

# City of Alpena Recreation Plan



2024-2028

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## 2024-2028

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**APPENDIX A:** Resolutions, Minutes & Transmittal letters

**APPENDIX B:** Mich-e-ke-wis Park Plan

**APPENDIX C:** Marina Master Plan



## CHAPTER

# 1

## INTRODUCTION



## City of Alpena Recreation Plan

## Extent of Plan Focus

This Recreation Plan addresses recreational facilities and plans within the boundaries of the City of Alpena. The city has chosen to plan for the future of its recreation assets, so this plan will evaluate the surrounding recreational opportunities as well as the socio-economic status of the city and the surrounding area in order to determine the recreational needs of the population and to plan for improvements which fit those needs.

## Location and Regional Setting

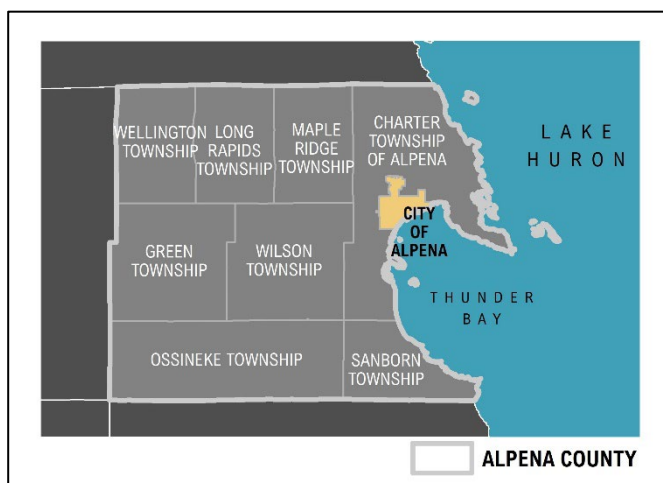
The City of Alpena is situated along the shore of Lake Huron (Thunder Bay) in Alpena County in Northeastern Lower Michigan (see **Figure 1-1 – Location Map**). It is the largest city in Northeast Michigan, as well as the only incorporated municipality within Alpena County. The nearest city of a larger population is Bay City, 129 miles to the south.

The City of Alpena is surrounded on three sides by Alpena Charter Township with Thunder Bay situated to the east. Alpena Charter Township is partially urbanized, with a concentration of commercial and residential areas. The city, the Charter Township of Alpena, seven other townships, and the unincorporated places of Ossineke, Bolton, Cathro, Herron, Hubbard Lake, Lachine, Leer, and Long Rapids make up the County of Alpena.

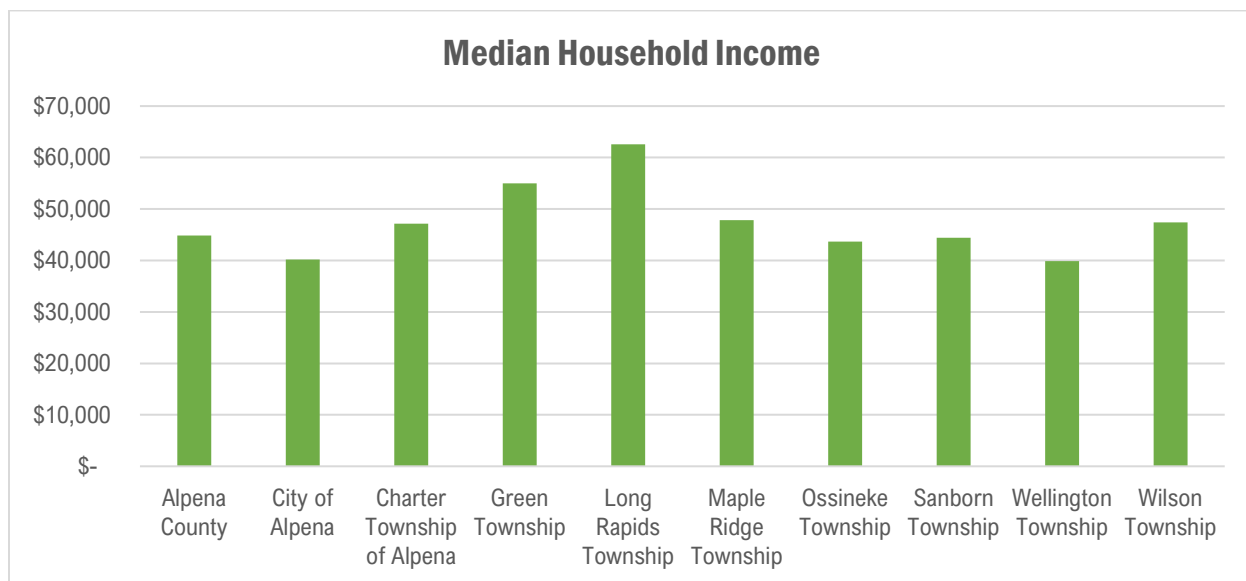
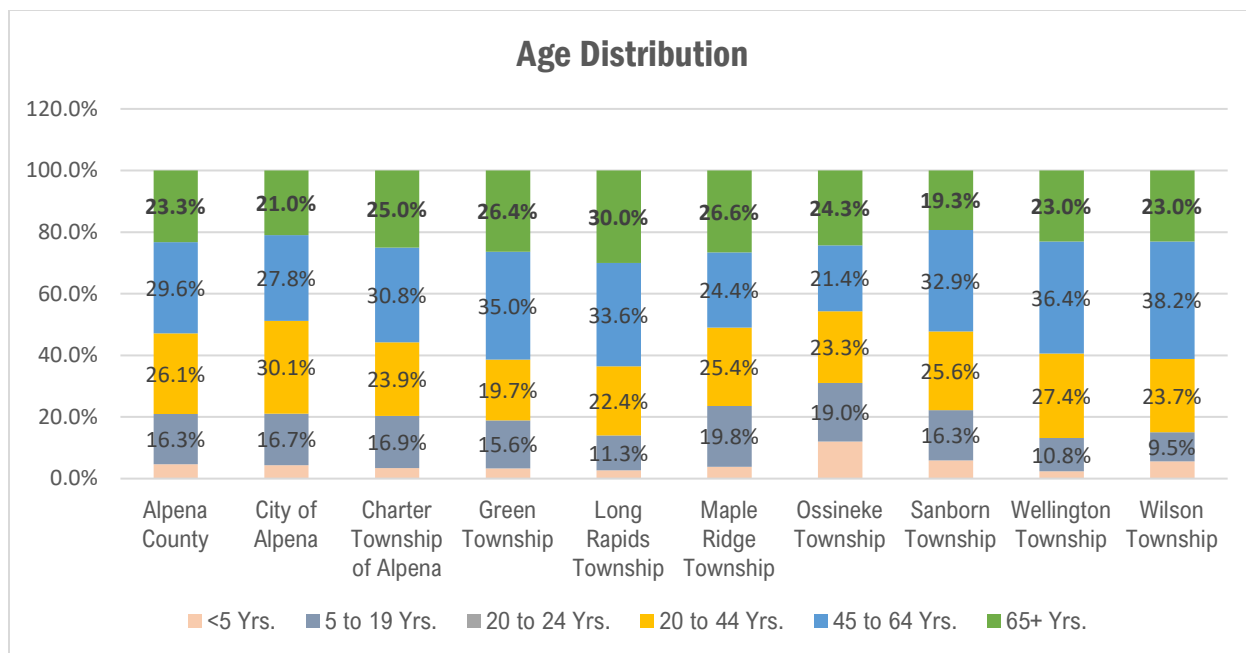
## Community Data

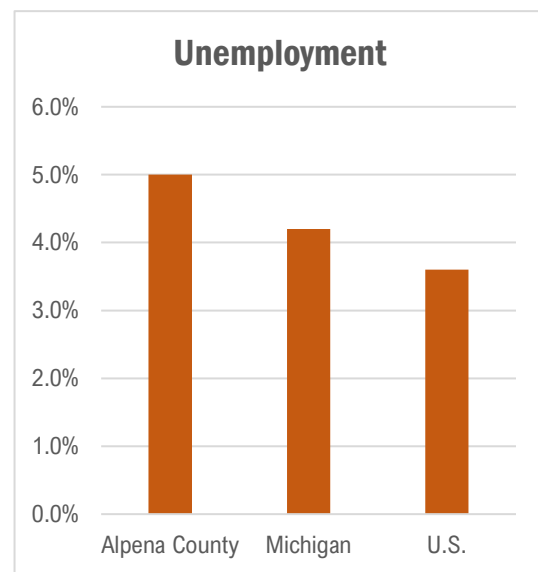
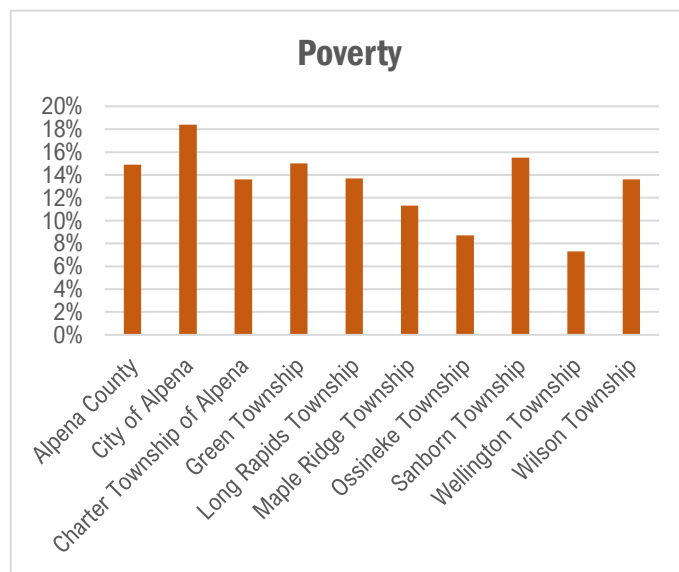
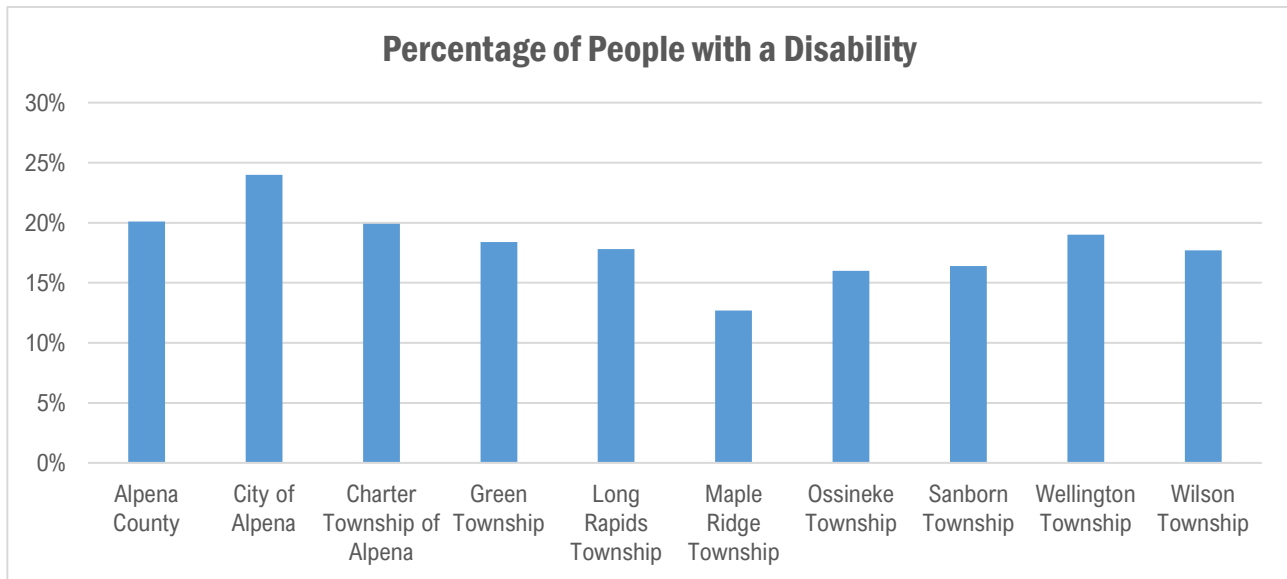
The following tables contain data which is relevant to the recreation planning process. These tables are cited in the Basis for Action in Chapter 4.

**Figure 1-1 Location Map**











CHAPTER

2

# ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



City of Alpena Recreation Plan

## Recreation Administrative Functions

**Planning** - Provide a systematic means of planning the location, acquisition, development, and maintenance of a system of parks, recreation, and open space areas, facilities, and activities within the city. Definite criteria for inclusion shall be adopted and periodically revised to keep pace with changes.

**Acquisition** – Provide a program of acquisition of adjoining parcels or to acquire unique strategic scenic, scientific, or historical areas for the enjoyment of the residents of the city and visitors to the area. Said areas shall be acquired in an organized systematic manner and shall provide equal opportunity, access, and enjoyment for all people regardless of disability, race, creed, or political preferences.

**Development** - Provide those activities and facilities commensurate with the needs of the people. All development should be carefully planned and be of a durable nature to minimize maintenance.

**Funding** - To explore and utilize every means of financing that is available to the city including State and Federal matching programs, general obligation bonds, general funds, fees, charges, gifts, and donations.

**Operation** - Provide the necessary personnel to operate the parks as effectively and efficiently as feasible. Adequate supervision should be provided in all areas to protect the facilities and ensure equal opportunity.

**Maintenance** - To maintain all parks and facilities in a clean, neat, sanitary, and orderly manner in order to protect the public health, safety, and enjoyment of its users

**General Administration** - To employ qualified and competent personnel to achieve the above function of the parks systems. To maintain and establish the necessary procedures for maintaining an accurate accounting of all funds.

## Roles & Descriptions

### Alpena City Council

The Alpena City Council serves as the policy-making body with respect to recreation services and facilities. It authorizes the financial resources and manpower for the development and maintenance of municipal parks and recreation facilities.

### Alpena City Manager

The City of Alpena employs a city manager to oversee the day-to-day operations of the city. The development, maintenance, and administration of city recreational services and facilities are the responsibility of the city administration. The City staff is under the direct supervision of the City Manager. Those positions most directly involved with recreational services along with their specific functions are the Planning, Development, and Zoning Director and the City Engineer.

### City Planning, Development & Zoning Director

The Planning and Development Director serves as planning staff for the City Planning Commission, staff liaison to the Wildlife Sanctuary Board, and is responsible for the preparation and updating of various planning studies, including the City Recreation Plan, and solicits funding alternatives, including grants, for the financing of recreational improvements. The director also coordinates the development of the city's six-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

### City Engineer

The City Engineer is responsible for the design, engineering, and construction of the physical improvements to the municipal parks and recreational facilities. In the capacity of a department head, the Engineer directly oversees the Department of Public Works, which directly handles many of the operational



and maintenance needs of the parks and recreational facilities. The City Engineer is responsible for the overall operation and maintenance of the city parks and recreational facilities and serves as liaison to the Alpena Recreation Advisory Board. Also, administers and monitors contracts with private service providers for operational and maintenance activities related to the City's recreational system, including the City Marina.

### Harbor Master/Parks Coordinator

The Harbor Master/Parks Coordinator manages and maintains marina and harbor facilities and personnel; the Coordinator also manages projects, volunteers, and programs within the City park system.

## Programming

With respect to recreational programming, the city provides the facilities from which a range of recreational services is provided to the community. The actual recreation programs are primarily offered through the various non-profit organizations, volunteer groups, and educational institutions within

### The City of Alpena Planning Commission

The City of Alpena Planning Commission, in accordance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, is a nine-member statutory advisory body to the Council responsible for the long-range planning of the overall community. In addition, the Planning Commission is involved in the review and implementation of the city's Capital Improvement Plan, which serves as the mechanism for translating multi-year recreational improvement needs into the annual budget process.

### The Alpena Recreation Advisory Board

The Alpena Recreation Advisory Board is a seven-person advisory body which makes recommendations to the Council on matters of general recreation policy, studies and reports its findings regarding recreation needs, and monitors the recreation programs of the community.

the city. Some of these groups are the Alpena Babe Ruth Baseball Association, Alpena Men's Slow Pitch Softball Association, McRae Park Association, Alpena Youth Club, Alpena Huron Shores Little League, and the Wildlife Sanctuary Board.

## Park & Recreation Maintenance

### Department of Public Works (DPW)

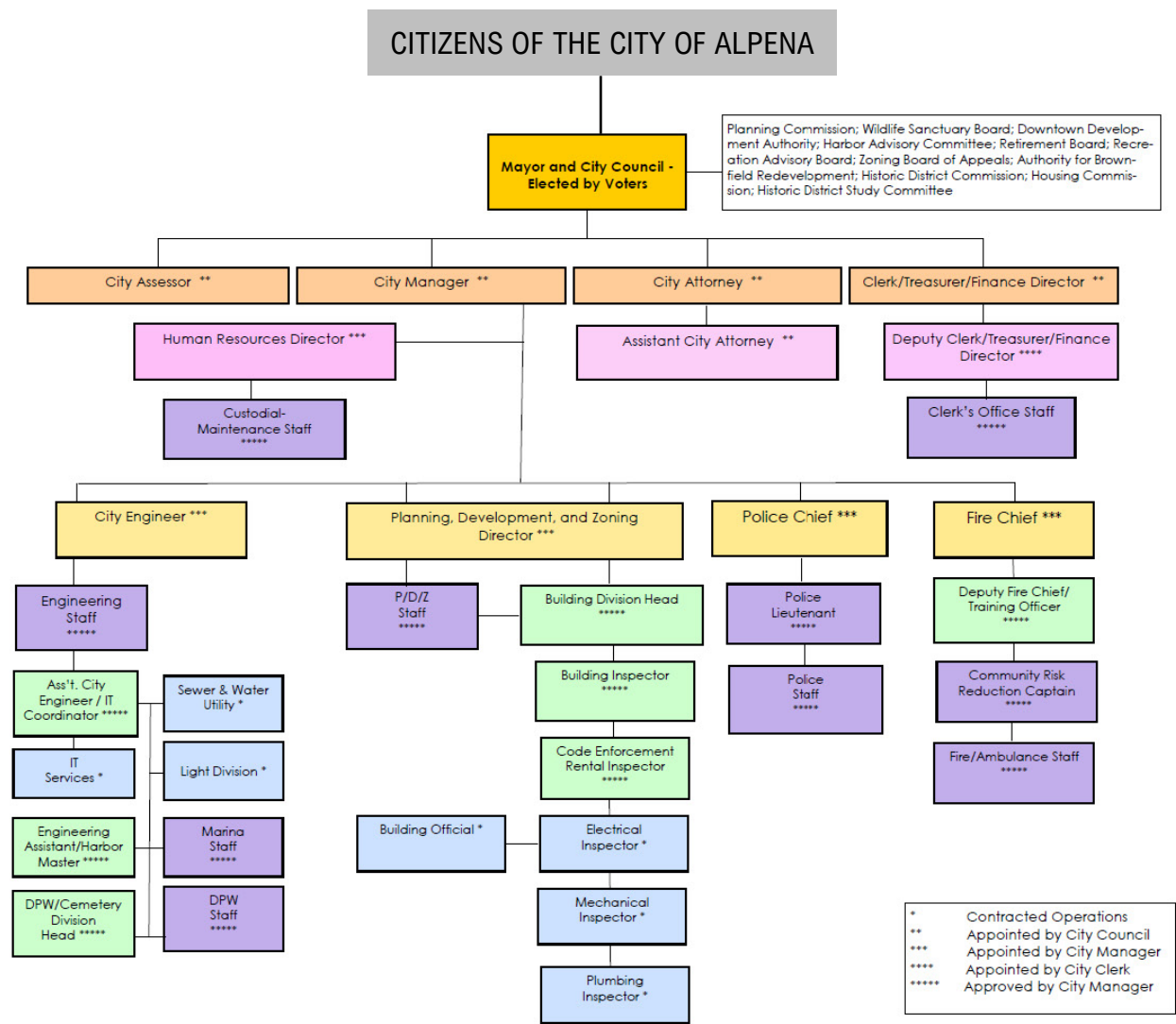
The city's DPW has been given the maintenance responsibilities to improve the city park system to a showcase level. Irrigation, landscaping, and amenities within and throughout the parks are programmed to facilitate these responsibilities. The DPW's goal is to reduce total maintenance costs while improving the general appearance of all parks. The Department of Public Works (DPW) maintains approximately 100 acres of land that constitutes the city's park system

and approximately 1 ½ miles of Lake Huron shoreline. In addition to the services provided by the city's DPW, The city also has an agreement with the Alpena Rotary Club whereas the Department of Public Works maintains Rotary Island Mill, a private park owned by the Rotary Club but open to the public. The McRae Park Association is a private service club that also assists the city in the operation and maintenance of McRae Park.

### Wildlife Sanctuary Board

The city coordinates with the Wildlife Sanctuary Board to help maintain Island Park and the surrounding sanctuary. The board maintains a management plan which is specific to the Wildlife Sanctuary.

Figure 2-1 Administrative Chart – City of Alpena





## Recreation Budget

**Parks & Recreation Funding** - Capital improvements and maintenance activities are funded on an ongoing basis from the city's General Fund. A separate division of the General Fund has been established for this purpose known as Parks and Recreation. Capital improvements and maintenance activities for the City Marina are funded separately from the City's Marina Fund.

The annual and projected budgets and expenditures for projects, operations, maintenance, and capital

improvements are detailed in **Table 2-1** and **2-2**.

**Current Funding Sources** – Funding sources for parks and recreation projects of the City of Alpena include the City General, Equipment, and Marina funds, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE), and private contributions.

Table 2-1 Recreation & Culture Budget			
	2022-23	2023/2024	2024/2025
<b>REVENUES</b>			
FEDERAL GRANTS - RECREATIONAL	19,600	0	0
STATE GRANTS - RECREATION & CU	300,000	165,000	1,525,000
LOCAL GRANTS - COUNTY	0	35,000	0
RENT - MICH-E-KE-WIS PAVILION	4,500	4,000	4,000
RENT - STARLITE PAVILION	2,000	1,600	1,600
RENT - MISC PARK FACILITIES	1,450	1,200	1,200
DONATIONS	0	150,000	100,000
MISCELLANEOUS	280	300	300
REFUNDS/REBATES	230	300	300
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES</b>	<b>328,060</b>	<b>357,400</b>	<b>1,632,400</b>
<b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>			
SALARIES & WAGES	125,540	125,000	130,000
SAL & WAGES - COVID19	0	0	0
OVERTIME	2,000	2,500	2,500
WORKERS COMPENSATION INSURANCE	2,862	3,000	3,100
HEALTH INSURANCE	18,000	15,294	16,823
DENTAL INSURANCE	2,240	2,230	2,320
LIFE INSURANCE	165	184	184
LONG TERM DISABILITY	525	600	610
FICA	9,785	9,754	10,136
DEFINED CONTRIBUTION	6,625	6,595	6,860
DEFERRED COMP	2,490	2,480	2,580
RETIREE HEALTHCARE - OPEB	8,250	6,375	7,950
HSA CONTRIBUTION	6,000	6,000	6,000
INSURANCE OPT-OUT	600	600	600
UNIFORMS	1,650	1,700	1,800
SUPPLIES	9,000	10,000	10,000
SUPPLIES - PARK SHELTER	0	0	0

DURABLE GOODS	0	0	0
PROF & CONTRACTUAL	23,000	38,000	25,000
COMMUNICATIONS	913	915	915
BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE	0	0	0
UTILITIES	78,000	82,000	84,000
UTILITIES - MICH-E-KE-WIS	9,560	10,000	10,000
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	20,000	20,000	20,000
MAINT - PARK SHELTER/ICE	250	250	250
MAINT - ISLAND PARK	500	2,800	500
EQUIPMENT RENT	95,000	100,000	102,000
RENTAL	15,000	15,000	15,000
PARK FOUNDATION REC CENTER	20,000	20,000	20,000
FEES	424	500	500
REFUND/REBATE	300	100	100
INSURANCE & BONDS	5,362	5,400	5,450
CAP - GENERAL PARKS IMPROVEM	35,000	25,000	220,000
CAP - RIVERFRONT PARK	0	0	25,000
CAP - BAY VIEW PARK AREA	300,000	700,000	50,000
CAP - MICH-E-KE-WIS PARK	0	30,000	450,505
CAP - RIVER PLAN IMPROV	0	5,000	0
CAP - ISLAND PARK	0	300,000	0
CAP - ISLAND PARK RIVER CENTER	24,076	0	125,000
CAP - LAMARRE PARK	0	5,000	129,000
CAP - SYTEK PARK	0	50,000	0
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>823,117</b>	<b>1,602,277</b>	<b>1,484,683</b>

Table 2-2 Marina Fund			
	2022-23	2023/2024	2024/2025
<b>REVENUES</b>			
BUSINESS LICENSES AND PERMITS	12,000	12,000	12,000
STATE GRANTS - SEASONAL DOCKS	150,000	150,000	100,000
STATE GRANTS - OTHER	11,250	0	0
FEES	1,100	1,100	1,100
BOAT PUMP OUT SERVICE	500	500	500
TRAVEL LIFT SERVICES	6,000	5,000	5,000
SERVICES RENDERED	12,600	12,600	18,200
SALES - DIESEL FUEL	85,000	90,000	90,000
SALES - REC GAS	85,000	90,000	90,000
SALES - ICE	300	300	300
SALES-INTEREST	34	50	50
INTEREST INCOME - INVESTMENTS	2,800	2,000	2,000
RENT	9,500	7,500	7,500
SLIP RENTAL - SEASONAL	167,636	100,000	100,000
SLIP RENTAL - TRANSIENT	30,000	50,000	50,000
FISH CLEANING STATION RENTAL	75	75	75
WINTER BOAT STORAGE RENT	62,865	53,000	53,000

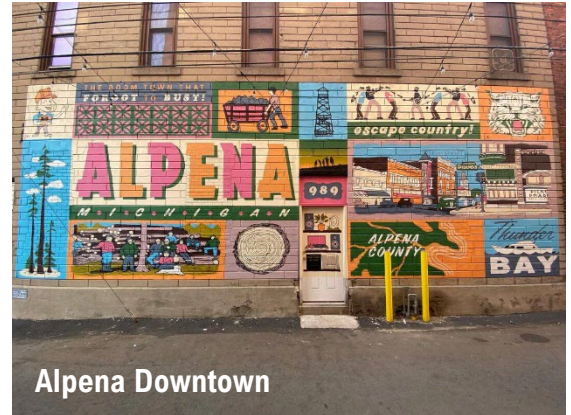


DONATIONS	599	0	0
INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENTS	0	0	0
REIMBURSEMENTS	1,894	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	100	100	100
SCRAP & SALVAGE SALES	0	0	0
TRANSFERS IN/OTHER FINANCI	110,000	94,835	255,492
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES</b>	<b>749,325</b>	<b>669,110</b>	<b>785,367</b>
<b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>			
SALARIES & WAGES	94,000	94,000	95,000
SAL & WAGES - COVID19	0	0	0
OVERTIME	9,000	10,000	10,000
WORKERS COMPENSATION INSUR	219	230	240
HEALTH INSURANCE	7,500	15,891	17,480
DENTAL INSURANCE	800	1,378	1,447
LIFE INSURANCE	80	124	124
LONG TERM DISABILITY	230	412	412
FICA	7,880	7,956	8,033
RETIREMENT - CITY CONTRIBUTIO	2,389	3,598	3,780
DEFINED CONTRIBUTION	4,800	4,466	4,600
DEFERRED COMP	462	1,060	1,092
RETIREE HEALTHCARE - OPEB	6,600	5,200	6,300
HSA CONTRIBUTION	857	2,555	2,555
UNIFORMS	500	300	500
CONTINUING EDUCATION	300	300	300
SUPPLIES	10,000	10,000	10,000
PURCHASES - DIESEL FUEL	60,000	82,000	82,000
PURCHASES - REC GAS	60,000	82,000	82,000
PURCHASES - ICE	500	500	500
DURABLE GOODS	0	3,500	0
PROF & CONTRACTUAL	55,000	60,000	60,000
CONTRACT - AUDITORS	0	0	0
COMMUNICATIONS	1,200	1,200	1,200
BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE	1,400	2,500	2,500
PRINTING AND PUBLISHING	1,000	1,000	1,000
UTILITIES	35,000	35,000	35,000
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	35,000	20,000	20,000
EQUIPMENT RENT	32,000	35,000	35,000
FIBER OPTIC RENT	1,359	1,400	1,442
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0
FEES	8,000	8,000	8,000
REFUND/REBATE	0	0	0
INSURANCE & BONDS	4,072	4,500	4,500
CAPITAL OUTLAY	400,000	174,000	465,000
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>840,148</b>	<b>668,070</b>	<b>960,005</b>

## Relationships with other Agencies

Whenever possible, the City of Alpena pools resources with other agencies and organizations when undertaking community projects. This has the dual effect of maximizing resources, while at the same time benefiting a greater share of the population. Some of the agencies the city is currently working in partnership with include, but are not limited to:

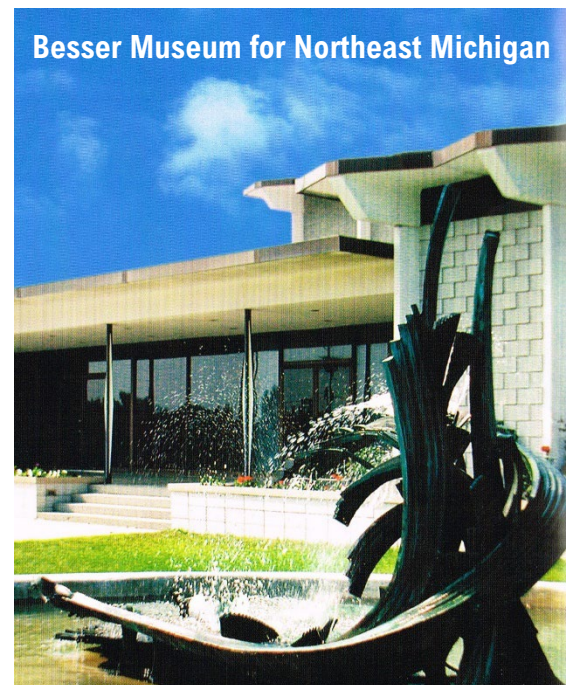
- Alpena Rotary Club
- Alpena Kiwanis Club
- Alpena Optimists Club
- McRae Park Association
- Alpena County Recreation Authority
- Alpena County Road Commission
- Alpena Yacht Club
- Alpena Huron Shores Little League
- Thunder Bay Arts Council
- Michigan Brown Trout Festival
- Alpena Downtown Development Authority
- Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve
- Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan
- Alpena Garden Club
- Lions Club
- Huron Pines



Alpena Downtown



Maritime Heritage Center



Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan

## Relationship Between Municipalities

### Joint Planning Effort!

#### Participants:

Alpena County

City of Alpena

Charter Township of  
Alpena

Green Township

Ossineke Township

Sanborn Township

Wilson Township

The municipalities in Alpena County have worked together to plan for recreation since 2018. The City of Alpena participated in the Alpena County/Townships recreation planning process by adjusting the timing of its recreation plan update to coincide with that of the multi-jurisdictional plan. The communities issued a joint public input survey and collaborated to generate results. In addition, two meetings were held with all of the municipalities present – one of these meetings was the Alpena Intergovernmental Council – which consists of the elected representatives of each municipality. At this meeting, the group discussed how best to move forward jointly in implementing the recreation plan – including funding and programming. In addition, a joint meeting was held with members of the Planning Commissions to continue this discussion. A trails planning group has also formed to discuss how to connect recreational facilities within the county with trail systems and wide paved shoulders to allow park users to travel safely from park to park. This planning is being done in conjunction with the update of the MDOT Active Transportation Plan which seeks to identify those needed connections. The group has identified a need to re-establish an official multi-jurisdictional umbrella group to oversee this into the future.

Shared goals between all of the participating municipalities are presented in Chapter 4.



CHAPTER

3

# INVENTORY



City of Alpena Recreation Plan

# City of Alpena Recreational Properties

## Inventory Method & Classification System

An inventory of recreation facilities available in the City of Alpena was completed and is presented in this chapter. The inventory includes City owned facilities, township and county owned facilities, state and organization owned facilities, and privately owned

facilities. City of Alpena owned facilities were evaluated for barrier-free accessibility. A description of the barrier-free accessibility rating criteria is provided below.

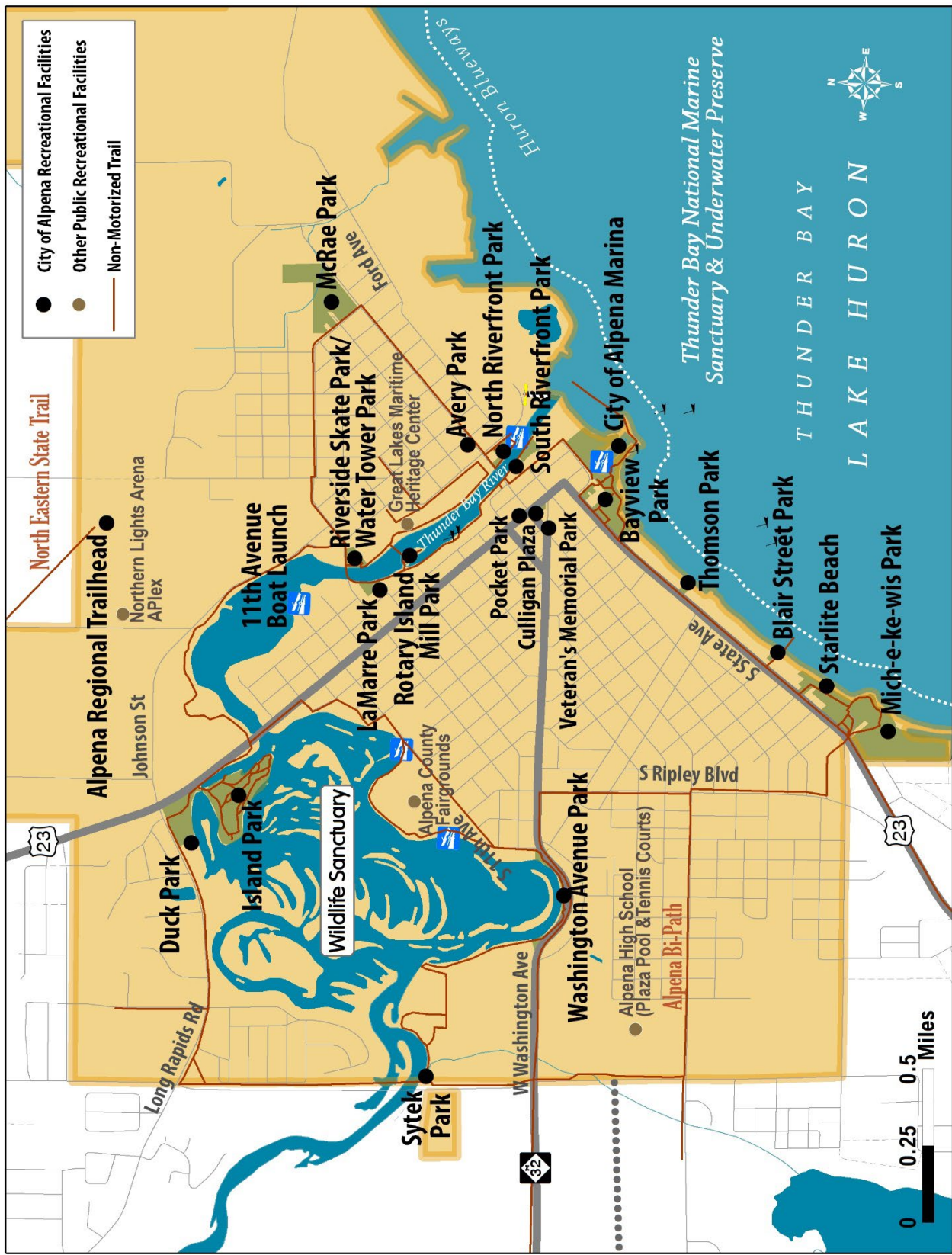
### DNR Accessibility Grading System for Parks and Recreation Facilities

An assessment of the accessibility of each park to people with disabilities. This assessment must consider the accessibility of both the facilities themselves (as appropriate), as well as the access routes to them. At a minimum, use the following ranking system for each park:

Accessibility Grade	Definition
1	None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines
2	Some facilities meet accessibility guidelines
3	Most facilities meet accessibility guidelines
4	The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5	The entire park was developed using the principles of universal design







1

ALPENA REGIONAL TRAILHEAD

Location: Woodward Avenue (southern terminus of the North Eastern State Trail)

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
2.25	Special Use	4	This facility is barrier-free.

Description

Alpena Regional Trailhead is located on Woodward Avenue on the north side of Alpena, and at the southern terminus of the North Eastern State Trail. The 2.25-acre site features barrier free modern restrooms, barrier free pavilion, paved parking, bike racks, trail maps and kiosk, and picnic tables and benches. Drinking water is available prior to heading out on the trail. Alpena County owns the property and the City developed and maintains the trailhead on a permanent lease. The trailhead is connected to town by the City Bi-Path.





2

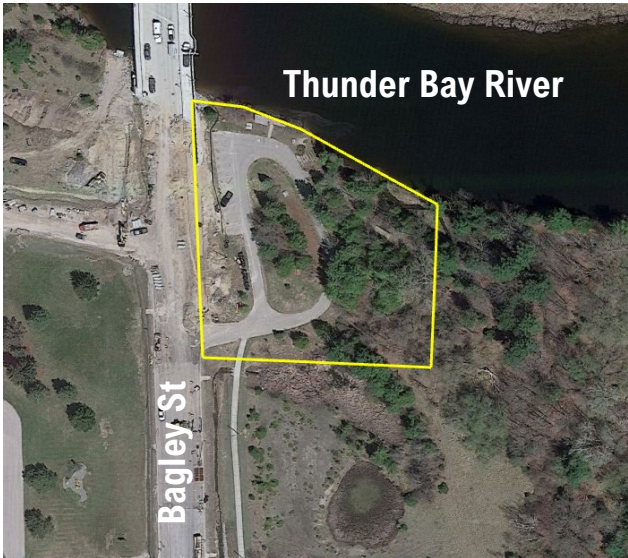
ARTHUR SYTEK PARK

Location: Thunder Bay River (at the bridge on Bagley Street)

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
1.5	Mini-Park	4	This facility is barrier-free.

Description

The Arthur Sytek Park is located on the Thunder Bay River at the bridge on Bagley Street. This one-half acre wildflower park was developed by the Thunder Bay Watershed Council. The park has a canoe launch site, a barrier free fishing platform with a roof, a shelter and off-street parking, and serves as a trailhead for the City’s Bi-Path. There is a wooded area to the west of the park and a small beach area on the river. The park also features an air pump and bike repair station which was funded by the Kiwanis Club.



## 3

**AVERY PARK**

Location: N Second Ave (north of Second Ave bridge)

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
0.4	Mini-Park	4	This facility is barrier-free.

**Description**

Avery Park is located on N. Second Avenue, north of the Second Avenue Bridge. This 0.4-acre open green space showplaces a large historic four-faced bronze clock, historic gaslights and historic park benches. The park complements the aesthetics of the historic downtown area.





## 4

**BAY VIEW PARK**

Location: State Avenue on Lake Huron

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
14	Community Park	3	This facility is generally barrier-free. Much of the park, including the band shell is barrier-free. There are no barrier-free picnic tables, and the tennis courts and basketball courts are not easily accessible from the paved parking lot.

**Description**

Located on State Avenue on Lake Huron, adjacent to the Municipal Small Boat Harbor. This is one of the City's largest developed parks with multiple year-round uses. It contains four tennis courts, three basketball courts, and a multipurpose open lawn area. There is an area of shoreline, space for picnics and an open field for low profile activity. There is the Fine Arts Band shell, which is used for summer band concerts, community celebrations and by various groups for other occasions. A fenced, fully equipped young children's playground, developed by and maintained in partnership with the Alpena Kiwanis Club, is another of the facilities available at this site. The Bi-Path runs through the park and connects the park to other recreation areas. The Alpena Yacht Club is located within the Park on property leased from the City.



## 5

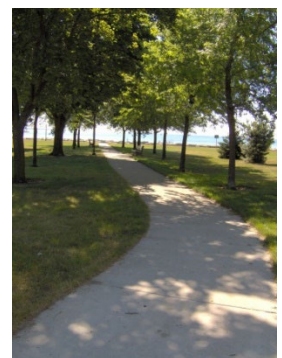
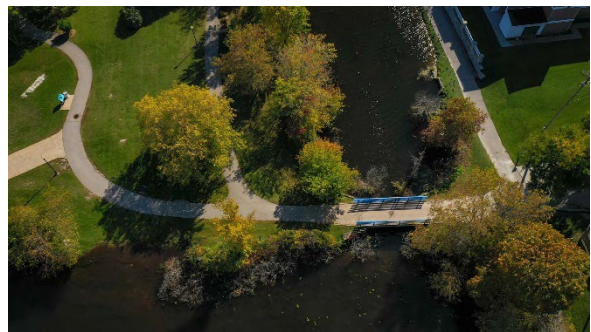
**BI-PATH**

Location: Throughout city – connects city parks

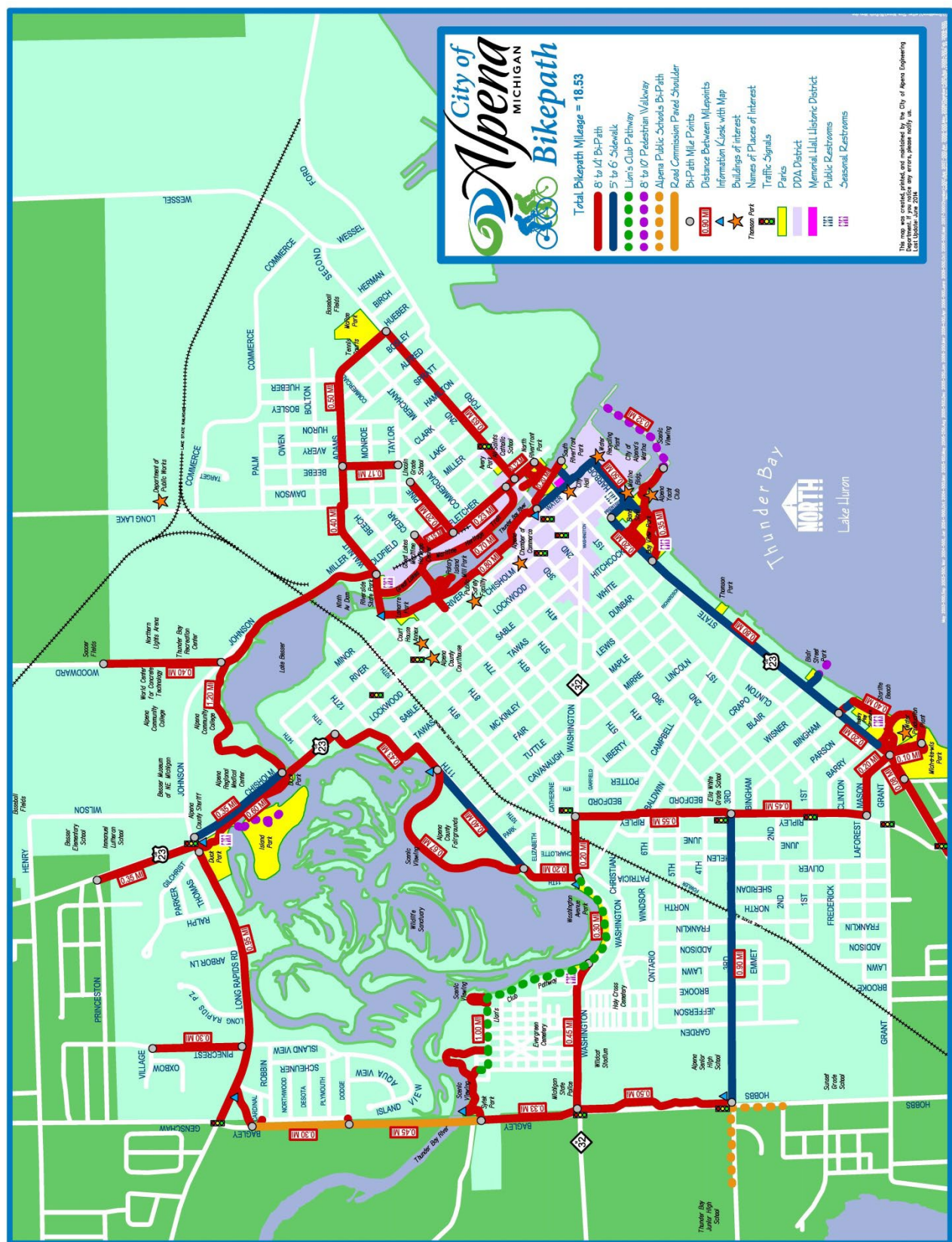
Size (miles)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
18.53 of 8-10' pathway	Special Use: Trail System	4	This facility is barrier-free.

**Description**

The Bi-Path is a bicycle and pedestrian pathway system which has been developed throughout the City. This marked bikeway connects with the Alpena Township section that parallels US-23 from the city limits at Thunder Bay Avenue to Bare Point Road. Inside the City limits, residents and visitors are able to bike, walk, roller blade and skateboard on the 18.53 miles of 8-10' wide paved pathway and can access all of the parks in the city. In a cooperative city/county effort, a section of the bikeway follows the shore of the Thunder Bay River through the Alpena County Fairgrounds.







6

BLAIR STREET PARK

Location: Blair Street (at the end of the street, on Lake Huron)

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
0.4	Mini-Park	3	This facility is mostly barrier-free.

Description

Blair Street Park located at the end of Blair Street on Lake Huron. This 0.4-acre park contains 173 feet of Thunder Bay frontage and a refurbished handicapped-accessible pier for fishing, a picnic area with tables and grills, concrete bike paths connecting the State Avenue bike path to the pier and off-street parking.





## 7

## CITY OF ALPENA MARINA

Location: 400 East Chisholm Street (adjacent to Bay View Park)

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
8	Special Use Facility	3	This facility is mostly barrier-free. Hardware at the boaters restrooms needs to be changed and barrier-free signage needs to be installed on both doors at the proper height. There is no barrier-free access to the east side of the fixed dock basin. The breakwall Bi-Path is barrier-free. The fish cleaning station is not barrier-free.

## Description

**Name & Location:** The City of Alpena Marina, on Lake Huron, is located at 400 East Chisholm Street, adjacent to Bay View Park and the Alpena Yacht Club. The marina is within walking distance of downtown Alpena which allows boaters access to amenities such as restaurants, shopping, lodging, cultural sites, a post office, additional parks, and Alpena City Hall. The marina is within the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary.



**Size & Amenities:** The marina sits on eight acres and is the only full-service marina in the area. It provides visitors and residents with all necessary, boating-related services including a full-time staff, a fueling station, 35-ton boat hoist, fish cleaning station, boaters' restrooms, a marina store, and marine repair facilities (full list below). A portion of the City bi-path system has been constructed along the top of the break wall. The City Marina contains 88 seasonal and 44 transient boater slips. Courtesy docks, a launch ramp, and broadside moorage are also available. The City participates in the state Central Reservation System. Under this system, transient boaters are able to reserve dockage at the Marina on specific dates via a centralized, statewide system. The Marina also acts as a communications center for boaters in the waters of Thunder Bay and posts severe weather warnings. Dockage is also provided for a MDNR law enforcement boat and the U.S. Coast Guard. See City of Alpena Marina Master Plan for more details. The facility is of an appropriate size to meet the demands of the number of boaters in the area. No boaters are turned away and there are no waiting lists.

- Dockside water hook up
- Dockside electric (30 & 50amp)
- Gasoline and diesel sales
- Pump-out services
- Fish Cleaning Station
- Boat Launch (daily or yearly rates)
- Ice
- Boater's Restroom and Showers
- Boat Hoist
- Dog Run
- Day Use Dockage
- 24-hour Security
- Grills/Picnic Tables
- Marine Supplies

**Development Plan:** In 2021, the City of Alpena adopted the City of Alpena Marina Plan. Chapter 4 of this plan details the planned facility and infrastructure improvements. See **Appendix C**.

**Marketing, Events, and Partnerships:** Marketing has become a keen asset in the 21st century. With the change in times the City of Alpena shall take advantage of marketing to better promote the greatest assets that the City

of Alpena has to offer. Marketing shall be an integral part of the growth of the marina along with outreach and education within the community. A marketing partnership exists between the marina, the Alpena DDA, and the Alpena Chamber of Commerce. In this partnership, the city intends to work with the community to grow marketing and branding opportunities while keeping the same theme throughout the City and the marina. A bi-monthly newsletter is planned to keep users informed of happenings around the marina. The marina also intends to reach out to local businesses to create an incentive for boaters. The City also intends to establish a marketing budget to aid in promotion.

**Dredging Needs:** The City plans to dredge the marina and evaluate the 10-year dredge cycle. Manual soundings are periodically taken to evaluate the need for a full survey. As of 2021, there was not a need for dredging.

**Maintenance & Replacement:** The current FY 23/24 budget for the marina fund is \$668,070

Maintenance & Replacement	Year	Projected Cost
<b>Annual Maintenance Schedule</b>		
Repairs & Maintenance	2023-2024	\$20,000
Supplies	2023-2024	\$10,000
Equipment Rental	2023-2024	\$35,000
Fiber Optic Rental	2023-2024	\$1,442
Utilities	2023-2024	\$35,000
Printing & Publishing	2023-2024	\$1,000
<b>Minor or Small-Scale Infrastructure Replacement Schedule</b>		
Durable Goods (small equipment replacement, fixtures)		\$3,500
<b>Large Scale Maintenance &amp; Replacement Schedule</b>		
Boaters Restroom Design	2024	\$35,000
Alpena Marina UST Supply Line Upgrades	2024	\$100,000
Restroom Improvements	2025	\$175,000
UST Cleanup	2027	\$30,000
High Efficiency Lighting Upgrades	2028	\$62,000
Shop Building Rehabilitation	2028	\$215,000
Utility Pedestal Replacement	2029	\$364,000
Wayfinding Signage	2029	\$65,000
Dock Repair	2029	\$90,000
Parking Lot Resurfacing	2029	\$195,000
Social Gathering Area	2029	\$35,000





## 8

**CULLIGAN PLAZA**

Location: Chisholm Street (at Second Avenue)

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
0.74	Mini-Park	3	This facility is partially barrier-free. There is barrier-free access from the sidewalk along the perimeter of the plaza, but there is no barrier-free access to the fountain.

**Description**

Culligan Plaza is a small public space located on Chisholm St. at Second Ave. It contains a water fountain and a large public fountain. The plaza is the location of many community events including the site of the City Christmas Tree. The City received a grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) for over one million dollars to redesign and reconstruct Culligan Plaza.





## 9

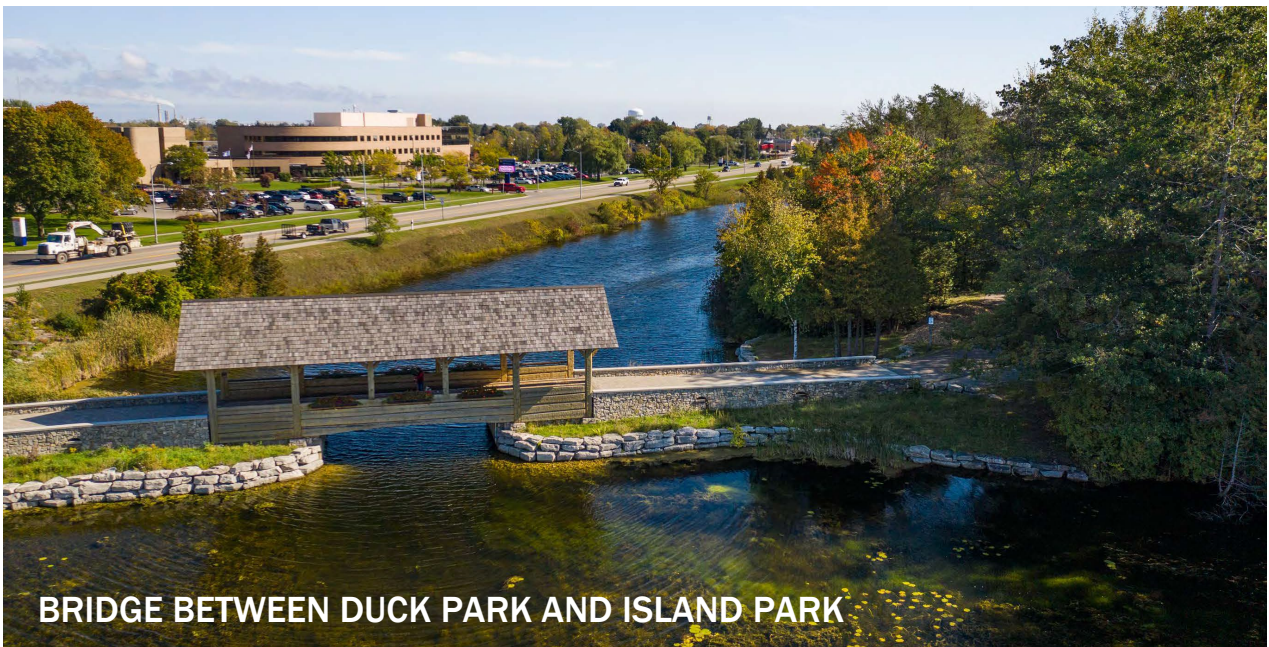
**DUCK PARK**

Location: US-23 and Long Rapids Road (adjoins Island Park and the Wildlife Sanctuary)

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
2.5	Community Park	3	The parking lot has marked ADA-compliant spaces and a bike path through the park and path to the bridge and kayak launch are ADA-compliant. There are no barrier-free picnic tables and no barrier free access to cooking grills.

**Description**

Duck Park adjoins Island Park and the Wildlife Sanctuary. This 2.5-acre park has 1,200 feet of Thunder Bay River frontage. It complements the natural setting of Island Park by offering an area for more developed recreational uses and vehicular parking. It is also the proposed site of the Thunder Bay River Center and adjoining boardwalk from which a range of recreational and educational activities relating to the Thunder Bay River Watershed can be provided. The site includes picnic tables, an area for rest, as well as off-street parking. Ducks, swan, geese, and other wildfowl gather at this site. The park also includes a covered pedestrian bridge to Island Park, a water tower, and a kayak launch.



10

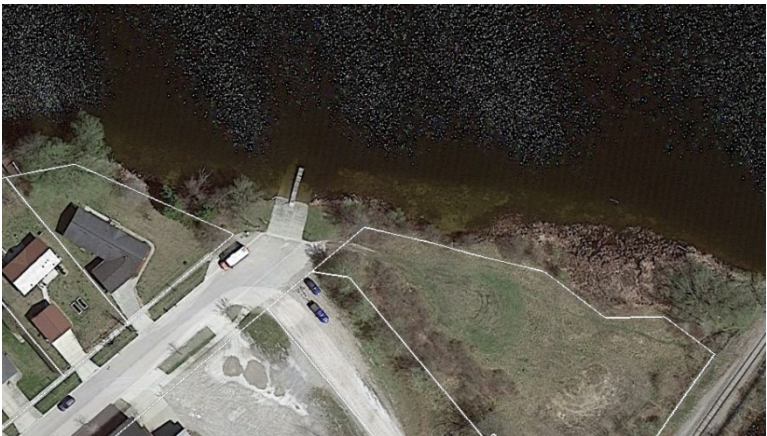
ELEVENTH AVENUE BOAT LAUNCH

Location: Eleventh Avenue (on the Thunder Bay River/Lake Besser)

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
Road End	Special Use Area	1	This facility is not barrier-free.

Description

The Eleventh Avenue Boat Launch is located at the end of the Eleventh Avenue on the Thuder Bay River/Lake Besser. It serves as a small craft boat launch but has few amenities at this time.





## 11

## ISLAND PARK

Location: corner of US-23 and Long Rapids Road

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
17	Natural Resource Areas	2	This facility has some barrier-free facilities. The parking lot is paved and access to the City Bi-Path is possible from Duck Park. Many viewing opportunities exist to view the water and wildlife. Barrier-free fishing opportunities exist along the pedestrian bridge and in two areas along the Bi-Path at the island side of the pedestrian bridge. The majority of the viewing and fishing platforms on the island are not barrier free.

## Description

Island Park is located on the Thunder Bay River, at the corner of US-23 and Long Rapids Road. This 17-acre island is owned by the City and developed and maintained by the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board. The island has 4,400 feet of water frontage. This natural area preserves the rich ecosystems with the flora and the fauna natural to the area. Access to this area is gained by way of a concrete bridge, which is closed to vehicles (a key may be obtained to drive to a handicapped-accessible viewing area). Nature/hiking trails criss-cross the Island, providing abundant opportunity for observation and study of nature and wildlife. The opportunity for fishing is provided by fishing platforms at the water's edge. The **Wildlife Sanctuary** is located adjacent to the Island Park. It consists of 450 acres and is home to a variety of native fauna and flora.



## 12

**LAMARRE PARK**

Location: Eighth and River Street (on Thuder Bay River)

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
1.5	Mini-Park	4	This facility is barrier-free.

**Description**

LaMarre Park is located at Eighth and River Street intersection on the Thunder Bay River, was acquired by the City of Alpena from Alpena County in 1997. This 1.5-acre site includes 367 feet of river frontage and is a popular fishing location and is frequently used as a trailhead to access the City bi-path system.

In 2004, the City, with the assistance of MDEQ Coastal Management Program grant funds, installed a large barrier free concrete walkway and fishing platform along the river's edge. In 2008, the City purchased and removed a residential home at the corner entrance to the park in order to open the view of the park, increase open space, and visibility.

Other amenities at this park include picnic tables, benches, off-street parking, and passive recreation.





## 13

**MCRAE PARK**

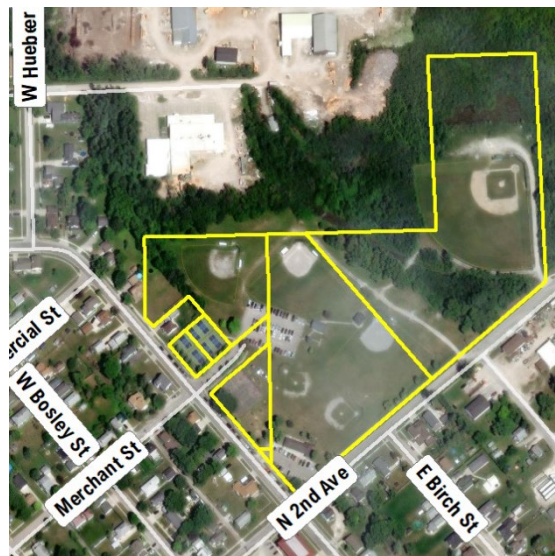
Location: North Second Avenue and Heuber Street intersection

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
16.4	Community Park	2	This facility has some barrier-free facilities. The parking lot is paved but there is no barrier-free access to the playground, basketball courts, or ballfield bleachers. The restrooms at the Concession Stand are not barrier-free. The driveway to the ballfield is not paved and access to the bleachers is limited. The only access ramp to the community building is in poor condition and needs repair. The community building entrance door threshold needs to be lowered to 5/8". Neither restroom in the community building is compliant; each entrance door must be widened, the restrooms enlarged, and barrier-free hardware installed.

**Description**

McRae Park located at the intersection of North Second Avenue and Hueber Street. This park includes four fenced youth/women's ball fields (three 60-foot base fields and one 90-foot base field); two T-ball fields; a children's play area; six pickleball courts; two basketball courts; two paved parking lots; a small concession/restroom building; and a park shelter which is used for meetings and social events. General oversight and maintenance of this park is conducted by the McRae Park Association.

A 90-foot basepath baseball field was constructed in 2008. This field was constructed to replace an old Babe Ruth field that was closed when Oxbow Park was abandoned by the City. Some new playground equipment was purchased through grant funds obtained in partnership with the Northeast Community Service Agency (NEMCSA). Funds for installation were obtained from a MSHDA Neighborhood Preservation grant; accessed through the City's participation in a community Vision 2020 program.





**14****MICH-E-KE-WIS PARK**

Location: State Avenue (between Thunder Bay Avenue and Mason Street)

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
20	Community Park	2	Some of this facility is barrier free. The parking areas are not paved and there are no barrier free pathways leading to park features.

**Description**

Mich-e-ke-wis Park is an approximately 20-acre park located on Lake Huron along State Avenue, between Thunder Bay Avenue and Mason Street. The park includes playground equipment, a BMX bike park (designed for younger riders), volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, a beach area, picnic area, an enclosed warming/general park shelter building, and off street parking. The park is revered for the natural beauty of its shoreline and scenic views of Lake Huron. Sections of the City's Bi-Path rung through the park along the Lake Huron Shoreline.

In 2020, the City of Alpena completed the development of a Mich-e-ke-wis Park Master Plan. The plan was developed with thorough public input and makes recommendations for many park improvements including:



A multi-use pavilion, quiet area with pedestrian pathway, additional volleyball courts, and a bike pump-track. The plan also calls for rearranged and paved parking areas, upgraded playground equipment, and improved amenities such as picnic tables, benches, bike racks, and site lighting and landscaping. The Mich-e-ke-wis Park Master Plan can be seen in **Appendix B**.



The City has an active Recreation Passport grant to relocate the current volleyball courts and to construct two additional courts.

## 15

**NORTH RIVERFRONT PARK (& THOMAS STAFFORD DOG PARK)**

Location: Fletcher Street (near the mouth of the Thunder Bay River)

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
2.4	Special Use Park	4	This facility is barrier-free.

**Description**

North Riverfront Park located off Fletcher Street near the mouth of the Thunder Bay River within the City's downtown area, behind the Post Office. This park has 570 feet of river frontage. A parking lot and boat launch is provided on this site. A section of the park is also fenced and dedicated as the Thomas Stafford Dog Park.

In 2007-2008, the City implemented a number of improvements at North Riverfront Park aided by a grant from the MDNR. The improvements include the installation of a cantilevered walkway with barrier free access and rail sections allowing fishing for all parties. The improvements also included flower, shrub, and tree plantings and the installation of an irrigation system to ensure the livelihood of plant material and reduce runoff to the river. Amenities were also installed in the park including benches, picnic tables, walkways, water and power access and a drinking fountain. These improvements have opened up this previously unimproved park for expanded and enhanced activities. The project, due to available funding, had to be curtailed and elements originally planned for were deleted from the project with hopes of being able to fund them in the future. These include the resurfacing and restriping of the parking lot, parking lot lighting, and installation of water and

power access points throughout the park.





16

POCKET PARK

Location: Chisholm Street (between Second and Third Ave)

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
0.14	Mini-Park	3	This facility is barrier free.

Description

Pocket Park is located between Second and Third Ave. It contains a walkway, benches, and plantings. A small portion of this park is leased by a local restaurant to provide outdoor dining. This park is maintained by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA).





## 17

**RIVERSIDE SKATE PARK / WATER TOWER PARK**

Location: Ninth Avenue (near the Ninth Avenue Bridge)

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
5.9	Special Use Park	4	This facility is barrier-free.

**Description**

Riverside Skate Park/Water Tower Park is located on Ninth Avenue near the Ninth Avenue Bridge. A collaborative effort between a skateboarding/in-line skating group, concerned citizens, and the City resulted in the development of this community recreational skateboarding park. The project began in 1997 by a group of area youth involved in Get Excited And Rally (GEAR), with the help of many community supporters. As the proposal gained recognition, committees were formed and public information sessions were held. In the spring of 1998, this well-planned project resulted in the selection of Water Tower Park on Ninth Avenue as the location for the skateboarding facility. With youth and adults working together, the central location of Water Tower Park provides recreational opportunities for skateboarding and in-line skating. Stunt bikes are not allowed at the facility. Although the park is youth-oriented, it provides all residents of the City of Alpena with the opportunity to participate in this popular activity in a safe and user-friendly environment. A second mini-skate park for beginners was constructed in 2006.

In 2006, with the assistance of a grant from the MDEQ, improvements to Water Tower Park were installed. A 10-foot wide section of lighted Bi-Path was extended across the park from Ninth Avenue (which connected to a section of the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Trail that extends to Second Avenue). Additional park improvements undertaken during this project included the construction of a barrier free fishing pier along the waters edge, the installation of an irrigation system and terraced rain garden (to control runoff to the river – see photos on following page), landscaping upgrades, and the installation of new picnic tables.





**Rain Garden installed to control runoff to the Thunder Bay River:**



18

ROTARY ISLAND MILL PARK

Location: Between Sixth and Seventh Streets (on the Thunder Bay River)

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
1.7	Mini-Park (Private Park with Granted Public Access)	4	This facility is barrier-free.

Description

Rotary Island Mill Park is located in the Thunder Bay River between Sixth and Seventh Streets. Owned by the Rotary Club of Alpena, this park was developed for recreational use with fishing sites and pathways. In 2007, a pedestrian bridge linking the island to the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Trail was installed. This bridge established a connected, non-motorized pathway to both sides of the Thunder Bay River. It also effectively integrated the island into the City park system. A pavilion, benches, and picnic tables are available. In 2008, the Rotary Club signed a maintenance agreement with the City of Alpena whereas the City will maintain specified improvements on the island in exchange for a public access easement across the island.





**19****STARLITE BEACH**

Location: State Avenue (between Mason and Bingham)

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
8.5	Community Park	4	This facility is barrier-free.

**Description**

Starlite Beach is an approximately 8.5-acre park located along State Avenue between Mason and Bingham Streets. It is one of the premier, and most popular, parks in the City of Alpena. The park offers many features such as: a large sandy beach on Lake Huron, with a beach ramp to offer barrier free access, a beach promenade with sitting wall, three large barrier free playground structures and two small children's playground structures, new modern barrier free restroom facility, new barrier free pavilion, and a barrier free splash pad. There is paved off street parking and sections of the City's Bi-Path run through the park along the Lake Huron Shoreline. There is also a large picnic/open area and benches, picnic tables, and sun shelters throughout the park.

Many of the facilities and amenities were installed as part of an approximately \$4-million improvement project designed to make Starlite Beach a premier all-season destination. The park is within easy walking distance of several restaurants and fast food establishments, many retail stores, a miniature golf course, and several other City parks.







**20****SOUTH RIVERFRONT PARK**

Location: South side of the River (within the City's downtown Area)

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
1.7	Mini-Park	4	This facility is barrier-free.

**Description**

South Riverfront Park located on the south side of the River within the City's downtown area, behind the former Alpena Power Company building, Federal Building, and Memorial Hall. With approximately 850 feet of Thunder Bay River frontage, the site consists of three parcels of land.

The first parcel, owned by the City, is located directly behind Memorial Hall. Uses of this site include dock fishing, passive recreation and broadside moorage for larger watercraft. The second parcel, owned by a private individual, is directly behind the Federal Building. A partial easement has been granted to the City for passive recreational use; including dock fishing, and an open green space area. Broadside moorage exists for federally-operated vessels. The third parcel, owned by the City, is located directly behind the former Alpena Power Company building.

In 2005, the amenities of the entire park were upgraded with grant funds received from the state's Cool Cities Pilot Program. A colored, stenciled concrete walkway, the first phase of the City's historic Riverwalk, was constructed. Wrought iron safety railing was installed along the head pier and an irrigation system was installed throughout the park. Historic-style pedestrian lights, gazebo, drinking fountain, and wrought iron benches were also installed. Historic markers detailing the history and use of the Thunder Bay River were developed in partnership with the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve and installed along the new walkway.

Recreational uses of this park include dock fishing, broadside moorage of watercraft and passive recreation.





**21****THOMSON PARK**

Location: State Avenue on Lake Huron (between Starlite Beach and Bay View Park)

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
0.81	Neighborhood Park	1	This facility is not barrier-free. No barrier-free picnic tables are present within the park and there is no barrier-free access to the beach or lake.

**Description**

Thomson Park located on State Avenue on Lake Huron, midway between Starlite Beach and Bay View Park. With 160 feet of Thunder Bay frontage, this park has an excellent swimming beach, which is used quite heavily. Several picnic tables and a bike rack are available. A portable restroom facility is placed at the park during the summer months.



**22****VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK**

Location: Washington and Second Avenue

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
0.06	Mini-Park	4	This facility is barrier-free.

**Description**

Veteran's Memorial Park is another small "pocket park" located at Washington and Second Avenue in downtown Alpena. It contains benches and a memorial to local veterans.





23

WASHINGTON AVENUE PARK

Location: Washington Avenue (at Eleventh Avenue)

Size (acres)	Purpose/Use	Accessibility Rating	Accessibility Notes
3.8	Neighborhood Park	4	This facility is barrier-free.

Description

Washington Avenue Park located on Washington Ave. at Eleventh Ave. This 3.8-acre park has 1,650 feet of scenic frontage on the Thunder Bay River. Picnic tables, an area for rest, fishing access and off-street parking are available. This park is also a gathering place for wildfowl.





DNR RECREATION GRANT INVENTORY					
YEAR	GRANT #	PARK NAME	ITEMS	STATUS	GRANT AMOUNT
1977	26-00985	Mich-e-ke-wis Park	7,000 ft <sup>2</sup> Park Shelter	Closed	\$116,500
1978	26-01060Y	McRae park	Little league field, paved parking, restroom and concession building, landscaping	Closed	\$32,000
1978	26-00842	Riverfront Park	Acquire 2.28 acres of land for public outdoor recreation.	Closed	\$37,288
1982	TF596	Wildlife Sanctuary	Acquire 17-acre island on the Thunder Bay River within the 450-acre Wildlife Sanctuary.	Closed	\$237,500
1983	26-01265	Starlite Beach	Develop entrance area, roadside park, entrance road and paved parking lot, bicycle/pedestrian trail, picnic area, landscaping.	Closed	\$65,000
1984	TF768	Thunder Bay River mouth	Acquire 6.5 acres at the mouth of the Thunder Bay river and Lake Huron. Staging area for underwater park.	Withdrawn	\$720,000
1985	26-01379	North Riverfront Park	Boat launch with paved parking and landscaping	Closed	\$84,000
1987	TF87-016	Small Boat Harbor	Construct new floating dock main pier with 12 finger piers.	Closed	\$80,000
1989	BF89-642	Bay View Park	New parking area, concrete picnic tables, park id and directional signs, concrete sidewalks/bike path, trees, lawn area in front of Bandshell to provide slope.	Closed	\$75,000
1992	TF92-299	Thunder Bay River	Develop hard surface nature trails and pathways, boardwalks, docks, bridge, landscaping and picnic tables.	Closed	\$195,000
1995	TF95-180	River Plan – Phase 2	Pathway system along south side of river, improvements to Island Park and adjoining roadside park.	Closed	\$279,800
1999	TF99-353	Harbor Breakwall Walkway Extension	Develop 700 linear foot extension of walkway atop the harbor break wall, including railing, pedestrian lighting, fishing platform, and benches.	Closed	\$155,685
2000	TF00-275	Harbor Breakwall Walkway Extension	650 linear foot extension of concrete walkway atop the harbor break wall to its terminus, including railing, pedestrian lighting, fishing platform, and benches.	Closed	\$153,481
2005	TF05-014	North Riverfront Park Heritage Improvements	Walkways, parking, pavilions, lighting, irrigation, and site amenities.	Closed	\$214,500

2007	TF07-023	Starlite Beach Promenade Facilities Project	Picnic pavilion, restroom/storage/concession building, walkway, utilities, landscaping, & site amenities at Starlite Beach on Thunder Bay	Closed	\$443,300
2013	TF13-022	NEST Alpena Regional Trailhead	Develop year-round trailhead along North Eastern State Trail. Restroom/ storage building, pavilion, paved parking lot, snowmobile parking, access paths, drinking fountain, landscaping, all necessary site amenities, security lighting & camera.	Closed	\$245,000
2016	TF16-0174	Starlite Beach Splash Pad and Beach Improvements	Develop a new splash park, access pathways, sun shelters with picnic tables, shoreline sitting wall, landscaping, and a beach ramp to allow persons with mobility issues to access the beach and shoreline. The splash park consists of a number of water features designed for visitors from toddlers to adults.	Closed	\$430,000
2021	TF21-0168	Bay View Park Restroom and Pavilion	Development of restroom facilities to support events and activities at Bay View Park, including the band shell, kiddie park and tennis and basketball courts. This will also provide additional facilities for events and activities downtown and at the marina.	PA Executed	\$300,000
2022	26-01884	Duck Park Development of Pavilion and Restrooms	Access Pathway 5' - 6' wide; Bench(es); Landscaping; Lighting; Pavilion Including Restroom; Utilities	NPS Approval Pending	\$150,000
2022	RP22-0078	Mich-e-ke-wis Park Beach Volleyball Courts	The project would relocate current volleyball courts upland from their current location to address current flooding concerns. The plan also adds two additional courts to meet public demand and provide much needed parking and access upgrades to service not only the courts, but the nearby farmers market and outdoor recreation visitors also utilizing the park.	PA Executed	\$150,000
<b>Post-Completion Self Certification Reports have been uploaded to DNR</b>					



# Other Area Recreational Properties

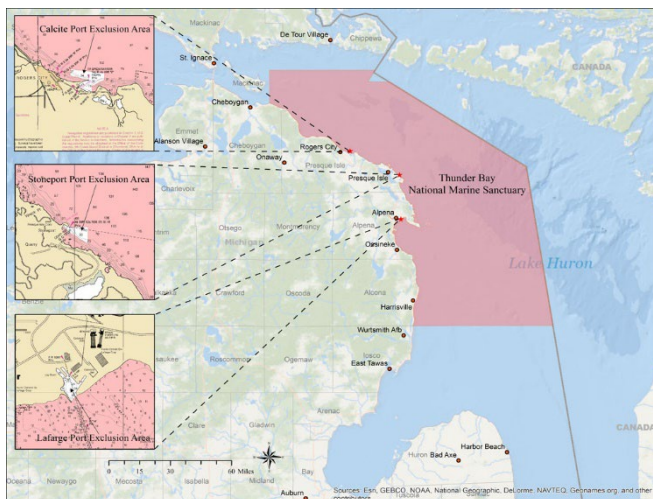
## Maritime Facilities in Alpena County

### Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve

In October 2000, the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve was designated as the nation's first freshwater sanctuary. The 4,300-square mile sanctuary and underwater preserve is located in Thunder Bay off the coast of Alpena County, Alcona County, and Presque Isle County. Its boundaries extend from the north Presque Isle County line to the south Alcona County line and east to the Canadian boundary. Not only is the Sanctuary/Preserve the first freshwater sanctuary, but it is also the first sanctuary to focus solely on a large collection of underwater cultural

- Diving: charter, recreational and commercial
- Fishing: charter, recreational, and commercial
- Boating: recreational and commercial
- Research
- Education

The NOAA protects and manages sanctuaries through the National Marine and Sanctuary System (NMSS). Because the Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary and Preserve is entirely within Michigan waters, a Joint Management Committee was established with NOAA and the State participating as equal partners. The involvement of communities and the development of a stewardship ethic in the community is vitally important to the protection of sanctuary resources. To help facilitate community stewardship, a Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) is established which is supported by NMSS. The 15-member council consists of local members from the community representing a variety of disciplines, interests, and political subdivisions. Members are appointed by the director of NMSS and mutually agreed upon by NOAA and the State of Michigan. The primary duties of the SAC are to provide recommendations to NOAA and the State of Michigan concerning sanctuary development and to advise the Sanctuary/Preserve manager about management issues. Sanctuary/Preserve activities will focus on resource protection, education, and research. Priority activities include placing mooring buoys at identified shipwrecks, initiating an inventory and documentation of shipwrecks, and developing a maritime heritage education program.



resources and the first sanctuary to be located entirely within state waters.

The focus of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve is on understanding the region's "maritime cultural landscape." While the shipwrecks of the Thunder Bay region are the most obvious underwater cultural resource, the sanctuary puts the shipwrecks in the larger context of the region's lighthouses, lifesaving stations, shipwreck salvage operations, and maritime economic activities.

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve encourages and promotes recreational activities that include:

The Thunder Bay Sanctuary/Preserve Maritime Heritage Center has been developed in a refurbished building within the old Fletcher Paper Mill property along the Thunder Bay River. The museum, education, and research center generate considerable activity and have become a major tourism focal point in the City of Alpena.

### Thunder Bay Island

Thunder Bay Island consists of 215 acres of which the Charter Township of Alpena owns 43.08 acres. Thunder Bay Island sits four miles offshore from North Point in Alpena County at the northern edge of Thunder Bay. The Island is the outermost island in a group of islands connected to the north point of Thunder Bay by a shallow bank of numerous rocks, most of which are submerged. This 215-acre Island is composed of limestone bedrock and is covered with large boulders and gravel. A thin layer of soil supports a wide variety of plants and the absence of deer allows vegetation to grow without being browsed. The island is an important nesting site for a variety of bird species. Free from major carnivores, except the raccoon, large colonies of ring-billed gulls, common terns, herring gulls, and caspian terns can be found raising their young on the island. Federal land use regulations apply to the island and wildlife and wildlife habitats are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

One of the oldest light stations on Lake Huron is located on Thunder Bay Island. The light tower was first constructed in 1832 and was built to warn mariners of the dangerous reefs extending from the island. The lighthouse was built on the SE tip of the island with a tower of stucco-covered brick, and a spiral staircase. In

1857 it was raised 10 feet and a fog signal was added. The light keepers' quarters are attached. From 1832 to 1939 the Station was run by the U. S. Lighthouse Service, thereafter the U. S. Coast Guard manned it until it was automated in 1983. The facility is currently undergoing restoration by the Thunder Bay Island Lighthouse Preservation Society.

Squatters were attracted to the federally-owned island and by 1845, a large fishing community thrived there. One hundred and sixty people lived on the island with thirty-one fishing boats harvesting twelve thousand barrels of fish each year. Faced with government action to remove them from the island, the trespassers picked up their belongings and relocated to nearby Sugar Island, where they stayed for years. At the present time, the most immediate concern for the Island is the rehabilitation of the lighthouse. Repairs are needed to keep the structure sound and restoration would be needed prior to public viewing. The Charter Township of Alpena received a land patent from the Bureau of Land Management in October of 2014 for the southern 43.08 acres containing all of the remaining structures including the light tower, keepers' quarters, fog signal building, and oil building (storage).

### Middle Island Lighthouse

Middle Island Lighthouse is located on Middle Island in Lake Huron, approximately 1.5 miles east of Rockport, and is operated by the Coast Guard. The rest of the

island, the lighthouse keeper's quarters, two privies, and a tool shed are privately owned and are currently being restored.

## State of Michigan Facilities

**Rockport State Recreation Area** is located in the northeast corner of Alpena County and the southeast corner of Presque Isle County. This 4,247-acre recreation area also contains Besser Natural Area. The park houses unique sinkholes, a deep water protected harbor, a 300-acre old limestone quarry, a boat launch, a picnic area, and an outhouse. The park also contains over 23 miles of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails.

**Negwegon State Park** consists of approximately 1,720 acres in Alpena County and an additional 1,265 acres is located in Alcona County. The park is a day-use

facility with hiking trails, parking, and pit toilets, which are located in Alcona County.

### Thunder Bay River State Forest Campground

is located six miles south of M-32 on Indian Reserve Road. Owned by the State of Michigan, this campground is situated in the Mackinaw State Forest on the Thunder Bay River. It covers 20 acres of land and has 17 rustic campsites, well water, picnic tables, fire rings, toilets, and a picnic area. This campground offers opportunities for canoeing, fishing, and wildlife viewing. Also, hiking and mountain biking are available on the



1.5-mile Wah-Wah-Tas-See Pathway.

**Ossineke State Forest Campground** is located on the shore of Lake Huron. It has 42 campsites, picnic tables, fire pits, water pumps, and eight toilets. A small picnic area has four tables, fire pits, and grills. The campground also has a non-motorized hiking trail and a sandy beach. There is no boat launch site.

**Devil's Lake Wildlife Flooding Area** is located around Devil's Lake. This site is owned by the MDNR and although it remains undeveloped, it is of interest to those who enjoy nature and wildlife observation in a quiet setting.

**A Public Access Site is located at Partridge Point** in Sections 10 and 11 of T30N, R8E. Owned by the MDNR, this site provides access to the waters of Thunder Bay in Lake Huron.

**Fletcher Pond DNR Public Access** to Fletcher Pond is located off Jack's Landing Road on Fishing Site Road. This site consists of approximately 10 acres and

is owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. It has a boat launching ramp, a fishing site, a comfort station, and a parking area.

**Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Boat Launch Site** is located off of East Nicholson Hill Road on the shore of Lake Huron. Owned by the MDNR, this four-acre site has one concrete ramp for shallow draft boats. With a parking area for 30 cars, this site would normally receive medium to heavy use, however, due to the low water levels, this launch has not been used.

**Mackinaw State Forest** is located in multiple townships. Covering 7,000 acres, this State forest is designated for multipurpose recreational and forestry use. Hunting is the primary recreation with hiking and nature observation opportunities also available.

**Indian Reserve Devils Lake Parking Lot** provides parking for trail users in the area (snowmobile, hiking, biking, skiing, and horse).

## State of Michigan Trails

Nonmotorized and motorized trails are promoted in northern Michigan through the **Up North Trails** website. All trails whether they are motorized or non-motorized are depicted on an interactive map. Descriptions of the trail as well as the legal trail uses are included on this map. This site can be viewed at [www.upnorthtrails.org](http://www.upnorthtrails.org).

**Norway Ridge Pathway** is located 4.5 miles southwest of the City of Alpena, in the eastern portion of Wilson Township and the western portion of Alpena Charter Township. As part of the Mackinaw State Forest, the pathway has 4.5 miles of groomed trails and is owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The Thunder Bay Trails Association assists with trail maintenance and improvement. Recreation opportunities include cross-country skiing during the winter months and mountain biking/hiking during the spring, summer, and fall. The trailhead for the Norway Ridge Pathway is off Werth Road.

**Chippewa Hills Pathway** is located approximately 11 miles west of Ossineke on Nicholson Hill Road in the Mackinaw State Forest. It is one of the best-groomed cross-country ski trails in northeastern Michigan. It is also open to mountain biking, following a roller-coaster route through cedar swamps and dense trees. For the most part, it is high and dry and mostly singletrack. The path, like most other Michigan cross-country pathways, is amply marked and relatively hazard-free, except for a few sandy patches.

**The North Eastern State Trail (NEST)** was completed in 2011. Users can walk, bicycle, horseback ride, or snowmobile 71 miles from Alpena to Cheboygan. The trail runs from Woodward Avenue in the City of Alpena to Lincoln Street in the City of Cheboygan where it merges with the North Central State Trail which runs south 45 miles to Gaylord or northwest 16 miles to Mackinaw City. The NEST has a 10' wide packed crushed limestone surface with two-foot

shoulders, new safety signs, access control features, and mile marker posts. The trail use, determined by the DNR, is for all non-motorized users year-round and snowmobiles from December 1 through March 31. This project was a collaboration between two state departments, local governments, and a non-profit organization. The Top of Michigan Trails Council (TOMTC) led the effort to help assemble a 3.1 million dollar funding package which included gaining 5% of the project costs from local governments, individuals, and organizations. The Michigan Department of Transportation completed the engineering and project oversight while the Michigan Department of Natural Resources oversaw the project implementation and will continue to manage and maintain the facility. The trail now creates a link across northeast Michigan on the former Detroit to Mackinaw Railroad connecting Alpena, Posen, Hawks, Millersburg, Onaway, Aloha, and Cheboygan.

**The Alpena to Hillman Trail** (also known as the Paxon Spur) is an abandoned rail grade that is 22.3

miles long, connecting the City of Alpena to the Village of Hillman. The trail offers opportunities for snowmobiles, hiking, and mountain biking (some sections are impassable for mountain bikers). The trail is groomed in the winter months by the Alpena Sno-Drifters. The surface is crushed limestone from Bagley Street to M-32 in Herron. The remainder of the trail is dirt, cinder, and ballast, and is not currently ADA-accessible. There are gates on the trail and they are closed and locked during the summer months. The trails are still open for non-motorized use, but the user must enter around the gates. There is a private elk farm right along the trail where users can view the elk.

**Devil's Lake Snowmobile Trail and Devil's Swamp Snowmobile Trail** are located off Werth Road. These trails circle the length of Devil's Lake and include 26 miles of the Mackinaw State Forest. MDNR owns this land and has developed it for recreational use. The snowmobile trails are maintained by the Alpena Snowmobile Association.

### Trails Partnership Action Items:

Some action items for a potential partnership include:

1. Improvements and surfacing of the Alpena to Hillman Rail Trail to allow for expanded year-round non-motorized transportation. This would mirror the North Eastern State Trail, which still supports snowmobile usage during months with adequate snow cover.
2. Add amenities and access points along the NEST.
3. Improve the surface and accessibility of the Alpena to Hillman Trail.
4. Add amenities, trailhead, and access points along the Alpena to Hillman Trail.

## Alpena City Housing Commission

The Alpena City Housing Commission has two neighborhood parks under its jurisdiction. The **Kurrasch Park** is a 1.48-acre neighborhood park located on Fourth Ave. Only partially developed, the park has limited playground equipment and an open

field area. The housing commission office building is situated on the property and has a community room that is suitable for many indoor recreational activities. The **Eleventh Avenue Park** has a playground utilized by area children.

## Alpena County-Owned Recreational Facilities

**Alpena County Fairgrounds** are located on Eleventh Avenue between Charlotte Street and Tawas Street. Situated on 33 acres, this property includes 2,700 feet of Thunder Bay River frontage. Water and sewer services are provided by the City of Alpena.

Livestock barns are available for annual fair events. Facilities including camping, playground, electricity, picnic tables, sanitary dump stations, restrooms showers, indoor shelter and storage building, grandstand, portable bleachers, arena and barn,



racetrack, green space, horseshoe courts, fishing area, and two boat lanuches.

**Alpena Plaza Pool** is located at Alpena High School, 3303 South Third Avenue. The pool building measures 130 feet x 110 feet. The pool can accommodate six lanes, 25 yards long, for swim competition. This pool is located in a centrally accessible area and is the only municipal indoor swimming pool in the County. In addition to being used by high school students and the public, it is a major source of school training and team competition. Senior citizens and area youth also use the pool for family-oriented activities. The pool can be rented for birthday parties. A full-time director schedules and/or supervises all pool activities which includes many swim programs.

**Tennis Courts** are located on the grounds of Alpena High School next to the pool building. These four courts are used by students and the public for casual recreation and organized team competition. Recent updates include resurfacing and spectator seating installed.

**Long Lake Park/Campground** is located ten miles north of Alpena, one-half mile off U.S. 23. Situated on the east side of Long Lake, this county park occupies 68 acres. A total of 105 campsites are adjacent to the 5,652 acres of water that make up Long Lake. Water and electricity are available at 80 of these sites with the other 25 sites considered primitive. Park facilities include restrooms/showers, a dumping station, a store, a concrete boat ramp, three docks, nature trails, one pavilion (with electricity), picnic tables, two playgrounds, basketball (1/2 court), three horseshoe pits, two swimming beaches, and outdoor trailer storage. Long Lake Park is open from May 1 to October 15. Camping is permitted after October 1st until November 1st on a daily rate schedule. A park caretaker is on-site. At the time of the writing of this plan, construction has begun on a new boat launch and a day-use area with picnic tables..

**Sunken Lake Park/Campground** is located on Fletcher Park Road at the Presque Isle County line. Adjacent to Sunken Lake's 50 acres of water, this park offers camping, fishing, boating, swimming, and a children's playground. A day-use area has picnic tables, grills, playground equipment, and a pavilion. A covered footbridge provides access to an island with nature trails. The camping area offers 60 trailer campsites with

water and electricity available. All campsites have picnic tables. There is a bathroom with showers, a dumping station, a boat ramp and dock, a fish cleaning station, a store, and playground equipment. A park caretaker is on-site.

**Beaver Lake Park/Campground** is located 1.2 miles west of M-65 on Beaver Lake Park Road. This county park is situated on 8.19 acres adjacent to Beaver Lake. With a dam to control lake levels, this natural lake covers 665 acres and offers area residents many water-related recreational opportunities. Swimming, boating, and fishing for pike, bass, and pan fish are popular summertime activities. A pavilion, children's playground, and a fenced-in spring separate the boat launch and camping area from the day-use area. The day-use area provides an open space with picnic tables, swings, and a swimming beach. Overnight camping is available and a park caretaker is on-site. A paved boat launch area, teen center, basketball court, volleyball court, benches, picnic tables, and rentable pavilion are also available.

**Manning Hill Park** is located in Lachine on M-32 near the junction of M-65. Situated on one of the highest points in Alpena County, this two-acre site offers a scenic area with a panoramic view of the surrounding countryside. The historic lookout tower has been removed and an easily accessible observation deck and restrooms have been constructed on the former tower pad. A pavilion, gazebo, four picnic tables, four benches, and three grills provide area residents and visitors with summer recreational opportunities. Electricity has been installed as well as a drinking fountain. A 16'x16' viewing tower has been constructed to provide visitors with spectacular views. An ADA-compliant sidewalk exists between the pavilion and the driveway, continuing to the highest platform, and returning to the parking lot. Sledding is a popular winter activity on the property adjacent to this park. The park improvements and maintenance are undertaken by Green Township in partnership with Alpena County as well as local residents.

**Northern Lights Arena** Northern Lights Arena is a twin-sheet ice facility adjacent to the APlex. It has two NHL regulation-size ice surfaces and is home to the Alpena High School Wildcats, Alpena Hockey Association, Alpena Speed Skating Club, Alpena General Men's Hockey League, Alpena Men's Senior Hockey

League, Carhardt Senior Hockey League, Alpena Figure Skating Club, and NLA R/C Vehicle Club. The arena has seating for 900, two concession stands, a pro shop, an indoor walking/jogging track, exercise/fitness rooms, and common areas in the lobby. The 85' x 200' ice rink

is large enough to host American Speed Skating Union sanctioned events and will have enough space for figure skaters to practice and perform in front of an audience. The Thunder Bay Soccer Association soccer fields are located north of the Arena.

## Charter Township of Alpena-Owned Recreational Facilities

The **William Desormeau Complex – Alpena Huron Shore Little League Fields** are located behind the township municipal building at 4385 U.S. 23 North. Current facilities consist of four regulation Little League ball diamonds, bleachers, two batting cages, new dugouts, new fencing and backstops, scoreboards, restroom/concession building, picnic tables, storage building, well house, two automatic sprinkling systems to maintain the fields, a playground, a maintenance garage, fencing, and an enlarged parking area with handicap accessibility. Alpena Huron Shore Little League maintains the ball fields and pays all costs to operate the facility. The facility is not only used for local Little League activities but is a site for regional tournament games.

A **public access site** is located on 0.8 acre of land at the Weiss Road Bridge in Section 23 of T32N, R8E. The Narrows of Long Lake Creek flow beneath this bridge and the Township Fire Department uses this site to fill water tanks on the fire trucks. An informal boat launch is formed by a graveled slope to the water.

The **Charter Township of Alpena Office Building** is located at 4385 U.S. 23 North. It contains offices of the Building Department, Clerk, Treasurer, and Supervisor. The Northside Station of the Township Fire Department is also located at this facility.

**Misery Bay Nature Preserve** is located in Section 15 of T31N-R9E and consists of approximately 140 acres with 10,000 feet of Lake Huron Shoreline. The Nature Conservancy partnered with the Charter Township of Alpena in acquiring this property to preserve it from extensive lakeshore development and

to provide public access to unique natural resources. The property is used for low-impact outdoor recreation and enjoyment of the rich coastal resources. Important natural resources on the property include karst geologic features in and around El Cajon Bay, coastal fens, coastal marshes, dwarf lake iris, shore birds, and migratory birds. The Michigan Natural Features Inventory has identified a number of threatened and endangered plants and animals on the property. A group of stewards has made improvements at the preserve including a parking lot, trails, signage, a boot brush stand, kiosk, entrance sign, and benches. In addition, the waters off this property are part of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve. Scuba diving is discouraged and not permitted without contacting the Township.

**Old Piper School** is a building which is currently leased on a long-term basis to the Northeast Michigan Alano Club and is located on Piper Road, just off Werth Road in Section 32 of T31N-R8E, and is situated on just over one acre.

**Thunder Bay Island** consists of 215 acres of which the Charter Township of Alpena owns 43.08. The island is home to the Thunder Bay Island Lighthouse and adjacent lightkeeper's quarters. The lighthouse was the third operating lighthouse in Lake Huron and was built in 1831. Thunder Bay Island is located approximately 3 ½ miles offshore from North Point, latitude 45 02 15, longitude 83 11 38. The island is the outermost island in a group of islands, connected to the north point of Thunder Bay by a shallow bank of numerous rocks, most of which are submerged.



## Green Township-Owned Recreational Facilities

**Green Township Hall** is located on 11 acres at the junction of M-32 and M-65 adjacent to the ball field. The hall has cooking facilities, restrooms, and a meeting room. The Hall has the capacity to accommodate 100-150 people and is available for rent year-round. There is a basketball court, swings, grill, slide, merry-go-round, tether ball pole, volleyball court, and picnic tables at the Township Hall. A pavilion has been constructed.

Additional property was purchased to expand the grounds and facilities; a second driveway was put in along with an additional parking area. Plans for further parking expansion are being made. **Green Township Ball Park** is located at the junction of M-32 and M-65 and adjoins the Township Hall. The ball field is fenced and has backstops and two dugouts. It could be used for T-Ball, Little League, and softball.

## Long Rapids Township-Owned Recreational Facilities

**Long Rapids Park** is located on the Thunder Bay River just south of Long Rapids Road off M-65. The 10-acre natural area is primarily used as a canoe launch. It also serves as a scenic roadside park with a picnic site and outdoor toilet facilities. **Long Rapids Township Hall** is located on M-65 in Long Rapids approximately 3 miles north of M-32. This building has a capacity of

400-500 people with meeting rooms, cooking facilities, and a gymnasium with a basketball court. In the winter months, an area outside the building is flooded for use as an ice rink. For more convenient use of the facility, an elevator is being considered to allow easier handicapped access. The hall is available for rent by community residents for social and recreational activities.

## Maple Ridge Township-Owned Recreational Facilities

**Maple Ridge Township Park** is located on the west side of LaComb Road on the North Branch of the Thunder Bay River. It is comprised of 45 rustic acres with picnic grounds, hiking trails, and a canoe launch. A popular attraction is the picturesque wooden bridge that leads to an island area. Recent improvements to the park include a newly constructed pavilion and additional playground equipment. Other playground equipment includes a teeter-totter and a large sanded area. Outdoor toilet facilities are available. Although there is no electricity at the park, improvement plans include the addition of power lines. **Maple Ridge Ball Park** is located on Cathro Road in Cathro. This township ballpark is used by residents and ball clubs. The facility

includes two dugouts, a backstop, bleachers and fencing.

**Maple Ridge Township Hall** is located at 6010 LaComb Road at the intersection of Dietz Road. Facilities include a meeting room, restrooms, and a basement kitchen/eating area. A bar area and a separate dance floor are located on the ground floor. The hall is available for rent and can accommodate 150-200 people. Maple Ridge Township offices are located at 6000 LaComb Road. The office is attached to the Township Hall and provides office space for Township officials.

## Ossineke Township-Owned Recreational Facilities

**Ossineke Township Hall** is located on 1.86 acres at the intersection of Wolf Creek Road and Nicholson Hill Road. Although it is used for public meetings and other community functions, the Hall is also available for private rental. Complete kitchen facilities are available for banquets and social activities. Folding tables and chairs are included in the rental charges. **Hubbard**

**Lake Lion's Park** is located 0.3 miles north of Hubert Road on Hubbard Lake Road. The 8.1-acre park has the following facilities: two ball diamonds, a horseshoe pit, a playground, a basketball court, a double tennis court, picnic tables, restrooms, a walk-in cooler, a water well, a pavilion, and an asphalt driveway. A 99-year lease between the Township and the Lions Club has made an additional 5.2 acres adjacent to the park available for

park use. Reservations for community and social events are accepted for the pavilion.

## Sanborn Township-Owned Recreational Facilities

Located off Lake Street on Lake Huron, **Sanborn Park Beach** (also known as Ossineke Park) has a widely used swimming area with a sandy beach but no boat launch site. The park, which is a day-use area, includes a pavilion, picnic tables and grills, playground equipment, changing rooms, and restrooms in the form of a permanent pit toilet in a block building. No running water is available at the site. Parking is available in a paved parking lot that meets ADA standards; the park is fenced. In addition, an adjacent parcel acquired by the township from the MDNR through a twenty-five year lease agreement greatly increases the township's recreational capabilities at this expanded location. A grant was obtained from the Alpena County Youth and Recreation Committee to add and remove playground equipment, add a half-court basketball court, volleyball court, ADA walkway and swing, clean up the site, add picnic tables and grills, and repair and paint the pavilion.

**Shin-ga-ba-shores** is located on Ossineke Road off of U.S. 23 South and adjacent to the Baseball Fields and was constructed in 1998 with community support and donations. The playground consists of 8,500 square feet of playground equipment that was designed by the children and is a real asset to the Ossineke area. A 26-foot totem pole was added along with picnic tables and a brick walkway with names was installed in 2002. The community maintains the equipment on a yearly basis to keep it looking new.

**Little League Ball Fields** are located at the intersection of U.S. 23 and Ossineke Road. Maintained by Alpena Huron Shores Little League and Ossineke Baseball Association, they are used by the Alpena

County Baseball leagues and casual baseball teams. One field is fenced, while temporary fencing is used for the other field. Both fields include a backstop, dugouts, and bleachers. Other site amenities include a storage building, batting cage, a concession stand, and a broadcast booth. Off-road parking and two restrooms are provided. A horseshoe pit is also available. This area receives heavy use by the baseball leagues and also by family/friends groups during the summer season.

The **Sanborn Township Hall** is located adjacent to Ossineke Chamber Hall to the south. The combined lot size is 236' X 120' X 217.51' X 247.7'. There are plans to renovate part of the building (the former BoJim building) into a community center. At the southwest corner of US 23 and Nicholson Hill Road, a **statue of Paul Bunyan and Babe** makes this wooded area adjacent to the school property a popular photo spot. In addition, picnic tables are available.

The **Sanborn Township Launch Site** is located near the mouth of the Devil's River off Washington Avenue and is approximately 3.5 acres. There are paved parking facilities for cars/trailers in addition to pit toilets. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources acquired property adjacent to this site. Sanborn Township owns the site and leases it to the DNR which has completed improvements to the site. Also, at the **north end of Beebe Road**, lakefront lots have parking improvements and picnic tables. The **Lake Street Fishing Platform** is a 66-foot wide river-front lot located adjacent to Sanborn Park Beach. The park includes benches, a vault toilet, ADA-compliant sidewalks, parking, and a fishing platform.

## Wellington Township-Owned Recreational Facilities

**Wellington Township Hall** is located on .5 acres of land at the intersection of Long Rapids Road and

Collins Road. Used for public meeting and social events, the hall is available for rent.

## Wilson Township-Owned Recreational Facilities

**Wolf Creek Park** is located off Wolf Creek Road and consists of the old Wolf Creek Road right-of-way which

varies in width. There are two areas where the right-of-way widens to 100' X 100' both north and south of Wolf

Creek. A 50' bridge spans the river. The park contains a pavilion, vault toilet, and ADA-accessible sidewalks.

**Wilson Township Fire Hall and Township Offices** are located three miles south of M-32 on King

## School Properties

**Alpena Community College**, Main Campus located at 665 Johnson Street. Within the area bounded by U.S. 23, Hamilton Road, Long Lake Avenue, Johnson Street, and/or the Thunder Bay River sprawls 704 acres of property belonging to Alpena Community College. Presently, the central campus buildings are located on this property as well as a 400-acre section devoted to field resource study. An athletic campus features softball fields, nature trails, and a skeet range. The property includes 1,600 feet of Thunder Bay frontage and encompasses a portion of the present BiPath system. Between Long Lake Avenue and Woodward exists a large area of property, part of that is woodland; the rest is open meadow. Alpena Community College extends its philosophy of shared partnership with the community to its land uses and the functions such land should carry out. The potential uses of these lands present the opportunity for joint planning with other community partners who share ACC's vision of what is most needed and what can best utilize the recreational resources of this property. The Bi-Path follows the 1,600 feet of Thunder Bay River frontage along Johnson Street and adjoins the college's main campus. The possibility for other developments utilizing this river frontage is great. Among other options are canoeing, dockage, and other river recreation. The athletic campus contains two men's softball fields, a skeet range, and some nature trails. Expansion of this area offers many possibilities, as does the 400-acre field resource study area.

**Alpena Senior High School (including Aces Academy)** is located at 3303 S. Third Street. This 50-acre site, owned by the Alpena School District, has a natatorium, four tennis courts (both owned by the county); a gymnasium a football stadium; a hardball field; a softball field; two multipurpose fields; an outdoor track, and off-street parking.

**Besser Elementary School** is located at 375 Wilson Street. The four-acre property, owned by the Alpena School District, has a gymnasium, two

Settlement Road. The Township Hall is open all year for community and social functions; the Hall is available for rent with banquet facilities and a dance floor.

youth/women's ball fields, a multi-purpose ball field, a playground, and off-street parking.

**Ella White Elementary School** is located at 201 N. Ripley. This 2.5 site, owned by the Alpena School District, has a gym, one ball field for unorganized play, a basketball court, a playground, and off-street parking.

**Family Partnership Program** is located at 1421 Hobbs Drive in the former Sunset School building. This site contains a playground and ballfield.

**Gordon School Building** is located south of the City on Gordon Road. Owned by the Alpena Public School District, this site has one baseball diamond that is used by the Alpena Huron Shore Little League. A portion of the building serves as administrative offices for the school system and the remaining part of the facility is leased to the Northeast Michigan Community Services Agency.

**Hinks Elementary School**, situated on 39 acres on U.S. 23 North at the south end of Long Lake, is owned by the Alpena Public School District. Recreational facilities on the site include a gymnasium, nature trails, baseball diamond, basketball hoops, a soccer field, and a playground. Although these recreational facilities are principally intended for school use, they are open for public use after school hours.

**Lincoln Elementary School** is located at 309 W. Lake Street. This two-acre site, owned by the Alpena School District, has a gymnasium, a basketball court, a playground, and off-street parking.

**Pied Piper School** is located at 444 Wilson Street in Alpena. The two-acre site has newly installed playground equipment including a mix of adaptive and traditional equipment. In addition, two ball fields exist to the east of the school building.

**Sanborn Elementary School** is located at the



intersection of U.S. 23 and Nicholson Hill Road and is owned by Alpena Public School District. The ball field is fenced and includes a backstop, dugouts, one set of bleachers, two restrooms, a concession stand, and a storage building. Playground equipment includes a jungle gym, a slide, a teeter-totter, two basketball hoops, two swing sets, and a merry-go-round. Double tennis courts with nets and backstops are also provided. Convenient off-road parking invites heavy daytime use during the peak summer season and moderate use, mostly by families and community groups during the off-season.

**Thunder Bay Junior High School** is located at 3500 S. Third Ave. This 77-acre campus is a single-level building, allowing handicapped access to all classrooms. This campus includes a forested outdoor environmental study area with a stream running through the property, two softball fields, a track and field course, a football field, three outdoor basketball courts, four tennis courts, and complete physical education facilities.

**Wilson School** is located at 4999 Herron Road. Owned by the Alpena Public School District, the 10-acre property has a school gymnasium, playground, and athletic fields. Many of the playground structures have been upgraded and safety bark has been installed. Playground structures include three sets of swings, two wooden climbing structures, two metal climbing structures, several slides, a large play structure, tires, a seating area, hanging loops, a funnel ball game, a four-person teeter-totter, learning stations, and a basketball court.

**All Saints School** is located on N 2nd Ave. A fully equipped, fenced children's playground, a basketball court, and off-street parking are available.

**Immanuel Lutheran School** is located at 355 Wilson. The property includes a children's playground, a volleyball court, a youth/women's ball field, a soccer field, and off-street parking.

## Other Recreational Properties & Programs (not municipal-owned)

### City of Alpena

**A-Plex** is located on Woodward Avenue across the street from Alpena Community College's student housing and the World Center for Concrete Technology. The facility has a gymnasium, four indoor tennis courts, a fitness facility, conference space, aerobic areas, as well as a spa & sauna. Initially owned by Besser Company, APlex was gifted in 2005 to the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan. In 2007, the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan granted the facility to the Park Family Foundation, and the Park Family Foundation remains the owner to this day. The APlex is home to the Alpena Tennis Association and has numerous gym rentals for cheerleading/tumbling, karate, basketball, volleyball, baseball, softball, and soccer. Four outdoor beach volleyball courts accommodate league activity. The APlex hosts numerous events, such as trade shows, as well as social occasions.

Street. This community-based group presents live theatre for area residents from September through May. Special summertime presentations are designed for audiences with children. Children are included in the cast. The building is owned by the City and leased to ACT.

**Alpena Yacht Club** is located at 250 Prentiss Street on the Lake Huron shoreline. Situated across from the Small Boat Harbor, this private club provides recreational activities for members/guests. The City of Alpena owns the property and leases it to the Yacht Club.

**Boys and Girls Club of Alpena**, located at 801 Miller Street, is a private, non-profit organization that offers programming, space, and equipment for youth recreational and educational activities.

**Alpena Civic Theatre (ACT)** is located at 401 River

**Besser Museum of Northeast Michigan** is located at 491 Johnson Street. Bounded by Besser Senior Living to the west and Alpena Community College to the east, the museum is an intricate part of many of Alpena's cultural/recreational opportunities. A recent addition is a fossil park that is open spring, summer, and fall.

**Charter Fishing boats** are available through several private contractors from April through October.

**Dive Charters** are available offering sales, dive instruction, air-fills, rentals, repairs, salvage, and dive and snorkel charters.

**Lee's Miniature Golf** is located at 1016 South State Avenue. It has a mini-golf course with putting green. Game machines are provided in the small rental equipment area. This recreational opportunity is available from Memorial Day to Labor Day and is well-lit for evening players.

**Ninth Avenue Dam** is located at the Ninth Avenue Bridge on the Thunder Bay River. Owned by Thunder Bay Power Company, this one-acre site offers fishing access and a parking area.

**Sky Theater Planetarium** is also a permanent part of the Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan. It offers regularly scheduled as well as special showings in a theater-like setting. Available to all area residents over five years of age, the Planetarium is accessed with an admission fee.

**Thunder Bay Theatre** is located at 400 North Second Avenue. Situated in historic downtown Alpena, this professional theatre group presents live productions on a year-round basis. As the only resident professional ensemble in northeast Michigan, the theatre company ranges in size from eight to thirty actors. The theater closed due to a fire in 2020, is currently undergoing a \$1.4M renovation project and is planned to reopen in the fall of 2024.

## Charter Township of Alpena

**Dodge Marina and Storage** is located at 10782 Long Lake Park Road on the southeast side of Long Lake. Recreational opportunities at this facility include paddleboat and outboard motor rentals, fuel, bait, a game room, and a snack bar.

**Thunder Bowl, Inc.** is located at 2192 U.S. 23 South just outside the City limits of Alpena. It features 36 bowling lanes, a snack bar, and a billiard/game room. League times and open bowling opportunities are available all year long.

**Alpena Golf Club** is located at 1135 Golf Course Road on 150 acres of land. Although this club is owned by its members, it is open to the public. It features an 18-hole regulation golf course with irrigated fairways, a driving range, a practice putting green, and rental electric and pull carts. The clubhouse includes a fully equipped kitchen an enlarged dining room and a pro shop. A PGA golf professional is on-site and available for lessons for the beginner and advanced golfer.

**Four Mile Dam** is located on the Thunder Bay River.

It is owned by Thunder Bay Power Company and has three recreation areas in the vicinity of the Dam and all of them are accessible to the public.

- Access Site #1 is located adjacent to the Dam at the end of Four Mile Road. This 2-acre site provides access to fishing with ample parking near the powerhouse. There is canoe portage around the left end of the Dam.
- Access Site #2 is located across the Thunder Bay River from the Dam and provides informal access to the impoundment for fishing opportunities and nature observation
- Access Site #3 is located 0.6 miles to the west of both Site #1 and Site #2. This 6-acre site is accessible to the public from Long Rapids Road and offers fishing opportunities with a boat launch.

**Arzo Amusement Park** located on US-23 North provides miniature golf, bumper cars, a full-size indoor carousel, and other family-related activities.

## Green Township

**Paradise Lodge Resort** is located at 16991 Taylor Hawks Road in Lachine. This privately owned facility offers access to the waters of Fletcher Pond, 75 camping sites (25 with electricity), bathroom facilities, boat rentals, cabin rentals, a playground, and a restaurant.

**Upper South Dam** is located on the Thunder Bay River in T30N, R5E in section 2 of the township. The Thunder Bay Power Company owns the property and provides two sites for public access.

**Moore's Landing Campground** is located at 17120 Moore's Landing Road and offers 20 primitive individual sites.

**Killions Landing** is located at 5428 Emils Landing Road and offers 30 modern individual sites.

**Jacks Landing Resort** is located at 20836 Tennis Road and offers a restaurant, cabin rentals, 30 modern individual sites, and has access to Fletcher's Pond.

**Fletcher's Landing** is located at 5614 Emils Landing Rd. Fletcher's Landing offers waterfront cabins located on the shores of the 9,000-acre fishing paradise that is Fletcher Pond. Accommodations consist of 14 waterfront cabins and duplexes that sleep three to six persons. Each features its own kitchen and private bathroom. Included is dock space, a campfire pit, and

picnic table. A boat launch is available or you can rent boats and motors. A tackle shop is also on-site for fishing supplies.

**Anglers Hideaway** is located at 5883 Miller Road and has access to Fletcher's Pond. The resort has nine cabins and is open year-round.

### Fletcher's Pond - Public Access

- Site A is located on 1 acre of land north of the dam. It offers fishing access and parking in the tailwater (downstream) section. There is also a canoe portage around the dam. Thunder Bay Power Company has continued plans to organize the parking area, provide handicapped accessible toilet facilities and fishing area, and improve the portage area.
- Site B is located on 1 acre of land to the south (upstream) of the dam. It offers an informal boat launch and access to Fletcher's Pond. The parking area and toilet facilities that were developed in 1997 at Site A also provide services for Site B.

**Thunder Bay River access** is located at the corner of M 32 and Calcut Rd.

**Beaver Lake access** is located on O'Brian Rd.

## Long Rapids Township

### Thunder Bay Karst Preserve

The Thunder Bay Karst Preserve combines two adjoining preserves. The Stevens Twin Sinks Preserve is a 31-acre property with two sinkholes separated by a fragile saddle ridge, each about 200 feet in diameter and 85 feet deep. The 2.5-acre Bruski Sink is located across Leer Road w.

The sinkholes are just a few of over 200, which are found in a 50-mile line from Thunder Bay to Black Lake. Long Lake, in the Charter Township of Alpena, is actually a sink. Some of the dry sinkholes in Alpena County range from 100 to 300 feet in diameter and up to 150 feet deep. Because these formations are rare in

most areas, they are of interest to geologists and geographers as well as to casual visitors. Botanists are intrigued by the unusual flora, especially ferns and mosses that occur in the cool and dark climate of the sinks. Since many of the sinkholes are located on private property, visitors should obtain permission from owners before entering the area.

### Mystery Valley Karst Preserve

The 76-acre Mystery Valley Karst Preserve and Nature Sanctuary is located in Presque Isle County (just north of Long Rapids Township) just a few miles north of the Thunder Bay Karst Preserve. It contains one of the largest karst "collapse valleys" in the Great Lakes



region, several dramatic earth cracks, and a lake that rises and falls and sometimes disappears.

Visitors to the preserve can follow two self-guided trails: Earthcrack Trail and Valley Trail. Not surprisingly, Earthcrack Trail passes a series of cracks, including two

that converge into one that's several hundred feet long and nearly 15 feet deep. Following the Valley Trail, visitors can see fossils of marine invertebrates such as brachiopods, bryozoa, and crinoids that lived some 350 million to 400 million years ago.

### Maple Ridge Township

**Campers Cove Campground** is located at 5055 Long Rapids Road on the Thunder Bay River. It offers campsites for tents and recreational vehicles. Some of the sites have electrical hook-ups. This facility has an indoor pool, sauna, game room, mini-golf, and shuffleboard courts. Canoe/paddle boat/kayak rentals, fishing, and swimming opportunities are available. Restrooms and laundry facilities are also on-site.

**Wes Point Shore** is located at 5315 Long Rapids Road on the Thunder Bay River. The facility offers cabins, camping, boat rental, fishing, canoeing, and boating.

**Norway Point (Seven Mile Dam)** is located in section 12, T31N, R7E in the township. Although the property is owned by Thunder Bay Power Company,

there are three sites available for use by the public.

- Site 1 is a one-acre site located upstream from the Dam and offers access to the impoundment. This area is accessible off Long Rapids Road to the west of the Dam on the north side of the Thunder Bay River. This site includes a boat ramp, a restroom, and an area for parking.
- Site 2 is a one-acre site on the north side of the Thunder Bay River at the Dam and offers public access and canoe portage
- Site 3 is a two-acre site on the south side of the Thunder Bay River at the Dam and offers tailwater access and a parking area.

### Ossineke Township

**Turtle Lake Club** is the largest landowner in Ossineke Township, and partially within Green Township. With more than 9,300 acres, the Club owns more property in the township than the State of Michigan. This land covers 14 whole sections in T29N,

R5E, two half sections, and one quarter section. In addition to the entire shoreline of Turtle Lake, the Club owns property in Montmorency County and Oscoda County. As a nonprofit corporation, Turtle Lake Club is the oldest hunting club east of the Mississippi River.

### Sanborn Township

**Dinosaur Gardens** is located at 11160 U.S. 23 South. Situated on 40 acres, the property is split by the Devil's River. This prehistoric zoo features life-size reproductions of over 25 dinosaurs, birds, and other prehistoric animals in a natural outdoor setting. During

the warm summer months, an abundance of ferns, wildflowers, and many types of trees native to Michigan are found along the picturesque woodland trail. An 18-hole miniature golf course, snack bar, and gift shop are also located at this site.

### Wilson Township

**Camp Woodlands Girl Scout Camp** is located three miles south of M-32 on Indian Reserve Road and is surrounded by the Mackinaw State Forest. The camp, owned by the Mitten Bay Girl Scout Council, was

completed in 1958 and has facilities for 36 people including a complete kitchen, three flush toilets, bunk beds, and a large activity room with a fireplace. Camp Woodlands is available for rental and is used for various

activities such as Cub Scout Day Camps. It consists of a main lodge building which has restroom facilities.

**Alpena Sportsmen's Club** is located at 4260 W. M-32. This 120-acre site is privately owned and includes Zim Lake. The 9,000 square foot clubhouse is barrier-free and is equipped with a 16-point indoor shooting range with an approved ventilating/air exchange system. The building also contains a meeting area, kitchen facilities, and indoor restrooms. A maintenance garage, a 100-yard shooting range, a 600-yard rifle range, and sporting clays are also located on the grounds. In addition to club members, the indoor range is also used by local police organizations, 4-H groups, rifle/pistol leagues, and archery leagues. The clubhouse is available for rent for community and social functions with a non-member fee.

**Rivers Edge Golf Club** is located 0.5 miles east of the intersection of Werth Road and Hubbard Lake Road at 6373 Werth Road. Although it is a private club, non-members and guests are welcome. This facility offers an 18-hole golf course with water hazards and wooded terrain. Electric and pull carts are available for rent. A clubhouse with a restaurant, lounge, and private banquet area is situated on this site as well as a driving range, putting green, pro shop, tennis court, and swimming pool.

**The Alpena Snowdrifters** office is located at the intersection of M-32 and Herron Road.

**Alpena Cycle Club** is located three miles south of Werth Road on Spruce Road. It began as a road riding

motorcycle club but has expanded to include events such as a Motocross (four were held in 2007), garden tractor pulls, and a Bump and Run.

**Opal's Landing** is located on M-32 West on the Thunder Bay River. It offers fishing and boat rentals.

**Paxton Shale Quarry** is located at the intersection of M-32 and King Settlement Road. The former quarry is owned by Holcim and future plans are to continue to develop the 600-acre area as a wildlife habitat. The former quarry is now a lake which has been stocked with fish. Holcim employees use the site, and the general public can use the area by making advance arrangements. In 2001, the area received certification from the Wildlife Habitat Council, a nonprofit that promotes habitat preservation on corporate lands.

**Alpena Optimist Club** has established "Optimist Acres" on M-32 at the junction of Herron Road. Located on 43 acres of land donated by LaFarge Corporation (now Holcim), this recreation area is youth-oriented and designed to provide year-round activities. With the Optimist motto "Friend of Youth", this facility offers recreation opportunities that include a 100' x 100' ice skating rink, a pavilion, and a ball diamond. The five-year plan includes an ATV trail, a cross-county running/ski track, a campground area, modern restrooms, portable bleachers, and perimeter fencing.

**PK Fletcher Gun Club** is a Skeet Range owned by P.K. Fletcher is located two miles south of M-32 on Indian Reserve Road.

## Regional

### US 23 Heritage Route

An officially designated *Pure Michigan Byway*, the US 23 Heritage Route extends 200 miles from Standish to Mackinaw City.

The communities and organizations along the route serve on an active Heritage Route Management Council which works toward implementing projects in the US 23 Heritage Route Management Plan. The US 23 program maintains a tourism website ([us23heritageroute.org](http://us23heritageroute.org)) which promotes over 2,000 things to see and do along



the Byway, produces tourism materials for the route, produces short videos as promotional tools, and engages in many other projects contained within the Management Plan. NEMCOG manages the US 23 Heritage Route program as part of a contract with MDOT which oversees and administers the Pure Michigan Byway program.

### Huron Blueways

The Huron Blueways is a 265-mile water trail stretching from the Straits of Mackinac down to Saginaw Bay. The water trail is highlighted on the US 23 Heritage Route. A waterproof paddling atlas has been produced which

displays maps, points of interest, access points, amenities, at each access point, latitude/longitude of access points, and distance between access points.

### Up North Trails

Up North Trails is a public multi-regional collaborative program that maps and promotes all nonmotorized and motorized trail systems in Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. The program is maintained by the regional planning agencies including the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments, Networks Northwest, Eastern U.P. Planning and Development Region, Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission, and the Western

U.P. Planning and Development Region. Recently the Genessee-Lapeer-Shiawassee Planning and Development Committee joined the program. Over 10,000 miles of trails are promoted on [upnorthtrails.org](http://upnorthtrails.org) using interactive trail maps.

### Sunrise Coast Birding Trail

The Sunrise Coast Birding Trail is a 145-mile birding trail along coastal Lake Huron from Oscoda/AuSable to Mackinaw City. With approximately 30 birding trail stops along the coast, it also connects to the Saginaw Bay Birding Trail (142 miles around Saginaw Bay). The birding trail stops are marked with signage and guidebooks are available.



CHAPTER

4

GOALS &  
ACTION PLAN



City of Alpena Recreation Plan

The coastal City of Alpena offers a wide variety of cultural, historical and natural resources. At the heart of the City's aesthetic appeal are Thunder Bay, the Thunder Bay River, and the City's maritime heritage. With well over a dozen scenic parks scattered throughout the City, Alpena provides ample

opportunity for visitors and residents alike to enjoy the unique combination of recreation and maritime resources. Maintaining a healthy park system by implementing improvements, in addition to regular maintenance will enhance the City's popularity as a great place to spend leisure-time hours.

## Shared Goals for Alpena County Municipalities

In 2023, the City of Alpena participated in a coordinated planning effort with Alpena County, the Charter Township of Alpena, Green Township, Ossineke Township, Sanborn Township, and Wilson Township. This included partnering on a joint recreation survey and meeting to discuss shared goals. The following are common goals which are shared amongst the Alpena area municipalities. The goals are based on public input and the demographics of the communities of Alpena County.

- A. Protect, promote, and preserve the communities, natural resources, and jobs of our area.
- B. **COLLABORATION:** Ensure local cooperation and involvement of all local government in the planning, development, maintenance, and promotion of our recreational assets and our natural resources and recognition by all agencies in our area that recreation is fundamental to the quality of life for residents.
  - 1. Be an active partner in regional collaborations by forming a County Recreation Committee to foster communication and coordination between all local units of government and other recreation-related organizations.
  - 2. Collaborate on the sharing of resources to reduce overall maintenance costs and improve efficiencies.
  - 3. Collaborate on common goals regarding the acquisition of new parcels for the expansion of existing facilities or the potential creation of new facilities.
- C. **QUALITY OF LIFE:** Improve the quality of life that is critical to the health of our residents, the business environment, and the attraction of our area to those visiting and considering moving here.
- D. **ACCESS TO RECREATION:** Ensure all people have access to recreation opportunities and facilities regardless of age, sex, income, cultural background, housing environment, or abilities. Continuous improvement and maintenance are crucial for access to recreation.
- E. **PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION:** Preserve and conserve the area's natural resources, and protect them from invasive species and degradation, recognizing that they are critical to the long-term sustainability of outdoor recreational activities and quality of life.
- F. **OUTREACH:** Ensure that area residents are involved in the recreation planning process.
- G. **TRAILS:** Work together to address overall connectivity and walkability by establishing connections between recreational facilities, schools, and key community facilities. See maps showing desired trail connections on pages 4-11 and 4-12.
- H. **WATER TRAILS:** Inventory all lake access sites, expand kayak launch facilities, and provide information/materials with maps showing accesses, amenities, distances, and conditions.
- I. **SIGNAGE:** Implement a coordinated signage program with uniform design for recreational facilities, land trails, and water trails.
- J. **PROMOTION:** Coordinate marketing and promotion of recreational amenities throughout the county through collaboration with municipalities and organizations.
- K. **PROGRAMMING:** Coordinate programming in recreational facilities to:
  - 1. Ensure programming is available for a wide variety of age groups and interests.
  - 2. Ensure that natural features programs are available to the public.
  - 3. Promote recreation programming by volunteer recreation organizations.
  - 4. Provide a coordinated calendar for programs.

## City of Alpena Goals & Objectives

The goals and objectives were developed by the Alpena City Planning Commission and the City Recreation Advisory Board with additional valuable input from the public. The development objectives define general actions to be taken relative to the development, redevelopment, or upgrade of recreation facilities on a citywide basis that are necessary to meet the City recreation goals.

**Goal 1 - General:** Provide a park and recreation system representative of the broad recreational needs and preferences of all segments of the community's population.

**Objective 1.1:** Promote projects and/or facilities, which best meet the recreational desires and usage patterns of the overall general population of the community.

**Objective 1.2:** Upgrade all park and recreation facilities according to approved plans.

**Objective 1.3:** Upgrade or expand existing facilities if physically and financially more practical than acquiring or developing new facilities.

**Objective 1.4:** Design and operate parks and facilities in a manner that promotes efficient operation, minimizes conflicts, is consistent with the existing development plans for these facilities, and is consistent with the community's ability to support on an ongoing basis.

**Goal 2 - Maintenance:** Focus on the long-term maintenance and preservation of existing park infrastructure. Undertake park expansion only when fiscally prudent and supported by park development plans.

**Objective 2.1:** Develop or redevelop parks and recreation facilities so as to reduce general maintenance costs and the potential impact of vandalism.

**Objective 2.2:** Develop and implement an asset management plan for city parks.

**Goal 3 - Economic Development & Promotion:** View parks and recreation as a vital component of the City's overall economic development strategy. Projects should be evaluated as to their contribution to the area's economic development efforts.

**Objective 3.1:** Develop and upgrade facilities that promote and enhance the area's tourism sector, are coordinated with other area tourism/recreation projects, and enhance the community's quality of life.

**Objective 3.2:** Promote expanded use of the park system to tourists and local residents through improved wayfinding, improved internal signage, and promotion and coordination with non-local resources (i.e. local marinas, US-23 Heritage Route, water trails, and state and regional trails and parks).

**Objective 3.3:** Continue to provide attractive waterfront recreational facilities.



**Goal 4 - Funding:** Explore the development of new financing sources for future park improvements.

**Objective 4.1:** Promote the development of funds (such as trust funds) in order to provide resources for future acquisition, expansion, and development projects

**Objective 4.2:** Make full use of all available grant programs to assist in financing recreation development consistent with the recreation goals and objectives of the City.

**Objective 4.3:** Seek alternative and creative funding for the development, operation, and maintenance of City recreational facilities.

**Goal 5 - Nonmotorized:** Provide non-motorized linkages between City parks and recreation facilities utilizing the City Bi-Path system.

**Objective 5.1:** Maintain the Bi-Path according to an annual schedule.

**Objective 5.2:** Provide upgrades and expansion to Bi-Path facilities.

**Objective 5.3:** Ensure adequate wayfinding signs exist along the Bi-Path.

**Goal 6 – Safety, Health, and Accessibility:** Ensure safe and healthy parks for all residents and visitors of the City and promote universal accessibility to the City's parks and recreation facilities by persons of all ages and varied physical and emotional capabilities.

**Objective 6.1:** When upgrading facilities, ensure that universally accessible design is incorporated.

**Objective 6.2:** Design facilities that provide recreational features for a wide variety of age groups.

**Objective 6.3:** Ensure City recreational facilities are built and maintained to be safe for the public.

**Objective 6.4:** Investigate ongoing water quality issues at City parks to ensure the public can fully access and appreciate the unique and special natural features of the area.

**Objective 6.5:** Research solutions to reduce or eliminate the build-up of organic sediment on City beaches.

**Goal 7 - Acquisition:** Acquire new recreation land and develop existing parks and facilities to take advantage of the special and unique natural resources and features of the area.

**Objective 7.1:** Acquire additional lands or facilities for recreation purposes based on the following criteria. The acquisition:

1. Promotes an integrated and complementary system of municipal recreation facilities;
2. Enhances public access, use, and preservation of the unique and special natural resources of the community; or
3. Satisfies an unmet recreational need which cannot be met through existing City or other non-City recreation facilities, adaptive reuse of existing City parks or facilities.

**Goal 8 - Resiliency:** Become a resilient community which is able to adapt to change in the natural environment and socioeconomic landscape.

**Objective 8.1:** Increase the green canopy (trees) within the City park system.

**Objective 8.2:** Maintain, protect, and expand green infrastructure throughout the City.

**Objective 8.3:** Work to address invasive species issues.

**Objective 8.4:** Encourage opportunities for environmental education and awareness.

**Goal 10 – Programming:** Provide coordinated programming in City parks.

**Objective 10.1:** Ensure programming is available for a wide variety of age groups and interests.

**Objective 10.2:** Ensure that natural features programs are available to the public.

**Objective 10.3:** Promote recreation programming by volunteer recreation organizations.

**Objective 10.4:** Provide a coordinated calendar for programs.

**Goal 9 - Partnerships:** Seek opportunities for public partnerships and public/private partnerships to improve the City's park System.

**Objective 9.1:** Minimize the duplication of recreation services and facilities.

**Objective 9.2:** When practical, encourage local service clubs, user groups, non-profit organizations, etc. to implement approved elements of the recreation plan and discourage inconsistent projects.

**Objective 9.3:** Participate in a multi-jurisdictional recreational oversight group.

**Objective 9.4:** Promote and expand the City's Adopt-a-Park program.

**Objective 9.5:** Encourage and expand the use of volunteers to help accomplish the goals of this plan while creating a culture of partnership and appreciation.

**Objective 9.6:** Communicate volunteer opportunities to the public.

## City of Alpena Action Program

With input from City officials, the Planning Commission, the Recreation Advisory Board, and community members, a list of proposed improvements for park and recreation facilities in the City of Alpena was developed. Actual project prioritization occurs annually when all proposed projects are reviewed for inclusion in the City's annual Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). Projects included within the CIP are prioritized based upon a number of factors, including, but not limited to,

established City goals and objectives, available funding, implementation schedule, and coordination with other projects. All CIP projects are consecutively reviewed and approved by City staff, the City Planning Commission, and the City Council. Proposed projects not included within the CIP are re-projected and re-prioritized for upcoming years within the improvement schedule.

Action Plan		
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	CITY GOAL (OBJECTIVE)	SHARED GOAL (OBJECTIVE)
<b>GENERAL PARK SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS</b>		
1. Land Acquisition Fund Development	1 (1.1, 1.2, 1.3) 4 (4.1, 4.3) 7 (7.1)	B.3
2. Tree Planting Program	8 (8.1, 8.2)	E
3. General Site Amenity Improvements: (Bike Racks, Landscaping, Increased Use of City Logo & Promotional Material)	1 (1.1, 1.2)	D
4. Public Art Installation	3 (3.1)	C
5. Adopt-a-Park Improvements	2 (2.1) 6 (6.3) 9 (9.4)	B.2
6. Implement the most current version of the Riverscape Plan; Update the Riverscape Plan when needed.	1 (1.4) 3 (3.3) 8 (8.3)	E
7. Signage, Maps	1 (1.4) 3 (3.1, 3.2) 5 (5.3)	I, J
<b>11th AVENUE BOAT LAUNCH</b>		
1. General Maintenance	2 (2,1)	B.2
2. Develop Kayak Launch	1 (1.1) 3 (3.3)	H
<b>ALPENA REGIONAL TRAILHEAD</b>		
1. Upgraded Site Amenities (Sign, Picnic Tables, Trash Cans)	1 (1.2) 3 (3.1, 3.2)	D
2. Fire Damage Repair	1 (1.2) 2 (2.1) 3 (3.1, 3.2)	B.2, D
<b>ARTHUR SYTEK PARK</b>		
1. Shelter Upgrades	1 (1.2) 2 (2.1)	D
2. Upgraded Site Amenities (Sign, Picnic Tables, Trash Cans)	1 (1.2) 3 (3.1, 3.2)	D
3. Kayak Launch	1 (1.1) 3 (3.3)	H



Action Plan		
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	CITY GOAL (OBJECTIVE)	SHARED GOAL (OBJECTIVE)
<b>AVERY PARK</b>		
Stage area with Electrical Available for Music Events	1 (1.1) 3 (3.1) 6 (6.1, 6.2) 10 (10.1)	C, K
<b>BAY VIEW PARK</b>		
1. Tennis Court Lighting Upgrades	1 (1.2) 2 (2.1) 6 (6.3)	D
2. Playground Equipment Upgrades	1 (1.2) 2 (2.1) 6 (6.1, 6.3)	D
3. Picnic Pavillion Construction	1 (1.2) 3 (3.1) 6 (6.1)	D
4. Restroom/Concession Building Construction	1 (1.2) 3 (3.1) 6 (6.1)	D
5. Reconstruct Tennis Courts and Replace Nets; Maintain Wind Screens	1 (1.2) 2 (2.1) 6 (6.3)	D
6. Upgrade Basketball Courts	1 (1.2) 2 (2.1) 6 (6.1, 6.3)	D
<b>BI-PATH SYSTEM</b>		
1. Pedestrian Lighting	5 (5.2)	G
2. General Bi-Path Upgrades	5 (5.1, 5.2)	G
3. General Signage for Information, Direction, and Mileage	5 (5.3)	I
4. Recycling Bin Installation	5 (5.2)	G
5. System Resurfacing	5 (5.1, 5.2)	G
6. Besser Lake Shoreline Improvements	3 (3.3)	E
7. Expanding Bi-Path	1 (1.2) 3 (3.1, 3.2) 5 (5.2) 6 (6.1, 6.3)	G
8. Upgrade sections less than 8 feet in width	1 (1.2) 3 (3.1, 3.2) 5 (5.2) 6 (6.1, 6.3)	G
9. Bagley Street Bi-Path Option	1 (1.2) 3 (3.1, 3.2) 5 (5.2) 6 (6.1, 6.3)	G
<b>BLAIR STREET PARK</b>		
1. Pier Repair & New Decking	1 (1.1) 2 (2.1) 3 (3.3)	D
2. Lighting Upgrades	1 (1.1) 2 (2.1)	D

Action Plan		
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	CITY GOAL (OBJECTIVE)	SHARED GOAL (OBJECTIVE)
<b>CITY MARINA</b>		
1. Light Pole Replacement	1 (1.1) 2 (2.1)	D
2. Sidewalk Installation & Repairs	1 (1.1, 1.2, 1.4) 3 (3.1, 3.2, 3.3) 6 (6.1, 6.2, 6.3)	D
3. Sign and Kiosk Installation		D
4. Harbor Dredging		D
5. Resurface Parking Lots		D
6. Safety Ladder & Fire Extinguisher Installation on Dock System		D
7. Boaters Restroom Design		D
8. Marina Restroom Improvements		D
9. UST Supply Line Upgrades		D
10. Wayfinding Signage (includes walkways)		I
11. Dock Repair		D
12. Utility Pedestal Replacement		D
13. Marina UST Cleanup		D
14. Marina Shop Building Rehab		D
15. Social Gathering Area		C
16. Addition of Trees & Green Space	8 (8.1, 8.2)	E
<b>CULLIGAN PLAZA</b>		
1. General Maintenance of Improvements from 2024 Grant Project	1 (1.2) 2 (2.1) 6 (6.1, 6.2, 6.3)	B.2, D
<b>DUCK PARK / ISLAND PARK</b>		
1. River Center Construction	1 (1.1) 3 (3.1) 10 (10.1, 10.2, 10.3)	K
2. Site Amenities (Cooking grills, drinking fountain, trash receptacles, picnic tables)	1 (1.2) 3 (3.1, 3.2)	D
3. Parking Lot Lighting Upgrades	1 (1.2) 3 (3.1, 3.2)	D
4. Replace Island Park Fishing Platforms	1 (1.2) 3 (3.1, 3.2) 6 (6.1)	D
5. Pavilion and Bathrooms	1 (1.2) 3 (3.1, 3.2) 6 (6.1)	D
<b>LAMARRE PARK</b>		
1. Slope Terracing	1 (1.2) 3 (3.3)	D
2. Site Amenities (Park Sign Relocation, Seating, Trash Receptacles, Picnic Tables)	1 (1.2) 3 (3.1, 3.2)	D
3. Install Amenities for Fishing (including waste receptacles for fishing line disposal)	1 (1.2) 3 (3.1, 3.2)	D

Action Plan		
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	CITY GOAL (OBJECTIVE)	SHARED GOAL (OBJECTIVE)
<b>MCRAE PARK</b>		
1. Develop & Implement McRae Park Plan	1 (1.1, 1.2) 3 (3.1, 3.2) 9 (9.2, 9.5)	D
2. Upgraded Playground Equipment Installation	1 (1.2) 6 (6.1)	D
3. Upgraded Site Lighting	1 (1.2)	D
4. Parking Lot Lighting Upgrades	1 (1.2)	D
5. Parking Lot Improvements	1 (1.2) 6 (6.1)	D
6. Picnic Pavilion Construction	1 (1.2) 6 (6.1)	D
7. Community Building Upgrades or Replacement	1 (1.2) 3 (3.1) 6 (6.1)	D
8. Upgraded Site Amenities (Seating , Picnic Tables, Park Sign)	1 (1.2) 3 (3.1, 3.2)	D
9. Concession Stand Improvements	1 (1.2) 3 (3.1)	D
10. Court Resurfacing & Fencing	1 (1.2)	D
11. General Upkeep & Utilization	1 (1.2) 2 (2.1)	D
<b>MICH-E-KE-WIS PARK</b>		
1. Update & Implement Mich-e-ke-wis Park Plan	1 (1.1, 1.2) 3 (3.1, 3.2)	D
2. Multi-Use Pavilion	1 (1.2) 3 (3.1) 6 (6.1)	D
3. Quiet Area/Pedestrian Pathway	1 (1.2) 5 (5.2)	D
4. Additional Volleyball Courts	1 (1.2)	D
5. Bike Pump-Track	1 (1.2)	D
6. Horseshoe Courts	1 (1.2)	D
7. Picnic Tables/Seating	1 (1.2) 6 (6.1)	D
8. Bike Racks	1 (1.2)	D
9. Lighting	1 (1.2)	D
10. Play Structure	1 (1.2) 6 (6.1)	D
11. Parking Area – Rearrange/Maintenance	1 (1.2) 6 (6.1)	D
12. Develop Amenities for Winter Activities	1 (1.1, 1.2) 3 (3.1, 3.2)	D
13. General Upkeep and Utilization	1 (1.2) 2 (2.1)	D
14. Evaluate Use of Current Building (former warming shelter)	1 (1.1, 1.2) 3 (3.1, 3.2)	D



Action Plan		
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	CITY GOAL (OBJECTIVE)	SHARED GOAL (OBJECTIVE)
<b>NORTH RIVERFRONT PARK</b>		
1. Parking Lot Improvements	1 (1.2) 6 (6.1)	D
2. Electrical & Utility Upgrades	1 (1.2)	D
3. Decorative Parking Lot Lights	1 (1.2)	D
4. Upgraded Site Amenities (Banners, Seating , Park Sign, Tree Planting)	1 (1.2) 3 (3.1, 3.2)	D
5. Lighthouse Walkway Construction	1 (1.2) 6 (6.1)	D
<b>RIVERSIDE SKATE PARK / WATER TOWER PARK</b>		
1. Convert Park into Concrete Skate Park	1 (1.2)	D
2. Install waste receptacles for fishing line	1 (1.2)	D
<b>SOUTH RIVERFRONT PARK</b>		
1. Upgraded Site Amenities (Trash Cans, Park Sign)	1 (1.2) 3 (3.1, 3.2)	D
<b>STARLITE BEACH</b>		
1. Pathway Improvements & Connections	1 (1.2) 3 (3.1) 5 (5.1, 5.2) 6 (6.1)	G
2. Splashpark Expansion & Recirculating System	1 (1.2) 3 (3.1) 6 (6.1)	D
3. Starlight Beach Parking Lot Reconstruction	1 (1.2) 3 (3.1) 6 (6.1)	D
4. Upgraded Site Amenities (Sign, Picnic Tables, Seating, Grills, Trash Cans)	1 (1.2) 3 (3.1, 3.2) 6 (6.1)	D
5. Improve Parking/Add Signage for Parking	1 (1.2) 3 (3.1)	D
6. Changing Area	1 (1.2) 3 (3.1)	D
<b>THOMSON PARK</b>		
1. Parking/Access	1 (1.2) 6 (6.1)	D
2. Pedestrian Sidewalk Construction	1 (1.2) 6 (6.1)	D
3. Upgraded Site Amenities (Grills)	1 (1.2)	D
<b>VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK</b>		
1. Upgraded Site Amenities (Sign, Seating)	1 (1.2)	D
<b>WASHINGTON AVENUE PARK</b>		
1. Fishing Pier Installation	1 (1.2) 3 (3.1, 3.2) 6 (6.1)	D
2. Parking Lot Upgrades	1 (1.2) 6 (6.1)	D
3. Gazebo Replacement	1 (1.2) 6 (6.1)	D
4. Upgraded Site Amenities (Water Fountain, Picnic Tables, Seating, Two-Person Swings)	1 (1.2) 3 (3.1, 3.2) 6 (6.1)	D

## Basis for Action

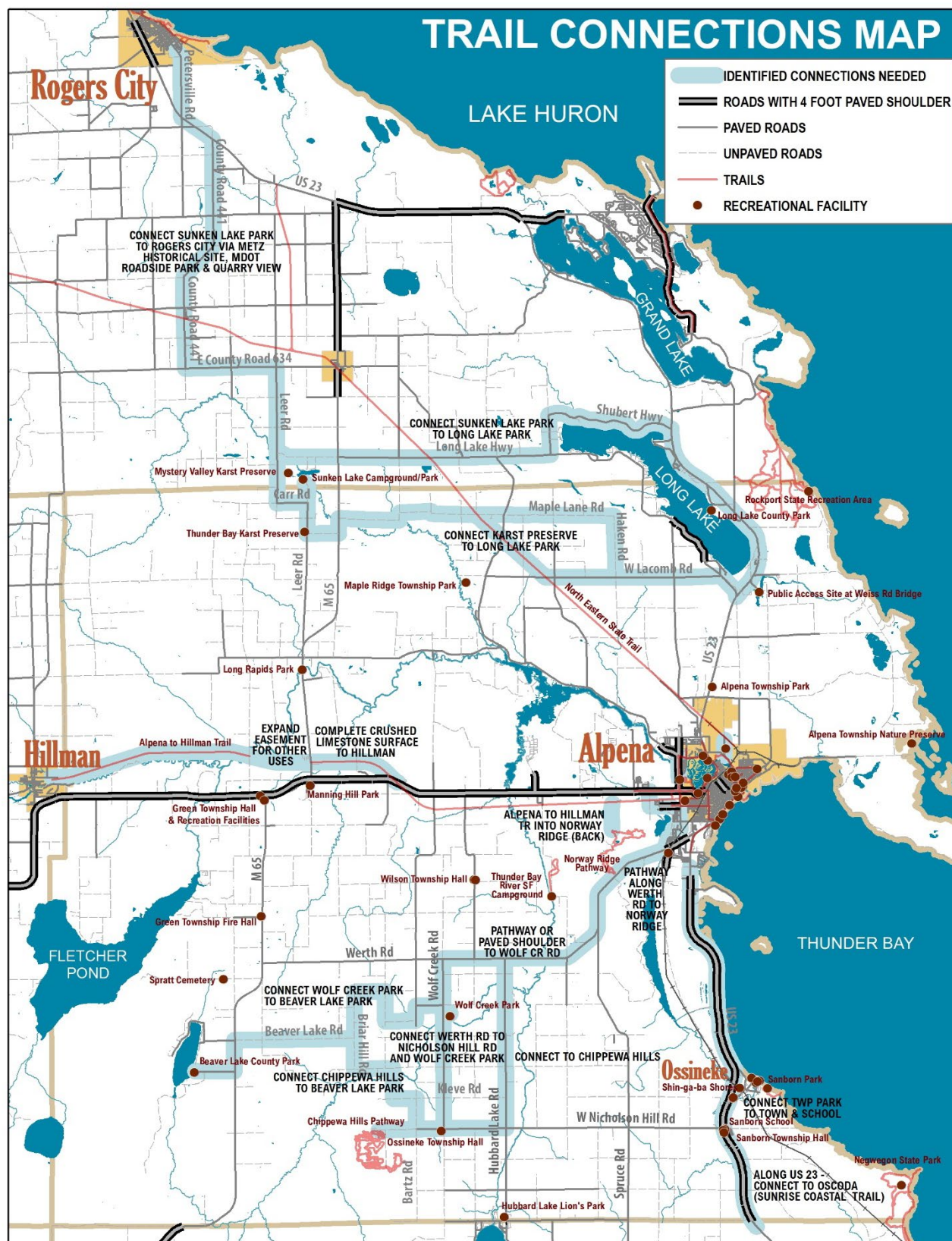
There are several important factors to consider when planning for recreational activities and development in the City of Alpena.

1. The City of Alpena is the largest city in the northeast Michigan region. The City largely serves as the economic hub of the region.
2. Tourism is a vital component to the economy of Alpena and the surrounding areas. Recreational planning needs to consider the influx of people looking to relax and recreate in the area.
3. The City population age distribution varies from 21% aged 19 and under, to 21% age 65 and older. The highest percentage of City residents (79%) are of adult working age (20 to 54). The age distribution in surrounding communities largely mirrors that of the City of Alpena. However, most surrounding areas generally have slightly higher percentages of those aged 65 and older. Recreational facilities need to appeal to a very diverse age group.
4. The issue of improving the local economy by establishing the area as a recreation destination is of utmost importance. Unemployment rates in the City are reported at 5% (2022), and all of northeast Michigan remained significantly higher than the State average. The City strives to create a community with a defined sense of place and a high quality of life which will attract young families and entrepreneurs. This quality of life will also help to retain local youth who would otherwise leave the area upon reaching adulthood.
5. The City's median household income is \$40,202 compared with the State's median of \$63,202 and the national median income of \$69,717. In addition, 18% of households live at or below the poverty level. To be truly accessible, recreation must also

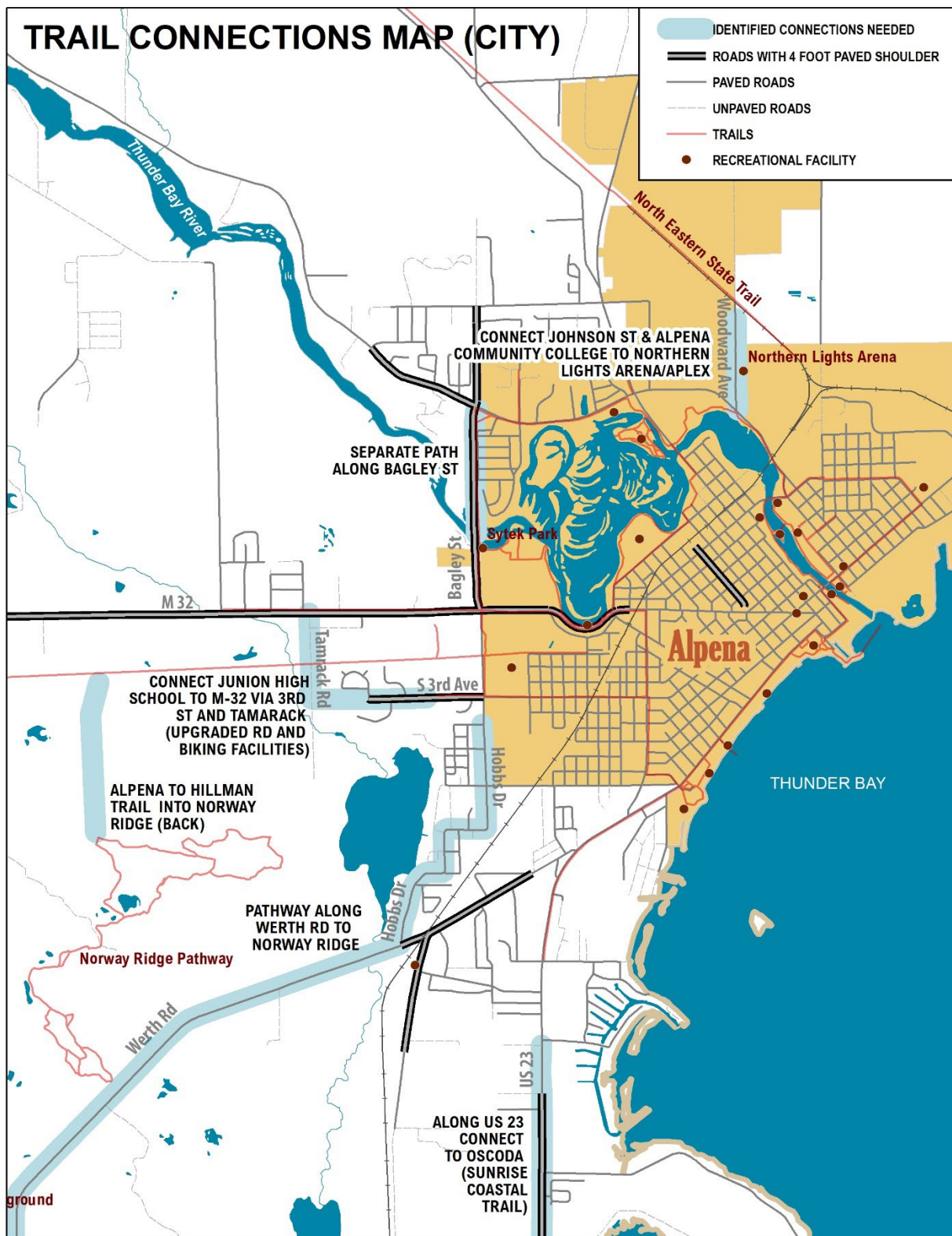
be affordable.

6. Approximately 24% of the City of Alpena population lives with some form of disability. This is largely true for surrounding communities as well. All recreational development and improvements should strive to be as inclusive and barrier free as possible.

*Figures obtained from U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2021 5-year estimates (see tables in Chapter 1).*









CHAPTER

# 5

## PLANNING PROCESS



*City of Alpena Recreation Plan*

## Planning Schedule

The development of a community recreation plan must involve interaction and input from citizens and community groups. A comprehensive planning process provides the opportunity to hear from a wider variety of the community and find commonalities and efficiencies in recreation planning. Many recreational assets that exist in Northeast Michigan extend beyond any one jurisdiction's boundaries. For instance, trails, state forest land, rivers, creeks, and lakes are multijurisdictional and will benefit from local involvement by multiple entities. The City of Alpena elected to coordinate with Alpena County and five other townships and update its recreation plan one year early in order to participate in a joint planning effort.

The City of Alpena Planning Commission was the lead entity in developing this Recreation Plan. A general timeline for the development of the recreation plan update is as follows:

### May 1, 2023

Commitments to participate in a planning process were finalized. The City of Alpena chose to coordinate with Alpena County and the five townships to update its recreation plan one year early in order to be on the same schedule and share in the public input process.

### May 22, 2023

A virtual meeting was held with the ad-hoc Alpena Recreation Plan Committee (consisting of members of each participating jurisdiction). The committee discussed survey questions proposed for an online survey to gather public input.

### June 1, 2023

The public input survey was made live. A press release appeared in the Alpena News on June 17, 2023 (see image at right). Notices were also placed in the tax bills for the City of Alpena. In addition, a

link to the survey appeared in social media posts for the City of Alpena, US 23 Heritage Route, and Michigan Sunrise Coast. The city also placed the survey link on its website. See social media and website notices on the following page.

### July 31, 2023

The survey was closed on July 31, 2023. A total of 461 responses were collected (approximately 1.6 percent of the total population of the county). The communities felt that this was a significant percentage of the population. Survey results were transmitted to the communities.

### October 5, 2023

NEMCOG staff met with the Alpena Intergovernmental Council to review the survey results and lead a discussion on how best to collaborate on planning, funding, and implementation of recreation plan action items.

### October 11, 2023

A joint meeting was held with the City Planning Commission, Recreation Advisory Board, City staff, and NEMCOG staff. At the meeting, the group reviewed the survey results, made changes to the goals and objectives, and reviewed each action item from the existing recreation plan, projects that have been included in the Capital Improvements Plan, and specific suggestions for park improvements that were made by citizens in the online survey.

### November 9, 2023

Members of the Planning Commissions from the City of Alpena, Alpena County, the Charter Township of Alpena, Green Township, Ossineke Township, Sanborn Township, and Wilson Township met with NEMCOG staff at Ossineke Township Hall to discuss joint goals, objectives, and action items.



**December 1, 2023**

The City of Alpena Recreation Plan was available for public review. A Notice of Availability was published in the Alpena News. The plan was available for 40 days.

**January 9, 2024**


The City of Alpena Planning Commission held a

public hearing on the draft recreation plan. After the public hearing, the Planning Commission passed a Resolution of Adoption. The resolution and minutes are contained in Appendix A.

**January 16, 2024**

The Alpena City Council passed a Resolution of Adoption. The resolution and minutes are contained in Appendix A.

## Public Input Notices for City of Alpena (in conjunction with Alpena Area Recreation Plan)




City of Alpena, MI - Information  
July 14 at 3:09 PM


The Alpena area is known for having amazing recreational amenities! Alpena County, the City of Alpena, the Charter Township of Alpena, Green Township, Ossineke Township, Sanborn Township, and Wilson Township are working together to update their recreation plans which guide the future enhancement and development of recreation in the Alpena area.

A Recreation Plan needs to be approved by the Michigan DNR in order for the communities to qualify for grant funding for recreational improvements. Citizen input is critical to help the communities write these plans.

Here's how you can help! The communities have made a recreation plan survey available to gather public opinions and they are hoping to hear from everyone who uses recreational facilities in the Alpena area. If you would like to give your opinion on parks and recreation in the Alpena area to help them plan for future recreational improvements, please take the online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AlpenaAreaRecreation>

Printed surveys are also available at the Alpena County Building, Alpena City Hall, or at the Township Offices. The survey should only take about 10 minutes to complete. The deadline is July 31, 2023. Thank you for your participation!






### RECREATION PLAN


The City is updating its Recreation Plan and we value your input...please take our Alpena Area Recreation Plan Survey to help us plan for recreation!

Please go to...

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AlpenaAreaRecreation>

Hard copies of the survey are available at City Hall at 208 N First St





**SURVEY DEADLINE July 31, 2023**

A multi-jurisdictional project in Alpena County

**IN BRIEF**

### Public input sought on parks and rec plans

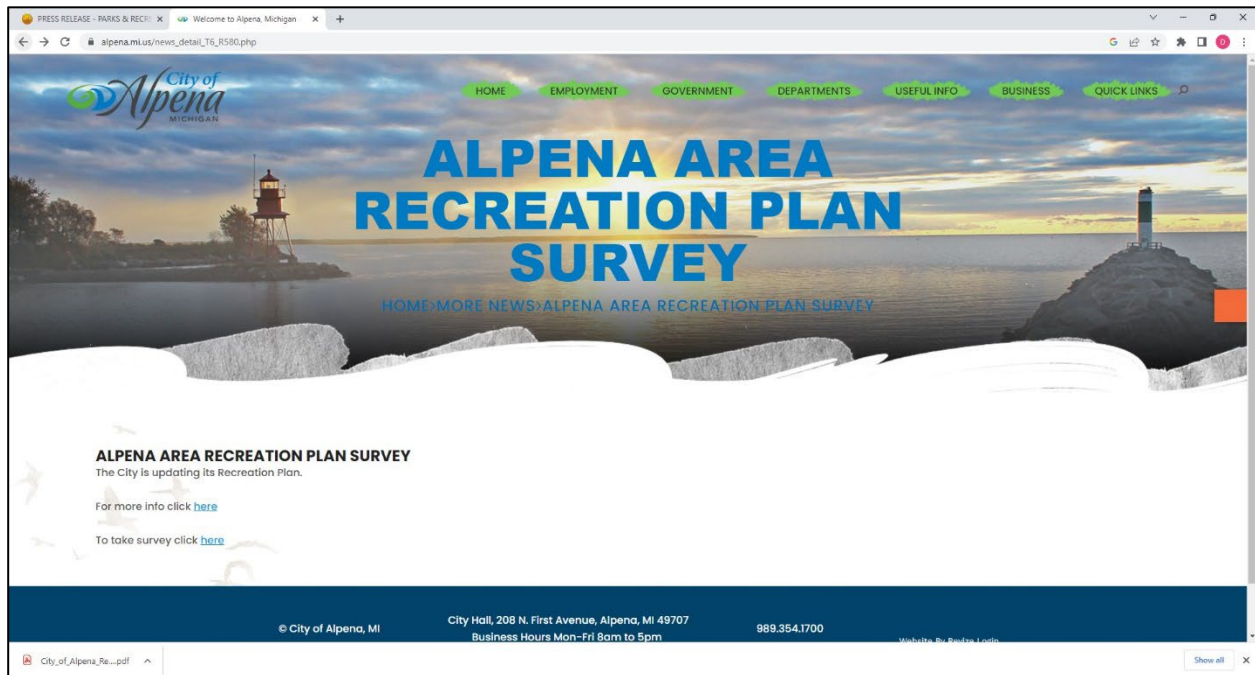
Alpena County, the City of Alpena, Alpena Township, Green Township, Ossineke Township, Sanborn Township, and Wilson Township are working together to update their recreation plans which guide the future enhancement and development of recreation in the Alpena area.

A recreation plan needs to be approved by the Michigan DNR in order for the communities to qualify for grant funding for recreational improvements.

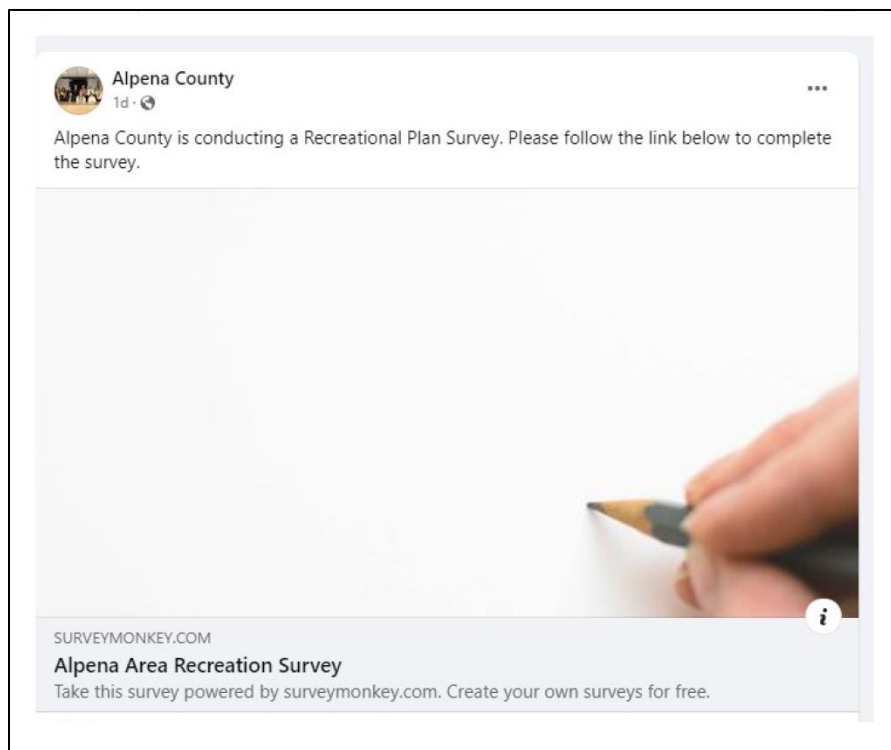
If you would like to give your opinion on parks and recreation in the Alpena area to help them plan for future recreational improvements, please take the online survey at [surveymonkey.com/r/AlpenaAreaRecreation](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AlpenaAreaRecreation).

Printed surveys are also available at the Alpena County Building, Alpena City Hall, or at the Township Offices. The deadline is July 31.

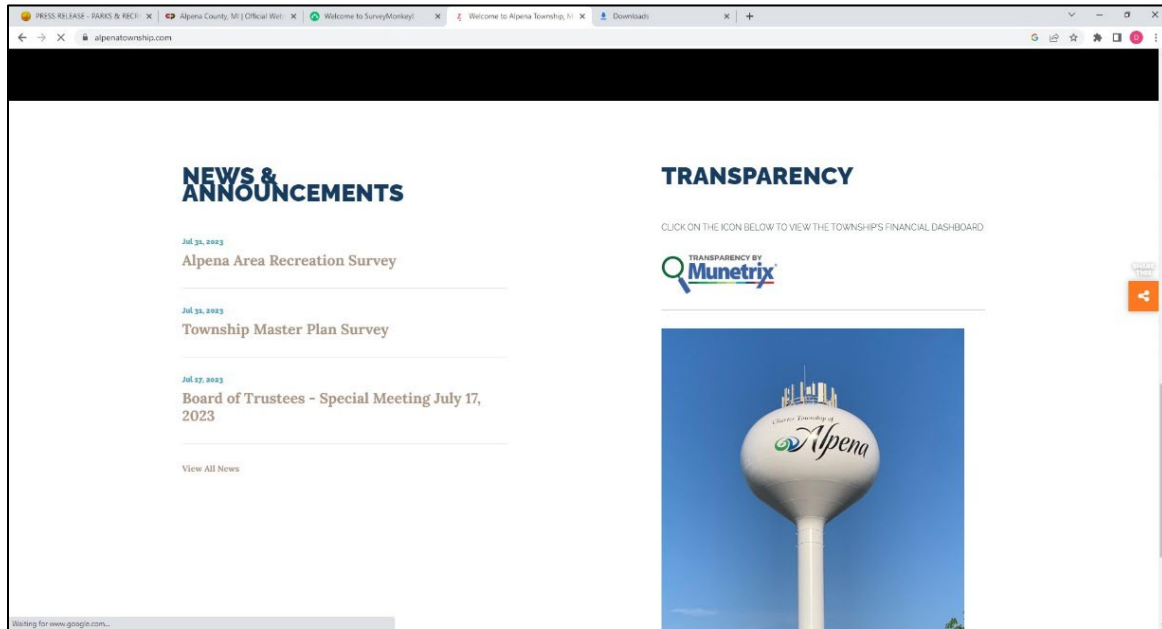
## City of Alpena Web Posting:



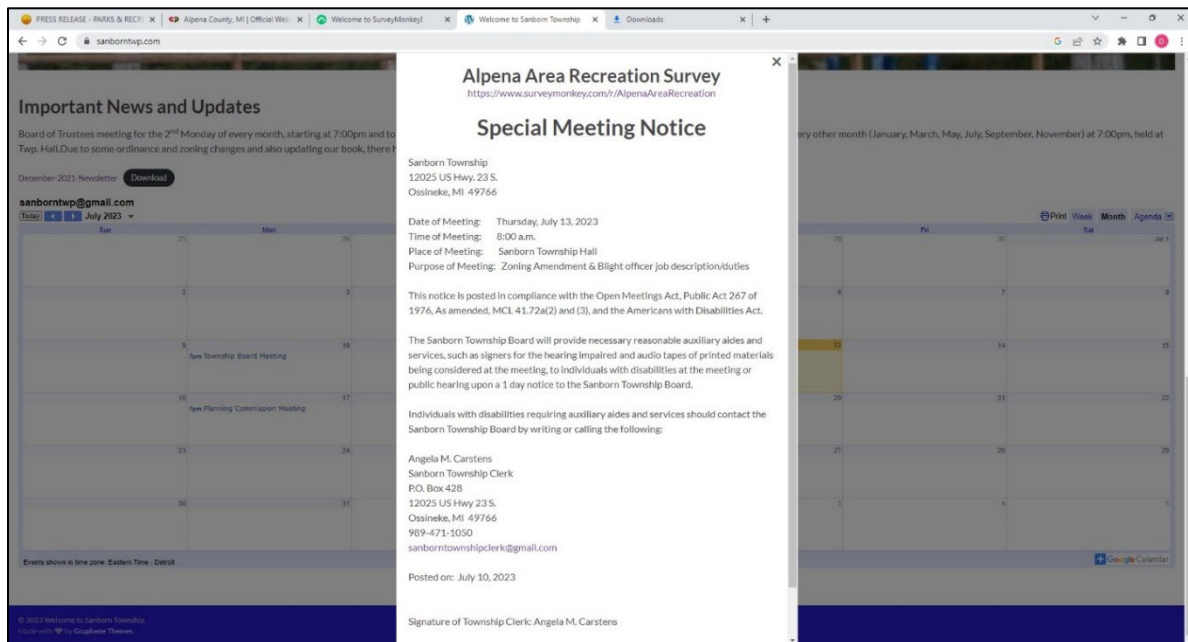
## Alpena County Facebook Post:



## Charter Township of Alpena Web Posting:

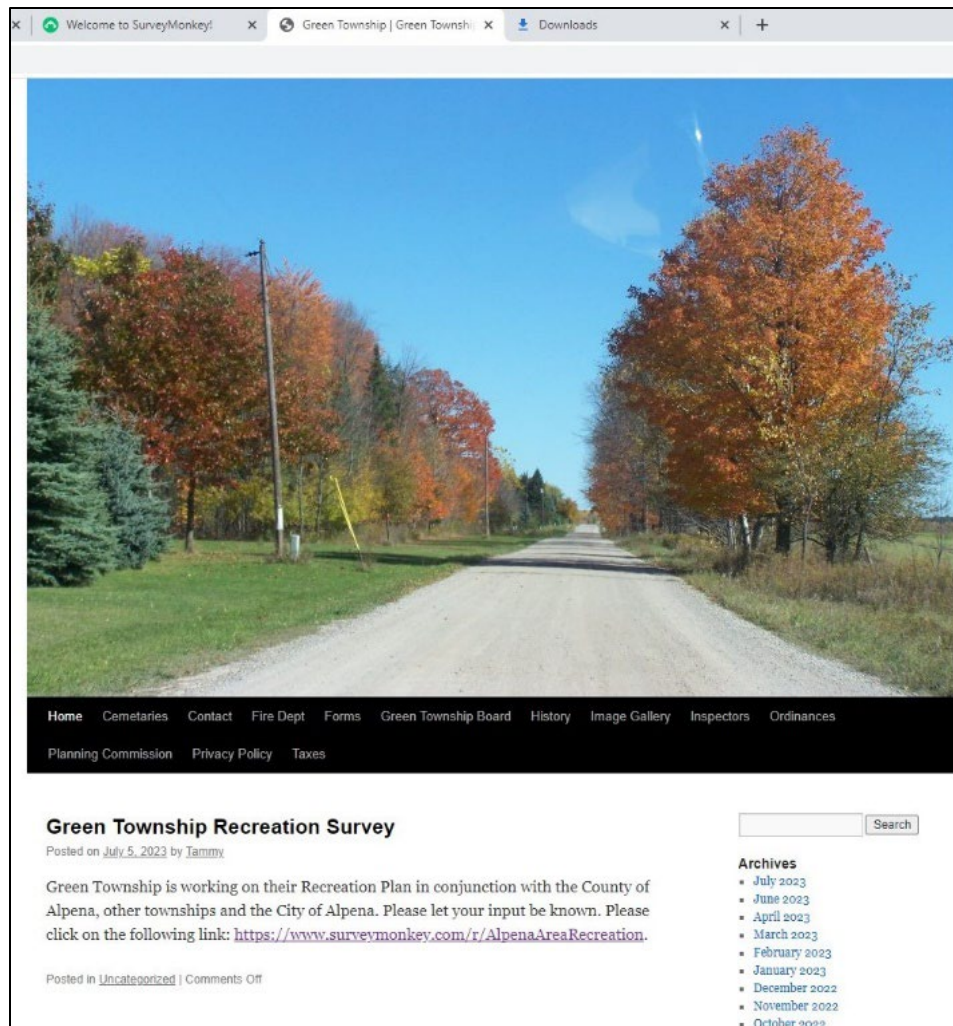


## Sanborn Township Web Posting:

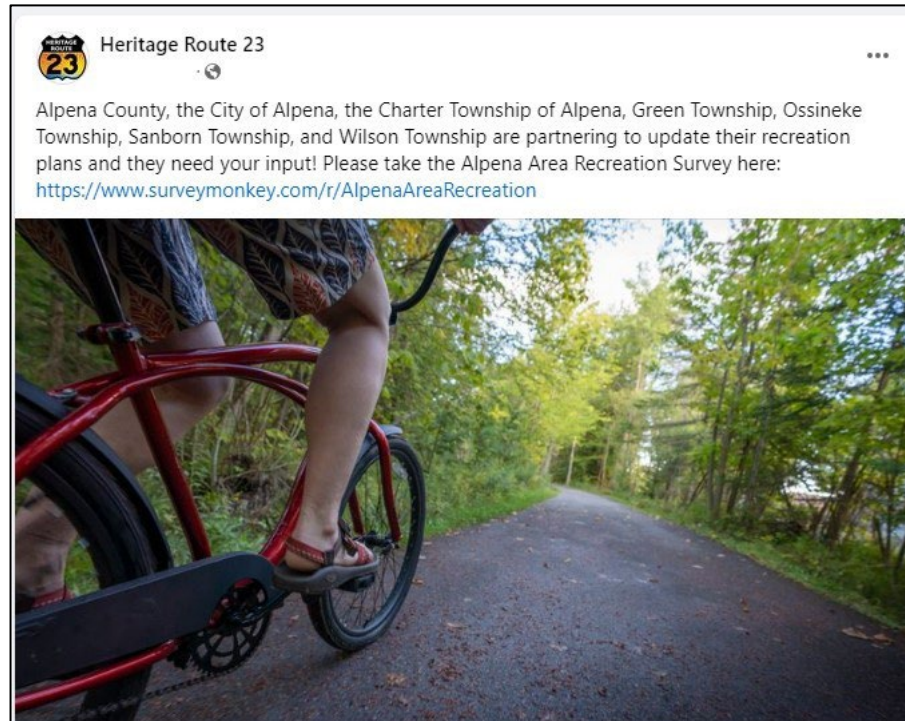




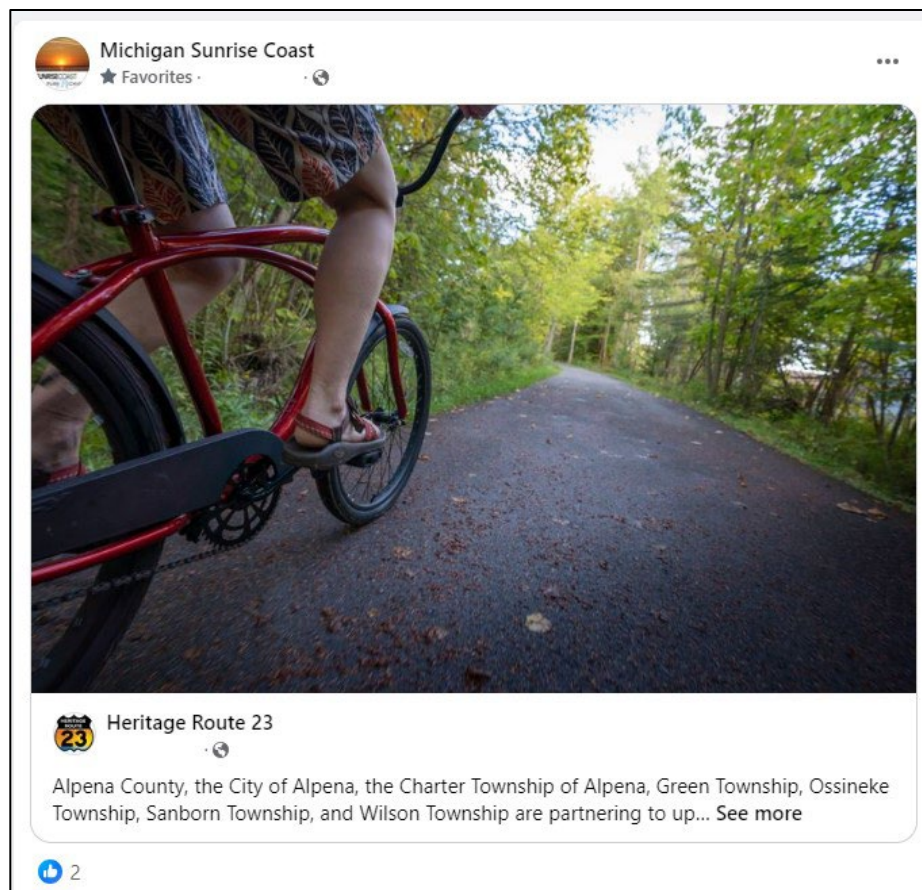
## Green Township Web Posting:



### US 23 Heritage Route Facebook Post:



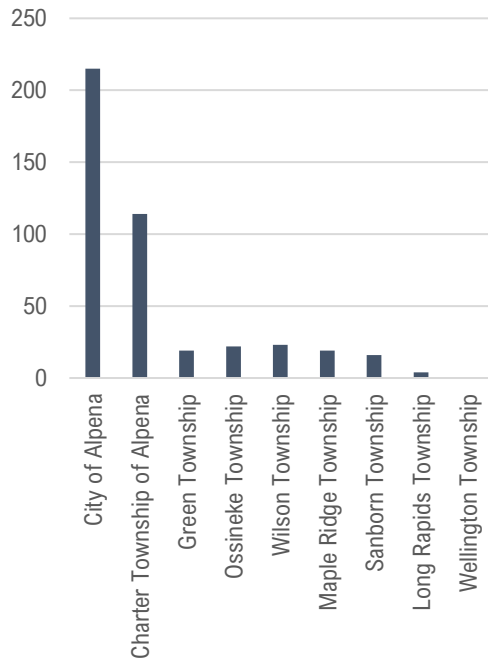
### Michigan's Sunrise Coast Facebook Post:



## Survey Results Summary

### Question 1 & 2

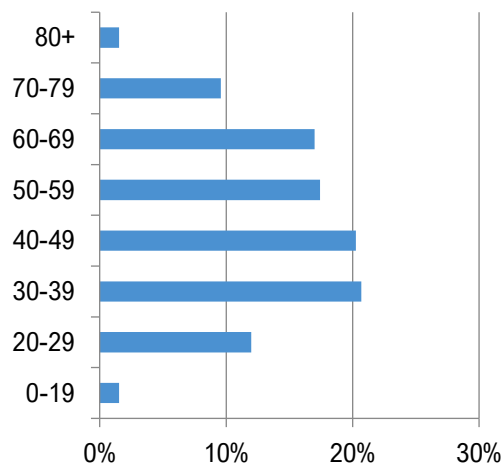
**Where do you live (within Alpena County and outside of Alpena County?)**



Nearly half of survey respondents (215) live within the City of Alpena while over 26 percent live within the Charter Township of Alpena. The survey also generated responses from 15 Presque Isle County residents, 10 Alcona County residents, and two Montmorency County residents. Two survey respondents live out of the region (Providence, Rhode Island and Lansing, Michigan).

### Question 3

**What is your age group?**



Survey respondents represented a very good distribution of age groups. These results show that the jurisdictions within Alpena County should be planning recreational facilities for a wide variety of age groups. Over a quarter of the survey respondents were in the retirement age group. This indicates that planning for an aging population is critical.

### Question 4



### Which of the following recreational facilities do you use and how often?

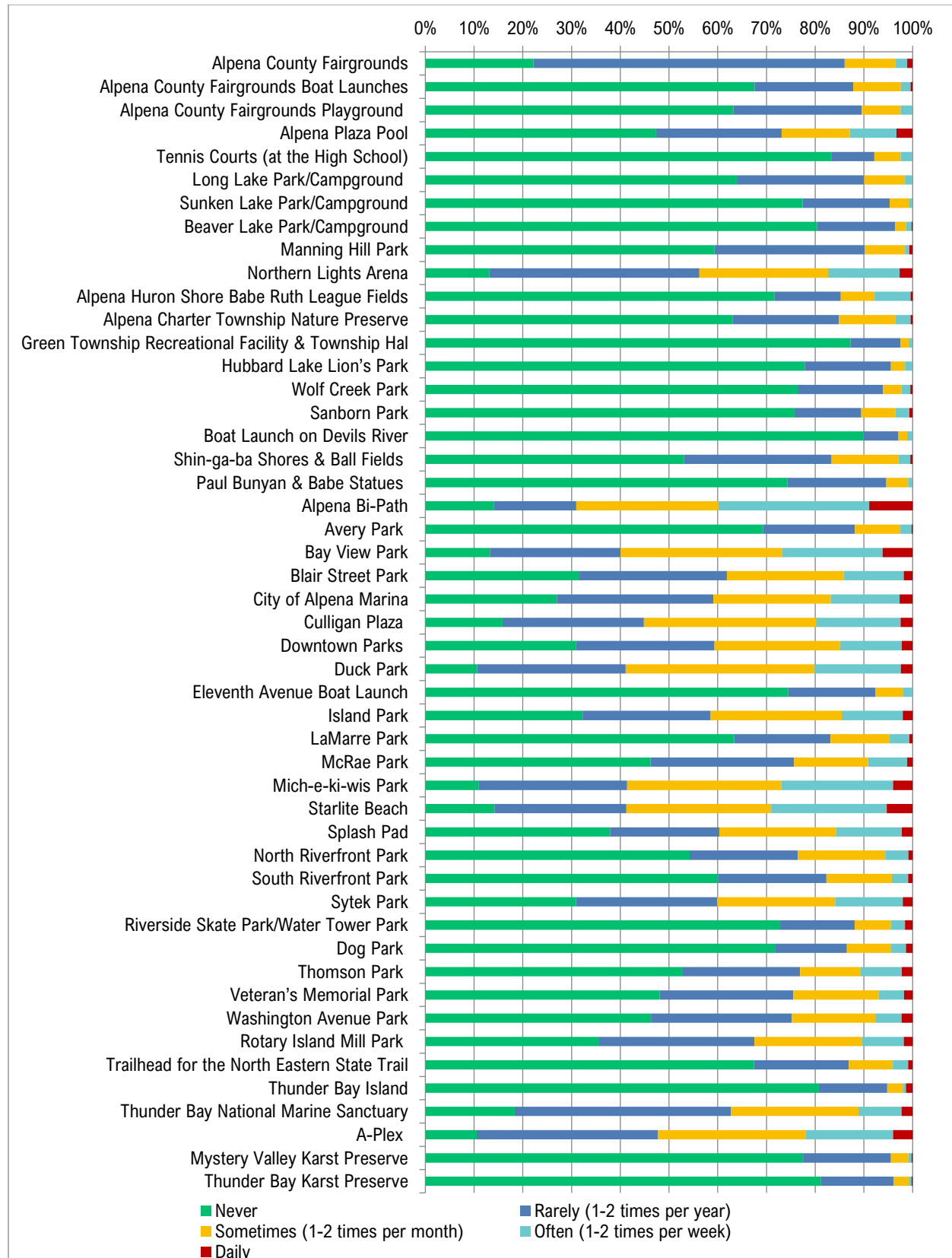
The following tables group the results by ownership and are in descending order using the answer “more than once per month.” The City of Alpena survey results are shown as well because the city parks receive the heaviest use. Northern Lights Arena is the highest use facility with the Plaza Pool coming in second. Shin-ga-ba Shores Park ranked third with the Misery Bay Nature Preserve (Alpena

Township Nature Preserve) and the Alpena Huron Shore Little League Fields both ranking fourth. Note that other facilities which are not under the control of the municipalities were also included in the survey. If these are factored in, then the A-Plex ranks the most heavily used with the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary ranking second. The next page shows the usage graphically.

Location	Facility Name	1-2 Times per Year or Less	1-2 Times per Year or Less	More than Once Per Month	More than Once Per Month	Total Responses
Alpena County	10. Northern Lights Arena (Woodward Ave)	253	56%	197	44%	450
Alpena County	4. Alpena Plaza Pool (at the High School)	329	73%	121	27%	450
Alpena County	1. Alpena County Fairgrounds (11th Ave)	388	86%	63	14%	451
Alpena County	2. Alpena County Fairgrounds Boat Launches (11th Ave)	395	88%	55	12%	450
Alpena County	3. Alpena County Fairgrounds Playground (11th Ave)	402	90%	47	10%	449
Alpena County	6. Long Lake Park/Campground (US 23)	406	90%	45	10%	451
Alpena County	9. Manning Hill Park (M-32)	403	90%	44	10%	447
Alpena County	5. Tennis Courts (at the High School)	411	92%	35	8%	446
Alpena County	7. Sunken Lake Park/Campground (Leer Rd)	426	95%	21	5%	447
Alpena County	8. Beaver Lake Park/Campground (M-65)	433	96%	16	4%	449
Alpena Twp	12. Alpena Charter Township Nature Preserve (Misery Bay Rd)	381	85%	68	15%	449
Alpena Twp	11. Alpena Huron Shore Babe Ruth League Fields (US 23)	382	85%	66	15%	448
Green Twp	13. Green Township Recreational Facility & Township Hall (M-32)	435	98%	11	2%	446
Ossineke Twp	14. Hubbard Lake Lion's Park (Hubbard Lake Rd)	427	96%	20	4%	447
Wilson Twp	15. Wolf Creek Park (Wolf Creek Rd)	418	94%	27	6%	445
Sanborn Twp	18. Shin-ga-ba Shores & Ball Fields (US 23)	371	83%	74	17%	445
Sanborn Twp	16. Sanborn Park (Lake Huron)	399	89%	47	11%	446
Sanborn Twp	19. Paul Bunyan & Babe Statues (US 23)	420	95%	24	5%	444
Sanborn Twp	17. Boat Launch on Devils River (Sanborn Township)	435	97%	13	3%	448

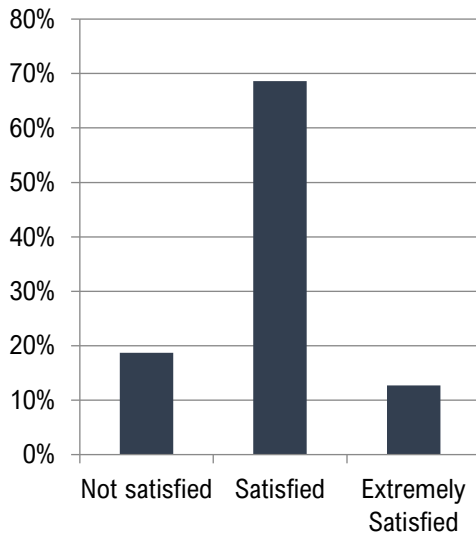
Location	Facility Name	1-2 Times per Year or Less	1-2 Times per Year or Less	More than Once Per Month	More than Once Per Month	Total Responses
City of Alpena	20. Alpena Bi-Path	139	31%	310	69%	449
City of Alpena	22. Bay View Park (includes bandshell, tennis courts and basketball courts) - 19. State Ave	181	40%	271	60%	452
City of Alpena	27. Duck Park (Long Rapids Rd)	185	41%	265	59%	450
City of Alpena	33. Starlite Beach (State Ave)	186	41%	265	59%	451
City of Alpena	32. Mich-e-ki-wis Park (State Ave)	186	41%	263	59%	449
City of Alpena	25. Culligan Plaza (downtown)	201	45%	247	55%	448
City of Alpena	29. Island Park (Long Rapids Rd)	261	59%	185	41%	446
City of Alpena	24. City of Alpena Marina	267	59%	185	41%	452
City of Alpena	26. Downtown Parks (Chisholm Street Park or Waterfront Park on Carter St)	267	59%	183	41%	450
City of Alpena	37. Sytek Park (off Bagley St)	267	60%	179	40%	446
City of Alpena	34. Splash Pad (State Ave)	272	60%	179	40%	451
City of Alpena	23. Blair Street Park (State Ave)	276	62%	170	38%	446
City of Alpena	43. Rotary Island Mill Park (in Thunder Bay River)	299	67%	144	33%	443
City of Alpena	42. Washington Avenue Park	333	75%	110	25%	443
City of Alpena	41. Veteran's Memorial Park (Washington Ave)	336	76%	109	24%	445
City of Alpena	31. McRae Park (2nd Ave & Hueber St)	339	76%	109	24%	448
City of Alpena	35. North Riverfront Park (Fletcher St)	341	76%	105	24%	446
City of Alpena	40. Thomson Park (State Ave)	343	77%	103	23%	446
City of Alpena	36. South Riverfront Park (Water St)	367	82%	79	18%	446
City of Alpena	30. LaMarre Park (River St)	370	83%	75	17%	445
City of Alpena	39. Dog Park (Fletcher St)	384	86%	60	14%	444
City of Alpena	38. Riverside Skate Park/Water Tower Park (9th Ave & Oldfield)	392	88%	53	12%	445
City of Alpena	21. Avery Park (2nd Ave)	387	88%	52	12%	439
City of Alpena	28. Eleventh Avenue Boat Launch	412	92%	34	8%	446

Location	Facility Name	1-2 Times per Year or Less	1-2 Times per Year or Less	More than Once Per Month	More than Once Per Month	Total Responses
Other	47. A-Plex (Woodward Ave)	213	48%	233	52%	446
Other	46. Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary	277	63%	165	37%	442
Other	44. Trailhead for the North Eastern State Trail (off Woodward Ave)	384	87%	58	13%	442
Other	45. Thunder Bay Island	418	95%	23	5%	441
Other	48. Mystery Valley Karst Preserve (Leer Rd)	425	96%	20	4%	445
Other	49. Thunder Bay Karst Preserve (Leer Rd)	424	96%	17	4%	441



### Question 5

**Overall, how satisfied are you with the recreational opportunities in Alpena County (including the City of Alpena and all townships)?**



Over 81 percent of survey respondents are satisfied with recreational opportunities. A separate analysis was done on the 84 respondents who said they were not satisfied with recreation to determine any trends. Generally, they do not have a high usage of any facility. Over 72 percent of these unsatisfied respondents answered that they would like to see more programming in the parks and that they are interested in concerts, walking, camping, festivals, bicycling, hiking, kayaking, and theaters (all of the types of activities that the Alpena area recreational facilities offer). This suggests that they feel improvements are needed at the current facilities rather than constructing new facilities.

### Question 6

**List your three favorite facilities and the reasons why. Include improvements you'd like to see there.**

FACILITIES LISTED AS "FAVORITE"	
1.	Alpena Bi-Path
2.	A-Plex
3.	Starlite Beach
4.	Bay View Park
5.	Duck Park
6.	Mich-e-ke-wis Park
7.	Plaza Pool
8.	Splash Pad
9.	Sytek Park
10.	City of Alpena Marina
11.	Northern Lights Arena
12.	Island Park
13.	Thomson Park
14.	Culligan Plaza
15.	McRae Park

When asked to indicate their favorite facilities, the City of Alpena facilities ranked highly among most survey respondents. Several facilities within the jurisdictions covered within this plan were also listed within the top 20: Alpena Plaza Pool (ranked 7<sup>th</sup>), Northern Lights Arena (ranked 11<sup>th</sup>), Shin-ga-ba Shores (ranked 16<sup>th</sup>), and Sanborn Park (ranked 17<sup>th</sup>). Improvements suggested have been reviewed and the action items in Chapter 4 reflect those responses.



### Question 7

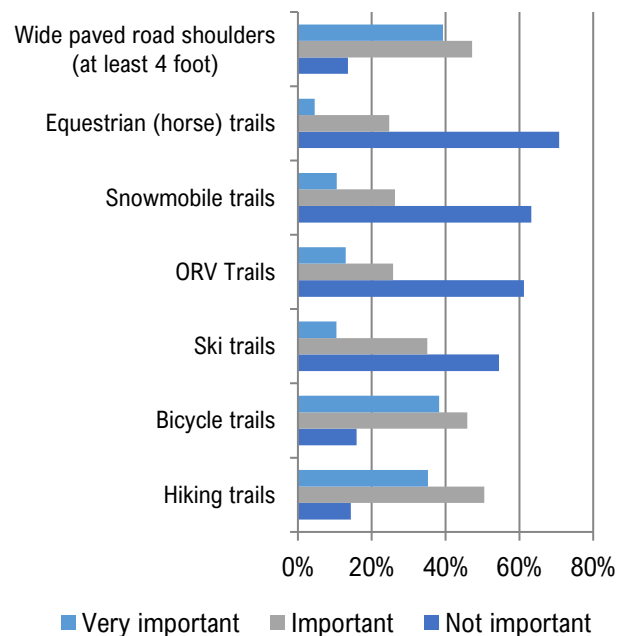
List your three LEAST favorite facilities and the reasons why. Include improvements you'd like to see there.

FACILITIES LISTED AS "FAVORITE"	
1.	Alpena County Fairgrounds
2.	McRae Park
3.	Mich-e-ke-wis Park
4.	Riverside Skate Park/Water Tower Park
5.	Plaza Pool
6.	Bay View Park
7.	Dog Park

When asked to indicate their least favorite facilities, the Alpena County Fairgrounds ranked number one. Only those that received at least 10 votes for least favorite are listed in the table to the left. It should be noted that this question generated a very low number of responses. The least favorite facility only received 29 votes for least favorite (contrasted with the most favorite facility from the previous question received 81 votes). The most common reasons given (and improvements needed) were issues that the communities were already aware of and are addressing within this plan.

### Question 8

How important are each of the following to you?



Question 8 focused on trail systems in the area. Bicycling trails, hiking trails, and four-foot paved shoulders were indicated as "very important" to people. Over 84 percent of respondents felt hiking trails and biking trails were either "important" or "very important." Over 86 percent felt that four-foot wide paved shoulders were very important along area roads. This speaks to the desire of the community to create nonmotorized connections between recreational facilities. The three types of trails that ranked least important to respondents were equestrian trails, snowmobile trails, and ORV trails. In the comments, many people indicated the importance of connections between water accesses and the city Bi-Path in addition to connections along the M-32 corridor and to Birdsong Bay. ORV users desire connections to trails and restaurants.

### Question 9

**What improvements would you like to see at trailheads in the county?**



When considering trailheads in the area, many people indicated that they would like to see signage, paper maps, potable water, better parking, lighting, trash disposal, and restrooms. An example of better signage is shown at the left. These sign designs are available for use by all communities in the area.

### Question 10

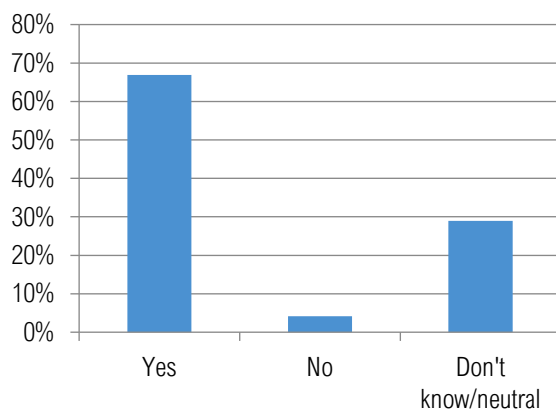
**What additional recreational facilities would you like to see in the Alpena area?**

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES DESIRED
Bathrooms
Campgrounds
Expanded indoor recreation/community center
Park improvements
New pool
Expanded trails
Water access
Winter activities

When asked what additional facilities the respondents would like to see in the area, the issues indicated in the table were most often mentioned.

### Question 11

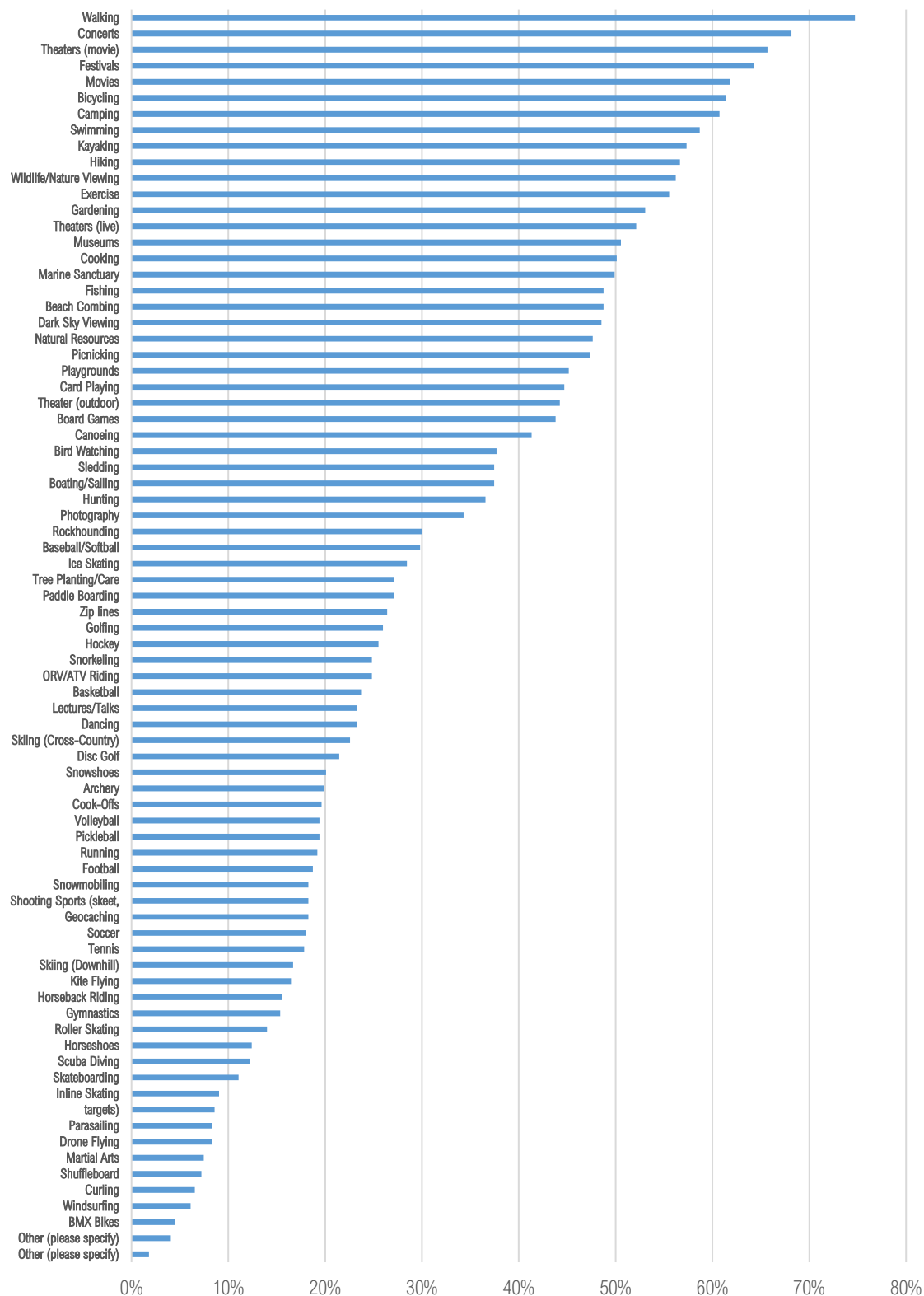
**Would you like to see scheduled recreation programming in the parks (for example: youth and adult sports programs, lifelong learning programs)?**



Over 66 percent of respondents answered that they would like to see programming in the parks. Many people gave individual ideas about the programming they would like to see including kids activities, archery, disc golf, air rifles, boating classes, nature classes, survival classes, pickleball, water sports, skating, free fishing, conservation education, foraging, yoga, adult recreation leagues, skiing, star gazing, fossil/rock hunting, plant/bird/rock identification, soccer, and exercise events.

## Question 12

What recreational activities do you and/or your family enjoy?





**Question 13**

**Please use this space to let us know of improvements you would like to see at specific recreational facilities and also to make additional comments to help plan for the future of recreation in the Alpena area.**

IMPROVEMENTS
Alpena County: New swimming pool
Charter Township of Alpena: South end improvements (US 23 south), trail opportunities
City of Alpena: Improvements to Bayview, McRae, and Mich-e-ke-wis, Bi-path/crosswalk safety
Ossineke Township: Convert Lions Park tennis courts to pickleball
General Comments: Regular maintenance of what we already own, visibility to public recreation assets, safety, recreation opportunities for all ages and abilities

Approximately 128 individuals commented on this question. The table at the left indicates the general themes (the comments made most often). However, the tables in the Appendix contain all of the comments submitted during the survey.

APPENDIX

A

RESOLUTIONS  
MINUTES  
TRANSMITTAL LETTERS

**A RESOLUTION BY  
THE CITY OF ALPENA PLANNING COMMISSION  
ADOPTING THE 2024-2028 CITY OF ALPENA RECREATION PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alpena Planning Commission is authorized to develop plans for the development, maintenance, and improvement of the City parks system; and

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) requires that any municipality requesting funds for park acquisitions or improvements must have an approved recreation plan on file with the MDNR at the time a grant application is submitted; and

**WHEREAS**, the Recreation Advisory Board and the Planning Commission have jointly undertaken the development of a new 5-year Recreation Plan covering the period 2024-2028; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has solicited public input during the preparation of the Plan through an online survey and public meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, the public was provided a 30-day period to review and submit comments on the Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alpena Planning Commission has met jointly with the City of Alpena Recreation Advisory Board to address public comments regarding the Plan.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Alpena Planning Commission does hereby adopt the 2024-2028 City of Alpena Recreation Plan as the official Recreation Plan for the City of Alpena and forwards said Plan to the Alpena City Council with a recommendation to adopt the Plan following the public hearing conducted at the City of Alpena Planning Commission's meeting on January 9, 2024.

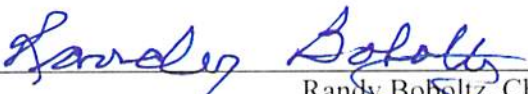
Commissioner Sundin moved to adopt the above resolution, seconded by  
Commissioner Kostelic.

Ayes: Boboltz, VanWagoner, Gilmore, Moses, Sundin, Kostelic, Kemp

Nays: None.

Absent: Wojda, Peterson

Resolution declared adopted by the City of Alpena Planning Commission at a meeting held January 9, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Boboltz, Chair  
City of Alpena Planning Commission



MINUTES  
City of Alpena Planning Commission  
Regular Meeting (Council Chambers and Virtual)  
January 9, 2024 Alpena, Michigan

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Planning Commission was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Randy Boboltz, Planning Commission Chairman.

ROLL CALL: PLANNING COMMISSION

PRESENT: Boboltz, VanWagoner, Gilmore, Moses, Kostelic, Sundin, Kemp

ABSENT: Wojda, Peterson

STAFF: Montiel Birmingham (Planning, Development, and Zoning Director), Kathleen Sauve (Recording Secretary)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Agenda was approved as amended to remove Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting November 13, 2023, and add Brownfield Authority Discussion under Communications or Reports.

Boboltz asked if Birmingham had an update on the Warming Shelter proposal. She stated she did not have an update from the Center of Charity at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting November 27, 2023, minutes were approved as printed.

Boboltz explained the order of procedures for the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMISSION ACTION: **City of Alpena 2024-2028 Recreation Plan**

FAVOR – Kevin Ginter spoke in favor of the proposed Recreation Plan. He suggested recreation passes for local facilities and parks, consolidation of some of the lakeshore parks to help with parking issues, and also relocating the water treatment plant to enhance the lakeshore in the long term. He commended the local civic groups for helping with the parks as well.

OPPOSITION – None.

Boboltz closed the Public Hearing at 6:11 pm.

Moses said that he went to the APlex and used the facilities and was very disappointed in the condition and maintenance of the equipment and showers and that if money were to be spent at that facility, it needs to be brought up to speed first. Sundin said that they were always supposed to add more onsite parking and it has not been done; he would like to see it in the County's plan somewhere, and asked Birmingham to check on that and bring it up to them. He said that the section of the parking lot that is the individual pavers, is very poorly maintained and it reflects badly on them, the City and the Community, as well as dangerous. Boboltz suggested that parking for the banquet hall portion should be on the other side of the building where the entrance is.

To address Ginter, Boboltz, Birmingham and the other board members exchanged conversation and ideas relating to widening State Avenue and sidewalks, expanding parks along the lakeshore, what relocation of the Water Treatment plant would entail, and the possibility of charging a fee for the use of certain parks based on residency.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: **Adopt Resolution for Recreation Plan –**

Sundin ***motioned*** to adopt the resolution for the City of Alpena 2024-2028 Recreation Plan, as presented.

Kostelic ***seconded*** the motion.

Motion ***approved*** by unanimous vote.

COMMUNICATIONS OR REPORTS: Birmingham gave a status update on the progress of the Conditional Rezoned property located at 412 South Eighth Avenue. She said that the target date for significant progress in the reduction of blighting factors was January; the building permit has been obtained, electric meters have been installed and interior electrical work is happening now, windows were ordered and have arrived, and the siding and roof material are in stock locally. The owner's work crew will be back in Alpena starting next week, with significant progress to the exterior of the house by the next Planning Commission meeting in February.

VanWagoner asked about the progress of the other Conditional Rezoned property on Eighth Avenue that was going to be used for housing veterans. Birmingham stated that the property

owner is extremely difficult to get in contact with, but so far nothing has been done. She said that she is trying to find a local contact.

Birmingham said that the Brownfield Authority is made up of various people within the community that have certain experience in different areas. Mike Glowinski had been on the Planning Commission and currently is on the [Brownfield] board. Now that he is retired, he is not on the Planning Commission anymore, but is still on the Brownfield Authority. In the Rules of Procedure, it specifically calls out that a Planning Commission representative be on the board. Birmingham asked for feedback, and if anyone is compelled to be on the board; she stated that Mike is willing to stay on the board and she is open to that as well. Sundin said that he has no problem with Mike if he is willing to stay on the board, but if Mike did not want to, he would be willing to fill that position. Birmingham said that she would have a conversation with Glowinski, and follow-up with Sundin if needed.

CONTINUING EDUCATION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Kevin Ginter, shared with the Board about the widening of the sidewalks in the Grand Rapids Area along the White Pine Trail in residential areas. He also said that the City's ladder fire truck made a huge difference during the recent fire at the Thunder Bay Theater and he supports them obtaining a new one although the cost is very high. He said while travelling through Bay City, he noticed their marihuana facilities are very close to one another. He thinks that they fit better in the community when they are not on top of each other. Boboltz said that language was added to the Ordinance to keep them 500 feet away from one another.

MEMBERS' COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m., by Boboltz, Planning Commission Chairman.

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Clayton C. VanWagoner, Secretary



**RESOLUTION 2024-01 BY  
THE ALPENA CITY COUNCIL  
ADOPTING THE 2024-2028 CITY OF ALPENA RECREATION PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alpena has undertaken the development of a five-year Parks and Recreation Plan, which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain its recreation facilities during the period 2024-2028; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has solicited public input during the preparation of the Plan through an online survey and public meetings, and the City of Alpena Planning Commission and City of Alpena Recreation Advisory Board met jointly on October 11, 2023 to provide input and address public comments regarding the Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the public was provided a 30-day period to review and submit comments on the Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alpena developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community and intends to adopt the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community during the period 2024-2028; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alpena Planning Commission held a public hearing on January 9, 2024 to reveal the final draft plan and allow citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Recreation Plan.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Alpena City Council does hereby adopt the 2024-2028 City of Alpena Recreation Plan as the official Recreation Plan for the City of Alpena to serve as a guideline for improving recreation for its residents.

Councilmember Nowak moved to adopt the above resolution, seconded by Councilmember Walchak.

Ayes: Johnson, Mitchell, Nowak, and Walchak.  
Nays: None.  
Absent: None.

Resolution declared adopted by the Municipal Council at a meeting held January 16, 2024.

  
Anna Soik  
City Clerk

## **COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

**January 16, 2024**

The Municipal Council of the City of Alpena met in regular session on the above date and was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by the Mayor Pro Tem.

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Johnson, Councilmember Mitchell, Councilmember Nowak and Councilmember Walchak.

Absent: None.

Note: The Mayoral seat is currently vacant.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by Councilmember Nowak, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, to approve the agenda.

Motion carried 4-0.

### **MODIFICATION TO THE AGENDA**

Moved by Councilmember Nowak, seconded by Councilmember Walchak, to add to the consent agenda the recognition of the Heather Rensberry Memorial Foundation as a non-profit organization for the purpose of obtaining a charitable gaming license for an event to be held in the City of Alpena.

Motion carried 4-0.

### **MINUTES**

The minutes of the regular session of January 02, 2024, were approved as printed.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by Councilmember Nowak, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, that the following Consent Agenda items be approved:

- A. Bills to be allowed, in the amount of \$354,373.56, and authorize Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and Clerk Soik to sign the warrant.
- B. Approval of cemetery deed no. 0295 by and between the City of Alpena and Dawn Lynne Hernandez in the amount of \$745 for block 40 lot 268 for the use and purpose of a burial lot with perpetual care and authorize Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and Clerk Soik to authorize said deed.
- C. Recognition of the Heather Rensberry Memorial Foundation as a non-profit organization for the purpose of obtaining a charitable gaming license for an event to be held in the City of Alpena.

Motion carried 4-0.

### **EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER**

Kathy Himes, Human Resources Director, and Robert Edmonds, Fire Chief, presented a plaque to Douglas Keogh, Firefighter/Paramedic, and recognized him as the Employee of the Quarter.

### **ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT FY23**

Moved by Councilmember Nowak, seconded by Councilmember Walchak, to receive and file [the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2023 as presented by Straley Lamp & Kraenzlein P.C.].

Motion carried 4-0.

### **HURON HUMANE SOCIETY SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT**

Moved by Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Walchak, to receive and file [the Huron Humane Society Semi-Annual Report as presented by Mary Eagan, Huron Humane Society Trustee].

Motion carried 4-0.

### **TARGET SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT**

Moved by Councilmember Nowak, seconded by Councilmember Walchak, to receive and file [the Target Semi-Annual Report as presented by Michael Mahler, Economic Development Director].

Motion carried 4-0.



## **PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson proclaimed the week of January 22, 2024, as Thunder Bay International Film Festival Week in the City of Alpena.

## **DUMPSTER SERVICE BID RECOMMENDATION**

On January 9, 2024, the City received and opened bids for dumpster service as follows:

GFL Environmental - Alpena, MI

2023 - \$6.25/yd<sup>3</sup> and \$4.00/can

2024 - \$6.25/yd<sup>3</sup> and \$5.00/can

2025 - \$6.35/yd<sup>3</sup> and \$5.25/can

2026 - \$6.45/yd<sup>3</sup> and \$5.50/can

Waste Management, Wixom, MI declined to bid.

Moved by Councilmember Walchak, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, to award the contract to GFL Environmental for the unit prices provided for a (3) three-year period with the possibility of a (1) one-year contract renewal.

Motion carried 4-0.

## **PORTABLE TOILET RENTAL AND SERVICE CONTRACT**

On January 9, 2024, the City received and opened bids to provide and service portable toilets at various locations throughout the City and during special events. The following bids were received:

Hall's Serv-All - Posen, MI

Standard Unit: 2024 - \$105/mo. 2025 - \$110/mo. 2026 - \$115/mo.

Handicap Unit: 2024 - \$145/mo. 2025 - \$150/mo. 2026 - \$155/mo.

Special Events additional cleaning/servicing: \$26.25/wk. for a standard unit; and \$36.25/wk. for handicap accessible unit. This is for one cleaning per week. For two cleanings per week, it is \$52.50/wk. for a standard unit and \$72.50/wk. for a handicap accessible unit.

Alpena Septic Service – Hubbard Lake, MI

Standard Unit: 2024 - \$390/mo. 2025 - \$439/mo. 2026 - \$466/mo.

Handicap Unit: 2024 - \$490/mo. 2025 - \$539/mo. 2026 - \$566/mo.

Special Events additional cleaning/servicing: \$500/wk. for a standard unit; and \$400/wk. for handicap accessible unit. This is for one cleaning per week. For two cleanings per week, it is \$500/wk. for a standard unit and \$400/wk. for a handicap accessible unit.

Moved by Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Nowak, to award the contract to supply and service portable toilets throughout the City to Hall's Serv-All for the as-bid unit prices for years 2024, 2025, and 2026, with a possibility of a (1) one-year contract extension if both parties can agree on pricing.

Motion carried 4-0.

#### **RECREATION PLAN RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01**

Moved by Councilmember Nowak, seconded by Councilmember Walchak, to approve Resolution No. 2024-01 which adopts the 2024-2028 City of Alpena Recreation Plan.

Motion carried 4-0.

#### **SELECTION OF CANDIDATE TO FILL MAYORAL VACANCY**

Moved by Councilmember Walchak, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, to appoint Cindy Johnson to Mayor for the term ending December 31, 2024.

Motion carried by votes as follows:

Ayes: Mitchell, Walchak, and Johnson.

Nays: Nowak.

Absent: None.

Clerk Soik administered the oath of office to Mayor Johnson.

#### **SELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM**

Moved by Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Walchak, that Michael Nowak be appointed to fill the open position of Mayor Pro Tem [for the term ending December 31,

2024].

Motion carried 4-0.

### **STATEMENTS OF CANDIDATES FOR COUNCILMEMBER VACANCY**

Statements by candidates for the councilmember vacancy were presented in the following order: Kevin R. Ginter, Erinn R. Kane, Christopher D. Moses, and Ashley M. Peterson. The councilmembers then completed a form to indicate their first and second choices for the councilmember position. The first choice received two points and the second choice received 1 point.

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Nowak, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, to take a 5-minute recess.

Motion carried 4-0.

The Council recessed at 8:21 p.m.

The Council was called back to order at 8:28 p.m.

The results of the voting were tabulated by Clerk Soik and City Manager Smolinski. It was announced that Erinn Kane received the highest number of points.

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Nowak, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, to appoint Erinn Kane to the City Council to fill the vacant term to December 31, 2024.

Motion carried 4-0.

Clerk Soik administered the oath of office to Councilmember Kane.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Councilmember Kane, seconded by Councilmember Walchak, the Municipal Council adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Cindy Johnson  
Mayor



ATTEST:

Anna Soik  
City Clerk

DRAFT



City Hall  
208 North First Avenue  
Alpena, Michigan 49707  
[www.alpena.mi.us](http://www.alpena.mi.us)

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## *Planning, Development, & Zoning*

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January 23, 2024

Alpena County Planning Commission  
720 W Chisholm St  
Alpena, MI 49707

RE: City of Alpena Recreation Plan 2024-2028

Dear Commissioners,

Enclosed is a final copy of the City of Alpena Recreation Plan 2024-2028 adopted by the Alpena City Council on January 16, 2024. This plan is being submitted per the requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Grants Management Division.

If you have any questions regarding the plan, please contact me at 989-354-1771 or by email at [montielb@alpena.mi.us](mailto:montielb@alpena.mi.us).

Sincerely,

Montiel Birmingham  
Planning, Development, and Zoning Director  
989.354.1771  
[montielb@alpena.mi.us](mailto:montielb@alpena.mi.us)

Enclosure





City Hall  
208 North First Avenue  
Alpena, Michigan 49707  
[www.alpena.mi.us](http://www.alpena.mi.us)

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*Planning, Development, & Zoning*

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January 23, 2024

Doug Baum  
Executive Director  
Northeast Michigan Council of Governments  
PO Box 457  
Gaylord MI 49734

RE: City of Alpena Recreation Plan 2024-2028

Dear Doug,

Enclosed is a final copy of the City of Alpena Recreation Plan 2024-2028 adopted by the Alpena City Council on January 16, 2024. This plan is being submitted per the requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Grants Management Division.

If you have any questions regarding the plan, please contact me at 989-354-1771 or by email at [montielb@alpena.mi.us](mailto:montielb@alpena.mi.us).

Sincerely,

Montiel Birmingham  
Planning, Development, and Zoning Director  
989.354.1771  
[montielb@alpena.mi.us](mailto:montielb@alpena.mi.us)

Enclosure





APPENDIX

# B

## MICH-E-KE-WIS PARK PLAN

# Mich-e-ke-wis Park MASTER PLAN



City of Alpena  
Michigan

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# **Mich-e-ke-wis Park Plan 2020**

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## **City of Alpena, Michigan**

Prepared for:

The City of Alpena

Prepared by:

Northeast Michigan Council of Governments  
80 Livingston Boulevard, Suite U-108  
P.O. Box 457  
Gaylord, Michigan 49734

**Adopted: August 17, 2020**



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## Introduction

The City of Alpena is the steward of some of the most beautiful and cherished public park systems in the region. Mich-e-ke-wis Park is especially revered because of the natural beauty of its shoreline, sandy beach, and peaceful setting. Nearby is another incredibly special park, Starlite Beach. The approximate 20-acre Mich-e-ke-wis Park is the quiet alternative right next door to the splash park and excitement of Starlite Beach. The City recognizes the importance of these parks and their unique characters and believes that a new planning effort was needed to focus on Mich-e-ke-wis Park. This plan provides a framework, with thorough public input, that gives guidance to decision making on park improvements. This plan is intended to supplement the most recently adopted Alpena City Recreation Plan.

In a previous plan for this park, it was lamented that the receding water levels were causing issues with beach quality. In 2019, the area has experienced some of the highest water levels ever recorded. Obviously, change is all that we can count on in this regard and all recommendations in this plan must be sustainable.

## Public Involvement

The City recognizes effective planning involves thorough public involvement to ensure a great community park for the residents. The City sought public input and ideas from area citizens to create this plan and its recommendations for Mich-e-ke-wis Park's future.

The City hosted an event on March 12, 2019 at the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Approximately 60 people attended and provided valuable insight into why they like the park and what they would like to see the park look like in the future. The session was well attended, and many great ideas were shared.

## THE ALPENA NEWS

### Future of Mich-e-ke-wis Park discussed



News Photo by Julie Riddle Community members who attended a discussion on the future of Mich-e-ke-wis Park on Tuesday evening mark their favorite suggestions made in an upbeat brainstorming session.

ALPENA –The public was invited to a meeting held Tuesday to discuss the future of Mich-e-ke-wis Park in Alpena.



Questions were posed to facilitate discussion and the responses were noted on the board in the room. The four questions were:

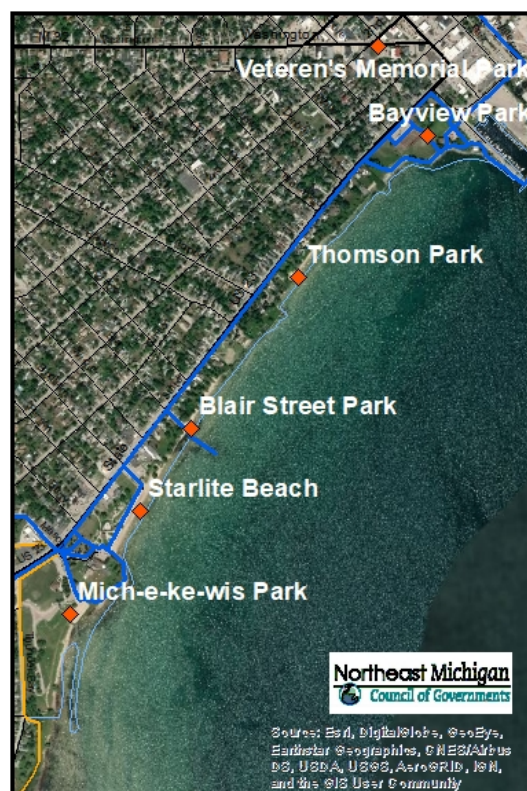
1. What do you like about Mich-e-ke-wis Park now?
2. What is a challenge at the Park right now?
3. What is the best thing that could be done to improve the Park?
4. What should not occur at the Park?

At the end of the event, the participants were asked to indicate the one response they felt was most important to them for each of the four questions. Those responses clearly showed an interest in the quiet experience that the Park provides. The top three “likes” were *water view*, *trees*, and *simplicity*. People enjoy the outdoor sports opportunities that exist in the park and the farmers’ market. Some people mentioned this might be a good park to include some historic displays. The top three challenges were *roads*, *shoreline preservation*, and *beach maintenance*. Desired additions included overwhelming support for a pavilion especially for the farmers’ market. Also, there was strong support for improvements that allowed for more accessibility to the waterfront and views of the water. Overall, keeping it simple seemed to be the theme.

On November 13, 2019, the City hosted another public involvement evening at the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary for input on the draft plan drawings and suggested improvements. The public response was incredibly positive, and the final recommendations reflect the comments from each of these public involvement sessions.

## Neighboring Parks

When considering how to make the suggested improvements, it was important to review the existing recreational opportunities in the other city parks. The City of Alpena is rich in recreational resources, such as bike paths, water trails, parks, and shoreline. The parks most similar to Mich-e-ke-wis Park are those along the Lake Huron shoreline to the north that are located within the City limits. These neighboring parks are Bayview Park, Thomson Park, Blair Street Park, and Starlite Beach. Starlite Beach is immediately adjacent to Mich-e-ke-wis Park and many of these parks are a hub of activity on a summer day.



Many of the neighboring parks have their own character and are desired by visitors for different reasons. One of the most desirable waterfront parks along Lake Huron is Starlite Beach. This park includes a splash park that was installed in 2018, which has become a noticeably big attraction. A visit on a summer day will make it clear that Starlite has become a favorite of the Huron shore parks. In 2019, TripAdvisor.com, a popular travel website, listed Starlite Beach as the #5 most popular thing to do in Alpena. It is the third most popular park next to Rockport State Park (#4) and Island Park & Wildlife Sanctuary (#2). Mich-e-ke-wis Park is listed as #11 of the 27 destinations featured. The current status and planned improvements of each of these parks are included at the end of this plan.

The unique nature of Mich-e-ke-wis Park should be considered when planning park improvements. This park is clearly desired for its quiet enjoyment of the outdoors, farmers' market, volleyball, and waterfront viewing. The Park has larger open spaces closer to the heavily traveled state highway.



The view was mentioned as a desirable attraction to the site and a quality to be preserved. Clearly, the view from the main road through the park to the water is limited. However, the view from *within* the park across the water is very appealing. The views that will be the focus of improvements at Mich-e-ke-wis Park will be internal views for visitors within the park.

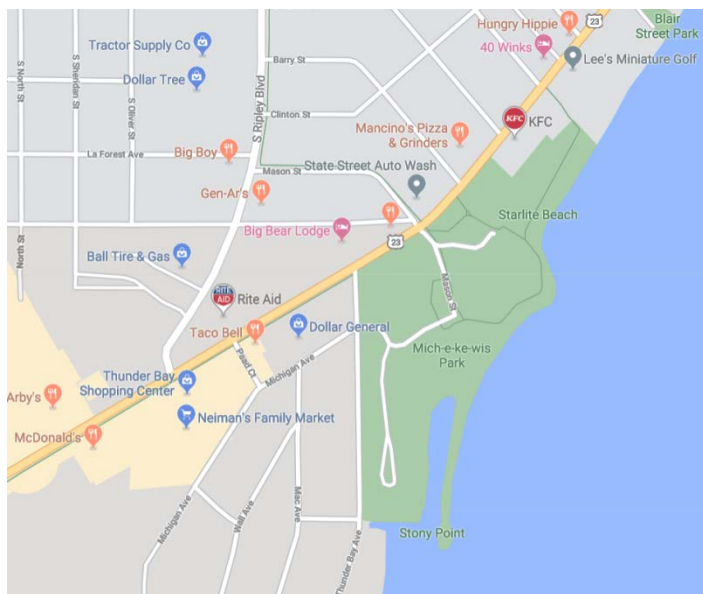
The adjacent photo is from Google Maps, taken in July 2018. The water is visible but is a small part of the overall viewshed in this area. The traffic along this road is busy and leads to very little sightseeing except to see there is a park in this location. The amenities of Mich-e-ke-wis Park that are located along the road are much more visible.

When compared with the viewshed of Starlite Beach, it is clear that Starlite Beach has more waterfront access. In addition, the splash park is clearly visible and even more visible when the crowds enjoying the splash park are present.



## Park Access

Although this plan does not propose any changes to park access, this plan makes note of the opportunities and challenges. As mentioned, the park is accessible by motorized and non-motorized means of transportation. It is located along the Alpena Bi-Path, which is a multi-user



non-motorized pathway connecting many destinations throughout the City for both recreational and daily transportation needs.

U.S. 23, also called the Huron Shores Heritage Route, is well traveled and an excellent means of motor vehicle access to the park. The annual average daily traffic (AADT) along the park's frontage on U.S. 23 in 2018 was 8,930. However, there are limited protected crosswalks. The closest crosswalk to the northeast is approximately 1,100 feet away and 1,200 feet to the southwest. Working with the Michigan Department of

Transportation on possible improvements to park access would be worthwhile. As you can see from the Google map showing other attractions in the area and the proximity of the park, the addition of crosswalks would better connect residents to these potential destinations.

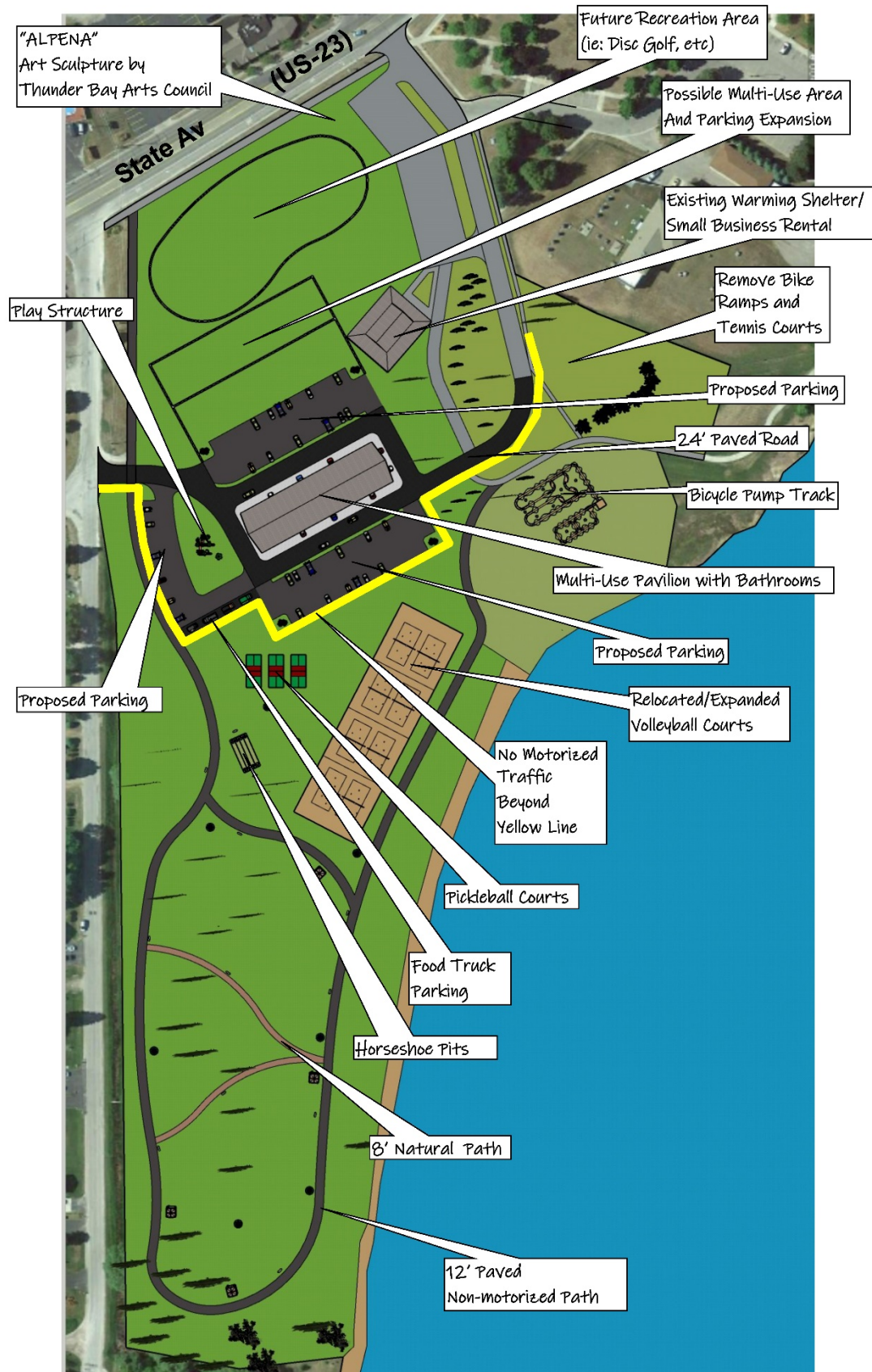
## Recommendations

Although this plan provides a number of recommendations for potential improvements to Mich-e-ke-wis Park, any steps taken will involve additional public input from the City Council, City Staff, and other stakeholders. For instance, a new pavilion was a favorite park addition since it could be used by the farmers' market and other organizations. The design and final location of such a structure would include additional and final planning with engineers and stakeholders. Other improvements should involve similar stakeholder input.

Improvements to parks are often done incrementally. This plan recommends being ready to make any of the improvements listed here by immediately starting dialog with stakeholders for each of the specific improvements. This will allow for immediate action when funding sources are identified.

Specific improvements and potential stakeholders and partners for fundraising efforts are listed in this plan.







## Proposed Amenities

### 1. Multi-use Pavilion

The multi-use pavilion was the highest rated improvement from the first public input session. The pavilion can be used for year-round programming and social events, including festivals, family gatherings, school events, class reunions, concerts and performances, and a potential ice rink. Currently, the Alpena Farmers' Market is a top-rated aspect of the Park and operates two days a week from July through the first week of October. Dependent on design and available funding, the pavilion would provide comfort for merchants and customers, potentially attract more customers, and possibly extend the market's operating season.

### 2. Quiet Area/Pedestrian Pathway

It was clear from the public input sessions that the quietness, simplicity, and water view are some of the most favored aspects of the park. This quiet area proposed, as shown on the map on page 5, provides a pedestrian/non-motorized area of the park for quiet reflection and exercise. In this area, there are many trees and quality views of the water. The pedestrian path replaces a gravel drive, which was one of the criticisms listed at the public input session. Instead of paving the gravel in this section of the park, it is converted to a quiet space for recreation and relaxation. Picnic tables, benches, horseshoe courts, and a play structure could be placed in this area.

### 3. Additional Volleyball Courts

Currently, the beach volleyball courts are in high demand and are in need of protection from rising water levels. Mich-e-ke-wis is already a popular destination for volleyball compared to other parks. There is an opportunity to build on this by creating more and better volleyball opportunities. A new location will be necessary to ensure long-term protection from rising waters but will need to retain the preferred proximity to the beach. There are currently six volleyball courts and four more are proposed.

### 4. Bike Pump-Track

Typically, these types of riding facilities receive high utilization when complemented by additional infrastructure, such as picnic tables, playground equipment, and other developed park facilities, that already draw children and families. An ideal area for a pump track is approximately 0.5-acres. The track could be created with imported clay or purchased prefabricated. The advantages of the former are lower cost (\$35,000 labor plus materials/transport), malleability, and the ability to remove the track easily through regrading. The disadvantages are a need for regular maintenance and, to some, the aesthetics of piles of clay/dirt. For a prefabricated pump track, the advantages are a much lower level of maintenance and polished aesthetics that can be easily landscaped,

while the disadvantages include a higher cost (\$15-20,000 labor and \$75,000-\$100,000 for the track components) and a lack of the ability to alter the design over time.

This type of park pairs well with the skate park that exists at Mich-e-ke-wis Park and would attract similar users.

#### 5. Horseshoe Courts

Horseshoe pitching is one of the few sports that has a national champion for men, women, boys, and girls and can still be played in one's backyard. In this day of weight watching, what better way to exercise than walking, bending, and reaching? These are integral parts of this sport. Game-related injuries are rare, and doctors have repeatedly stressed the beneficial aspects of this sport. Multiple horseshoe courts can be constructed and create an opportunity for league or individual play for all ages. An area of 55'x75' is needed to have six horseshoe courts.



#### 6. Picnic Tables/Benches

These improvements can provide additional comfortable seating to enjoy the water view from inside the park. Locations will be inside the pedestrian quiet area and other specific locations to be determined.

## **7. Bike Racks**

These can be placed around the park near the bike path's intersection with a feature in the park, such as the volleyball courts and proposed pavilion. They are relatively inexpensive and encourage people to ride their bike to the park and know there is a place to secure it.

## **8. Lighting**

A lighting plan is needed for this site to maximize security and convenience and to ensure dark sky lighting practices are followed. The International Dark Sky Association (<https://www.darksky.org/>) is a helpful resource for choosing proper lighting to limit light pollution and protect the night skies.

## **9. Play Structure**

This type of addition can improve a park experience by keeping youth involved in exercise. The type of play structure that is eventually chosen will depend on the number of children expected at any given time, the location and size available for the structure, as well as the budget. The budget for such a structure has been estimated for \$1000 times the number of children that are expected to be playing on it at any given time. The need for proper playing surface and maintenance is also a consideration of such an improvement.



## **10. Parking Area - rearranged**

This new design will improve the southern section of the park and its dusty gravel road as well as the undefined, wider maneuvering space, which has a lot of wasted space and a lack of clarity as to how motor vehicles and pedestrians should move through the space. This should increase parking opportunities and park user safety.

## Appendix

### Alpena Park System

*The following information is excerpted from the 2016-2020 City of Alpena Recreation Plan and describes the City parks along the Lake Huron shore.*

**Bay View Park** is located on State Avenue, adjacent to the Municipal Small Boat Harbor. This is one of the City's largest developed parks with multiple year-round uses. It contains four tennis courts, three basketball courts, and a multipurpose open lawn area. There is an area of shoreline, space for picnics and an open field for low profile activity. There is the Fine Arts Band shell, which is used for summer band concerts, community celebrations and by various groups for other occasions. A fenced, fully equipped young children's playground, developed by and maintained in partnership with the Alpena Kiwanis Club, is another of the facilities available at this site. Public restrooms are located on Harbor Drive. The Bi-Path runs through the park and connects the park to other recreation areas. The Alpena Yacht Club is located within the Park on property leased from the City.



*Future improvements* - Bay View Park is the City's primary multi-use park, is located in the City's Downtown Development Authority district, adjacent to the City Marina and is heavily utilized for community events and festivals, such as Art-on-the-Bay and summer music concerts. The City Council has established an objective that calls for the continued improvement, maintenance, and beautification of all City parks. The proposed improvements will continue to enhance the use, appearance, character, and quality of this park. Proposed improvements include upgrades to the tennis court lighting system, general site work, installation of a picnic pavilion, upgrades to existing playground equipment, and construction of a restroom/concession building. The construction of a new restroom/concession facility will provide additional facilities needed with increased usage of the park for special events as well as by general users. The development of a fenced dog park will create an area for dog owners to safely allow their pets to run and play.





**Blair Street Park** is a 0.4-acre park located at the end of Blair Street along 173 feet of Thunder Bay frontage. Lake Huron. The park includes a refurbished handicap-accessible fishing pier, a picnic area with tables and grills, concrete bike paths that connect the State Avenue bike path to the pier and off-street parking.



*Future Improvements* - Blair Street Park is a waterfront mini park along the shore of Lake Huron between Starlite Beach and Thomson Park. The City Council established an objective for the continued improvement, maintenance, and beautification of all City parks. Improvements include new decking for the existing pier and lighting for the pier and adjoining sidewalk to enhance the visual character of the pier and park and provide increased hours of use by the public.



### Blair Street Park

Existing and Future Facilities  
2016-2020

-  Lighting Upgrades
-  Bi-Path
-  Park Boundary
-  Sidewalk

**Thomson Park** located on State Avenue on Lake Huron, midway between Starlite Beach and Bay View Park. With 160 feet of Thunder Bay frontage, this park has an excellent swimming beach, which is used quite heavily. Several picnic tables and a bike rack are available. A portable restroom facility is placed at the park during the summer months.

*Future improvements* – This small park is located on the shore of Lake Huron and contains one of the primary swimming beaches in the City. Upgrades are necessary to adequately accommodate the large number of users at this small beach park. The proposed improvements will continue to enhance the appearance, character, and quality of this park. Improvements include upgraded site amenities and construction of a new pedestrian walkway entrance to the park.



Thomson Park



**Starlite Beach** located on Lake Huron along State Avenue, between Thunder Bay Avenue and Bingham Street. This park (Starlite and Mich-e-ke-wis Park combined) is one of the largest developed City-owned recreation areas.

#### *Starlite Beach*

- Three large children's play structures
- Two additional children's play areas
- Public restrooms
- Picnic area
- Beach
- Off street parking
- Sections of the City's Bi-Path that run along the Lake Huron shoreline.
- Pavilion with picnic tables
- Barrier-free restrooms and outdoor showers



*Future improvements* – In 2004, the City Council, City Planning Commission, and the City Recreation Advisory Board, with funding from the Michigan Coastal Management Program, adopted a master plan for both Mich-e-ke-wis Park and Starlite Beach to determine future upgrades in both parks. Initial development items from the plan have focused upon Starlite Beach. The City Council has established an objective that calls for the continued improvement, maintenance, and beautification of all City parks. The proposed improvements will continue to enhance the use, appearance, character, and quality of this park. Proposed improvements include the continued improvements to the pedestrian promenade, and construction of a pedestrian gateway into the park. Construction of the splash park facility was a recent and popular improvement which has provided a needed amenity and increased use of the park by the general public.



**Starlite Beach**  
Existing Facilities  
2016-2020

Refer to Starlite Beach/Mich-e-kis-wis  
Park Master Plan for more details on  
planned improvements.

— Alpena Bi-Path  
— Park Boundary  
— Rotary Playground



**Mich-e-ke-wis Park** is located adjacent to Starlite Beach Park on the Lake Huron shore along State Avenue/US 23. This and Starlite Beach combined is one of the largest developed City-owned recreation areas.

*Mich-e-ke-wis Park*

- An enclosed warming/general park shelter building
- Two youth/women's ball fields
- A BMX bike park (designed for beginner and younger riders)
- Volleyball courts
- Horseshoe pits
- Picnic area
- Beach
- Off street parking
- Sections of the City's Bi-Path that run along the Lake Huron shoreline.



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## 1<sup>st</sup> Public Input Session Summary

Meeting Date: March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019

---

The City of Alpena has been listening to the needs of their community and is seeking input on Mich-e-ke-wis Park. The City wants to know what could be improved upon at this favorite park. To start this process the City requested assistance from the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments to seek input from the public and, with the public's guidance, provide some recommendations for the park.

The first step of the process was a public input session, held on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019, to gather information on what people liked about the park, what they don't like, what they want and what they don't want to see happen at the park. This session was held at the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. There were approximately 60 people in attendance at the first public input session.

Questions were posed to facilitate discussion and the responses were noted on the board in the room. The four questions were:

1. What do you like about Mich-e-ke-wis Park now?
2. What is a challenge at the Park right now?
3. What is the best thing that could be done to improve the Park?
4. What should not occur at the Park?

At the end, the participants were asked to indicate the one response to each of the 4 questions which they felt was the most important to them. Those responses are documented exactly as they were documented during the public input session and shown on the following pages. Each item shows the number of stars that were drawn by the participants on each item, indicating the general level of importance of each item to the audience. This information is being used to create site drawings of the park representing different potential development scenarios. NEMCOG is working with staff to draft them.

### **Next Steps**

Various Park development scenarios will be provided for review by the public. These will be discussed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> public input session, which will be announced very soon. At that time, we will be asking for input on the various drafts of future Park site plans. This will most likely be scheduled to occur by June.

### **How to Learn More and Keep in Touch**

Information will be updated on the Park planning process at the following web address:  
<http://www.discovernortheastmichigan.org/michekewis.asp>.

<b>What do you like about Mich-e-ke-wis Park now?</b>	<b># of Stars</b>
Water View	6
Trees	5
Simplicity	4
Farmers' market	3
Sand beach, few rocks	2
Quiet	2
Legacy/history/memories	2
Wildlife	1
Outdoor sports	1
Access to lake (wide open view)	1
Not over-developed (partners/contrasts well with Starlite Beach)	
Open space	
Picnic space	
Sunrise	
Night view	
Volleyball	
Gateway from south	
Continuous use of shore	

<b>What is a challenge at the park right now?</b>	<b># of Stars</b>
Roads, need for pavement	6
Preservation of natural shoreline, challenges	6
Beach maintenance	4
Unfinished bike path	2
Restrooms	1
Different definitions of development	1
Costs (of maintaining and developing park)	1
Racing (of vehicles)	
Universal access	
Safety	
General maintenance	
Lack of parking	
Proper traffic flow	
No traffic? (restrict all traffic)	
Invasive species	
Flooding	

<b>What is the best thing that could be done to improve the park?</b>	<b># of Stars</b>
Pavilion (esp. for farmers' market, with power, possible ice rink)	8
Boardwalk along beach (ADA compatible)	5
Balance of uses without obstructing views	3
Improved water access: docks/movable structures	3
Historic interpretative displays	3
Natural vegetation	2
Paved parking, well-defined	2
Dark sky lighting	2
Bike parking	1
Healthy youth destination	1
Portable ice rink	1
Define what people want	
Unobstructed use by kiteboarders	
Education/Natural interpretative displays	
City employees involved in improvements	
More volleyball courts	
Remove old willows	
Quiet area	
Outdoor winter use	
Year-round use	
Scenic overlook	
The "oval", flexibility for events	
Worldwide examples of park improvements	
Cover up ditch on Thunder Bay Avenue (for more parking?)	
Ensure driveway access from Thunder Bay Avenue	
Gathering space (food truck, garden, etc.)	
Leave it alone	
Fireplace	
Improve safety of playground	
Canoe/kayak storage	
Labyrinth for meditative walk	
Toboggan run	
Pickleball courts	
Curling	



What should not occur at the park?	# of Stars
Duplicate Starlite	8
Over-develop	7
RV park	6
Short sightedness	2
Unintended consequences	1
Community garden	
Flower gardens (unnatural)	

### Other Ideas Shared After the Public Input Session and on Posters at the Session

Keep it simple and natural as possible

Keep it open

Leave it alone - as it is!!

Sledding Hill

Basketball court to go along with baseball & volleyball

Yurts

Fire pits on the beach

Add room for more volleyball courts if needed (big league in-town

Sledding hill

clean bathrooms

Area near volleyball courts, in front of parking area, for kiteboarders/windsurfer launch area

Beach activities (Sandcastles, swim, walk, picnic, various games with balls etc.)

Kite flying

Launching sail boards, kayaks, small watercraft

Family-friendly activities

Shuffleboard

Croquet and other lawn games

Dog park for small dogs

Dog park for large dogs

Handicap walk to the water

Volleyball

Bike Park

Clear view of Lake Huron from US 23

Winter activities

Ice skating rink

Small sledding hill built so it does not obstruct the view. Could be used for rolling down hill in the summer.

(Could it be built of snow cleared from city property? If a season of little snow, the hill would be small. If a lot of snowfall, a bigger hill.)

APPENDIX

C

# MARINA MASTER PLAN

# 2022-2026 MARINA MASTER PLAN



City of Alpena  
Michigan

**RESOLUTION 2022-22**  
**BY THE ALPENA HARBOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**ADOPTING THE 2021-2025 ALPENA MARINA MASTER PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alpena has undertaken the development of a five-year Master Plan for the Alpena Marina, which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain its recreation facilities during the period 2021-2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has solicited public input during the preparation of the Plan through an online surveys and public meetings, and the Harbor Advisory Committee met on August 9, 2021, to provide input and address public comments regarding the Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alpena developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community and intends to adopt the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community during the period 2021-2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alpena City Council, Alpena Planning Commission and the Recreation Advisory Board have reviewed the final draft plan, asked questions, and discussed all aspects of the Master Plan and have recommended the 2021-2025 Alpena Marina Master Plan for approval to the Alpena City Council.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Alpena Harbor Advisory Committee does hereby recommends the 2021-2025 Alpena Marina Master Plan as the official Master Plan for the Alpena Marina to serve as a guideline for improving recreation for its residents and approves appending said plan to the existing 2021-2025 City of Alpena Recreation Plan.

Moe moved to adopt the above resolution, seconded by Retherford.

Ayes: Moe, Retherford, Lewis, Wilson, LaBarre, Luther  
Nays: None.  
Absent: Kostelic, Winterstein.

Resolution declared adopted by the Harbor Advisory Committee at a meeting held May 5, 2022.



Shannon Smolinski  
Harbormaster



## Acknowledgements

### Harbor Advisory Committee

Al Dean Moe  
 Ed Retherford  
 Wayne Lewis  
 Steve Wilson  
 Tanner Kostelic  
 Donald LaBarre - Chair  
 Jason Luther  
 Jeremy Winterstein  
 Staff: Shannon Smolinski, Harbormaster  
 Staff: Kelton Schlueter, Tech II

### Planning Commission

Steve Gilmore  
 Claire Kostelic  
 Paul Sabourin  
 Randy Boboltz  
 Matthew Wojda  
 Clayton VanWagoner  
 Diane Baeur  
 Ashley Peterson

### City Council

Matt Waligora; Mayor  
 Cindy Johnson; Mayor Pro Tem.  
 Danny Mitchell  
 Mike Nowak  
 Karol Walchak

City Manager; Rachel Smolinski  
 Administrative Assistant; Cassie Stone

### Engineering Department

Steve Shultz; City Engineer  
 Charlie Kendziorski; Assistant City Engineer

#### **Prepared with assistance from:**

Northeast Michigan Council of Governments  
 80 Livingston Boulevard  
 P.O. Box 457  
 Gaylord, Michigan 49734  
[www.nemcog.org](http://www.nemcog.org)

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# Chapter 1

# 1

## Purpose & Focus Areas

### Focus of Marina Plan

The Harbormaster, Harbor Advisory Committee, City Council, City Staff, and designated committees or commissions shall work closely with the Marina Plan to ensure the marina planning effort fits the community's specific planning needs. The Marina Plan addresses different scenarios to produce a summary of the public input and provide a prioritized list of potential improvements. The key focus areas of this plan and the recommendations contained within are to build upon the current vibrant multiuse Northeastern Michigan Marina that celebrates a vast maritime history and culture, while providing for Marina's future needs.

### Focus Areas

1. **Connect with the Community:** The City of Alpena shall strive to grow partnerships that can benefit both the City of Alpena Marina and its residents. Connecting and partnering with the community can help overcome many barriers through outreach and education.
2. **Marina Marketing:** As cities grow, marketing has become an integral part in the growth of communities. Many things can be achieved through marketing. The City of Alpena should use marketing to showcase its greatest assets in connection with the Alpena Marina.
3. **Provide Financially Sound Development:** The Master Plan recognizes that a successful project must be economically sustainable and financially sound. The Master Plan requires that new development funds and construction of public facilities and services are needed to serve the Master Plan, achieve general objectives, and avoid any financial impact on the City's ability to provide services to the rest of the City. This document will look to guide development at the Alpena Marina. The City should look to assure that the Capital

Improvements Plan aligns with the City of Alpena Marina's current goals and initiatives.

**4. Create a Dynamic Multi-Use Marina for Everyone:**

The City of Alpena should invest in innovative ways to assure that the Alpena Marina is a Multi-Use Facility accommodating both boating and non-boating activities.

**5. Recreate, Re-use, and Redevelop Infrastructure:**

A lot of what sets the City of Alpena Marina apart from other marina's is the current infrastructure. The City of Alpena should obtain creative ways to recreate, reuse and redevelop infrastructure meanwhile strive to provide the same Marina assets that citizens, residents and visitors have all grown to love.

**6. New Development:**

The City shall look to coordinate new development and future maintenance within Capital Improvement Plans and the overall Budgeting process.



**7. Marina Vibrancy:**

The City shall strive to improve the overall walkability and vibrancy throughout the marina. The City may improve overall vibrance of the marina through but not limited to many of the following natural plantings, artifacts, sculptures, art, and picnic areas.



# Chapter 2

## 2

## Site Location & Context

### Site Location

The Alpena Marina is located adjacent to Bay View Park on beautiful Lake Huron in Thunder Bay at 400 East Chisholm Street;

Channel: 45° 03' 32" N 83° 25' 17" W Radio Channel: 9. The Alpena Marina is the only full service marina in the area. It provides visitors and residents with necessary, boating-related services, including a fueling station, 35-ton boat hoist, fish cleaning station, boaters' restrooms, a marina store, and marine repair facilities. The Alpena Marina offers a variety of seasonal and transient boater slips. Courtesy docks, a launch ramp and broadside moorage are also available.

The City participates in the State Central Reservation System. Under this system, transient boaters are able to reserve dockage at the Marina on specific dates via a centralized, statewide system. Forty-four (44) transient slips are available for reservation through this system.



## History

In the mid 1800's, Alpena saw growth through fishing and logging. The logging peak in Alpena was from 1836 through 1921. In 1872, the harbor came under federal jurisdiction. The federal system of distributing funds to maintain the nation's harbors depended greatly on political pressure that an area exerted. Alpena had little political pressure during that era, often leaving the harbor neglected. However, during this time it served between 1,500 and 2,000 boats annually.

In the early 1900's Alpena transitioned to manufacturing, mining, and concrete block making technology. Throughout much of Alpena's History many of the industries that contributed to the early growth of Alpena such as fishing, manufacturing, and concrete technology persist to this day. In 1924, a break wall was completed at the mouth of the Thunder Bay River, alleviating most of the silting and shifting sand bar conditions. In 1936, three distinct dredging projects were completed. The break wall extended out twenty-one (21) feet, Fletcher Plant to the mouth of the Thunder Bay River eighteen (18) feet and turning basin fifteen (15) feet. The completion of the new Second Avenue bridge in 1939 opened the upper river to larger ships. Alpena's shipping and/or passenger traffic grew due to a growing stone industry centered around Huron Portland Cement Company and the Wyandotte Chemical Company. The City of Alpena gained possession of the marina in 1960 however did not receive official deed from the State of Michigan until 1987.

In 2000 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) designated the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary as the nation's first national marine sanctuary in the Great Lakes, is the first freshwater sanctuary in the nation and is home to over 200 shipwrecks. The Great Lakes Submerged Land Act of 1955 grants conveyance of all submerged great lakes bottom lands to the State

of Michigan and incorporated within the Natural Resource and Environmental Protection act of 1994. The Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary works closely with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) to preserve shipwrecks.



## Nearby Amenities

**Bay View Park:** is one of the City's largest developed parks with multiple year round uses located on Lake Huron. It contains four tennis courts, three basketball courts, and a multipurpose open lawn area. There is an area of shoreline, space for picnics and an open field for low profile activity. There is the Fine Arts Band shell, which is used for summer band concerts, community celebrations and by various groups for other occasions. A fenced, fully equipped children's playground was developed by and is maintained in partnership with the Alpena Kiwanis Club. The Bi-Path runs through the park and connects the part to other recreation areas.

**Alpena Yacht Club:** The Alpena Yacht Club is situated across from the Marina within the Bay View Park and is located at 250 Prentiss Street. The Alpena Yacht Club has ample seating for meeting, dinners, and special activities. The Yacht Club has expanded its kitchen to easily accommodate club members and guests in catered events. The Yacht Club is a private club that provides a wide variety of recreational activities for members and guests.

**Downtown Alpena:** The City Marina sits nestled less than two blocks from downtown Alpena. Downtown Alpena is a regional hub of Northeast Michigan for food, arts, history, and culture. Downtown is home to a diverse and vibrant set of nearly 200 businesses, including art galleries, a year-round professional theater, a winery, the only nationally recognized Marine Sanctuary Located on the Great Lakes and a variety of offices, restaurants, bars, and shops. The Thomas Stafford Dog Park is located downtown behind the Alpena Post Office at North Riverfront Park and opened in 2018. The Park provides a completely fenced in beautiful view of the

Thunder Bay River including benches, water spigot, mutt mitts, garbage receptacles and plenty of tunnels and play spaces.

**Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) designated the Thunder Bay National Marine sanctuary as the first sanctuary in the Great Lakes on October 7, 2000. Following a decade of support from partners and the local community, the boundaries of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary were expanded in 2014. The Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center contains over 10,000 square feet of exhibit space, offering additional glass bottom boat tours of past shipwrecks. The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary continues to protect the rich maritime history on the Great Lakes.

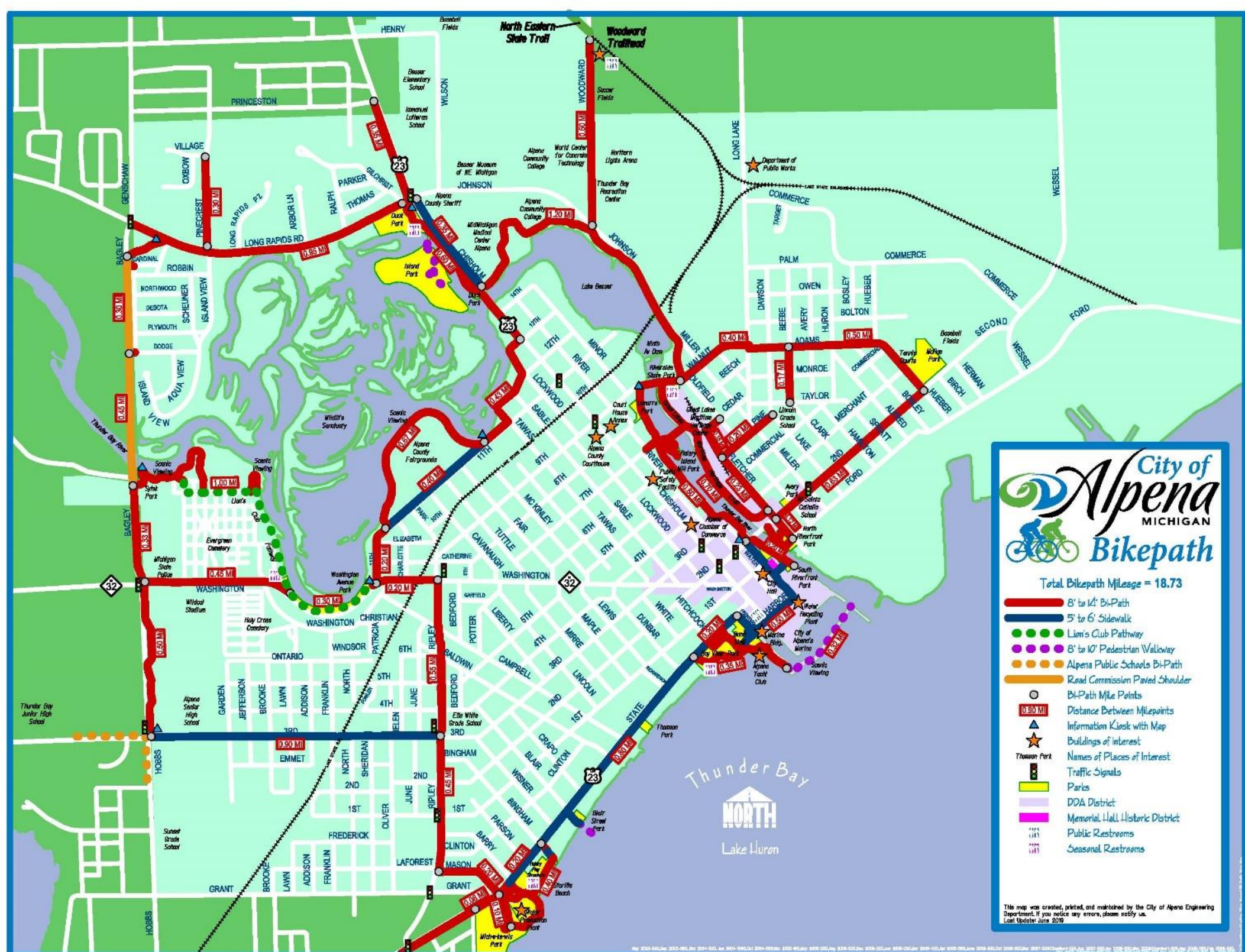
**Starlite Beach and Mich-e-ke-wis Park:** These parks are located approximately 1.5 miles from the Marina on Lake Huron along State Avenue, between Thunder Bay Avenue and Bingham Street. The Park includes youth/women's ball fields, playground equipment, a BMX park, volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, picnic area, beach, off-street parking, a splash park, and an enclosed warming/ general park shelter building which is used for social events.

**Island Park & Wildlife Sanctuary:** The City of Alpena Island Park & Wildlife sanctuary is a 17 acre island jewel surrounded by the Thunder Bay River which winds through 500 acres of back waters, low island, and waterfowl. The Park & Sanctuary is located approximately 1.5 miles from the marina at the corner of US-23 and Long Rapids Road. The Park is also interconnected with the Bi-Path. The Park is a rich ecosystem with flora and natural fauna with a concrete walk bridge connected to the island. Island Park & Wildlife Sanctuary is perfect for joggers, walkers, photographers, fisherman and nature lovers.

**Alpena County Regional Airport:** Alpena County Regional Airport is a commercial air carrier airport owned and operated by the County of Alpena and licensed by the State of Michigan and FAA. The airport is conveniently located seven miles west of the City of Alpena and maintains a 9,000ft north/south runway and a 5030ft crosswind runway. Alpena Regional Airport offers commercials flights, general aviation and fueling services.

**Bi-Path:** The Alpena Bi-path has over eighteen miles of beautiful city-wide paved pathway to accommodating pedestrian use. It is a great way to see the City of Alpena and all the great things it has to offer. The Bi-Path connects almost every park in the city as well as many other attractions and amenities. The map below details the Bi-Path routes.





**Private Amenities:** The City of Alpena has an abundance of water related private amenities from paddle board and kayak rentals, fishing charters, boat rentals, snorkeling, kiteboarding rentals, and classes, sailing classes, and scuba diving.

**Additional Amenities:** The City of Alpena has additional amenities including Jesse Besser Museum, Sportsplex (APLEX), Thunder Bay Art Gallery, Thunder Bay Theatre,

**When planning your trip to Alpena please visit the Convention and Visitor Bureau at: [www.visitalpena.com/plan-your-trip](http://www.visitalpena.com/plan-your-trip)**



# Chapter 3

## 3

## Existing Conditions, Facilities & Operations

### Marina & Services

The City of Alpena is in full operation from April 15 to October 31. Dockhands are available 7-days a week from 8am-8pm from Memorial Day to Labor Day with reduced hours at the beginning and end of the season for anyone looking for services such as pump-out, gasoline and diesel sales and additional accommodating dockside services. The Alpena Marina has on lot winter storage, maintenance and repair facility that also offers marine supplies for sale. The Marina operates and maintains the boaters' restrooms, showers, and boaters' lounge.

### Marina Onsite Amenities

- Dockside water hook up
- Dockside electric (30 & 50amp)
- Gasoline and diesel sales
- Pump-out services
- Fish Cleaning Station
- Boat Launch (daily or yearly rates)
- Ice
- Boater's Restroom and Showers
- Boat Hoist
- Dog Run
- Day Use Dockage
- 24-hour Security
- Grills/Picnic Tables
- Marine Supplies



## Existing Conditions

The Alpena Marina is recognized as one of few full service marinas in the region. The Marina provides for primary access for boats off of Lake Huron boarding the Thunder Bay River. Adjacent uses include neighboring Bay View Park to the south of the Marina. Bay View Park is one of the largest City Parks providing for a multi-use year round park with events. The Bi-Path intersects portions of Bay View Park to the southeast of the marina and runs along harbor street. To the north of the Marina is a city owned wastewater treatment facility. The surrounding area prevents any expansion to the north due to the proximity of the water treatment facility. To the south of the Marina does offer possible expansion of facilities and has Bay View Park which has youth playground facilities and has been the discussion of additional proposed restrooms facilities for Bay View Park users. The Marina pier located at the southeasterly end of the marina provides for a panoramic view of Lake Huron and Thunder Bay.

On August 31, 2021 the City reverted to full-time management of the Alpena Marina including operations, general services, facility maintenance, and boating service and maintenance. The City will continue to make substantial upgrades and repairs to the Marina over the next few years.

The Alpena Marina offers 88 seasonal slips and 46 transient slips with varied 30 & 50 amp service throughout. The current potable water service along Prentiss Street is inoperable and being addressed through city staff. Gasoline and diesel service are offered within the Marina for boaters. The Marina also offers picnic areas, and additional stationary charcoal cooking grills. The city currently has no maps indicating the services offered throughout the Marina.

Many of the Alpena Marina facility buildings were built over three decades ago. The service building contains a part sales', offices, and two additional attached buildings for service and maintenance of boats. The service and maintenance buildings limit the size of boats that can be worked on indoors based upon the built environment. The service building has a second story that is unutilized as a working space. The service buildings do have the advantage of having the Harbor Hoist nearby to effectively service boats as they come out of the water. Many of the facilities are inadequate in achieving American Disability Act (ADA) accessible compliance.

The Marina restrooms and boater lounge have seen few upgrades in the past few years. The restrooms have some sanitary equipment that does not work or is not operable. The boaters lounge although small is underutilized and currently consist of chairs and a television.



The City has strived to improve cleanliness and upkeep at all facilities including the fish cleaning station which has received upgrades to the hose/sprayer system and refurbishing of cutting boards. In addition, the facility is cleaned daily with a deep cleaning once or twice per year.

The current Marina parking area is primarily used for storage of boats in the off season. The parking area is also used for as parking for boaters as well as a location for hosting events such as the Alpena Brown Trout Festival. There is additional vehicular parking located to the south along Prentiss Street.

## Environmental Conditions

Much of the shoreline is identified as wetlands, although the fluctuating water levels, and river system result in highly variable wetland quality. There are additional wetland areas as you move up the Thunder Bay River allowing wildlife to move freely between the wetland areas. The water in the harbor is for the most part stagnant creating a dark, murky, and silt bottom. The Thunder Bay River to the north does allow for flowing water. However much of that does not pass through the Marina.

### 2022-2023 Budget

Wages	\$110,000
Fringe	\$43,292
Supplies	\$27,500
Professional/Contractual	\$50,000
Grounds and Beautification	\$3,500
Utilities	\$38,209
Misc. Office and Expenses	\$3,800
Repairs and Maintenance	\$75,000
Insurance	\$7,745
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$359,046</b>

# Chapter 4

## 4

## Boating Market Analysis

### Basis for Market Analysis

There were 11.82 million boats registered in the 50 states and the District of Columbia in 2018. Including about 7.76 million open power boats, 1.38 million PWC's, and 989,000 pontoon boats. States with the largest number of registered boats were Florida (925,000), Minnesota (819,000) and Michigan (795,000). Vermont (29,000), Wyoming (12,000) and Hawaii (12,000) had the least number of registered boats.

There were 25.22 million boats owned in 2018 calculated as either in the state of registration or state of storage for boats not required to be registered. There were almost 7.76 million open power boats, 7.56 million kayaks, 2.54 million boats that are rowed, and 2.42 million canoes. There were about 13.33 million human-powered boats, including kayaks, rowed boats, canoes, and paddle boards. Michigan (1.73 million) had the largest number of boats followed by Florida (1.71 million) and New York (1.33 million).

The data provided by the National Recreational Boating Safety Survey shows Michigan as a leader in boating and water related activities. Michigan boasts the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest number of registered boats in the United States which further indicates a vast market for boating activities in Michigan. Michigan stands as the leader for boats not required to be registered such as kayaks, row boats, paddle boards, etc.

Statistics: United States Coast Guard Boating Safety Division Published: October 2020

## Regional Boaters Market

The table below shows information on the existing marinas that border Lake Huron in the Northeast Michigan Region Boater's Market.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Marina</u>	<u>Seasonal Slips</u>	<u>Transient Slips</u>	<u>Full Service</u>
Alpena County	Alpena Marina	88	44	X
Presque Isle County	Presque Isle Harbor	30	90	--
	Roger City Marina	92	56	--
Cheyboygan County	Cheyboygan Village Marina	21	20	X
	Cheyboygan County Marina	57	37	--
	Straits State Harbor	10	126	--
Alcona County	Harrisville Municipal Marina	46	43	--
Iosco County	East Tawas State Harbor	80	54	--

Notes:

1. Information listed above may include slips that are non-serviceable at the moment. Such as slips damaged by high water levels.

The market for transient slips and seasonal slips is difficult to accurately determine due to many factors. The Novel Coronavirus (2019-NCoV) affected seasonal slips, transient slips, marina operations and marina statistics in 2020. There is also lack of specific data on transient boat traffic that would travel to the City of Alpena.

If we assume that the City of Alpena Marina has a 60 day peak boating season with an average occupancy rate of 70%. That being 1,920 boating days or approximately 32 occupied slips per month. The Alpena MSWC transient boat berthing rate of \$29 per day for

boats of 32 feet LOA, it can be estimated marina slip rental income from transient boats at \$55,680 per season or \$1,740 per transient slip season.

For comparison, if these same 32 seasonal slips or 1,920 boating days for a boat at 32-foot LOA were leased as seasonal slips at the market rate of \$1,350 for the season it can be estimated to generate \$43,200 per season. Thus, we can see an incentive for private marinas to provide transient slips in this market. However, trends show that private marina operators will only accommodate transient boats when their seasonal slips are temporarily vacated. With the short boating season in Lake Huron, economics dictate that private marinas will not provide transient slips in numbers.

The City of Alpena has a keen spot in the market offering seasonal slips at a slightly lesser rate than transient slips with the marina at about 75% seasonal slip capacity. Meanwhile, the City of Alpena Marina offers 46 transient slips for those new to the area or for those wanting to see what Alpena has to offer.

### **Market Analysis Impact on Economy**

Estimating that powered transient boats each carry on average 2.25 people and each boat spends approximately \$50 per person per day in port (not including fuel, boat maintenance, or outside recreational fees, etc.) it can be estimating an annual direct contribution to the downtown and surrounding area of at least \$310,500 to the City of Alpena economy. Assuming an average regional Economic Impact Analysis for Planning multiplier of 1.6 for this direct income, we can estimate a direct and indirect economic contribution totaling over \$496,800 to the City of Alpena community from these 46 transient slips based on a 60 day peak boating season.

### **Alpena Marina Boat Launch**

The City of Alpena municipal boat launch on 400 Chisholm St is the only boat launch with a hard-surface ramp with sufficient water depth on Lake Huon to accommodate all trailerable watercraft (minimum of 2.5-3 feet deep at the distance of 20 feet from shore. The nearest similar hard-surface boat launch marina is located in Presque Isle County approximately 30 miles north.

At a launch fee of \$7, and annual launch revenues of approximately \$1,750, it is estimated that at least 250 boats are launched at this facility using daily passes per season. Another 300 launch passes are sold seasonal at a rate of \$25 for City residence and \$50 for non-



residents per season totaling around \$7,500. Assuming a 100 day peak season for daily launch 12 boats per day paying for daily launch at this facility it would total \$9,200.

### **City of Alpena Seasonal Slip Summary**

The City of Alpena Seasonal Slip occupancy sits at around 75% of the total 88 seasonal slips. The approximately 66 seasonal slips should generate on average \$112,332. The City of Alpena should look to track the rates of occupancy in the future as an increase of just two new seasonal slips owners per year would put the City of Alpena close to full seasonal slip compacity within ten years.

# Chapter 5

## 5

## Planning Process & Survey Information

### **City of Alpena Marina (Charrette) Session**

On August 9, 2021, at 6:30pm the Harbor Advisory Committee, with assisting City and Northeast Michigan Council of Government staff held a Charrette to envision the future for the Marina. The charette session was held at the Alpena Yacht Club. The session had approximately 30 attendees. The Charrette session was essential to gather input on the future of the Marina. Maps were developed to for citizens and users to indicate improvements, what they like about the marina and general discussion. Through citizen comments there where some reoccurring themes including the boater restrooms improvement, boater lounge improvements and fish cleaning station improvements. The general public consensus was the marina needs overall improvements as well to make the marina more attractive to visitors and to keep the marina vibrant for seasonal boaters. One of the greatest assets mentioned by many citizens and users was having a full service Marina that accommodates for storage, general maintenance, and boating service all in one stop.

### **Alpena Marina Surveys**

The Harbor Advisory Committee and staff also developed a public marina survey and an additional user marina survey to help better meet the community and boater needs for the City of Alpena Marina. The Public Survey was available on the City of Alpena website and additional QR codes were placed throughout the Marina. The Public Survey was available for many months and had

good turnout of 137 participants. The User Survey was sent out to known users, past and present of the Marina to gage their opinion on the Marina. The User Survey had a turnout of 34 participants.

The results of the public marina survey and user marina survey can be found on the City of Alpena website at:

<http://cms3.revize.com/revize/alpenami/departments/marina/index.php> The following sections will use the public survey data, user survey data and where applicable the Charrette feedback to detail the reinforce summary of needs at the Alpena Marina.

#### **Public Marina Survey Results**

<http://cms3.revize.com/revize/alpenami/departments/marina/City%20of%20Alpena%20Marina%20Public%20Survey%20Results.pdf>

#### **User Marina Survey Results**

<http://cms3.revize.com/revize/alpenami/departments/marina/User%20City%20of%20Alpena%20Survey%20Results.pdf>

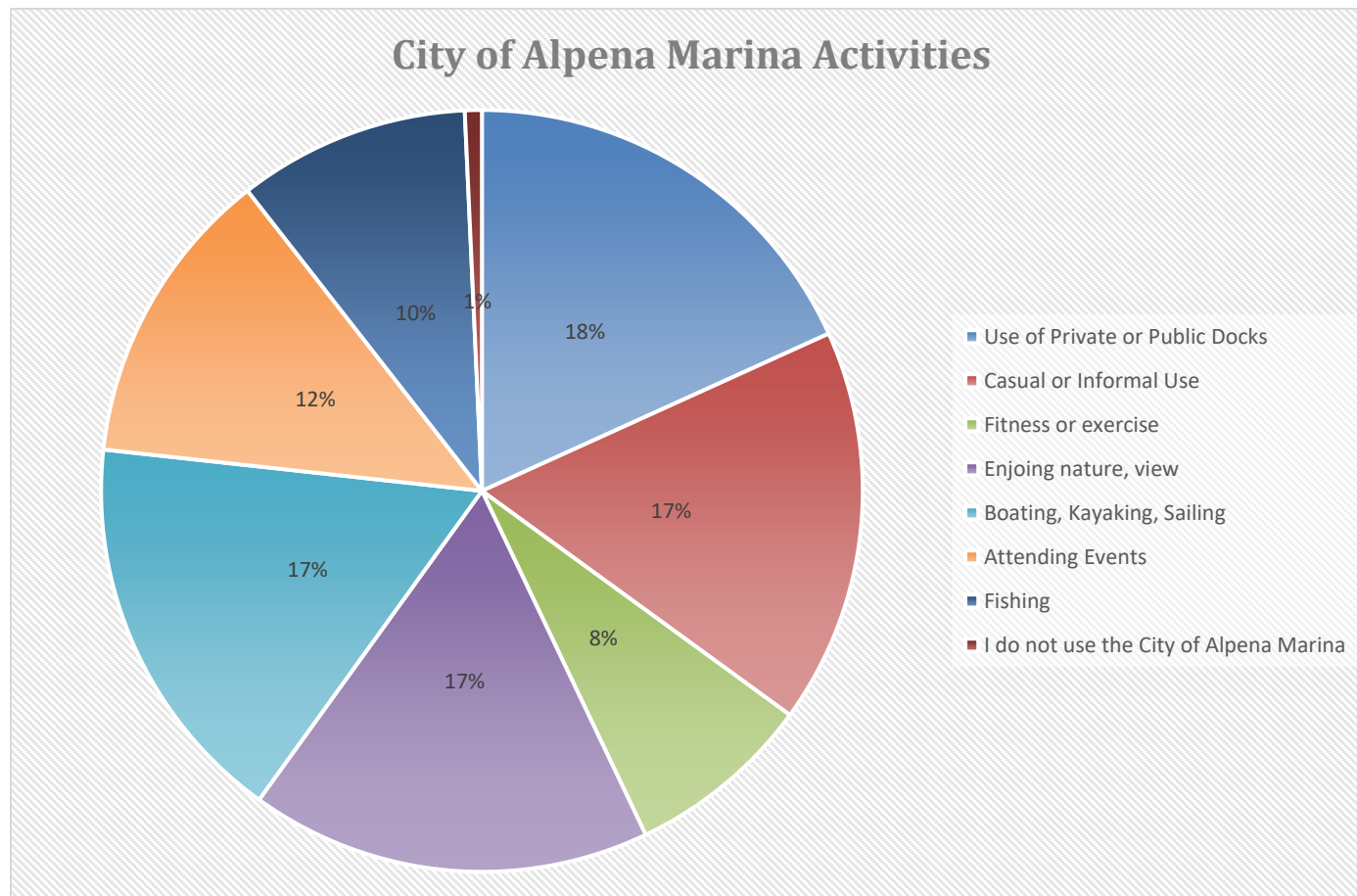
## **Survey Data Analysis**

The Public Survey indicate that a majority 83.67% of users are year round residents within the county or residents of the City of Alpena. Approximately 48% of the public surveyed visited the marina for their first time almost 20 years ago. The Public Survey and User Survey indicates that a majority of the users are over the age of 30 with approximately 40% of boating users being 65 or Older. According to the public user survey over 50% members of households in the past year have visited the marina more than 16 times with 64% of the boating users visiting the marina weekly. With a variety of ages above 30 years of age it may be of priority for the Alpena Marina to encourage younger boaters and younger users of the marina. There are many additional factors that may

contribute to young users not using the marina as much. Such as financial capital, and investment of a boat, boating equipment and maintenance cost to factor in.

The Public Survey showed that the people using the Marina use it for a wide variety of activities **Figure 1-1** breaks down the activities the public uses the Marina for. This further supports the Master Plan goals of creating a multi-use Marina.

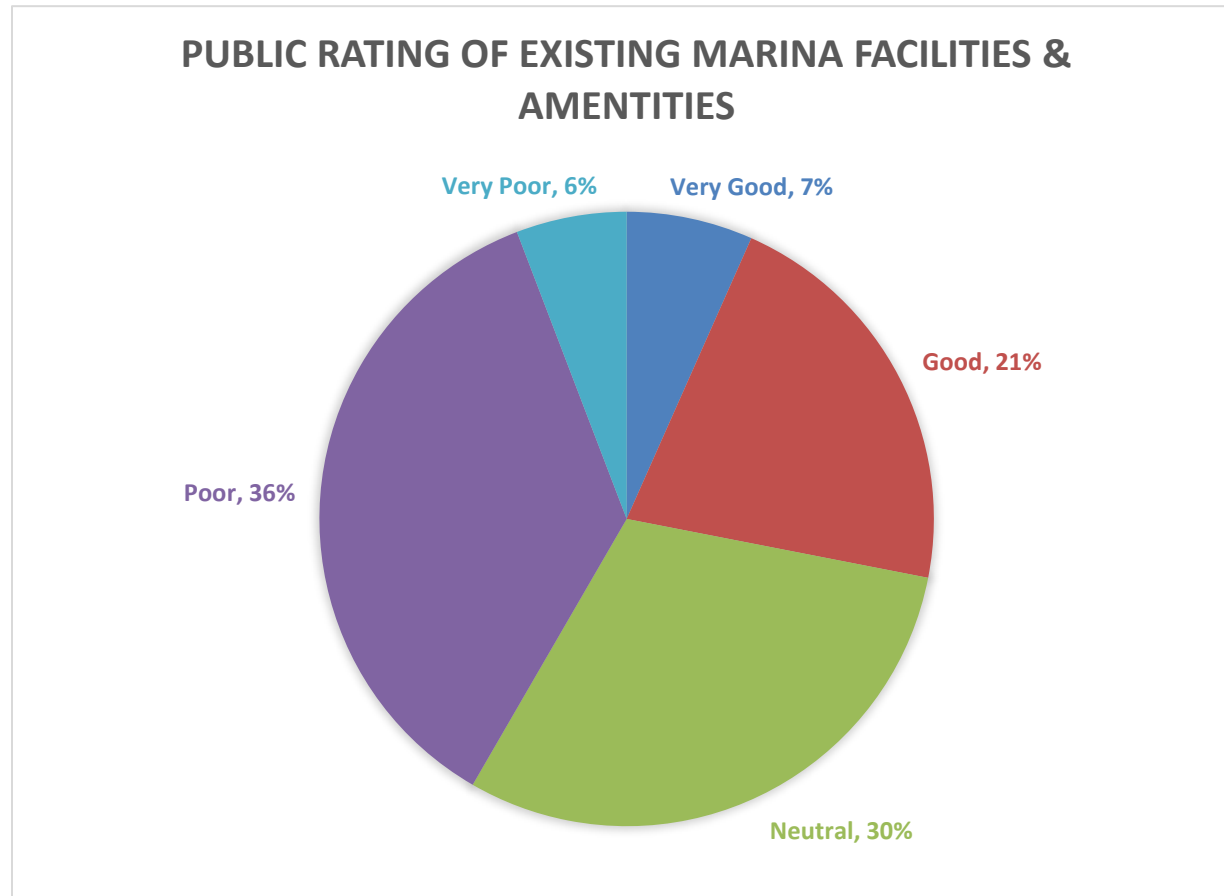
**Figure 1-1**





The Public survey indicates need for overall improvements at the City Marina. **Figure 1-2** indicates how the general public rate the Marina facility and amenities.

**Figure 1-2**



The public survey and user survey participants have identified many improvements in correspondence with the Charrette. Some of the reoccurring themes include improving boater restrooms, lounge and shower facilities, improvement in general cleanliness and

housekeeping tasks, a fresh new look of the facility buildings that would correspond with an overall theme of the Marina, improvement of many of the docks, lighting, landscaping throughout the marina.

Through the public survey the participants identified many strengths of the Marina. These include proximity to downtown and other amenities, being a full service marina, having a fish cleaning station, the beautiful natural setting and the users and staff creating a great sense of community within the Marina.

# Chapter 6

## 6

## Improvement Plan & Recommendations

### Development Process

Through surveys and the Charrette, the City has found demand for improvement and enhancement of the City of Alpena Marina. The Improvement Plan addresses Infrastructure & Facility Improvements, Marina Marketing Goals, General Operations & Maintenance, and additional tasks and goals relating to the Marina.

**Facility & Infrastructure Improvements:** This section will detail facility and infrastructure improvements that through surveys and charrettes were felt as important improvements throughout the marina as a whole. The Alpena Marina has a vast maritime history. The City of Alpena shall look to prioritize facility and infrastructure improvement in coordination with any possible grant funding. This will help ensure future maintenance and help the city marina operate as effectively as possible. The city shall strive to recreate, reuse, and redevelop current facilities and infrastructure creating a vibrant multiuse marina and achieving the city and residence goals. While maintaining financially sound development.

Information	Priority or Years	Responsible Party('s)
Improve walkability, and vibrance of the marina through natural plantings, artifacts, sculptures, art, and picnic areas.	Multiyear Improvement beginning 2023	City; Harbor Advisory Committee (HAC), Planning Commission, DDA, Council
Improve the overall signage within and surrounding the Marina	Multiyear Improvement beginning 2023	City: HAC & Staff, DDA, Planning Commission, Council, Possible Consultant/Regional Planning Agency.

Work to evaluate Facility & Infrastructure improvements based on cost and incorporated Facility & Infrastructure Improvements in the budgeting and Capital Improvement Plan Process based on cost.	Ongoing beginning 2022. See attached summary of 2023-2028 Marina Projects	City; HAC & Staff, City Council, City Engineering Staff
The City shall work to renovate or redevelop current bathrooms and boaters' lounge area.	This project will be the second Waterways Grant in Aid request projected for 2025.	City; HAC & Marina Staff, City Council, City Engineers
Renovate, revitalize or work to reconstruct the current Marina Service buildings.	Ongoing five year plan to refurbish the existing structure	Marina Staff
The City shall evaluate the need for additional culverts and stormwater drains within the marina.	Long Term Project currently scheduled after 2028	City Engineer
The city shall look into the feasibility of installing a boat wash station.	Long Term Project currently scheduled after 2028	Marina Staff, City Engineer
Improve ADA accessibility throughout the City Marina	This task shall be handled in conjunction with other improvements on an ongoing basis	Marina Staff
The city shall replace current fixed docks working with the Michigan State Waterway Grant Program. While limiting expenses towards the current fixed docks.	This project will be the first Waterways Grant in Aid Request in 2023	Marina Staff, City Engineer, Waterways Commission
The city shall make improvements to the existing site utilities	This project will be the third Waterways Grant in Aid request in 2026	Marina Staff, City Engineer, Waterways Commission



**Marina Marketing:** Marketing has become a keen asset in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. With the change in times the City of Alpena shall take advantage of marketing to better promote the greatest assets that the City of Alpena has to offer. Marketing shall be an integral part of the growth of the marina along with outreach and education within the community.

Informational	Priority or Years	Responsible Party(s)
Work with the community to grow marketing and branding opportunities, including improving kiosk areas surrounding the Marina. Meanwhile keeping the same theme throughout the City and the marina.	Ongoing efforts have started between the Alpena Marina, DDA and the Chamber of Commerce	City; HAC & Marina Staff, Chamber of Commerce, DDA, City Council
Work to develop partnerships with local businesses, developers, and residents to achieve the overall goal of the city of Alpena marina.	As part of a developed plan, the marina will begin to reach out to local businesses for support in 2023 to create an incentive for visiting boaters	City; HAC & Staff, DDA, City Council, Chamber of Commerce
Work to improve outreach and education through quarterly, monthly, seasonal updates and possible educational sessions to help keep users and general public stay informed and engaged.	A bimonthly newsletter is planned to start in 2022 to keep users informed of happenings around the marina.	City; HAC & City Marina Staff
Work to evaluate Marina Marketing based on cost and incorporate Marina Marketing in the budgeting and Capital Improvement Plan Process based on cost.	Beginning in 2023, a marketing budget will be established to aid in promotion of the marina and the City of Alpena.	City, Harbormaster, Chamber of Commerce
The City shall look to map current facilities and services for current and	Initial topographic survey has been completed. Mapping work will be	City Engineer and Harbormaster

	new users. Maps should include location of seasonal and transient docks, Electric Amp Service provided, potable water service areas, etc.	ongoing in 2022 and scheduled for implementation in 2023.		
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**Operations & Maintenance:** The City of Alpena shall look to prioritize Operation and Maintenance improvement in coordination with any possible grant funding. This will help ensure future maintenance and help the city marina operate as effectively as possible. The city shall strive to recreate, reuse, and redevelop current infrastructure creating a vibrant multiuse marina. The city shall strive to achieve financially sound development.

Informational	Priority or Year	Responsible Party
The City of Alpena shall continue to update and maintain potable water services	Project is scheduled to begin Spring 2022	City; HAC & Marina Staff, Engineering Staff, City Council
The City shall look to replace current fixed docks with adjustable floating docks.	Waterways Grant Application for funding in 2023	City; HAC & Marina Staff, Engineering Staff, City Council
The City shall evaluate break wall conditions. Including maintenance, and updates as needed.	Reaching out to community partners and service organizations of assistance. The rail painting could be the first “Marina Pride” project.	Community Partners, Marina Staff
The City shall look for improvements or reconstruction along Harbor Drive and Prentiss Street.	City will analyze cost to obtain whether improvements or reconstruction is needed along Prentiss Street in 2026	City; Engineering Staff, Harbormaster, Council
Dredge the City of Alpena Marina and continue to evaluate the 10 year dredge cycle.	Manual soundings are periodically taken to evaluate the need for a full survey. As of last fall, there was not a need	City; Engineering Staff, Harbormaster, Council
Work to evaluate Operation & Maintenance based on cost and incorporated Operations & Maintenance in the budgeting and Capital Improvement Plan Process.	The City is in the process of evaluating the revenues vs expenses on an ongoing basis. An overall budget analysis will be completed after the 2022-23 budget cycle.	Harbormaster, City Manager, City Clerk/Treasurer/Finance Director,
The City shall evaluate future expansion of seasonal docks & transient docks.	Long Term Project currently scheduled after 2028	City, Harbormaster

Fully adopt any programs and initiatives to state systems to coordinate with state.	Upon assumption of operations, the City implemented the use of the DNR CAMIS system. After evaluating options, the marina switched its reservation style to a slip specific reservation choice allowing boaters to choose their slip in advance.	Marina Staff, DNR Waterways
The City shall work with the MSWC to evaluate seasonal changes in transient rates.	Ongoing Evaluation beginning Spring 2023*	City, HAC, Harbormaster, MDNR, Council, City Manager
The City shall work to have boat launch fees support the total cost for boat launch maintenance.	Ongoing Evaluation beginning Spring 2023*	City, HAC, Harbormaster, MDNR, Council, City Manager
The City shall assure any new construction be analyzed for feasibility and future maintenance costs of the project(s)	Ongoing process through the Capital Improvements and budgeting process	Harbormaster, Council, City Manager, Planning Commission
*The City of Alpena has chosen to hold prices for the 2022 boating season to evaluate budgets based on actual revenue and expenses		



**Additional Tasks & Goals:** The City of Alpena shall look to prioritize infrastructure improvement in coordination with any possible grant funding. This will help ensure future maintenance and help the city marina operate as effectively as possible. The city shall strive to recreate, reuse and redevelop current infrastructure. The city shall strive to achieve financially sound development.

<b>Informational</b>	<b>Priority or Year</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>
Become Michigan Clean Marina Program Certified.	Spring 2022	Harbormaster and Marina Staff
Encourage sweat equity to help grow community partnerships.	Marina Pride committee formation scheduled for 2022	HAC, Marina Staff and “Marina Pride”
Review the feasibility of having short term shopper docks in place of courtesy docks for visitors specifically traveling to experience the downtown amenities.	2024	Marina Staff

# Chapter 7



## Grant Resource Summary

### Intro

This Chapter is designed to summarize the many of the grant opportunities available and may be a tool to help guide staff in selecting the proper grant(s) for the given project. It is important to keep in mind that sources of grant funding may change from time to time. The grants below will have a brief description of what the grant is, requirements and some forms of application.

### DNR Michigan Waterways Grant Program

The Waterways Program Grants provide funding for engineering studies and infrastructure improvements. Michigan grant-in-aid harbors and public boating access sites managed by local units of governments (city, village, township, and county) and state colleges and universities are eligible to apply. Applicants not able to provide a 50% match, however, can demonstrate a “qualified need” may apply.

Grant funding requires a 50% match of the estimated cost with additional preference for those matching more than 50%. Applicants fund match must include well documented in-kind expenses.

More information can be found at MDNR: [https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79134\\_81684\\_79209\\_80306---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79134_81684_79209_80306---,00.html)

### DNR Michigan Boating Infrastructure Grant Program

Boating Infrastructure grants are to provide construction of recreational boating facilities in the state that meet the following goals. Create dockage for transient recreational boats 26 feet or larger in order to provide access to recreational opportunities and safe harbors. As well as provide navigational aids for transient boaters using these facilities. Also, to enhance access to recreational, historical, cultural, natural and scenic resources. As well as strengthening local ties to the boating community and its economic benefits, while promoting public and private partnership and entrepreneurial opportunities. To provide continuity of public access to the water and promote awareness of transient boating opportunities.

The program must be designed to accommodate boats of 26 feet or greater. They must be used by transient boaters not staying more than 15 consecutive days and must be open to the public allowing no commercial uses or seasonal slip allowances. Must be designed and constructed to last at least 20 years and continue to be used for the stated grant purpose and maintained through its useful life.

## **Rural Development Grant**

The Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD) is offering a grant opportunity to promote the sustainability of land-based industries and support infrastructure that benefits rural communities.

## **American Rescue Plan Act & State and Local Fiscal Relief Program**

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 was signed into law on March 11, 2021, the act includes \$350 billion for State and Local Fiscal Relief Program (SLFRP). The act may provide funds to respond to public health emergency or its negative impacts including, assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to affected industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality. The act may use funds to respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers. The act provides provisions of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to the revenue collected in the most recent full fiscal year before the emergency and, make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

## **Public Spaces Community Places**

Public Spaces Community Places is a collaborative effort of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), the Michigan Municipal League, and Patronicity where local residents can use crowdfunding to be part of the development of strategic projects in their communities and be backed with matching grant from MEDC.