



Thumb Nature Areas

C/O NRCS

1075 Cleaver Road

Caro, MI 48723

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Caro, Michigan

Dear Principals & Science Teachers,

The Thumb Nature Areas Organization has funds available to Tuscola County Schools to defray transportation cost of field trips to study the nature trails at the Exchange Club Forest, Darbee Park, Indianfields Township Park or water study topics at Chippewa Landing. These parks are located near Caro. Other nature locations are acceptable for your application. If the interested school has another location in mind, please contact us directly to discuss your idea. The nature trails and water study areas provide an excellent setting for outdoor nature education for teachers and their students who wish to take advantage of the opportunity to meet educational objectives during the *current school year*.

The Exchange Club Forest, Darbee Park and Indianfields Park have developed nature trails with interpretive features that allow teachers to meet educational objectives utilizing outdoor nature settings here in Tuscola County. The Chippewa Landing site has areas to explore water topics. The Exchange Club Forest and Chippewa Landing are located at the corner of M-24 and Gun Club Road, just south of Caro. As of 2019, a new trail extension now joins these two parks. The Indianfields Township Park is located west of Caro on M-81.

Enclosed, you will find the application form for grade level classrooms in your school to apply for transportation costs for a field trip during the current school year. We encourage all interested grades/classrooms to apply. The funds will be expended on a first come, first serve basis, providing an equal opportunity to all schools in Tuscola County. Funds will be granted based on the date of the application. The Thumb Nature Areas organization will notify schools of the status of their application in a timely manner. **If your trip is approved, a transportation department invoice needs to be submitted to the above address upon completion of your trip.**

Presentations are done by volunteers and are based on the availability of presenters. Our organization has presenters that are available to help facilitate 5 different trip topics. Seeds, (1. Seeds, Animal & Plant Life Cycles and Food Chains: 2. Food Webs, Communities & Succession: 3. Watershed, Water Cycles & Aquatic Life: 4. Succession of Habitat, 5. Birds & Bird Migration). If you want to do something different than our standard topics, transportation is supplied for groups who wish to do a self-guided trip.

We look forward to hearing from you. If classrooms within your school wish to participate in this outdoor education opportunity, it is suggested to apply early. The completed application can be mailed to the address listed above, emailed or your request can be taken over the phone by a member of our group. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Steve at the NRCS office at 989-673-8173 ext - 3 or by emailing us at thumb.nature.areas@gmail.com . Check out our webpage at: <http://thumbnatureareas.com>

Sincerely Yours,

Patty McNinch

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President

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