



# Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

## WILDLIFE GARDENS

### EDUCATION AND RENOVATION PROJECT

*The hoot of a Barred Owl.  
The blue wings of waterfowl.  
The majesty of a Bald Eagle.*

Seeing native wildlife up close is a treasured experience for visitors to Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's Wildlife Gardens. This is where families make memories and learn together on weekly visits and special occasions. Free admission makes it possible for everyone to share memorable moments of discovery.

*Inspire young children*



*Help injured wildlife*



*Benefit our community*



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.  
Tax ID #34-0845030 | 440-871-2900 | [www.lensc.org](http://www.lensc.org)

# Wildlife Gardens Education and Renovation Project

The outdoor exhibits of the Wildlife Gardens delight thousands of people every year. Built in 1960 and renovated in 2000, the Wildlife Gardens have become well-used and have seen the effects of weather and time. Exhibits and structures that have become compromised are less protective of the resident animals. To improve meaningful wildlife experiences, the Center's leadership and Board of Directors are planning a Wildlife Gardens Education and Renovation Project that will renovate outdoor exhibits and public areas for the benefit of all visitors.

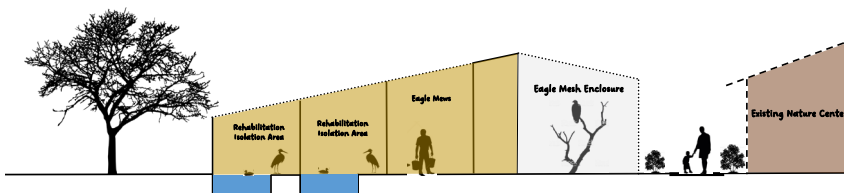
The Project will transform the outdoor exhibits and rehabilitation structures to create more engaging learning experiences about native animals. The Project will remove and replace most existing structures, improve pathways, upgrade the perimeter fence, and increase sustainability.



## Habitats for Native Wildlife

New structures will improve the quality of life for the resident animals on exhibit in the Wildlife Gardens. These former rehabilitation patients can no longer live in the wild because of permanent injuries and are part of the Center's collection. They serve as ambassadors for their species in our many educational programs for children and families.

As a result of the Project, people will see native wildlife up close in more natural habitats with more space to explore and learn. Young children, often seeing native wildlife for the first time, will discover more ways to observe and appreciate our many native species with improved visibility and more natural surroundings. Children will flourish in a more expansive layout of the Gardens, a place where they often take their first nature hikes complete with small binoculars.



Sections through Wildlife Rehabilitation Area and Eagle Exhibit

***Naming Opportunities Available***

## Advance Education

School-age students enrolled in the Center's programs will gain greater hands-on learning opportunities as a result of the Wildlife Gardens Education and Renovation Project. Found nowhere else in the region, our exceptional programs give young people life changing experiences with animals. Students gain insight, direction, awareness, and access that only the Center can provide with its wide array of live animals and professionally trained wildlife specialists.



## Help Injured Wildlife

For the first time in the Center's 75-year history, the public will gain new insight about wildlife rehabilitation in new structures planned in the Project. As Cuyahoga County's only rehabilitation facility, the Center serves the public by taking in ill or injured animals for treatment with the goal of release back to nature. As a result of the renovations and enhancements, visitors will be able to see animal patients in their final stages of recuperation, just prior to their release back to the wild.

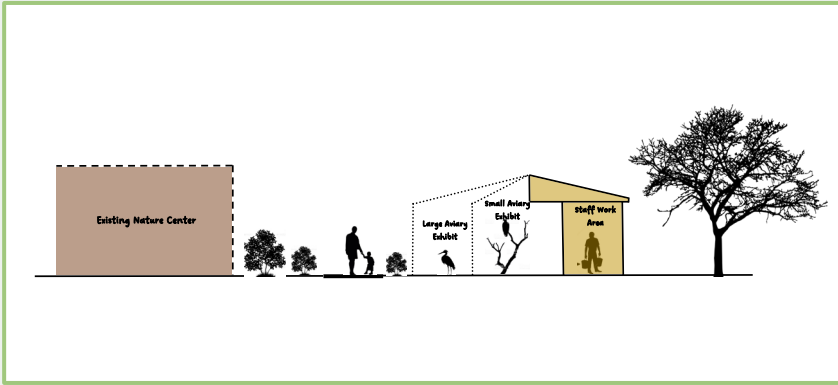
## Community Benefit

The Wildlife Gardens Education and Renovation Project is the next example of the Center's commitment to giving people enjoyment of natural history in a family-friendly and student-focused environment. Free admission to the facility and all indoor and outdoor exhibits is the Center's time-tested commitment to public access. The Wildlife Gardens will provide greater community benefit as demonstrated in the wildlife rehabilitation facility expansion and upgrade in 2012, planetarium transformation in 2014, and public exhibit improvements in 2016. Combined with the Center's exceptional programs and classes, indoor exhibits, talented employees, the Wildlife Gardens provide lasting experiences for children, parents, grandparents, program participants, students on field trips, scout groups, and preschool classes.

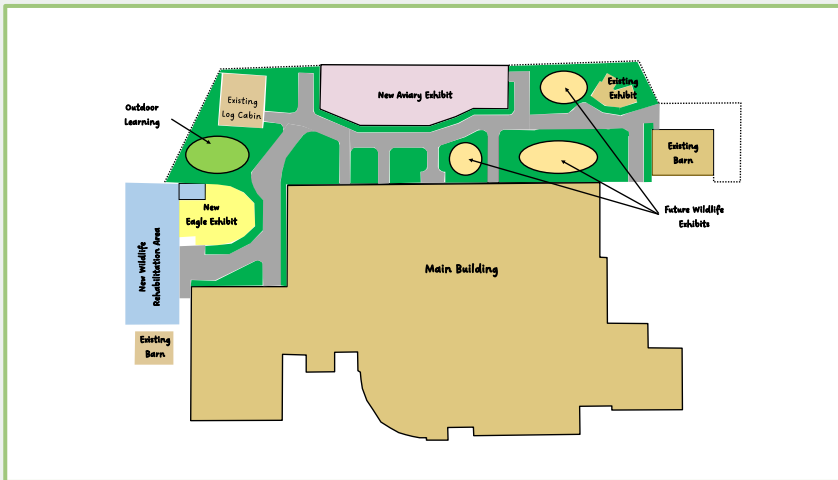


Please consider a donation to the Wildlife Gardens Education and Renovation Project to help ensure that the exhibits will provide valuable learning experiences and will reward children's curiosities for years to come. The Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, tax ID #34-0845030. Outright gifts and pledges are invited and encouraged to realize a new Wildlife Gardens for the enjoyment of children, families, and students. The Board of Directors is fully supporting the project with 100% giving from its members. You may contact Catherine Timko, Executive Director, at 440-471-8353 or [catherinet@lensc.org](mailto:catherinet@lensc.org) for more information.

## Design Concepts



Section Through Aviary Exhibits



Rendered Site Plan

The Renovation Project will improve visitor experiences and wildlife rehabilitation.

## Fundraising Status

### Phase 2: Stay tuned!

\$500,000

42% raised

### Phase 1:

\$1,900,000

100% raised

### Funds raised as of February 28, 2025:

\$2,109,516.17

### Expected Phase 1

### Reopening:

June 2025



Please consider making a donation to support the Wildlife Gardens Education and Renovation Project. We accept checks and credit cards, as well as donations from donor advised funds, stock transfers, and Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Donations can be made online at [www.lensc.org/wildlife-gardens-project](http://www.lensc.org/wildlife-gardens-project).



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28728 Wolf Road, Bay Village, OH 44140

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Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is a nonprofit organization funded by donations, class fees and grants including Cuyahoga Arts & Culture through county residents.

## Our Mission

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center educates and inspires each of us to understand, appreciate and take responsibility for our natural world.