



Indian Springs Environmental Education Center (ISEEC) is envisioned as a “place of learning, play, and gathering that seeks to open a window on the beauty and diversity of the natural world that exists in Southeast Michigan.” The 70-acre center located within Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority’s (HCMA) 2,215 acre Indian Springs Metropark is dedicated to the exploration and celebration of the natural environment. Located at the headwaters to the Huron River, the interpretation of the area’s hydrology is articulated through various created and restored native ecosystems. The rehabilitation and creation of several wetland, prairie, and forest ecosystems are integrated into the site, creating an ecological vocabulary that reveal the influences and processes that shape the landscape. The center’s infrastructure,

including the EEC building, pathways, overlooks, demonstration garden, Oak Commons, and an underwater viewing window are sited to optimize the visitor’s interaction with the natural world, while preserving and protecting it’s sensitive ecological areas. Several threatened and endangered species, including the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake and Blanding Turtle, benefit from habitat enhancement. State-of-the-art web technology will extend the parks borders as a distance learning hub, educating users on the importance of biodiversity, native habitats, and environmental protection. Restored ecosystems and their associated wildlife inhabitants will be within arm’s reach for visitors, and only a mouse-click away for the rest of the world. This extended classroom distinguishes ISEEC as a truly 21<sup>st</sup> century educational tool.

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Statement of Purpose Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority

