



Help Restore Native Habitat - \$650

Your honorary tree will be planted as part of our ongoing large-scale habitat restoration projects. In 2026, honorary trees will be a mix of native species such as Red Oak, American Beech and Sugar Maple, each suited to and planted within a specific habitat on the Center property. Trees will be located off-trail.

Donation includes:

- Purchase and installation of tree
- Protective materials as needed, such as wrapping to prevent deer browse
- Ongoing care of tree – watering and weeding until established
- Commemorative map, including coordinates of tree and special messaging

Plant a Trail-Side Tree - \$1,650

Your honorary tree will be planted at a trail-side location chosen in coordination with our Director of Conservation. This special option allows you to visit your tree to watch as it changes and grows throughout the seasons. Limited spots available!

Donation includes:

- Purchase and installation of tree
- Protective materials as needed, such as wrapping to prevent deer browse
- Ongoing care of tree – watering and weeding until established
- Commemorative map, including coordinates of tree and special messaging

FAQs

What tree species are available?

Native habitat restoration and trail-side trees for 2026 include a list of 16 potential species such as Red Oak, American Beech and Sugar Maple. The species chosen will be well-suited to the habitat in which it will be planted. For example Red Oak are well-suited to sunny uplands and ravine slopes while Sugar Maple are much more shade tolerant. Both oaks and maples can live for hundreds of years in the right conditions! Choice of trees may vary by season and local availability.

When will my tree be planted?

Trees will be installed during the planting season immediately following receipt of request. The spring planting season is May 1 to July 15, and the fall planting is September 1 to November 15. Planting seasons are approximate and may vary according to weather and other factors.

Will my tree be guaranteed?

All native habitat restoration and trail-side trees are guaranteed for two years from the date of planting. If the tree fails to thrive, it will be replaced in the next appropriate planting season, free of charge.



Bench Placement for 20 Years - \$7,000

Your honorary or memorial bench will be placed at a mutually-agreed-upon trail-side location and maintained for a duration of 20 years.

Donation includes:

- Construction of a high-quality, durable bench
- Forging of a bronze plaque with your special messaging to be affixed to the backrest
- Ongoing preservation of bench and surrounding habitat
- Commemorative map including coordinates of bench

Bench Placement for 30 Years - \$10,000

Your honorary or memorial bench will be placed at a mutually-agreed-upon trail-side location and maintained for a duration of 30 years.

Donation includes:

- Construction of a high-quality, durable bench
- Forging of a bronze plaque with your special messaging to be affixed to the backrest
- Ongoing preservation of bench and surrounding habitat
- Commemorative map including coordinates of bench

FAQs

Where can the bench be placed?

Schlitz Audubon's Director of Conservation regularly identifies new possible locations for benches as we review our trails and open new areas of the Center for exploration. If spaces are available, we will share a map of the locations or walk with you to view possible placement spots.

How long does it take for a bench to be created?

Once your donation is received, it typically takes about 12 weeks to build the bench, order and obtain the plaque, and place the bench at the desired location.

Will the bench be guaranteed?

Benches are guaranteed to remain in good repair for 20 or 30 years, depending on the level of donation. A bench will be completely rebuilt in the unlikely event that it becomes damaged.





Courtyard Nature Niches - \$12,000

The three Courtyard Nature Niches are intimate enclaves that surround the stone courtyard. Each Niche features a semi-circle of seating boulders and will be surrounded by lush, native, pollinator-friendly greenery. At approximately twelve feet wide, each Niche offers a quiet and reflective space for enjoying nature. One niche remains available for sponsorship, to be indicated with a bronze plaque, on which we encourage inclusion of a favorite nature-based literary quote.

Native Habitat Gardens - \$10,000

Three Native Habitat Gardens surround the beautiful new courtyard, providing color and beauty while also serving as a gardening demonstration site. The Savanna Garden features dappled sun / shade natives such as Michigan lily and smooth aster, the Woodland Garden highlights early-season bloomers like Dutchman's breeches and foamflower, while the Pollinator Garden showcases sun-loving showstoppers such as sweet black-eyed susan and cream indigo. Of the three Gardens, the Savanna Garden remains available for a named sponsorship. Garden sponsorships are also marked with a bronze plaque, on which we encourage inclusion of a favorite nature-based literary quote.

Courtyard Entrances - \$8,000

Three Courtyard Pavilion Entrances welcome visitors into the Stone Courtyard. The Stone Trail entrance serves as the primary entry and starts where courtyard trail meets the boardwalk. This entrance is made of flagstone and spans approximately 150 square feet. A second point of access to the Courtyard and Pavilion is the 160-square-foot South Entrance, which sits between the boardwalk and the pavilion itself. The North Entrance, also at 224 square feet, starts at the end of the woodchip trail and provides access to the Pavilion and Courtyard via a flagstone foyer and stone steps. Two of the three Courtyard Pavilion Entrances are available for a named sponsorship, which will be marked with a bronze plaque.

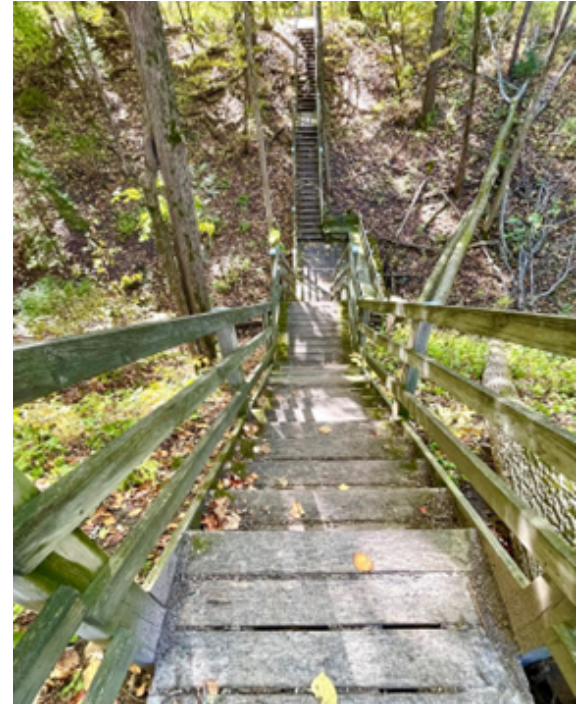




South Ravine Staircase - \$50,000

A beautiful woodland structure that provides access into the South Ravine and the tranquil Woodland Loop beyond, the South Ravine Staircase is a popular and important element of the Center's trail system. Featuring 32 steps on the north side of the ravine, a 25' x 10' teaching platform at the bottom, and another 38 steps on the south side, the staircase gives visitors and students an up-close look at a unique habitat. While still stable, the staircase is quite weathered and is on our short list of infrastructure to update over the next year.

The South Ravine is a geological highlight of Schlitz Audubon and acts as a refuge for locally native plants and animals. Here you can seasonally find winter wren and kinglets, and appreciate a healthy hardwood habitat of regenerating hickory, beach, red oak, and sugar maple.



Lake Michigan Bluff Deck - \$35,000

Located on the Green Tree Accessible Trail near the Tower, the Lake Michigan Bluff Deck is situated in a mixed stand of towering Sugar Maple and Red Oak, punctuated with Paper Birch, Basswood, and Nannyberry. Nearby stands "the Great Acorn" sculpture, and yards away the Tower rises fully above the tree canopy to give a birds-eye view of the horizon. During school days, the sounds of children at play in the Secret Forest outdoor classroom accompany the other myriad sounds of the forest.

Built decades ago, the current overlook deck juts dramatically over the Lake Michigan bluff, offering a beautiful view of the terrace below, and the lake beyond. A truly beautiful setting, the current deck at this location is quite weathered. Our long-range plans include a complete rebuild of this deck with durable, weather-resistant cedar or PVC planking.

