



## FINAL REPORT ILLINOIS WILDLIFE PRESERVATION FUND

Date: July 29, 2010

Grantee Name: **Rockford Park District**  
401 South Main Street  
Rockford, IL 61101-1321

Contact: **Judy Roby, Grant Writer** 815-987-8695 [judyroby@rockfordparkdistrict.org](mailto:judyroby@rockfordparkdistrict.org)  
**Becky Lambert, Manager** – Atwood Environmental Center 815-987-8844  
[beckylambert@rockfordparkdistrict.org](mailto:beckylambert@rockfordparkdistrict.org)

Project title: **Birds of Prey Environmental Education Program**

Grant #: **09-019W** Grant term: **July 30, 2008 through June 30, 2010**

Project objective as described in the application and grant agreement:

**Design, produce, and install signs; produce and print a brochure and provide transportation to off-site programs**

Project description and public benefits:

**One of the highlights for more than 30,000 visitors to Atwood Park and Environmental Center is a walk to the Birds of Prey exhibit. Currently, Atwood Park is home to five un-releasable raptors. These magnificent meat-eating birds have survived injuries that make it impossible for them to live in the wild and they are housed at the Rockford Park District for educational purposes. Four of these birds have the temperament needed for educational programming on and off site.**

**The exhibit that now houses the Birds of Prey is in need of several upgrades including wind resistant enclosures, interior housing, level viewing areas, improved signage, access to water, additional work space and a presentation area. Further the current Birds of Prey exhibit is not accessible due to grade and path surface.**

**The project currently in development would provide a near zoo-quality exhibit accessible to all and providing a high-quality habitat for the animals. Features of the proposed exhibit include indoor housing for all birds, accessible path entrance with welcome signs and educational signs for each bird, an onsite workroom that allows for access to all enclosures from a central location and a raised deck for a level viewing platform. A highlight of the exhibit will be the attached accessible tree house. This tree house will be elevated 5' to 6' feet above grade and allow access for people in wheelchairs,**

parents with strollers and others with mobility issues. The tree house area will also provide a much needed presentation space for Birds of Prey shows and an outdoor classroom for school, camp and community groups.

With the completion of this project, attendance to the park should increase to a level that would justify scheduled Birds of Prey shows for weekend visitors and Bird of Prey programming requests are also expected to increase providing additional revenue.

Currently, this project has preliminary drawings and an estimate of probable costs has been generated. The estimated cost for the project is \$217,600 of which \$159,500 has been secured. The Rockford Park District is committed to moving this project toward completion and will be contracting an architect to develop detailed drawings as the final \$58,100 is being raised.

Brochures will be created to promote the on and off site Birds of Prey programs.

Summary of the Project accomplishments:

- **number of off site visits during grant period – 34 programs**
  
- **number and ages served – 2,959 served, 75% ages 5 – 15, 20% family programs, 5% other**
  
- **number of volunteers involved: 8**
  
- **List of birds (common and species name) as of June 30, 2010**
  - **American Krestrel (Falco sparverius)**
  - **Bald Eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus)**
  - **Barred Owl (Strix varia)**
  - **Great Horned Owl (Bubo virginianus)**
  - **Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis)**

During the course of this grant we lost our Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) and Eastern Screech-owl (*Otus asio*).

*We appreciate your assistance.*

*Judy Roby, Grant Writer*  
*7/29/10*



Birds of Prey Program Photographs:



**Mileage for Birds of Prey Programs**

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| July – December 2008    | 124 miles @ 50.5¢ per mile = \$62.62         |
| January – December 2009 | 478 miles @ 55¢ per mile = \$164.63          |
| January – June 2010     | 1,233 miles @ 50¢ per mile = <u>\$616.50</u> |
|                         | TOTAL = \$843.75                             |



**Rockford Park District  
Project # 09-019W**

No other grant funds were received for this project.

Project expenditures:

| Name and address of vendor                    | Item description                              | Quantity                  | Anticipated expense (see grant application) | Date of expense (invoice date) * | Date paid and check number * |
|---|---|---------------------------|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Not completed during grant term               | Design and installation of signs              |                           | Total expense was estimated to be \$2,000   |                                  |                              |
| Not completed during grant term               | Design and printing of brochure               |                           |   |                                  |                              |
| Atwood Outdoor Education staff and volunteers | Transportation expenses for off-site programs | 34 programs<br>1835 miles |   | \$843.75                         | Not applicable               |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>                          |   |                           | <b>\$ 843.75</b>                            |                                  |                              |
| <b>TOTAL GRANT</b>                            |   |                           | <b>\$2,000.00</b>                           |                                  |                              |
| <b>Total grant reimbursement requested</b>    |   |                           | <b>\$ 843.75</b>                            |                                  |                              |

I do hereby certify that this Billing is correct and just and based on actual payment(s) of record by the participant local political subdivision; that payment from the State of Illinois has not been received for these costs; and that the completed work and services or purchases are in accordance with provisions of the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund grant program (17 IL Adm Code 3025 pursuant to 525 ILCS 35/1 et. seq.) and the signed Project Agreement, including amendments thereto, with Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

BY: Judy Roby (Signature)

NAME: Judy Roby

TITLE: Grant Writer

AGENCY: Rockford Park District

DATE: July 29, 2010

(Document must be attested to by local agency fiscal officer)

ATTESTED BY: Stacie Talbert (Signature) Chief Financial Officer (Title)

Typed Name: Stacie Talbert



# Donation Form

I would like to support the Atwood Birds of Prey Program

Name

Phone

Address

City

State

Zip

E-mail (optional)

## Please accept my gift in the amount of:

\$5,000  \$2,500  \$1,000  \$500  \$100  \$50

Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (all gifts are tax-deductible as allowable by law)

If paying by check, please make payable to:

**Rockford Park District Foundation**

Credit Card # (MasterCard/VISA/Discover Card only)

Exp. Date

Security Code (3-digit # on back of card)

Signature

Date

## Please contact me in regard to:

Sponsoring a bird  Volunteering

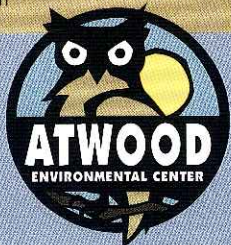
Booking a Birds of Prey Presentation

## Please return this card to:

Rockford Park District Foundation

401 S Main St STE 112

Rockford, IL 61101-1321



## Adopt a Bird

Help provide quality care, food, veterinary treatment, and shelter by adopting one of our birds, and help the Atwood Environmental Center carry on our mission. \$500 covers these expenses for a year, plus you will receive:

- an 8x10 color photo of your adopted bird
- an adoption certificate
- a fact sheet about your adopted bird

The following birds are available for adoption: American Kestrel, Bald Eagle, Barn Owl, Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, Screech Owl. For more information, call 815-874-7576 (TTY 888-871-6171), or send in your donation form.

## Atwood

**Environmental Center**

is a facility of the



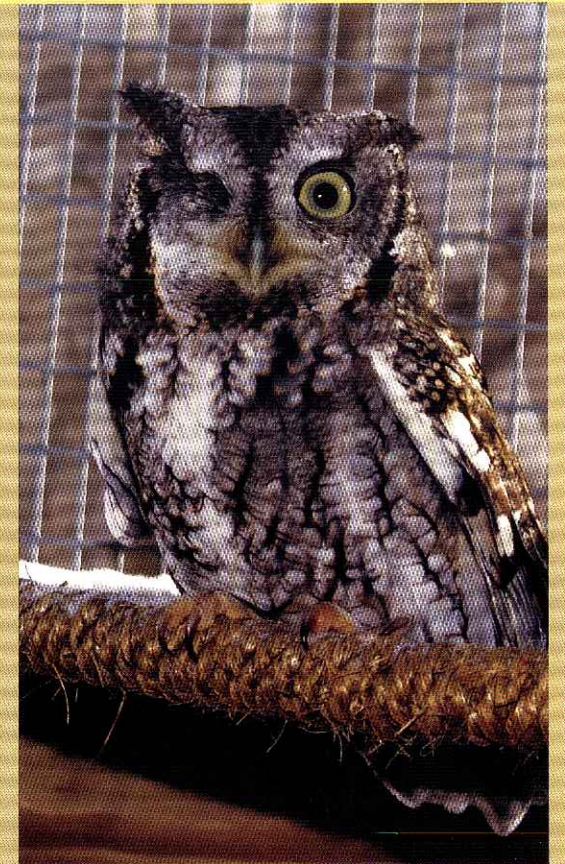
[www.rockfordparkdistrict.org](http://www.rockfordparkdistrict.org)

## Board of Commissioners

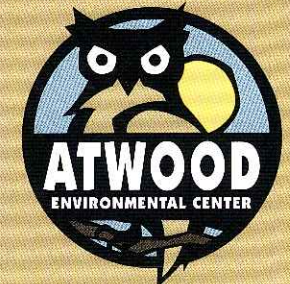
Harris H. Agnew • Jack L. Armstrong • Douglas J. Brooks

Nate Martin • Laura Pigatti Williamson

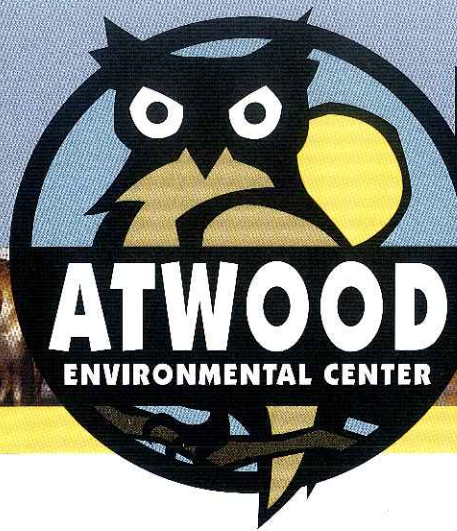
2008  
**BIRDS OF PREY**  
HOME IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN



- TO BE UPDATED-2011 -



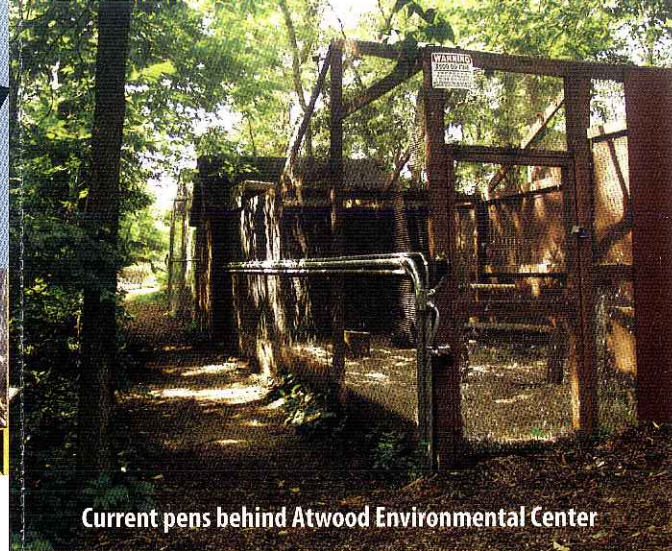




# BIRDS OF PREY



## HOME IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN



Current pens behind Atwood Environmental Center

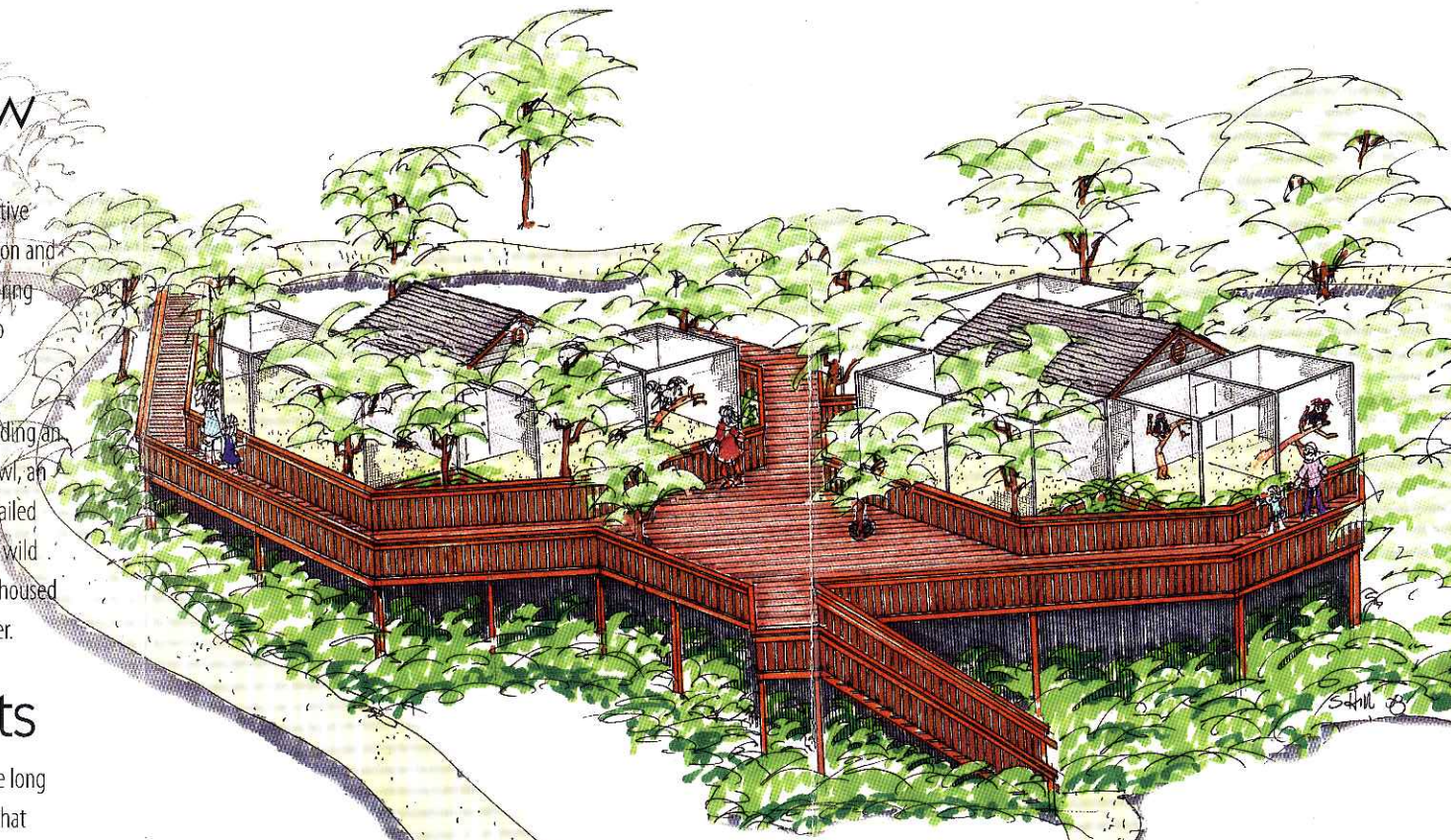
### Program Overview

The Atwood Environmental Center has been home to birds of prey since 1988. The birds are used in informative presentations to participants in environmental education and recreation programs, and to community groups, delivering a powerful educational and environmental message to thousands of people of all ages.

Currently, the Center cares for seven birds of prey, including an American Kestrel, a Bald Eagle, a Barn Owl, a Barred Owl, an Eastern Screech Owl, a Great Horned Owl, and a Red-Tailed Hawk. Each bird is unable to survive on its own in the wild because of previous injuries or impairments. They are housed in modest outdoor pens tucked away behind the Center.

### Pen Improvements

Improvements to the Center's 12-year old bird pens are long overdue. Each bird has special housing needs. Those that can fly and enjoy interaction with their environment require more space. Those that are more reclusive require a quieter pen. Other improvements needed include an on-site medical station, interior pens where small birds may winter, accessible walkways and decks, program space, and interpretive signage.



[www.atwoodpark.org](http://www.atwoodpark.org)

### Help the Birds

We are seeking to construct new living quarters for the birds with a more user friendly observing area in 2008 and are asking for your help. Take a look at the projected costs, and consider how you might like to give. Not only will these improvements help us serve thousands of visitors and students, but will also benefit the birds.

| PROJECT EXPENSES                        |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Demolition/New Construction             | \$87,100         |
| Special Construction (Bird Pens)        | \$37,000         |
| Heating/Ventilation/Plumbing/Electrical | \$24,000         |
| Architectural Estimate at 7%            | \$10,360         |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                   | <b>\$158,460</b> |

| REVENUE TO DATE              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Donated labor                | \$20,000        |
| Rockford Park District       | \$39,000        |
| Donations to date            | \$20,000        |
| <b>Total Revenue To Date</b> | <b>\$79,000</b> |

|                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>FUNDRAISING GOAL</b> | <b>\$79,460</b> |
|-------------------------|-----------------|