

The Winifred M. and George P. Pitkin Foundation Gifts One Million Dollars

New Jersey Audubon's largest gift earmarked for the renovation of Lorrimer Nature Sanctuary

Bernardsville, NJ – June 9, 2020 – New Jersey Audubon is thrilled to announce a gift of \$1 million from the Winifred M. and George P. Pitkin Foundation to support a major renovation of New Jersey Audubon's Lorrimer Nature Sanctuary including the creation of the new Winifred M. and George P. Pitkin Foundation Educational Center. This anchoring gift for the renovation project is the largest in New Jersey Audubon's history.

"The Winifred M. and George P. Pitkin Foundation's transformational gift to New Jersey Audubon cannot be understated in its significance, particularly in the midst of the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis," says Eric Stiles, NJ Audubon, President and CEO. "We are so grateful to Mr. Joseph L. Basralian, Esq. and Dr. Frances Hoffman (Pitkin Foundation Co-Trustees) for this incredible commitment and for partnering with us to deliver the vision of a world-class environmental education center at the Lorrimer Sanctuary. At NJA it is our mission to connect people with nature and we can't wait to bring this new facility to the people of Franklin Lakes, Bergen County, and New Jersey at large."

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$3 million. The new educational center at Lorrimer will be complete with brand new indoor and outdoor education space, and a multi-use space and reception area that will provide capacity for dramatically increased programming and community engagement.

"I have served as Board Member of NJA since 2018 and am deeply committed to its conservation mission of connecting people to nature in our beloved home state," said Mr. Basralian. "The Lorrimer Sanctuary is already a wonderful property with boundless potential, and Dr. Hoffman and I, as Trustees of the Winifred M. & George P. Pitkin Foundation are pleased to contribute to this project which will create a facility that is unparalleled in the State of New Jersey." The Winifred M. & George P. Pitkin Foundation was founded by Dr. Winifred Pitkin, a renowned physician who highly valued education of all types. Since its inception, the Pitkin Foundation has contributed millions to a variety of charitable causes.

Lorrimer Nature Sanctuary has remained relatively unchanged since it was given to New Jersey Audubon in the 1950's and during this same time Franklin Lakes has blossomed as a community. Currently, Lorrimer reaches ~5,000 people a year and through the renovation expects to be able to at least double that number to serve over 10,000 children and adults from all walks of life in New Jersey. Through this renovation, New Jersey Audubon seeks to make Lorrimer, "The go-to place for environmental education and recreation in Bergen County," according to Mr. Stiles.

About New Jersey Audubon:

New Jersey Audubon is a privately supported, not-for profit, statewide membership organization. Founded in 1897, and one of the oldest independent Audubon societies, New Jersey Audubon fosters environmental awareness and a conservation ethic among New Jersey's citizens; protects New Jersey's birds, mammals, other animals, and plants, especially endangered and threatened species; and promotes preservation of New Jersey's valuable natural habitats. For more information, visit www.njaudubon.org.

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