



*“Earth and sky,  
woods and fields,  
lakes and rivers, the  
mountain and the  
sea, are excellent  
schoolmasters, and  
teach us more than  
we can ever learn  
from books.”*

*- JOHN LUBBOCK*

# GO WILD!

AMPHITHEATER  
CAMPAIGN



# Did you know?

In conjunction with refuge staff, in a typical year the Friends present nature education and interpretive programs to more than 2,000 students, scouts, and visitors from area schools and organizations at the Oak Savanna Learning Center.

Events such as the Spring Celebration, Wildlife Festival, bird and wildflower tours, sandhill crane tours, and photography programs draw thousands of visitors of all ages to Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge every year.

Interpretive signs funded by the Friends enhance the visitor experience on refuge trails and the Prairie's Edge Wildlife Drive.



## LEAVE THE ROADS; TAKE THE TRAILS

With 80% of Americans living in large metro regions and becoming increasingly disconnected from nature, the Friends of Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge are committed to expanding horizons and possibilities, not just for youth, but for people of all ages.

In 2016, thanks to federal funding and the generosity of 250 donors to the Be Wild Campaign, the Oak Savanna Learning Center opened, marking a new era for nature education in Central Minnesota. The space, furnished and landscaped through the Be Wild Campaign, continues to be used for school field trips and conservation-related community events.

## CONNECTING WITHOUT WALLS

The Oak Savanna Learning Center was always imagined as the first step in a larger vision at Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge. The next phase in making wildlife and their habitats a part of our lives is the addition of an outdoor amphitheater. The amphitheater, designed to seat at least 100, will make it possible for thousands of visitors to the refuge each year to learn, connect and grow their knowledge of and appreciation for the wildlife and habitats that make the refuge special.

***There is no more urgent time than now for our youth and adults alike to understand our delicate ecosystem and the role we all must play in its conservation.***



# YOU CAN HELP BRING THE AMPHITHEATER TO LIFE

The total goal for the project is \$350,000, of which over half has already been donated or committed. With the support of people like you who care, we hope to introduce the new amphitheater by summer 2024.

We are looking for engaged community members who believe that coming together for conservation is more than just a need; that it's essential to the wellbeing of all creatures—animal and human; and that our greatest wealth lies in the trees that grow around us, the air we breathe, and the wildlife with whom we share this planet. *Will you join us?*

## GO WILD! YOUR GIFT MATTERS

You may make your charitable gift to the Go Wild! Amphitheater Campaign in many thoughtful ways, including gifts of cash, by check or credit card; publicly traded stocks; qualified retirement assets; real estate and more. Pledges may be paid over a period of up to three years.

And just like the creatures on the refuge, gifts of all sizes matter and have an impact on the future of nature education.



## AMPHITHEATER HIGHLIGHTS

A fully-accessible 100+ seat amphitheater to accommodate all ages and abilities, with proximity to restrooms

Unobstructed views of the wetlands and oak savanna

Pollinator-friendly native plantings and landscaping



# WILDLIFE CIRCLE GIVING LEVELS

Your tax-deductible contribution not only helps build an amphitheater for visitors of all ages and abilities to enjoy, but also gives you membership in the Friends of Sherburne and opportunities for permanent recognition at the refuge.

	Lifetime Membership in Friends	Permanent engraving displayed on brick	Permanent engraving displayed inside building
Red-headed Woodpecker \$25,000+	✓	✓	✓
Trumpeter Swan \$15,000-\$24,999	✓	✓	✓
Bald Eagle \$10,000-\$14,999	✓	✓	✓
White-tailed Deer \$5,000-\$9,999	✓	✓	✓
Sandhill Crane \$1,000-\$4,999	✓	✓	✓
Blanding's Turtle \$500-\$999	✓	✓	

## CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP

**Co-Chairs**  
Steve Chesney  
Sue Hix  
Myrna Krueger

### Committee Members

Diana Burlison  
Molly Feit  
Bill Kolbinger  
Roger Leider  
Carol Mertesdorf  
John Riebel  
BearPaw Shields  
Scott Suhsen  
Sam Warren

Friends of Sherburne NWR is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization that nurtures an appreciation for and the conservation of Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge through education, volunteerism and philanthropy.

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friendsofsherburne@gmail.com

exploresherburne.org

Find us on Facebook!

17076 293rd Avenue NW  
Zimmerman, MN 55398

## GO WILD! AMPHITHEATER CAMPAIGN DONATION/PLEDGE FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Name (if organization) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ My gift is in honor/memory of (circle one): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ My employer will match my gift. Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I wish for my gift to remain anonymous.

\_\_\_ Please contact me about the unique advantages of non-cash gifts such as stock and real estate.

### ONE-TIME/IMMEDIATE GIFTS

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ total amount enclosed

Make checks payable to Friends of Sherburne NWR and mail to:

#### Friends of Sherburne NWR

Attn: Campaign Chair  
17076 293rd Ave NW  
Zimmerman, MN 55398

### ONLINE GIFTS

Gifts can be made at GiveMN.org (search Friends of Sherburne)

### PLEDGES PAYABLE OVER TIME

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ total amount of gift, payable over (select): \_\_\_ 1 yr \_\_\_ 2 yrs \_\_\_ 3 yrs

Payment schedule (select): \_\_\_ Annually \_\_\_ Semi-annually \_\_\_ Quarterly \_\_\_ Monthly

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge payment reminders will be sent as indicated by the schedule above. If you wish to set up automatic payments via credit card instead, call Initiative Foundation at (877) 632-9255.

Make checks payable to **Initiative Foundation** (make a note in memo line for FOSNWR Amphitheater) and mail to:

Initiative Foundation, Attn: Friends of Sherburne Amphitheater Campaign  
405 1st St SE | Little Falls, MN 56345