We’re So Close! Help Put Us Over the Top!

Will you help us reach our goal?

As we announced in late May, we have set an ambitious goal to complete our capital campaign by the end of September. We have already raised $2,532,170 – over 72% of our overall objective of $3.5 million. And of that number, over 75% of our support has come from members, including our $1 million lead gift. Our strength has always come from the hard work and dedication of our members across the country. Right now, we’re calling upon you to help us reach the finish line.

Our capital campaign represents the transition from a productive history to an exciting, viable future for The Ridges. The new building and site improvements that are part of this project bring with them a whole new level of community benefit. We are committed to increasing informed nature appreciation by providing expanded access to our learning campus and educational programming -- for everyone from school children to seniors, residents to visitors. This commitment not only has value to the citizens of Door County, but will also serve to increase the number of people who appreciate the value and importance of protecting natural environments.

If you haven’t already donated to this important project, please consider making a tax deductible contribution now. Any donation or pledge, regardless of size, brings us closer to this important goal. If you have already donated or pledged, we thank you for your support.

Whether you’re considering an additional gift or pledge or a first-time contribution, you can make a one-time donation, give a recurring amount or download our pledge form at www.ridgessanctuary.org/support-us/invest-in-our-future/ Or for pledges and one time gifts, you can use the form on page 2 and return it to The Ridges Sanctuary, PO Box 152, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please don’t hesitate to contact Steve Leonard or Judy Drew at 920-839-2802.

We hope you will become a part of this exciting stage in the evolution of The Ridges Sanctuary. Together we can ensure the future of Wisconsin’s first land trust and protect this precious natural area for generations to come.

For more information on upcoming events and news visit the website: www.RidgesSanctuary.org
Where We Stand
With roughly a million left to go, the graphs at right illustrate the ways that funds raised to date have been allocated to the main components of the project. Of that remaining amount, $46,180 will complete funding for the boardwalk, $283,980 will be dedicated to the interpretive exhibits; and, only $671,000 is needed to fully fund the cost of the building and site. This amount is particularly time sensitive, in that we must obtain bids this fall in order to stay on schedule and break ground in the spring.

Invest in Our Future
There are a number of ways that you can help secure the future of The Ridges Sanctuary for generations to come. You can make a one-time donation, give a recurring amount or download our pledge form at http://www.ridgessanctuary.org/support-us/invest-in-our-future/. Or you can use the form below for your pledge or one time gift and send them to: The Ridges Sanctuary, PO Box 152, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202.

- Make a Pledge for Future Gifts
- Give a Gift Now
  Make a one time donation using the form below
- Make a Scheduled Recurring Donation
  - Submit online at www.RidgesSanctuary.org via PayPal
  - Arrange a scheduled payment through your financial institution

For the most up-to-date campaign totals as we approach September 30, visit http://www.ridgessanctuary.org/support-us/capital-campaign/

As of August 26th we have $1,001,230 to go.
Work has begun on the new Family Discovery Trail on the west side of Hwy 57. This area has received full funding thanks to the Cordon Family Foundation and a 2012 Scenic Byways grant.

With the parking area completed (Thank you, Parent Construction!), the project now moves into the design phase.

Based on the concept of more deeply connecting children and families to the world around them, the Family Discovery Trail will enhance the experience of The Ridges Sanctuary for younger visitors and their parents.

Research has shown that children need opportunities to experience nature with their parents in order to develop positive environmental values, attitudes and behaviors as adults. This self-guided trail will introduce the natural features of the Sanctuary in an engaging voyage of discovery for children and their families. The new trail, situated in the woods on the west side of Hwy 57, will teach children about trees, plants, landscape, and animals that are common to The Ridges through a series of interactive discovery stations that encourage children to play, explore, imagine, ask questions and seek additional information on the environment around them. Families can choose to travel the trail on their own or use The Ridges Discovery Trail Guide to enhance their outdoor adventures.

The development of the Family Discovery Trail is an important part of our ongoing dedication to environmental education. By providing natural experiences for all ages, we can inspire every generation to commit to conservation, stewardship and responsible enjoyment of natural resources.
**Coming UP!**

Sept 13 - Harvest Moon Walk  
Sept 26 - Beer & Cheese Tasting  
Sept 27 - Logan Creek Hike  
Sept 28 - A Round for The Ridges

Guided Hikes – Wed-Sat at 9:30am beginning September 4th

Visit [www.RidgesSanctuary.org](http://www.RidgesSanctuary.org) for full details.

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**Mark Your Calendars for Saturday, October 5!**

The Ridges Sanctuary will be abuzz with activity on Saturday, October 5. First up is our Fall Volunteer Work Day. Come at 9 and help us prepare the Sanctuary for winter. Volunteers of all ages are invited to help with a variety of indoor and outdoor projects -- hauling wood chips, raking, organizing, washing windows, sprucing up the cedar signs and posts—there’s a lot to do before the snow flies!

Later in the morning, we’ll be holding a brief re-dedication ceremony at the Lower Range Light. A full restoration of the beloved Baileys Harbor icon was completed earlier this year. During the ceremony, the descriptive plaque installed by the Door County Historical Society in 1981 will be reaffixed.

Following the re-dedication, everyone’s welcome to join us for a cookout!

After lunch, take some time to visit the Nature Store and take advantage of our storewide, end-of-season sale. It’s a great opportunity to get some early holiday shopping done for the nature lovers on your list!

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