

Environmental Interpretive Center

Dearborn, Michigan

Environmental Interpretive Center
University of Michigan - Dearborn

4901 Evergreen Road
Dearborn, Michigan 48128
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The site, located adjacent to the Rouge River, is highly visible to over 8,500 students and 12,000 visitors annually. The Master Plan will be used as a model for native landscaping for residential, business, and municipal facilities.

Located adjacent to the historic Henry Ford home, Fairlane, this premier site will be used as the gateway to more than 300 acres of natural area within the Rouge River watershed.



The Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio and InSite Design Studio were selected through an open competition to develop a landscape design for the University of Michigan Environmental Interpretive Center.

The site was divided into zones for appropriate stormwater management strategies and for demonstration of representative ecosystems. The design focuses on strengthening the relationship with the natural world by:

- Connecting people to their regional natural history by creating living models of Southeastern Michigan ecosystems
- Connecting staff, students, and visitors to nature by encouraging biodiversity around the Center's Perimeter
- Connecting storm water's path to the Rouge River through a natural systems infrastructure rather than underground pipes
- Connecting wildlife to the Center by providing resources for water, food, shelter, and nesting
- Connecting volunteers to the Center by involving them in hands-on maintenance activities
- Connecting local home and business owners to the ideas of sustainable landscapes and water conservation

Stormwater is handled by above-ground green infrastructure, such as stormwater ponds, rain gardens, bioswales, and rain barrels. This reduces the load on existing, and the need to build new underground stormwater sewer systems. In addition, removing pavement and using permeable pavement where possible reduces the amount of impervious surface.



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