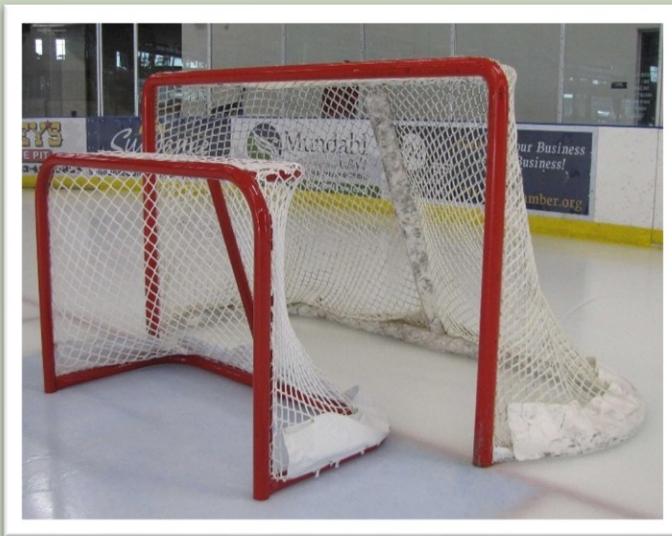
This grant helps over 170 local Alpena area players and families save money with the chance to play in the Alpena Battle of the Bay hockey tournament. It allows the Alpena community and family members to promote and celebrate local Alpena hockey players and provide families, and local hockey fans, with the ability to watch these young players play a sport they love.



Alpena Hockey Association Project: Hockey Equipment

Funded: \$4,000.00

The Alpena Hockey Association requested a grant for new and replacement hockey equipment to help support our growing hockey community. This included mini-nets and cross-ice nets to help build and support our younger level players. These nets will serve over 700 local Alpena area players, teams, and families every month. These replacements will help to add additional players to AHA and help to grow hockey in our community. The Youth and Recreation funds allowed AHA to replace and provide new equipment for our kids while helping to keep the price of hockey down. All of the equipment needs to be replaced at some point, and this is a great start.



Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth Project: Registration Assistance

Funded: \$15,000.00

Alpena Huron Shore Baseball and Softball with the registration assistance grant was able to increase our registration numbers from the 2023 levels. By continuing to be able to keep registration costs low we are able to allow more local kids the opportunity to play baseball and softball.



Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth

Project: Complex Lights

Funded: \$10,000.00

Alpena Huron Shore Baseball and Softball, with the assistance of the Complex Lights grant was able to begin the project of putting lights on our Complex fields. We will be finishing up the first phase of this project in the next few months with the plan on playing our first night games on Opening Day of our 2025 season.



**Alpena Jets Youth Football
Project: Equipment Needs**

Funded: \$22,000.00

Alpena Montmorency Alcona ESD

Project: ADA Accessible Playground

Funded: \$36,500.00

Lincoln Elementary School, Besser Elementary School, Ella White Elementary School, Wilson Elementary School, Sanborn Elementary Schook, and Hinks Elementary School each received new components.

This phase marks a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to make our community spaces more inclusive and accessible to all children, regardless of physical ability.

These additions have been selected to endure that children with disabilities can enjoy the playground with their peers, fostering an inclusive environment that encourages social interaction and physical activity for everyone.

Besser Before & After



Ella White Before & After



Hinks Before & After



Lincoln Before & After



Sanborn Before & After



Wilson Before & After



Boys and Girls Club

Project: Triple Play Program

Funded: \$15,500.00

In 2024, the Boys and Girls Club of Alpena was able to enhance and offer our Triple Play program to more youth participants than ever before. Youth were able to build their self-competency, fitness skills, nutrition understanding and how to live to live a healthier lifestyle. 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. Participants were able to take home a workbook to track their progress outside the Club and participate in community service projects and family engagement activities. The parents continue to support the program which helped the success and message. At the end of the summer session, we took a group of youth 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. Community service opportunities have 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 from 2023****

The City of Alpena has installed new playground equipment along the beachfront at Mich-e-ke-wis Park. This new play structure will replace some of the existing equipment which is over 50 years old. Some of this existing equipment is becoming unsafe. Additionally, the area that the existing equipment is located will become the new location of the courts and therefore needs to be removed. The new play structure is designed to accommodate youth ages 2 to 12. As the park is open to everyone, any youth who visit the park will have open access to the facilities. Additionally, the unit has features that are ADA compliant allowing all ages and abilities to enjoy playing at the playground at Mich-e-ki-wis.

County of Alpena
Project: APlex Expansion-Conceptual Design
Funded: \$7,500.00

****Amount approved to be carried over (January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025)****

County of Alpena – Beaver Lake Park

Project: Day Park Enhancements

Funded: \$13,750.00

Project included the installation of an observation deck in the day park including areas for parents to sit safely and observe the kids at play in the water, and tables to be placed on the deck allowing for additional space for enjoying a meal and serene surroundings of the lake. The deck is ADA accessible with sidewalk running from parking area and ramp onto the deck. Additionally, an area was created for ADA compliant access to picnic table and grill.

County of Alpena – Sunken Lake Park
Project: Mobi Mat and Kayak Launch Dock System
Funded: \$12,000.00

****Amount approved to be carried over (January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025)****

County of Alpena – Plaza Pool

Project: Ready, Set, Swim Program

Funded: \$7,000.00

The Ready, Set, Swim (RSS) program is vital to our community because it allows for all 2nd grade students in all the local schools to come to the Plaza Pool to get the basics of how to swim, along with basic water safety. The students are at the pool for one hour per week for 4 weeks. It is always our hopes and prayers that the parents will realize how important it is for kids to know how to swim and be safe in and around water, that they continue to sign their students up for our group lessons.

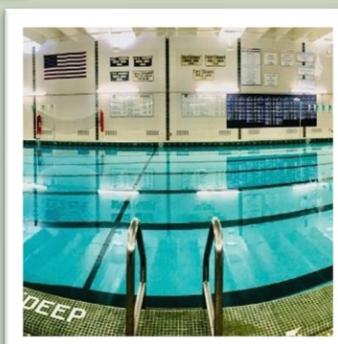


County of Alpena – Plaza Pool

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.

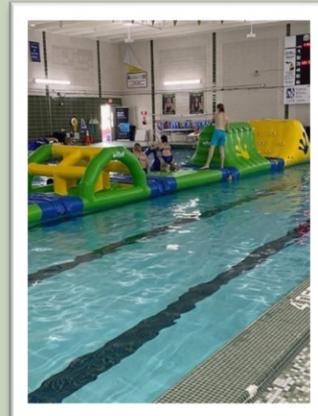


Friends of Plaza Pool

Project: Wibit Modular Inflatables

Funded: \$14,000.00

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.



Friends of Alpena Farmers Market
Project: Health & Nutrition Incentive Program
Funded: \$4,000.00

Green Township

Project: Recreation Facility Expansion

Funded: \$6,000.00

Green Township Hall and Recreational Facility was awarded \$5,000 to add to the playground by purchasing a new piece of playground equipment and mulching with wood fiber (specially designed for playgrounds). The new piece of equipment is called a dome climber, and it built for all ages children from 1 year old to a teenager. It was assembled by Green Township residents and the Fire Department assisted in transferring the large piece of equipment to the playground where it was cemented into place and mulched under and around it. Approximately 40 people worked on this project. Thank you to the matching grant we received from Youth and Recreation Committee, we were able to complete this project and expand the playground.



Hubbard Lake Lions

Project: Tennis/Pickleball Refurbishment

Funded: \$40,000.00

Hundreds of people, young and old used the Hubbard Lake Lion's beautiful new courts. This area of the park was closed down and locked due to the condition of the tennis courts. After the restoration project was completed, the tennis/pickle ball courts are now bright and inviting. From the end of June, when the project was completed, right up until the temperatures were in the forties, there were people on the courts playing. Hubbard Lake started their own TeamReach page and as a result so many of our community became acquainted and the courts stayed busy! Besser Company donated benches, so it was not unusual to have players on the courts and other gathering, warming up or just catching up on the benches. These courts are providing recreational activities and promoting a healthy lifestyle for the residents of Alpena County and the surrounding areas.



Michigan Crossroads Council, Boy Scouts of America

Project: Special Assistance Fund for Alpena Scouting

Funded: \$9,000.00

MPAC
Project: Rental Skates
Funded: \$10,250.00



MPAC

Project: Free Open Skate

Funded: \$5,760.00

Multi-Purpose Arena Coalition is proud to partner with Alpena County Youth & Rec Committee and Northern Lights Arena to provide free Open Skates. Winters can be harsh in Northern Michigan and being able to provide a fun indoor activity for family and friends to participate in is our number one goal. We see a greater turnout during the holidays when family members come home to visit. Seeing the smiling faces of young kids who just experienced their first time on ice skates or the adult who hasn't been on ice skates in 15+ years is what we strive for.



County of Alpena – MSU Extension

Project: Youth Programming – 4H

Funded: \$41,200.00

MSU Extension develops and supports youth through 4-H Youth Programming, Sea Grant youth programs, health and nutrition youth programs, and agriculture literacy programs. All programming strives to educate youth in a specific class focus, or in general skills in 4-H such as leadership, agriculture literacy, animal husbandry, financial literacy, or citizenship. During the 2024 year, the program reached 3,580 Alpena youth.



**THANK YOU
FOR SUPPORTING
ALPENA 4-H
YOUTH!**



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 330 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: \$5,000.00

The Thunderbay/Aplex Martial Arts Karate classes teach students of all ages discipline and respect for themselves and others. In this class students learn when it is allowable to step in physically to defend themselves or others.



Park Family Foundation
Project: Martial Arts Women's Self Defense
Funded: \$5,500.00

Our Women's Self Defense class helps women from the age of 16 and up learn how to defend themselves and possibly be able to protect themselves if the need should arise. It shows them how to be aware of the environment around them at all times. Knowing when to escalate a situation and how to de-escalate any given situation.



Park Family Foundation

Project: Ready, Set, Snap

Funded: \$12,000.00

The Title of this program Ready, Set, S.N.A.P stands for Special Needs Adult Program. It is for anyone in the county or surrounding communities that has Special Needs. They come to the Aplex, where they participate in a class with a wide variety of activities. There is a paid instructor that organizes the activities. This gives our guests, a safe and secure area where they can gather, make and develop friendships with each other etc.

Park Family Foundation

Project: Special Needs Prom

Funded: \$7,000.00

The Special Needs Prom is a special night dedicated specifically to anyone in our community or surrounding communities that may have special needs. They can come with their caregiver, or guardian and enjoy a night they will always remember. This is complete with a catered dinner for them, then a DJ will play music until 8:00 p.m. so they can dance the night away and enjoy a great night of good food and great fun with their friends. Every year the prom has a theme that it follows, and the ballroom is decorated specifically for them.



Thunder Bay River Center, Inc.

Project: Thunder Bay River Center Phase I

Funded: \$73,400.00

****Amount approved to be carried over (January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025)****

Thunder Bay Schooners

Project: Pool Rental and Meet Fees

Funded: \$12,000.00