



2025 Year in
Review

ADMIN/FINANCE

- Received a \$421.64 endowment distribution from the Community Foundation.
- Web pages migrated to the City platform and old website retired.
- Seedling Sale, sponsored by Kaukauna Utilities
 - 444 bundles sold
 - \$5149.63 total revenue
- Friends Pancake and Porkie Breakfast served over 400 people.
- 41st annual Friends Art Fair held.
- First full year with full staff! Assistant Naturalist position was made full-time beginning in January. Maddie West was our summer intern for a second year.
- Student Volunteers Scarlett and Josephine, JET students Leider and Jaden, Co-Op Student Lilah provided ongoing service to the Center.
- Corporate groups continue to help with volunteer hours
 - Pepsi/Frito Lay
 - Ameriprise
 - Windows of Wisconsin
- Staff enjoyed a team building day at Maribel Caves
- Penni Pautz left the Committee at the end of her term and Barb Timmons has joined. Paul Van Berkel, Kathy Breitzman, and John Manion renewed their terms.
- The Committee voted to approve ordinance updates, shifting from a governance committee to an advisory committee in accordance with the Center moving from a singular department to part of the Community Enrichment Department and operating under city policies and procedures.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

- New siding and signage installed on Nature Center.
- Boardwalk replacement project completed, and new bridge installed at the old ZZ culvert.
- Trail X-ing signage installed and crosswalks painted at Valley Trail and Upper Woods stair crossings.
- Three Sisters Garden planted (w/KPL)
- Outagamie County Land Conservation and the City of Kaukauna have partnered for an erosion and streambank remediation project in the Kayak Launch Trail area to the Hoersch Trail Area. A grant of \$200,000 was awarded through the Great Lakes Commission and the City has budgeted \$100,000 to remediate gully erosion, the Fox River streambank, and update trails. Work is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2027 and run through 2029.
- A Mud Kitchen was installed in the recreation area near the nature center, as was the refurbished wingspan display.



EDUCATION

- New/Revived Programs
 - Junior Naturalist
 - Plein Air Painting
 - Hike w/ Naturalist
 - Community Campfires
 - Pollinator Trivia Pizza Party
 - Earth Day Celebration
 - Owl Facts with Ann & Fran
 - Haunted Trail (w/ KPL)
 - Grounded and Resilient Meditation with Becky Mc Morrow
 - Geocaching for Treats
- Display upgrades and changes
 - Bird display
 - Runoff Display
 - AR Sandtable retired
 - Toddler Area Upgrades
 - Resource Book Library installed
- Added 30 new nets to our supply for Crayfishing. Cost remains free to the public, organized groups will be asked to pay \$3 per student for use without booking a field trip.
- “Snakeman” Steve Keller passed away shortly after hosting our World Snake Day program. His memorial service was held at the Center and donations were directed to the Center.
- Our beloved long-time friend Jabber the Parrot passed away in November. The community was able to memorialize him at the Center, and a memorial collection was taken with the funds split between J&R Aquatics and Wildlife of Wisconsin.
- Focus on the Fox was reimagined from a one day event to multiple programs throughout the month to celebrate World Rivers Day and our own Fox River.

- The Kaukauna Goats program continues to be as popular as ever, providing a great connection between the Center and community with education and volunteer opportunities, while also providing a valuable service to eliminate invasive plants.
- Eagle Days is one of the most popular programs that we have and continues to grow. We continue to partner with the National Eagle Center to bring their live eagle ambassador program and welcomed Native American Outreach Coordinator Kim Cackowski from KPL to present.

BY THE NUMBERS

(Field Trips, Groups and Public Programs)

Year	2023	2024	2025
Total Usage	13,493	14,636	14,467

