



At-A-Glance 2023

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 envisages 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 to begin implementation of the Master Plan. 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 75,000 guests through its gates in 2022.
- Of Wellfield's 36 total acres, 18 are surface water, including Christiana Creek, which feeds four large ponds: South Pond, Swan Pond, Lotus Pond, and the Beardsley Mill Pond.
- 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 is approximately 85% complete. In the last 5 years, 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*, which opened in 2023.
- As part of its Mission to 'grow community' and in partnership with the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, Wellfield gives generously throughout Elkhart County and the region, donating over \$20,000 a year in complimentary admissions to Elkhart County residents and over \$20,000 a year as 'in kind' facility rentals/discounts to other not-for-profit organizations who utilize Wellfield's venues, as well as sponsoring and supporting numerous events in the community.
- Wellfield provides educational programs throughout the year for elementary school students, private groups, lifelong learners of all ages, and outreach to the community.
- Wellfield produces events including *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 2022.
- Wellfield has approximately 20 paid staff (12 FTE) and requires significant volunteer support. Annually, Volunteers contribute over *6,000 hours of service* across all areas of programming and operations.
- **What's next?....** *The Garden is always GROWING* - - ask a staff member what's coming up next!

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