

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

My ocean with its restless dream
is here at its source, the yellow spring.
Now I can go back to the beginning,
Past youth and first love
To this bright center of my soul,
Reflected in the corners of Glen
Helen. *Bill Felker, Poor Will's Almanack*

Glen Helen has become the largest and most visited private nature preserve in the Miami Valley, anchoring the most scenic, most ecologically intact area in Southwest Ohio. Through the Campaign to Secure the Future of Glen Helen, the Glen Helen Association board of trustees has set a goal of \$4.25M to secure the purchase, preserve the land, and ensure the reopening of the Glen's programs. Initial contributions will be used to keep the Glen open to visitors, address high-risk safety issues, and restart educational programs and ecological stewardship activities — the first steps in sustaining our future. The time to act is now.

The Glen draws visitors from across Ohio and beyond who enjoy the sound of birdsong, the sight of rushing water over cascades, and the simple beauty of the forest. Within the borders of its 1,125 acres, Glen Helen shelters nearly two miles of the Little Miami River, a National Natural Landmark, and the yellow spring that gives the village its name. Its 15-mile trail system hosts more than 125,000 visitors annually who walk, hike, and gain quiet inspiration in nature.

Glen Helen is not only a refuge of spectacular beauty, it is also an educational center. The Glen was the first educational forest in Ohio. It is home to the Midwest's first residential environmental learning center, and it houses Ohio's first facility for the rehabilitation of birds of prey. The Glen's educational programs and summer Ecocamps have made Glen Helen a force for good for decades.

The impact has been substantial. Every year, staff and naturalists-in-training give nearly 2,500 children a "hands-dirty and feet-wet" attachment to nature. More than 1,000 Glen Helen trained naturalists have gone on to work in parks, preserves, nature centers, universities and other settings around the world, helping to solve humanity's urgent environmental issues.

In March of 2020, as the coronavirus pandemic moved into Ohio, public access to Glen Helen was closed. Most staff were furloughed. The Outdoor Education Center suspended its programs and sent the naturalists home, with no plans to reopen. Without urgent action, the region's largest and most-

A CAMPAIGN TO SECURE THE FUTURE OF GLEN HELEN

visited private nature preserve would no longer be available to the public. Into the fray, the Glen Helen Association stepped forward with the bold commitment to purchase and reopen the preserve.

This is a time of extraordinary urgency and great opportunity for Glen Helen. By executing thoughtful plans for strategic investment in the Glen and its programs, the Glen Helen Association will maintain and continue all that has been accomplished to date, and realize Glen Helen's potential to become one of America's leading nature centers, and an engine of regional economic development. The promise is great.

EXPERIENCE AND CAPABILITIES

The Glen Helen Association, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization, has been working on behalf of the Glen Helen Nature Preserve for 60 years, having come together to fight a planned highway and sewer line that threatened the future of the preserve. The Association has a rich history of supporting the Glen, connecting with supporters, and financing environmental learning programs and capital improvements. In 2020, backed by 1,700 members and supporters, the Association purchased Glen Helen.

The staff brings 65 years of experience to the particular needs of managing the preserve and its many programs. Board member expertise spans mergers and acquisitions, nonprofit governance, human resource administration, law, forestry, finance, accounting, development, education, and wildlife rehabilitation. The organization is ready, willing, and able to fulfill the promise of the Glen's future.

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SECURE THE FUTURE OF THE GLEN YOU LOVE, AND BE A CHAMPION FOR ITS GREATEST OPPORTUNITY!

A successful campaign over the next three years will enable the Glen to fulfill its mission and serve the public. Consistent with the organization’s strategic plan, the campaign will make possible the reestablishment of programs and leverage additional sources of revenue to ensure a strong, sustainable future for Glen Helen.

\$4.25M Campaign Budget

Purchase	\$1,290,000	Finance the purchase of the Glen*	
Preserve	\$195,000	Salary for a land manager; 3 years salary and benefits	
	\$390,000	Demolish derelict structures; restore sites	
	\$1,180,000	Land improvements; bridges and boardwalks; signage; ADA accessibility; restroom; parking areas	
Programs	\$180,000	Outdoor Education Center senior administrator; 3 years salary and benefits	
	\$180,000	Outreach/Communications coordinator; organize volunteers; coordinate Trailside Museum and public-facing activities; 3 years salary and benefits	
	\$310,000	Development professional; major gifts, grants, planned giving; 3 years salary and benefits	
	\$525,000	Outdoor Education Center improvements; dining hall; student dorms; staff housing	

*Purchase price: \$2,500,000. [Breakdown: \$500,000 – downpayment (done!). Raised funds will be invested to cover \$500,000 – ten annual payments of \$50K and \$1,453,000 - balloon payment after 10 years.]
