



YOUTH AND RECREATION

JANUARY 1, 2018

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Alpena Volunteer Center at Alpena Community College

Project: The Ropes Course

Funded: \$4500.00

With new facilitators trained, funding available to local schools, we were anticipating to utilize the course of 150+ students by the end of the year 2018. The Ropes Course at Alpena Community College is a series of team-building activities located in a beautiful, peaceful wooded area on the grounds of ACC. The Course is utilized by youths and adults in Alpena County who, through participation in Course elements and activities, gain skills in leadership, cooperation, confidence, teamwork, decision-making, and trust in others.

The Ropes Course is a unique and “wonder-filled” outdoor activity that also promotes physical fitness, agility, balance, flexibility, coordination, and stamina of all age participants regardless of abilities. The slogan, “Challenge by Choice” is reinforced by facilitators to enhance kids’ confidence and willingness to participate. EVERYONE and their ideas are encouraged, welcomed, and valued.





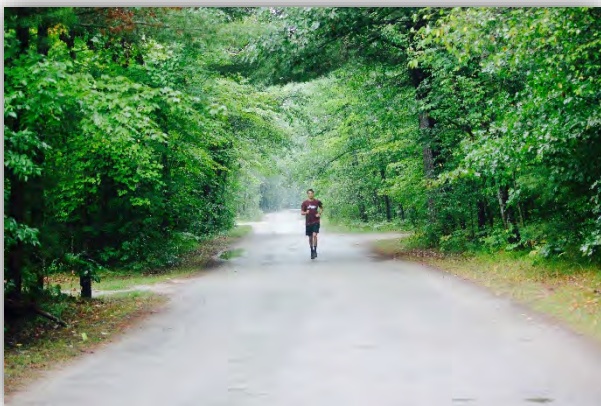


Alpena Community College Cross-Country

Project: Alpena Community College Cross-Country Team Support

Funded: \$2400.00

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-notch athletic program. These dollars were used to help student athletes afford to attend Cross-Country camp to start the season and with operational costs throughout the season. This is the most important week of the season as it time for the athletes to train together, camp together and most importantly bond together for upcoming season.





Alpena Community College Men's Basketball

New Scorer's Table

Funded: \$3475.00

The money granted by the Youth and Rec committee allowed Alpena Community College to purchase a new score table. In previous years, the school used tables and table cloths. With the grant, the college is now able to have a score table that looks professional and adds to the gym. Currently the score table is used for Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball and Women's Volleyball.





Alpena City Band
Centennial Project
Funded: \$2000.00

The Alpena City Band presented to the community its centennial (100th) anniversary season during the summer of 2018. Each Thursday evening in June, July, and August, the band presented a special series of concerts and events celebrating this milestone. We hosted local musicians and groups as special guest artists nearly each week as part of a special guest artist series. In addition to our annual Children's, Independence Day, Looking Back, and Polka concerts, we performed a special Celebration concert the second week of August, which featured a special commissioned work by local musician/composer John Schubert, entitled the "Thunder Bay March." The Celebration concert also featured the Northern Winds Brass Quintet, as well as a program of well-loved favorites. The season served as a springboard to continue a tradition of musical excellence into the next 100 years.



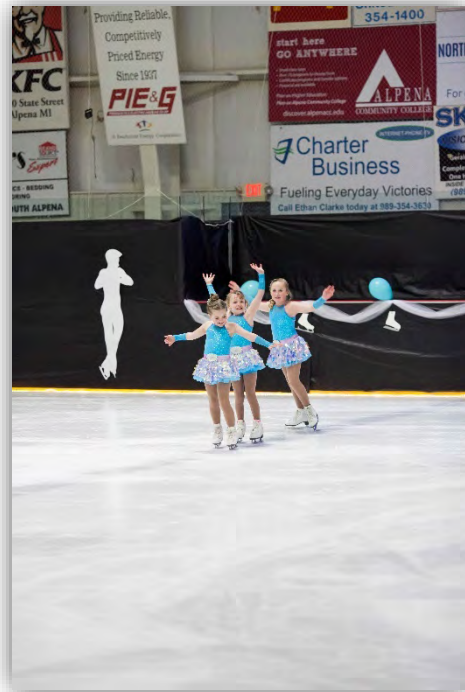


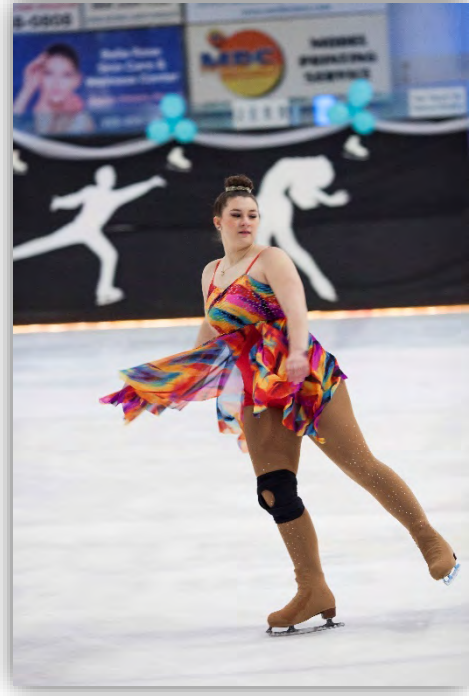
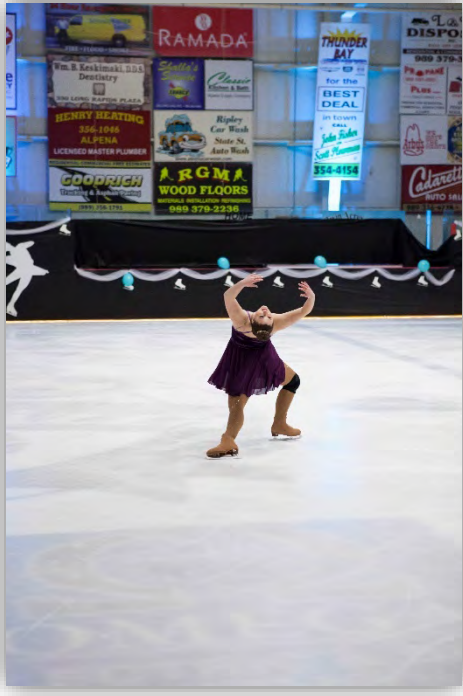
Alpena Figure Skating Club

Project: Operation Support, ice fees

Funded: \$4500.00

Alpena Figure Skating Club provided six months of figure skating instruction by US Figure Skating credentialed coaches and student instructors. This grant helped offset the ice fees allowing this to happen. By cutting ice fees, our club was able to reduce the overall cost for each skater by 10%. A savings passed on directly to each of our 42 skating families.







Alpena Gymnastics, Inc.

Project: Regulation Size Bar Mats

Funded: \$3000.00

Alpena Gymnastics, Inc. received funding for regulation size bar mats in 2018. The growing program services over 300 gymnastics in a year. The bar mats fulfill amateur athletic union requirements for safety and put Alpena in position to host District AAU meets in spring 2019 and 2020.



APS-AHS Band

Project: Alpena High School Band Equipment Acquisition: New Instruments.

Funded: \$16,522.00

The Alpena High School band program represents our community in a variety of local parades, concerts, athletic events, and band festival events, where we have received some of the highest honors possible at the district and state level. On an individual basis, Alpena Band students have participated in clinics and workshops, and have consistently been selected to perform in various All-State and Honors Ensembles. The new instruments received by the Youth and Recreation Grant were in extreme need to the point of holding students back from reaching their potential. The students excelled immediately with them and could be seen performing at all of our community concerts, competitions, and parades.





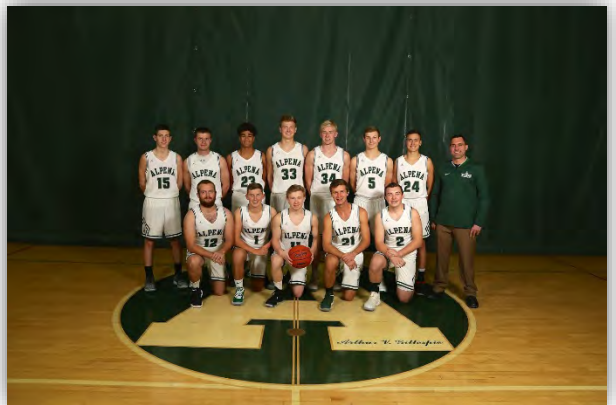
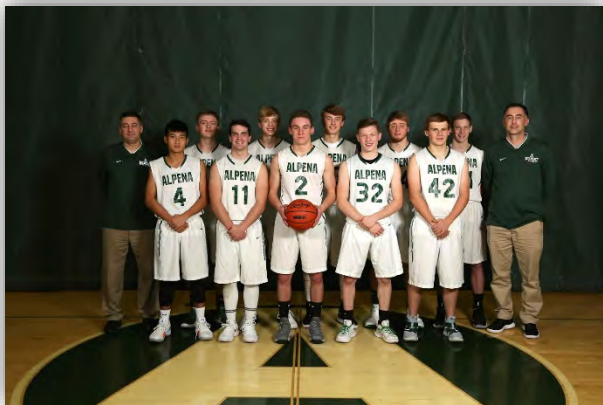
AHS Boys and Girls Basketball

Project: Reduced player cost for transportation fee, busing upgrades and team fees.

Funded: \$8500.00

The money helped to offset the cost of participation for the boys and girls freshmen, JV and Varsity Teams. Each sport is charged \$400 fee per team to offset the cost of the teams. Boys and girls paid \$2400 total for this fee. Each player is required by the school to pay a \$50 transportation fee (this totals around \$3600). Bus upgrades for travel total around \$5000 – 6000. The grant money received from the Recreation Committee paid for these expenses. Over the last three years, the per-player cost has dropped from over \$300 to \$100. Thanks to the Recreation Grant money this has been a huge savings for players' families and the amount of fundraising they would need to do to pay for these expenses.





AHS – Alpena Wildcat Football

Project: Travel Expense and athletic development equipment

Funded: \$10,000.00

2018 Youth and Recreation Award - Travel Expense and athletic development equipment. The grant we received this year allowed each one of our players in the program to avoid the \$50 travel fee that is charged by the school district to play a sport. That is a significant help to those 80 players and their family. The grant also allowed us to continue to upgrade our athletic development facility. With the help of the grant we were able to purchase new dumbbells, GHDs, pull up bars, dip bars, and 2 airdyne bikes. This grant helped our program take a nice step in the right direction.



Alpena High School

Project: KAPUT

Funded: \$18,350.00

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 Lock-In events every school year for Alpena High School students.







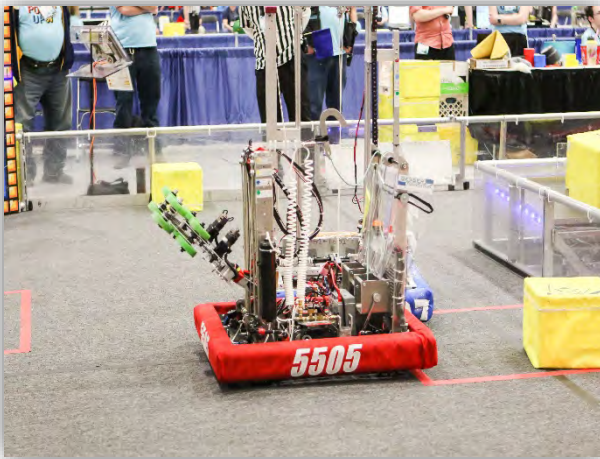
AHS Wildcat Robotics

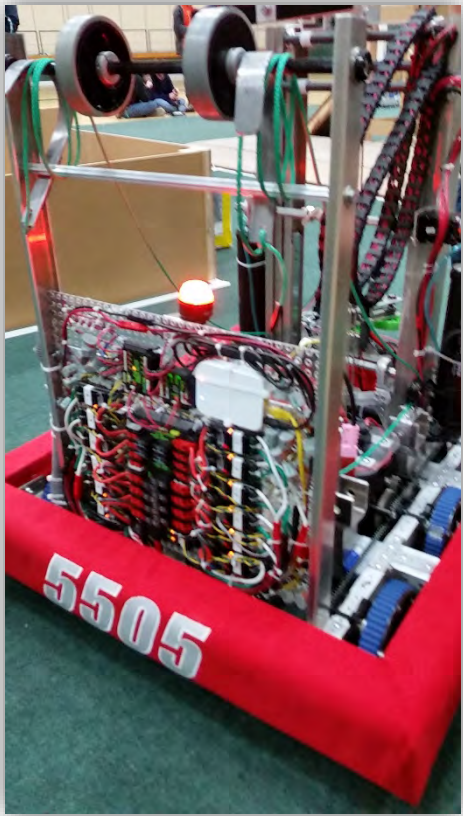
Project: Wildcat Robotics

Funded: \$33,250.00

AHS Wildcat Robotics participates in the FIRST robotics program with teams #5230 The Resistance and #5505 V2 Robotics. During the 2018 season the teams competed in district and state events as well qualified and participated in the World Championship in Detroit, Michigan. #5230 was requested to provide special presentation for prospective FIRST robotics teams at the World Championship. Additionally, two of our team leaders were requested to act as student ambassadors for VIP guests at the World Championship. #5505 accomplished a significant accomplishment winning the prestigious Chairman's Award. Our goal is to inspire young people to be leaders in science and technology by engaging them in exiting mentor-based programs the build STEM skills (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Throughout the year, Wildcat Robotics participated in several youth programs aimed at elementary and junior high school students with a record high 17 teams participating in a skills summer camp and fall robotics tournament. Community service is an important focus for the robotics team with our largest commitment being our Adopt the Island program. Students initiated efforts this year with several projects to maintain and improve Sportsman's Island, including clearing brush, barking trails, and planting days. Promoting our program to the community is important to the future success of students and the Wildcat Robotics program. The team is eager to share the program and demonstrate the robots they have built with any group wishing to learn. This year has been filled with demonstration opportunities to promote the program, including presentations to the Alpena County Library Fair and the Homecoming Parade.

Following the competition season, Wildcat Robotics was able to hold its first offseason one day event “Bots on the Bay”, with 24 teams participating. The second annual Bots on the Bay is currently planned for November 2018. The largest project awarded to Wildcat Robotics was a full district event with 40 robotics teams competing over 3 days in April of 2018. Thanks to the tremendous support of the Alpena community and the Alpena county Youth and Recreation committee, the AHS Wildcat Robotics program continues to grow and compete at the high levels of competition.





APS-AHS Softball Line Drive Club

Project: Operating Support

Funded: \$2500.00

The Alpena High School softball program used the the grant monies allocated to them by the Alpena County Youth and Recreation board to offset fees and charges allocated by Alpena Public Schools. These fees include offsetting the \$50.00 transportation fee for each softball player and the fees associated with the general operation the Varsity & JV softball teams at Alpena High School.



The Woods Track Club

Project: The Woods Track Club Support (Shirts and Hats)

Funded: \$1,125.00

Youth and Recreation Funds Awarded, Name of Projects. The money granted by the Youth and Rec committee to benefit The Woods Track club was very useful in purchasing both hats and long sleeve shirts for the club. Overall, we had over 50 high school runners who competed this year. This year's team had 20 qualifiers for the indoor state meet. This was by far the most by any community in the state of Michigan.





AHS-Volleyball

Project: Travel and equipment funds for the Girls High School Volleyball teams.

Funded: \$3,525.00

The Alpena High School Volleyball program was a proud recipient of a 2018 Alpena County Youth and Recreation Grant. The grant made it possible for 36 student athletes at Alpena High School to compete on the freshman, Junior Varsity and Varsity teams in the 2018-2019 school year. The funding keeps our program, at all three levels, accessible to young woman who want to play and enables us to build a stronger program. The much-needed grant helped pay for charter bus travel costs. Their tough schedule across the Big North Conference requires extensive travel. The student athletes need to be able to do homework on the long bus trips. Having a charter bus gives them room to store their school and sports bags, turn on an overhead light, rest if needed, and have some room to work. Having charter buses makes getting home late on school nights more manageable. Some of the funding also supported a new hitting machine to keep our team growing in their skill development. If the program did not receive this generous funding, the athlete's parents would likely have to pick up the additional costs or we'd need to make cuts to our travel. Families already pay to play, which could result in fewer athletes getting to experience a school sport. As athletes, these women learned valuable life skills, such as team work, time management, facing adversity and discipline. They worked hard and appreciated the community support.







AHS Wildcat Figure Skating Club

Project: Ice fees and transportation

Funded: \$4500.00

The Wildcat figure Skating Team was proud to represent their school and community in district competitions throughout the state. The team receives no financial compensation from the school. The skaters fundraise for all their needs. The grant assisted with ice fees and transportation allowing the skaters to feel confident and secure in their goal of representing Northern Michigan.





AHS-TBJH

Project: Thunder Bay Junior High Athletic Outreach Program

Funded: \$19,000.00

The grant monies allocated to the Thunder Bay Junior High Outreach Program help in three major ways: The funding is used to provide an arena for athletic skill building, enhancing self-esteem, and providing a safe environment for social interaction with their peers through the sport of Cross Country, Volleyball, Basketball, and Track & Field. Each of these opportunities are available for the sixth-grade students throughout the school year. Secondly, the grant allows Thunder Bay Junior High to offset the need to charge admission at our junior high home sporting events. Thirdly, the grant allows the TBJH to have an adult presence after school to help supervise and keep safe the large number of students staying after school for athletics and other school activities. Finally, the grant allocates a small monetary contribution to help buy supplies to help assist in these three aspects.



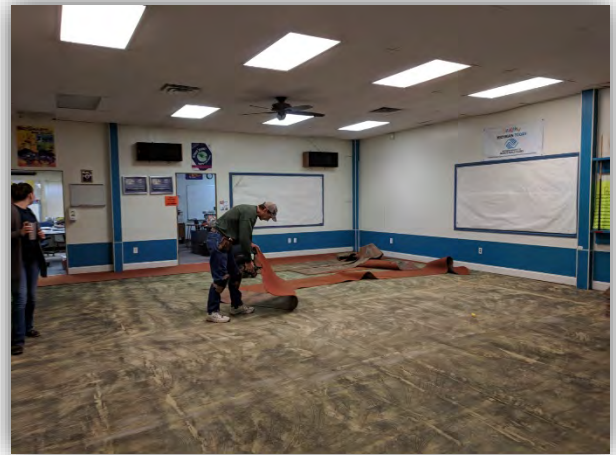
Boys and Girls Club of Alpena

Project: BGCA Carpet Project

Funded: \$3570.00

The Boys and Girls Club of Alpena was able to update its outdated, worn and tattered carpet that is frequented by over 115 kids per day with aesthetically appealing and much more functional carpet tiles that's meant for high traffic usage. The look and feel of the games room has improved tremendously with this project and support from the Youth and Recreation millage. Parents, volunteers, visitors and the youth have all commented on the upgrade and it's a beautiful way to showcase the most visited room in our building and an option that will last for years to come.





City of Alpena/ Alpena Mixed Volleyball League

Project: Mich-e-ke-wis Volleyball Courts Lighting

Funded: \$13,950.00

Servicing over 200 youth and 400 adults, the Alpena Mixed Volleyball League utilizes the joy of volleyball to promote activities that turn exercising into fun. In addition to the Tuesday and Wednesday evening leagues, the courts are open to the public for everyone to enjoy. As the days grow shorter in late summer and early fall, the funding received from this grant has allowed for lighting to be installed at the ten courts at Mich-e-ke-wis Park, adding playing time for more people to become involved.





Community Foundation for NE Michigan on behalf of the Rotary Club of Alpena

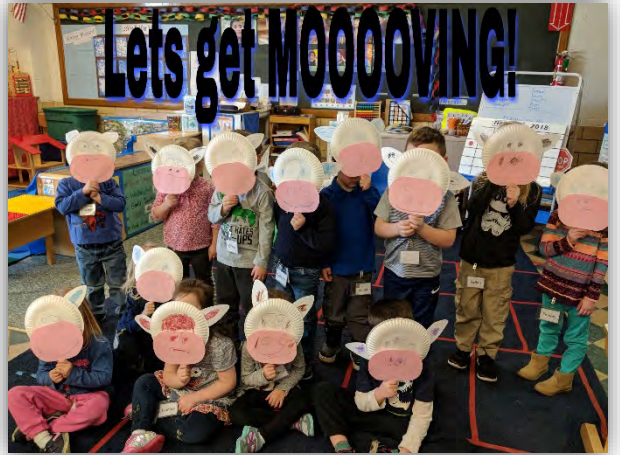
Project: Rotary Splash Park

Funded: \$ 60,000.00

The Rotary Splash Park at Starlite Beach is a safe water-based activity that appeals to all ages. Located adjacent to Thunder Bay on Lake Huron, it provides a safe accessible alternative to having fun in the water on the shore. It provides social engagement, safe play, stimulation of imagines and creativity, and is a totally free activity.

County of Alpena; MSU Ext. #1
Project: Youth Programming
Funded: \$40,000.00





Alpena County Youth & Recreation Funding Report – 2018 Michigan State University Extension Youth Programming (4-H)

In 2018, Alpena County MSU Extension served a total of 2,568 youth which encompasses all programming including 4-H programs and clubs, agricultural outreach, health and nutrition programs, and through Michigan Sea Grant initiatives. In 2018 there were 160 youth enrolled in 21 different 4-H Clubs. 84 adult volunteers oversaw these clubs and worked together for a successful program. Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) provides educational experiences to assist youth reach their potential. Programs and experiences



6/21/18 Courtney Krentz participated in Vet Science courses at Exploration days and learned about ruminant digestive systems.

are designed to actively engage youth in their own development: by placing youth in participatory roles in the learning process and placing them with trained adult mentors and volunteers. MSUE helps grow youth life skills such as financial literacy (money management and basic investment); planning and organization skills; career path options and healthy eating/healthy living choices. Through early involvement and active engagement youth develop a stronger sense of belonging, community ownership, and overall leadership abilities. MSU Research based hands-on learning through 4-H clubs, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) nutrition education, Sea Grant, and youth financial literacy programs. Science, Technology, Engineering and Math based camps and short term special interest projects like water quality education and involving youth in water quality testing for research.

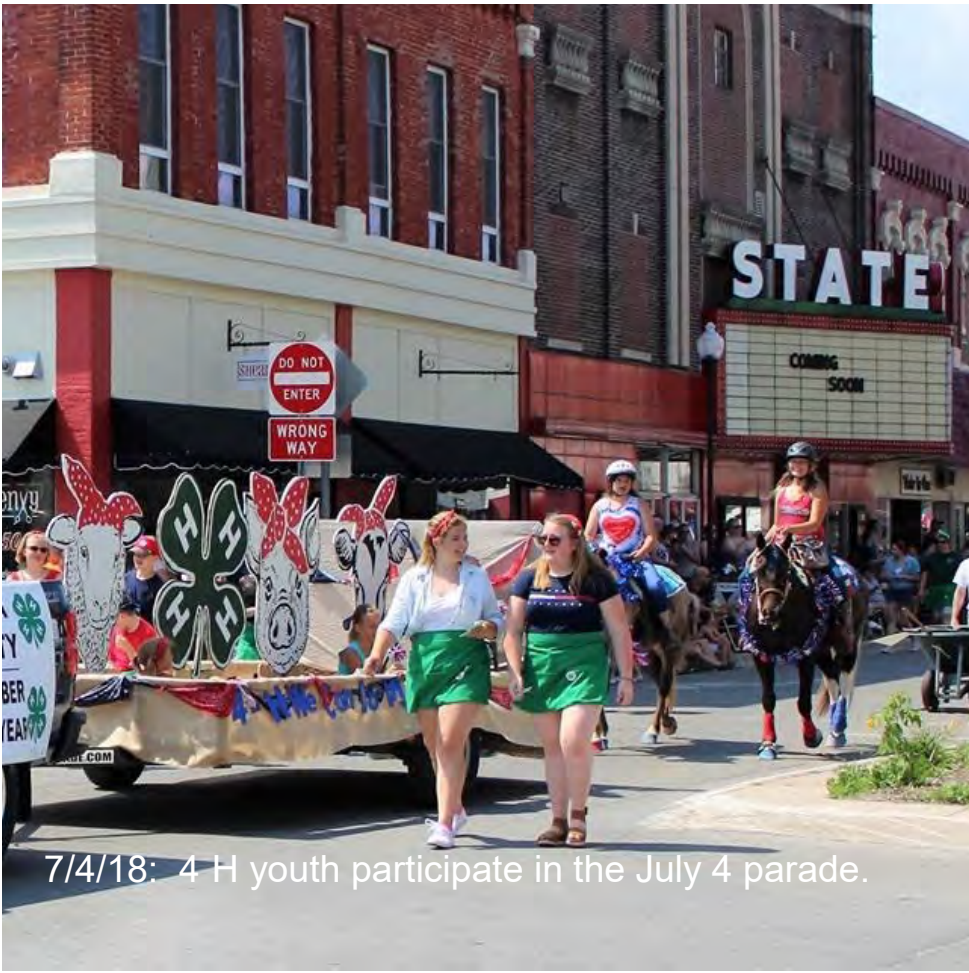
Renewable energy camps; clean up and recycling projects; robotics and the design and construction of remotely operated vehicles. Through fun, experiential learning kids discover how math and science studies apply to their world. Our goal is to excite them about learning and help them to focus on a long-term education/career goal. The partnerships and large MSU Extension volunteer pool has allow us to keep our costs to participants low. Scholarships are provided to ensure that every child in the county has the opportunity to participate. Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs, and opportunities. We are the outreach and engagement arm of Michigan State University. MSUE brings the latest research based information to residents throughout the state. We believe education can help solve issues – personally, professionally, and at the community level. We believe in Michigan Agriculture. We believe an engaged community will be ready for challenges and opportunities. We believe youth development and preparation make for a brighter future. We believe healthy youth and adults are better prepared to reach their full potential. We believe Michigan fisheries and water resources need to be sustained. We believe education is empowering. Thank you for the continued partnership and support in Alpena County as we foster positive impacts here locally - together.



4/17/18: Brooke Gersewski attends Capitol Experience as our Alpena representative. She is pictured on the far right with Senator Stamas and other youth representatives.



5/2/18: 4 H youth took part in the annual adopt a highway clean up project.



7/4/18: 4 H youth participate in the July 4 parade.



6/21/18: Alpena youth attend 4 H Exploration Days at MSU. This pre college camp is designed to expose youth to campus living and attending classes on a university campus.



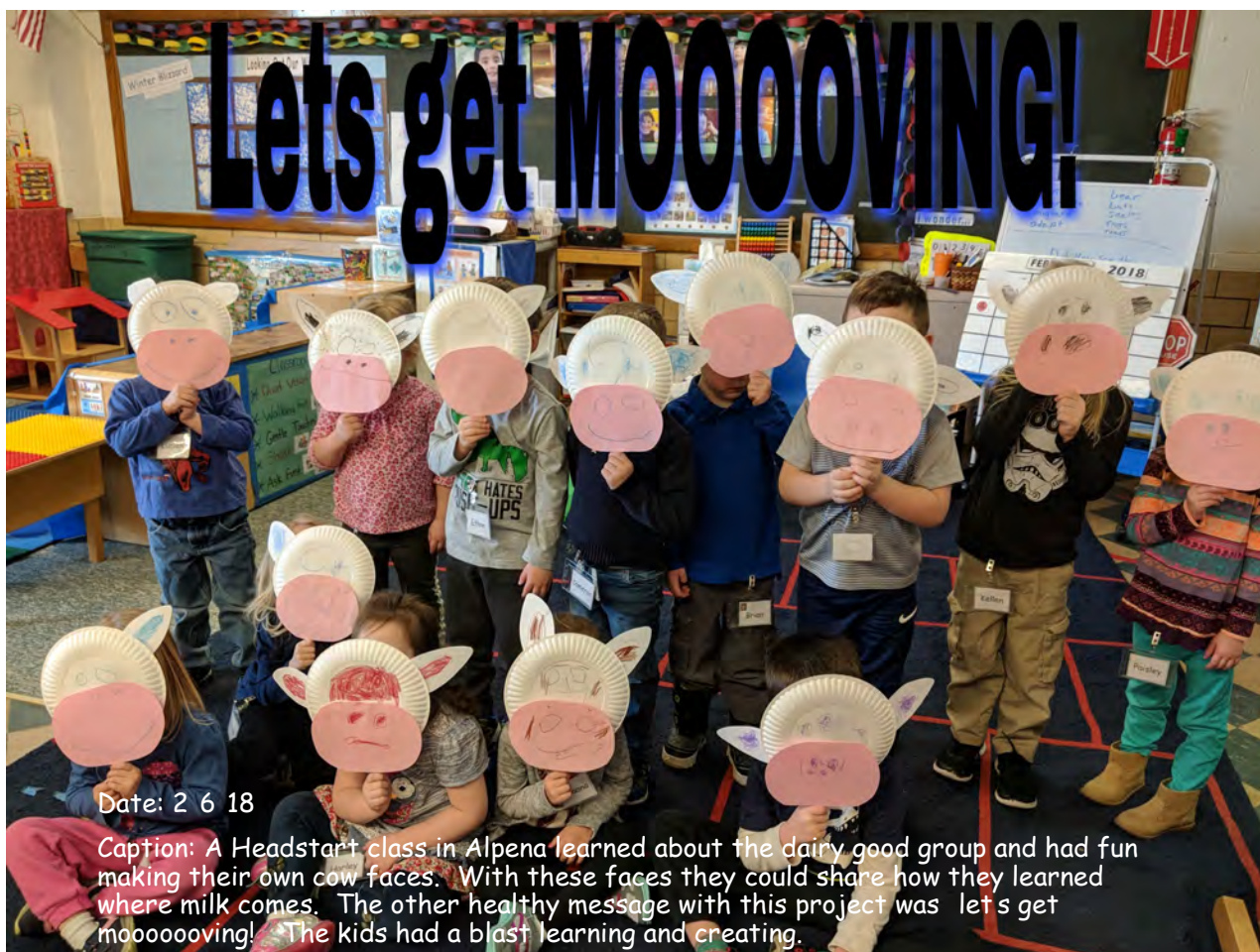
Alpena Elementary students monitoring invasive rusty crayfish and marine debris in the Thunder Bay River, a project supported by our Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative partnership (October 11, 2018)



Alpena Elementary students monitoring invasive rusty crayfish and marine debris in the Thunder Bay River, a project supported by our Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative partnership (October 11, 2018)



4 H State Horse Show 2018



Date: 2 6 18

Caption: A Headstart class in Alpena learned about the dairy good group and had fun making their own cow faces. With these faces they could share how they learned where milk comes. The other healthy message with this project was let's get mooooooving! The kids had a blast learning and creating.

Alpena County Parks Commission – Beaver Lake Park

Project: Renovations to the Existing Bathhouse

Funded: \$35,000.00

Alpena County Parks Commission was awarded \$10,000 in grant monies from the Youth and Recreation Fund to provide upgrades to the Beaver Lake Bathhouse. These upgrades included a new roof, new windows, new doors, interior ceilings, and lighting inside/outside the bath house,

These renovations should greatly enhance the appearance and upkeep of the facility. Plans include in 2019 adding an addition that is handicapped accessible. These much-needed renovations and additions that will be added will be of great benefit to the residents and visitors of Beaver Lake Park.







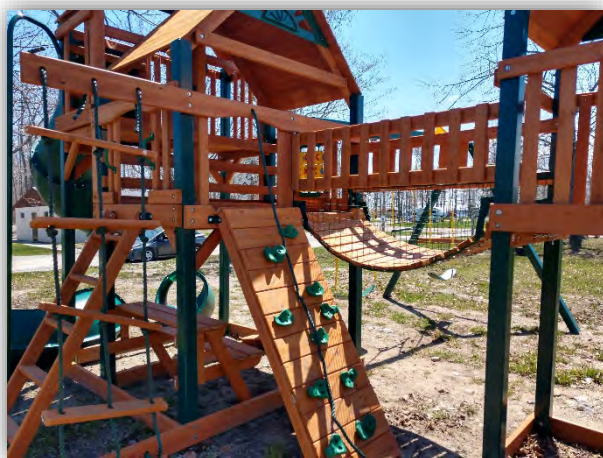
Alpena County Parks Commission

Project: Long Lake Playground, Long Lake County Park

Funded: \$15,000.00

The Alpena County Parks Commission received a grant through the Alpena County Youth & Recreation Millage to provide a new, safe, structures and play escapes for the children of families who camp at Long Lake County Park.

This equipment was much needed as the old equipment was used up beyond its life expectancy. The Long Lake Park is a very popular park for camping and the new play equipment is providing to be an incentive for current and future campers to visit the park.

























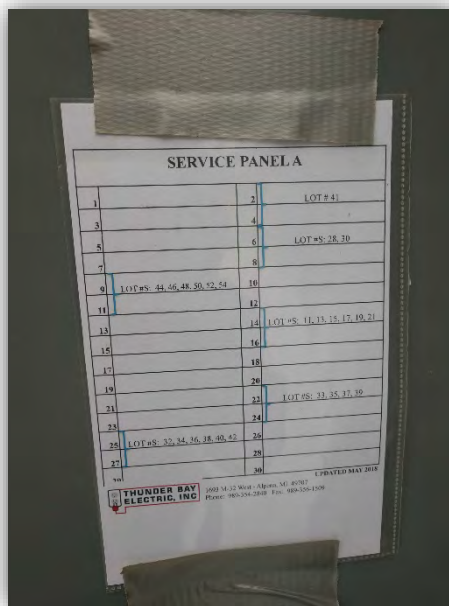
Alpena County Parks Commission – Sunken Lake Park

Project: Sunken Lake Electrical Project

Funded: \$13,014.00

The Alpena County Parks Commission received a grant from the Youth and Recreation Committee for Sunken Lake Park in the amount of \$13,014 to complete an electrical project. This project included twenty-one 50-amp electrical distribution pedestals being replaced. By receiving this grant, the Park is able to accommodate modern campers with their electrical needs. Alpena County Parks would like to thank the Youth and Recreation Committee and the millage monies for their grant to the Sunken Lake Park.





Alpena County Parks Commission – Green Township Manning Hill Tower

Project: Manning Hill Tower

Funded: \$10,000.00

Alpena County Parks Commission in partnership with Green Township received \$10,000 toward building a tower/viewing area at Manning Hill. This tower was started and will be completed in the spring of 2019 when weather allows the completion. It will be a roofed platform where viewing, along with special events such as weddings, playing music, etc can be enjoyed. Picnics can be held in the pavilion, along with a pathway to allow everyone access to the pavilion and the tower on a well-groomed hillside. Many years of using this hill have come and gone and we hope that many more residents and visitors will stop by and enjoy the beautiful countryside.







Alpena County Plaza Pool

Project: Plaza Pool Operations

Funded: \$80,000.00

As the only public pool in a community surrounded by water, the Plaza Pool provides programs vital to help sustain a healthy and safe life in, on and around water to over 500 people in our community. The pool also provides a platform for training the next generation Lifeguards and instructors while also providing a fun and safe atmosphere for families to participate in swimming.







Alpena County Plaza Pool

Project: Ready, Set, Swim

Funded: \$8,500.00

The Ready, Set Swim program provides all 2nd graders in Alpena County, free of charge, to learn to swim. The program includes the Alpena Public Schools, Immanuel Luthern, All-Saints School, Homeschoolers and Pied Piper Opportunity Center. Ready, Set Swim addresses the need to teach 2nd graders, in the community, to learn the basic skills of swimming and safety around water. In the 13 years of the program we taught over 4900 kids.



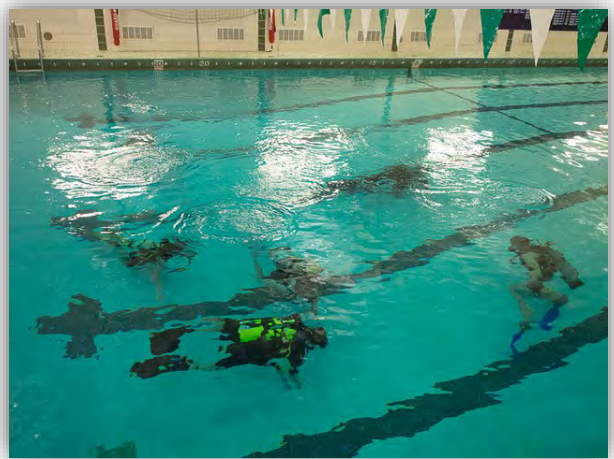


Friends of the Plaza Pool

Project: New User Activities

Funded: \$3200.00

FOPP sponsored a number of activities related to this grant during the year. For the Masters Swim, so far, we have offered 26 Saturday sessions which included a total of more than 100 participant times. In the Salvation Army program this year we had 20 students enrolled but on average we had approximately 18 children ages 6-12. This program is something that is held from Monday through Friday. We like to take the children swimming on Fridays and we are there for an hour and a half. Our program included 7 weeks of swimming, 1 ½ hours each week, averaging 18/week for 126 visits. This program teaches them to communicate with other, following directions, and sharing. I'm not sure how our funding will be for next year but any opportunities that we could get would be greatly appreciated and a wonderful experience for the children. For the snorkeling/scuba event, we had about 4 participants, who completed the beginning skills of the "discover scuba curriculum". We also offered a session with the Association of Lifelong Learners to learn of Plaza Pool programs. We had 7 participants for the two-hour session.







Friends of the Alpena Farmers Market

Project: Support of kid's day

Funded: \$3000.00

The Friends of the Alpena Farmers' Market is a non-profit organization that supports the Alpena Farmers' Market. To support the market our organization feels it is important to involve the community to raise awareness of locally grown food and nutrition. The Nutritional Incentive Program is targeted to reach families with school age children. During 2018 the following was accomplished: Optimist Spring Break Fun Day, April 3, 2018, Kids Day on Sept 29, 2018, which included kayaking, pumpkin and face painting, music, magic show, petting zoo, hay rides, and vegetables tasting for 600+ children and their parents







Green Township

Project: Green Township Recreation Facility Upgrades

Funded: \$7583.00

Green Township was awarded a grant in the amount of \$7,583.00 for three additional picnic tables for the pavilion, a commercial grade slide, and a volleyball set. All labor was provided by township residents. It was a great addition to the existing Green Township Hall where there is a ballfield, a basketball court, concrete picnic tables, a grill, a tetherball pole, swings, a merry go round, a pavilion with good quality picnic tables, a slide and a volleyball court. Green Township has expanded their property, added an additional driveway and expanded the parking area. This facility is used extensively during the summer months to hold many family events.





Multipurpose Area Coalition (MPAC) DBA Northern Lights Arena Community

Project: Free Open Ice Skate including skates

Funded: \$13,120.00

The Grant Money for Free Open Skate offers a no-cost activity for kids and families looking to stay active in the winter months. Skate (rental) was included at no charge. All advertising and Friday Folder inserts listed Alpena County Youth & Recreation Committee as the sponsor. Each year we have more participants than the past year. It's a great way for skaters to get extra practice and build interest in figure skating and hockey.



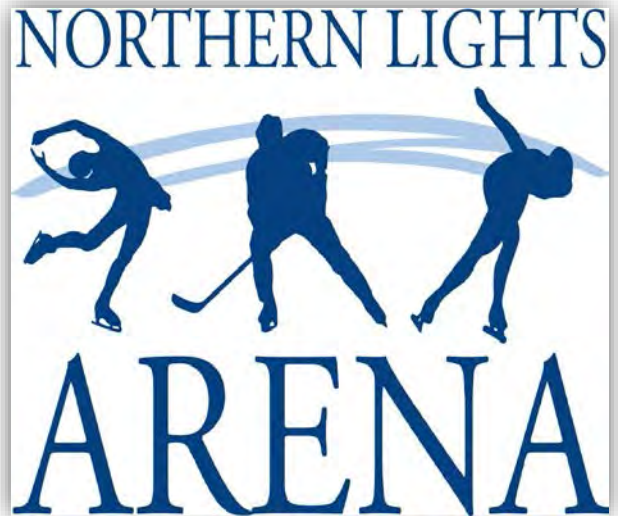


Multipurpose Area Coalition (MPAC) DBA Northern Lights Arena Community

Project: Ameresco/Operational Support

Funded: \$10,000.00

The Grant Money for offsetting the Ameresco payment helps us continue to offer skating opportunities, as well as non-skating activities to families in Alpena County at the lowest possible rate.





Northeast Michigan Center for Fine Arts, Inc. (dba Art in the loft)

Project: Ready, Set, Create!

Funded: \$22,285.00

Through the generosity of the Alpena County Youth and Recreation program, Art in the Loft was able to conduct the largest “Ready, Set, Create!” program since its inception seven years ago. The \$22,285 grant award allowed roughly 400 students (mostly 4th grade) to travel to the gallery and be led through four-weeks of hands-on art lessons by Certified Art Instructor, Brooke Stevens. 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.









Parks Family Foundation

Project: Ready, Set, SNAP

Funded: \$11,000.00

The Ready, Set SNAP (Special Needs Adult Program) program was developed to supply the special needs community with a safe and creative place for art, recreation and music. The group meets twice a week, year around. The program caters to anyone 12 years and older, with any special need. The program provides all materials and a snack during the 1.5 hours of the program. Ready, Set SNAP has been a huge success, for the special needs community, with limited things to do and limited funds Ready, Set SNAP is a must in our community.





Sanborn Township

Project: Sanborn Beach Park Climbing Wall

Funded: \$16,000.00

Sanborn Township has a multi-year plan of improving the recreational activities in our area for local residents and the visitors we receive from all over the county, state and country. In prior years, we have spent many volunteers' hours cleaning, repairing and painting what was still usable at the Beach Park and creating a clean park on our property on Beebe Street on Lake Huron. The beaches are now free of invading species, graded and kept immaculate. A parking lot, picnic tables and non-potable

water faucet for foot cleaning in the parking lot have provided a much-appreciated atmosphere. The Sanborn Beach Park at the end of Lake Street now offers safe swings, a double race slide, a basketball court and new, this year, a climbing wall. Township board member have been approached by members of the community thanking them for all of the upgrades and loving that their kids want to be outdoors playing in this beautiful safe park.







Thunder Bay Arts Council, Inc.

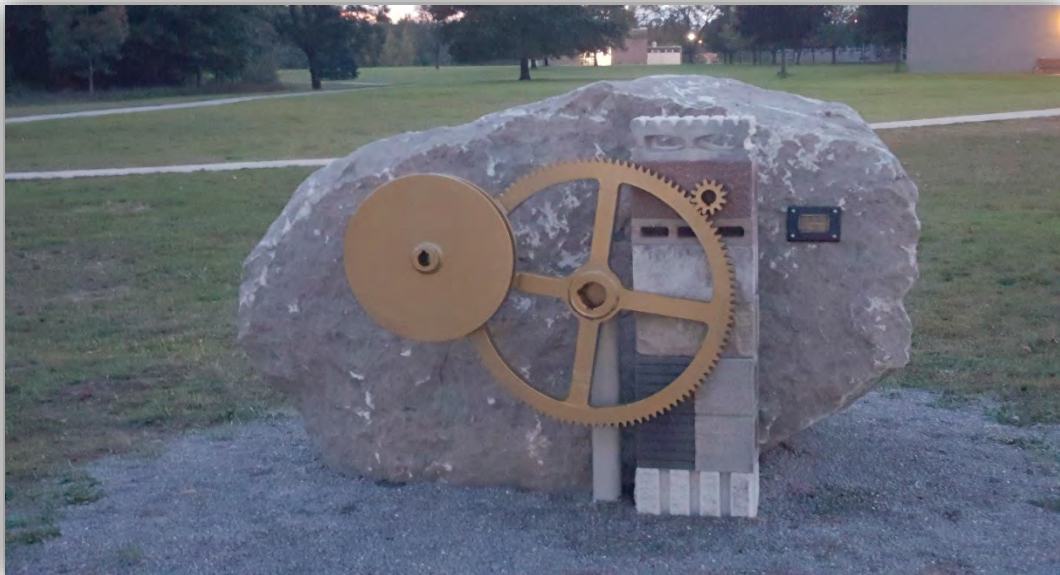
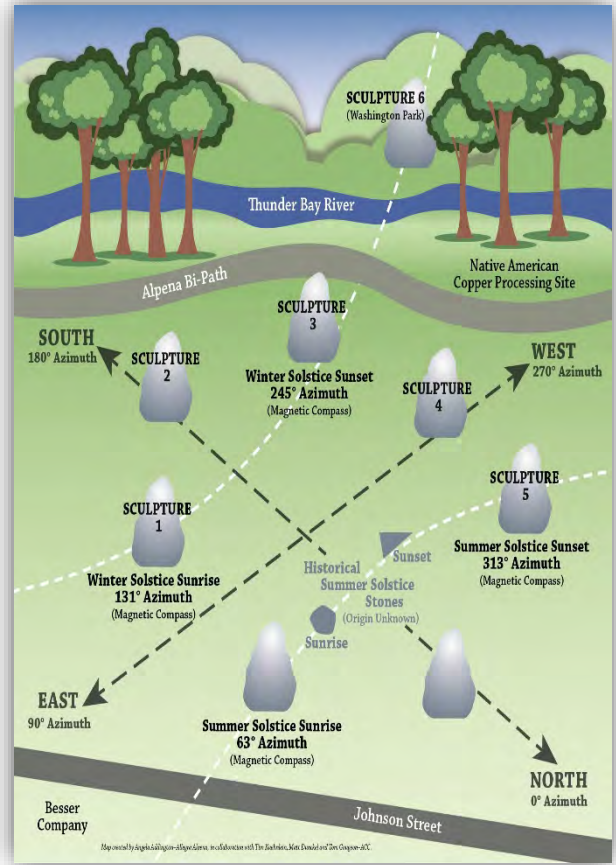
Project: Thunder Bay Arts Council Bi-Path Sculpture Project

Funded: \$7500.00

The History of Industry Sculpture Series includes six sculptures coalescing thematically and structurally into one large scale public art installation symbolizing the various historical phases of industry in Alpena and Northeast Michigan throughout various era. Phases of economic development represented include ancient Native American copper processing, foraging - fisheries-farming-hunting, forestry – timber, lumber and paper industries, concrete technologies, education-healthcare, and recreation-tourism which, among others, have sustained our regional communities for generations. Art immersed in nature based on this narrative, and along the Alpena Bi-Path and in local parks, is intended to inspire people of all ages, youth and adults, locals and visitors alike, to contemplate, understand and recreate with art, history and the humanities in nature.







Thunder Bay Martial Arts
Project: Scholarship Program
Funded: \$7500.00

Alpena County parents face the same problems with their school-aged students as the rest of the country- notably losing their children to electronic device addiction. While some of the effects are benign, some are really quite destructive, such as loss of social skills, and the ability to communicate appropriately and effectively face –to-face with others. Worse still, for many kids, “virtual” physical experiences have become more real and rewarding than actual physical activity. Not surprising, childhood obesity is at an all-time record and with it the specter of childhood diabetes and heart disease, something unheard of in our day.

We are pleased to report that the children in our program both lose weight and report that it is actually more rewarding than killing zombies while doing impossible acrobatics in virtual realities. Our kids, the kids using the scholarship slots, sweat and laugh, and deal with each other.



Angel eager to begin her training



Heath boys



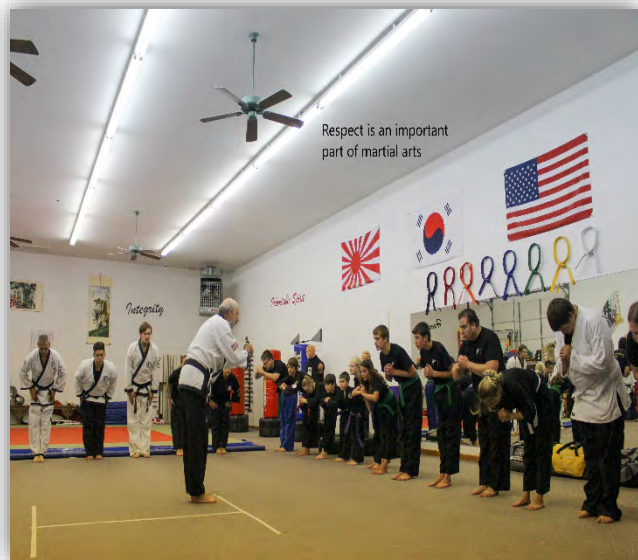
Hunter doing a stamina drill



JUDO-Hunter



TAMA Black belt instructor



Thunder Bay Schooners

Project: Operating Support; Pool Rental

Funded: \$9500.00

Swimming is a lifelong sport that keep us healthy it is a low impact exercise that works all the body's muscles. With Alpena having this great resource of water all around us there is a need for swimmers to perform water safety training in this area if you look at the current life guard roster employed by the pool you will see many former Schooners names appearing on that roster, this program ends up providing great swimmers to serve a life guard. It also is a great stress reliever for the kids after school, they can come to the pool and release stress and tension that has built up through the day.







Thunder Bay Trails Association

Project: Youth Cross Country Ski Club

Funded: \$5500.00

The Thunder Bay Trails Association (TBTA) was awarded \$5500 from the Alpena County Youth and Recreation Committee to form a Youth Cross Country Ski Club for area youth ages 5-17. The TBTA requested funding for six instructional ski sessions on Sundays from January through March. Unfortunately, the mild winter and minimal snowfall, limited the sessions to four. The Alpena County Youth and Recreation Funds were used to pay the cost of the rental ski equipment. The response to the ski program was overwhelming as 62 kids registered and 31-50 kids and parents participated in each session. The Youth Cross Country Ski Club program introduced kids and families to a new healthy winter sport without having to make a large investment in equipment. The TBTA provided groomed ski trails at the Alpena APlex and Alpena Public Golf Course, volunteers to distribute the equipment, instructors, and snacks for the participants. The TBTA is a local non-profit organization that collaborates with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to maintain and groom cross country ski, hiking, and biking trails on state land in Alpena County.





Thunder Bay River Restoration

Project: Thunder Bay River Clean Up Phase One: Salina Road to Herron Road

Funded: \$10,362.00

The Thunder Bay River Restoration group was successful in getting a clean 10-foot-wide channel on the Thunder Bay River from Salina Rd to Herron Rd. in 2018. This involved pulling trees from the river that partially or totally blocked the river.





