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Grass River Natural Area Receives Interpretive Project Grant from the National Association for Interpretation - Region 4

The National Association for Interpretation Region 4 recently announced its Interpretive Project Grant Award Winners, and is pleased to report Grass River Natural Area is among the 2021 recipients.

The Interpretive Project Grants (IPG) program is designed to provide a source of funding for small projects by Association members within the Great Lakes region including Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Ontario. Projects may include exhibitry, signage, programs, or other ideas that enhance visitors' interpretive experience. Applications are submitted annually, and reviewed by the IPG Committee consisting of members of NAI Region 4 who guide the grant process and make recommendations to the Region 4 Board of Directors.

Grass River Natural Area's project – *Reaching All Visitors with Interpretation: Interpretive Trail Guides* – will add self-guided interpretive programs in the form of printed publications for visitors tailored to their natural interests. According to grant applicant James Dake of Grass River Natural Area, “[d]ue to the incredible success of this program in 2020, we want to continue this form of interpretation into 2021 and beyond... The self-guided interpretive programs will become an integral part of our education program during this time and help us to reach our mission of increasing knowledge, appreciation and community-wide stewardship of the natural environment.”

IPG funds will add financial support for the project, including funding for the printing of at least five different self-guided interpretive programs.

“It is always interesting and enlightening for the Committee to see all of the wonderful projects underway in Region 4 - we have very passionate and creative members in our region,” said Victoria Zablocki, Acting Chair of the Interpretive Project Grants Committee. “Congratulations to Grass River Natural Area for being creative in their efforts to reach every kind of visitor using their site.”

Applicants receiving funding this year along with Grass River Natural Area include: Great Parks of Hamilton County (OH) and Sandusky County Park District (OH).

The National Association for Interpretation (NAI) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit professional organization dedicated to advancing the profession of heritage interpretation, currently serving about 5,000 members in the United States, Canada, and over thirty other nations. Individual members include those who work at parks, museums, nature centers, zoos, botanical gardens, aquariums, historical and cultural sites, commercial tour companies, and theme parks. Commercial and institutional members include those who provide services to the heritage interpretation industry.

The Association is divided into ten geographical regions to help members network with others who work near them through periodical newsletters and activities. Region 4, the Great Lakes Region, includes Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Ontario.

NAI's Mission is to inspire leadership and excellence to advance heritage interpretation as a profession.
