



WELLFIELD BOTANIC GARDENS

A Homegrown, World-Class Garden Celebrating Nature, Art, and Community.

Wellfield At-A-Glance 2024

Wellfield Botanic Gardens is a “living museum”, located at 1011 N. Main Street in Elkhart, Indiana. The Gardens are 36 acres in size, including 18 acres of water. The private, not-for-profit charitable organization was created in 2005 and is open year-round featuring special events and festivals, workshops and educational opportunities, a summer concert series, winter holiday lights, and seasonal programming. Facilities may be rented for private events including weddings, anniversaries, and celebrations of life.

The Mission of Wellfield Botanic Gardens is to celebrate the inseparable relationship between water and life, inspire creativity and lifelong learning, foster stewardship of our natural world, and grow community.

A Brief History - - The Elkhart Rotary Club conceived the Gardens as a community service project in 2002 to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Rotary International in 2005. The club raised funds for the development and completion of a physical Master Plan, which envisions 25 themed garden and event spaces, as well as a Visitors Center and guest amenities. The project was officially handed over to a newly formed 501(c)(3) Wellfield Botanic Gardens' Board of Directors in 2005. Construction began in 2006 with the first earth-moving work to reshape and reconfigure the ponds. 36 acres in size, Wellfield resides on a historical piece of property originally known as the “North Main Street Well Field.” The property has been a source of hydraulic energy and drinking water for the City of Elkhart since the mid-1800s. Wellfield Botanic Gardens has a long-term lease agreement with the City of Elkhart, which still owns and operates 13 active wells on the site, providing approximately 70% of the drinking water for the community.

Facts and figures - -

- Wellfield welcomed over 80,000 guests through its gates in 2024.
- Of Wellfield's 36 total acres, 18 are surface water, including Christiana Creek and four large ponds.
- Wellfield is a private, 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization and derives ALL of its operating funds, development costs, and endowment from private donations, user fees, memberships, private grants and earned income.
- Wellfield is a botanic garden and 'living museum' with a collection of accessioned plants...*not a city park*. Wellfield receives no government or tax-based funding.
- Through 2023, Wellfield was approximately 85% complete. In the last decade, Wellfield has made significant strides toward completion of its Master Plan, including completion of the *Children's Garden (2018)*, *Island Garden (2020)*, and the *Peace Garden (2023)*.
- The [Events and Visitors Center Expansion Project](#) began in July 2023. The \$14m Project realizes four key master plan features—a new 12,000 sq.ft. Visitors Center with event capacity, Open Air Pavilion, relocation and repurposing of the existing Visitors Cottage, and increased parking capacity. These features will provide not only a transformational guest experience with necessary infrastructure and amenities, financial sustainability for the future, and increased mission-effectiveness, but also deliver increased quality of place and promote economic development of our area. Construction is scheduled for completion by 2025.
- As part of its Mission to 'grow community' and in partnership with the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, Wellfield gives generously to its community, donating over \$20,000 a year in complimentary admissions to Elkhart County residents and partners with dozens of community partners to help further their missions in our region.
- Wellfield provides educational programs throughout the year for elementary school students, private groups, lifelong learners of all ages, and outreach to the community.

- Main events include *Groovin' in the Gardens Summer Concert Series* (June-August), *Taste of the Gardens* (fourth Sunday in August), *Garden of Villains* (October), and *Winter Wonderland Holiday Lights* (Thanksgiving weekend through December), which welcomed over 25,000 guests in December of 2023.
- Wellfield has 22 paid staff (14 FTE) and requires significant volunteer support.
- Annually, Volunteers contribute over *6,400 hours of service* across all areas of programming and operations.

Want more info? Check out wellfieldgardens.org, email info@wellfieldgardens.org, or come see us!

- Spring/Summer Season: April-October, Open Daily 10 am-6 pm
- Fall Season: November-December, Open Tuesday through Sunday, 12-5 pm
- Winter Season: January-March, Open Saturday and Sunday, 12-5 pm