

# April Update

It has been an exciting month for the Nature Center; things are really beginning to take shape! With most of the windows framed in you can start to picture how great the view will be from the inside and deck once completed!

All of the SIP and Glulams were installed except for the south exterior wall in the exhibit space. This wall has been left open so the construction team could bring in a large crane to place the 8,000 lb central beam stretching east to west across the exhibit space! After the beam was set, the rest of the ceiling Glulams were set perpendicular and parallel. Meanwhile, the team from PR construction has started to frame the interior walls that divide the meeting room, offices and work space. The trusses for the ceiling have been placed over the meeting room, offices and entrance and the sheeting has been completed and waterproofed!

Drilling has begun for the geothermal system. Geothermal energy is a renewable resource of heat coming from within the Earth's surface. By installing a geothermal heat pump system it allows us to tap into this resource to heat and cool the building. Currently, Mid America Drilling Company is drilling 24 separate wells for the geothermal system. "A geothermal heat pump system consists of a heat pump, an air delivery system (ductwork), and a heat exchanger-a system of pipes buried in the shallow ground near the building. In the winter, the heat pump removes heat from the heat exchanger and pumps it into the indoor air delivery system. In the summer, the process is reversed, and the heat pump moves heat from the indoor air into the heat exchanger. The heat removed from the indoor air during the summer can also be used to provide a free source of hot water."<sup>1</sup>

## Up Next:

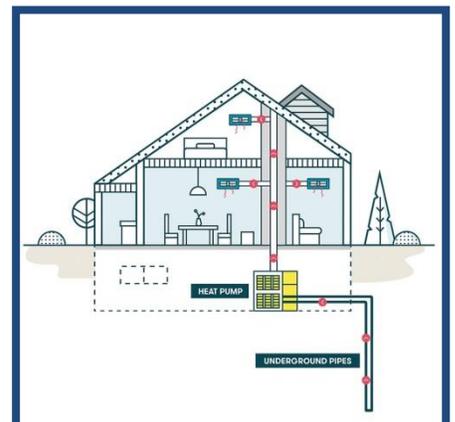
Electrical work continues to take place in the basement in spite of the mud. Once things dry out a bit more the concrete will be poured in the basement. The rest of the SIP panels and roof sheeting will be installed in the coming weeks allowing for work to start on the main floor.



Interior Walls 4/16



Beam being installed 4/25



Geothermal Wells System

**Reminder: If you would like to give to this project, all gifts are tax deductible and can be made safely online. Pledge cards are also available.**

1. "Geothermal Energy." *Technology - RenewableEnergyWorld.com*, Web.