

# Contract / Leases / Agreements / Grants Form

This is	New	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Filling this out on a computer? Please type an X into the appropriate box.
This is a Grant	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	If you marked <b>YES</b> this needs to go through <b>Grant Review</b> .
This is an	Agreement _____ Contract _____ Lease _____ Other _____:				
Name of Entity who Contract / Lease / Agreement / Grant is with	MDNR Trust Grant				
Project Name	Sunken Lake Main Campgrounds Upgrade				
Attorney Review	All Contracts / Leases / Agreements / Grants must have Attorney Review and approval through the Commissioner's Office.				
Insurance Review	All Contracts / Leases / Agreements / Grants must have appropriate insurance coverage per the attached list. It is the Department Heads responsibility to make sure that all requirements are met and listed on the insurance certificate.				
Total Amount	\$	250,000			
Organization Match	\$	<del>250,000</del> (State \$187,500)			
County Match	\$	62,500 w/ In-kind and CASH; Parks + Rec			

I have reviewed and approved this Contract / Lease / Agreement / Grant and attached appropriate insurance:

 The Department Head Requesting	3-15-24 Date Signed
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Kurt Patel, Vice Chair

**GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE APPROVAL:**

County Clerk:	Date Signed: 3-19-24	I am requesting a meeting
County Treasurer:	Date Signed: 3-18-24	I am requesting a meeting
Finance Chairman:	Date Signed:	I am requesting a meeting
County Administrator:	Date Signed:	I am requesting a meeting

Please do NOT mark below this line

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**INTEROFFICE USE ONLY**

Date Received:	Date Sent for Attorney Review:
Attorney Approval Received:	Insurance Received:

**Sunken Lake Campground**  
**Proposed 2024 DNR Recreation Grants**  
**for Board Review and Approval to submit**

**Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grants:**

**1. Main Campground Upgrades**

- **Guardrails/fenceposts on the left side of the driveway  
\$5,000**
- **(2) new aluminum docks – 1 for the island and 1  
additional for the main campground - \$30,000**
- **Enlargement and Upgrades to the current parking area -  
\$20,000**
- **New signs and posts for each campsite, wayfinding signs  
to trails, rustic and day-use areas - \$10,000**
- **Fixing the drainage issues on the hill to the main  
campground, washing out every rainstorm. - \$15,000**
- **New electrical ran to new boxes for each site in the main  
campground - \$100,000**
- **(1) fishing platform with ramp from shore to platform -  
\$20,000**
- **Updates to Office – New windows, roof, insulation and  
wallboard on walls, lighting inside and out, and cooling  
system of some sort - \$50,000**

**Total ask for this application = \$250,000**

**Match of 25% with In-kind maintenance and manager work,  
grant matching fund ask and \$ from the general fund =  
\$62,500 total**



**NOTICE OF INTENT FOR RECREATION GRANT PROJECTS***This information is requested by authority of Part 703, Act 451 of 1994, as amended, to be considered for a LWCF grant.*

Name of Project Sunken Lake Park Main Campground Upgrades		Date 03/14/2024	County Alpena
Identity of the applicant agency, organization, or individual: Alpena County			
Indicate below the representative of the applicant to contact for additional information regarding this Notice:			
Name John Kowalski		Telephone Number (including area code) 989-354-9500	E-mail Address johnkoziowski@alpenacounty.org
Address (Street/PO Box), City, State, ZIP Code 720 W Chisholm St, Suite 7, Alpena MI 49707			
Agency from which will be sought: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan Department of Natural Resources		Name of Program <input type="checkbox"/> Land and Water Conservation Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Resources Trust Fund	
Estimated Federal Cost \$ 0	Estimated State Cost \$ 187,500	Estimated Other Cost \$ 62,500	Total Cost \$ 250,000
Estimated date by which time the applicant expects to formally file an application March 31, 2024			
Geographic location of the project to be assisted (indicate specific location as well as city or county. Attach map if necessary) Sunken Lake County Park (Alpena County owned) 14600 Fletcher Park Road Posen MI 49776 Presque Isle County			
Brief description of the proposed project. This will help the clearinghouse identify agencies of state or local government having plans, programs, or projects that might be affected by the proposed project: This grant would afford the campground to upgrade the current outdated power poles to each, have the ability to place 2 aluminum docks to provide access to the lake with a fishing platform for the enjoyment of campers and also day use users alike. In addition this grant would provide the means to upgrade the current gravel road into the main campground from the day use area that washes out each rain and makes traversing the steep hill with a camper difficult. To the left of the berm that was built many years ago there is a drop off of 30+ feet that we are asking to have guardrails placed for safety. In the campground there is a historic building being utilized as the campgrounds office/store, this building was build in the 30's by the CCC, we are asking to improve the building to preserve it for many years to come.			
Type of project Main Campground Improvements		General size of scale project Park is 160 acres with 55 upgraded and 14 rustic sites	
Purpose of project To improve the safety, functionality and enjoyment for all campers and day use users of the park			
Beneficiaries (persons or institutions benefited) All users of the campground - seasonals, day uses, weekenders, and with the new trails system-hikers, bikers and nature enthusiasts.			
Indicate the relationship of this project to plans, programs, and other activities of your agency and other agencies (attach separate sheet if necessary): This Project is included in the County's Recreational Plan and is intended to provide years of enjoyment of the park patrons and in conjunction with the trails, mystery valley and the Karst Group we hope it brings more knowledge of the beautiful natural beauty of the Sunrise Side.			



The Alpena County Parks & Recreation Commission approved the MDNR Trust Fund Grant Applications for Beaver Lake Park and for Sunken Lake Park at their board meeting on March 13, 2024, and prioritized them per application requirements, and will present to the Alpena County Board of Commissioners for approval at their Full Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 5:30 pm in the County Annex Building, 719 W. Chisholm Street, Howard Male Conference Room-3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Alpena, MI 49707 and via Zoom.

You are invited to attend for Open Public Comment about these two grant applications and can view information about the Alpena County Beaver Lake Park MDNR Trust Fund Grant Application for Safety and Accessibility Improvements [here](#) and can view information about the Alpena County Sunken Lake Park MDNR Trust Fund Grant Application for Main Campground Upgrades [here](#).



Alpena County Sunken Lake Park  
(989) 379-3055

**Priority 2:**

Michigan DNR Trust Fund Grant Application for Sunken Lake Park Main Campgrounds Upgrade in the total amount of \$250,000 (\$187,500 State; \$62,500 Parks Match, and In-Kind) to upgrade the current campground outdated power poles, place 2 aluminum docks to provide access to the lake with a fishing platform, upgrade the current gravel road in to the main campground from the day use area, guardrails place for safety in an area left of the driveway and improve the office/store to preserve this building that was built in the 30's by the CCC.

Alpena County Sunken Lake Park is located at 14600 Fletcher Park Road, Posen, MI, 49776 in Presque Isle County, but owned by Alpena County.

### ***The Narrative of Sunken Lake***

Sunken Lake Park or what can be referred to as “The Sunrise Side’s Wooded Paradise”. Sunken Lake is located in western Alpena County in Michigan which is owned and maintained by the Alpena County Commissioners Office. Alpena County covers 1.695 square miles of Northeastern Michigan and has a population of 28,847 as of the 2022 Census. Like most of Northern Michigan, Sunken Lake has a glacial landscape due to Michigan’s geological history. Most of Alpena County is covered with surface water such as rivers, lakes, and streams. Soft limestone impacts the land features due to how much water movement there is. At one time, Sunken Lake extended throughout this valley. During the summer, the lake would drain into the sinkhole west of Sunken Lake with unexplored caverns believed to underlie this area. There is lore that claims that the water flowed through an underground stream to Lake Huron. A large logging camp thrived here on the virgin White Pine, Norway Pine, Hemlock, and Cedar trees. Just south of the swings in the picnic area, is the remnants of the old “Tote Road”. Here stood horse, barns, and the “Elephant Hall” which was the lumberman’s camp.

In 1900, the dam was built to divert water into the north branch of the Thunder Bay River. This helped the “River Driver” to float the logs to the Alpena Saw Mills which build items such as: square timber, cedar and pine shingles, spools, lath, etc..

This area of Alpena and Presque Isle counties is immediately underlain by a thick sequence of Devonian limestones and some shales, called the Traverse Group. They are deposited in an inland sea some 360 to 420 million years ago. At Mystery Valley the bedrock is the Alpena Limestone Formation, in the upper part of the Traverse Group. Approximately 800 feet below Mystery Valley, and below the Traverse Group, is the older Detroit River Group. It includes limestones, shales, and considerable evaporites – anhydrite and gypsum. These two dissolve in water much more readily than limestone. Water circulating at depth is removing these minerals to Lake Huron. They have been totally removed further north by ground water flowing through the rock toward the Great Lakes. Mystery Valley and the basin of Sunken Lake to the east were created by collapse of Traverse Group rocks into the cavities formed by the dissolving of Detroit River Group evaporites, probably nine to ten thousand years ago, as the glaciers retreated from the area.



The result was the settling of large rock blocks with some crushing, and locally the creation of deeper sinkholes. On the southern side and around the deep sinkhole in the Valley are “earth cracks”, some large enough for a person to enter. These were created when the wall rocks of the valley slipped toward the valley by separating along natural fractures (joints) in the rock. Evidence for the dissolving of the evaporites is found where the water that goes underground in the sinkholes returns to the surface. It emerges from submerged sinkholes in Lake Huron, twenty miles to the east. The resurgent water is saturated with dissolved gypsum. Michigan was glaciated during the last ice age and considerable amounts of glacial outwash – sand and gravel – mantles the limestone in this area. That these sinkholes are not also filled with outwash sand and gravel shows that they opened to the surface or increased in depth following the melting of the glaciers.

Mystery Valley is now separated from Sunken Lake by an earth dam built in 1899. Prior to that, the North Fork of the Thunder Bay River filled the whole 1.5 mile long valley in the Spring and overflowed into its continuing channel to Thunder Bay. Later in the season, the whole of the North Fork flow diverted into the western end of the valley and disappeared underground in the present deeper sinkhole. The dam permitted logs cut in the upper North Fork area to be floated to Thunder Bay without danger of floating into and being trapped in the blind portion of the valley. Today a lake forms in Mystery Valley from flow rising out of the sinkhole as the water table in the vicinity is raised and the sink hole drainage system is back flooded by spring melt water and rain. By early summer the lake disappears back into the same hole from which it came.

The importance of Sunken Lake truly cannot be denied. Connecting trails to local history helps submerge trail users in their surroundings and it helps cultivate community pride. Alpena, MI, has a history of logging that helped create commerce routes throughout the area. Trails could hold more historical significance if named after the logging founders of Alpena, who were Fletcher, Lockwood, Oldfield, and Minor. Trails improve the quality of life, knowledge within the community, and diversity through increased tourism. The social benefits of trails continue beyond there; they allow families and friends to come together and create a sense of place. By connecting with nature; you truly connect in your relationships. Sunken Lake campground is also placed on the US-23 Heritage

Route, starting in Standish, MI, to the Mackinaw Bridge. This Heritage Route covers over 200 miles of road.

Sunken Lake provides camping and recreational opportunities to the residents of Alpena County and tourism to the area. We provide a warm welcome that includes camping, a boat launch, and day use areas for anyone who would like to visit one of our three parks. We also have an additional feature by having a drive-up day use area at Manning Hill. In 2023, we crossed paths and served 12,980 participants and campers. We predominantly serve Alpena County residents. Our camp records indicate that our current campers are from Alpena County and close surrounding areas. With promotion and advertising of the new activities available to our camping residents and visitors, We are hoping to bring more people to our beautiful parks. We are constantly looking to improve the user experience and help connect people to the outdoors.