

# **WILDLIFE GARDENS**

**EDUCATION AND RENOVATION PROJECT** 

**Our Mission:** The nonprofit Lake Erie Nature & Science Center educates and inspires each of us to understand, appreciate and take responsibility for our natural world.

501(c)(3) nonprofit organization Tax ID #34-0845030

#### September 23, 2024

Our heartfelt thanks for your support of the Wildlife Gardens Education and Renovation Project at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center. This exciting vision will create more engaging learning experiences about native animals for 100,000+ visitors each year and raise visibility of our wildlife rehabilitation program. At a cost of \$1,900,000, the Project will be our largest capital investment in our free offerings for the public.

#### **Project Progress**

Since breaking ground on July 1, we have completed the excavation and removal of old structures, and poured concrete footers for the three new structures of the Project: Aviary sponsored by The Zapf Family, Eagle Exhibit sponsored by Laura & Jim Geuther and Family, and Wildlife Rehabilitation Exhibit sponsored on behalf of William B. LaPlace. You can see that the Aviary is taking shape, especially the walls of the work area that extends along the fence line. This area will provide space for students to work alongside our wildlife specialists in the outdoor animal exhibits of the Wildlife Gardens.



### **Hands-On Learning for Wildlife Interns**

"My internship at the Center gave me experience with a wide variety of animals and introduced me to career opportunities in the wildlife field."

This summer, the Center welcomed five interns to gain valuable experience in the areas of wildlife rehabilitation, animal care, and public education. Working hands on in our multi-faceted program is important to students seeking careers with animals, because it gives them real-time context for their career interests in zoology, pre-veterinary medicine, or wildlife biology. The transformation of the outdoor Wildlife Gardens will provide more space and learning opportunities for students accepted into this program.









## **Fundraising Status**



**Project Cost:** \$1,900,000

Funds raised as of August 31, 2024: \$1,544,734,75

81% to goal Expected completion June, 2025

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