

# Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network



A Saginaw Bay WIN analysis completed in November indicates that two major bass tournaments that visited the Saginaw Bay system in the Summer of 2023 combined to provide nearly one million dollars in direct spending in the region. The economic impact was seen at area restaurants, retail stores, fuel stations, hotels and more. Nearly 600 tournament anglers and support staff from 25 states came to Bay City to participate in the National Professional Fishing League tournament in July and the Major League Fishing Tournament in August. The study, completed by Grand Valley State University, is the first analysis of its kind in the region. The analysis was designed using a survey instrument that focuses on the economic contribution (direct, indirect and induced) that the tournaments had on the Bay County area. The analysis focused on spending patterns, the number of visitors, and overall spending. It should be noted that the analysis focused solely on tournament participants and did not include or calculate the spending of those people that came to see the anglers or view the weigh-in events each day. A future analysis will look at that spending. The analysis used IMPLAN software, which is a regional economic development tool used to estimate the impact and “ripple” effect of economic activity in a region.

December 8, 2023  
Delta College Planetarium





Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network  
The Conservation Fund  
P.O. Box 734  
Bay City, MI 48707  
[www.saginawbaywin.org](http://www.saginawbaywin.org)

News Release

For Immediate Release: November 9, 2023

Contact:

Michael Kelly- Director, Great Lakes Office  
The Conservation Fund – Saginaw Bay WIN Program  
989-501-9909  
[mkelly@conservationfund.org](mailto:mkelly@conservationfund.org)

## **Analysis of 2023 Professional Bass Fishing Tournaments in Bay City Show Significant Economic Impact**

*Two major tournaments visited Bay City this summer and anglers and tournament support staff provided a total economic impact of nearly one million dollars*

A new analysis released today by the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) indicates that the two major bass tournaments that visited Bay City this summer combined to provide nearly one million dollars in economic impact to area restaurants, retail stores, fuel stations, hotels and more. Nearly 600 tournament anglers and support staff from 25 states came to Bay City to participate in the [National Professional Fishing League](#) tournament in July and [Major League Fishing](#) tournament in August. The full report can be found [HERE](#). The study, completed by Christian Glupker and his team at Grand Valley State University, is the first analysis of its kind done in this region.

The analysis was designed using a survey instrument that focuses on the economic contribution (direct, indirect and induced) that the tournaments had on the Bay County Area. The analysis focused on spending patterns, the number of visitors, and overall spending. It should be noted that the analysis focused *solely* on tournament participants and did not include or calculate the spending of those people that came to see the anglers or view the weigh-in events each day. A future analysis will look at that spending. The analysis used IMPLAN software, which is a regional economic development tool used to estimate the impact and “ripple” effect of economic activity in a region.

“The economic impact of fishing in our area is a bit of an unknown. It’s generally something that we take for granted. But, the dollars are real and significant when these major events come to town. It just goes to show you that when we protect and restore our waters, we’re paid back many times over by the economic impact that our natural resources provide”. Michael Kelly of The Conservation Fund. The Conservation Fund administers the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network.

"I am excited to learn the results of the economic impact study from the 2023 NPFL and MLF bass fishing tournaments in Bay City. I am confident that 2023 was the start of something big for Bay City and the Great Lakes Bay Region; we are going to be *the* destination in the USA for bass fishing." Ed Clements, Bay City Commissioner.

“We know that there is an undeniable economic impact for events like this that are held in our community. This report does a great job of quantifying that positive and direct benefit we receive from the dollars that are spent in our local economy. But one of the most notable findings from the report is the positivity in which each angler and supporter spoke about our community and our fishery with. I believe that impact will continue to multiply as the anglers from these tournaments go throughout the nation and spread the goodwill and notoriety of our community around them as they go. We are greatly looking forward to receiving this type of cyclical impact as tournaments are scheduled and held in the community.” Trevor Keyes, President and CEO of Bay Future

“Saginaw Bay is recognized for its thriving walleye population and fantastic fishing, but its noteworthy bass angling is often flown under the radar. Recent world-class bass fishing tournaments have successfully showcased the bay's exceptional bass fishery, solidifying its standing as a premier destination for bass enthusiasts.” Dr. Jeff Jolley, Southern Lake Huron Fisheries Supervisor of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

"Whether it be bass or walleye fishing, the professional anglers are always excited to participate in the fishing tournaments on Saginaw Bay. We appreciate the time and hard work of the local organizers in Bay County to bring these tournaments to our region. This economic impact study affirms just how significant the direct spending impact is to our local communities." Tim Shelton, Director of Sports Tourism, Go Great Lakes Bay

The full report is available at <https://www.saginawbaywin.org/uploads/The-Economic-Impact-of-Professional-Bass-Fishing.pdf>

##



*The Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) is a collaborative, community driven quality of life initiative created by a variety of environmental, business and community interests in 1996. WIN was formed to create a more sustainable future for all who live, work and play within the 22-county Saginaw Bay watershed. One of the ways in which WIN accomplishes this objective is by providing financial support to projects that link the economic, environmental and social needs of the region. Key WIN funding partners include: 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, S.C. Johnson Fund, the Cook Family Foundation, the C.S. Mott Foundation and the Saginaw Bay Foundation. Since its inception, WIN has awarded in excess of \$6 million to more than 300 projects across the region. More information on WIN is available at [www.saginawbaywin.org](http://www.saginawbaywin.org) or by calling 989.892.9171.*



# Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network

## Grant Application Form

### What is WIN?

The Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) is a collaborative, community-driven quality of life initiative created by a variety of environmental, business and community interests in 1996. WIN was formed to create a more sustainable future for all who live, work and play within the Saginaw Bay watershed. One of the ways in which WIN accomplishes this objective is by providing financial support to projects that link the economic, environmental and social needs of the region.

### Our Vision

*As stewards of the Saginaw Bay Watershed, we value our shared, unique resources, and together we will balance economic, environmental, and social priorities to enhance the quality of life for this and future generations*

### Our Mission

*We will cooperatively develop a shared identity for the Saginaw Bay watershed as a sustainable community. We will create opportunities to enhance understanding of sustainability, connecting people, resources, organizations and programs through regional networks of local projects.*

### Guiding Principles

- Provide a pleasant and healthy environment
- Conserve historic, cultural and natural resources
- Integrate economic prosperity, ecology and aesthetics
- Use land and infrastructure effectively
- Continually evaluate and refine shared vision and goals

### Program Overview

WIN welcomes proposals that advance the search for sustainable solutions to current watershed and community challenges. WIN is responsive to new ideas, new research and new approaches, recognizing that such innovation is necessary to move the concept of sustainability forward in the Saginaw Bay watershed. The sustainability approach integrates economic goals with environmental and social goals and is based on the premise that meeting human needs for all people today should not impair the ability of future generations to meet their needs. A strong local economy is at the core of a sustainable community because development and the jobs it creates are the vehicles for meeting human needs.

WIN accepts proposals for projects that advance its work within five focus areas:

- Agriculture and Pollution Prevention
- Communication / Regional Marketing
- Land Use
- Water Resources
- Wildlife Stewardship

In addition to sustainability linkages, WIN evaluates projects by asking whether projects:

- Promote and encourage partnerships by leveraging resources
- Balance long-term focus with short-term results
- Promote excellence by fostering a sense of identification and pride in the watershed
- Serve as pilot or demonstration projects with broad application (can be replicated)
- Fit with WIN's vision, mission, and guiding principles

### Agriculture and Pollution Prevention Objectives:

- Marketing region's agricultural products and agri-tourism
- Water quality improvement and pollution prevention including soil erosion issues
- Production of value-added, diversified agricultural products

Preserving farming as a viable industry for the next generation of farmers

- Protection and preservation of agricultural lands
- Bridging gap between urban and rural community interests
- Promotion of alternative and improved energy sources

**Communications and Regional Marketing Objectives:**

- Promoting the Saginaw Bay watershed as a tourist destination and recreation area
- Education about concept of sustainability

**Land Use Objectives:**

- Promotion of “green” / conservation-based development
- Encouraging regional cooperation on land use issues
- Education about land use issues
- Open space protection (because of limited funds, WIN does not support land acquisition costs)

**Water Resources Objectives:**

- Pollution prevention (nonpoint source & point source)
- Wetland restoration
- Fisheries (improve access to, health, promotion, Fisheries Scoping Study implementation)
- Access to water resources
- Improvement of water quality leading to the de-listing of the Saginaw Bay ecosystem as an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Area of Concern

**Wildlife Stewardship Objectives:**

- Habitat restoration lakeward/riverward of the 585 foot contour
- Promotion of habitat-related events
- Providing access to significant habitat and wildlife areas
- Protection of significant habitats
- Educational projects (habitat & wildlife related)

**Funding Availability and Eligibility**

Please contact Saginaw Bay WIN prior to submitting an application to discuss the project and its eligibility. WIN can be reached by email at [info@saginawbaywin.org](mailto:info@saginawbaywin.org) or by telephone at 989-892-9171. Grant proposals are reviewed on a continual basis with financial awards made twice a year. They are no grant deadlines.

Projects are evaluated by a unique network of task groups that are central to WIN’s community-based evaluation process. Through the work of the task groups, proposals are reviewed and refined in cooperation with the applicant. The task groups are formed around WIN’s five focus areas.

If a project receives a favorable nod from a task group, it will be forwarded to WIN’s Resource Group for further consideration. Those projects that are approved by the Resource Group are presented to WIN’s Funders Network for final consideration.

Eligible organizations include nonprofit 501c(3) groups, local governments, subdivisions of local governments and educational institutions.P

Projects must take place within the Saginaw Bay Watershed

**Organization Name** Bridgeport Charter Township Parks & Recreation

**Are you a registered Charity / 501c(3) ?**

**If Yes to above , please provide Your Charitable Number** Local Government

**Do you have a Web Page ?**

**If yes, please submit website address:** [www.bridgeportmi.org](http://www.bridgeportmi.org)

**Contact E-mail** [bwheeler@bridgeportmi.org](mailto:bwheeler@bridgeportmi.org)



**Contact Phone number** (989) 777-0940

**Contact Address** 6740 Dixie Hwy.  
Bridgeport, MI, 48722  
United States

**Organization Executive Officer** Bill Wheeler

**Project Contact Name** Bill Wheeler

**Please state the mission/goals of your organization**

The Bridgeport Parks and Recreation Department shall strive to develop and maintain quality parks and facilities; to preserve open/natural spaces; and to provide recreational programs and services which will enhance the physical, social and emotional well-being of all residents of Bridgeport Township.

- Promote community involvement and actively seek input in the planning, operation and participation of the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Offer comprehensive, quality recreational programming aimed at satisfying the needs of varying age levels, physical abilities and special interests.
- Maintain and improve the appearance and safety of our parks and facilities at the highest level of available resources.
- Provide efficient and effective leadership and coordination for quality recreational and leisure activities for the community.
- Allow for an orderly growth, acquisition and development of the physical and natural resources, and to utilize the natural characteristics of the land, when evaluating its potential for parks and recreation purposes.
- More effectively coordinate the parks and recreation department with other township departments, organizations, and schools to improve the overall service to the community.

## Grant Application

### Project Details

**Name of the Project:** Fort Road Trail Loop - Cass River Greenways

**Is this a New or Existing Project?**

**Project Start Date** Monday, January 1, 2024

**Project End Date** Wednesday, December 31, 2025

**Total Funds required to complete project.** 515,400.00

**Amount Requested from Saginaw Bay WIN.** 20,000.00

**Please describe the project. How is it innovative? What need(s) does it address? Is there a relationship between this project and other programs/projects occurring in the watershed?**

The proposed project will develop a trail loop connecting to the Cass River Trail (also Iron Belle Trail) with amenities. For many years residents of Bridgeport Township have enjoyed walking along the dike which follows the natural areas along the Cass River. The dike was installed following the flood of 1986, where a good portion of the downtown area was under water and was designed to have a trail on it. Bridgeport's uniqueness lies in the rich natural resources adjacent to this project and the downtown area with the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. The proposed trail provides a trail loop connecting to the Iron Belle Trail (IBT) in two locations, downtown Bridgeport, and residential neighborhoods in the community. The proposed trail also connects to the universally accessible canoe/kayak launch, on the Cass River Water Trail, (CRWT) in Davis/Lyle Parks. The Township has approximately 3,700 feet of frontage on the Cass River, a significant natural resource in the region. Additionally, this loop has been identified as a priority in the Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail plan, and was originally identified as a primary trail connection and loop in the WIN-funded "Vision of Green" analysis.

**WIN's key focus area is sustainability - that relationship between the economy, the environment and our communities. Please discuss the sustainability linkages in the project.**

This project will allow visitors and local residents the opportunity to walk in a safe environment and enjoy the natural resources surrounding the walkway. This connection with the Iron Belle Trail and the completed loop around the Cass River area will allow for possible charity walks, and fundraising opportunities within the community. This completed loop with the other attractions in the area will increase visitor accessibility and allow more people to enjoy the natural features the Cass River and Bridgeport has to offer. The trail would be incorporated into the Parks & Recreation Department for maintenance and upkeep.

**Describe how the project fits with WIN's Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles.**

This trail loop allows a connection that has been wanted over the years, as the trail now dead ends and residents and visitors must re-walk the same trail they just did to return to their destination. This loop off the Iron Belle Trail will allow a complete trail system. The social impact of allowing residents and visitors to enjoy the natural landscape around the trail will be greatly increased. The opportunity to do some charitable fundraising also increases as we have a complete loop that allows for benefit walks in a safe manner without using any shared roadway. The installation of interpretive signage along the pathway will share information of wildlife, history and important natural features of the the area. The loop will also provide a healthy exercise resource for individuals that are looking for that option, with lighting of the pathway we extend the useful hours of the pathway throughout the various seasons.

**What tangible results do you expect from the project and how will you measure them?**

The tangible results of the project will come with increased participation in walking of the pathway, this will be monitored by the camera system that is already installed at the Historic Bridge. The increase of events will also be a measurable impact of the loop connection.

**How do you plan to communicate the project with the public or your intended audience?**

Communication of the project will be done through various media and social networks. The loop connection will help increase the viability of the Historic Bridge, a main focal point in the Township. Newspaper articles in the local paper and posts of Facebook pages of the Township will be done to communicate the project and the success of the trail loop.

**Do you intend to cooperate with other agencies or non-profit organizations on this specific project? If not, why not?**

Yes, we will collaborate with other organizations to raise funds, as well as to have successful events after the project is complete.

## What specific items would be covered by a grant from the Saginaw Bay WIN program?

We will utilize the funds if granted from Saginaw Bay WIN to enhance the interpretive signage, benches, and solar lightning. The signage will be important to communicate the natural resources of the area, benches will allow for individuals to rest and take in the natural surroundings (i.e., bird watching, wildlife sight seeing, and the solar lightning helps with the green initiative of natural resources.). For interpretation, we will work closely with Cass River Greenways, a current WIN partner, who has already developed interpretive signage along the Cass River.

## How do you propose to recognize a grant from the Saginaw Bay WIN program?

Saginaw Bay WIN will be on the Interpretive Signage as a funder of the project and will also be recognized in articles and posts about the project.

## Project Success. What does success look like for your project? How will you determine whether the project has been successful?

Success of the project will be completion of the trail loop, and will be measured by the number of participants using the trail along with any special events that are done through the opportunity of having the pathway complete.

## Saginaw Bay WIN Grant Project Budget

Feel free to upload a comprehensive budget under the attachment tab in the next section

**Personnel Expenses** 85900.00

### Please Describe Personnel Expenses

Engineering Fees of the project.

**Materials / Supplies Expenses** 429500.00

### Please Describe Materials / Supplies Expenses

Pavement, signage, benches, landscaping, lightning, trash bins, and ADA parking areas.

**Equipment Expenses** 0.00

### Please Describe Equipment Expenses

Equipment expenses incorporated into the lump sum of the project.

**Communication / Marketing Expenses** 0.00

### Please Describe Communication / Marketing Expenses

Communication and Marketing expenses will be incorporated into the General Parks & Recreation budget and we do not have set amounts for this in the project total.

**Other Expenses** 25000.00

### Please Describe Other Expenses

Contingency fund, permit fees, and MNRTF Signage.

**Total Project Expenditures (including proposed WIN grant)** 540400.00

## Please Describe Amounts Already Raised for the Project and Sources

We are in the preliminary stages of raising funds and have received a final project score of 415 on our DNR Trust Fund Grant Application (which would be \$300,000.00 toward project). We will be in coming months



be writing additional grants to raise more funds through various local foundations. Once project has been awarded by DNR then we will be soliciting these other foundations.

**What is your time frame to obtain the total funding required if you do not have it already?**      Approx. 1 year

## Grant Application Submit

Submit my Application

The information provided by applicants in this form shall not be shared outside of the applicant's organization and contacts and directors, committee members and other participants in the Saginaw Bay WIN program. Public information will only be released if the grant application has been accepted and approved by the Saginaw Bay WIN program.

**Name**      Bill Wheeler

**Email**      bwheeler@bridgeportmi.org

**Address**      6740 Dixie Hwy.  
Bridgeport, Michigan, 48722

**I agree that the information herein are true and correct**     

**Date & Time of application.**      Tuesday, November 14, 2023 08:40

### Type a question

Please let me know if more information is needed, as the DNR Trust Fund Application was to large to upload and this document contains all information of the project.



**NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL CONNECTION**

BRIDGEPORT CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
 6206 DIXIE HWY.  
 BRIDGEPORT, MI 48722

MLR Engineering  
 CIVIL ENGINEERING | CONSULTING ARCHITECTURE

1311 Lake Park, Suite 5, Bridgeport, MI 48722  
 Phone: 517.237.2200  
 Fax: 517.237.2201  
 www.mlr-engineering.com

DATE: 08/11/2015  
 PROJECT: 15-01-001



## What is WIN?

The Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) is a collaborative, community-driven quality of life initiative created by a variety of environmental, business and community interests in 1996. WIN was formed to create a more sustainable future for all who live, work and play within the Saginaw Bay watershed. One of the ways in which WIN accomplishes this objective is by providing financial support to projects that link the economic, environmental and social needs of the region.

## Vision

As stewards of the Saginaw Bay watershed, we value our shared, unique resources, and together will balance economic, environmental and social priorities to enhance quality of life for this and future generations.

## Mission

We will cooperatively develop a shared identity for the Saginaw Bay watershed as a sustainable community. We will create opportunities to enhance understanding of sustainability, connecting people, resources, organizations and programs through regional networks of local projects.

## Guiding Principles

- ◆ Provide a pleasant and healthy environment
- ◆ Conserve historic, cultural and natural resources
- ◆ Integrate economic prosperity, ecology and aesthetics
- ◆ Use land and infrastructure effectively
- ◆ Continually evaluate and refine shared vision and goals

## Funding Priorities

WIN welcomes proposals that advance the search for sustainable solutions to current watershed and community challenges. WIN is responsive to new ideas, new research and new approaches, recognizing that such innovation is necessary to move the concept of sustainability forward in the Saginaw Bay watershed. The sustainability approach integrates economic goals with environmental and social goals and is based on the premise that meeting human needs for all people today should not impair the ability of future generations to meet their needs. A strong local economy is at the core of a sustainable community because development and the jobs it creates are the vehicles for meeting human needs.

WIN accepts proposals for projects that advance its work within five focus areas:

- ◆ Agriculture and Pollution Prevention
- ◆ Communication / Regional Marketing
- ◆ Land Use
- ◆ Water Resources
- ◆ Wildlife Stewardship

### Saginaw Bay Watershed

- ◆ State's largest watershed, encompasses 8,700 square miles in 22 counties
- ◆ Home to more than 138 endangered or threatened species, 90 fish species and 1.4 million people
- ◆ Contains about 7,000 miles of rivers and streams and 175 inland lakes
- ◆ Contains rich resources in agriculture, forestry, industry and recreation
- ◆ Fifteen percent of the state's waterways drain into the Saginaw Bay

In addition to sustainability linkages, WIN evaluates projects by asking whether projects:

- ◆ Promote and encourage partnerships by leveraging resources
- ◆ Balance long-term focus with short-term results
- ◆ Promote excellence by fostering a sense of identification and pride in the watershed
- ◆ Serve as pilot or demonstration projects with broad application (can be replicated)
- ◆ Fit with WIN's vision, mission, and guiding principles



### **Agriculture and Pollution Prevention Objectives:**

- ◆ Marketing region's agricultural products and agri-tourism
- ◆ Water quality improvement and pollution prevention including soil erosion issues
- ◆ Production of value-added, diversified agricultural products
- ◆ Preserving farming as a viable industry for the next generation of farmers
- ◆ Protection and preservation of agricultural lands
- ◆ Bridging gap between urban and rural community interests
- ◆ Promotion of alternative and improved energy sources

### **Communications and Regional Marketing Objectives:**

- ◆ Promoting the Saginaw Bay watershed as a tourist destination and recreation area
- ◆ Education about concept of sustainability

### **Land Use Objectives:**

- ◆ Promotion of “green” development
- ◆ Encouraging regional cooperation on land use issues
- ◆ Education about land use issues
- ◆ Open space protection (because of limited funds, WIN does not support land acquisition costs)

### **Water Resources Objectives:**

- ◆ Pollution prevention (nonpoint source & point source)
- ◆ Wetland restoration
- ◆ Fisheries (improve access to, health, promotion, Fisheries Scoping Study implementation)
- ◆ Access to water resources
- ◆ Improvement of water quality leading to the de-listing of the Saginaw Bay ecosystem as an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Area of Concern

### **Wildlife Stewardship Objectives:**

- ◆ Habitat restoration lakeward/riverward of the 585 foot contour
- ◆ Promotion of habitat-related events
- ◆ Providing access to significant habitat and wildlife areas
- ◆ Protection of significant habitats
- ◆ Educational projects (habitat & wildlife related)

## **Funding Process**

Grant proposals are reviewed on a continual basis with financial awards made twice a year. They are no grant deadlines.

Projects are evaluated by a unique network of task groups that are central to WIN's community-based evaluation process. Through the work of the task groups, proposals are reviewed and refined in cooperation with the applicant. The task groups are formed around WIN's five focus areas.

If a project receives a favorable nod from a task group, it will be forwarded to WIN's Resource Group for further consideration. Those projects that are approved by the Resource Group are presented to WIN's Funders Network for final consideration.

## Application Instructions

1. If you are interested in applying for a grant, please contact the WIN office at (989) 892-9171 to discuss your project.
2. Please type or print clearly so that the completed form will be legible. You may retype the form. Send your completed form electronically to [info@saginawbaywin.org](mailto:info@saginawbaywin.org) with a signed, hard copy mailed to:  
Saginaw Bay WIN  
P.O. Box 734  
Bay City, MI 48707
3. Please answer the questions in the space provided. You may include a one-page attachment. When completed, your application packet should not be more than four pages.
4. If you have questions about the form or the project review process, please contact Saginaw Bay WIN at (989) 892-9171 or [info@saginawbaywin.org](mailto:info@saginawbaywin.org).
5. The "Local Champion" is the not-for-profit organization, entity or government agency that will have primary responsibility for insuring that the project is completed. It will also be responsible for accounting for the funds granted and providing the required reports.
6. Many of the project ideas presented to WIN fit the visions and geographic restrictions of local community foundations. For this reason, we ask that local champions make an effort to present their project ideas to the community foundation serving the region that will benefit most from the project's goals.





**GRANT APPLICATION FORM**  
 Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network  
 P.O. Box 734  
 Bay City, MI 48707

|  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Office Use:</b>                     |                                   |
| Application # _____                    |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ag/P2         | <input type="checkbox"/> Water    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use      |                                   |
| Other _____                            |                                   |

Please answer the following questions in the space provided. You may include a one-page attachment. When completed, your application packet should not exceed four pages. Send your completed form electronically to [info@saginawbaywin.org](mailto:info@saginawbaywin.org) and mail a signed, hard copy to Saginaw Bay WIN, P.O. Box 734, Bay City, MI 48707. **Proposals may be submitted at any time.** If you have questions, please call (989) 892-9171.

**SECTION 1 - GENERAL**

|  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| Project Name <b>Camp Shiawassee Canoe Launch Project</b>                       |   |   |  |
| Sponsoring Organization / Local Champion <b>Shiawassee Family YMCA</b>         |   | Is the sponsor a 501(c)(3) organization?<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |  |
| Name & Position of Contact Person <b>Laura Archer, Chief Executive Officer</b> |   |   |  |
| Address <b>515 W Main Street</b>   |   |   |  |
| City <b>Owosso</b>   | State <b>MI</b>                         | Zip <b>48867</b>  | Phone <b>(989) 725-8136    (517) 410-5915 (cell)</b> |
| Fax  | Email <b>larcher@shiawasseeymca.org</b> | Amount Requested <b>\$10,000</b>  |  |
| Project Start Date <b>9/1/2023</b>   | Project End Date <b>12/31/2023</b>      | Geographic Area Served <b>Shiawassee County</b>   |  |

**SECTION 2 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Please describe the project. How is it innovative? What need(s) does it address? Is there a relationship between this project and other programs/projects occurring in the watershed?

Camp Shiawassee is owned and operated by the Shiawassee Family YMCA and serves 400 to 500 area youth each year as a summer day camp. The camp’s 180-acre property (140 of which are permanently protected with a conservation easement) embraces approximately 13,500 feet of undisturbed natural frontage on the Shiawassee River - the ideal setting for youth activities that teach an appreciation of the natural world. The YMCA intends to establish two paddle craft landings along the river that will allow campers and staff to safely put in and take out without having to leave camp property, alleviating the need for off-site shuttling of campers and canoes. The proposed landings are simple in design, cost efficient, and will have minimal impact on the integrity of the shoreline. Beyond the immediate needs of the summer camp programs, the landings will also provide an ideal venue for offering paddle-skill courses and guided paddling experiences for members, supporters, and potential donors of the YMCA.

The landings will also provide safe and easy sampling points for the bi-annual macroinvertebrate sampling program sponsored by the local nonprofit Friends of the Shiawassee River (FOSR). This program, in place since 2008, provides a long-term record that assists local and state governments, research institutions, and other community organizations gain a better sense of river health and to quickly recognize and address pollution problems. At a regional level, the landings will add additional access points along the 88-mile stretch of the Shiawassee River system, which was recently designated as a National Water Trail.

**SECTION 3 – COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS**

What other organizations are participating in this project and what are their roles?  
 In addition to financial support, the YMCA and FOSR will provide volunteer labor for the installation of the launches.

## SECTION 4 – SUSTAINABILITY LINKAGES AND GOALS

Describe the project's goals and how you will measure whether it has achieved those goals.

**Economic goals:** Improving the recreational infrastructure of Camp Shiawassee will augment the financial strength of the YMCA by capturing the revenue potential of the camp property through fundraising (new donor dollars) and additional programming revenue (camp enrollment and paddle-skill training). These revenue increases are easily measured with annual financial review. Economic benefits are also passed on to the company installing the launches, which is based locally within the watershed.

**Community or social goals:** On the heels of the recent removal of the Shiatown and Corunna dams downstream from Camp Shiawassee, these additional launches will further attract recreational paddlers to what is arguably the most pristine navigable stretch of the Shiawassee River. Local canoe and kayak liveries upstream from the camp would benefit, as would downstream businesses near paddle craft take outs in more populated areas.

**Environmental goals:** The increased exposure of young campers and other visitors to the beauty of the river will create memories that translate into support and advocacy for the resource as they become adults. Adding Camp Shiawassee to FOSR's list of macroinvertebrate sampling sites will generate important data for future monitoring and protection of river health at this pristine site.

## SECTION 5 – RELATIONSHIP TO WIN OBJECTIVES

Describe how the project fits with WIN's Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles.

This project supports regional sustainability in a variety of ways: through the economic growth of commercial businesses and not-for-profit organizations; by enhancing the educational and recreational opportunities available to local communities, and by increasing awareness, through active engagement, of the socioeconomic benefits provided by a healthy aquatic ecosystem. After enduring years of negative notoriety resulting from the discovery of PCBs in the 1970's, the Shiawassee River is finally being recognized by the public as a quality water body and a driver of community well-being within the region. This proposed project is a continuation of the collective energy and resources that have been invested to achieve this transformation.

## SECTION 6 – RESULTS

What tangible results do you expect from the project and how will you measure them?

By adding two additional launches to the existing network of launches along the river, it is reasonable to expect an increase in the number of paddlers using the resource. Tracking use of the new launches could be accomplished with a digital "guest book" using QR codes, which could also provide information about the river and the YMCA/Camp Shiawassee. A seasonal survey of the upstream livery service could also be used to track paddle craft rentals and visitor counts.

To date, Camp Shiawassee has been an underutilized asset by the YMCA. Improvements in the financial resiliency of the YMCA are expected as a result of the growth of summer camp programs, paddle program offerings for members and the community at large, donor engagement, and by renting the facility to outside groups for team building and corporate retreat opportunities. Improvements in financial position will be verified by annual financial reviews and program analysis.

The expansion of the FOSR Stream Team program to Camp Shiawassee offers the opportunity of recruiting local residents to participate in the biannual sampling of the river, which could increase membership and expand local awareness of the condition and trends of the local aquatic ecosystem.

## SECTION 7 – COMMUNICATION

Sharing this project with our members, camp families, partner organizations and other stakeholders will occur through email, on social media and through our broad community network. Additionally, we intend to hold at least one "open house" out at Camp Shiawassee to showcase the launches. This invitation will be published in local print media sources in addition to the previously mentioned channels.



**SECTION 8 – BUDGET**

|  | Total Budget | WIN Funds |
|--|--------------|-----------|
| Personnel Expenses (briefly describe):<br>Donated time and labor for grant preparation and assistance with installation                                | \$2,000      |           |
| Material and Supply Expenses (briefly describe):<br>Concrete ramp, gravel for sub-base of ramp, gravel for walk path, rip rap for slope stabilization. | \$12,262     | \$10,000  |
| Equipment Expenses (briefly describe):<br>Excavation equipment and operator to excavate and install launch ramps.                                      | \$6,000      |           |
| Communication/Marketing Expenses (briefly describe)  |              |           |
| Other Expenses (briefly describe):<br>EGLE and County permits, erosion control with re-vegetation of disturbed areas                                   | \$1,675      |           |
| Total Project Cost   | \$21,937     |           |
| Funds Requested from WIN   |              | \$10,000  |

What funds have already been obtained for this project? (describe sources):  
Private individual commitments: \$5,000.

How do you plan to finance the portion not funded by WIN?

- Additional funding from individuals and businesses: \$1,000
- Grants available through the Shiawassee Community Foundation: \$1,500
- Shiawassee Family YMCA: \$2,500

Have you contacted the community foundation in the area most directly benefited by your project? If yes, with what result?

The Shiawassee Community Foundation has two funds that are candidates for support. Proposals will be submitted when the application windows open.

Is this an on-going project? If yes, how will funding be continued?

No

**SECTION 9 – CERTIFICATION**

Our governing board approves the submission of this grant request. I certify that the information contained herein is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

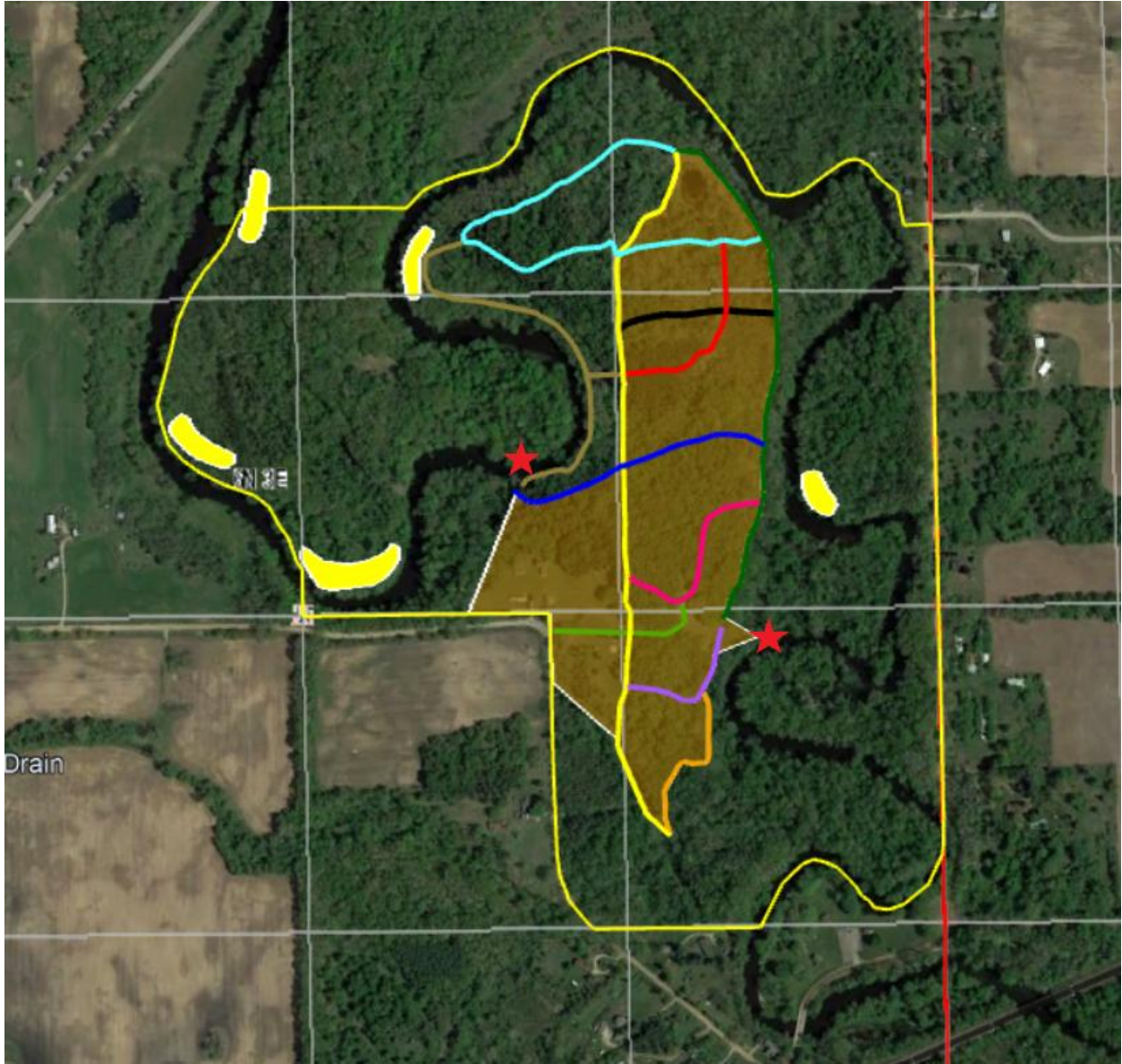
*Laura Archer*

Authorized Signature

Laura Archer, Chief Executive Officer

Print Name and Title

*July 18, 2023*  
Date





# Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network

## Grant Application Form

### What is WIN?

The Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) is a collaborative, community-driven quality of life initiative created by a variety of environmental, business and community interests in 1996. WIN was formed to create a more sustainable future for all who live, work and play within the Saginaw Bay watershed. One of the ways in which WIN accomplishes this objective is by providing financial support to projects that link the economic, environmental and social needs of the region.

### Our Vision

*As stewards of the Saginaw Bay Watershed, we value our shared, unique resources, and together we will balance economic, environmental, and social priorities to enhance the quality of life for this and future generations*

### Our Mission

*We will cooperatively develop a shared identity for the Saginaw Bay watershed as a sustainable community. We will create opportunities to enhance understanding of sustainability, connecting people, resources, organizations and programs through regional networks of local projects.*

### Guiding Principles

- Provide a pleasant and healthy environment
- Conserve historic, cultural and natural resources
- Integrate economic prosperity, ecology and aesthetics
- Use land and infrastructure effectively
- Continually evaluate and refine shared vision and goals

### Program Overview

WIN welcomes proposals that advance the search for sustainable solutions to current watershed and community challenges. WIN is responsive to new ideas, new research and new approaches, recognizing that such innovation is necessary to move the concept of sustainability forward in the Saginaw Bay watershed. The sustainability approach integrates economic goals with environmental and social goals and is based on the premise that meeting human needs for all people today should not impair the ability of future generations to meet their needs. A strong local economy is at the core of a sustainable community because development and the jobs it creates are the vehicles for meeting human needs.

WIN accepts proposals for projects that advance its work within five focus areas:

- Agriculture and Pollution Prevention
- Communication / Regional Marketing
- Land Use
- Water Resources
- Wildlife Stewardship

In addition to sustainability linkages, WIN evaluates projects by asking whether projects:

- Promote and encourage partnerships by leveraging resources
- Balance long-term focus with short-term results
- Promote excellence by fostering a sense of identification and pride in the watershed
- Serve as pilot or demonstration projects with broad application (can be replicated)
- Fit with WIN's vision, mission, and guiding principles

### Agriculture and Pollution Prevention Objectives:

- Marketing region's agricultural products and agri-tourism
- Water quality improvement and pollution prevention including soil erosion issues
- Production of value-added, diversified agricultural products



Preserving farming as a viable industry for the next generation of farmers

- Protection and preservation of agricultural lands
- Bridging gap between urban and rural community interests
- Promotion of alternative and improved energy sources

**Communications and Regional Marketing Objectives:**

- Promoting the Saginaw Bay watershed as a tourist destination and recreation area
- Education about concept of sustainability

**Land Use Objectives:**

- Promotion of “green” / conservation-based development
- Encouraging regional cooperation on land use issues
- Education about land use issues
- Open space protection (because of limited funds, WIN does not support land acquisition costs)

**Water Resources Objectives:**

- Pollution prevention (nonpoint source & point source)
- Wetland restoration
- Fisheries (improve access to, health, promotion, Fisheries Scoping Study implementation)
- Access to water resources
- Improvement of water quality leading to the de-listing of the Saginaw Bay ecosystem as an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Area of Concern

**Wildlife Stewardship Objectives:**

- Habitat restoration lakeward/riverward of the 585 foot contour
- Promotion of habitat-related events
- Providing access to significant habitat and wildlife areas
- Protection of significant habitats
- Educational projects (habitat & wildlife related)

**Funding Availability and Eligibility**

Please contact Saginaw Bay WIN prior to submitting an application to discuss the project and its eligibility. WIN can be reached by email at [info@saginawbaywin.org](mailto:info@saginawbaywin.org) or by telephone at 989-892-9171. Grant proposals are reviewed on a continual basis with financial awards made twice a year. They are no grant deadlines.

Projects are evaluated by a unique network of task groups that are central to WIN’s community-based evaluation process. Through the work of the task groups, proposals are reviewed and refined in cooperation with the applicant. The task groups are formed around WIN’s five focus areas.

If a project receives a favorable nod from a task group, it will be forwarded to WIN’s Resource Group for further consideration. Those projects that are approved by the Resource Group are presented to WIN’s Funders Network for final consideration.

Eligible organizations include nonprofit 501c(3) groups, local governments, subdivisions of local governments and educational institutions.P

Projects must take place within the Saginaw Bay Watershed

**Organization Name** Chippewa Nature Center, Inc.

**Are you a registered Charity / 501c(3) ?**

**If Yes to above , please provide Your Charitable Number** 38-1859315

**Do you have a Web Page ?**

**If yes, please submit website address:** [www.chippewanaturecenter.org](http://www.chippewanaturecenter.org)

**Contact E-mail** [dpilaske@chippewanaturecenter.org](mailto:dpilaske@chippewanaturecenter.org)

**Contact Phone number** (989) 631-0830

**Contact Address** 400 S. Badour Rd., Rt. 9  
Midland, MI, 48640  
United States

**Organization Executive Officer** Dennis Pilaske

**Project Contact Name** Dennis Pilaske

**Please state the mission/goals of your organization**

To connect all people with nature through educational, recreational and cultural experiences.

## Grant Application

### Project Details

**Name of the Project:** Integrating Native Plants, Wildlife, and Water Quality Practices into the Nature Education Center at Chippewa Nature Center

**Is this a New or Existing Project?**

**Project Start Date** Sunday, March 3, 2024

**Project End Date** Tuesday, February 4, 2025

**Total Funds required to complete project.** 41,400

**Amount Requested from Saginaw Bay WIN.** 30,000

**Please describe the project. How is it innovative? What need(s) does it address? Is there a relationship between this project and other programs/projects occurring in the watershed?**

Chippewa Nature Center (CNC) is constructing a ten-thousand square foot Nature Education Center to support and expand youth-focused educational programs including Nature Preschool, Nature Day Camp, and School Programs. As important as the building is in fostering the growth of CNC and our mission to connect all people to nature, the space beyond the building is where we will have the most impact in meeting our mission. This project will focus on the ecosystem adjacent to the building with a focus on water quality, native plantings, wildlife value, and education. Through intentional planning of natural spaces around the building, we will be able to inspire visitors to value and replicate sustainable site practices in their homes and business.

From the beginning, the goal has been to design and place this building within the landscape in a way that minimizes its impact on the natural environment while maximizing educational opportunities. This building is being placed outside of the floodplain, but within a forested area where vernal pools are an important part of the local ecosystem. The building and parking lot have been planned in such a way as to minimize the impact on non-regulated wetlands and avoid impacting regulated wetlands. Water flow has been carefully considered in the site design. To manage water being diverted from impervious surfaces, a bioswale and filter strips featuring native plants are planned. The bioswale along Homestead Road will manage a portion of the runoff from the parking lot, capturing the water, slowing it down, and allowing some of it to enter the water table at that location. During high-volume water events, excess water will be diverted to a planted ditch where water will continue to be filtered and slowed before entering local waterways. Due to the close proximity of natural vernal pools, filter strips between the parking lot and

vernal pools will be installed to slow and clean water as it enters the pools. These filter strips will help to manage water quality in the pools, but will also double as pollinator habitat and educational spaces where native plants, insects, and other native fauna can be studied. The presence of the natural wetlands will ensure that water flowing into them enters the water table and moves slowly through the ground before entering local waterways.

In the spaces adjacent to the Nature Education Center, CNC plans to incorporate a diversity of native wildflowers, grasses, sedges, shrubs and trees. In addition to native plantings, CNC will install a variety of nest boxes to provide nesting habitat that was lost during the construction process. The plantings will take place on the septic field, in the front of the building, as in the Nature Preschool play areas. In these spaces, the native planting will function as water and debris filters for vernal pools, soil stabilization measures, and site restoration pieces, but will also be critical to the education of program participants and their families. Programs will be conducted in these spaces to highlight these native plants and their roles in the local ecosystem. As CNC conducts public programs, school programs, camp and preschool, staff will introduce visitors to the concepts of bioswales, filter strips, pollinator gardens, and utilizing native plants around the built environment to enhance spaces for wildlife and people. CNC is also planning to incorporate non-personal interpretation in the form of signage that highlights and explains different elements of the site plan with an emphasis on sustainability, features which can be replicated in other spaces, and the value of native plants and wildlife.

Through thoughtful design and intentional planning, CNC plans to develop and sustain a healthy ecosystem around the Nature Education Center which will be a showcase for the region for how nature can be integrated into a site plan for the benefit of water quality, wildlife, and people.

**WIN's key focus area is sustainability - that relationship between the economy, the environment and our communities. Please discuss the sustainability linkages in the project.**

This project will showcase how a large, commercial building can be situated on the landscape as well as how the site can be planned and maintained to minimize negative impacts and effectively enhance the area for wildlife and native plants. Due to the large number of people who will spend time in and around the building, CNC will have a significant opportunity to educate people about sustainable site design and the value of working with the natural landscape.

As an organization, Chippewa Nature Center 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 come to visit the site each year and support the local economy through their travels. CNC also intends to engage regional contractors during construction, further supporting our local economy.

**Describe how the project fits with WIN's Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles.**

This project is designed to enhance the quality of life in the region by helping youth and their families understand their place in and connection to the natural world. While the building is central to providing programs, it is really the landscaping and site plan that will help demonstrate the connection between the built and natural environment. The site plan will 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. Our hope is that 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.

**What tangible results do you expect from the project and how will you measure them?**

We expect that this project will result in managing most stormwater within the site and maintaining good water quality in the adjacent wetlands and waterways. The vernal pools on the building site will continue to be monitored through the vernal pool patrol citizen science effort that is being managed by CNC in Midland County. Through the planting of native trees, shrubs, grasses, sedges, and wildflowers, we expect

the floristic diversity to increase within the site as invasive species are removed and replaced post-construction with native species. This can be measured through floristic inventories.

Perhaps the most important and impactful results will be through the educational aspect of this project. While it's difficult to measure long-term results of educational efforts such as interpretive panels and programs, visitor and program participant surveys will help capture the effectiveness of these techniques in inspiring people to incorporate elements of the site plan into their homes and businesses. We will also measure the effectiveness of these educational efforts through conversations we have with homeowners, schools, local organizations, and businesses seeking to incorporate these elements into their own building projects and site plants.

**How do you plan to communicate the project with the public or your intended audience?**

This portion of the overall project will be highlighted in project-related social media, print publications, and online newsletters as a wildlife, water quality, and education focused initiative. Additionally, permanent interpretive signage will be installed at the site to highlight these projects.

**Do you intend to cooperate with other agencies or non-profit organizations on this specific project? If not, why not?**

Yes, CNC has worked with the Disability Network of Mid-Michigan to ensure accessibility concerns are addressed in the design. This project will provide volunteer opportunities for corporations to work with CNC staff on the habitat restoration and bio-swale enhancements upon completion of the project.

**What specific items would be covered by a grant from the Saginaw Bay WIN program?**

This grant will support the of building the bioswale, planting the bioswale with native plants, planting filter strips along the perimeter of the parking lot and vernal pools, and landscaping the exterior of the building with native wildflowers, grasses, shrubs and trees. The grant will also cover nest box construction and placement as well as interpretive signage highlighting these features.

**How do you propose to recognize a grant from the Saginaw Bay WIN program?**

Saginaw Bay WIN will be recognized via social media, in our print and online newsletters highlighting the project, during site tours, and in permanent signage placed on site to educate visitors about the sustainable practices, wildlife value, and water management aspects of the project.

**Project Success. What does success look like for your project? How will you determine whether the project has been successful?**

This project will result in the Nature Education Center being integrated into the natural landscape and in program participants and visitors engaging with the natural world in meaningful ways around the building. If successful, most stormwater will be managed onsite and local wetlands and waterways will continue to be healthy and diverse. The diversity of native plants will increase and the spaces around the building will be used regularly for programming. The site will become a showcase for the integration of native plants and the natural environment into the building site, improving the space for wildlife and people. Success will be determined through vernal pool monitoring, programming and participant surveys, floristic inventory, and visitor engagement with the site and staff.

**Saginaw Bay WIN Grant Project Budget**

Feel free to upload a comprehensive budget under the attachment tab in the next section

**Personnel Expenses** 11,000

### Please Describe Personnel Expenses

Chippewa Nature Center staff will carry out all of the land restoration, planting, interpretive panel design, writing, and installation. This accounts for those hours spent on these efforts. 440 hours @ \$25/hour

**Materials / Supplies Expenses** 15,150

### Please Describe Materials / Supplies Expenses

This includes the purchase of native trees, shrubs, wildflower seed and plugs, materials for nesting boxes, and interpretive signage.

**Equipment Expenses** 0.00

**Communication / Marketing Expenses** 0.00

**Other Expenses** 12,000

### Please Describe Other Expenses

This includes a portion of the expenses related to the site survey design/engineering for the bioswale and water retention planning.

**Total Project Expenditures (including proposed WIN grant)** 41,400

### Please Describe Amounts Already Raised for the Project and Sources

Chippewa Nature Center has already approved the \$11,400 balance for this portion of the total project.

**What is your time frame to obtain the total funding required if you do not have it already?** Complete


## Grant Application Submit

Submit my Application

The information provided by applicants in this form shall not be shared outside of the applicant's organization and contacts and directors, committee members and other participants in the Saginaw Bay WIN program. Public information will only be released if the grant application has been accepted and approved by the Saginaw Bay WIN program.

**Attachments. Please upload any materials that help describe your organization or project (ex. annual report, marketing materials, project budget etc)**

 2022 Annual Report.pdf

 CNC Project Budget and Over....pdf

**Name** Dennis Pilaske

**Email** dpilaske@chippewanaturecenter.org

**Address** 400 S. Badour Rd., Rt. 9  
Midland, MI, 48640



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- Native Grasses & Wildflowers
- Filter Strip with Native Plants
- Bioswale
- Trees & Shrubs

**LEGEND**

- PROPOSED BALDING
- PROPOSED MAINTENANCE
- PROPOSED DRIVEWAY
- PROPOSED BATTERY
- PROPOSED SIGN
- PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGN
- PROPOSED TREE
- PROPOSED CURB
- PROPOSED SIDEWALK

