

The Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve is a 27 acre property located on the eastern shoreline of Muskegon Lake in North Muskegon. The Preserve is home to trails, a wetland walkway, paved bike paths, an outdoor pavilion classroom, and a 1/4 mile Wilder River Walk for enjoyment by the public. The Preserve offers wetland, riverine, and forested ecosystems that are accessible to individuals of all ages and physical abilities. We are proud to offer the community outdoor recreation and education experiences that promote environmental stewardship.

History

The Muskegon Environmental Research & Education Society (MERES) was formed as an outgrowth of the Muskegon Conservation Club. When the club acquired land that was to become the Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve in 1997, it was a **community dump**. With the help of generous contributors and many hours of volunteer labor, this dump was gradually **converted to a beautiful natural setting**.

BEFORE

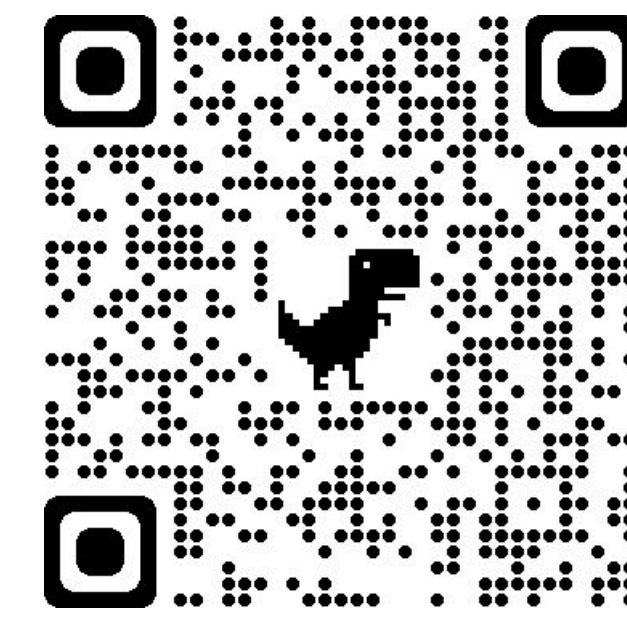


AFTER



MERES is a 501-C-3 tax exempt organization and operates without any direct government assistance. We are totally dependent on donations, grants, and the dedication of volunteers who have worked many hours to provide this natural sanctuary in the heart of an urban community. **An immediate need is funding for an Education Director.**

Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve



Habitat Restoration Project Spring 2020 – Summer 2021

- Restored approximately 7.9 acres of wildlife habitat
- Removed 6,331 metric tons of unnatural fill materials
- Reconnected lower Muskegon River with Muskegon Lake
- Restored fish passage and habitat

Following completion, there will be a monitoring phase to control invasive species and assess the impact of restoration on reptiles and amphibians.



The project is being managed by West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC). Funding (~\$250,000) is provided by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Great Lakes Commission (GLC).



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Mission EDUCATION



RECREATION



PRESERVATION



The Muskegon Environmental Research & Education Society inspires individuals of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to enjoy, discover, and cherish the natural environment.



Over the years, thousands of students and teachers have visited the Preserve to learn about, and through, nature. Their learning experiences include reading, writing, the arts, math and science. The Preserve is an enriching site for adults as well who enjoy birding, nature exploration, meditation, or photography. Families find the Preserve a great way to get away from electronic screens and get back to nature!