

Q2 2024

connexions

Newsletter

WHAT'S INSIDE



For-Mar Nature Center and Arboretum Master Plan

The master plan identifies a hierarchy of needs and phased improvements that will position the space to better serve local and regional visitors.



Conservation: Storm Water in South Carolina

Focusing on the conservation area of the park, this project contributed to improving the quality of storm water runoff before it can reach the Atlantic Ocean.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

US-23 YEAR ONE COMPLETE

Year one of this three-year project is complete with the second year getting started in March! Primary work during the 2024 season includes adding the flex lane on both NB and SB US-23 from North of M-36 to South of Lee Road and the reconstruction of the Silver Lake Road interchange including the addition of two roundabouts. The existing pavement in this segment will be upgraded by milling/resurfacing and full depth replacement.

SEE MORE on pg.4



Large-Firm Resources. Personal Attention.

BUILDING BRIDGES

BREAKING BARRIERS





A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Leanne H. Panduren, PE, FNSPE

It's hard to believe it's already the second quarter of 2024. The first part of the year always brings the "celebration" weeks for our different design discipline areas of engineering, surveying, and landscape architecture. In this edition, we share some information on ROWE's professionals and our celebrations. We've also been honored so far this year with awards from WTS Michigan and the American Public Works Association. Both awards are a testament to our hard work and dedication in meeting our client's needs while providing growth opportunities for our team members.

It was a wonderful experience to attend the WTS Michigan Annual Scholarship and Awards banquet in March. The primary focus of WTS is to promote the advancement of women in the transportation industry. ROWE was named the Employer of the Year by the group because of our history of advancing and supporting women in reaching their career goals at ROWE and in the industry. Our Transportation Group Leader, Cheryl Gregory, has long been an active member of the group and currently serves as a Michigan Chapter Committee Member.



By now, I'm sure everyone reading this newsletter has been impacted by a new construction zone with the 2024 season charging forward. As always, please remember to follow the posted speed limits in construction zones and stay aware of your surroundings. A split second of distraction can unfortunately lead to dire and sometimes fatal results for those driving and working to improve our infrastructure.



US-23

YEAR ONE COMPLETE

Year one of this three-year project is complete with the second year getting started in March! Primary work during the 2024 season includes adding the flex lane on both NB and SB US-23 from North of M-36 to South of Lee Road and the reconstruction of the Silver Lake Road interchange including the addition of two roundabouts. The existing pavement in this segment will be upgraded by milling/resurfacing and full depth replacement.

Similar to the work in 2023, two lanes of traffic will be maintained in both directions on US-23 through the use of complex staging and split merges where one lane of NB US-23 will be maintained on the SB roadbed when work is taking place on NB US-23 and vice versa when work is taking place on SB US-23.

To complete the reconstruction of the US-23/Silver Lake Road interchange, all ramps to and from US-23 will be closed along with east/west Silver Lake Road traffic under US-23 through August of this year. Interchange traffic will be maintained through the use of detours that have traffic taking the service drives to either M-36 or Lee Road.

The primary purpose of this project is to connect the current US-23 flex lane to I-96 by extending it north from M-36. The US-23 flex lane is designed to accommodate peak hour, higher traffic volumes, as well as incident management. The flex lane itself is an upgraded shoulder that is used as a part-time lane. Full use of the lane would require a new lane with wider median shoulders throughout the entire corridor,



WORK ZONE ENFORCEMENT

Michigan State Police utilized grant money to run a one-day enforcement campaign within our work zone. They utilized 2 patrol vehicles from 7am to 4pm.

SLOW
DOWN

STATISTICS:

- Work Zone Speed Limit: 60MPH
- PCMS Messaging Throughout Work Zone
"Work Zone Speed Limits Strictly Enforced"
- 74 Hazardous Citations Issued for 75+ MPH, with one being cited for 96 MPH
- 39 Verbal Warnings

which would cost much more than upgrading the shoulder. Building a full lane in each direction would have required full reconstruction of the freeway. This would have had a much higher impact on the corridor at a significantly higher cost. The US-23 Flex Route increases capacity during bi-directional peak hours within the existing infrastructure for less money!

Continuing ROWE's commitment to safety, we worked with the Michigan State Police (MSP) to set up work zone enforcement campaigns through the use of grant money that MSP has obtained. During

one of these enforcement campaigns, MSP had two patrol cars onsite from 7am to 4pm, where the



work zone speed limit was set at 60 miles per hour and 17 electronic message boards throughout the project corridor were stating "Work Zone Speed Limits Strictly Enforced". During that 9-hour period, 74 hazardous citations were issued for over 75 miles per hour with one motorist being cited for 96 miles per hour. Speed and distracted driving are two of the main causes of major crashes in work zones. **Just ONE fatality is UNNACEPTABLE**, so please encourage all your friends and family to reduce their speed, put down their devices, and be alert to help all of us with our industry goal of driving towards ZERO deaths in work zones!



WORK ZONES ARE TEMPORARY. ACTIONS

**ROAD
WORK
AHEAD**

WORK ZONE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

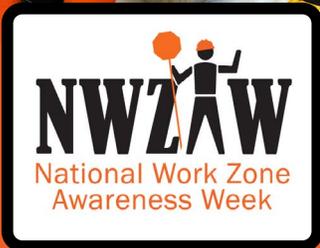
SAFE DRIVERS + SAFE WORKERS = SAFE WORK ZONES



ROWE Project Manager, Brian Sarkella, PE, spoke at the kickoff event on behalf of the American Traffic Safety Services Association Michigan Chapter (ATSSA).



BEHIND THE WHEEL CAN LAST FOREVER.



The ROWE family expressed support for National Work Zone Awareness Week – an annual campaign to spread awareness for work zone safety and honor those who have lost their lives to work zones.

In 2023, Michigan preliminary work zone crash statistics show there were:



7,237
work zone crashes



1,896
work zone injuries



108
involved serious injuries



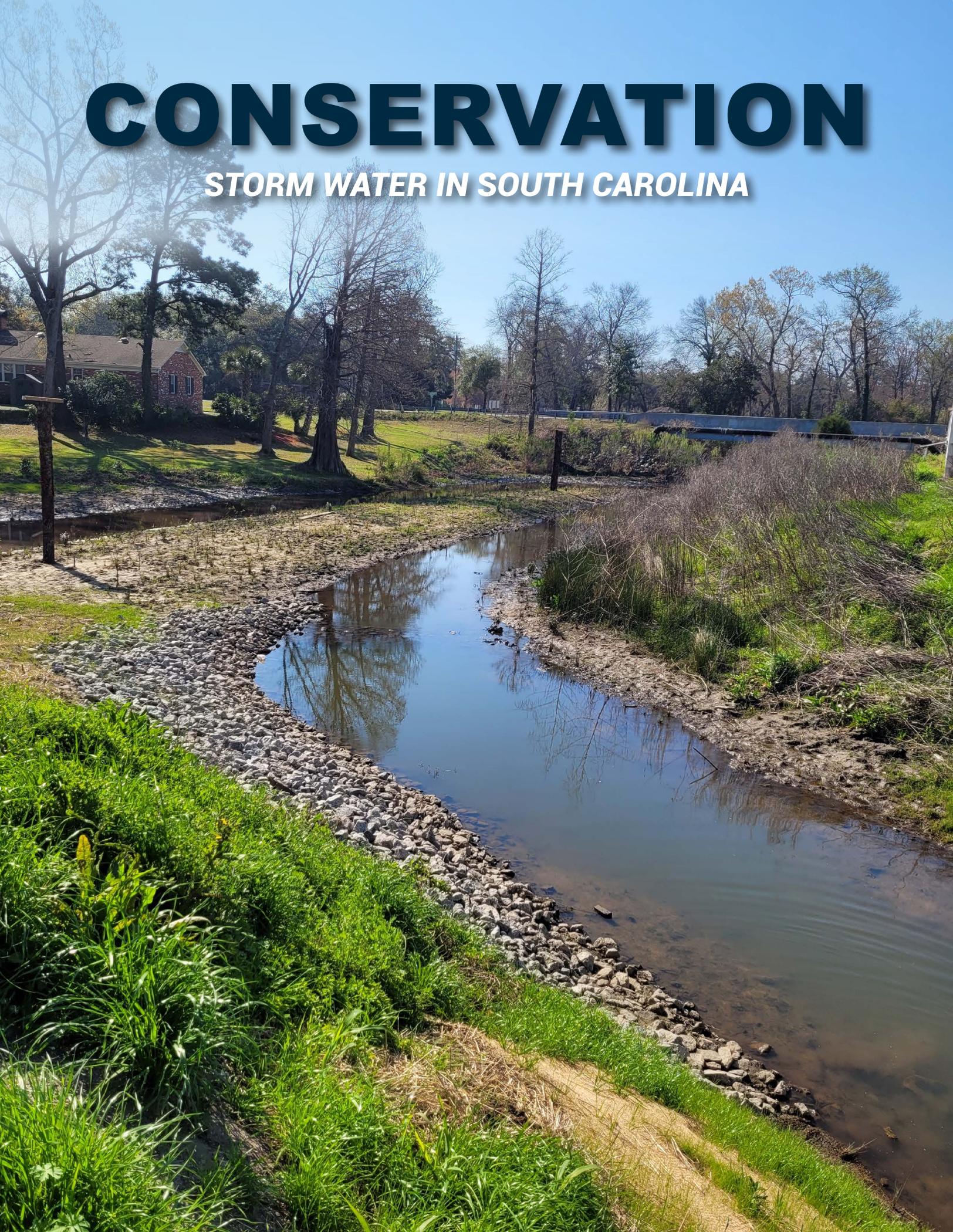
20
work zone fatalities



17
fatal work zone crashes

CONSERVATION

STORM WATER IN SOUTH CAROLINA





In April, ROWE provided aerial and ground topographic survey to aid in the design of the City of Myrtle Beach Public Park at Withers Swash in South Carolina. Focusing on the conservation area of the park, this project contributed to improving the quality of storm water runoff before it can reach the Atlantic Ocean. The conservation portion of the public park was designed and constructed to utilize natural and planted vegetation to filter out storm runoff.

Much of this site is submerged at high tide. To map the site, our survey team arranged:

- » An aerial flight during low tide
- » A boat to map the center of the two channels flowing out to the ocean during high tide
- » Ground topographic survey within thick vegetated areas

The park welcomes nature lovers and offers educational programs about the local ecosystem, conservation efforts, and the importance of preserving coastal habitats.



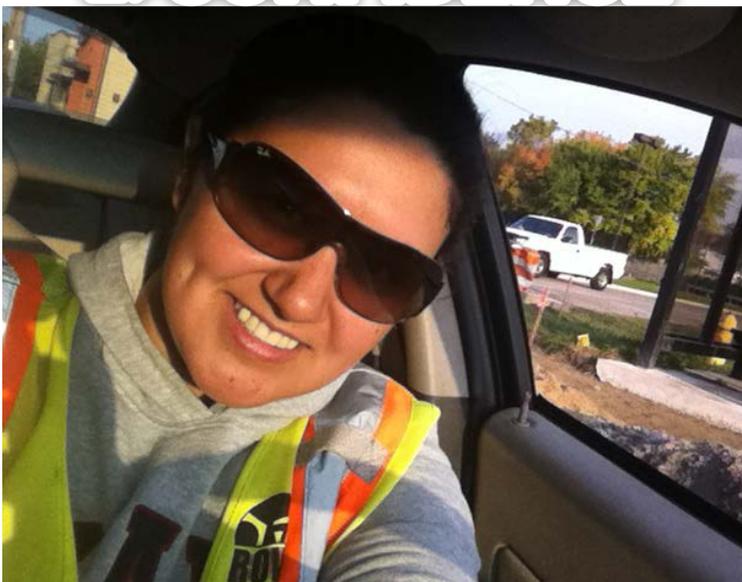
Women in Construction

KEYS TO



AI DRIVE

CONFIDENCE



AUTHEN

Construction Week

SUCCESS



ADAPTABILITY

PASSION



ACTIVITY



Thank you to the amazing women in construction who shape the industry through their mentorship, passion, and hard work!



DAVIS-OLMSTEAD DRAIN AND CULVERT IMPROVEMENT

KALAMAZOO, MI

This spring, construction will begin for the Davis-Olmstead Drain and Culvert Improvement project for the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County! In addition to the upcoming construction services, ROWE provided survey and design engineering. The project is being funded by grant funds provided by the Kalamazoo River Natural Resource Damage Assessment due to the surrounding area being named a Superfund site in 1990.

RESTORING NATURAL HABITATS

From the late 1950s to the early 1970s, paper mills in the Kalamazoo River area released polychlorinated biphenyls into the ground and watershed. Restoration projects like this one are included in the efforts to benefit the injured natural resources. ROWE assisted with the grant administration leading up to the funds becoming available for use.

The project includes replacement of the two culvert crossings at Springfield and Brookfield along the Davis-Olmstead drain with aluminum 4-sided box culverts. The stream bank is also undergoing restoration to address areas of erosion. Over the years, native plants and grasses have been removed or cut by property owners which has led to the erosion. These native plant species will be reintroduced and invasive species such as the **Japanese Knotweed** will be controlled. The restoration will help restabilize the area and get the drain back to its natural state. As a result of this project, stream water quality will improve and the natural habitat will flourish.



CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

- » Scheduling construction to avoid impacts to fish passage in the stream
- » Coordination due to the stream/drain being along many residential properties
- » Collaborating with the drain office and EGLE to ensure proper communication of the project, intent, and final deliverables
- » Utility relocations for placement of the new box culverts



Our team has also played an important role in the public engagement process, including meeting with area residents adjacent to the property before beginning construction. We look forward to assisting with the future ribbon cutting event and offering an educational discussion on how to maintain the natural vegetation of the stream to ensure long-lasting quality.

March 17-23

NATIONAL SURVEYORS WEEK

Five of ROWE's surveyors were interviewed to share insight into the surveying profession. Each surveyor brought a different lens, whether it be 34 years of industry experience or a passion for new technologies. Even so, there was one common response: the best part of surveying is the variety of work!





Guy Stickler, PS, Project Manager

"I like the ability to work for a company that has large firm resources while also providing personal attention. It sounds corny because it is our slogan, but we really do have that. I'm able to interact with clients directly, but I'm also able to benefit from having a larger firm backing that allows me to work with some of the newest technology. If I were working at a two-man survey firm, I wouldn't have access to those types of things."

Jim Fink, CST III, PLS, Survey Project Coordinator

"We did a project up in the Grayling area for Shell Oil, if I remember correctly, and it was locating about 75 section corners. Most of the corners were in wooded areas. It was my understanding that it was one of the first projects in Michigan to use GPS technology. Because it was in wooded areas, we had to run the GPS antennas up on 25-foot poles. Once we had it all set up, we would leave, go get a few hours of sleep, come back in the middle of the night, hook up to the receiver or hook the receiver up to the antennas, and collect data for two hours until 2:00 in the morning. We had to use snowmobiles to get in and out. It was a fun project."



John Rauser, PS, Senior Project Manager

"I like the fact that it's different every day. You never feel like you go to work and you're doing the same thing day in and day out. That's just the way the job is. Every legal description is different, and it provides a challenge every day. You don't get stuck in a rut, so to speak."

Travis Kizer, Survey Project Coordinator

"For me, the combination of being able to work outside and inside is a huge benefit of surveying. I really enjoy being in the outdoors, just being in the natural environment. I like to hunt and fish and things of that nature, so keeping me outside is perfect. Originally, I was looking to do forestry after high school, but my father-in-law worked for a gas company that did cross-country pipeline surveying. During one of my summers, I was able to go out there and that spurred my interest even more."



Zac Case, Assistant Project Surveyor

"My favorite project has been the development of the Buick City site in Flint. ROWE has been part of the project since day one. Our survey team completed aerial mapping, conventional mapping, and an ALTA survey for preliminary design of this project. Once the preliminary design was done, our survey team then went out and did the construction layout of phase one of the site. Seeing what it looked like on day one and then seeing what it looks like now is pretty cool."





UPTOWN BAY CITY PROJECT OF THE YEAR

With the assistance of ROWE, the City of Bay City and private partner Shaheen Development are breathing new life into a Brownfield site on the Saginaw River between the Veterans Memorial and Lafayette Street bridges. Located along the east side of the Saginaw River, the Uptown Bay City project extends east to Water Street and Saginaw Road.

The overall public infrastructure is complete and approximately half of the site has been developed, moving toward the end goal of transforming the 50-acre Brownfield site into a vibrant multi-use area. The development includes Dow Business Center, various restaurants, Courtyard by Marriott hotel, McLaren Bay Region, medical office facilities, housing, apartments,

retail shops, transient day docks, broadside boat docking, and waterfront public plazas. The proposed riverfront includes the construction of a half-mile of public riverwalk with Saginaw River overlooks that connect the existing riverwalk in front of Breaker Cove to the south of the site and Wenonah Park to the north of the site.

PHASE I

Phase I of the project extended from the Breaker Cove Development north to Ninth Street.

PHASE 2

Phase II of the project extended from Ninth Street north to McKinley Avenue (M-25).



ROWE'S PROJECT RESPONSIBILITIES

Engineering design, survey, landscape architecture, and construction engineering services for the entire site's infrastructure, including public utilities (sanitary sewer, water main, and storm water system), mass grading, streets, sidewalks, waterfront plaza, Saginaw River shoreline protection (sheetpiling and large limestone), day-dock transient marina, public riverwalk, retaining walls, steel structure river overlooks, ornamental lighting, streetscaping, and parking facilities.

Permitting for the project, including Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Saginaw River floodplain, soil erosion, public utility construction (sanitary sewer and water main), State Historic Preservation Office, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, and Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) right-of-way permit.

Project management of infrastructure development for the entire site.

Survey work and hydraulic analysis for a Federal Emergency Management Agency Conditional Letter of Map Amendment.

Site plan development for city planning commission approvals.

All site surveying and preparation of legal descriptions for the overall boundary, parcel splits, easements, and street rights-of-way.

Site construction engineering, staking, oversight assistance, and administration.



FRAMING

FUTURES



Michigan Career Quest



Career Night at Tri County High School



Coastal Carolina Career Fair



Kearsley Middle School



Hawk Island Groundbreaking



Transportation and Civil Engineering Bridge Build Event



Public Open House
M-22, M-72 Project



Career Fair
Interviews



Western Michigan University
Career Fair

FOR-MAR NATURE CENTER AND

A Brighter Future for



FOR-MAR ARBORETUM MASTER PLAN

Nature-Based Learning

GENESEE
COUNTY
PARKS 

BURTON, MI

From August of 2022 through December of 2023, the ROWE team collaborated with Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission (GCPRC) to create a master plan for their beloved For-Mar Nature Center and Arboretum. Input from the community, staff, the Friends of For-Mar Board of Trustees, user groups, and other stakeholders was critical to the plan's success. The master plan identifies a hierarchy of needs and phased improvements that will position the space to better serve local and regional visitors.

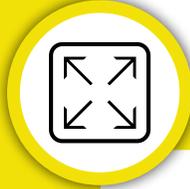
383 ACRES | **7.5** MILES

Formerly a dairy farm, the property sits at 383 acres with over 7.5 miles of hiking trails. For-Mar's Chief Park Naturalist, Nicole Ferguson, shares "Martha Merkley, one of the original owners and namesakes, had always envisioned a space that could be set aside for nature and education." With her vision in mind, the project team addressed programming, capacity building, and capital improvements/park amenities.



PROGRAMMING

The master plan process identified staffing and facility needs to support a nature and place-based education center, preschool, and summer camp.



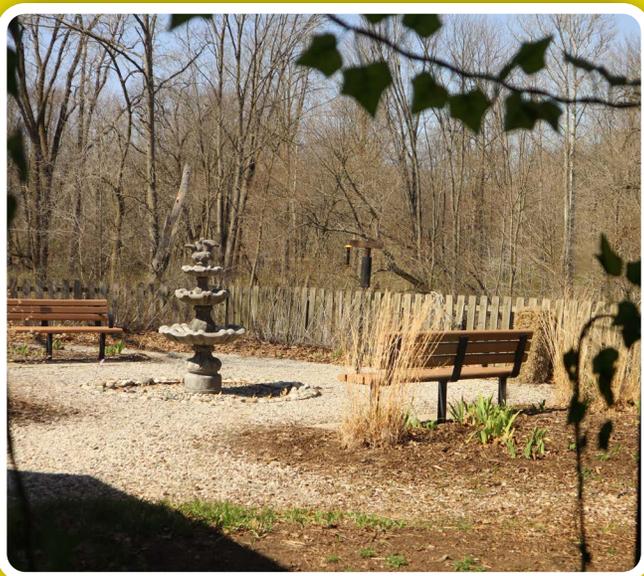
CAPACITY BUILDING

Evaluation of growth needs and limits of the site were measured against a standard that was established by the planning process that focused on the preferred visitor experience. This included identification of staffing, maintenance, and support infrastructure needs. The master plan has evaluated the existing welcome center and has made the recommendation for a new shared educational and meeting space to meet current and future program needs. Fundraising for major projects was identified as a role for the Friends of For-Mar with support from GCPRC.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Recommendations include a redeveloped DeWaters Educational Center including stronger environmental sustainability methods and materials. A separate study was included to provide specific guidance on development of a nature play area. An overall master site plan indicates features including but not limited to a redeveloped nature Visitor Center, nature playground, a new welcome center, and parking that also considers bus capacity and vehicular and pedestrian movements.



PARK AMENITIES

Secondary enhancements were identified to improve visitor experience such as art and sculpture displays, recreation activities, native community gardens, interpretive stations, reconfigured trails, boardwalk observation features, and invasive species management areas.



This plan builds on ROWE's long term relationship with the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission using skills in public engagement, site/ecosystem analysis and design, leadership in collaborating with nature center, outdoor play, architecture, and environmental subconsultants. ROWE Senior Project Manager, Doug Schultz, PLA, reflects "I appreciated the process of working on the master plan with Genesee County Parks. This project built on the former 2005 master plan that we had worked on together. Being a part of a plan that you can actually see the staff and community embrace is super rewarding."

With For-Mar's programs alone bringing in 39,000 participants each year, we are excited to see the growth of the space as the plan is executed. "As

a person who has never been through a master planning process before, working with ROWE's Landscape Architects was incredibly helpful as we navigated through community input and moving that into action. This isn't just a plan that is going to sit on a bookshelf. This is a plan that we are going to implement and really make a difference in our community!" says Nicole Ferguson.





THIS IS
LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE
MONTH



SCAPE LECTURE

April CELEBRATING LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE MONTH

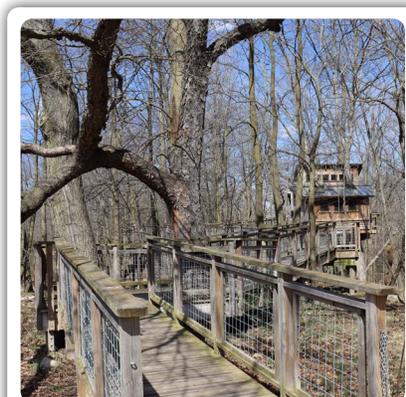
Landscape architects play a vital role in creating beautiful green spaces that protect habitats and build brighter communities for all to enjoy. With sustainability in mind, our ROWE team is able to enhance any space.

The American Society of Landscape Architects hosted a World Landscape Architecture campaign all month long. To celebrate, we highlighted many of our exciting previous and upcoming projects on our social media platforms. Be sure to follow us to stay up to date on all things ROWE!

Check out our social media



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES



COMMUNITY IMPACT



BEFORE AND AFTER

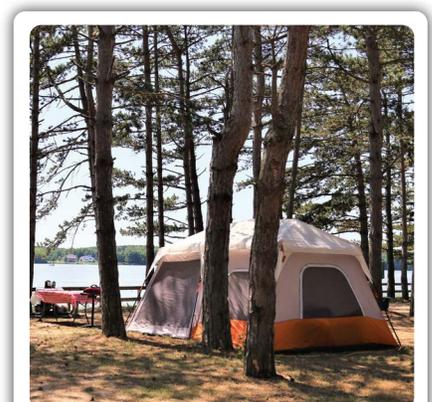


THIS IS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

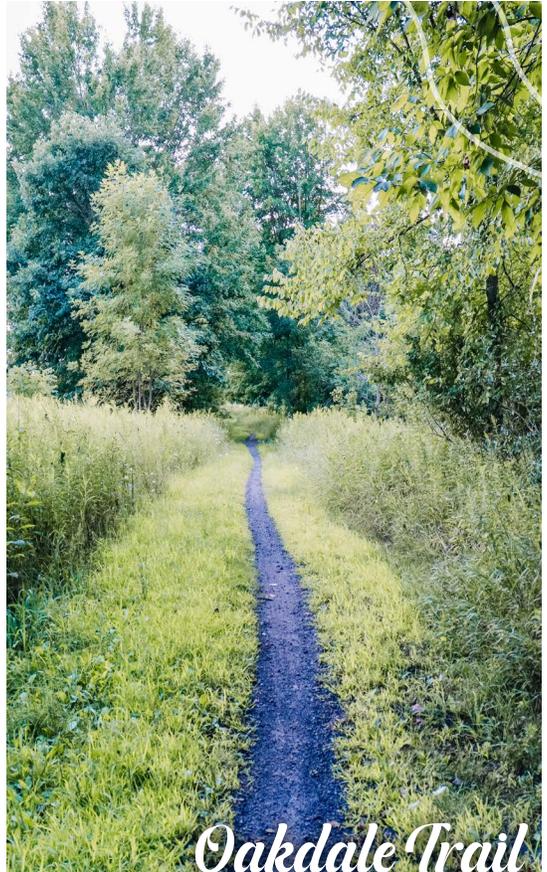
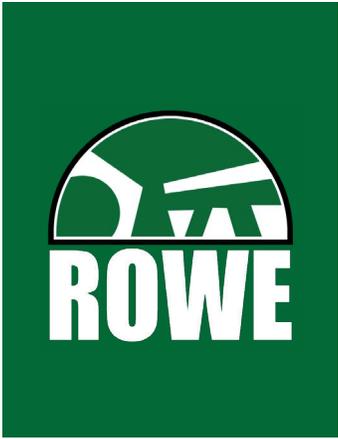


FEATURED PROJECT

WATER



DESIGN SOLUTIONS



Oakdale Trail

LAPEER, MI



Argo Park

ANN ARBOR, MI



CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK'S DAY



NEW HIRES

FLINT, MI

- Thomas M. Abbott – Talent Acquisition Specialist
- Chris G. Vaclavik - Senior Engineering Technician
- Brandon M. Jonas - Planner II
- Skyler T. Winkle - Engineering Technician II

STAFF UPDATES



Q2 2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

Michigan Professional Engineer License

- Jared E. Stanford, PE
- Hannah R. Lydick, PE



GRANT AID

ROWE recently aided in securing over \$1.5M in grants for the following projects:

\$790,800

Imlay City (CMF/SPARK) Lions Park

\$862,500

City of Saginaw (CMF/SPARK) Riverfront Trail

Our team offered public engagement, scoping, and application assistance.

SOCIAL

MEDIA



Be sure to follow us on social media to keep up with our newest projects, events, and announcements!



ROWE CAREERS

We recognize talented, self motivated, and open-minded professionals are the key to ROWE's continued success and growth.

Email: employment@rowepsc.com

ROWE is an Equal Opportunity Employer

APEER, MI

Eric M. Bollaert - Assistant Project Surveyor
Colin H. Smith - Engineering Technician I

GRAND RAPIDS, MI

Tyler J. Heiss - Engineering Technician I

MT. PLEASANT, MI

• *Robert E. Vashaw* - Engineering Technician I

OSCODA, MI

• *Keegan M. Smith* - Engineering Technician II
• *Adam L. Dettmer* - Engineering Technician III

PROMOTIONS, TRANSFER

PROMOTIONS

SURVEYING DEPARTMENT



ROBERT CHURCH
Project Surveyor



ZACHARY STEIN
Survey Field Technician III



FORREST GRENAT
Project Surveyor

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT



SCOTT HEMEYER
Senior Project Manager



JULIA BALONA
Assistant Project Engineer



PAUL O'MEARA
Senior Project Manager



DARBEY JOHNSON
Assistant Project Engineer



MICHAEL SOTEROPOULOS
Senior Engineer



ALEXANDER NEWELL
Assistant Project Engineer



TYLER KEARLY
Project Engineer



MORGAN RALEY
Assistant Project Engineer

S, & TITLE CHANGES



MICHAEL CARPENTER
Senior Project Administrator



MATTHEW CRAFT
Engineering Technician III



DONALD GUNDERMAN
Senior Project Administrator



CARLEY ROBERTS
Engineering Technician III



RYAN BERGQUIST
Project Administrator



KARL STEFFES
Engineering Technician III



MICHAEL HEISS
Project Administrator



WILLIAM WALTER
Engineering Technician III



JEFFREY ROWLEY
Project Administrator



QUENTIN ANDREWS
Engineering Technician II



TRAVIS SIDDALL
Project Administrator



BENJAMIN KELLER
Planner II



CHRISTINA IRVING
Senior Engineering Technician



DAVID BEGGS
Engineering Technician III

PROMOTIONS, TRANSFER

MARKETING DEPARTMENT



AMANDA THOMPSON
Marketing Manager



MEGAN WENCEL
Graphic Designer II

IT DEPARTMENT



JUSTIN DREFFS
IT Manager

ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT



SHELLEY HENRY
Chief Financial Officer



COURTNEY WALTERS
Senior Accountant



CHRISTEENA SHERMAN
Accounting Manager

TRANSFER WITH TITLE CHANGE

MARKETING TO CONSTRUCTION SERVICES



LAURA PARTYKA
Engineering Technician II

S, & TITLE CHANGES

TITLE CHANGES



DOUG SCHULTZ
Senior Landscape Architect II



JOSIE WAGNER
Marketing Specialist I



BLAKE STROZIER
Landscape Designer



JARROD MILLER
Database & Application Developer



BRANDON JONAS
Planner III

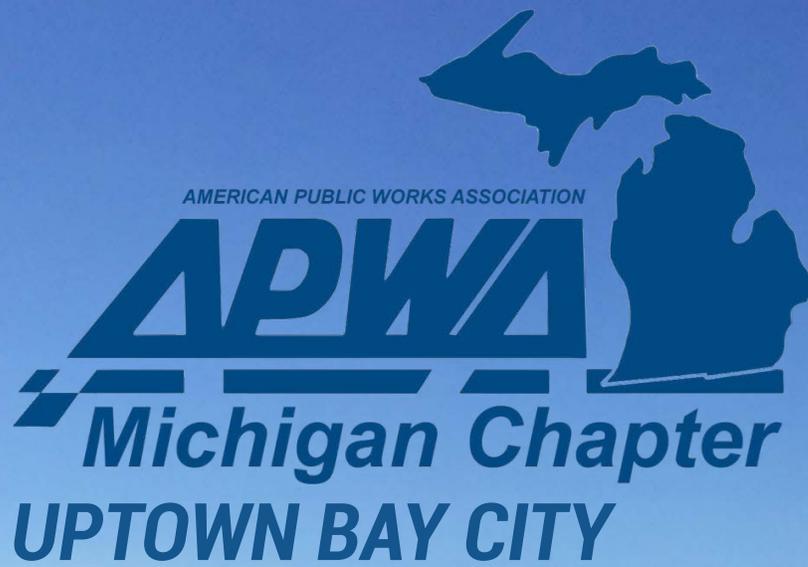


JACOB TAYLOR
Infrastructure Administrator



ANGEL BELL
Planner I

CONGRATULATIONS
EVERYONE



AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION
APWA
Michigan Chapter
UPTOWN BAY CITY





FUN FACTS

ESTABLISHED

1962

PROFESSIONALS

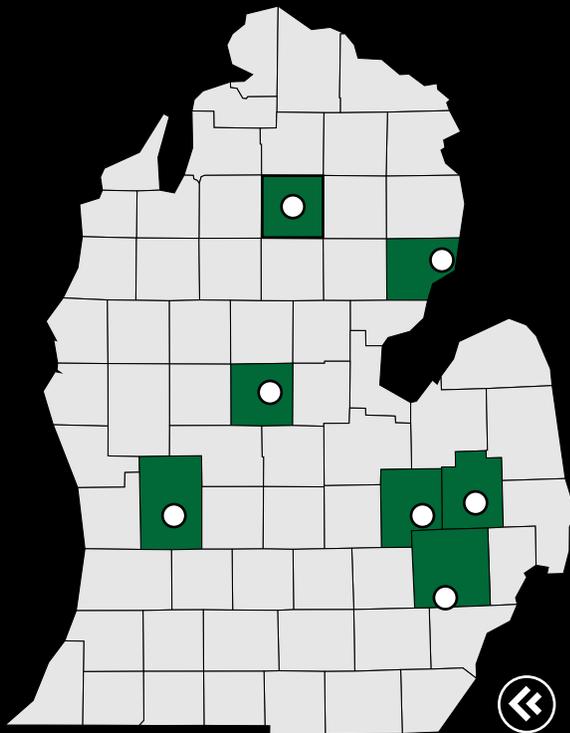
220+

LOCATIONS

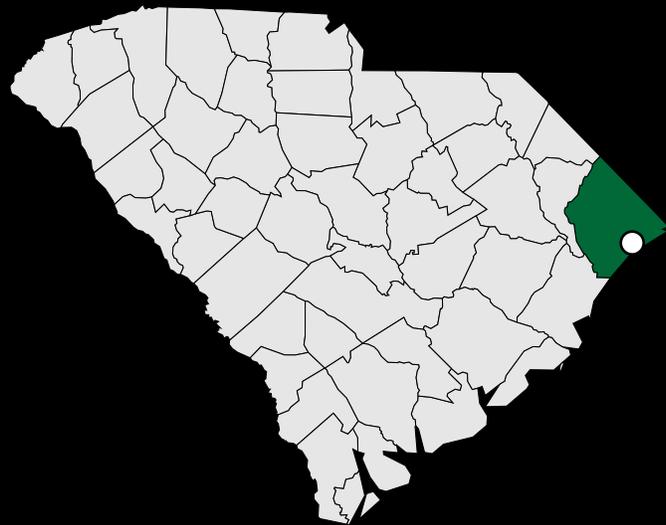
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ENR TOP 500

#438



SOUTH CAROLINA



MICHIGAN

Flint, MI

540 S. Saginaw Street, Suite
200
Flint, MI 48502
(810) 341-7500

Lapeer, MI

128 N. Saginaw Street
Lapeer, MI 48446
(810) 664-9411

Grand Rapids, MI

507 36th Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49548
(616) 272-7125

Farmington Hills, MI

27280 Haggerty Road, Suite C-2
Farmington Hills, MI 48331
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Mt. Pleasant, MI

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