

# Ithaca - Home

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The first of 250 volunteers signed up to work at the Sciencenter turned out Saturday morning in Ithaca as the not-for-profit children's museum held its fifth community build over the weekend.

Projects included building a fence around the new outdoor space that connects to the Curiosity Corner area for children under age 5, the replacement of decking in the outdoor Science Playground, painting the playground structure and cleaning the gardens.

Some volunteers had worked on the original community build when the center's permanent home was made in 1992 and 1993. Jim Johnston, of Lansing, volunteered then and was back Saturday morning building the fence. "We've got grandkids. We come here all the time; it's a treasure for them and us," Johnston said.

A crew of volunteers from Cargill Deicing Technology in Lansing worked to replace the wooden decking of the outdoor Science Playground with composite material. Other volunteers worked with fast-drying stain to re-coat the wood of the Leathers Associates-designed playground.

Executive Director Charles Trautmann was wearing his original community build T-shirt, marking him as

the "Coordinator, Leathers play area" from the first event. He described the effort as a way to get the center ready for summer, and to reinvigorate volunteer involvement with the Sciencenter.

"The Sciencenter has been really built by the community," Trautmann said.

The Curiosity Corner playground is a piece of the Sciencenter's \$3.8 million capital campaign, which has made several new exhibits possible, including the Tidepool Touch Tank, a new 18-hole mini-golf course and New York natives animal room.

The campaign has reached over 80 percent of its goal, according to a May 4 news release from the Sciencenter.

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