

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

# SACRED GROUNDS

NORTHERN  
MICHIGAN



Join a cohort of area houses of worship receiving plants, supplies, and technical support to create a native plant garden on their property or within their community

[WWW.AUSABLE.ORG](http://WWW.AUSABLE.ORG)



# HOUSES OF WORSHIP RECEIVE FREE NATIVE PLANTS

## RATIONALE

Houses of Worship are cornerstones in our communities with passionate members who can respond quickly to solve pressing and immediate needs within our home places. As such they are uniquely poised to help address environmental concerns regarding biodiversity and habitat loss by engaging their congregations in native plant gardening and helping to educate members and their community about the important role native plants play in maintaining healthy ecosystems..

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The Au Sable Institute in partnership with The National Wildlife Federation and Consumers Energy is pleased to accept applications to participate in Sacred Grounds Northern Michigan. **Participants will receive support valued at over \$4,000 to create and install a native plant garden on their property or within their community.** Participants will receive plants, technical support, design help, and planting and installation assistance from Au Sable Institute. Native plants will be provided by Mae's Garden, Au Sable's native plant nursery.

## ELIGIBILITY

Houses of worship within Grand Traverse, Antrim, Kalkaska, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Crawford Counties are eligible. Neither plant nor gardening expertise is required to participate in the program. However, it is important to demonstrate the volunteer capacity to help install and maintain the garden.

## SUBMISSIONS AND QUESTIONS

**Deadline to apply extended to May 20, 2024.** Applications must be submitted online. Please direct all questions to Paul Wiemerslage ([paul.w@ausable.org](mailto:paul.w@ausable.org)).

# SACRED GROUNDS

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Apply online at [www.ausable.org](http://www.ausable.org) or visit the link below to fill out an application to participate in our 2024 Sacred Grounds cohort. Application deadline extended to May 20th. We will acknowledge your application upon receipt and will contact you if we have any questions or require additional information.



## APPLICATION CONTENTS

You may wish to prepare answers to the questions below on a separate document and copy and paste your responses to online application. You will not be able to save your progress once you begin.

### **Contact and Demographic Information:**

- Name of Congregation, Faith Community, or House of Worship
- Congregation Address
- Primary Contact Name (First and Last)
- Primary Contact Email Address
- Primary Contact Phone Number
- What is the best way to contact you – phone or email?
- Secondary Contact Name (First and Last)
- Secondary Contact Email Address
- Secondary Contact Phone Number
- Congregation Leader (Director, Clergy, etc.)
- Congregation Phone
- Congregation Denomination

### **Short Answer Questions:**

- Why do you want to participate in this program? Please describe in a few sentences or a short paragraph.
- Please list and briefly describe 2-3 current volunteer or community efforts your house of worship has engaged in.
- Does your house of worship have a green team or other group of individuals working together on environmental issues? Approximately how many members of your faith community do you anticipate being willing/interested to engage in this project?

# ABOUT SACRED GROUNDS

The National Wildlife Federation's Sacred Grounds(TM) program recognizes congregations, houses of worship, and faith communities who create wildlife habitat, actively link faith practices and caring for the environment, and disseminate these practices throughout the community. Sacred Grounds is a national program open to all houses of worship of all faiths. More information can be found at [www.nwf.org/sacredgrounds](http://www.nwf.org/sacredgrounds)



# ABOUT AU SABLE INSTITUTE

Au Sable Institute is an environmental education organization located in Mancelona with a mission of inspiring and educating people to serve, protect, and restore God's earth. Since 1979 more than 140,000 people have participated in Au Sable's programs focused on College and K-12 Education, Research, Citizen Science, and Community Programming. Sacred Grounds – Northern Michigan is part of Au Sable's Good Things Grow Here initiative, a commitment to complete 50 community led habitat restoration projects within 5 years.