

Nature Center Renovation Overview

12/18/2021

Earlier this month, construction finally started on the renovation and expansion of the Nature Center at Lake Groton! The project was slated to start earlier this year but supply chain issues delayed the start. If all goes according to plan, and the weather cooperates, construction should be done by late spring. After that, the displays done by ECHO will be installed. A grand opening is expected next summer!

As you'll see from the attached files (Exterior Elevations and Interior Displays) this project totally renovates the existing Nature Center and it adds a building to the west with two single-user toilet rooms. The Nature Center will also have heat and air conditioning for the first time, which will operate during three seasons to control temperature and humidity. Solar panels on the roof will supply electricity to the WEC grid to offset the electricity used by the heat pump. Other upgrades will be made to the water supply, accessibility, building insulation, windows, the roof structure, lighting, and interior and exterior finishes. When the project is completed, the Nature Center will look and function like a new facility!

The project will also feature a covered outdoor gathering space to the south which will support outdoor programs, and provide a waiting area for school groups. This area may also serve as a site for future LGA meetings and for community events. You'll see a note on the attached file with exterior elevations saying the roof over the gathering space will be a future addition but funding was provided so the roof will be built in this phase.

While this project took much longer than expected, I'm really excited at how things are turning out! Something for us all to look forward to in 2022.

Jim Bostrom