

2013 Youth and Recreation

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Alpena County Beaver Lake Park
Project: Basketball Court
Grant: \$5,400.00

The Youth & Recreation Committee awarded the Alpena County Parks \$5,400.00 for a Basketball Court at Beaver Lake Park. This project will increase the enjoyment of all who visit Beaver Lake Park in both Camping and Day use area. The Basketball Court is a high quality recreational area, complete with a concrete court, a high quality post, backboard, and net. It will be enjoyed by all.



Alpena High School Girls Basketball
Project: JV and Freshman Uniforms
Grant: \$6,200.00

The Alpena High School Girls basketball program applied to the youth and recreation board for the purchase of JV and Freshman uniforms. The old uniforms were 18 years old and had seen much better days. We went through Family Enterprise here in Alpena to purchase the uniforms. We received a total of 60 uniforms. This included 15 home (white) and 15 green (away) uniforms for each team. The uniforms turned out great and our program is very thankful to the Alpena Youth and Recreation board for making this possible.



ACC Ropes Course

Project: Ropes Course System Activities

Grant: \$900.00

The Alpena Volunteer Center of Alpena Community College directs use and maintenance of a Ropes Course. The Ropes Course is a system of activities and elements that teach and reinforce teamwork, cooperation, decision-making skills, self-confidence, trust, self-esteem, leadership, and goal setting. Participants on the Ropes Course are led through its system of activities by trained facilitators. Youth and Recreation Millage funds have provided for facilitator trainings, purchase of elements, and maintenance of the course.





Alpena County Sunken Lake Park
Project: Playground Equipment
Grant: \$6,000.00

Youth & Recreation Funds awarded \$6,000.00 to Alpena County Sunken Lake Park for the purchase of free standing playground equipment. The new playground equipment is used by children ranging in age from 5 – 8. It is estimated that about 7,450 children will be using the playground equipment. All children and parents who visit Sunken Lake Park will benefit from this project.



Alpena County Parks

Project: Boat Docks for Long Lake, Sunken Lake and Beaver Lake

Grant: \$15,000.00

Alpena County Youth & Recreation Committee granted the Alpena County Parks \$15,000.00 for Boat Docks and fishing plat forms for all the clients visiting the lake front of the County Parks including clients visiting the day use areas, campers and those utilizing the boat launch areas. The fishing docks and fishing plat forms were placed at Sunken Lake, Long Lake and Beaver Lake Camp Grounds. Young and old alike will enjoy fishing and docking at these systems.



Beaver Lake



Sunken Lake



[Long Lake](#)

Alpena County Long Lake Park

Project: Basketball Court

Grant: \$5,400.00

The Alpena County Youth & Recreation Committee awarded Alpena County Long Lake Park \$5,400.00 for a Basketball Court. All clients who camp or use the day use area will benefit with the basketball Court as an added outdoor activity. The basketball court is a high quality recreational area; complete with a concrete court, a high quality post, backboard and net.





Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth

Project: Field Improvements/Capital Projects

Grant: \$26,465.00

Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth

Project: Operating Cost

Grant: \$3,500.00

With the generous support of the Alpena County Youth and Recreation Committee, Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth was able to purchase equipment and materials to renovate one of our baseball fields in Ossineke and help maintain several of our other fields.





Alpena Swim Club/Thunder Bay Schooners
Project: Pool Rental, Meet Fees
Grant: \$5,000.00

The Alpena Swim Club/Thunder Bay Schooners had the opportunity to receive funding from the Youth and Recreation Committee for 2013 that provided our club with Pool Rental money and money to pay for our swimmers to attend Swim Meets. This money is divided in half each year and used for the end of one season – (Jan thru March) and then the beginning of the next season, starting in the Fall Oct thru Dec. Being able to have the Grant Monies provided to us has allowed the Alpena Swim Club to reduce their rates per swimmer. It has also allowed more swimmers to attend swim meets. Every time Thunder Bay Schooners an Invitational type swim meet is held, there is a cost associated per event entered. The grant has covered this fee, which is an added bonus to our families.





AHS Boys and Girls Soccer
Project: Operating Support
Grant: \$7,316.00

For the calendar year 2013, the Alpena County Youth and Recreation Committee granted \$7,316.00 to Alpena High School Boys and Girls Soccer programs. These funds were granted specifically for operational support. These funds were utilized in three specific ways during 2013. First \$2,941.28 was used to purchase new cold weather gear and travel bags that could be utilized by both boys and girls. This gear replaced aged and dysfunctional equipment and was purchased from a local business, which further benefited the Alpena community. The remaining funds were applied against the significant travel costs that are incurred by the teams during their respective seasons. The teams, as most Alpena teams, are now upgrading to charter bus travel. The benefit of a charter bus versus traditional school bus transportation is that trips are usually two hours or longer rides one way. Student athletes can sit comfortably, do homework and rest comfortably on the way home. These charter upgrades have been helpful in keeping our student athletes grade point averages at 3.5 grade point average or higher.



AHS Boys Varsity Basketball Team
Project: Uniforms
Grant: \$3,000.00

The AHS Boys Varsity Basketball Team was given \$3000.00 to purchase new uniforms for the 2013 year. We purchased the uniforms in January. The team used the uniforms to finish the 2013 season and will now use them for this year's team (2013-2014). The uniforms allowed us to pass down our older uniforms and start to cycle through the uniforms over a 9 to 12 year period. APS does not purchase uniforms anymore so this was much needed and greatly appreciated by the team.



APS Cheerleading Club (AHS Cheer)
Project: Cheer and Tumble Mats
Grant: \$4,000.00

Receipt of the grant allowed the AHS cheerleading team to purchase four carpeted foam cheerleading mats that when rolled out and attached together, provide a surface of sufficient size to accommodate the entire team at one time. In the past, the cheer team relied on vinyl mats used for PE classes. There were not enough of these vinyl mats to provide adequate protection during cheerleading practices. Purchase of the larger foam mats greatly increased safety for stunting and tumbling purposes. The mats will also be used at pep assemblies to provide safe surfaces during cheer performances.

The grant also included the purchase of a tumbling training mat called a Boulder Trainer. This new innovative mat holds the weight of the cheerleader during training in tumbling activities.





Alpena Public Schools/Thunder Bay Jr. High Athletics
Project: TBJH Athletic Outreach Program
Grant: \$18,450.00

The Thunder Bay Junior High Athletic Outreach Program grant was used to provide athletic programming for our 6th grade students. This program served approximately 230 students through our 6th Grade Athletic Outreach. As part of this program, our 6th graders had the opportunity to receive instruction, skill-building, and mentorship from coaches and 7th & 8th grade players in basketball, volleyball, cross country, and track. In addition, we received funding that allowed us to have an open gate at all of our TBJH-sponsored athletic games for all of 2013. Both the 6th Grade Outreach and the open gate were extremely well received by our students, parents, and spectators throughout the year. Finally, we were able to purchase new uniforms for our track program and practice jerseys for the 6th graders.







APS Volleyball Program

Project: Operating Support

Grant: \$7,000.00

The AHS Volleyball Program (36 female athletes) was awarded \$5,500.00 towards our transportation costs, and \$1,500.00 towards TBJH Volleyball Program's (approximately 35 female athletes) new uniforms. The previous TBJH uniforms were over 10 years old and were in need of replacement. If the funds were not awarded to our program, the uniforms would not have been purchased, and the transportation costs would have been passed on directly to the parents of the student athlete. With the help of this grant funding, many parents and students will be able to meet the monetary requirements needed for the athlete to participate, and in turn, our community will benefit by helping shape pro-active leaders of the future. The funding also put money back into our community. The transportation costs were spent with a local busing company, and the replacement of the uniforms generated funds for a local business, Family Enterprise.



Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan

Project: Pathway to the Past Pathway/Ramps to Outdoor Exhibits

Grant: \$5,000.00

The Alpena County Youth & Recreation Funds awarded to Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan were used to install a handicap ramp and sidewalk. The new handicap ramp and sidewalk allow visitors with limited mobility easy access to the museum's outdoor exhibits. Families with children in baby strollers also enjoy the convenience, and safety, of the ramp and sidewalk when visiting the outdoor exhibits. Over a thousand Alpena County residents benefitted from the new handicap ramp and sidewalk in 2013.





**Boys and Girls Club of Alpena
Project: Heating and Cooling System
Grant: \$22,682.00**

The Boys and Girls Club of Alpena provides services to more than 1000 youth annually in the Alpena community. The grant money awarded to our organization was used to address our outdated and inefficient heating and cooling system. The Heating and Cooling Project has provided a much more comfortable and safe environment for the youth at the Club. The youth deserve a place they can be proud of and because of the generosity of the Youth and Recreation Committee, this is possible. With the addition of a more efficient heating system, and now having a cooling system for the first time, youth are able to enjoy a wonderful club climate and escape the elements all while having fun, learning and conversing with peers.



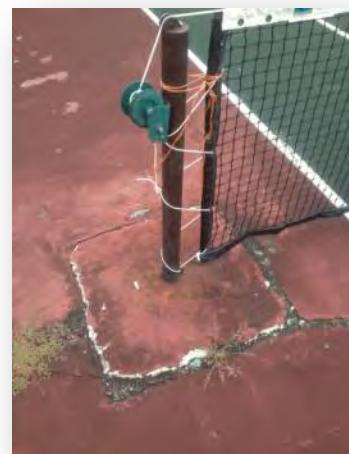


APS Softball Line Drive Club
Project: Field Improvements
Grant: \$4,319.00

Project was deferred until 2014

Alpena County Tennis Courts
Project: Reconstruction Tennis Courts
Grant: \$63,000.00

The County owns tennis courts that are located on the high school grounds where they were reconstructed. The project was started in 2013 and will be finished in 2014. When the project is complete, there will be four new public courts for public use along with bleachers if enough money is available.







Alpena County Plaza Pool

Project: HVAC

Grant: \$110,000.00

The County of Alpena and Youth and Recreation Funds helped replace the HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) System at the Alpena County Plaza Pool in November of 2013. Replacing the old system will reduce energy costs, provide dehumidification, and increase the overall comfort of the pool environment.





Friends of the Plaza Pool

Project: Aquatics for Health and Safety

Grant: \$4,250.00

The Friends of Plaza Pool Aquatics for Health and Safety program is designed to provide for concentrated swim practice and skill development for swimmers of all ages beyond what the school age based teams provide. With the millage support, we have been able to provide two coached swim times for youth and adults to help them to keep in condition, learn skills of swimming, and to enjoy the fun of competing as ways to improve physical and mental health. Through these programs we have served more than 498 individuals. Many of our participants are very committed to their training, and have shown rapid improvement in their stroke technique and endurance. The new workout equipment (i.e. pull buoys, kick boards, special training paddles, and stress harnesses) has extended the range of workout activities which we are able to pursue.





**Kiwanis Club of Alpena
Project: Kiddie Park Improvements
Grant: \$4,868.00**

Kiwanis Club of Alpena received grant funding in 2013 for improvements to the Kiwanis Kiddie Park, located at the Fairgrounds in Alpena County. These funds enabled the club to repair the fencing with new top and bottom railings along with the resetting of fence posts. Also approximately 1500 yards of mulch was spread on the entire area of the park to provide a safe landing zone for the children. We continue to pursue the maintenance of the park to allow the children to have an area of safe and fun environment. We appreciate the funding already received from the Youth and Recreation Committee and look forward to future partnership with this committee.







Maple Ridge Township

Project: Cathro Ball Field Improvements

Grant: \$3,000.00

The grant given to Maple Ridge Township for the Cathro Ball field Improvement Project helped fund the Cathro Ball field Improvement Project. It helped replace the backstop. This new backstop has wings and a hood. It is much safer to play ball around. The project is complete and the field is open to all Alpena County residents.



Alpena Figure Skating Club

Project: Ice Time

Grant: \$8,000.00

The Alpena Figure Skating Club (AFSC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing affordable, quality skating lessons to community youth. Lessons are based on standards and programming set forth by the Basic Skills Series and United States Figure Skating Association. AFSC is proud to offer the first-year skater program with the help of Northern Lights Arena-Community and the Alpena County Youth and Recreation Grant. In 2013, this benefited 32 skaters. In addition, this year AFSC was able to reduce the cost to returning skaters as well, rather than just first-year skaters, by \$8,000.00 due to the grant received from the Alpena County Youth and Recreation Committee. Fifty-five skaters qualified for a significant reduction in their ice costs. A total of 87 skaters in the Alpena Figure Skating Club benefited from the Youth & Recreation Millage in 2013.



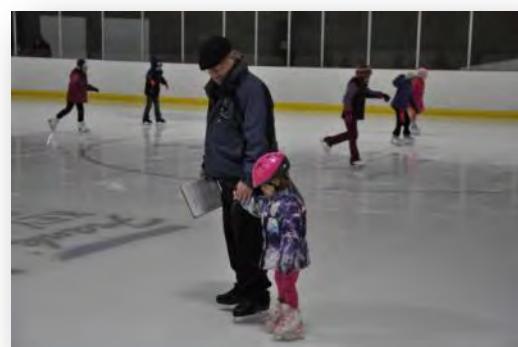


M-PAC Multi-Purpose Arena Coalition
Project: First Year Skating Program
Grant: \$6,000.00

The M-PAC Learn to Skate program is a long standing initiative designed to introduce local youth to any one of the 3 types of organized skating programs that are offered by local user groups. Those would represent figure skating, hockey, or speed skating. M-PAC provides support to each of the user groups based on the cost of putting on the program, less any minimal fees that may be charged by the groups. Although the program was initially set up to be a totally free program, we have determined that charging a minor fee (less than \$100) helps encourage responsible participation by the families.







Michigan State University Extension

Project: MSUE Children Youth (4-H) Development Programs

Grant: \$30,000.00

Michigan State University Children Youth Programs, including 4-H focused on workforce preparation skills through welding clubs, animal science clubs, clothing, textiles and more. The staff offered community programs for youth on environmental topics like water quality, invasive species, great lakes shipwrecks and many more diverse programs. One program we would like to highlight is a partnership with the Alpena Public School's Career and Technical Education department that resulted in the establishment of a 4-H welding club. MSU Extension learned that the MI DNR Wildlife Division in conjunction with researcher Dr. Allen Kurta of Eastern Michigan University had discovered bats hibernating at Rockport Park in an old quarry tunnel. The welding club youth worked side by side on the hibemacula project from beginning to end, building grates to protect the rare hibernating bats and building the youth's sense of ownership and stewardship in their community. Like this project all of MSU Extension youth programs strive to provide youth with real life experiences and career connections.





NEMCSA Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency

Project: Adventures in the Ropes

Grant: \$4,400.00

301 preteen youth were able to participate in the Low Ropes Course at Alpena Community College. Students learned cooperative and team building skills through Pre- Ropes Course activities in their respective schools. Through participation in this program students learned to rely on one another and process activities that were uncomfortable for them. Students often seen as the “problem solvers” of the group had difficulty in allowing others to be in charge and this allowed for a safe environment to process and assist with these skills. Students were forced to interact face to face and not through social media in problem solving efforts. Many students are able to verbalize to adults but this allowed them to learn to verbalize to other students in appropriate ways. Students learned to listen to others in attempts to be successful on the Low Ropes Course. Much discussion was held on how to carry over these abilities to the classroom setting and to their own friendship circles.







Northern Lights Arena

Project: New Rental Skates (figure and hockey)

Grant: \$8,000.00

This grant was awarded to help fund the purchase of 175 new rental skates at Northern Lights Arena. These will replace older and worn down skates that have become unsafe to use/rent. When rental skates are available, it allows youth to experience a wide variety of skating activities (hockey, figure skating, speed skating and recreational skating) without having to own skates of their own. We usually rent thousands of skates each year at little or no cost each year.







Thunder Bay Soccer Association (TBSA)
Project: Woodward Soccer Field Fencing
Grant: \$12,910.00

Thunder Bay Soccer Association (TBSA) provides social, emotional and physical activity through the sport of soccer to approximately 600-700 children, boys and girls aged 3-18 years old, every year. One of the two field locations that TBSA maintains is at the Crittenden Soccer Complex which hosts (3) premier fields on Woodward Ave. Although fencing was in place on two sides of these fields, it wasn't enough to prevent motorized vehicles from accessing and vandalizing the fields to the point of rendering them unsafe and unplayable. The Alpena County Youth & Recreation Committee approved funding to TBSA which allowed additional fencing to be installed around the perimeter of the site, thereby providing added protection and security.







Thunder Bay Trails Association

Project: Maintenance: Norway Ridge/Chippewa Hills

Grant: \$2,500.00

THUNDER BAY TRAILS ASSOCIATION WITH THE HELP FROM THE ALPENA COUNTY YOUTH & RECREATION COMMITTEE GRANT WAS ABLE WITH THE HELP FROM THE DNR TO REPLACE OLD SIGN DIRECTIONS AT BOTH NORWAY RIDGE AND CHIPPEWA HILLS PATHWAY. THESE ARE STATE OF THE ART LASER SIGN THAT WILL LAST A LONG TIME. THESE TRAILS PROVIDE YEAR ROUND NON- MOTORIZED RECREATION FOR RESIDENTS OF ALPENA COUNTY.







Wilson Township

Project: Wolf Creek Park Pavilion Concrete Floor

Grant: \$4,000.00

Wolf Creek provides a year round recreational service to many people of the surrounding county. There is a new pavilion, bathroom facilities, and picnic tables available to help make the stay at the park more enjoyable. People use this park as a place to simply relax, have family reunions and to hold wedding ceremonies. Since this park is on the Wolf Creek River, one can readily canoe, fish, and swim.





Alpena County Plaza Pool

Project: Operating

Grant: \$85,000.00

The Plaza Pool Operating Project helps operate the Plaza Pool on an annual basis. The funding helps keep the facility operating in the black and keep it affordable to all in the community. These programs include lessons, fitness, open swim, community swims and many more things. Approximately 2000 individuals were served.





Alpena County Plaza Pool

Project: Make a Splash

Grant: \$5,000.00

The Make-A-Splash program continues to highlight the Ready, Set, Recreation Programs. All 2nd graders in Alpena County have five swim lessons, free of charge, during the school day. The program is in its 8th year and continues to teach kids a healthy lifetime sport they can participate in forever.



Alpena Tennis Association

Project: Girls and Boys Varsity Tennis Support

Grant: \$10,000.00

Since 2000, the Alpena Tennis Association (ATA) has promoted the lifetime sport of tennis for Alpena County residents. In 2010 ATA formed the Ace Club to fund Alpena High School Boys & Girls tennis when Alpena Public Schools dropped it as a varsity sport. Since then over 160 boys and girls have had the opportunity to represent their school in both Junior Varsity and Varsity matches across the state.

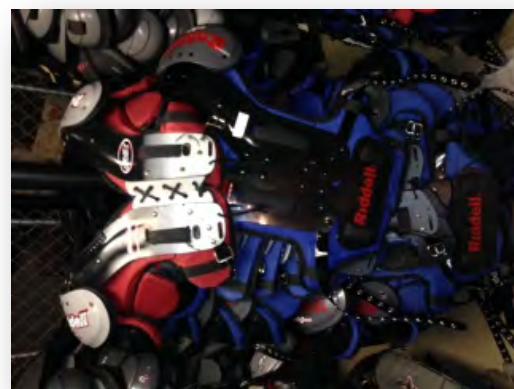


Alpena Touchdown Club

Project: Buying of shoulder pad, helmets, and socks

Grant: \$10,400.00

The funding that was granted helped offset the cost of individually raising funds for the players. The players in the past, had to raise funds in order to purchase new equipment.





City of Alpena River Rats**Project: Wildlife Sanctuary Programs****Grant: \$1,000.00**

The River Rats programming for children was back for the 5th year. Duck and Island Parks were busy with three sessions throughout July. A new feature added in 2013 was puppet shows to introduce the topic of the day. Children learned about birds, eggs, feathers, and beak adaptations, Great Lakes fish and food web, rocks and geodes (with special guest, Steve Tchozeski, a geode expert from Belding, MI) and trees, leaves, and seeds. Children were also introduced to Native American culture in Northeast Michigan, and our local history at Island Park. During February the “Rats” took to the ice at the Reel Fun Ice Fishing Tournament on Grand Lake. Thanks to our grant we were able to offer a tent on the ice with science related fishing games for children of all ages. The River Rats also participated at NOAA’s Earth Day event. Our booth had activities related to invasive species of the Great Lakes. The success of the program would not have been possible without the 38 volunteers (28 teens and 10 adults) who helped throughout the summer. The average number of children ages 5–10 per session, during the summer at Island Park was 48. A big thank you to all our volunteers from the APS high school and junior high Science Olympiad teams, Advanced Biology students, alumni, and the Alpena County Youth and Recreation grant committee for helping us with funding the program.









City of Alpena Trailheads

Project: Local Match for \$245,000 MDNR Grant

Grant: \$40,000.00

Project was deferred until 2014

Northern Lights Area

Project: Indoor Turf

Grant: \$55,000.00

Project was not completed

Alpena Tennis Association

Project: Ready, Set, Serve. Tennis Instruction for 3rd grade students

Grant: \$7,000.00

The Alpena Tennis Association, Synchronizations and Aplex have collaborated to provide tennis lessons for all 3rd graders in Alpena County. Tennis being a life time sport is introduced with five lessons free of charge to all participants. The funding is very important to continue to provide this program.



