



Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use

Retzer Environmental Learning Center Remodeling

Frequently Asked Questions

Fast Facts about the Project

This project will remodel the existing Retzer Environmental Learning Center to incorporate classroom and exhibit space for the Waukesha County recycling education program, as well as for education and public use purposes. The project scope includes enlarging the current Cabin meeting room to accommodate both classroom and meeting functions, and relocating the nature center supervisor's office and a restroom to create more exhibit space.

Why is the County remodeling Retzer Learning Center?

From 1991-2014 the County owned a privately operated dual sort Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) which provided two (2) education rooms for presentations to groups of all ages and facility tours for children (5th grade and above) and adults. In 2015, the Waukesha MRF was sold and recycling processing was moved to the Menomonee Valley in partnership with the City of Milwaukee, where public and school facility tours are also available. This project addresses the need for recycling education space for children in grades K-5 who are unable to tour the MRF and makes possible enhanced partnership between Recycling educators and Retzer naturalists.

What are the benefits of this project?

There will be more interactive public exhibit space that will include recycling, composting, and water conservation, along with increased recycling and water education programming. Adding more interactive spaces and education programming to the existing nature-based center and programming will enhance the offerings of Retzer as a model and comprehensive environmental learning center.

Will there be new programs at the Learning Center?

Yes! In addition to the interactive exhibits, there will be many more recycling and water programs offered for schools, scouts, public groups and adults. Also, these new programs may be paired with Retzer programs.

What is the timeline for this project?

The design development phase of the project began in late 2015, and construction bids will be solicited in July of 2016. Construction is anticipated to start in October of 2016, with a target completion date for the remodeling of April of 2017. The exhibit room design, fabrication and installation will be completed as a separate project, but implemented concurrently with the space remodeling construction.

Will Retzer be open during the remodeling?

Yes, Retzer will remain open for programming and events during the project.

How much does this project cost and who is paying for it?

Remodeling is estimated to cost \$370,000. The project is a Waukesha County Capital project with the majority of the funding from recycling program revenue that is appropriated from the Recycling Fund balance. The remaining funding is allocated from planned energy efficiency upgrades at the Retzer facility.

Who will be doing the work?

A design development team, consisting of Waukesha County staff and architects and interior designers from Engberg Anderson Architects, will work with other project stakeholders to integrate the recycling education program and exhibits into the existing facility. Construction of the project will be awarded to a construction contractor through a public bid process.

Where can I find more information about this project?

For questions or comments, you can call the Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use at 262-896-8300.

Department Legend

- Circulation & Services
- Public Spaces
- Exhibits
- Staff Spaces
- Support Spaces
- Mechanical



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MILWAUKEE | MADISON | TUSCON | CHICAGO

CONCEPT DESIGN FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

April 20, 2014

Engberg Anderson Project No. 152535