

PROJECT DATA

INDIAN SPRINGS METROPARK

WHITE LAKE, MI

Client

Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority
Environmental Educational Center
13000 High Ridge Drive
Brighton, MI 48116
Mike Arens
810.227.2757

Architect

SmithGroup, Inc.
500 Griswold
Suite 200
Detroit, MI 48226
Bruce Comstock
313.989.3600

Size

19,400 sf

Cost

\$6,780,400

Date Completed

August, 2004



The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority was seeking to develop a facility that could support an intensive level of environmental education programs tailored to meet the needs of area educators, and expand upon the existing nature interpretive program at Indian Springs.

JM Olson Corporation (JMOC) was selected as the General Contractor to integrate the building into the overall site. Owners wanted to create a large and diverse habitat restored on a 60-acre site adjoining the building. The habitat restoration area served as an outdoor classroom. It features paths, seating areas decks and overlooks, pond and wetland developments, and a demonstration garden containing samples of all the native species. It also features a children’s adventure playland and a 20-foot-deep, two-acre lake and an overflow pond. The lake is the focal point for an underwater tunnel and an acrylic bubble.

The project’s main challenge was creating a facility that would support a truly meaningful and in-depth environmental education program and at the same time be a major regional public attraction.

The building design, materials and equipment were selected to engage the natural environment and efficiently utilize resources. Heating and cooling features include high-efficiency groundwater source heat pumps, heat-recovery ventilation units, ventilation reset utilizing occupancy sensors, and the use of natural ventilation through operable windows when outside conditions allow. The net result is a resource-effective building with low energy consumption.

