



News Release

The Little Forks Conservancy
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Averill Preserve Hike -- September 19!

September 7, 2007

Innovative techniques for repairing erosion and enhancing a wetland along a local waterway will be highlighted during a Wednesday, September 19, hike at The Little Forks Conservancy's Averill Preserve. The walk will start at 3 p.m. at the overlook area located along the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail.

Robert Haneline, project engineer of ROWE Incorporated, will lead visitors along the waterway and discuss the various repairs and enhancements to the L and B Drain. Conservancy staff will also be available to answer visitor's questions.

The L and B Drain was originally a subsurface tile that was insufficiently sized to handle the increase in water flow that has occurred as the area becomes increasingly urbanized. Over the years, the increased water flow caused the tile to break, causing erosion. Repairing the erosion to the L and B Drain was an immediate concern when The Little Forks Conservancy acquired the Averill Preserve from the Midland Area Community Foundation.

Working with ROWE Incorporated and Gerace Construction, The Little Forks Conservancy has implemented a number of erosion-control methods including the installation of cable concrete blocks at the mouth of the waterway.

Funding for the project was provided by the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network, the Great Lakes Commission, the United States' Fish and Wildlife Partners for Wildlife program, and the Midland Area Community Foundation.

The hike is free and open to the public. The Averill Preserve is located northwest of the City of Midland at the intersection of E. Saginaw Road and Wackerly Road. Parking is available along Wackerly Road. Detailed directions can be found [here](#). For more information or directions, contact The Little Forks Conservancy at (989) 835-4886.

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