



04737 Fuller Rd | East Jordan, MI 49727  
231-536-3369 | info@miravenhill.org | MiRavenHill.org

Raven Hill Discovery Center, incorporated in 1991,  
is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.

Open 10am-4pm weekdays, 12-4pm Saturdays and 2-4pm Sundays.  
Open holidays and other times by appointment.

**MISSION:** to provide a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history and the arts.

WHERE **SCIENCE****HISTORY****AND****ART** CONNECT

To: Raven Hill friends  
From: Cheri  
Date: August 24, 2024  
Re: *Building bridges*

Building bridges is a powerful act of connection and progress, whether we are talking about the physical bridge that is currently being constructed to replace the culvert on Fuller Road or the bridges that Raven Hill builds as part of its mission to “enhance hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages that connects science, history, and the arts.”

August 21, 2024



*A yellow boom is in place downstream of the bridge site to catch sediment and protect the waterway. Construction is expected to continue over the next four months or so.*

August 22, 2024



*Work on the south side of the culvert will be completed and then the focus will shift to the north side. The old culvert is slated to be removed on or about October 1<sup>st</sup>.*

**Connecting**—The Fuller Road Bridge will soon span Deer Creek and connect the north and south sides of Fuller Road, offering a safe crossing for visitors on their way to explore all that Raven Hill has to offer. Raven Hill creates bridges between different fields of knowledge—science, history and art—helping visitors see the interconnectedness of these subjects. By offering exhibits and programs that blend these areas, the Center encourages an integrated approach to learning.

**Improving**—The new timber bridge will: halt the input of tons of sediment into the stream channels every year which can inevitably make its way to Lake Charlevoix; reconnect 5.1 miles of upstream reaches to 4.5 miles downstream on Deer Creek; and replace the aging culvert. This will make the creek crossing safer and ready for any high-water events. By emphasizing the relationship between humans and the natural world, Raven Hill builds bridges between people and the environment, encouraging stewardship and sustainable practices.

**Expanding**—The bridge now under construction at Deer Creek will replace a narrow crossing that has always been potentially dangerous, especially in winter. Raven Hill helps to build and expand bridges of understanding and appreciation between different cultural groups, often hosting events and exhibits that celebrate diverse cultures and histories. Raven Hill offers programs and exhibits that appeal to all ages, from young children to seniors. This helps bridge generational gaps, allowing families to learn and explore together, promoting intergenerational understanding.

**Collaborating**—Many organizations have collaborated to bring the Fuller Road Bridge to reality, including Charlevoix County Community Foundation, Antrim and Charlevoix County Road Commissions, Conservation Resource Alliance, Friends of the Jordan River, Raven Hill Discovery Center, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Great Lakes Fishery Trust, The Herbert H. & Grace A. Dow Foundation, DTE Energy Foundation, Walters Family Foundation, Serra Family Foundation, The George Fund, Frey Foundation, Ted and Jane Von Voigtlander Foundation, Oleson Foundation, Trout and Salmon Foundation, Andrew R. and Janet F. Miller Foundation, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Antrim County, Paddle Antrim, Scientific Anglers, and OHM Advisors. Likewise, Raven Hill collaborates with educational, cultural, and environmental organizations, building institutional bridges that expand resources and opportunities for the community.

**Overcoming**—Bridges symbolize triumph over obstacles, whether it is the physical challenge of restoring Deer Creek to its natural state or the challenges Raven Hill faces as it seeks to expand and strengthen relationships, creating a foundation of trust and mutual support within the community. Bridges remind us that even when there's a gap or a challenge in our path, we have the ability to find solutions and keep on moving forward.

August 23, 2024



*If you have kids that love big machines, you get an added bonus, when you visit the Open Space and the Center's **Pop-up Museum!** There's plenty of action to be had and you can watch from a safe distance.*



Physical bridges, like the new one being constructed on Fuller Road, as well as the metaphorical bridges that Raven Hill seeks to create, are not just for the present—they are investments in the future. When we build bridges, we create something that will benefit not only ourselves but also others who follow us.

Bridge building is all about finding ways to connect what was previously disconnected, and in doing so, it encourages innovative thinking and problem-solving. The act of building a bridge requires ingenuity and creativity. A bridge can also symbolize hope and possibility. It's a sign that even when we're separated by distance, differences or difficulties, there's always a way to come together and move forward. Building bridges is a positive, constructive act that not only connects us with others but helps us overcome challenges, create opportunities, and pave the way for a brighter future. Raven Hill thanks the Conservation Resource Alliance for connecting donors and making the bridge over Deer Creek a reality, as well as all those who have supported Raven Hill Discovery Center and its mission for the past 34 years.



Stop and check out Raven Hill's **Pop-up Museum**, also dubbed the **IGLOOS** by two-year old Evelyn! Guests can explore hands-on science, history and the arts at the Center's Open Space—located **BEFORE** the bridge construction site. Visitors can also access the outdoor exhibits at the Discovery Center by taking a three-mile detour. The Center would like to thank Charlevoix County Community Foundation for their **Lemons to Lemonade** grant award that has made the **Pop-up Museum** possible.

The **Pop-up Museum** will be open during bridge construction. The inflatable tents contain a combination of old favorites and new objects to discover **AND** it's fun for children and their adults. Admission is \$5 per person. Summer hours remain in effect through next week with the **Pop-up Museum** and outdoor exhibits open from 10am to 4pm Monday through Friday. The Main Museum Building is closed during bridge construction, although visitors can make reservations outside of the regular **Pop-up Museum** hours.

On August 31<sup>st</sup>, fall hours will go into effect and the **Pop-up Museum** and outdoor exhibits will be open weekends only—noon to 4pm on Saturdays and 2pm to 4pm on Sundays. Email [info@miravenhill.org](mailto:info@miravenhill.org) or call 231.536.3369 to make appointments for

other times, including major holidays. Hope to see you here soon to visit the **Pop-up Museum**, AKA the **IGLOOS** and explore the items within! Or just stop and check us out as you drive by!

Cheri

### Rocket launch



Wednesday was the last day of the **SACK (SUMMER ADVENTURE CLASSES FOR KIDS)** Program. Everyone had a great time exploring the **Pop-up Museum**, seeing the animals, as well as making and launching foam rockets at the Open Space.



Raven Hill Discovery Center is supported in part by the Michigan Arts & Culture Council (MACC) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) through a 2024 Operational Grant Award.