GILCREASE
Nature Sanctuary

CONTACT US

ADDRESS
8103 Racel Street
Las Vegas, NV 89131

PHONE
(702) 645-4224

EMAIL
info@gilcrease.community

WEBSITE
www.gilcrease.community

VISITING HOURS

WEDNESDAY – FRIDAY
09:00 AM–3:00 PM

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

VOLUNTEER

Please check our Website for more information.

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@gilcrease.community





A special thank you to Vegas Valley Ironworks for donating these beautiful signs to the sanctuary. We are so grateful.

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

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.

APRIL 2026



Stanley. Big heart, bigger snout..

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

KINDNESS BUILDS THIS PLACE

Dear Friends of the Sanctuary,

Over the past month, I have been reminded again and again how powerful kindness can be. March brought an incredible wave of support to the sanctuary, and it has meant more to us than words can express.

Our koi pond received a beautiful new build, creating a peaceful space that visitors and animals can enjoy. The cactus garden was refreshed and brought back to life. Food donations arrived to help care for our residents. And throughout the month, groups of volunteers showed up ready to work, giving their time and energy to help the sanctuary grow. Watching so many people come forward for the animals was incredibly moving. It reminded me that this sanctuary truly belongs to the community.

Every one of these acts of kindness moves us forward.

Running an animal sanctuary takes an entire community. It takes people who care deeply about animals, conservation, and creating a place where families can connect with nature. When people show up with helping hands and open hearts, incredible things can happen.

Because of this community, we are getting closer to where we need to be. The animals are cared for, the grounds continue to improve, and the vision for the sanctuary keeps growing.

With Earth Day arriving on April 22, it is also a reminder that caring for animals means caring for the planet they call home. Every act of kindness toward nature helps protect the wildlife and habitats that make our world so special.

To everyone who donated, volunteered, shared a kind word, or simply visited and supported us, thank you. Your kindness truly builds this place.

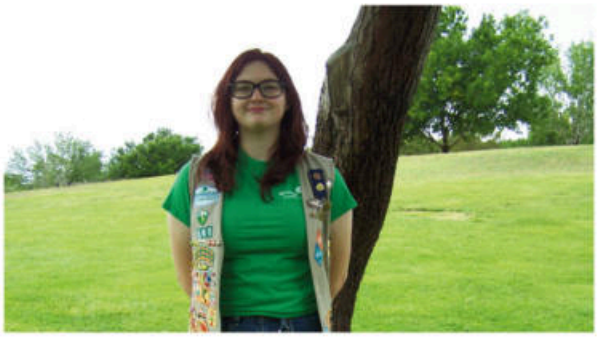
Together, we are creating something special.

With appreciation,

Jennifer Langford
Executive Director

GROWING KINDNESS

A GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD PROJECT BRINGS NEW LIFE TO THE SANCTUARY GARDEN





As part of her Girl Scout Gold Award project, Emery Massey of Troop #561 made meaningful improvements to the existing gardens at Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary. She planted a variety of vegetables and flowers for the animals, installed an irrigation system to support long-term growth, and refreshed the space by painting the garden boxes.

Her work has helped bring new life to the garden and will continue to benefit the animals every day. We are so grateful for her dedication and the care she put into this project.

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04 PROTECTORS OF TULE SPRINGS

Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary

APR 11

NEVADA FOSSIL DAY

Join **Protectors of Tule Springs** at IAFSP for a morning of history and creativity starting at 9:00 a.m. We'll be hosting our annual Paleontology Art Contest gallery and award ceremony.

APR 18

TUSK AT JUNIOR RANGER DAY

Join **TUSK at Junior Ranger Day Time:** 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Location:** Aliante & Grand Teton (TUSK) **Highlight:** Kids of all ages can get sworn in as Jr. Rangers and get to meet our volunteer mounted horse patrol horses. Free for all!

MAY 3

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EXPO

Location: World Market Center. FREE full-day of one-of-a-kind science and technology experiences and engaging science-themed interactive booths and entertainment.

SPRING INTO ADVENTURE:
Explore Las Vegas' Backyard

Spring has sprung! While most of the country is reaching for umbrellas, we know that here in the desert, just a couple of spring showers will bring May flowers. It is the perfect time to gather family and explore the incredible landscapes right here in the Las Vegas valley.

Looking for a recommendation? The **Protectors of Tule Springs (POTS)** – The dedicated friends 501(c)(3) non-profit organization for Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument (TUSK) and Ice Age Fossils State Park (IAFSP) – would love to share some fantastic spots for you to check out this season:



Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument courtesy of Bruce Loeffler, lifetime member of POTS.

- **The Durango Loop Trail (TUSK):** This is a local favorite. Simply drive north on Durango Drive until the road dead-ends, them follow the signs for a scenic and easy hike. Entry is free.
- **Trench K (IAFSP):** Take a walk through history! Hike down to Trench K, one of the original excavation sites from the Famous "Big Dig" of the 1960s. $3 entrance fee.
- Both Parks offer **guided hikes** and many more activities. Please check out their websites https://parks.nv.gov/parks/ice-age-fossils and https://www.nps.gov/tusk/index.htm.
- Groundbreaking for the Eglington Tufa Tail began in July 2025, and our team is thrilled to see this addition to TUSK.

Safety First: Please keep an eye on the sky. Spring showers can pop up quickly, and flooding is a real possibility in our parks. Always remain aware of your surroundings so everyone stays safe and dry!

To learn more about becoming a member or volunteering for wither park or protectors, please visit our website protectors, please visit our website protectorsoftulesprings.org.

This page highlights the incredible partners who help connect our sanctuary to the wider world of conservation, education, and community.



PORKY

BRAINS, SNOUT, AND SANCTUARY STROLLS

Porky is one of the most intelligent and entertaining residents at Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary. Anyone who spends time with him quickly realizes that pigs are far more intelligent than many people expect.

Porky is curious, expressive, and always interested in what is happening around him. One of his favorite activities is going for walks around the sanctuary, where he happily explores and greets the people he meets along the way.

His best friend is Olive the pony, and the two can often be found spending time near each other. Their friendship reminds us that bonds in the animal world can appear in the most unexpected ways.

Porky reminds us that every animal has a story and a personality of their own. We are grateful to have him as part of the Gilcrease family.

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06 SANCTUARY SMARTIES

Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary

Wolves in the Wild

Unscramble the words.

1. rnetoiasvcon _____
2. eeysgr _____
3. seletoYonlw _____
4. mecsoytse _____
5. rievr _____
6. yrge folw _____
7. eacalbn _____
8. kpac _____
9. tuysraacn _____
10. haaibtt _____
11. nteuar _____
12. sngpri _____

APRIL RIDDLE

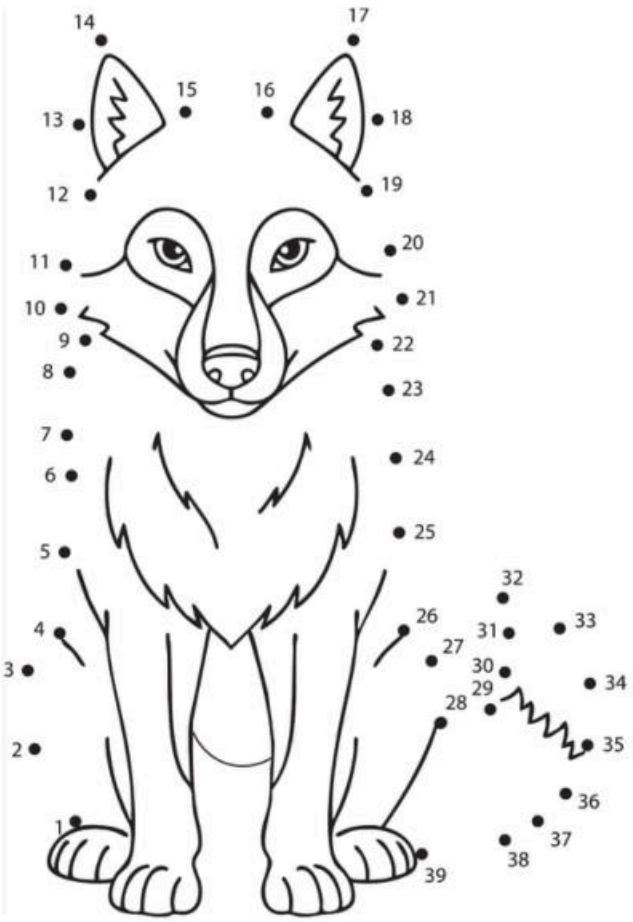
I have strong teeth and a flat wide tail,
I build my home beside a trail.
I work all day, both wet and dry,
Building ponds as time goes by.
What am I?

ANSWER

A Beaver

TRACKS IN THE WILD

Can you uncover who lives in Yellowstone?



FUN ANIMAL FACTS

WILD FACTS FROM YELLOWSTONE

- **Gray Wolf –** Wolves help control elk populations, which allows trees and plants to grown back along the rivers.
- **American Bison –** Bison are the largest land mammals in North America and can run up to 35 miles per hour.
- **Bald Eagle –** Bald Eagles build some of the largest bird nests in the world. Some can weigh over 2000 pounds.
- **River Otter –** River otters can hold their breath underwater for up to 8 minutes while hunting.
- **Elk –** Male elk grow new antlers every year. In the fall, they "bugle" to attract mates.
- **Lodgepole Pine –** Some pinecones in Yellowstone only open after a wildfire. Fire helps the forest renew itself.
- **Grizzly Bears –** Grizzlies can smell food from miles away and dig for roots, insects, and ground squirrels.
- **Beaver –** Beavers build dams that create ponds, which provide homes for fish, birds, and other wildlife.
- **Raven –** Ravens are extremely intelligent and often follow wolves to find leftover food.

MINI CONSERVATION TIP

Support local conservation groups. Even small donations or volunteer hours make a real difference.

Word Scramble Answer Key

Yellowstone
geyser
pack
balance
grey wolf
river
conservation
habitat
sanctuary
ecosystem
nature
spring



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GRAY WOLF OF YELLOWESTONE ON PAGE 10.

08 LABOR OF LOVE

Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary

SERVICE IN ACTION

HELPING HANDS, GROWING IMPACT

A huge thank you to Scout Troop 308 for spending the day helping at Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary. The group rolled up their sleeves and got to work cleaning up the grounds, pulling weeds, and tackling projects that make a big difference behind the scenes.

What stood out just as much as their hard work was their positive attitude and willingness to help wherever needed. It is always inspiring to see young people show up with such dedication and teamwork.

Projects like this may seem simple, but they play an important role in keeping the sanctuary safe, clean, and welcoming for both animals and the people who visit.



Troop 308 volunteering at Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary

Every weed pulled and every area cleaned helps us focus more time and resources on animal care.

We are grateful to have the support of groups like Scout Troop 308, whose willingness to give their time makes a lasting impact. Their efforts remind us that when a community comes together, even a few hours can make a meaningful difference.

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A HOME 4 SPOT ANIMAL RESCUE

SHOPPING WITH PURPOSE.
SAVING LIVES WITH EVERY PURCHASE

Rescue work takes heart. It also takes resources.

A Home 4 Spot Animal Rescue was founded in 2011 by Diane England, whose compassion and dedication have helped save **more than 9000 dogs** across our community. Since opening their doors, they have helped raise **over one million dollars** (and rising) toward medical care for animals who would not have survived otherwise. Many of those dogs required extensive treatments, surgeries, or long-term foster care before they were ready for adoption. That is not small work. That is commitment.

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

SCAN THE QR CODE

To foster!

To volunteer!

VISIT DOG JUNKIES THRIFT STORE

4324 N DECATUR
NORTH LAS VEGAS, NV

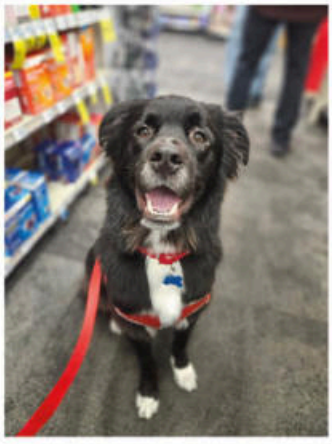
A HOME 4 SPOT
animal rescue

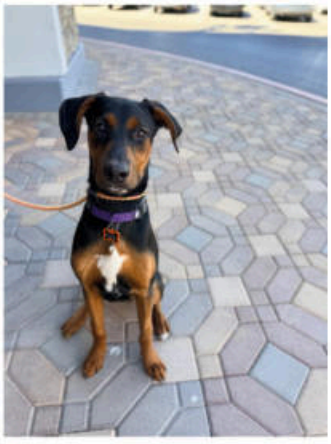
One of the ways they make that possible is through the Dog Junkies Thrift Store in North Las Vegas. Every donated item and every purchase directly supports the dogs in their rescue program and the costs of the supporting the rescue. It turns everyday shopping into something meaningful.

Behind every rack of clothing or shelf of household items is a dog waiting for surgery, training, foster care, or simply time to heal. The thrift store helps bridge the gap.

Like so many rescues right now, they depend on community support to keep going. Donations, shoppers, volunteers, and adopters all make a difference. If you are cleaning out your closet or looking for a great thrift find, consider stopping by Dog Junkies.

Because when we show up for animals in need, we strengthen our entire community.











A CONSERVATION SUCCESS: WOLVES RETURN TO YELLOWSTONE

This month in World Conservation News, we are highlighting a conservation success story. While many wildlife stories focus on species that are struggling, there are also powerful examples of what can happen when conservation efforts work.

One of the most famous examples comes from Yellowstone National Park and the return of the Gray Wolf. Wolves are known as a "**keystone species,**" meaning their presence helps keep an entire **ecosystem** healthy and balanced.

By early 1900s, wolves had been eliminated from Yellowstone. Without their natural predator, elk populations grew large and began overgrazing young trees and plants along rivers and valleys. Over time, this started to change the landscape.

In 1995, wolves were introduced to the park, and the results were immediate. Their return changed how elk moved. The elk began avoiding open river valleys where they were easily hunted. This shift allowed over grazed trees like willow and aspen to finally grow tall again. As the trees returned, so did the wildlife. Birds, beavers, and many other animals found new homes in the recovering habitat.

This chain reaction is known as a **trophic cascade,** the presence of a top predator helps restore balance across an ecosystem.



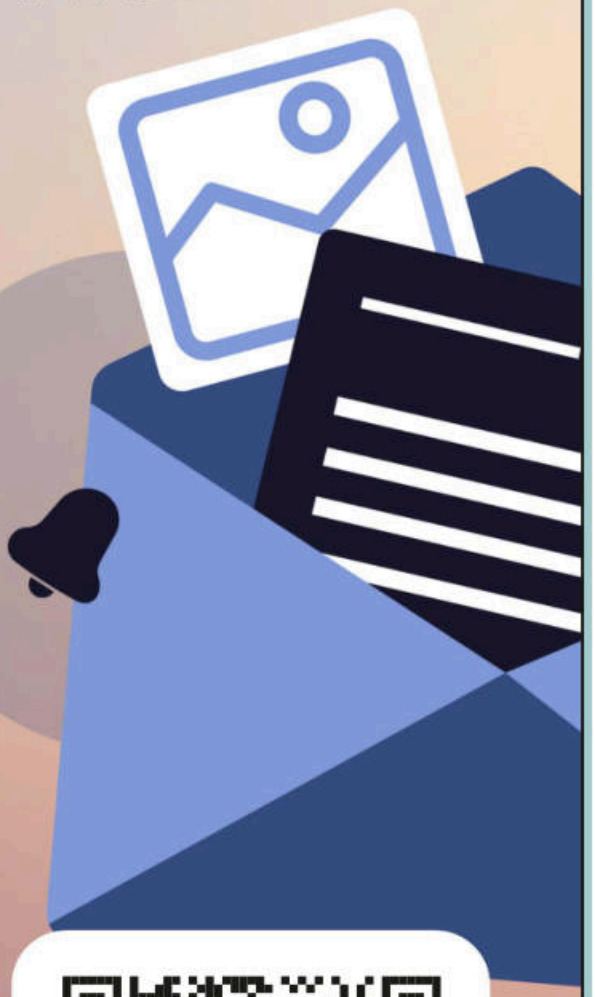
As trees and native plants along rivers began to grow again, the landscape itself started to heal. Their roots helped stabilize riverbanks, reducing erosion and creating better habitats for fish, birds, and many other species. Scientists were amazed to see how the return of a single predator could help restore balance across an entire ecosystem.

Today, the return of wolves to Yellowstone is considered one of the most successful wildlife restoration projects in the world. It reminds us that every species plays an important role in nature.

Most importantly, it shows that conservation works when people work together to protect wildlife and preserve our natural world.

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LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?
YOU GOAT THIS!
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EMU
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HORSES
PONY PASTURE
PIG PASTURE
DUCKS
CHICKENS
GEESE
TORTOISES
GOATS
PIGS
BABY GOATS
PEAFOWL
PICNIC AREA
ENTRANCE
KOI
AVIARY
RESTROOM
GOATS
AMPHITHEATRE
DONKEYS
LLAMAS
PARROT ROOM
BIRD PATIO
LARGE MACAWS
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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