

PROJECT PARTNERS



- Forest Area Community Schools
- Grand Traverse Stewardship Initiative
- Grass River Natural Area
- Kalkaska County Conservation District

Several local community members and businesses have volunteered time, resources, and supported the project through fund-raising.

The project is scheduled for completion early in the 2020-2021 school year.

These materials were developed under a grant awarded by the Michigan Department of Education as part of the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center program.



TALK TO US

For more info on the Sugar Shack project and to see a short video of students collecting sap, visit www.ecoseeds.org and head to the Forest Area Middle School program's landing page.

You can also contact Joe Kreider, Site Coordinator of the program, at: joe.kreider@ecoseeds.org

Or
(269)-271-1785



BRING BACK THE SUGAR SHACK

Forest Area Middle School
SEEDS After School Program



Our History

SEEDS Ecology & Education Centers is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization established to implement local solutions to global issues at the intersection of ecology, education, and design. SEEDS was incorporated in 1999 by a handful of graduate students seeking ecology, education, and design solutions. The organization has always embraced the word "design" to be broadly inclusive, from designing engaging educational curriculum, to the design of methodologies for monitoring greenhouse gas emissions, to the design of buildings and neighborhoods.

Teaching & Learning



SEEDS provides high-quality education to hundreds of K-12 students every day. Using hands-on activities, we teach a variety of subjects, including STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math), art, cooking, ecology, life skills, and career exploration. Every day, our After School students receive homework help, a healthy meal, and time outside!

Why Maple-Sugaring?

Maple-sugaring is an opportunity for place-based education across a number of content areas.

Students learn:

Science- why and how sap runs

Math- estimating the sugar content of sap and the yield of sap to syrup

Social Studies- learning about the history and cultural significance of maple-sugaring in this area

English- reading and writing about the experience of maple sugaring



Bring Back the Shack is made possible through generous grants from the following organizations: Grand Traverse Stewardship Initiative, Great Lakes Energy People Fund, Traverse City Rotary Good Works, and through the generous support of our community. Thank you!

The Sugar Shack

Beginning in the Fall of 2019, the SEEDS After School program at Forest Area Middle School began working on reviving the school's old sugar shack.

Many community members have memories of when the sugar shack was a staple part of the school's curriculum. Partnering with the school and several other community organizations, SEEDS plans to replace the old sugar shack with a new outdoor classroom complete with a new maple syrup evaporator and resources for teachers and students to use throughout the year. This will allow us to bring back Maple Sugaring as a part of the after-school curriculum and encourage teachers and students to engage in the unique educational opportunities that having an on-site school forest can provide during the school day and throughout the year. The Forest Area school forest is truly a unique asset for its students, educators, and community.