GILCREASE
Nature Sanctuary

CONTACT US

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8103 Racel Street
Las Vegas, NV 89131

PHONE
(702) 645-4224

EMAIL
info@gilcrease.community

WEBSITE
www.gilcrease.community

OFFICE HOURS

WEDNESDAY – FRIDAY
09:00 AM–3:00 PM

WEEKEND HOURS
Saturday: 9:00 AM–3:00 PM
Sunday: 9:000 AM–3:00 PM

VOLUNTEER

Please check our Website for more information.

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Bill Gilcrease on his 70th birthday, 1989

OUR MISSION

At the Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary, our mission is to educate individuals about responsible exotic pet ownership. Our goal is that no animal be adopted without thorough research and deep consideration of the lifetime commitment. We care for over 150 rescued residents including parrots, reptiles, pigs, donkeys, emus, and so much more.

ABOUT US

We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit sanctuary committed to the care and protection of rescued exotic and farm animals. From birds to barnyard friends, our mission is to provide a safe, loving environment where animals can thrive – and where families can learn, connect and be inspired.

MARCH 2026



Just another day at the office.

Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary Board of Directors

Oscar Gilcrease -- Founder

Denise Scarff -- President

Bill Townsend -- Vice President

Dr. Christopher Smith -- Treasurer

Kristina Miller -- Secretary

Jeff Richards

Wanda Hubal

Madison Weingardt

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

MARCH MUSINGS FROM THE SANCTUARY

Dear Friends of the Sanctuary

March has always felt like a month of possibility. This year, that sense feels especially strong. The days grow longer, the sanctuary begins to wake up in new ways, and there is a quiet sense that good things are on the horizon.

This month, I wanted to pause and recognize someone whose vision made all of this possible. Bill Gilcrease.

Bill believed deeply in conservation, education, and community. He understood that animals deserve more than care. They deserve respect, understanding, and a future shaped by informed and compassionate people. Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary was never meant to be just a place to visit. It was meant to be a true sanctuary for living beings, a place where animals would always have safety, and where future generations could learn the value of compassion and conservation firsthand.

Even though Bill passed in 2017, his values still guide us every day. You see it in the way our team advocates for responsible animal care and ownership. You see it in the children who leave here curious and inspired. You see it in every rescued animal who finds safety within these gates.

March also brings St. Patrick's Day, a time often associated with luck. But I have learned that the best kind of luck is not accidental. It is built through care, persistence, and people who believe in something bigger than themselves. Bill believed in this sanctuary. Our staff believes in it. Our volunteers believe in it. And because of that, this place continues to grow and thrive.

None of this work happens alone. Because of this community, Bill's vision continues to live, grow, and protect the lives entrusted to us. And we are only just getting started.

With appreciation,

Jennifer Langford
Executive Director





KID-DING AROUND? NOT THIS LEADER

ONE SCOUT, ONE VISION, ONE INCREDIBLE NEW GOAT BARN

Jack McFarland of Troop 770 recently completed an incredible project at Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary: the construction of our brand new goat barn.

From design to execution, Jack demonstrated thoughtful planning, strong communication, and hands on leadership. He organized volunteers, coordinated materials, and made sure every detail supported the comfort and safety of our goats. The final result is not just a sturdy and beautiful structure. It is a space that protects, shelters, and improves daily life for the animals in our care.

Watching Jack lead this project reminded us what real leadership looks like. It is about service. Jack stepped forward, took responsibility, and left a lasting impact on the Sanctuary.

We are so grateful to Jack, Troop 770, and everyone who helped bring this barn to life.

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Jaime Arvizu
jarvizu@4LPi.com
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04 PROTECTORS OF TULE SPRINGS

Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary

MAR 13

PALENTOLOGY STUDENT ART CONTEST

Submit your art to win cash prizes. **Please email:** shannonl@protectorsoftulesprings.org to learn more. **Sponsored by:** IAFSP and Protectors of Tule Springs. **Due Date:** March 13th.

MAR 28

B.A.R.K. RANGER HIKE

Bring your furry best friend for a ranger-led hike! **Time:** 9:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M. **Location:** Durango Trailhead (TUSK) **Highlight:** Free! Your dog will be sworn in as an official BARK Ranger! **RSVP:** tusk_information@nps.gov

APR 18

JUNIOR RANGER DAY

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2026 **Time:** 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. **Location:** Aliante & Grand Teton (TUSK) **Highlight:** Free! Kids (of any age!) get sworn in as Jr. Rangers, get to meet our volunteer horses and more fun and activities!

SEARCHING FOR GOLD? HOW ABOUT ANCIENT GIANTS INSTEAD

This March, while the leprechauns are busy guarding their pots of gold, the **Protectors of Tule Springs** have their eyes on a different kind of treasure: **Fossils!**

We are the proud 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, representing both **Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument** and **Ice Age Fossils State Park**. Our mission isn't folklore; it's protecting the incredible history below our feet.

A Blast From the Past (The Deep Past)

If you think the 1960s were a long time ago, think again! While the famous "Big Dig" excavation took place here in **1962-1963**, the treasures they uncovered date back much further.

We are talking about the **Pleistocene Era** (aka the "Ice Age"), which spanned from **2.6 million to 11,700 years ago**. Now that is old!

During the Big Dig, scientists unearthed an incredible cast of characters that once roamed the Las Vegas Valley. We call them **Megafauna** (which is a fancy science-speak for "Giant Animals"):

- **Columbian Mammoths:** The true heavyweights of the Ice Age
- **Saber-Tooth Cats:** Famous for those fearsome fangs.
- **Giant Sloths:** Imagine a sloth, but the size of a car.
- **American Lions & Dire Wolves:** The apex predators of the prehistoric plains.

The Golden Rule of Fossils

While we aren't hunting for gold, these fossils are priceless. If you are exploring the park and spot something that looks like an ancient bone or tooth:

1. **Freeze!** Do not touch it or pick it up.
2. **Report It!** Tell a park representative immediately.

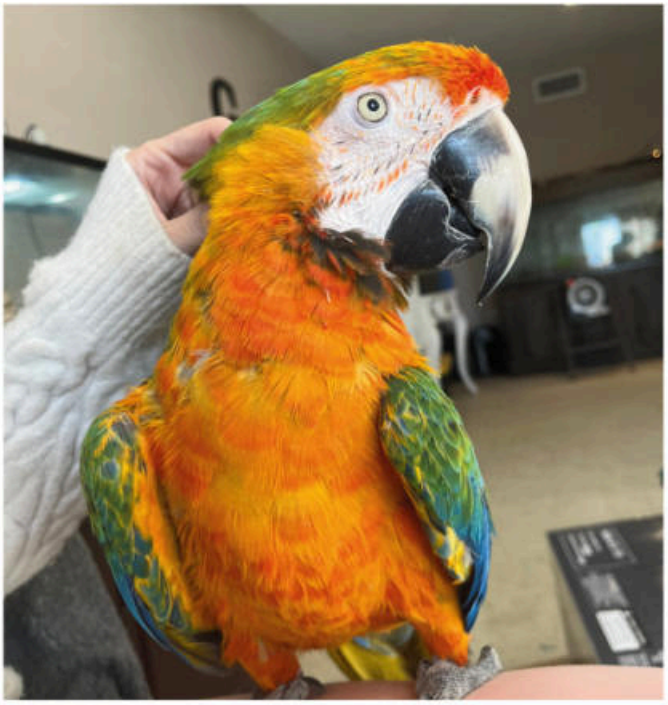
Remember: Nothing can be removed from the land Leaving these artifacts exactly where they are ensures they are preserved for future generations to study, enjoy, and marvel at.

Want to Learn More?

You don't need a time machine to see these creatures! You can view amazing fossil examples at the **Ice Age Visitors Center** and the **Las Vegas Natural History Museum.**

For the latest news on our preservation efforts or to volunteer check out our website:

www.protectorsoftulesprings.org



TANGO THE CATALINA MACAW

A RAINBOW WITH RHYTHM

Tango is a vibrant Catalina macaw who brings both color and personality to the sanctuary. A mix of blue-and-gold and scarlet macaw, she is as bold as she is beautiful.

Her favorite thing in the world is dancing to Taylor Swift. The moment the music starts, Tango begins bobbing and swaying like she owns the stage. Her favorite treat is a cashew, which she happily accepts as a special reward.

Tango is incredibly smart and full of personality. She keeps our staff on their toes and reminds us every day how deeply emotional and expressive macaws can be. Life with Tango is never quiet, but it is always joyful.

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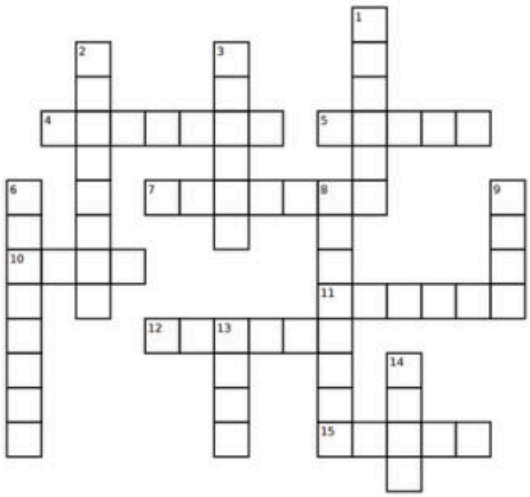


Call 800-950-9952

06 SANCTUARY SMARTIES

Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary

A Little Luck for Wildlife



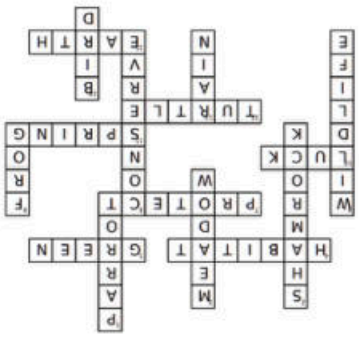
Down:

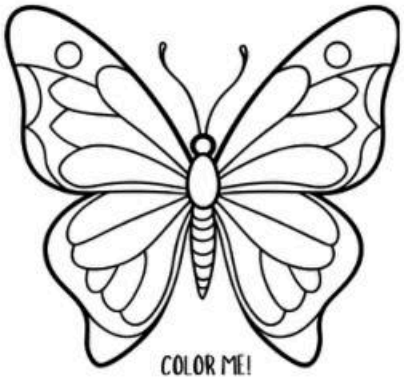
1. A colorful bird known for intelligence and strong bonds
2. A three leaf plant often linked to St. Patrick's Day.
3. An open grassy area where many animals find food
6. Animals living in the wild, not as pets
8. To care for nature by using resources wisely
9. An amphibian often see after the spring rains
13. Something that March brings that helps plants grow
14. A feathered animal that relies on safe trees and open skies

Across:

4. The natural home where an animal lives
5. The color most associated with March and nature
7. What we do for animals, habitats, and the future
10. A word often connected with good fortune
11. The season when plants grow and many animals become more active
12. A slow-moving reptile that needs clean water and safe nesting areas
15. The planet we all share and must care for

ANSWER KEY





MARCH RIDDLE

QUESTION

I hop through the fields when days turn bright,
I snack on clover, green and light.
My nose will wiggle if you bring a treat.
Who am I with thumping feet?

ANSWER

A rabbit

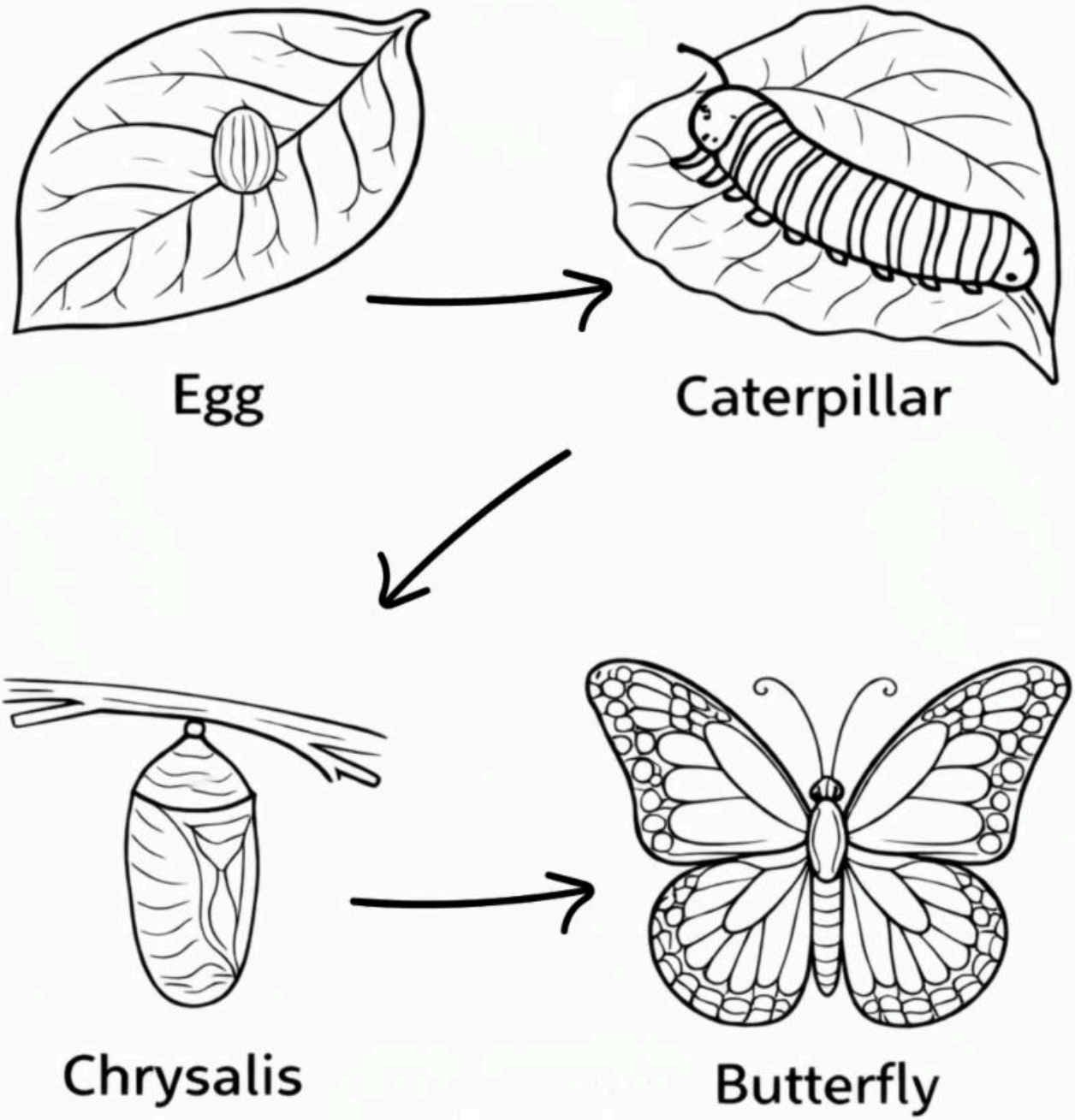
FUN FACTS: MIGRATION EDITION

- **Gray Whales: The big ocean friends swim the longest trip of any mammal, up and down the West Coast every year.**
- **Mule Deer: These deer move between mountains and deserts when the weather changes, looking for yummy food.**
- **Birds in Nevada: Many birds migrate at night to stay cool and safe from other animals, using stars like a map!**
- **Red Crabs: On a special island in Australia, millions of red crabs walk together to the ocean at the same time to lay their eggs, making the ground look red.**
- **Insects: Some migrate by riding warm air currents called thermals.**

MINI CONSERVATION TIP

Plant native flowers and milkweed in Nevada yards and gardens. These plants give migrating animals food and shelter when they pass through our desert.

Stages of the Monarch Butterfly



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY ON PAGE 10.

HANDS THAT HEAL, HEARTS THAT GIVE

CARE THAT CONTINUES BEYOND THE SHIFT



At Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary, we see many kinds of heroes walk through our gates. Some wear boots. Some wear gloves. And some wear scrubs.

Recently, a group of pediatric emergency nurses from Sunrise Hospital & Medical Center chose to spend their time volunteering with our animals. After long shifts caring for children during some of the hardest moments families can face, they came here ready to serve a different way.

During their time at the sanctuary, the nurses rolled up their sleeves and jumped right in. They cleaned enclosures, hauled supplies, and helped care for our goats with the same focus and teamwork they bring to the emergency room.

These nurses reminded us that heroes do not stop being heroes when their shift ends. After giving so much of themselves to families during their hardest moments, they came here and gave again. At Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary, we believe that love is action.



HOPE FOR EVERY HOP

GIVING ABANDONED RABBITS A SAFER PLACE TO LAND

Founded in 2015 by Dave Schweiger, Bunnies Matter Rescue works at Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs to address a growing and often overlooked issue in Southern Nevada: the abandonment and dumping of domestic rabbits. What began as a response to a local problem has grown into a dedicated grassroots effort focused on rescue, rehabilitation, and education.

Dave and his volunteers work tirelessly to save rabbits abandoned in parks, neighborhoods, and open spaces. Many arrive in urgent need of medical care, proper nutrition, and safe housing.

How you can help!

BUNNIES MATTERS RESCUE

https://bunniesmatter.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

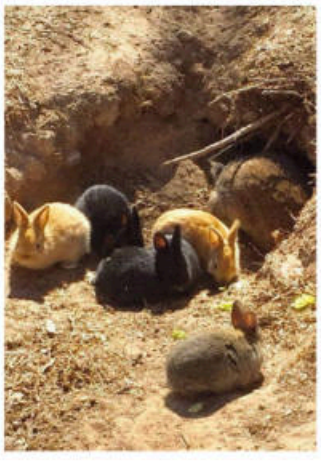
facebook.com/bunniesmatter/

DONATION LINK

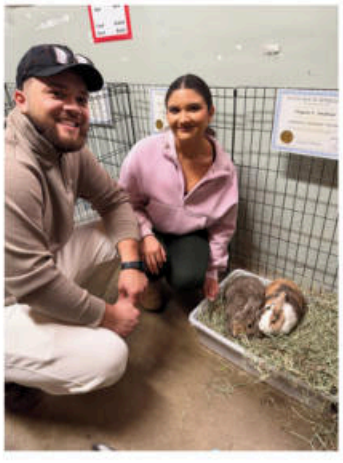
Just as importantly, the organization educates the public about responsible rabbit ownership, including proper diet, enrichment, and the importance of spaying and neutering to prevent further suffering.

Right now, the need is urgent. As rabbit dumping continues across the Valley, demand for medical care, supplies, and safe housing has increased faster than resources. Donations directly fund veterinary treatment, spay and neuter services, food, and rescue efforts. Every contribution makes the difference between turning an animal away and being able to help. For many of these rabbits, that difference means the chance for survival .

We are grateful for the important work Bunnies Matter Rescue does for our community. Their presence at Floyd Lamb Park plays a critical role in protecting abandoned rabbits in Southern Nevada. When we support organizations like this, we strengthen the safety net for the most vulnerable animals in our community.





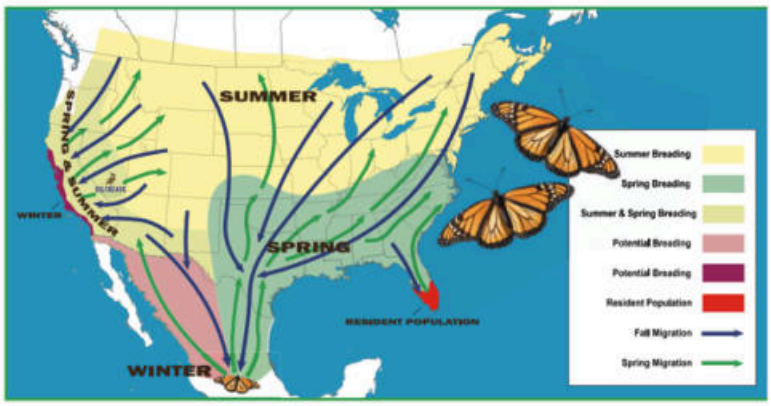




MONARCH BUTTERFLY MIGRATION MAP →

MONARCH BUTTERFLY FACTS

- Their scientific name is *Danaus plexippus*.
- They undergo four life stages: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, and adult.
- Monarch caterpillars feed only on milkweed plants. The plant's toxins make the monarchs distastful or toxic to predators.
- Monarchs play an important role as pollinators for many wildflowers.



THE MONARCH'S JOURNEY

A REMARKABLE MIGRATION AT RISK.

Each fall, millions of monarch butterflies begin one of the most extraordinary migrations on Earth. They travel up to 3,000 miles from the United States and Canada to the mountains of central Mexico. What makes this journey even more remarkable is that no single butterfly complete the full round tip. It takes four generations to finish the cycle. The final generation, often called the "super generation," can live up to eight months and carries the species through the winter before beginning the journey north again.

For centuries, monarchs have followed this same invisible pathway through North America. Scientists believe they navigate using the sun, Earth's magnetic field, and instinct. Clusters of thousands hang together on oyamel fir trees in Mexico, creating a living canopy of orange and black.

But this ancient migration is now at risk. Monarch populations have fallen sharply over the last several decades die to habitat loss, climate change, extreme weather events, and the widespread use of pesticides. The greatest threat is the loss of milkweed, the only plant where monarchs lay their eggs and the only food monarch caterpillars can eat. Without milkweed, there is no next generation.

The encouraging news is that everyday people can

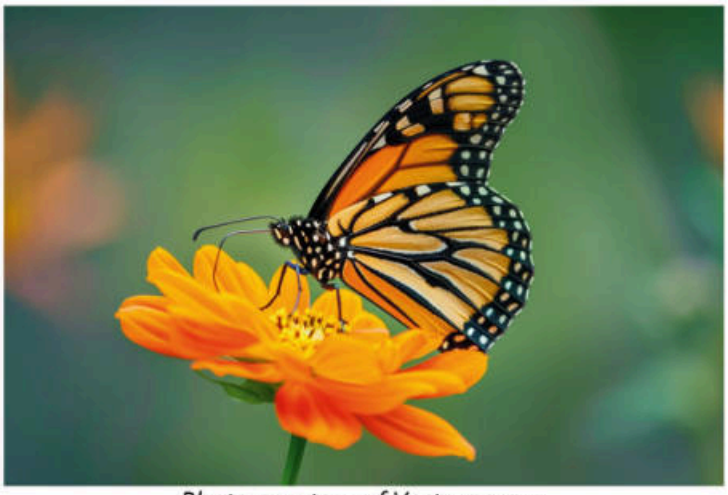


Photo courtesy of Vecteezy.com

make a real difference. Planting native milkweed, creating pollinator gardens, reducing pesticide use, and supporting conservation efforts all help rebuild the stepping stones. Monarchs rely on during their long journey. Even a small backyard garden can become part of continental migration corridor.

Monarchs remind us that conservation is not just about protecting one species. It is about protecting entire ecosystems and the delicate connections that hold them together. When we care for the smallest travelers among us, we strengthen the natural world we all share.

Monarchs migrate through Nevada each spring and fall. Even in the desert, native milkweed and pollinator gardens provide critical fuel along the way. Small actions in Southern Nevada help protect the journey that spans a continent.

NEVER MISS OUR NEWSLETTER!

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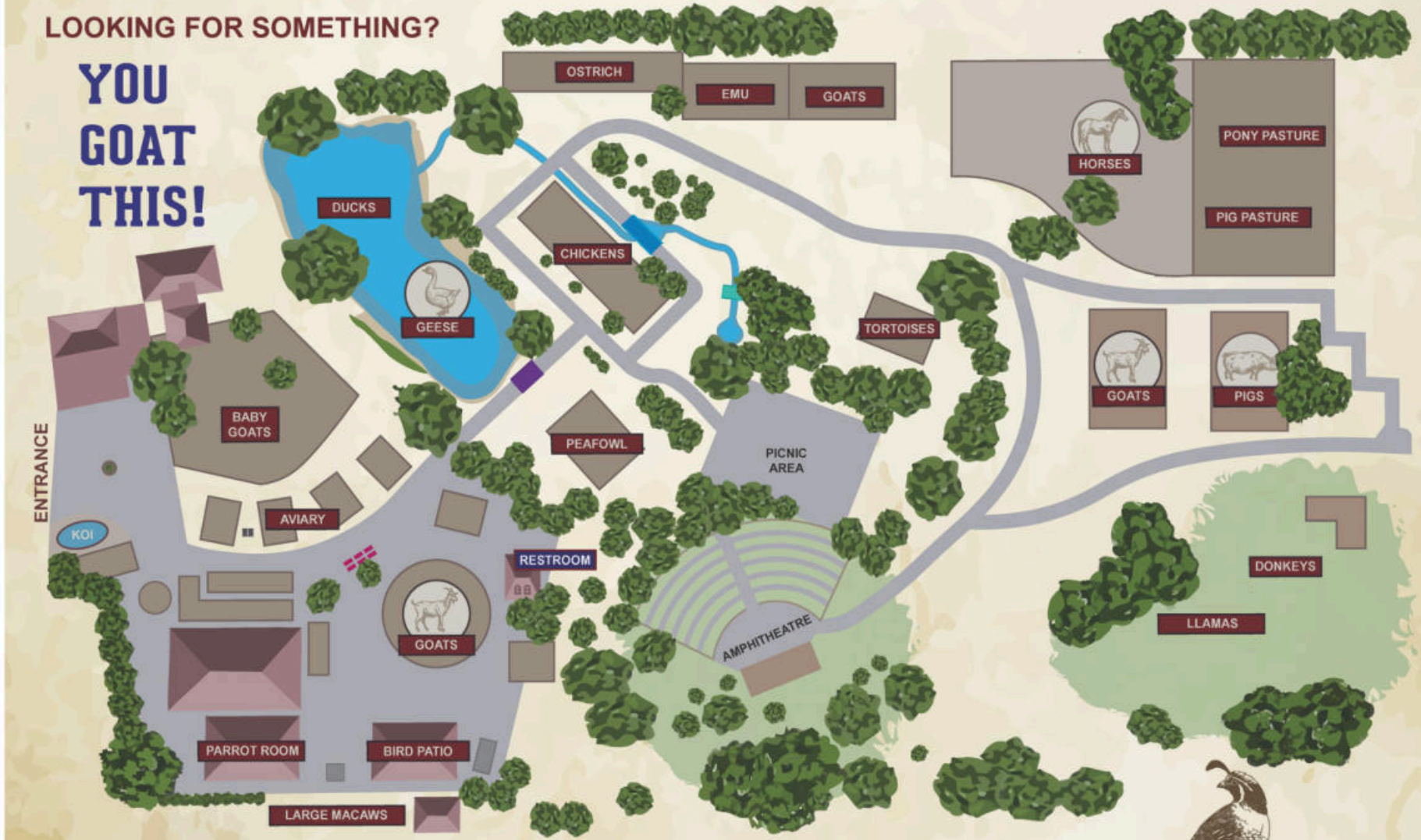


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LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

YOU GOAT THIS!





The historical seven acre property offers a serene home retreat for over 500 exotic birds and domestic animals that have found a refuge when their owners can no longer take care of them.

Sanctuary management and staff are dedicated to the continued awareness of responisble pet adoption. Through onsite classes on animal wellness, presentations, and tours of the facility, citizens are encouraged and taught the serious responsibility of pet ownership.

EST 1979

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MAP 12