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

OFFICE HOURS

WEDNESDAY - FRADAY
9:00 AM–3:00 PM

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

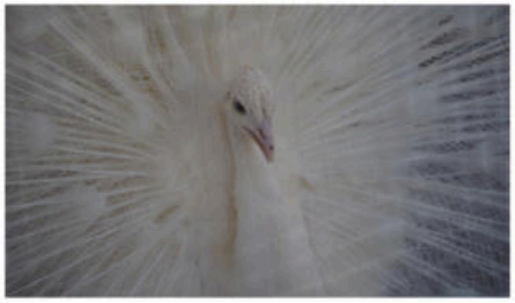
VOLUNTEER

Please check our Website for more information.

FOLLOW US

gilcrease.community
@gilcrease.community





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.

MAY 2026



The best part of this work is moments like this.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Oscar Gilcrease
Founder

Bill Townsend
President

Dr. Christopher Smith
Treasurer

Kristina Miller
Secretary

Jeff Richards

Madison Weingardt

James Thompson

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

GROWING WITH PURPOSE

As we move into May, I find myself reflecting on how far Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary has come, and where we are headed next.

Did you know the city of Las Vegas designated Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary as a zoo in 2017?

For many years, we have quietly cared for animals in need. Rescues. Surrenders. Animals that have nowhere else to go. That will always be at the heart of who we are. It is a promise we will never walk away from.

But something important is happening.

We are growing into the role our community needs us to fill.

We are leaning into conservation in a deeper and more intentional way. Every animal here has a story, and those stories matter. They are not just about rescue, but about understanding the challenges animals face in the wild, both here and around the world, and how we as a community can be part of the solution.

We are expanding our commitment to education.

This month, we continue to develop the Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary Classroom series, a program designed to bring real, meaningful wildlife education into homes and classrooms. These lessons are built on the spark of curiosity, encourage critical thinking, and help the next generation understand their connection to the natural world.

Alongside this, our blog continues to grow as a place where we can dive deeper into the topics we care about. It allows us to share knowledge, explore important questions, and connect our community to the bigger picture of conservation in a more personal and accessible way.

Every step forward is built on the care, compassion, and dedication that define Gilcrease. Thank you for growing with us, believing in this mission, and helping us build something that will serve both animals and our community for generations to come.

This sanctuary belongs to our community. Whether you visit, volunteer, or simply share our story, you are helping protect the future of animals.

With gratitude,

Jennifer Langford
Executive Director

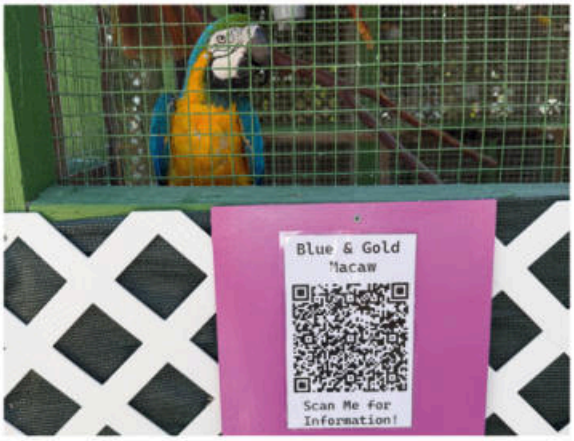
SCAN, LEARN, CONNECT

A SIMPLE PROJECT IS HELPING GUESTS EXPERIENCE OUR ANIMALS IN A WHOLE NEW WAY



Mackenzie Charlton, a member of Troop 561, recently completed a project at the sanctuary that is already making a difference for our guests.

She created QR codes for several of our animals, allowing visitors to quickly access information and learn more about each species right from their phones. It is a simple idea with a big impact, helping us share education in a way that is accessible and engaging.



Mackenzie is now attending the University of Nevada, Reno, where she is studying Graphic Design, and her project reflects exactly that blend of creativity and purpose.

We are grateful for the time and thought she put into helping us grow.

Advertise in Our Newsletter!
Contact Anthony Osmun
aosmun@4lpi.com
(800) 950-9952 x8557

Piggy Tails
PET SPA & MORE
7540 Oso Blanca Rd Suite 120 Las Vegas (702)-473-5409
(Grooming Only)
7501 N Cimarron Road Suite 112 Las Vegas (702)-333-4309
(Grooming & Pet Supplies)
604 Aquatics
Fresh and Saltwater Fish & Supplies!
7501 N Cimarron Road Suite 112 • 702-604-1702

Support Our Advertisers!

Loving Care For Your Infant
Located in Skye Canyon
• 38 Years Experience
• Special Dietary Needs Accommodated
• Scent-Free, Hypo-Allergenic Home
• CPR Trained
• Fingerprinted & Background Checked
• No Social Media for the security of your family
Courtney Singer
Nuturing Care In My Home
Call 702-476-8624 - Landline

We're Hiring Ad Sales Executives
• Paid Training
• Full-time with Benefits
Visit www.lpicommunities.com/careers

04 PROTECTORS OF TULE SPRINGS

Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary

MAY 02

SCIENCE & 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.

MAY 12

POTS GENERAL MEETING

Location: Sun City Aliante **Time:** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Special Guest Dr. Aubrey Bonde will join us to share information about the inaugural NPS paleontology field camp held earlier this year

MAY 23

PROTECTORS OF TULE SPRINGS HIKE DAY

Location: Aliante Kiosk (N Aliante and Moonlight Falls Intersection. **Time:** 8:00 AM. The free guided hike will be 1.5 miles. Please bring water, good walking shoes and sun protection. This hike is for adults only. Please RSVP to Sandyc@protectorsoftulesprings.org

PROTECTING LIFE BENEATH OUR FEET: BEARPOPPY

While the desert may seem an unlikely canvas for floral displays, Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument (TUSK) and Ice Age Fossils State Park (IAFSP) host a diverse array of native flora that defy common misconceptions about desert landscapes. Notably, the Las Vegas Bearpoppy has seen a significant resurgence. This population increase is directly attributed to successful conservation efforts, including restricted vehicle access and managed recreation, which have preserved the delicate soil crusts necessary for their survival.

Both TUSK and IAFSP offer a variety of scenic hiking trails where visitors can discover the rare Las Vegas Bearpoppy and a vibrant array of seasonal desert wildflowers. To stay updated on guided hikes and seasonal activities, we encourage you to visit their official websites:

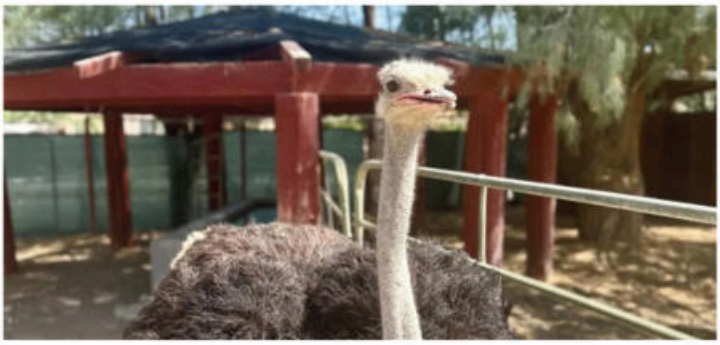
- TUSK: nps.gov/tusk
- IAFSP: parks.nv.gov/parks/ice-age-fossils

Protectors of Tule Springs, the non-profit philanthropic partner for both parks, is actively seeking passionate volunteers. Whether you are interested in leading interpretive hikes, engaging with visitors, providing educational outreach in local schools/events, or many other volunteer opportunities, we want you! Additionally, we are currently accepting applications for our Board of Directors. To learn more about how you can support these prehistoric landscapes, please visit us at protectorsoftulesprings.org.



Photo of Las Vegas Bearpoppy is courtesy of Sandy Croteau, Founding Member of Protectors of Tule Springs

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



ANDREW

STANDING TALL AT GILCREASE

At first glance, ostriches can seem a little intimidating. They are the largest birds in the world, built for speed and survival. But Andrew quickly shows a different side to those we take the time to watch him.

He is curious, aware of his surrounding, and always paying attention to what is happening around him. Like many of the animals at Gilcrease, Andrew has his own personality., his own preferences and his own way of interacting wit the world. His favorite treat is romaine lettuce, and he never seems to miss when it is time for a snack.

Ostriches are incredible animals. They can run at speeds up to 43 miles per hour and use their powerful legs as their primary defense. They are highly adapted to life in open environments and rely on awareness and speed to stay safe.

He is just one of the many residents who call Gilcrease home, and one of the many reasons this work matters.

Support Our Advertisers!

Made you look.

Advertise here to reach your local audience.

Scan to get started!

Visit lpicommunities.com/advertising-solutions

WE APPRECIATE OUR ADVERTISERS

They allow us to print this newsletter. Thank you!



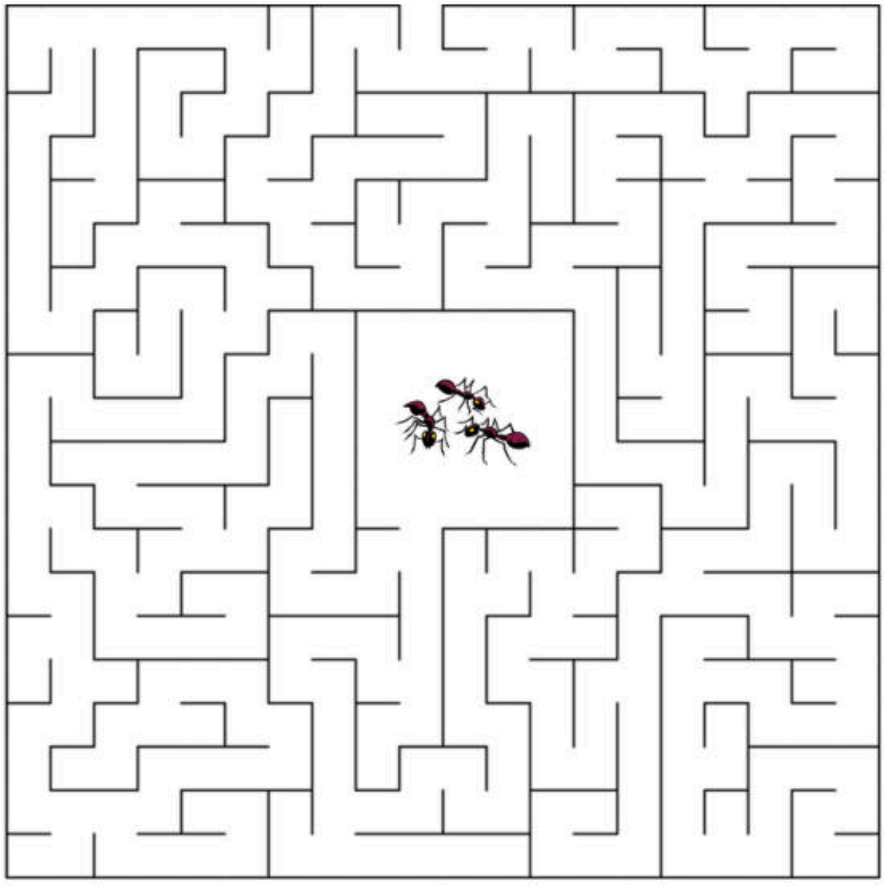
For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.lpicommunities.com

06 SANCTUARY SMARTIES

Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary

HELP THE PANGOLIN FIND THE ANTS!





FUN FACTS!

- Pangolins live in Africa and Asia
- They eat ants and termites
- Pangolins use long, sticky tongues to catch insects
- Their scales are made of keratin the same material as our nails
- When they feel scared, they curl into a ball
- Pangolins do not have teeth
- They use strong claws to dig into ant and termite mounds
- A group of pangolins is called a "congregation"
- Baby pangolins ride on their mother's tail
- Pangolins have a very good sense of smell
- They are mostly active at night
- Pangolins are the most trafficked animal in the world, which means they need our help

TRUE OR FALSE?

Can you tell which are true or false?
Circle you answer.

1. Pangolins are reptiles **True / False**
2. Pangolins have scales made of keratin **True / False**
3. Pangolins eat insects **True / False**
4. Pangolins can roll into a ball **True / False**
5. Pangolins are not at risk **True / False**

MAY RIDDLE

We are small but very strong.
We work together all day long.
Pangolins love to eat us for a treat.
What are we?

ANSWER:

Ants

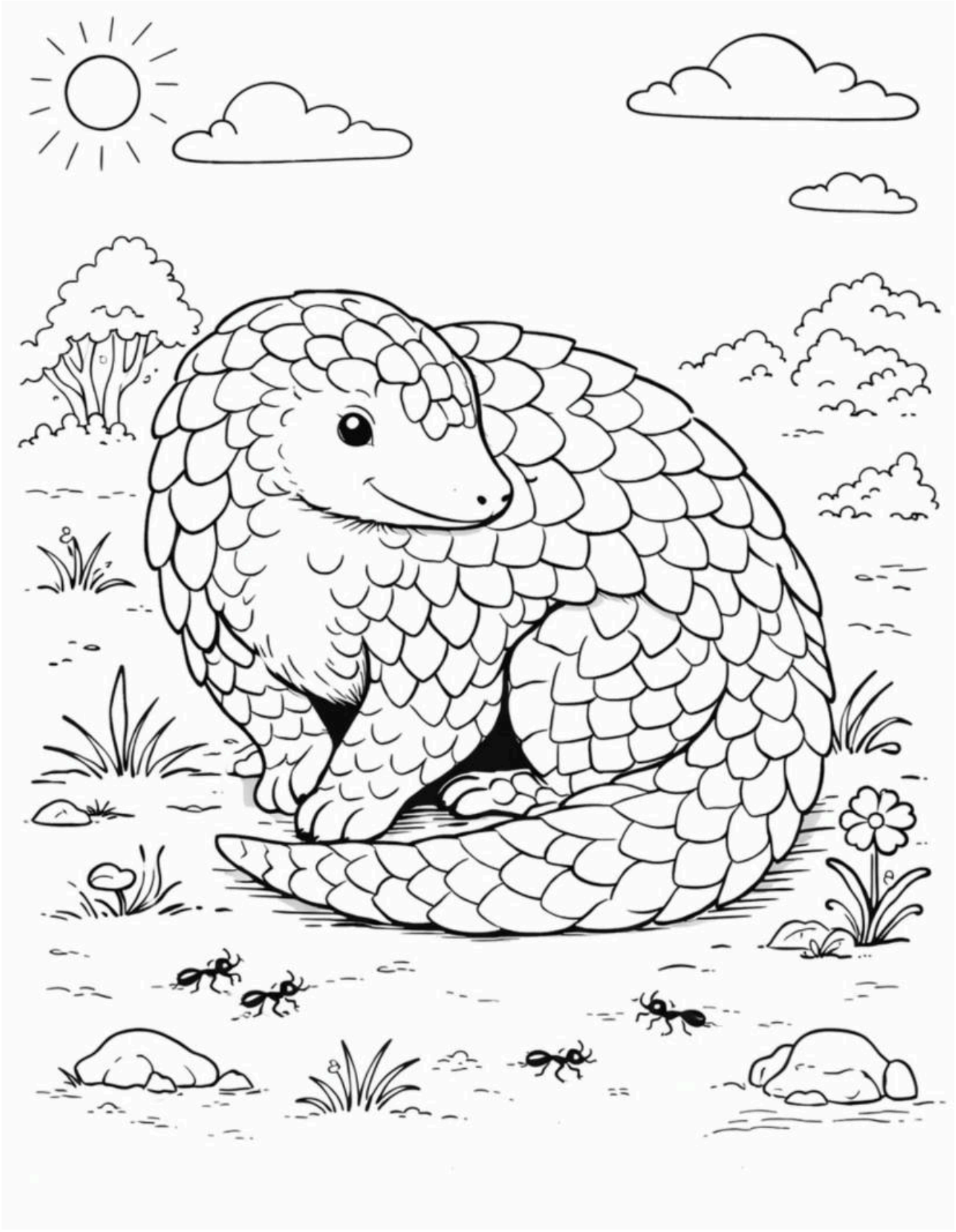
MINI CONSERVATION TIP:

You can be a voice for pangolins! Sharing what you have learned with one friend or family member helps spread awareness. Most people do not even know these 'scaly exterminators' exist!

ANSWERS TO TRUE OR FALSE

Check you answers!

1. False – Pangolins are mammals
2. True 3. True 4.. True
5. False – They are at risk.



LEARN MORE ABOUT PANGOLINS ON PAGE 10.

ROOTED IN KINDNESS

POWERED BY VOLUNTEERS OF VEGAS

This Earth Day, we were reminded that meaningful change often begins with simple acts of kindness.

We were honored to welcome 57 incredible volunteers from **Volunteers of Vegas**, to the sanctuary. Together, they rolled up their sleeves and got to work planting vegetables and flowers in our garden beds, helping us create a space that will nourish both our animals and our mission. They also spent time cleaning and caring for the property, making a lasting impact in just a couple of hours.

What stood out most was not just the work that was accomplished, but the spirit behind it. Every person who came out brought positivity, compassion, and a genuine desire to make a difference.



Volunteers of Vegas team on Earth Day at the sanctuary

The garden they planted will continue to grow, and so will the impact of their kindness.

We are truly grateful for this partnership and the reminder that when a community comes together, beautiful things happen.

Reach Our Digital Subscribers

This publication is online and emailed to our community. Drive more traffic to your website with a digital ad on **MyCommunityOnline.com**

Get started today! Visit
www.lpicommunities.com/advertising-solutions



BOOKED FOR SUCCESS: 25 YEARS OF IMPACT

Spread The Word Nevada marks a milestone, celebrating 25 years of advancing childhood literacy across the state. Founded in 2001 by Laurie Hartig, a school librarian at the time who began collecting used books from her home and encouraging her friends to do the same, Spread The Word has grown into the state's leading statewide literacy nonprofit. Over the course of 25 years, the organization has distributed 8.4 million books, serves 81 elementary schools across Nevada and provides 70,000 books each month.

"Reaching 25 years is a powerful reflection of how far Spread the Word Nevada has come and the collective commitment of our partners, educators, and supporters," said Lisa Habighorst, CEO and Co-Founder of STWN. "What began as a small effort has grown into a statewide organization that continues to build on our belief that access to books change lives and open doors for children one book at a time."

To support its mission throughout this milestone year, Spread The Word is hosting a 25th Anniversary Virtual Book Drive, encouraging individuals, donors, and community partners to contribute throughout 2026. With each $25 donation providing one child in need with a home library, the Book Drive aims to fund 2500 home libraries, totaling $62,500 in support of advancing literary across the Silver State.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO HELP

WEBSITE

VIRTUAL BOOK DRIVE

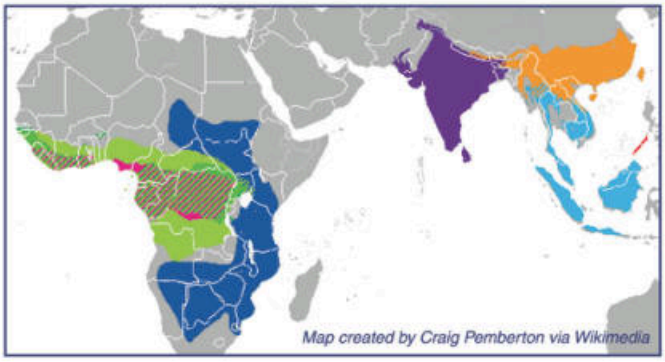
SPREAD THE WORD NEVADA

Recently, Spread the Word Nevada created a delightful video for their 23rd Annual Storybook Gala, featuring Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary's very own Ray Ray the Cockatoo. in the video, a family participating in STWN's birth-to-five literacy program shares the joy of reading aloud, bringing a pirate-themed story to life for Ray Ray. Early literacy experiences like these are critical. Children who are read to from birth are more likely to develop strong reading skills, setting them up for success in school and beyond. Programs like this allow STWN to make a meaningful impact on our community.



Ray Ray enjoying storytime with the Caba family. Together, we are helping build a brighter future for the next generation.





The map to the left shows the habit range of Pangolins in Asia and Africa. There are 8 species in total, 4 in Asia and 4 in Africa. They range in size from from 30 to 100 cm (12 to 39 in).

- **Indian pangolin** *(Manis crassicaudata)*
- **Chinese pangolin** *(Manis pentadactyla)*
- **Sunda pangolin** *(Manis javanica)*
- **Philippine pangolin** *(Manis culionensis)*
- **Tree pangolin** *(Phataginus tricuspis)*
- **Long-tailed pangolin** *(Phataginus tetradactyla)*
- **Giant pangolin** *(Smutsia gigantea)*
- **Ground pangolin** *(Smutsia temmenickii)*

THE PANGOLIN

THE MOST MISUNDERSTOOD MAMMAL

When people first see a pangolin, they often do a double take.

Is it a reptile? A dinosaur? Some kind of armadillo?

It is easy to see why.

Pangolins are covered in scales and move slowly and quietly, almost like they belong to another time, and curl into a tight ball when they feel threatened.

They are mammals.

That means they are warm-blooded and have hair (yes, even if it is sparse), and mothers nurse their babies. In fact, baby pangolins will often ride on their mother's tail as she walks in the night. It is one of the sweetest sights in the animal world. Despite this, pangolins are the most trafficked mammals in the world.

So why do they look like reptiles?

Those scales are the biggest source of confusion.

Pangolin scales are made of keratin, the same material as our fingernails and hair. They are not like reptile scales at all. Instead, they act as armor. When a pangolin is threatened, it rolls into a tight ball, protecting its soft underside. Even large predators have a hard time getting past that defense.

Nature did not make a reptile. It made a mammal with built-in armor.



The hidden heroes of their ecosystem

Pangolins play a critical role in keeping ecosystems balanced.

By eating massive amounts of ants and termites, they help:

- Prevent insect populations from exploding
- Protect trees and vegetation from damage
- Maintain healthy soil systems

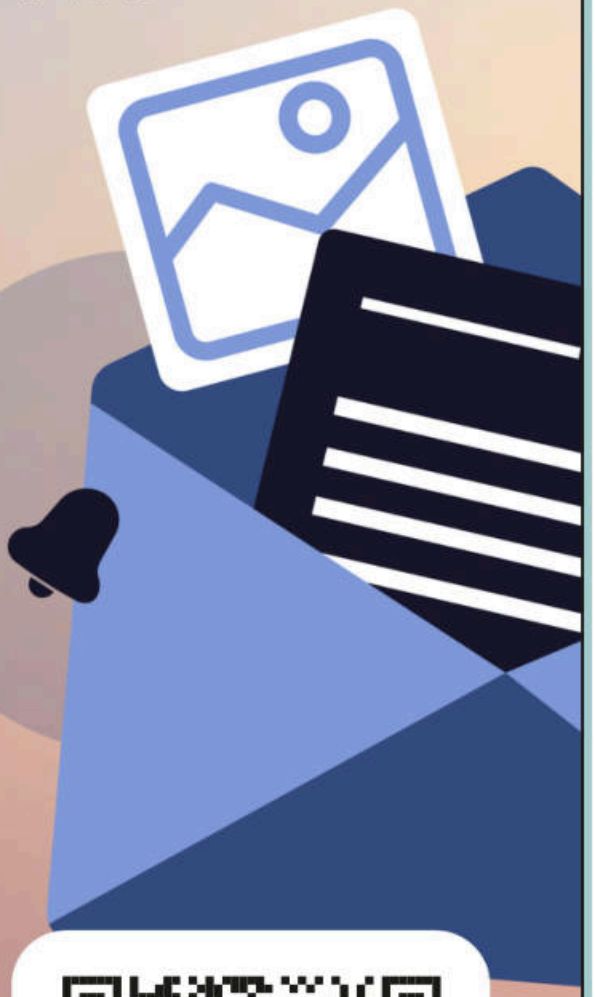
In many ways, pangolins are nature's pest control.

Without them, termite populations can grow rapidly, which can damage forests and even impact human structures. Their digging also helps aerate the soil, which supports plant growth and overall ecosystem health.

To learn more about these incredible animals and the challenges they face, visit our blog at gilcrease.community.

Never miss our publication!

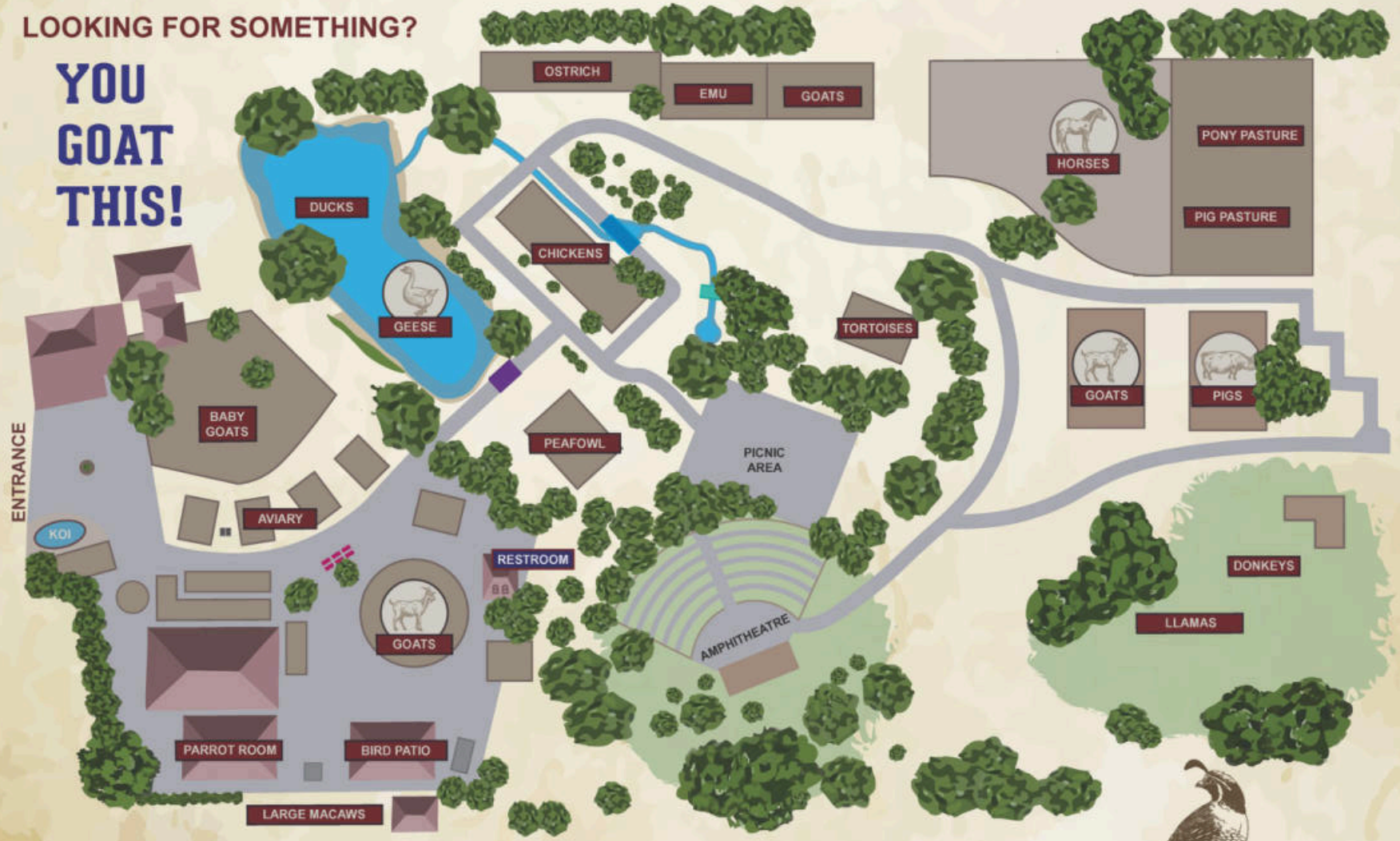
Get each new issue delivered straight to your inbox.



Scan to subscribe on MyCommunityOnline.com

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

GILCREASE

Nature Sanctuary

LAS VEGAS, NV