

Wheels to Woods 2020 Annual Report



80 fourth and fifth graders from Lincoln International Studies School in Kalamazoo visited the Kalamazoo Nature Center in March 2020

February 2021

Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Forest Products Council,

Michigan Project Learning Tree and Michigan Tree Farm Committee



Application form and other resources are at www.WheelsToWoods.org.

Accomplishments in 2020

Often the biggest barrier for teachers to take their students on field trips is funding. Wheels to Woods provides transportation grants to schools to go on educational field trips to nearby forests. Wheels to Woods is a partnership of the Michigan Tree Farm Committee, Michigan Forest Products Council, Michigan Project Learning Tree, and the Michigan Forest Stewardship Program. This year's numbers sharply declined compared to previous years due to the pandemic and Michigan schools being closed in the spring. Despite the closings, Wheels to Woods was able to fund 24 field trips to Michigan's forests in 2020 which impacted 3,168 people.

- \$8,643 awarded or \$3.07 per student
- 2,820 students experienced a forest
- 208 parents chaperoned the field trips
- 124 teachers and 16 outdoor educators hosted field trips
- 67% of trips included Project Learning Tree curriculum

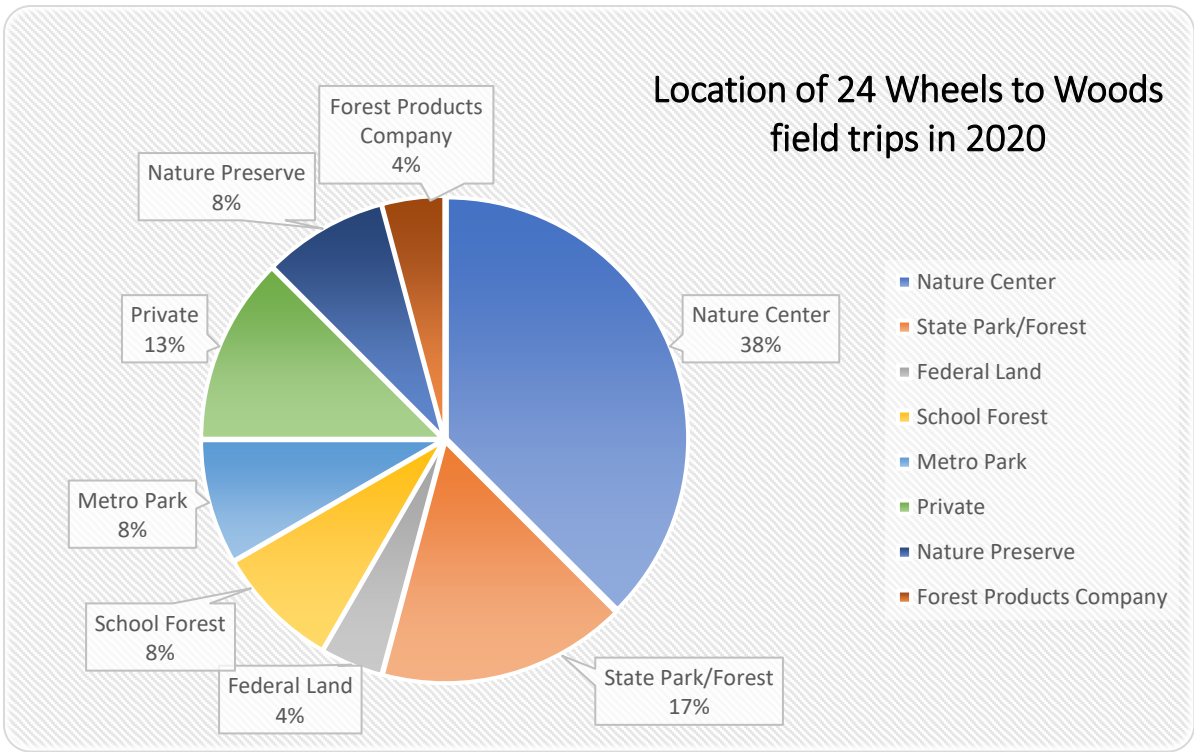
Wheels to Woods accomplishments between 2016 and 2020

Year	W2W Grants	\$ per Student	Schools	Students	Teachers	Parents	Interpreters	Total People
2016	\$26,428	\$4.22	84	6,259	274	997	73	7,603
2017	\$31,669	\$3.93	99	8,051	409	1,255	87	9,802
2018	\$40,558	\$3.69	111	10,999	485	1,600	86	13,170
2019	\$30,653	\$3.28	90	9,341	440	1,235	60	11,076
2020	\$8,643	\$3.07	24	2,820	124	208	16	3,168
Total	\$137,951	\$3.64	408	37,470	1,732	5,295	322	44,819



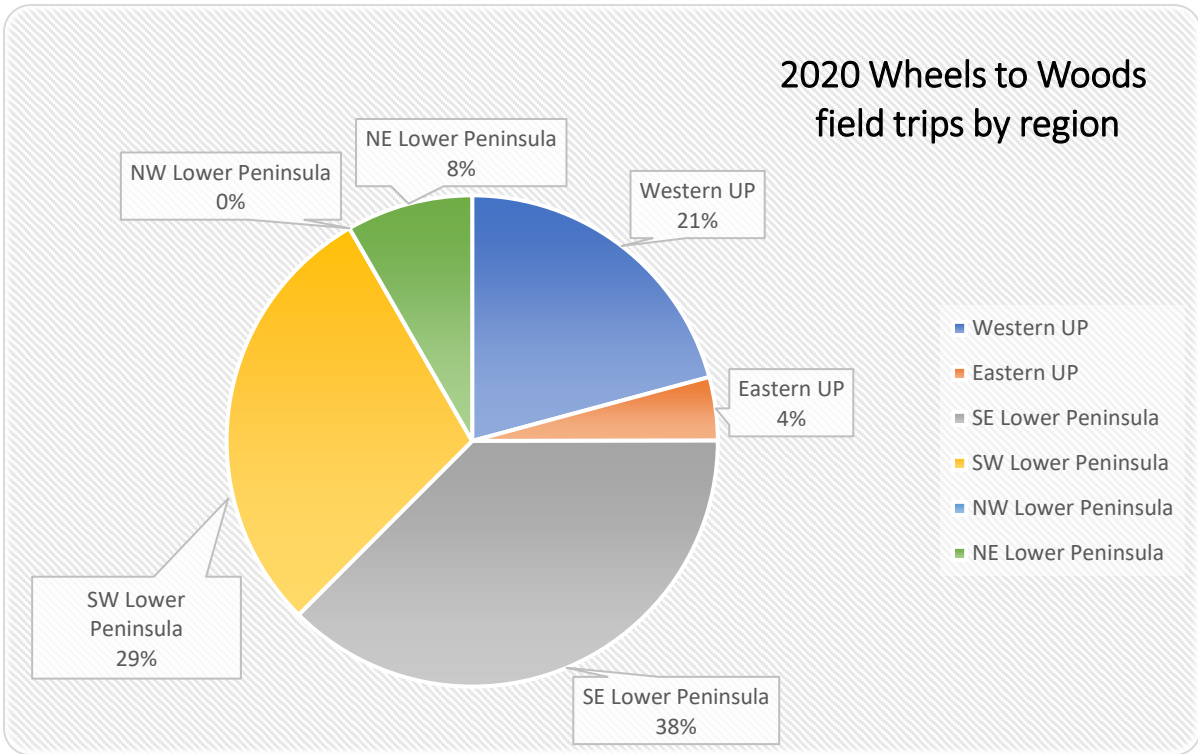
60 third graders from Montabella Elementary in Blanchard, MI visited the Forest Hill Nature Area in Alma in May 2020.

Location of 24 Wheels to Woods field trips in 2020



Most field trips this year were urban schools visiting forests in suburban parks and nature centers. State parks and forests were also popular field trip destinations. If teachers are unsure where to take their students for a forestry focused field trip, they can email admin@wheelstowoods.org for suggestions.

2020 Wheels to Woods field trips by region



Most of the field trips this year took place in the southern lower peninsula, with most of those trips taking place on the east side of the state. Five upper peninsula schools received Wheels to Woods funding. The least number of trips this year occurred in the northern lower peninsula, and zero trips occurred in the north west lower peninsula.

Thank you for supporting *Wheels to Woods!*

"I really think our field trips to the woods improves the lives of children! Thank you! Our school cannot budget for the cost of transportation. It would not happen without Weels2Woods."

- Sue Blackall (Sparta Schools)



"I liked cutting the wood with the crosscut saw because it's something you really can't do every day and it takes teamwork, it just wasn't one person doing the work."

"I gained an appreciation for people using wood as fuel to heat their homes."

"I thought snowshoeing was fun because we were outside enjoying the woods."

"I liked just walking in the woods and being away from all of the other things, it was peaceful."

"I had no clue sap came out of the tree clear. I thought it was a brownish color. It was also cool watching the sap boil and turn into syrup and then even eating it!"

"I learned how sap is collected from the trees to make maple syrup."

- All above quotes are from the students at Waldon Middle School, Mr. Jon Gray's 8th grade class

Wheels to Woods is a team effort to get more students outside to discover, explore and learn about Michigan's beautiful public, private and urban forests. On average, it costs less than \$5 to send one student on a life-changing field trip.

Applications and more information are available at www.WheelsToWoods.org. Applications can be submitted any time to admin@WheelsToWoods.org.

Paige Lackey, with Huron Pines AmeriCorps, is the administrator for Wheels to Woods in 2020 and 2021. Contact Paige at LackeyP@michigan.gov or 616-295-8494 for more information.

If you would like to donate to Wheels to Woods, text W2W to 80888 or visit igfn.us/f/373e/n.

Wheels to Woods is a partnership of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Tree Farm Committee, Michigan Project Learning Tree, Michigan Forest Products Council and Huron Pines AmeriCorps. The Michigan Tree Farm Committee, a 501c3 non-profit, is the host and fiduciary for Wheels to Woods to receive tax deductible donations and disburse grants to schools. All partners are equal opportunity providers and employers.

