

## Revitalizing Our Headquarters and Wildlife Care Center



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## FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

# For Wildlife, for People, for Our Home

Portland Audubon's Wildlife Sanctuary in NW Portland has been our home since the 1930s. It's our headquarters, a place for wildlife to flourish, and our most important tool to connect people with nature. Generations of kids have explored our forests, many now bringing their own children back to the place that holds their earliest memories of nature. It's been a center for adults to learn, for Good Samaritans to bring injured and orphaned wildlife, and for thousands of volunteers to make a meaningful difference for the environment. It's also our base of operations, where 35 staff members gather to protect wildlife and habitat, and educate the public across the Oregon landscape.

We have always known that our sanctuary is our biggest asset. People don't just connect to a cause; they connect to a place. And this place holds memories, friendships, and a shared passion for the natural world. That's why this special issue of the Warbler is so exciting. We have embarked on a capital campaign to raise funds for vital improvements to the campus and facilities. In this issue you'll read about the plans for the new Wildlife Care Center, an increase in public education and engagement opportunities, and the necessary modernization of our buildings and larger campus.

It's been 27 years since our facilities were upgraded. Now, we get the chance to take care of the place we all love and continue its legacy as a hub for advocacy, education, and wildlife rehabilitation.

**Judith Ramaley, Board President**

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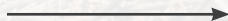




# Revitalizing and Modernizing Our Headquarters and Wildlife Care Center

by Charles Milne, Director of Development

For over a century, our headquarters and wildlife sanctuary on Cornell Road have served as the hub for our work, and one of the most influential centers for Oregon's conservation movement. Hundreds of thousands have been inspired here, engaging in conservation, nature education, and wildlife rehabilitation. Now, after decades of supporting us in our mission, our well-loved facilities are long overdue for renewal and modernization.







We are building a brand-new, modern Wildlife Care Center.

The Wildlife Care Center, Audubon House, the Nature Store, and the outdoor visitor experience are all in need of maintenance and improvement. That's why we have embarked on a capital campaign to raise vital funds for major upgrades to our facilities, ensuring we can continue to inspire people for generations to come.

In this special issue of the Warbler, we share with you our plans, which will touch every part of our campus and wildlife sanctuary. So far, we have raised a significant portion of the funds needed to make this campaign become a reality. Now, we are looking to you, our community, to help us raise the remaining funds needed to complete the campaign and help us ensure that we can better serve the community.

### ► Construct a modern Wildlife Care Center

We will add a second floor, doubling the square footage, and build a surgical suite, transitional outdoor space for baby birds, public viewing area, and more.

### ► Install demonstration projects

To engage the public, we will improve interpretation throughout our sanctuary, install a demonstration garden, add a green roof, and use bird-safe windows and lighting features.

### ► Redesign the Nature Store

A reconfigured Nature Store will improve visitor and customer experience.

### ► Update and remodel existing buildings

We will replace carpeting, paint building interiors, and add new technologies to help us better serve our community.

### ► Modernize aging environmental and safety features

To increase efficiency, we'll install siding, improved lighting, and better HVAC.



For the first time, we'll have a surgical suite on-site at our Wildlife Care Center.



Heron Hall, our biggest classroom and gathering space, is getting an upgrade.



Signage and interpretive displays across the sanctuary will be reimagined and redesigned.



Important building maintenance will be done, including new siding.



An exciting remodel of our Nature Store is in the works.

## ► Create inspiring educational displays and signage

By rethinking and redesigning outdated educational displays and trail signs, we can create an engaging and inclusive space for all people.

We know that every visitor is an opportunity to advance our efforts to protect wildlife and their habitat. A great experience at Portland Audubon can convert visitors to members and supporters, helping to continue our legacy of inspiring people to love and protect the natural world. We want to provide a better sense of place for visitors and convey our essential work in conservation,

education, and engaging all communities with nature. New landscaping and compelling signage will guide visitors as they explore our wildlife sanctuary and learn how they can get involved with conservation.

Join us in this project to better position Portland Audubon to take on the tough environmental issues we face today and into the future. A renewal of the headquarters will add a fresh face to our growing organization and our solid history as the Portland metro area's most effective conservation organization. William Finley, our founder, set our course over a century ago, and that work is every bit as important today. Please help us continue to protect and promote conservation in our community.





Photo by Ashlie Rene Gonzales

## Wildlife Care Center: Past, Present, and Future

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

Thirty years ago I walked into the Wildlife Care Center for the first time. Like so many people, I arrived with an injured wild animal; in my case, it was a Prairie Falcon my wife had found in Eastern Washington. For me, that moment was utterly transformative. I found myself immersed in an amazing community of people caring for the region's wildlife.

I was immediately struck by so many things: the incredible cadre of staff and volunteers busily treating animals, preparing meals, and cleaning cages; the phones ringing off the hook with callers seeking wildlife advice; and the steady, seemingly endless, stream of people arriving with injured wild animals in need of help. Most of all I was struck by the animals themselves—the Red-tailed Hawk that had been shot, the tanager caught by a cat, the otter hit by a car. Their stories were sad but powerful. This work somehow transcended traditional conservation education and advocacy—it provided a visceral connection between the way we treat our environment and the impact it has on the wild animals that share this place in space. Each animal deserves a second chance at life in the wild, and collectively their stories provide a road map to a more humane and ecologically healthy landscape.

Something else struck me as well: how small and cramped the facility was. Only six years old at the time, the building was already bursting at the seams.

### A New Wildlife Care Center

This fall, Portland Audubon will enter a new era in our efforts to provide outstanding care for injured and orphaned wildlife and promote an ethic of wildlife stewardship across the region. We will tear down our existing 35-year-old Wildlife Care Center and replace it with a new rehabilitation facility that more than doubles its size, modernizes its medical facilities, and increases opportunities for the volunteers, the public, and wildlife professionals to interact with the rehabilitation process. We will add a surgical suite for full on-site medical capabilities and expanded opportunities for veterinarians to volunteer at our facility. In a second phase, we will replace and expand our flight cages. Some work has already been completed—visitors to Portland Audubon's Wildlife Sanctuary can see large, new enclosures to house our non-releasable Animal Ambassadors: Ruby the Turkey Vulture, Julio the Great Horned Owl, Aristophanes the Raven, and Xena the American Kestrel.



We are incredibly excited about this project. The existing building was built at a time when wildlife rehabilitation was much less advanced. Since its construction, the Wildlife Care Center has remained open 8 to 12 hours a day, 365 days a year, no matter the weather or situation. In a typical year, we treat about 3,000 animals and respond to 10,000 phone calls. During the pandemic, more than 5,000 animals passed through our doors. **Over the past 35 years, nearly 100,000 animals have received a second chance at life in the wild**, and our staff and volunteers have responded to nearly half a million requests for wildlife information. The old building has had an amazing run, but today it is worn and frayed, too small to meet the demand, and it lacks the necessary modern amenities to provide the best possible care for the animals, the safest environment for staff and volunteers, and the expanded services and educational opportunities for our community. The animals deserve a facility that provides state-of-the-art care, and the community needs a facility that can provide expanded services to promote wildlife stewardship.

## A Pioneer in the Field of Wildlife Rehabilitation

Wildlife rehabilitation runs deep in Portland Audubon's DNA and dates back to our founding in 1902. Founder William Finley, the great naturalist and conservation activist, is best remembered for his successful advocacy to establish the first wildlife refuges in the western United States at Malheur, Klamath, and Three Arch Rocks. However, at his home in Jennings Lodge, he and his wife, Irene, also cared for a wide array of injured and orphaned wild animals that they came across on their adventures or that were brought to them by the public. Finley noted in a 1932 article in *Nature* magazine that

"people have gotten in the habit of sending me wild animals to take care of...Well, this day the box was strangely quiet...Off came the lid. We looked in and... three baby mountain lions."

Finley traveled about, giving presentations and lectures with a captive California Quail named Don Q. Quail and an orphaned California Condor named The General, and he wrote prolifically for national publications about the animals he cared for. His prodigious correspondence with prominent scientists, conservationists, and political leaders of the day, advocating for some of the most important conservation initiatives in the western United States, is interspersed with updates and anecdotes about the wild animals in his care. Although the term "wildlife rehabilitation" did not exist at that time, Finley created the template that we still use today: use the power of these animal stories to advance conservation.

In the 1930s, Portland Audubon established what was, as far as we can tell, the first formal wildlife rehabilitation program in the United States. Lillian Post Eliot, wife of Willard Aryes Eliot, who at that time served as both Audubon's president and its caretaker, began accepting injured wildlife and caring for them in their small cottage on the edge of our sanctuary. Her work was documented in board reports throughout that era. The late, great biologist Dave Marshall told me tales of visiting the Eliots as a boy and seeing rehabilitating nighthawks perched on the hearth.

The modern era of wildlife rehabilitation at Audubon began in 1977, when local rehabbers Scotty Steeves and Joe Schables brought together a coalition of agencies to discuss reestablishing a rehabilitation program in Portland. Audubon agreed to house the center in the Eliots' old cottage—by then a rat-infested



**Top left:** Conservation Director Bob Sallinger releasing a Bald Eagle. **Above:** Irene Finley rehabbing wildlife in the early 20th century. **Right:** William Finley and one of Audubon's first "educational animals," an orphaned California Condor named "The General."





caretaker's shack—under the condition that the center be financially self-sustaining and that each of the coalition members share equally in the cost...a commitment that quickly evaporated.

In its first year of existence, the new center accepted 372 animals for care and was run entirely by volunteers. The Care Center's longest-term resident, Owen the Barn Owl, arrived in 1978. Taken from her nest and raised by humans, Owen arrived far too imprinted to survive in the wild. She quickly took up residence on a perch above the refrigerator and became Portland Audubon's first education animal. Although she is more than twenty years gone, we still have people stop by today and tell us about meeting her as a child.



Owen the Barn Owl, the WCC's longest-term resident and first "education animal."

the proverbial wing and a prayer, Portland Audubon newsletters from that time talk of volunteers having weekend bake sales to fund the purchase of additional lumber to advance the project. In August of 1986, the new Care Center opened, and Owen the Owl was moved into a specially built enclosure complete with barn and heated perches. In 1986, wildlife intakes surpassed 2,400 animals.

## The Care Center Today

Over the past 35 years, the Care Center has become known not only for its lifesaving treatment of wild animals but also for its cutting-edge programs to promote wildlife stewardship and reduce wildlife hazards. Some of Portland Audubon's most innovative programs have emerged from the Wildlife Care Center. The animals we treat help inform the issues we prioritize, and their stories are often the most powerful catalysts for change. The Care Center birthed campaigns such as Cats Safe at Home, Bird-safe Buildings, Lights Out, Anti-Poaching, and Get the Lead Out, all of which address some of the biggest challenges wildlife face on our landscape. Every call, every intake is not only an opportunity to save a wild animal, it is an opportunity to reduce the hazards that bring these animals to us in the first place.



The Caretaker's Shack, which served as the Wildlife Care Center in the 1970s and early 1980s.

An amazing cadre of people contribute to make this work happen. **Volunteers are the heart and soul of Portland Audubon, and the Care Center is our biggest volunteer program. Over 150 volunteers a week cover shifts, answer phones, provide field rescue, and work with our resident Animal Ambassadors.** A small

but incredibly dedicated staff ensure the highest levels of care and public service. The local veterinary community has always been generous with their support, and since the hire of the late, great Deb Sheaffer in 2003, we have also been able to maintain a staff veterinary position.

The walls contain a million memories. The endangered Bald Eagle we released on New Year's Day 1994 that made the front page of the New York Times, the endangered Peregrine Falcons we raised from eggs for release to the wild in the 2000s, the injured 20-year-old Black-footed Albatross from Midway Island that rode to Oregon on a fishing boat...the stories seep from the walls. The people too—we have volunteers who span nearly the entire 35 years since the building was built.

## Looking Forward

I'll miss the old building. I have been around nearly as long as she has. But it is time to move into a new era. The new building will allow us to do so much more for the animals, and it will allow us to engage so many more people in the life-changing experience of helping a wild animal. Some things won't change. William Finley understood something when he founded Portland Audubon in 1902 that remains an essential part of how Portland Audubon approaches conservation today: the stories these individual wild animals tell are powerful, and having empathy and appreciation for the wild animals that surround us is often the first step toward developing a conservation ethic. In the end, there is simply nothing like watching a wild animal go free—that incredible moment when the eagle emerges from her carrier, looks around tentatively, adjusts to the sunlight... and then leaps into the sky. Please help us make more of these transcendent moments possible.

Using a falcon puppet to help raise a Peregrine Falcon chick hatched at the Wildlife Care Center.







The old building has had an amazing run, but today it is worn and frayed, too small to meet the demand, and it lacks the necessary modern amenities to provide the best possible care for the animals, the safest environment for staff and volunteers, and the expanded services and educational opportunities for our community.



Long-time WCC veterinarian Deb Sheaffer with Ruby the Turkey Vulture.





# Five Things We're Excited About in the New Care Center!

by Stephanie Herman, Wildlife Care Center Manager

1

**Expanded capacity to house our patients!** We will more than double the housing space we have available, which is much needed because admissions have more than doubled since the building was built. Not only that, we will add specialized and flexible housing options to better meet the needs of our extremely diverse set of patients. For example, we'll have isolation rooms for better quarantine procedures, and a specialized open-air baby-bird room where we'll provide the intensive care babies need while acclimating them to natural light, outside temperatures, and the sounds of Forest Park.

2

**Higher quality medical care!** The addition of a surgical suite will allow us to provide sterile procedures and emergency care to trauma patients on-site without the delay of coordinating with off-site veterinary partners. Other upgrades, like on-demand oxygen, additional laboratory space and equipment, and an expanded radiology space, will increase our critical care and diagnostic abilities so we can create more individualized treatment plans.

3

**Better opportunities for the public to view and learn about our work!** A big part of what we do revolves around helping people live more harmoniously with wildlife. While we do our very best for every patient that comes to us, it is always better if an animal doesn't need us at all. New, accessible viewing windows into our exam room and kitchen, as well as a video feed from our surgery suite, will help people see and connect with the work we do without causing stress and fear in our patients (injured wildlife need a lot of privacy to feel safe). Landscaping and displays, both inside and out, will feature techniques for living with and supporting native wildlife in our backyards. With a new, dedicated space upstairs for hotline volunteers, our reception volunteers can fully focus on admitting patients and creating an impactful experience for each and every visitor.

4

**A more sustainable building that aligns with our conservation goals!** We are excited to use this opportunity to minimize our impact on the surrounding environment through features like more efficient water fixtures, improved energy efficiency, and bird-safe windows and outdoor lighting. The green roof is one of the most visible and exciting components of this plan, and it will help us better manage stormwater runoff and prevent erosion that could impact sensitive Balch Creek just downhill from the center. The sustainable materials and building techniques we'll use will not only keep us aligned with our values, but demonstrate what is possible when considerations for wildlife and potential environmental impacts are part of the building process.

5

**Improved support and well-being of the WCC personnel!** It takes a lot of people to keep the animals cared for and the center functioning—between 150 and 200 volunteers on average—and the new building will allow us to better support these critical personnel. We're all looking forward to having a dedicated break space, so staff and volunteers can eat, drink, and sit down (something not possible in the current building), and enough office and desk space for staff (currently five people work out of an office built for one). In addition, the first floor will be ADA compliant and should improve access for volunteers and visitors alike.





## The Future of the Wildlife Care Center's Veterinary Care

by Dr. Connie Lo, Wildlife Care Center Veterinarian

The new Wildlife Care Center will significantly advance both the quality and type of medical care we are able to offer our patients. We work very hard to provide the best care possible, but over the last forty years, wildlife medicine has advanced well beyond what our current facility was designed for. By adding a surgical suite, laboratory space and equipment, on-demand oxygen, and a larger radiology space, we will drastically improve patient outcomes, leading to more injured and orphaned wildlife heading back into the wild.

The most significant change will be the on-site surgical suite. Many of the animals we receive have sustained traumatic injuries from hazards like cars and cats, which require surgical care such as wound management and fracture repair. Because we do not currently possess a sterile place for these procedures, we depend on our partners to help provide this care, which can result in delayed treatment until we are able to schedule an available time and arrange transportation. The ability to provide emergency treatment without delay will make a dramatic difference for these time-sensitive cases!

Another major improvement that will impact patient care is a new and larger radiology room and added capacity for diagnostic tools. Our current radiology space is only large enough to fit a single person, making anesthetizing patients for X-rays riskier, as one person is generally acquiring diagnostic images while monitoring patient vital signs simultaneously. By simply increasing the space, we can have a second person focus on patient monitoring and reduce time under anesthesia, elevating patient care. Laboratory space and equipment will improve our on-site diagnostic capability for bloodwork and microscopic evaluation, allowing us to create a more focused treatment plan for each patient. Additional diagnostic capacity also means we will be better equipped to identify and explore trends in wildlife health issues, opening up a range of research opportunities currently beyond our reach.

We are so excited for the new building and all the ways it will advance our medical care, ultimately allowing us to save more wildlife!



# Sneak Peek at the Reimagined Wildlife Care Center







1

- 1 Surgical Suite
- 2 Bird-safe Windows
- 3 Green Roof
- 4 Sustainably-sourced Materials
- 5 Hospital Viewing Window
- 6 Expanded Interpretive Displays
- 7 Backyard Habitat Demonstration Garden



# Improving Education at Our NW Portland Wildlife Sanctuary

by Emily Pinkowitz, Director of Education



A new Wildlife Care Center and updated campus facilities will help Portland Audubon engage and educate the public on today's most pressing wildlife issues and how each of us can be stewards of our shared environment.

Portland Audubon offers a welcoming and inclusive place to connect with the natural world and each other. Our environmental education programs create tomorrow's healthy and engaged changemakers by inspiring people of all ages to explore and connect with the natural world, helping to build a sustainable future for all life. Our vast array of hands-on programming sets the stage for people to learn, play, explore, and develop a personal relationship with nature. In a typical year, over 3,000 schoolchildren, 1,000 campers, and thousands of adults and families visit our campus to learn about nature and wildlife and the role Portland Audubon plays in preserving species and habitat.

These visits come to life with experiences at our Interpretive Center and in our Sanctuary, with our Animal Ambassadors and in our Wildlife Care Center. However, our educational programs, day camps, lectures, interpretation, advocacy, rehabilitation, and administration are all taking place in buildings designed decades ago for a smaller organization. With your help, Portland Audubon's buildings will be renewed and revitalized to help us better serve our members, volunteers, youth, and the general public.

## Seeing Animal Care Firsthand

The Wildlife Care Center is an integral part of education at Portland Audubon. Educators stop outside the WCC to teach children about the primary causes for animals entering the facility. We then use this as a tangible bridge to discuss the roles each of us can play in protecting wildlife.

Programs are paired with a trip to our Animal Ambassadors: five birds and one turtle. Our expert educators use these visits to call attention to animal adaptations and behaviors and to discuss how these animals wound up in our care. A modern Wildlife Care Center is vital to the Animal Ambassadors' health and safety, and your support of this capital campaign ensures we can continue to give them high-quality care and the best life possible.

In years past, this learning was augmented with observations of Care Center staff in action through viewing windows. However, as the WCC has grown beyond its original footprint, the viewing areas have disappeared. The new building will reestablish these areas for children and the general public that better respect the patients' need for privacy while in treatment. In addition, it will enable 60 children in our popular Junior Wildlife Vet camp to once again visit the Care Center and see firsthand the facilities and equipment we use to treat our patients. The building will include new informational graphics at key points throughout the public-facing parts of the WCC, enabling us to enhance this learning even more.





## Connecting with Nature

At the core of this capital campaign is the need to protect and restore our most important teaching tool: the Wildlife Sanctuary. Just as a museum uses art or artifacts to teach, our “collection” is made up of the trees, plants, and animals of our 172-acre wildscape. In this outdoor natural history museum, visitors are able to see elements together at play in robust ecosystems, including a creek, a pond/wetland, and an old-growth forest. Through observation and study of these ecosystems, complex science concepts literally come to life. Participants of all ages learn powerful lessons about the importance of habitat preservation, the interconnectedness of urban greenways, and the role each of us can play in protecting wildlife.

Natural history—a domain of inquiry involving animals, fungi, and plants in their natural environment—thrives on observation. To appreciate the true value of Oregon’s natural resources, young people need to spend time in natural settings and understand the relationships between humans, plants, animals, water, land, and air. Our educational program helps foster a lifelong appreciation for Oregon’s unique natural resources and teaches youth about the role and responsibility of every Oregonian to be a steward.

When young people are engaged with peers in outdoor experiential learning, they feel, see, and smell their lessons—some of which they’ll remember forever. We have seen students who struggle in the classroom decide on their life’s direction as biologists, science teachers, or wildlife specialists while spending their days with Portland Audubon, exploring and learning.

The Portland Audubon Sanctuary provides a unique landscape for this contemplation, learning, and play, whether in our programs or during an informal weekend walk. By improving the conditions on our trails and reimagining our interpretive signage, we will strengthen visitors’ confidence to explore nature together. The new signage and displays will improve wayfinding, foster learning and exchange, and bring science and research to the fore, increasing access to the outdoors and deepening visitors’ understanding and stewardship of our community’s natural environment.

## Campus-wide Education

- ▶ New interpretive signage along our trails and in our Care Center will serve school groups, campers, and the general public for years to come, teaching them about both nature and conservation.
- ▶ Informative and accessible displays in the Interpretive Center will provide engaging learning experiences for 40,000 annual visitors.
- ▶ Expansion of our beloved Animal Ambassador program will provide more accessible public facilities for our resident birds, including new enclosures. (Completed 2020)
- ▶ Increased opportunities for youth education through programs like Junior Wildlife Vet and school visits.

Portland Audubon classes, trips, and camps spark curiosity, foster a deeper understanding of the natural world, and inspire people to protect native wildlife and their habitat. Our education program reaches over 10,000 children and adults each year, and has connected with hundreds of thousands of people throughout our history. We believe that time outdoors generates a spirit of exploration that is a powerful catalyst for personal growth, connecting with others, and taking action for our community. With improved educational facilities, we’re resolved to engage and empower the public as never before, creating a new wave of participatory stewardship in this region and throughout Oregon.







## Reimagining Our Signage and Educational Displays

by Ali Berman, Communications Manager

Each year 40,000 visitors join us at the Portland Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary, ready to hike the trails, visit the Nature Store, bring an injured or orphaned animal to the Wildlife Care Center, or connect with nature. From campers and school groups to birders and families, with each individual we have an opportunity to teach them about our local ecosystem, engage them in conservation, and give them a safe and welcoming place to enjoy the outdoors.

The Wildlife Sanctuary has always been free to the public and open every day from dawn to dusk. With that kind of open access, there are many visitors we will likely never meet. That's why it's so important that the signage and interpretive displays throughout our sanctuary are inspiring, educational, and inclusive, providing visitors with everything they need to know. They allow us to connect with our community, even if we aren't able to talk face-to-face.

### We depend on our signage to:

- ▶ **Welcome visitors in a way that is inclusive to all people.**
- ▶ **Educate the public about the native wildlife and flora and fauna that inhabit our 172-acre sanctuary and the greater Forest Park ecosystem.**
- ▶ **Teach people about conservation and how they can help protect wildlife.**
- ▶ **Help people respectfully and safely interact with the habitat and wildlife.**
- ▶ **Provide information on wayfinding so visitors can easily navigate our trails and facilities.**

The current signage and displays at our sanctuary have served us well for years, but they are overdue for an upgrade. Many are faded, some are broken, and the messaging needs to be updated. A small team, made up of representatives from Education, Conservation,



# At its heart, the project to redesign our signage and interpretive displays is about education, conservation, inclusivity, and accessibility.

Sanctuaries, our Board Equity Committee, and Communications, have joined together to reimagine what new signage and interpretive displays could look and feel like, and we're excited by the possibilities.

As a first step in this comprehensive process, we are conducting listening sessions with many different visitors and marginalized communities to ensure the new signage and displays are responsive to community needs. These groups include volunteers, partners, communities of color, people with disabilities, people over 65, LGBTQIA+, youth, families, birders, members, scientists, and hikers. By listening to all of these voices, we can determine what makes a space feel welcoming and engaging, and make the lessons we learn central to the redesign of our signage and displays.

What might that look like? As a few examples, we are committed to making our signs available in multiple languages, including history of Indigenous peoples on the land, ensuring they are accessible to people who are neurodiverse and/or disabled, and making sure they are easy to understand for people of all ages.

We are especially excited to redesign our map to include accessibility features like elevation changes, noting where seating is located on our trails, and landmarks that will help people orient themselves.

The updated colors and graphics will allow both children and adults to use the map and find their way through our sanctuary. Our current map, which was designed in the 1990s, is black and white and presents the most basic view of the trails and facilities. As you can see from an early draft of the new map, a redesign can completely change its look, feel, and usability.



This part of the capital campaign is especially exciting because it complements all of the other upgrades happening on campus. A new Backyard Habitat demonstration garden is fantastic, but it needs signage to help bring it to life and give people tangible lessons they can take home to use in their own yards or community spaces. The same is true for our new green roof, bird-safe windows, and bird-friendly lighting.

And while not a new sign or display, we are also excited that the physical accessibility of our main campus will increase as we build a new ADA trail that extends down to our Animal Ambassadors', Ruby and Aristophanes, mews. This will make all the public areas of our main campus accessible for wheelchair users and others with mobility issues.

This part of the capital campaign gives us the opportunity to shape the visitor experience at the sanctuary for years to come. At its heart, the project to redesign our signage and interpretive displays is about education, conservation, inclusivity, and accessibility. We thank you so much for making a gift so that this project, and all the others highlighted here in the Warbler can become a reality.

Examples of the worn trail signs that will be replaced.





# Demonstration Projects: Walking our Talk

by Mary Coolidge, BirdSafe and Non-Lead Campaign Coordinator; Megan Van de Mark, Backyard Habitat Certification Program Manager; Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

Portland Audubon's plans to upgrade our campus provide an exciting opportunity to walk our talk by integrating Bird Safe, Lights Out, Green Roof, and Backyard Habitat Certification Program demonstration projects into our facilities. In addition to making our sanctuary more bird friendly, each serves as a way to engage and educate the public, showcasing how they can incorporate green elements into their own homes, yards, businesses, and beyond.

## Bird-Safe Windows and Lighting

Window collisions account for up to a billion deaths every year in North America, making it one of the top three hazards for wild birds. The vast majority of collisions are at low-rise commercial and residential buildings, and thankfully there are a growing number of readily available solutions. All of the windows on the new Wildlife Care Center will have either exterior window screens or a visible frit pattern, both effective bird-safe measures. By making our windows safe for birds and providing educational displays, we can encourage others to make changes to their own homes, offices, and community spaces.

We are also designing the lighting thoughtfully, according to best practices that minimize light trespass and its many unintended consequences. Lighting will be aimed down and fully shielded, will be no brighter than necessary for safe circulation, will have warm color temperature bulbs (yellow), and will be motion activated.





A close-up photograph of holly leaves and berries. The leaves are dark green with prominent veins and sharp, pointed edges. Some leaves show signs of being eaten, with small holes visible. In the lower left, there is a cluster of small, round, reddish-orange berries. The background is dark and out of focus.

## Backyard Habitat Demonstration Garden

The Backyard Habitat Certification Program, managed in partnership with Columbia Land Trust, is one of our most popular and engaging regional programs, focused on helping residents garden through a habitat-restoration lens. The demonstration garden will be planted in front of the new Wildlife Care Center, showcasing the benefits of naturescaping with native plants and sustainable gardening practices. Interpretive signage will discuss how community members can transform their own yard, shared outdoor space, school, or other community greenspace into wildlife-friendly habitat. Sanctuary visitors, from hikers to school groups, will learn about native plants, wildlife stewardship, pesticide reduction, noxious weeds, and more.

## Green Roof

One of our top priorities is advancing green infrastructure, such as green roofs, green streets, bioswales, and urban tree canopy, to reduce impervious surfaces, stormwater runoff, and urban heat-island effects while enhancing habitat value, cleaning our air and water, and improving access to nature. Portland Audubon and partners successfully advocated for a green roof requirement on buildings in Portland's Central City a few years back, and we will walk our talk with the new Care Center's green roof. Unlike most local green roofs, which are on open landscapes, this one will be in a forest, allowing us to learn more about how they function in this environment and promote their use across a broader landscape. Installing this green roof is one way we can minimize the impacts of development on the Balch Creek Watershed.





**David & Christine Vernier**

"The Portland Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary is a powerful education tool, bringing in people of all ages to connect to the natural world. We support this campaign because we know that by investing in this place and its facilities, we invest in the education of the thousands of people who come here, from families to school groups."



**Reuben Rich**

"Helping to further the work of the WCC and Portland Audubon is a very enriching experience for me because it touches on my core values of respecting, loving, and participating in nature, and trying to mitigate some of the harm we inflict. Beyond rehabilitating the injured, Audubon does so much to instruct and broaden knowledge among the young. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to contribute."



**Mary & Jeff Christensen**

"We support Portland Audubon's capital campaign with enthusiasm! Two important considerations for us:

- The Wildlife Care Center is a critical resource for our region's urban wildlife and has needed major upgrades for over 20 years.
- Portland Audubon serves local/state residents and the environment in multiple and diverse ways. Notably, many long-standing Audubon educational and conservation programs serve to educate community members—including the young and future generations—about our region's environmental resources.

We believe the time has come to invest in a future and even better Portland Audubon campus. We hope you will join us in support!"



**Amanda & Colin Brainard**

Owners of Backyard Bird Shop

"Our love for birds and wildlife is both personal and professional. It feels good knowing the financial support we provide Portland Audubon has multifaceted benefits for our community. Today, specifically, we are donating to the capital campaign to ensure the Wildlife Care Center is able to continue treating and rehabbing native birds and wildlife in our community and to ensure increased access for all to the trails around the campus. Considering our three billion birds lost, the importance of acting now cannot be minimized."



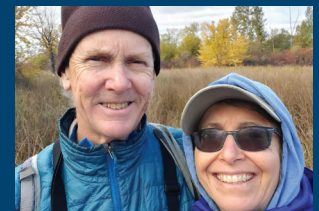
**Anne Woodbury**

"The WCC provides a vital resource, unique not only to Portland, but the whole region. It does this in a building that is (woefully) congested, outdated and hard to work in. A gift to the capital campaign is a way that I can help improve the facilities, support the staff, further Portland Audubon's mission, and help engage and educate the community in an appreciation of nature. It is a way to provide for the future with a strong resource for the coming generations."



**Kathleen Lewis**

"Portland Audubon is a treasure to our state, with the Wildlife Care Center being the busiest rehabilitation facility in the region. As a Wildlife Care Center volunteer, I am thrilled about the planned upgrades to this outdated but essential facility. This project will better enable the staff and volunteers to treat the wildlife we serve, and provide the best possible homes to the deserving resident animals. I hope you will join me in supporting this critical campaign."



**Roberta Jortner**

"My husband Karl Lee and I are excited to support Portland Audubon's capital campaign! As a volunteer for 3+ years I field some of the 10,000 local, regional and even international calls made annually to the care center. Callers receive support, education, and guidance about living compatibly with wildlife. The gratitude we hear back is consistent and moving. However, the current facility is woefully constrained, limiting the ability to work effectively. A successful capital campaign will allow this remarkable community asset to better serve more birds, wildlife, and people into the future."





## Testimonials: Why I Support This Capital Campaign



**Russ Miller & Laurie Peterson**

"When you give money for daily administration, there is a sense of doing what is needed, like eating something boring but healthy. But you still do it. A few years ago, we had a celebration where we ate dessert first. We remember that celebration vividly. To us, giving money for the capital improvements that will allow Wildlife Care Center to flourish (and more) is like eating dessert first."



**Allan & Mary Solares**

"The Wildlife Care Center and buildings on the campus are old and in dire need of restoration and modernization. We wholeheartedly support the capital campaign which will provide the environmental, aesthetic, and functional quality to enable current and future generations to advance Portland Audubon's mission."

### Friendly online reviews:

#### Scout Arnone

"This is the center of the great Portland area's ecological universe! Always have great stuff going on for community members of all ages and backgrounds. I firmly believe they have done more for Portland's native wildlife than anyone else."



#### Rick Reynolds

"Awesome. Brought in an injured kinglet today and they started patching him up right away. Very friendly, wonderful folks, fascinating birds and other wildlife, a terrific nature store and programming, and surrounded by amazing trails. Go visit and become a member!"



#### Ashlie Schmidt

"I brought an injured bird in here and they were able to help me right away. I called beforehand describing the birds condition and they helped me catch the bird so I could bring it in. Very nice and caring people."



#### Karen Gibson

"I'm very happy we have a place to take orphaned or injured wildlife. We just took a bird there with eye infection that couldn't fly. It didn't appear sick, it seemed healthy but wasn't. It's doing great now and flying, having been treated with eye drops."



**Connie Lo, DVM**  
WCC Veterinarian

"The new facility is instrumental in elevating the quality of medical care for our wildlife patients. The new surgical suite will allow us to respond quickly to the needs of our trauma patients. This will eliminate transporting animals off-site when we can provide the advanced care they need right here."



**Terry Little**

"I wanted to make a charitable donation in honor of my wife, Lisa, who died way too early. Lisa loved birds and animals and helped me become more deeply connected to nature. The gift for Lisa needed to be something uniquely Portland and preferably to benefit wildlife conservation or education. I look forward to seeing the new and updated Wildlife Care Center and knowing that I helped make its future accomplishments possible."



**Jim Piper & Roberta Lambert**

"We credit Portland Audubon's Education Department for helping raise our children Sev and Gavi, who went from young camp attendees to staff at Audubon, and inspired both of us to be involved in Portland Audubon. We expect that in a few years, Sev's son Alder will become the third generation in our family to benefit from and perhaps someday contribute to Portland Audubon by being engaged in education, advocacy, or volunteerism."



For **WILDLIFE.**  
For **PEOPLE.**  
For **OUR HOME.**

A CAMPAIGN TO REVITALIZE OUR CAMPUS



Steller's Jay, photo by Jerry McFarland.

## Honorary Campaign Committee

Portland Audubon's Wildlife Care Center modernization and campus revitalization is supported by community leaders who are deeply committed to the need and significance of this project.

Committee members allow us to list their names because they want you to know how important this campaign is—for birds and wildlife, and for the future of Portland Audubon. We are very grateful for their financial and public support of our campaign, and this visibility means a lot to us.

Please join them with a gift at a level significant for you. If you recognize folks listed below, we encourage you to let them know you will participate with them in this effort.

### CO-CHAIRS

**Christine and David Vernier**, co-founders, Vernier Software & Technology

### MEMBERS AT LARGE

**Susan Dale**, WCC volunteer and retired psychologist

**Dick Demarest**, conservationist and bird walk leader

**Mark Greenfield**, chair, Membership and Development Committee, Portland Audubon board of directors

**Judy Hammerstad**, former Lake Oswego mayor

**Sharon Harmon**, CEO, Oregon Humane Society

**Jane Hartline**, emeritus board member, Portland Audubon board of directors

**Lynn Herring**, chair, Conservation Committee (member of the committee since 1982)

**Honorable John Kroger**, chief learning officer, US Navy; former Oregon attorney general; and president emeritus of Reed College

**Kathleen Lewis**, WCC rehabilitator, wildlife advocate, and member of the boards of directors of Portland Art Museum and Oregon Ballet Theatre

**Terry Little**, conservationist and real estate broker

**Judith A. Ramaley**, president emeritus and member of the Portland State University board of trustees; president, Portland Audubon board of directors

**Reuben Rich**, former Oregon businessman and WCC volunteer, now living in Montana and Argentina

**Anne Sammis**, retired physician and emeritus board member, Portland Audubon board of directors

**Allan Solares**, board member and chair of Sanctuaries and Facilities Committee

**Mary Solares**, emeritus board member and former Wild Arts Festival chair





# Support Our Campaign for Wildlife and Those Who Love Them

For decades, Portland Audubon's headquarters and Wildlife Care Center have served as a vital resource for the region, providing our community with free wildlife rehabilitation, public education, and a place to connect with nature.

Our current Wildlife Care Center, buildings, and interpretive signage and displays are no longer equipped to meet the growing demand for wildlife care, education, and conservation. In the next two years, Portland Audubon will embark on essential upgrades of our facilities and rebuild the Wildlife Care Center—and **we can't do it without your support!** Help us reach our funding goal of \$3.5 million.

## Ways You Can Give

### ONLINE: [ForPortlandAudubon.org](https://ForPortlandAudubon.org)

**BY MAIL:** Simply send in your support using the donation envelope included in this Warbler.

**PLEDGES:** Make a larger donation (minimum \$5,000) and pay the pledge over three years. Pledges can be paid monthly, quarterly, or annually. Monthly credit card payments will be processed on the 1st of each month; quarterly payments on the 1st of March, June, September, and December; annual payments on the first day of the month listed above.

### CORPORATE/WORKPLACE MATCH:

Check with your employer to see if they will match your donation and help us double or triple the impact of your gift.

### NAMING OPPORTUNITIES:

Naming opportunities are available. For more information please contact, Charles Milne, Director of Development, at [cmilne@audubonportland.org](mailto:cmilne@audubonportland.org) or Donna Wiench, Leadership and Legacy Giving Manager, at [dwiench@audubonportland.org](mailto:dwiench@audubonportland.org).

### STOCKS, BONDS, EFTS, AND MUTUAL FUNDS:

Gifts of securities can offer useful tax advantages. A donation of shares held for more than a year is eligible for the same income tax deduction as gifts of cash, should you itemize. Also, if the donated shares increased in value, you avoid the capital gains tax that would be owed when you sell those shares.

To receive a receipt and ensure that your transfer is processed correctly, please contact **Charles Milne, Director of Development**, 503-292-6855, x117 or [cmilne@audubonportland.org](mailto:cmilne@audubonportland.org), with this information:

- Donor name, email address, phone number, and purpose of donation (capital campaign support)
- Investment company the shares are coming from
- Name of stock or mutual fund
- Number of shares or dollar value of gift

The following information will allow you to make a stock transfer to the Audubon Society of Portland:

Name of Receiving Institution:  
CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC. DTC  
Number 0164

For the account of:

Audubon Society of Portland  
Account #2474-1275

Portland Audubon's tax ID #: 93-6026088





TOGETHER FOR NATURE

5151 NW Cornell Road  
Portland, OR 97210

Portland Audubon inspires all people to love and protect birds, wildlife,  
and the natural environment upon which life depends.

# Give to Build a New Wildlife Care Center and Revitalize Our Campus



After decades of supporting us in our mission, our well-loved facilities are long overdue for renewal and modernization. We are excited to announce a campaign to build a new Wildlife Care Center and revitalize our entire campus, ensuring we can continue to inspire people for generations to come.

**Make a gift today to help us  
reach our goal of \$3.5 million!**

**[ForPortlandAudubon.org](https://ForPortlandAudubon.org)**