



# IMPACT REPORT 2019







Forest Beach Migratory Preserve



## A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE

*God continues to richly bless our ministry. I am very humbled by the success and impact of Laudato Si' Project over the last four years. It is with sincere gratitude that I thank all of our donors, members, partners and volunteers!*

- Joe Meyer; Executive Director

## OUR IMPACT SINCE 2016

**Connecting** with over **3000** youth, families and adults

**Serving** through over **1945** volunteer hours of stewardship

**Educating** through over **265** hours of educational programs

**Experiencing** through over **90** hours of outdoor recreational outings

## VALUES

- Strong Catholic Identity
- Person, Partnerships and Community Engagement
- Solid Financial Management
- Personal and Organizational Accountability
- Trust and Transparency
- Meeting the Spiritual and Ecological Needs of our Time



Monarch Tagging



## ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

Laudato Si' Project is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that began in 2016 in response to Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*.

## MISSION

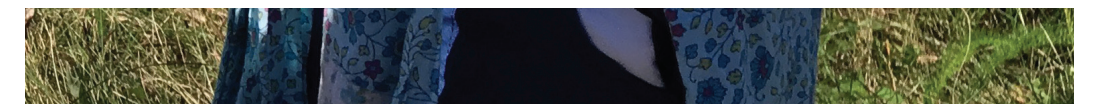
To restore humanity's connection to the natural world through education, stewardship and recreation. Deepening faith and fostering a stewardship ethic through hands-on connections with the natural world.



## VISION

We seek to provide unique encounters with God's handiwork in order to help people integrate their faith and everyday lives with a call to be stewards of creation. We work with people of all ages, with an emphasis on youth, families and underserved populations.

We aspire to create a central location, the Catholic Ecology Center, from which to focus our stewardship projects, day retreats, educational programming and recreational activities.

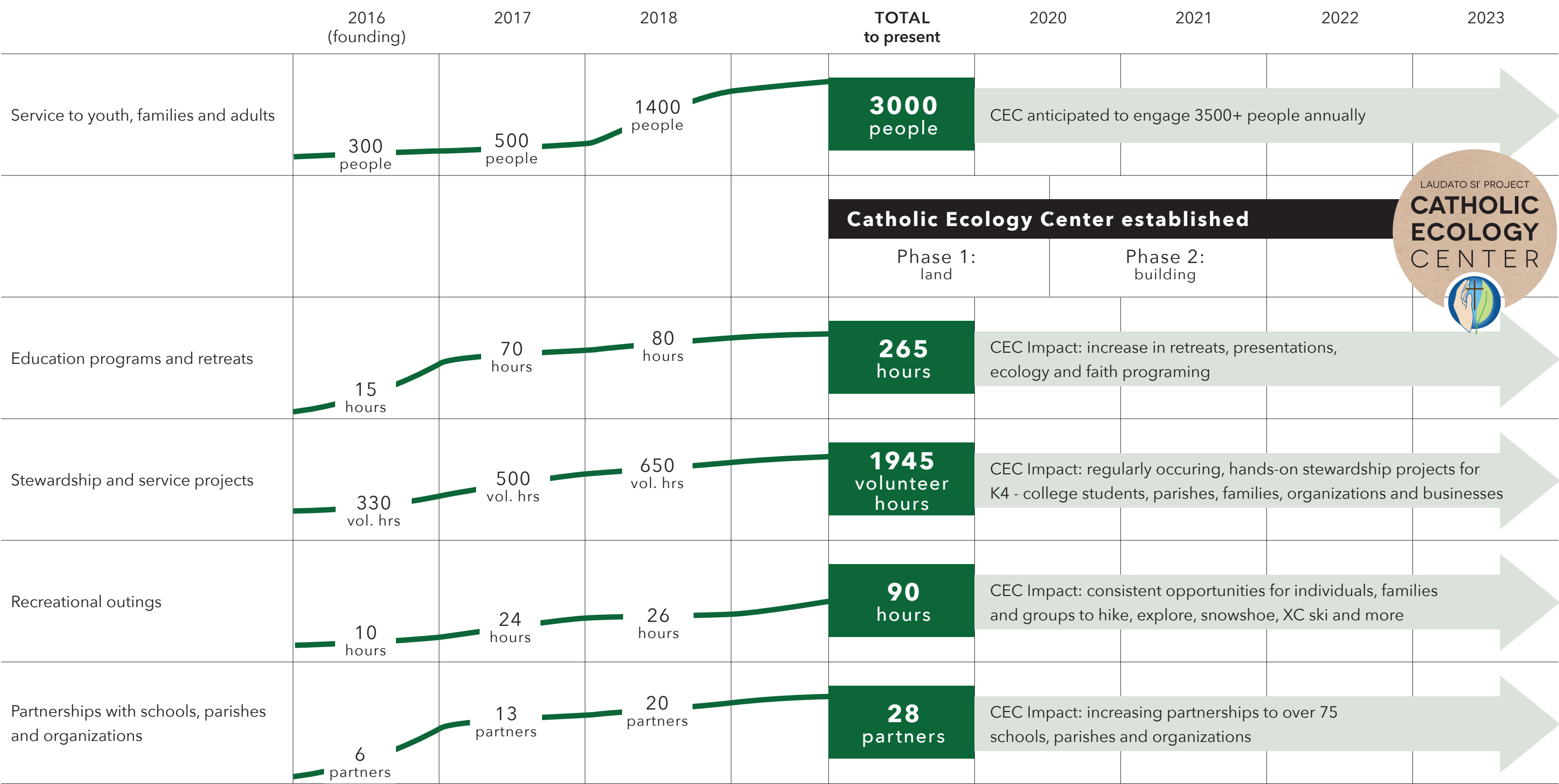




# OUR IMPACT

past, present, future

## CONNECTING TO CHRIST AND HIS CREATION





WE ARE ALL RESPONSIBLE  
FOR THE PROTECTION AND  
CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT.  
THIS RESPONSIBILITY  
KNOWS NO BOUNDARY.

POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI



Bird Banding



St. John Vianney Retreat

# EDUCATION



Snapping Turtle



Bullfrog

## OUR IMPACT IN 2019

100 hrs of educational programs



Insect Catching at Scuppernong



Schoofs Preserve

## PROGRAMS

We spread the Gospel message through hands-on programming focused on faith, ecology and our relationship with the world around us. Our programming is always faithful to the teachings of our Catholic faith. We challenge people of all ages and backgrounds to live out their faith and grow deeper in their love for Christ, His Church and the world around them.

## RETREATS

Our unique programming integrates the truths of our faith with a love and care for our common home. We utilize the beautiful gifts of creation around us as a conduit to draw people deeper into faith and a greater respect for the gifts God has given us. Our service flows from a deep interior life and love for Christ. Within retreats, hands-on stewardship projects are a way we live out our call to care for creation and deepen our commitment to a life of virtue.



Group Prayer and Reflection



Citizen Science; Menomonee River



Family Program



**THE EARTH WILL NOT CONTINUE  
TO OFFER ITS HARVEST,  
EXCEPT WITH  
FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP.**

*POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II*

## OUR IMPACT IN 2019

**465 hrs** of volunteer stewardship

**8 acres** of prairie seeded

**3** butterfly gardens planted



Prairie Seeding

# STEWARDSHIP

## PROJECTS

Stewardship is a fun and tangible way to live our faith that is called into service.

Stewardship projects like woodland restoration, prairie plantings or trail creation are a great way to get students involved for service hours, Eagle Scout projects or as part of a Laudato Si' Project retreat. These projects are also an avenue to involve adults and families and remind us that we are called to care for creation everyday.

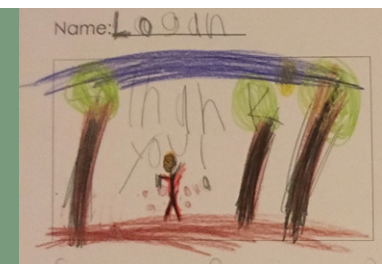


Trail Clearing; Volunteers from St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish



Butterfly Garden Planting; Jesuit Volunteer Corp

Thank You  
From K-5  
Woodside  
Elementary



Butterfly Garden



St. Eugene 8th Grade Stewardship



Schoofs Preserve



Purdue University  
Volunteers



FOR FROM THE GREATNESS  
AND THE BEAUTY OF CREATED  
THINGS THEIR ORIGINAL AUTHOR,  
BY ANALOGY, IS SEEN.

WISDOM 13:5



Holy Hill Hike



Faith-based Ecology Hike

# RECREATION

Time in Nature is Re-Creational: Recreational outings for youth, adults and families connect them with the natural world and allow for opportunities to experience God and His creation. Time outside helps us quiet our minds and hearts so we can better live out the call God has for each one of us.

## OUR IMPACT IN 2019

30 hrs of recreational outings



Ice Age Trail

CEC Land Tour



Nessus Sphinx Moth



Prairie Tour for Wild Ones



K of C Kettle Moraine Council

# FINANCES

## 2019 REVENUES

Land Acquisition and Membership	\$202,515
Grants	\$70,000
Program Fees	\$2,963
Planting Projects	\$3,830
Other	\$238
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$279,546</b>
<i>Phase 1 Land 2020 (Pledges)</i>	<i>(\$24,000)</i>
<i>Phase 2 Building (Pledges)</i>	<i>(\$325,000)</i>

## 2019 EXPENSES

Programs	
Educational	\$1,936
Stewardship	\$1,083
Other	\$1,175
General and Administrative	
Supplies and Office	\$2,474
Fundraising and Special Events	\$3,796
Other	\$708
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$11,172</b>



RATHER THAN A PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED,  
THE WORLD IS A JOYFUL MYSTERY TO BE  
CONTEMPLATED WITH PRAISE.

POPE FRANCIS

# FUTURE CEC LAND



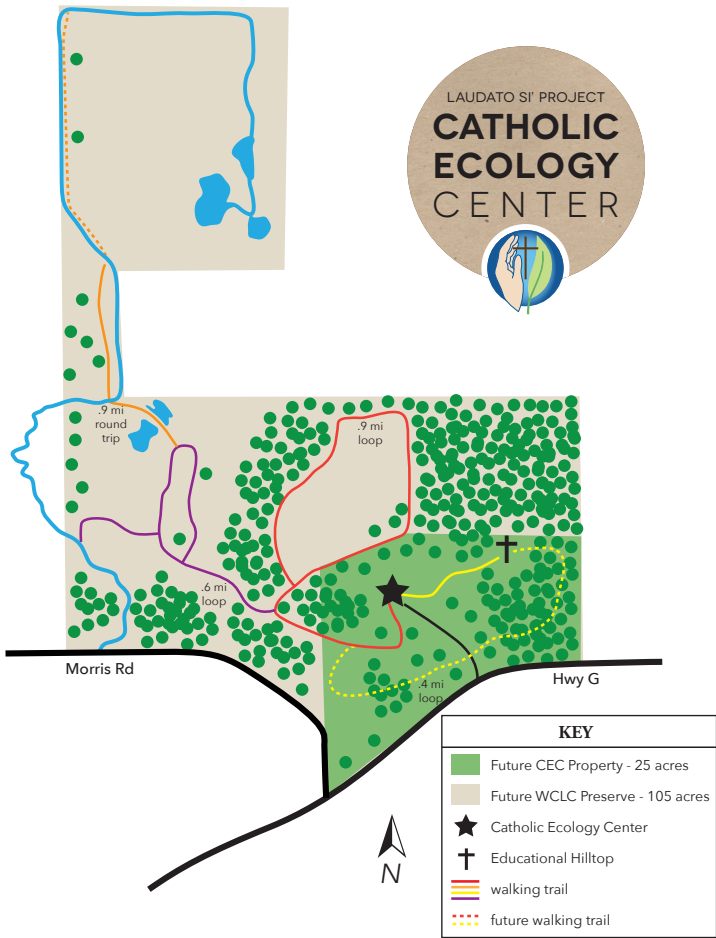
The Gratz Family



Finding Frogs



Future CEC Building Site



1 of 5 Wildilfe Ponds on the Property

It was such a blessing to be able to host our two open house gatherings on the future Catholic Ecology Center land in August and September. Nearly 40 people attended each time. It was a faith-filled and joyful occasion, celebrating the generous financial commitments of so many people to get us this far.

## UPDATE

Our building site evaluation this fall resulted in the need to add 4 acres to our western boundary to better accommodate the future building and some educational infrastructure. The 130 acre preserve complex will consist of the Catholic Ecology Center owning 25 acres and the Waukesha County Land Conservancy owning 105 acres.

In December, the median of 3 total property appraisals was agreed upon by all parties, with the Catholic Ecology Center's 25 acres costing \$385K. We plan to close on the property in June 2020.

**Thanks to your generous support we have already raised \$296,010 for land acquisition!**

Your continued support and faith-filled investment in 2020 will help make this vision a reality. Thank You!



Old Growth Bur Oak Trees



Praying Mantis



Remnant Prairie



Spring Fed Creeks



THANK YOU

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**Adopt ‘n Acre**  
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Great Horned Owl Release

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**LAUDATO SI MI SIGNORE;  
PRAISE BE TO YOU MY LORD**

*ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI*



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