



PRESERVING A WILDLIFE HERITAGE

INTRODUCTION

Woodlands Wildlife Refuge (WWR) is a non-profit organization located in Hunterdon County, New Jersey dedicated to receiving, rehabilitating, and releasing orphaned and injured wildlife and educating the public about wild animals. WWR provides these services statewide in New Jersey. For 38 years WWR has remained true to its vision, never turning away an animal in need and responding to over 5000 calls from the public annually. For the past 22 years WWR has provided these services at our current home in Alexandria Township, Hunterdon County, NJ. WWR serves the public's needs by providing science-based educational programs and volunteer opportunities. WWR is committed to fostering an appreciation of the interconnectedness between people and wildlife.

As one of the State's foremost wildlife rehabilitation facilities that works with endangered species, and the only one licensed to rehabilitate New Jersey's black bears, WWR plays a crucial role in the community and in conserving New Jersey's wildlife. With the increasing statewide demand for WWR's services it is incumbent upon its leadership to ensure WWR is capable of meeting the growing and future needs of the wildlife population and the caring public.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Effective conservation of New Jersey's diverse wildlife requires long term planning and a collaboration of partners and citizens. The timing is critical – several New Jersey wildlife rehabilitation facilities have closed, putting a tremendous burden on WWR. For example, in 2024 WWR's animal intake was at an all-time high of 2782 – a 24% increase from 2023 and a 49% increase over the past five years.

WWR's strategic plan focuses on two key areas that will ensure it continues to meet the future needs of the community.

1. Secure a permanent home by acquiring the 11.5-acre property on which we currently operate and preserve the property with funding from the Hunterdon County Open Space and NJ State Green Acres programs. These funds will allow for the purchase of the property where WWR is currently located in Alexandria Township, Hunterdon County. It will also provide safety and privacy for its wild animal residents and opportunities for capacity expansion when required and dedicated areas for recovering and non-releasable animals.
2. WWR's founder has dedicated 38 years to fulfilling the organization's mission. With the support of the Board of Trustees, they are now taking bold steps to ensure WWR can keep its promise of never turning away an animal and continued growth to meet the demands. This includes building a stronger foundation for its dedicated team of staff, volunteers, and interns to carry on the organization's mission.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

As New Jersey communities continue to expand, human-wildlife interactions will increase. To implement this entire strategy, an estimated budget of \$1 million is needed to achieve these goals by the year 2027. Your support is critical as WWR strives to meet the growing demand for its services, protect New Jersey's wildlife and their habitats, educate and inspire future generations of conservationists and champion the importance of open space preservation. WWR is calling on its friends and partners, and the general public at large, to ensure WWR remains a vital resource.

Mission

To receive, rehabilitate and release injured and orphaned native wildlife.

To educate people about wild animal habits and habitats.

To protect and create natural environments where people and animals exist in harmony.

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