

City Councilman Don Fracassi said in reference to Carpenter Lake, "Carpenter Lake on its own merits is a spectacular jewel for the city."

The Carpenter Lake Nature Preserve offers a beautiful natural setting of mature forests overlooking Carpenter Lake, Southfield's only public lake, on the Ravines Branch of the Rouge River. Located in the heart of the City of Southfield, the 42 acre nature preserve is home to deer, owls, snapping turtles, and other urban wildlife.

The replacement of a dam and the dredging of Carpenter Lake for fish and wildlife habitat, including improved spawning areas and shoreline ledges for new wetlands, was completed in 2006 with assistance from the Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio. The JHLE Studio was subsequently hired to prepare a master plan, construction documentation, and to oversee construction for the initial phase of improvements at the Carpenter Lake Nature Preserve. Included were nature trails, boardwalks, interpretive signage, fishing platforms, and support facilities such as parking, trailhead improvements, and access controls.

Sustainability was a very important component of the design. Features such as pervious pavements and bioswales were included to control stormwater runoff, and native plantings and prairie grasses were used to provide habitat and reduce long term maintenance needs. In addition, bridges and overlooks along trails were constructed with recycled decking material. Rain gardens are also planned around a proposed new nature center.

The park and lake improvements are part of a \$3.5 million project supported by additional grant funds through the trust fund and the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project.



Carpenter Lake Nature Preserve

Southfield, Michigan

City of Southfield
Parks and Recreation

26000 Evergreen Road
Southfield, Michigan 48034
248.796.4618



516 East Washington Street • Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
t: 734.668.7416 f: 734.668.2525 www.jhle-studio.com

153 East Front Street • Traverse City, Michigan 49684
t: 231.929.9438 f: 231.932.9250 www.jhle-studio.com