

## CHAPTER 6 ACTION PROGRAM AND BASIS FOR ACTION PROGRAM

### ACTION PROGRAM

The action program is presented below. The table includes short-term (5-year) Capital Improvements and Programs, projects to which a dollar amount can be assigned (see site locations on Figure 4-1, Recreation Inventory Map). Long-term objectives, beyond the five-year planning period, are listed below the table, without an assigned cost estimate.

<b>Five-Year Action Program</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Acquisition, Development, or Improvement</b>	<b>Cost and Anticipated Funding Source</b>
Annual	Maintain bike path	Alpena Twp general fund
Annual	Maintain Little League Fields	Volunteer time and equipment from Alpena Huron Shores Babe Ruth League, Alpena Twp pays utilities
Annual	Participate with multi-jurisdictional groups for county-wide recreational facilities and programs	In-kind administrative costs
Annual	Maintain Rockport picnic area	Township DPW staff
2014	Develop entrance on property adjacent to Township Hall for a safer access drive to the Little League Fields	\$18,000 (Volunteer time and equipment from Alpena Huron Shores Babe Ruth Little League)
2015-2019	Bagley Street Bridge - Multi-use bike path	\$5 mil – Alpena County Road Commission, MEDC, etc.
2015-2019	Acquire North Point property if it becomes available for conservation and preservation purposes and passive recreation use	Value unknown (MI Natural Resources Trust Fund, Coastal Zone Grant, Nature Conservancy, Alpena Twp)
2015-2018	Acquire property on Long Lake for fishing, boating, parking and other recreational activities with handicap accessibility.	Value unknown (MI Natural Resources Trust Fund, Alpena Twp)
2015-2018	Enhance and extend current bike path along US 23 South to 45 <sup>th</sup> Parallel and build a roadside park.	Value unknown (Coastal Zone Grant, MDOT, Alpena Twp, local community volunteers)
2015-2018	Develop feeder bike path to the Squaw Bay Alvar Shoreline and include a kayak livery.	Value unknown (MDOT, volunteers and fundraising)
2015-2018	Nature Walk and parallel bike path along US 23 S to create a loop.	Value unknown (Local community volunteers, MDOT)

## **LONG-RANGE ACTION PROGRAM**

- US 23 North Bike Path
- Acquire Thunder Bay Island Boat House and acreage
- Acquire recreation property with Long Lake frontage

## **BASIS FOR ACTION PROGRAM**

For each project discussed in the Short-Term Capital Improvements and Programs section of the Action Program, a rationale or basis for need is presented below.

### **Bike Path Maintenance**

The Township is under contract with the MDOT to maintain the state owned pedestrian and bicycle path running parallel to U.S. 23 South. The path was constructed in 1981 based on public request that there was a need for the facility.

### **Babe Ruth League Fields Maintenance**

In cooperation with Alpena Huron Shores Babe Ruth League, the Township developed a tournament quality baseball and softball sports complex. Much of the development was accomplished with Natural Resources Trust Funding. Since then, the League Fields have been maintained through a cooperative agreement with Alpena Huron Shores Babe Ruth League and the Township using volunteer time and equipment from the League. Alpena Township provides utilities to the site. This site is looking to expand so that they would be state tournament certified. Land is available to the rear of the complex.

### **Upgrade Launch Site at the Narrows**

Persons living in the heavily populated area of Alpena Township along U.S. 23 North could benefit from having The Narrows launch site upgraded and improving the picnic area, providing a quiet setting for canoe outings and family picnics.

### **Rockport Picnic Area Maintenance**

The picnic area at the Rockport launch site was developed by Alpena Township with Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant. The Township has a long term lease on the picnic site from the State of Michigan. Township DPW staff maintain the site by removing trash and generally keeping the site clean. Alpena Township is currently working with MDNR to turn this area into the State Park that was created in exchange for 54 acres on South Partridge Point Road.

### **Acquire Thunder Bay Island Boat House and Acreage**

An existing pier and boat house is on Thunder Bay Island. The Township of Alpena was granted a land patent for the property with the lighthouse on it. The Township has a partnership with the Thunder Bay Island Lighthouse Preservation Society. They will continue to work to have this great historical and recreation property as it will enhance the property that the lighthouse sits on.

### **Alpena Township Nature Park Improvements**

The Alpena Township Nature Park purpose is to provide access to costal resources while preserving those resources for future generations. The intent is to provide reasonable access while protecting the fragile nature of the property. The improvements would include acquisition of lots and easements on the south side of Misery Bay Road to construct a parking lot, provide direct water access and to develop boardwalk, sinkhole overlook and an observation tower to provide the public views of the Thunder Bay Island.

### **Acquire North Point Property**

This approximate 700-acre site is located at the tip of the North Point of Thunder Bay and consists of several thousand feet of Lake Huron shoreline. Alpena Township wishes to acquire this property to provide passive recreation and for conservation purposes. Important natural resources on the property include geologic features, dwarf lake iris, shore birds, and migratory birds. Uses recommended for this property are nature and interpretive trails (crushed stone or wood chips) and small boat access for canoes and kayaks. In addition, the waters off this property are important for diving, and it is part of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve. The Nature Conservancy may partner with Alpena Township in acquiring this property to preserve it from extensive lakeshore development and to provide public access to unique natural resources.