



FAQ's about the Thomas E. Curtis Wildlife Hospital and Education Center

Why is it named the Thomas E. Curtis Wildlife Hospital and Education Center?

The single largest donor to the new Center is the Curtis Family of the South Shore. The patriarch of this family was the late Thomas E. Curtis and the new building will commemorate his life and love of them and his value of educational experiences.

Where is the new facility located?

500 Columbian Street
South Weymouth, MA 02190

Why there?

12.9 acres of commercially zoned but undeveloped woodland were donated to the Center to expand this facility into a premier veterinary and education facility. This location is at a hub of roadways, railways and communities that will give the whole Boston metropolitan community better more efficient access to the Center's programs.

Why is this new facility so important?

The new facility gathers together the practice of veterinary medicine in behalf of wildlife and the environment and brings it into close proximity and integration with elementary, high school and undergraduate education. The Thomas E. Curtis Wildlife Hospital and Education Center will change the face of wildlife care and environmental education in this country and in this century. The core principle from which all our program philosophies emanate comes from a belief that when students can participate (not simply watch on TV or in a textbook) in the care of an individual gull, cormorant, grebe or hummingbird those participants become lifelong advocates and stewards of those species.

Through this hands-on care students stand to gain not only a love and appreciation of animals and the out of doors, but they learn the biology of life -- of their own life, the lives of the creatures in their own backyard, and the whole global biology.

To hold a crumpled hummingbird in your hands, whether it lives or dies with your care is to hold that bird and its kind forever in your heart. This new facility will take away the need for exhibitionism of animals in zoos, aquarias and nature centers and replace it with physical contact and care of animals. It is a much better education for a student to hold and care for a gull hit by car, than it is to walk by and see hundreds of captive monkeys, elephants, tigers, pythons and birds of paradise in a zoo.

We have lost our virgin woodlands, our clean water and we stand on the precipice of losing our own personal biology to the specialists and insurers of our medical health. And here, in this new facility we stand ready at the chance to take it all back. By combining close educational contact with medicine, disenfranchised wildlife run down by cars and dragged in by the cat with our own knowledge and perspective of what a

modern day world of healthy bodies, healthy wild creatures and healthy habitats should look and feel like.

What will the building be used for?

The training of elementary, middle school, high school, undergraduate and twenty-one other audience types. And, the veterinary care of 225 species of wildlife.

What is A LEED certified building?

LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a green technology building model promulgated by the Green Building Council of Washington, D.C. There are only 100 LEED certified buildings in North America. The completed building will be an educational destination site for building and construction professionals.

What green technologies are designed into the building?

- 10kw photovoltaic building integrated system (the new generation of solar panels which will be the roof and not mounted onto the roof). This will provide 5% of our energy needs from renewable sources.
- Atrium style building where daylight reaches 90% of the building so that we can control lighting with a reduced energy draw.
- All paints and adhesives used in construction are without volatile organic chemicals. This reduces sick building syndrome.
- Open-able windows, so office and classroom windows can be open & closed for personal comfort independent of facility environment.
- The building will be approximately 40% more efficient than the average building because of the highly insulated envelope using SIPS.
- SIPS panels (structurally insulated panels) that have with a very high insulating value of R25. Included are Energy Star windows which are able to be opened and closed for environmental control.
- Preferential parking for car pools, vehicles and bicycles and bicycle racks for staff and volunteers to use while at work.
- 75% of the land site is left for passive recreation
- Site disturbance during construction is restricted to be within a 40' distance of the building walls
- No night time lighting will leave the site which eliminated light pollution.



What will be in the building?

- Veterinary hospital for wildlife
- Nature Center/Library Resource Center/Learning Center
- Classrooms for science education
- Administrative offices for the Center
- Arts and Crafts exhibition and sale center



Who designed the building?

Designer.....Strekalovsky, Hoit & Raymond
Green Consultant.....Andelman & Lelek Engineering
Civil Engineers.....Daylor Consulting

Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing, Fire Protection, Technology Engineering...Gracia, Galuska DeSousa, Inc.

Who constructed the building?

Ford Construction of Norwell, MA and the sub-contractors they selected.

Who created the vision of the new facility?

The programming of the function of the building was conducted by Greg Mertz, executive director of the Center and involved the full staff, board and volunteers of the Center and about 30 community members including veterinarians, educators, businessmen and government policy makers.

How much will this facility cost?

From start to finish about \$8 million. This includes design, fundraising and construction.

Where does this money come from?

All of this money is from private donors. To date there has been no tax money from any governmental source to support the Center and its programs. It is truly a grass roots cause, and one that is gaining momentum.

Who is running the capital campaign for the Center?

In usual Center fashion and like all good grass roots organizations the Center board and staff are running the campaign. All fundraising initiatives including this capital campaign are headed up by Katrina Banagis, deputy director of the Center. It is her strategic planning and advocacy to the donors that has enabled the work of the Center to grow and thrive. Nevertheless, all Center staff and board members participate in fundraising enterprises.

The construction project is coordinated and implemented principally by Joanne Sanders, Director of Finance and Systems for the Center. This is a complicated project to implement especially in the new advocacy areas of green technology and LEED certification. She is assisted in this project by the consulting firm of RCAdvisers. Our principal contact there is Bob Coture, a well-known project manager on the Boston construction scene.