

Chippewa Nature Center receives Saginaw Bay WIN Grant



A rendering illustrates the Nature Preschool entry at the new Nature Education Center to be constructed from 2024-2025 at the Chippewa Nature Center.

Photo Provided

Chippewa Nature Center, located at 400 S. Badour Road in Midland, has received a grant in the amount of \$30,000 from the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN).

The grant will be used to support sustainability, WIN's key focus area, as it relates to the new Nature Education Center that is being constructed to meet existing and growing demand for its most impactful youth programs – Nature Day Camp, Nature Preschool and school programs. The groundbreaking for the Nature Education Center will take place in April, with completion in 2025.

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The sustainability portion of the project will focus on the ecosystem adjacent to the building with a focus on water quality, native plantings, wildlife value, and education. The site is designed to manage runoff in a sustainable way, demonstrate the value and utility of bioswales and filter strips, provide habitat for local animals through the use of native plantings, and educate

thousands of visitors annually on each of these features.

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The spaces adjacent to the Nature Education Center will incorporate a diversity of native wildflowers, grasses, sedges, shrubs and trees. In addition to native plantings, Chippewa Nature Center will install a variety of nest boxes to provide nesting habitat that was lost during the construction process. This project will educate and inspire people across the region to thoughtfully design the landscapes around their homes and businesses to support and incorporate the natural landscape, native plants and animals.

CNC has been an integral part of the Saginaw Bay Watershed sustainability for nearly 60 years. Education, land restoration and management have been key elements of its vision to inspire people to be stewards of the natural world. As CNC has continued to be a good steward of the land and provide a diversity of engaging environmental programs, tens of thousands of people visit annually and support the local economy. CNC will engage with regional contractors during construction, further supporting our local economy.

Funding for the Project was made possible by the generous support of The Conservation Fund and the twelve foundations and corporations that make up the Funders Network of the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network. WIN is a volunteer organization that includes more than 90 citizens and organizations and focuses on opportunities to better link the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Saginaw Bay communities in order to sustain and improve the region's quality of life.

Twelve area foundations and corporations work together to financially support WIN projects. The Funders Network includes Bay Area Community

Foundation, Consumers Energy Foundation, Harry A. and Margaret D. Towsley Foundation, Midland Area Community Foundation, Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, Saginaw Community Foundation, The Dow Chemical Company Foundation, The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation, The S.C. Johnson Fund, the Cook Family Foundation, the C.S. Mott Foundation, and the Saginaw Bay Foundation.

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More information about WIN is available at saginawbaywin.org. Learn more about CNC at chippewanaturecenter.org.

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