



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Victoria Zablocki

Acting Chair – Interpretive Project Grants Committee

School Program Coordinator

Chippewa Nature Center

400 S. Badour Rd

Midland, MI 48640

vzablocki@chippewanaturecenter.org

989.631.0830

Medina County Park District 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 Medina County Park District is among the 2020 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.

Medina County Park District's project – *Trees of Medina County* – will add interactive components to help gamify the wood panel display currently located in the Wolf Creek Environmental Center. According to grant applicant Natalie Dubiel of Medina County Park District, this project "...is an important piece of the environmental center that draws attention and curiosity... [The new additions] will serve as not only an interactive game but a life-sized field guide. Visitors and students alike will be able to discover trees before and after their walks, learn more about them, and thus create lasting memories."

IPG funds will add financial support for the project, including funding for polished panels such as a title, description and tree-specific panels with images of the leaf and the tree silhouette.

"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 Medina County Park District on their work to improve an existing exhibit in a creative and interactive way."

Applicants receiving funding this year along with Medina County Park District include: Grass River Natural Area (MI) and Wilderness State Park (MI).

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.
