

sanctuary

A Newsletter of The Ridges Sanctuary
Spring 2014



*“...while still preserving
the purity of the Ridges.”*

Paul M. McMahon, The Milwaukee Journal - August 16, 1959

The mission of the Ridges Sanctuary is to protect the Sanctuary and inspire stewardship of natural areas through programs of education, outreach and research.



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From the Rangelight

No one can find fault with a group as unselfish as Ridges Sanctuary. They have added several hundred acres to the original 40 acquired from the federal government a little over 20 years ago. They have kept the area open, without charge, to anyone desiring to enjoy it. Members have given time and effort to their project.

And, yet, we keep wishing that sometime, somehow, the exciting story of nature's remarkable show can be told to the multitude of uninformed told, **while still preserving the purity of the Ridges.**

Paul M. McMahon, *The Milwaukee Journal* – August 16, 1959

A Vision Becomes a Reality

What a difference six months makes! When our Fall 2013 issue of Sanctuary was published, I wrote these words about our capital campaign:

"Never in the history of the Sanctuary has our membership undertaken a fundraising effort of this magnitude. Yet, at this writing, we are over 80% of the way to reaching our \$3.5 million goal and completing this historic campaign."

In a special insert to that same issue, we notified you that two anonymous longstanding donors had offered to match, dollar-for-dollar, all donations and pledges up to \$350,000 received through the end of 2013. The response to that generous gift was immediate and extraordinary, allowing us to complete the campaign in mid-November.

Since that time, we have been laying the groundwork for the months ahead. In April, we completed the bid process and I am pleased to tell you that with **Boldt Construction** providing project oversight, the following local contractors have been engaged to carry out the construction: **Van's Lumber & Custom Builders, Harbor Construction, Anschutz Plumbing, Baylake Electric and Wulf Brothers, Inc.** On April 22, we broke ground for our new center and at this writing, construction is underway.

We've also made progress on our interpretive exhibits. Earlier this year, Taylor Studios was chosen to develop the design specifications for exhibits that have been funded by our Scenic Byways grant. In past newsletters and at various meetings, you may have seen conceptual renderings of these exhibits. Now members of our Interpretive Committee have worked with the Taylor staff to fine tune those concepts to produce designs that are ready for fabrication. In the following pages, we've shared some examples of their work. We hope you can begin to see how the center and the interpretation – both inside and outdoors – will combine to tell the

story of The Ridges' past, present and future.

We have an exciting year ahead of us, and it's only the beginning. Thanks to your support and that of our community, the Cook-Albert Fuller Center will inspire and encourage conservation by providing a place where residents, visitors and community groups can interact and better understand the value of our landscape and its watershed for generations to come.

Steve Leonard, *Executive Director*
steve@ridgessanctuary.org

Goal Met!



And the Construction Begins!



Ridges Board Members, Baileys Harbor Town Board Members, Campaign Chairs Nancy & Bob Davis and Director Steve Leonard join in the groundbreaking action.

Steve Leonard addresses attendees at April 22 groundbreaking ceremony.



Site prep!



Digging the geothermal wells.

Follow our progress on RidgesSanctuary.org!

Permeable Pavement Parking Lot & Walkways

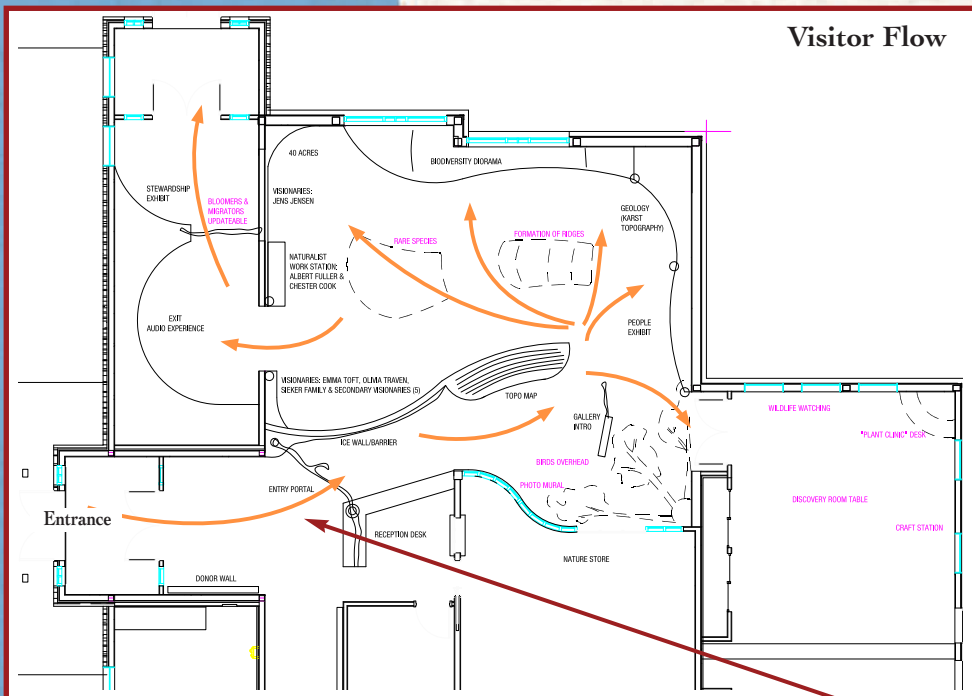


As required by local regulation, the Center will follow an approved storm water management plan to address runoff risks to natural resources. These plans require the reduction of impervious surfaces which will increase the amount of runoff, and systems to deal with water that does leave these areas in a way that will minimize the negative impacts to ground and surface water resources. One of the key elements of our management plan is a permeable pavement parking lot.

The Presto GeoPave® system (pictured at left) has been selected as an economical, low maintenance system that provides these benefits as well as long-term stability. This porous pavements system stabilizes porous infill materials while acting as a natural on-site stormwater retention system.

The Center also will feature a landscape plan that incorporates all of the required elements to effectively protect the resources of The Ridges Sanctuary from the detrimental effects of storm water runoff.

The Ridges Experience:



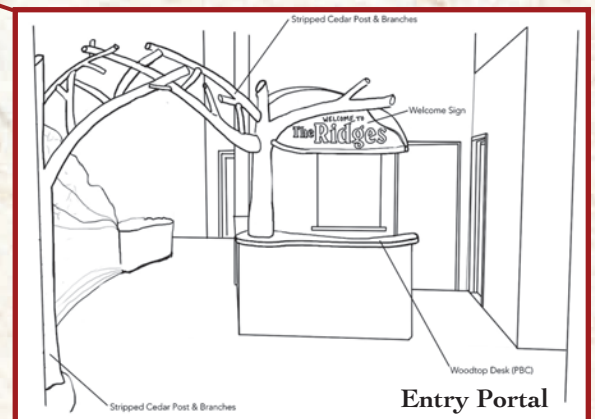
Visitor Flow

Visitor Flow - Well-designed visitor flow provides clear guidance and direction.

Entry Portal - As visitors take their first steps into the building, an archway of stripped cedar frames the entrance to the exhibit space, creating the aura of walking under low sweeping tree branches as you would when you begin to hike one of our peaceful, outdoor trails. The inviting design of this archway is repeated as an exhibit element as well as at the Hidden Brook Trailhead and other trail entry points on the campus

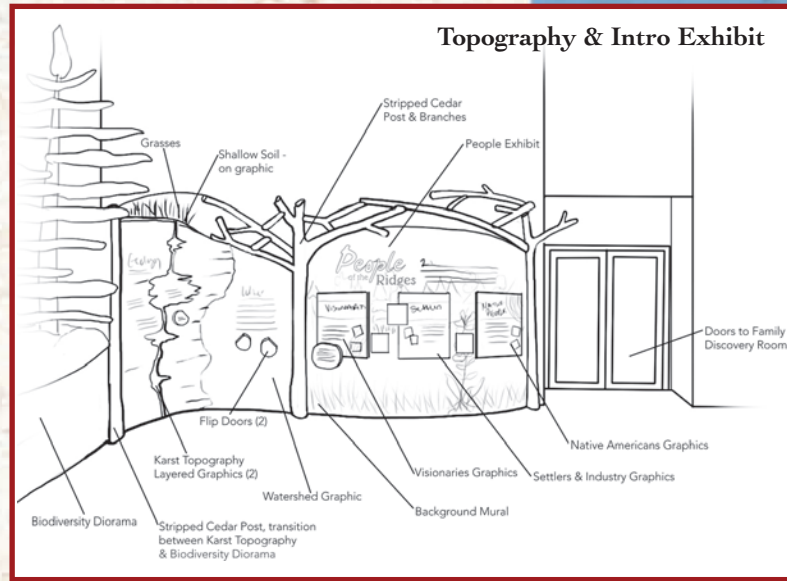
Construction Schedule

Building	May thru Dec 2014
Parking lot & sidewalks	May 2015 (Occupancy)
Landscaping	Start May 2015
Boardwalk	Bids – Summer 2014
	Construction – Fall 2014
Family Discovery Trail	Phase I – mid June 2014
	Phase II – mid June 2015
Exhibits	Bids – November 2014
	Installation – Sept 2015

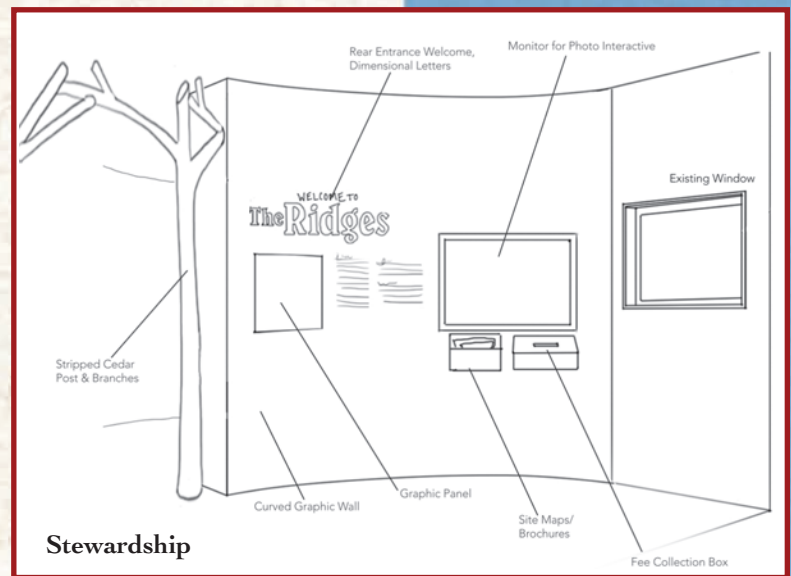


The Cook-Albert Fuller Center

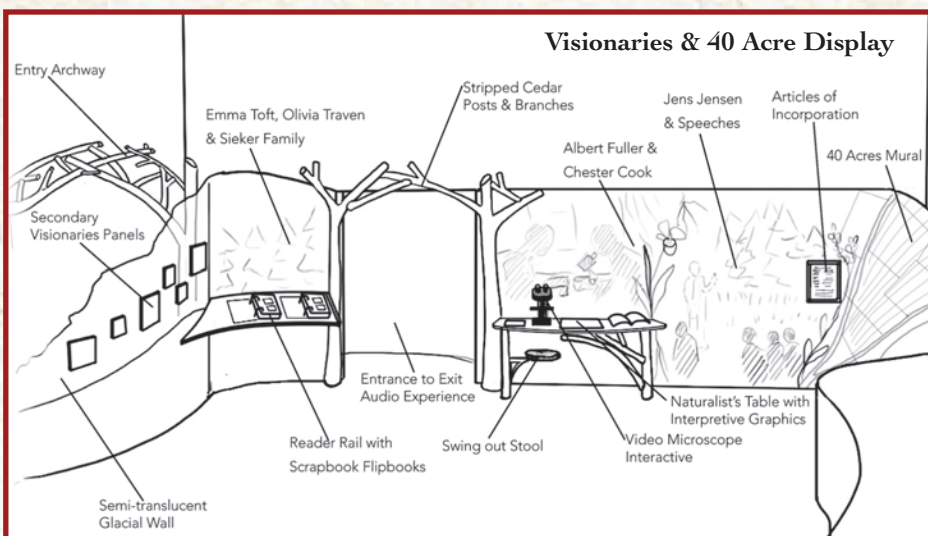
Topography Map - The topographic map introduces visitors to the full scope of the ridges and swales for the first time in the Center. Presenting it from a bird's-eye view highlights the exceptional geological features and the biodiversity they will experience as they complete their tour of the Center and move out onto the trails of the Sanctuary.



Stewardship - The ancient beach ridges, isolated boreal forest, and rare and diverse species that call The Ridges Sanctuary home took millennia in the making . . . and all of it could vanish in no time without the continued conservation efforts and financial support from its volunteers, members and local community. This exhibit reminds visitors that this is a fragile, special place and worthy of protection. Trail and membership fees are explained here, drawing the connection between these funds and the protection and maintenance of the land.



Visionaries - The Ridges is an integral part of the community that created it. This display emphasizes that it took the efforts of the community, along with the influence of visionaries from varied walks of life to come together to protect such a wonderful place.



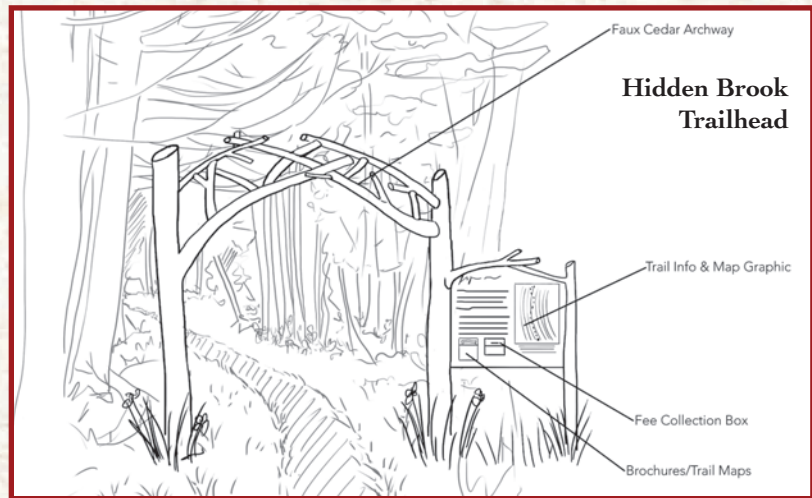
LEED Project Point Distribution

Sustainable Sites	10
Water Efficiency	6
Energy & Atmosphere	31
Materials & Resources	8
Indoor Environmental Quality	9
Innovation & Design Process	6
Regional Priority Credits	4
TOTAL	74
(LEED Gold Certification: 60 – 79 points)	

The Ridges Experience: New Areas of the Campus

Hidden Brook Trail

Throughout The Ridges campus, there are five key trailheads leading onto the trail system. Each will feature a rustic archway similar to the one at the entry to the interpretive area in the Center. These arches are welcoming, open gateways onto the trails and provide directional information, information about the trail system they are about to explore, and the importance of fee payment.

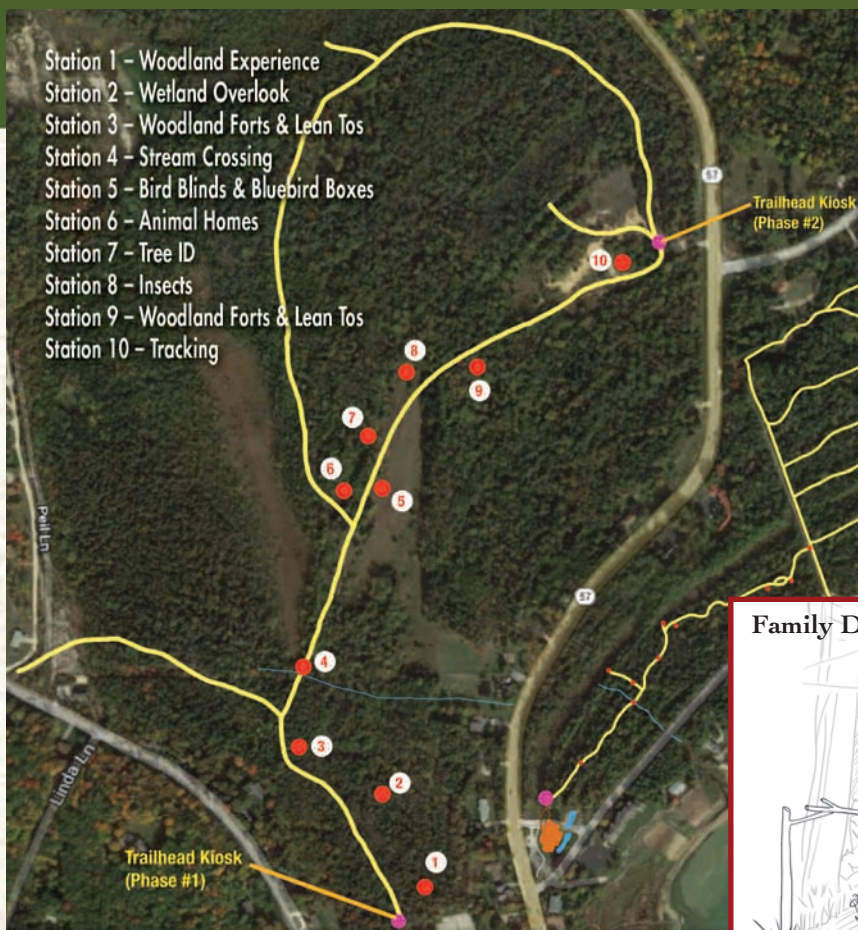


Hidden Brook Trailhead & Boardwalk -

One of the first trailhead arches visitors may encounter is the Hidden Brook Trailhead to the north of the Center. Guests who are exiting the Center will begin their adventure here.

Journeying north on this new handicapped accessible path, visitors encounter graphic displays (see stations on map at left) that interpret various elements of their surroundings. These graphics might feature flora or fauna of the surrounding area or information about why this particular area was special to one of the visionaries. They may also feature tactile or interactive elements that encourage visitors to stop and take in the information.

The Hidden Brook boardwalk ends at the Range Lights boardwalk. From there, visitors have the opportunity to explore the Baileys Harbor Range Lights and the Log Cabin area, and also venture onto the rustic trails of the Sanctuary.



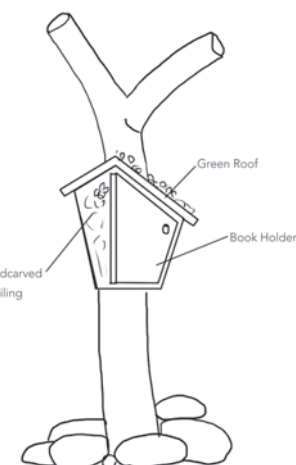
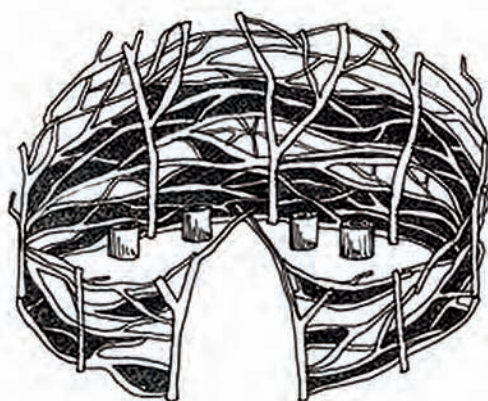
Family Discovery Trail

Family Discovery Trail - Children learn by doing and the Family Discovery Trail is a unique trail system that featuring highly interactive exploration areas or stations (see above). Children are encouraged to use their imagination, play, and explore their surroundings through a series of activities facilitated along the trail. These engaging stopping points vary throughout the seasons and promote repeat visitations as well as enhancing children's curiosity in the natural world. Along the trail, there are also library stations featuring books for families to read together in the beauty of nature.

Family Discovery Trailhead



Fort Nest



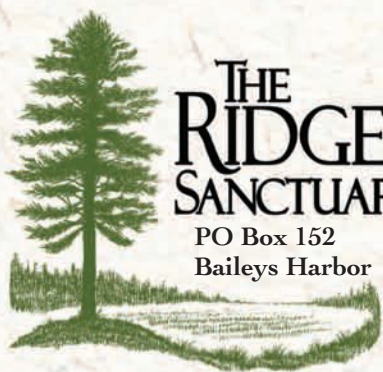
Birdbox Library

Stepping Stones (logs)



Wigwam Bird Blind





THE RIDGES SANCTUARY

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Experience, Explore...

Exhale.

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Annual Meeting & Gathering

Saturday, August 2nd, 3 - 7 PM

**Our front door is under construction,
but our back door is open!**

While our new building is under construction, we've planning a fun day of activities at The Ridges cabins.

Our annual meeting begins at 3 PM, followed by a beverage service and hikes from 4:00 – 5:00.

Then join us for a pig roast with all the fixin's and some scrumptious desserts. This year's entertainment will be provided by folk musicians Jess Holland and Nick Hoover.

Jess plays banjo, Nick plays acoustic guitar and both sing vocals on blues type folk music along with uplifting bright folks songs and current popular music.

During the evening, we'll also announce our Volunteers of the Year.

Tickets are \$40/person. Space is limited, so we encourage you to reserve your spot soon!

RSVPs requested by July 18.

Call 920-839-2802 or register online at www.RidgesSanctuary.org