GILCREASE
Nature Sanctuary

CONTACT US

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Las Vegas, NV 89131

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EMAIL
info@gilcrease.community

WEBSITE
www.gilcrease.community

OFFICE HOURS

WEDNESDAY–FRIDAY
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.

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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.

JUNE 2026

Inspiring Conservation through Compassion and Education

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JUNE MUSINGS
"THE WALLABY WAY"

As we welcome wallabies to Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary this summer, I have found myself thinking about curiosity and the important role it plays in conservation.

For many guests, this may be the very first time they have ever seen a wallaby in person. Children will stop and stare. Adults will ask questions. People will smile, laugh, and lean in to learn more. And honestly, that moment of curiosity matters more than most people realize.

Real conservation does not always begin in the wild. Sometimes it begins with a simple connection between a person and an animal.

At the sanctuary, we believe conservation starts with compassion, kindness, and education. When people feel connected to animals, they begin to care about the challenges wildlife face around the world. Curiosity opens the door to learning, and learning often leads to action.

That is part of what "The Wallaby Way" means to us.

It means creating opportunities for people to slow down, ask questions, and reconnect with the natural world. It means inspiring future conservationists through experiences they will remember long after they leave the sanctuary. It means reminding people that even small moments of wonder can grow into something meaningful.

Wallabies are gentle, unique animals that naturally spark curiosity. This curiosity helps us educate our community about wildlife, habitats, and conservation across the globe.

At Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary, we are continuing to grow not only as a rescue and sanctuary, but also as a place of learning and inspiration. Every animal has a story to tell, and every visitor has the opportunity to leave with a greater apprectiation for the world around them.

Thank you for continuing to support our mission and helping us build a future where compassion for animals and conservation go hand in hand.

With gratitude,
Jennifer Langford
Executive Director

FROM EAGLE SCOUT TO U.S. NAVY

NOAH SEALE RETURNS TO VISIT THE SANCTUARY

Last month we were so happy to welcome back former Eagle Scout Noah Seale from Troop 678.

Noah completed a wonderful project for Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary by building a much-needed tortoise enclosure, and it was incredibly special to see him return to visit us. He is now serving in the United States Navy and is stationed in San Diego.

Watching young people grow into leaders and continue giving back to their communities is one of the most meaningful parts of our mission. We are very proud of Noah and grateful he will always be a part of the Gilcrease family. The tortoise enclosure Noah built continues to serve as a lasting part of the sanctuary.





Top: Building a new home for our tortoises in 2024
Bottom: Two years later, Noah's visit to the sanctuary.

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04 PROTECTORS OF TULE SPRINGS

Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary

JUN 06

Q-TIP SKELETONS PROGRAM

Location: Ice Age Fossils State Park | **Time:** 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM. Create your own animals from the Ice Age.

JUN 07

SUNRISE GUIDED HIKE: LAS VEGAS WASH TRAIL

Time: 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM. For more information and to register please go to **https://parks.nv.gov/events/sunrise-hike-las-vegas-wash-trail-2**

JUN 07

AFTER-HOURS NIGHT HIKE

Location: Ice Age Fossils State Park | **Time:** 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM. Self -guided. Please register at **https://parks.nv.gov/events/night-hike-19**

JUN 21

MINECRAFT ROCKS POP-UP SCIENCE

Location: Ice Age Fossils State Park | **Time:** 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. Chat with a ranger about rocks in Minecraft vs rocks in real life.

STEWARTSHIP IN THE DESERT

HELPING PRESERVE WILDLIFE, FOSSILS, AND NATURAL SPACES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

The Protectors of Tule Springs, the non-profit philanthropic group, are dedicated to ensuring that both Ice Age Fossils State Park and Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument remain accessible and enjoyable for everyone, even as the summer heat begins to rise.

Respect Local Wildlife

Recent visitors have been delighted by frequent desert tortoise sightings across the park lands. While observing these incredible creatures is a highlight of any visit, please prioritize their safety and your own:

- Maintain Distance: Always observe wildlife from a safe, respectful distance.
- Do Not Approach: Never attempt to touch, feed, or move animals.
- Pack Out Trash: Even small pieces of litter can harm animals and damage habitats.
- Keep Noise Low: Loud sounds can stress wildlife and disrupt natural behaviors.

Become an "I am a Protector" Volunteer

We are actively seeking community members to join our "I am a Protector" program. This initiative relies on dedicated volunteers to act as the eyes and the ears of our parks.

By participating, you help us preserve these historic landscapes by reporting any items of concern or maintenance needs you encounter during your visits.

Interested in joining or learning more?

Please reach out to Sandy at sandyc@protectorsoftulesprings.org to sign up and help us safeguard these national treasures.

If you'd like to explore more ways to support our mission, please visit our website at Protectorsoftulesprings.org.

OUR MISSION

Protecting, preserving, supporting and promoting responsible stewartship of Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument and Ice Age Fossils State Park.

THE WALLABY WAY

MEET JACKIE



Jackie has quickly become a favorite among staff and visitors at Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary thanks to her gentle personality and sweet nature. She loves attention, gentle pets, and exploring her habitat.

One of Jackie's favorite treats is fresh mulberry leaves, which she eagerly looks for during enrichment time. Her daily diet includes Timothy Hay and specialized wallaby pellets to help keep her healthy and thriving.

Like many wallabies, Jackie is most comfortable in calm environments where she can feel relaxed. Building trust with animals like Jackie takes patience, consistency, and kindness, and her affectionate personality is a wonderful reminder of the bonds that form through compassionate care.

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06 SANCTUARY SMARTIES

Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary

Krazy for Kākāpōs!

Y F R W P N G G U O F B M V S
Y Q D C E A C S I M L T O C O
Y Q N F L N R V L W I D S A P
N W P E E I D R Z H G V S W I
F M L A W R M A O B H X G Y W
G X C T D Z K B N T T A V F I
D F P H P G E O K G L S L W S
D W O E X L L A L H E Z F M L
I R J R U S I K L P S R M E A
Y D I S E N X X P A S A E F N
W T Y X R S K T Y E N N C D D
T I T Y W W T L O F C D B T O
R S L C A M O U F L A G E F Z
J F C O N S E R V A T I O N U
E N O C T U R N A L U B C H W

conservation	New Zealand	flightless
camouflage	parrot	endangered
forest	nocturnal	climb
feathers	island	moss



CONSERVATION PLEDGE:

I can help protect forests by _____

_____

_____

_____

MINI CONSERVATION TIP

Protect Forest Homes

Forests are home to countless species, including rare parrots like the kākāpō. Protecting habitats helps wildlife survive for future generations.

JUNE RIDDLE

QUESTION

I am the tallest bird you may ever see.
Even though I have wings, running is best for me!
What am I?

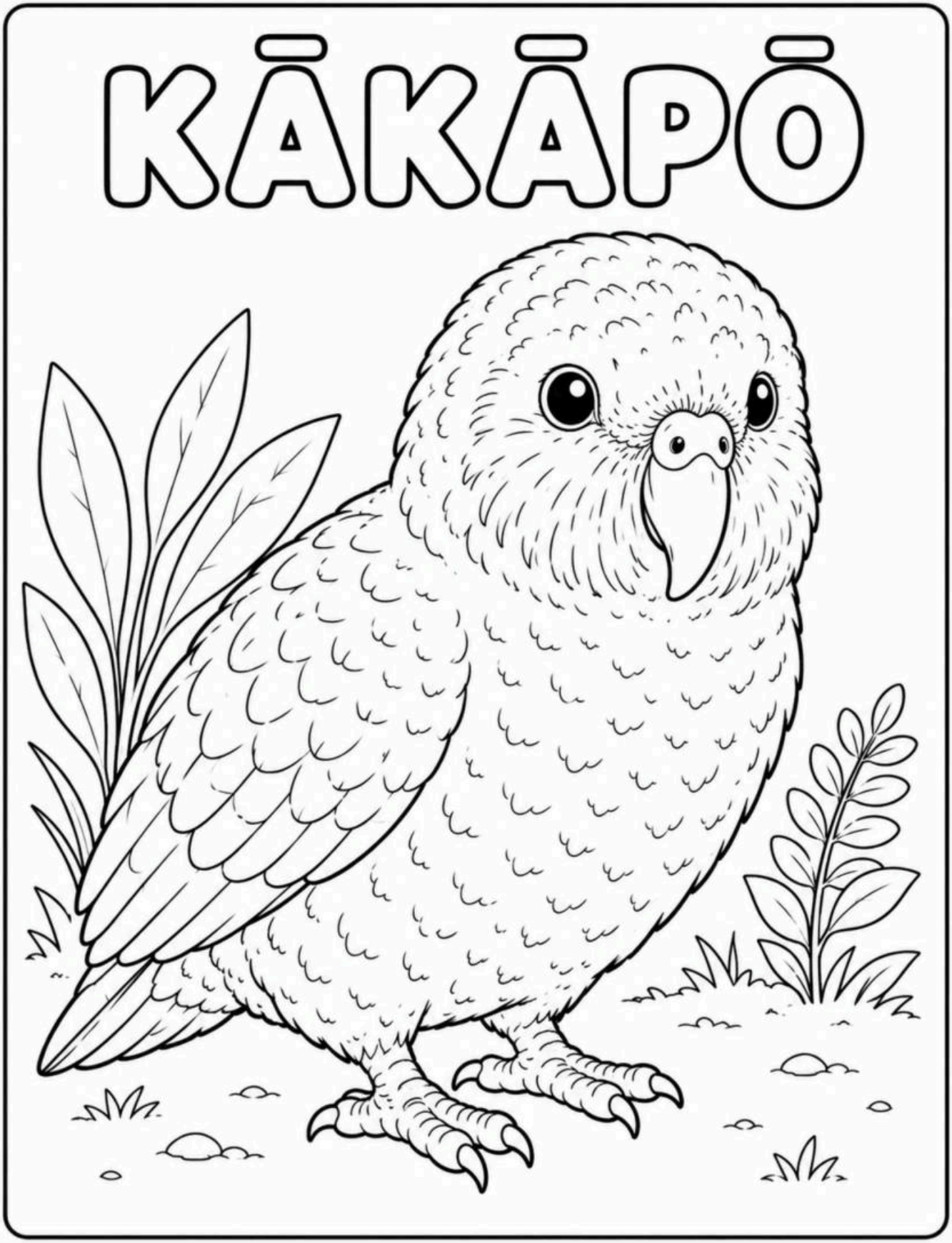
ANSWER

An ostrich

FUN FACTS!

- **The kākāpō is the world's only flightless parrot.**
- **Kākāpō are also one of the heaviest parrots on Earth.**
- **They are nocturnal, which means they are most active at night.**
- **A kākāpō can live for 60 years or more.**
- **These parrots have a sweet, musky smell that some people describe as floral or honey-like.**
- **Instead of flying, kākāpōs make deep booming sounds during breeding season that can travel for miles.**
- **Every kākāpō has a name, and conservation teams closely monitor each bird.**
- **Kākāpō chicks are raised with incredible care because there are so few left in the world.**
- **Their green and black feathers help them blend into the forest like moss.**
- **They evolved in New Zealand where there were once few land predators.**

KĀKĀPŌ



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE KĀKĀPŌ ON PAGE 10.

EVERY SANCTUARY NEEDS A HERO

CELEBRATING A LONGTERM VOLUNTEER

With a name like "Sue Powers," you might expect a superhero, and honestly, that description is not far off.

For nearly a decade, Sue has been one of the sanctuary's most dedicated volunteers. From mowing the amphitheater lawn to helping clean up after animals and assisting with animal walks, Sue continuously gives her time and energy to help keep the sanctuary running smoothly.

What makes Sue truly special is her kindness. She brings compassion, positivity, and a genuine love for the animals into everything she does. Whether tackling tough jobs behind the scenes or simply offering support when it's needed most, Sue is always there with a helping hand and a caring heart.

Volunteers like Sue are quiet heroes of the sanctuary, and we are incredibly grateful for all she has done over the years. Thank you, Sue, for being such an important part of the Gilcrease family. We are proud to recognize you as our June Volunteer of the Month.



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THE NEON MUSEUM

LIGHTS OF THE PAST, STORIES FOR THE FUTURE

Las Vegas is known around the world for its bright lights, bold signs, and unforgettable history. While many of the city's classic landmarks have disappeared over the years, The Neon Museum works to ensure that the stories behind them are not lost.

This month, we are proud to highlight the Neon Museum, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and restoring the iconic signs that helped shape the identity of Las Vegas. Their collection serves as a living timeline of the city's history, showcasing pieces from famous casinos, businesses, and attractions that once lit up the valley.

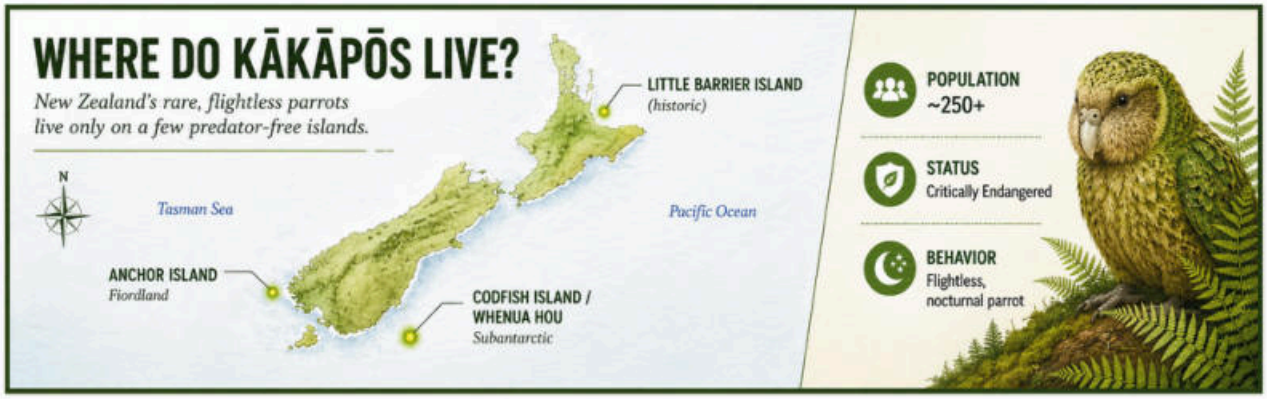
What makes the Neon Museum especially unique is that it offers much more than a walk among vintage signs. The museum focuses heavily on storytelling and education, helping visitors understand the people, innovation. and culture behind the neon glow. During a recent tour, museum guides explained not only the history of the signs, but also how neon lighting works and the craftsmanship involved in creating and maintaining these incredible pieces of art.

Through guided tours, educational programs, restoration projects, and community outreach, the Neon Museum helps visitors of all ages connect with Las Vegas history in an engaging and memorable way. Their passion for preserving the city's past helps future generations experience the creativity and spirit that made Las Vegas famous.

Whether you are a longtime Las Vegas resident or visiting for the first time, the Neon Museum offers a fascinating look into the history, artistry, and storytelling behind the city's most recognizable symbols.







KĀKĀPŌ:

THE PARROT THAT ALMOST DISAPPEARED

The kākāpō is one of the most unusual birds on Earth. Native to New Zealand, it is the world's only flightless parrot and one of the rarest parrots alive today. Instead of soaring through the sky, kākāpō spend their nights climbing trees, walking forest floors, and exploring in the dark.

Unlike most parrots, kākāpō are nocturnal, meaning they sleep during the day and become active at night. They use strong legs and claws to climb, and although they cannot fly, they can glide short distances from trees using their wings for balance.

Kākāpō are also known for having a unique smell. Many people describe their scent as sweet, earthy, or similar to flowers and honey. Scientists believe this natural odor may help the birds recognize one another in New Zealand's dense forests.

For thousands of years, kākāpō lived safely on islands without mammal predators. But when cats, rats, and stoats were introduced to New Zealand, the birds faced serious danger. Because kākāpō cannot fly away from predators, their population dropped dramatically.

Saving the kākāpō has been especially difficult because they reproduce very slowly. Females do not breed every year and usually lay eggs only when certain native trees produce large amounts of fruit. Even then, only a small number of chicks may survive. By the 1990s, scientists discovered that only about 50 kākāpō remained in the world.



Photo: Chris Birmingham / NZ DOC / CC BY 2.0 (cropped for layout)

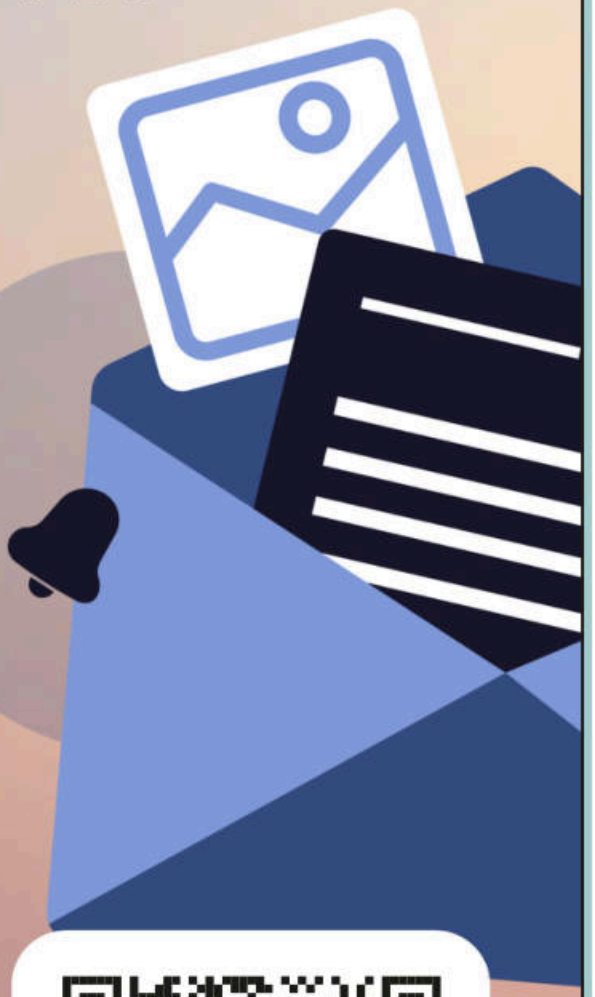
Conservationists refused to give up.

Wildlife teams moved the remaining birds to protected predator-free islands where they could be carefully monitored. Today, every known kākāpō has a name, and scientists track nests, eggs, and chicks to help the species recover.

The kākāpō reminds us that even species standing on the edge of extinction can still have hope when people work together to protect wildlife and their habitat.

Never miss our publication!

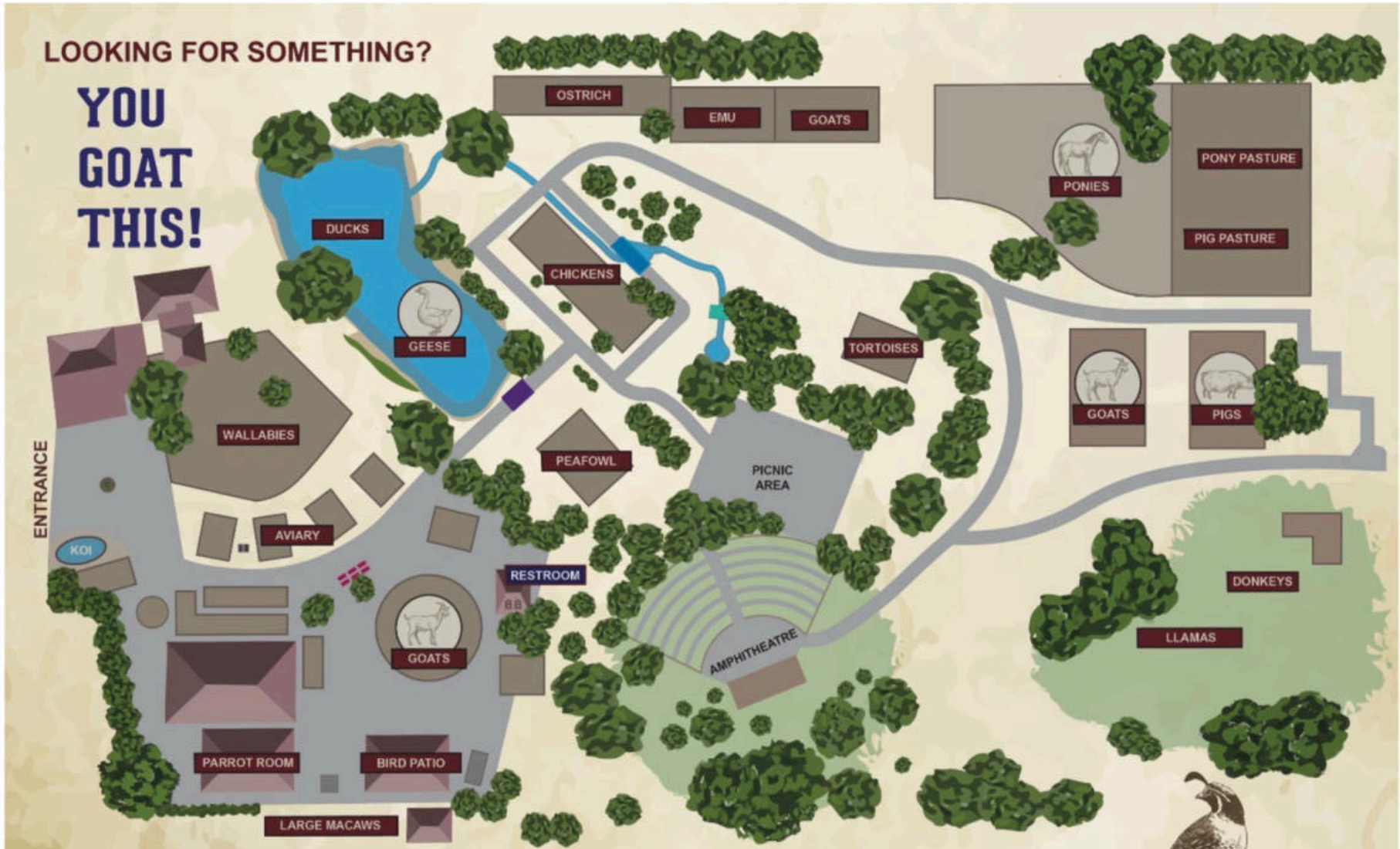
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LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

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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