

Recreational/Tourism Impacts

• The proposed 24-mile Kickapoo Trail will stretch from Urbana to Kickapoo State Park. An additional seven mile "scenic river" trail is planned from Kickapoo State Park to Kennekuk County Park and will terminate at the Education Center, then being the eastern trail head.

• The U.S. Dept. of the Interior has given permission that the Education Center be the "official headquarters" of the Middle Fork Scenic River.

• The Collins Site, a state historic site, is a Native American village with burial sites (mounds) just north of the Education Center. Artifacts date this settlement to the same period as Cahokia Mounds in southwestern Illinois (Collinsville).

• The Kennekuk Marsh complex lies to the north of the Education Center. Each spring, 80 acres of connecting ponds that comprise the marsh are home to many waterfowl species and other wildlife, including the river otter.



Donor Form

For those interested in naming rights for the Kennekuk Environmental Education Center please complete and mail, email or call:

VCCD Foundation
20301 E 900 N Rd.
Westville, IL 61883
Phone: (217) 662-2142
Email: vccd@vccd.org

Name _____

Phone _____

I am interested in naming rights for:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Building | <input type="checkbox"/> Roof Garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donor Wall | <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibit Room |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conference Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Classrooms |

THE EDUCATION CENTER

Through the Years

1995

VCCD education staff requests the need for new classrooms. A new education center is included in the VCCD Master Plan.

2003

Civic and government leaders meet with VCCD staff, trustees and VCCD Foundation directors to expand the project to include a center that addresses large conferences, green technology, a roof garden, museum and a tourist destination.

2006

The VCCD Foundation officially adopts this as a long-term project.

2006

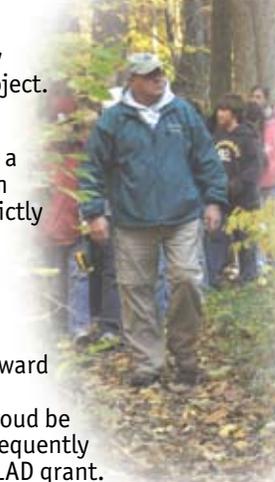
The VCCD Foundation received a gift of \$120,000 from the Ruth Hickman estate to be used strictly for preliminary work on the education center.

2008

The Vermilion County Chapter of Pheasants Forever works toward purchasing 107 acres of land adjacent to Forest Glen that would be donated to the VCCD and subsequently be used as a match for the OSLAD grant.

2008

The VCCD Foundation sponsors "Cheeseburgers and Fun" event and partners with the Kennekuk Road Runners and several area car clubs. All proceeds go toward the construction of the center.



2009

The VCCD is awarded the \$400,000 Open Space Land And Development grant.

2009

The education center is included on Representative Bill Black's and Senator Mike Frerich's capital construction budget lists, earmarking \$1M for the project.

2010

A DVD is developed on the Outdoor School Program to market the need for an education center.

2010

Pheasants Forever donates 107 acres to the VCCD and dedicates the Busby-Meyer Wildlife Area.

2010

The education center construction is divided into three phases.

2011

VCCD received an \$8,000 grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Foundation.

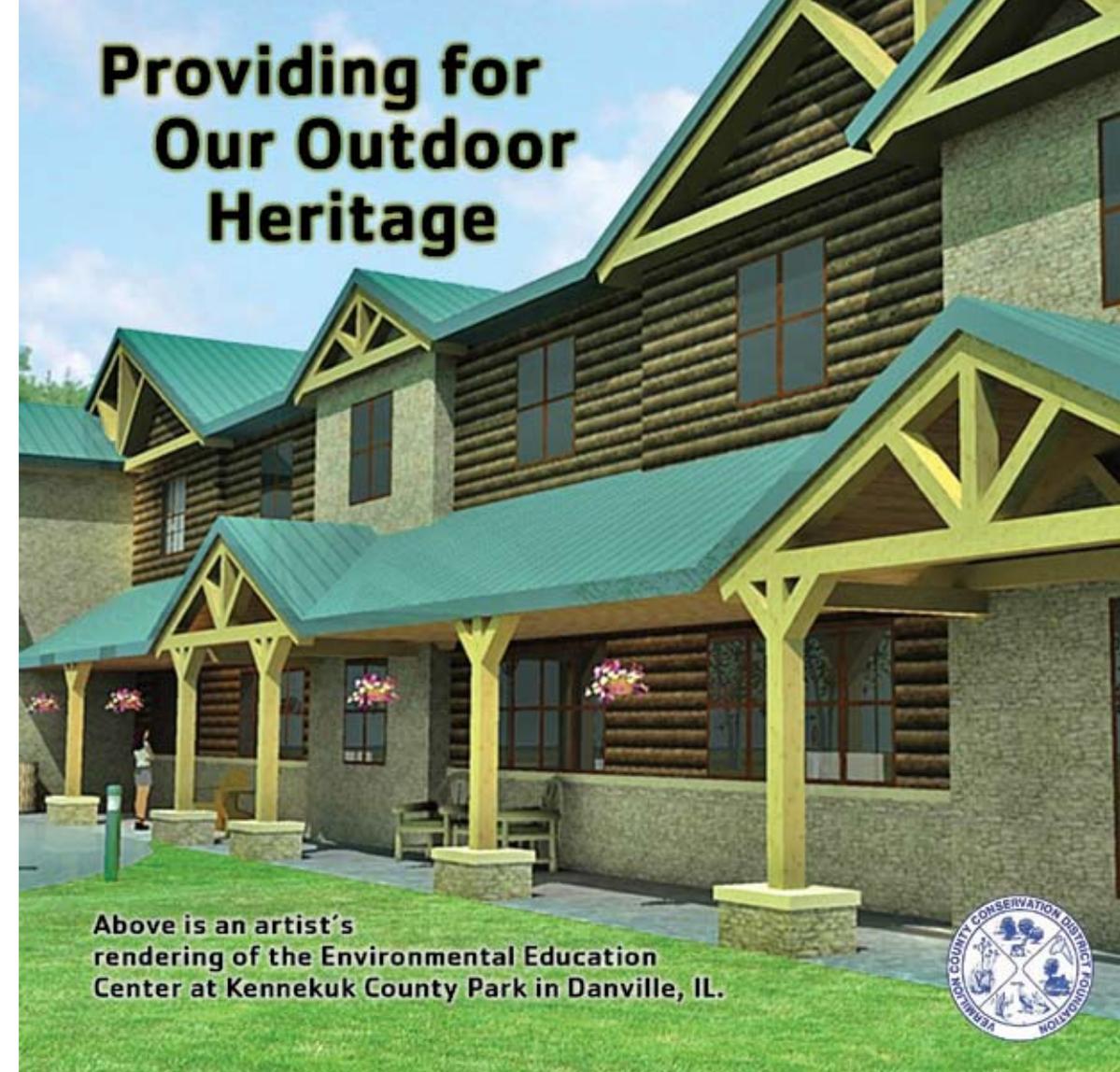
2011

The VCCD received word that the \$1M DCEO grants are approved.

2012

The VCCD Board of Trustees sign the A/E contract with the Farnsworth Group. Construction begins.

Providing for Our Outdoor Heritage



Above is an artist's rendering of the Environmental Education Center at Kennekuk County Park in Danville, IL.



Conservation Education for Everyone

The Vermilion County Conservation District is known for its conservation education for people of all ages, but is best known for providing fourth and fifth grade students with a program called Outdoor School. More than 65,000 students from surrounding counties have graduated from this program since 1972. The program introduces students to the forest, wildlife, streams, ponds, prairie and habitats.

The Need

The current Outdoor School is an old home with a leaky roof, added on rooms and a converted garage that make up the classrooms. VCCD conservation education programs reach 100 percent of Vermilion County schools. Many students from Champaign, Edgar and Iroquois county schools and western Indiana also attend Outdoor School.

The Facility

Construction of the Education Center is divided into three phases:

Phase I – Two classrooms are built temporarily in the kitchen area. Staff offices, a staff kitchen, basement, reception area and partial restrooms are completed.

Phase II – Classrooms are permanently located on the west side of the center. A permanent museum, roof garden/prairie is completed.

Phase III – The main hallway and timber-framed conference room is completed. The conference room will hold 500 sit-down guests with the capability to divide the area into four smaller rooms.

Funding to date:

\$400,000 – IDNR Open Space Land and Development Grant (OSLAD).

\$1M – Department of Commerce and Economic Opp. Grant (DCEO-State of Illinois Capital Construction bill).

\$8,333 – Illinois Clean Energy Foundation (geo-thermal).

\$50,000 – Private funding held by the VCCD Foundation.

“The dream becomes a reality”



This is a bird's-eye view of the Education Center at Kennekuk County Park.

Other Notable Partnerships

Vermilion County Chapter Pheasants Forever

Donated 107 acres of agricultural ground to the VCCD in 2010. This \$600,000 value was used for match funds for the OSLAD grant.

VCCD Foundation

Purchased 11 acres of woodlands adjacent to the Forest Glen entrance that was contingent on the purchase of the 107 acres of farm land. This 11 acres serves as a buffer for the Duffin Woods Nature Preserve, which is home to several threatened and endangered species.

Wheeler Foundation

Provided \$20,000 funding for an all-accessible nature trail at the education center site. This was a requirement for the OSLAD grant. Local scouts built three observation decks on the all-accessible trail.

Kennekuk Road Runners and local antique car clubs

Joined forces with the VCCD Foundation's "Cheeseburgers and Fun" event in August with all proceeds going to the education center.

How you can help preserve our Outdoor Heritage

Kennekuk Environmental Education Center naming rights and room sponsorship options

1. Complete Building Naming Rights

- Total project costs: \$6M
 - 50% for naming rights: \$3M
 - Length: 25 years
 - \$120,000 yearly payments
- No other corporation would be allowed to sponsor a room, nor could any individual or private foundations sponsor a room without the Corporation's consent.
- The donor wall in the "Ruth Hickman Hall" is available for platinum (donations greater than \$25,000), gold (donations of \$10,000-24,999), silver (donations of \$5,000-9,999) and bronze (donations of \$1,000-4,999). Donations less than \$1,000 would be named in our newsletter.

2. Conference Center (only) Naming Rights

- Costs: \$1M
 - Length: 25 years
 - \$40,000 yearly payments
- If no overall conference center sponsor
 - Naming rights for the four individual partitioned sections.
 - Names would appear above the door leading to each room (i.e. "Myers Room"); until named, they would be "A, B, C and D".
 - Length: 25 years
 - \$100,000 cost or \$4,000 annually.

3. Roof Garden Naming Rights

- Costs: \$500,000
 - Length: 25 years
 - \$20,000 yearly payments

4. Remaining Rooms

- | | |
|---|---|
| ol type="A"> Exhibit Room Cost: \$250,000 Length: 25 years \$10,000 yearly payments | ol type="B"> Classrooms (2)<ol style="list-style-type: none">Cost: \$25,000Length: 25 years\$1,000 yearly payments |
|---|---|

5. Default Clause: If a sponsor defaults on the annual payment of the multi-year contract, the contract is null and void, and the sponsor's name will be removed from the facility.

