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Chippewa Nature Center Receives Saginaw Bay WIN Grant

Chippewa Nature Center (CNC), located at 400 S Badour Rd in Midland, has received a grant in the amount of \$14,975 from the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN). The grant will be used to support a Land Restoration and Recovery project.

CNC is located within the Saginaw Bay Watershed at the confluence of the Chippewa and Pine rivers. It continues to restore the areas of its 1,500 acres that have historically been disturbed by farming, gravel mining, industry and invasive species to a healthier state.

Funding from this grant complements a larger restoration effort made possible by a 2022/2023 Michigan Department of Natural Resources habitat grant. Large monocultures of invasive plants will be eradicated, creating wildlife clearings and areas where native trees and shrubs can be restored. Species such as reptiles, amphibians, wood ducks and many other species of birds that have been impacted by buckthorn will be positively influenced by this land management practice. CNC will add wood duck boxes and bat houses to these areas and monitor turtle species to both help these species and further educate the public about this restoration project.

Prescribed burns in a diversity of open areas and an oak savannah will further enhance CNC ecosystems. Many songbird and pollinator species, amphibians and reptiles will benefit from the results of these burns. The addition of interpretive signage and "snake boards" in these areas will also provide monitoring and programming opportunities.

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 as a Network 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.

More information about WIN is available on its website at www.saginawbaywin.org. Learn more about CNC at www.chippewanaturecenter.org.

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Chippewa Nature Center is a non-profit organization whose mission is to connect all people with nature through educational, recreational and cultural experiences. Enjoy free admission to 19 miles of trails from dawn-to-dark, 365 days a year. The Visitor Center, located at 400 S Badour Rd, is open 8 am-5 pm Monday-Saturday and 12-5 pm Sunday and select holidays. Learn more at www.chippewanaturecenter.org.