

INTRODUCING

Lafayette Nature Center

A HOME for Nature Connection



 Thorne
NATURE
Experience

A HOME FOR NATURE CONNECTION

Thorne Nature Experience has been connecting youth to nature for more than 6 decades, and was recently named the top regional environmental education center in the country. Yet our organization and its programs do not have a HOME.

Each year, Thorne connects more than 15,000 youth to nature and provides in excess of \$500,000 in scholarships to community youth who would not otherwise have the opportunity to participate. The majority of our programming cannot be delivered without a physical space that is licensed for childcare. Relying on rented space for our summer camp, after school, and preschool programs impacts program quality and reduces funds available for scholarships. It is time for these award-winning programs to have a HOME.

Established by Thorne, the Nature Kids/ Jovenes de la Naturaleza (NKJN) collective impact project is the largest community-scale environmental education program in the country. Programming offered by Thorne and more than 20 other collaborating

organizations provides transformational benefits for Lafayette’s low-income and Latino youth. The Lafayette Nature Center will provide a HOME for both NKJN programs and for NKJN families to gather and connect with nature.

Thorne’s current offices are owned by Boulder Valley School District and leased to Thorne under a 25-year partnership agreement which sunsets in 2024. Having grown from 4 to 26 full-time staff since the inception of the partnership, it is time for us to move offices to our own HOME.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, Thorne has purchased and is in the process of developing 2.5 acres of land adjacent to Coal Creek in Lafayette. We hope that you will consider adding your support to this important effort to build the Lafayette Nature Center - A HOME for Nature Connection!



David Kirk
Board Chair



Amanda Paulson
Campaign Chair



Keith Desrosiers
Executive Director

LAFAYETTE NATURE CENTER

- Nature Programming Space
- Nature Play Area
- Community Gathering Space
- Thorne Offices

A HOME for Nature Connection



NATURE PROGRAMMING SPACE

“Thorne programming has inspired me to pursue a career in the outdoors and had a profound impact on my entire family’s interest in nature. I am excited that the Lafayette Nature Center will help to provide a permanent home for Thorne’s Lafayette programs so that ALL youth in my community can continue to connect with nature and receive the many benefits provided by spending time outdoors. The Nature Programming Space will allow Thorne to offer licensed preschool, after school, and camp programs and provide space for NKJN collaborators to provide nature programming, meetings, and events.”



Leidy Pineda Flores
NKJN Youth Leader



- Childcare Licensed Space for 40 Children
- 1,322 Sq/Ft Indoor Program Space
- 1,476 Sq/Ft Covered Outdoor Program Space
- 430 Sq/Ft Program Storage

NATURE PLAY AREA

“For children, connecting with nature is often messy. It can involve digging and climbing and building. These activities leave a trace and are not appropriate on protected Open Space, but they are of the utmost importance if children are to develop a love for nature and interest in spending time outdoors. The nature play areas at the Lafayette Nature Center will allow children to interact with the natural world on their own terms. And, these interactions will lay the foundation for becoming a steward of the Earth.”



Erin Saunders
Program Director
Thorne Nature Experience



- Natural Slide, Climber, and Swing
- Water and Sand Play
- Prairie Dog Mounds and Tunnels
- Loose Parts and Fort Building

Lafayette Nature Center

A HOME for Nature Connection



- A. Field Space
- B. Gazebo
- C. Habitat Planting
- D. Greenhouse
- E. Orchard
- F. Prairie Dog Tunnel
- G. Mud Kitchen
- H. Outdoor Covered Program Space
- I. Slide
- J. Climbing Structure
- K. Swing
- L. Water Play
- M. Amphitheater
- N. Sand Play
- O. Mariposa Mural
- P. Sledding Hill
- Q. Coal Creek Trail Connection



Program Space



Office



Community Gathering



Nature Play Area

EST 1971
FAUROT
 CONSTRUCTION

eaddis
 collaborative

bienenstock
 natural playgrounds



COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACE

“While Thorne and its NKJN collaborators’ programming helps low-income and Latino youth to develop interest in being outdoors, these interests are often not reinforced by parents and family members. A primary reason is that Lafayette lacks safe and welcoming nature spaces for community members of different generations and diverse backgrounds to authentically connect with nature. The Lafayette Nature Center, which will include non-reservable gazebos, field space, restrooms, bi-lingual signage, and mural projects that emphasize Latino culture, will become a valued community hub and serve as a gateway to nearby nature along Coal Creek.”



Christian Vargas
Chair, NKJN Promotores



- Two Gazebos (non-reservable)
- 7,875 Sq/Ft Field Space
- ADA Trail Access to Coal Creek
- 1,322 Sq/Ft Indoor Event Space

THORNE OFFICES

“Since I founded Thorne in 1954, we have worked to connect more than 350,000 youth and adults to nature. It is hard to believe we have achieved this level of impact without ever owning land or a building for our offices or program delivery. At age 93, I am deeply committed to helping Thorne to build the Lafayette Nature Center. The Center will provide a permanent home for our offices and help to ensure the success of our award-winning programs throughout Boulder County for another six decades.”



Dr. Oakleigh Thorne, II
Founder
Thorne Nature Experience



- 350 Sq/Ft Private Office (5 Staff)
- 500 Sq/Ft Open Office (15 Workstations)
- 2 Meeting Rooms (3 & 8 Person)
- Reception, Supplies, & Kitchen

LOCATION

“As former mayor, I am keenly aware of how much our small city, which is largely comprised of middle and low-income families, relies on partnerships with organizations like Thorne to develop amenities that are critical to ensuring the health and well-being of our community’s children. I applaud Thorne for selecting a site that is nearby to the majority of Lafayette’s low-income neighborhoods. And, for selecting a site along Coal Creek, that I, as a parent, know to offer some of the most rich environments for nature connection accessible to young children in all of Boulder County.”

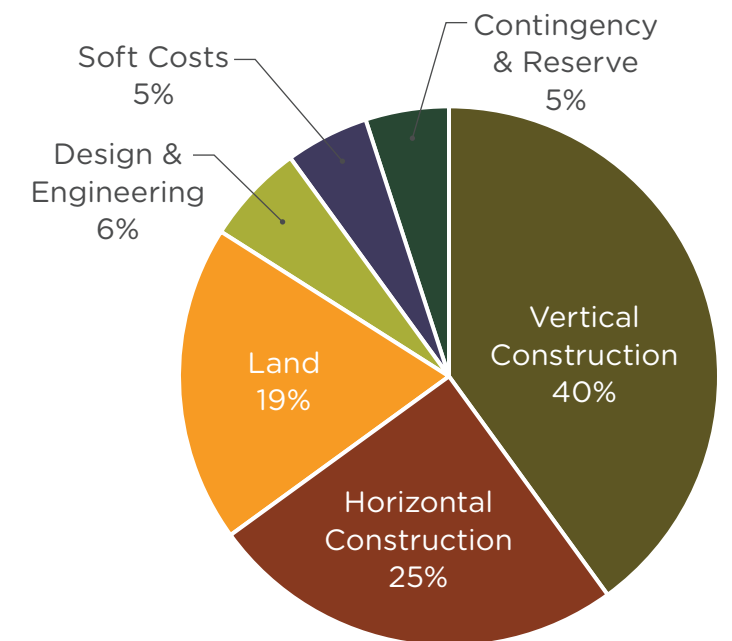


Christine Berg
Former Mayor
City of Lafayette



FINANCIALS

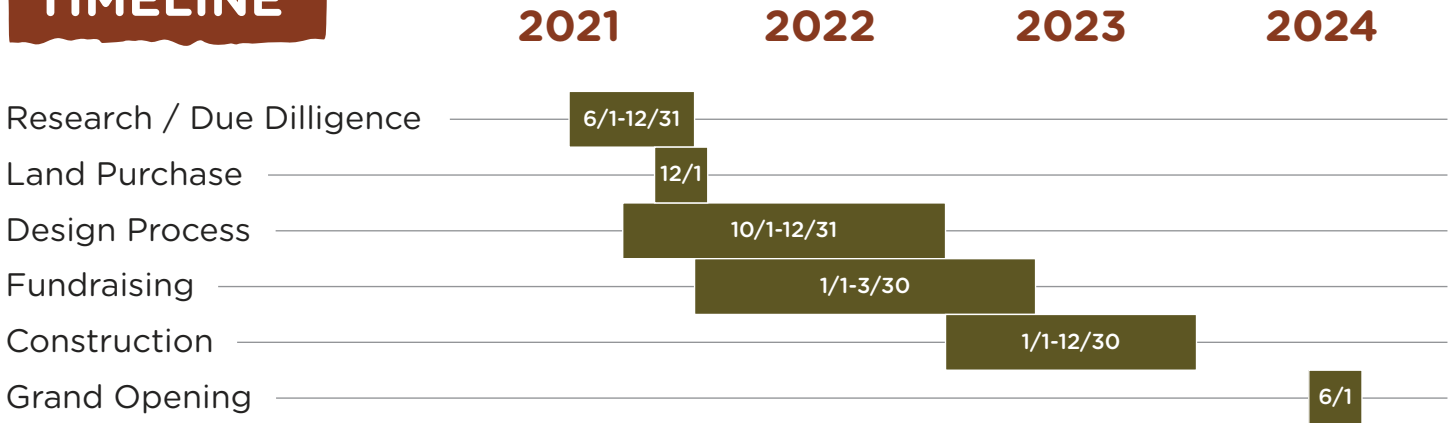
Land	\$1,031,853
Nature Programming Space	\$1,224,288
Thorne Offices	\$994,830
Nature Play Area & Trails.....	\$490,000
Landscaping.....	\$185,000
Gazebos	\$107,439
Parking & Civil & Site Work	\$616,621
Design & Engineering	\$323,000
Soft Costs	\$264,205
Contingency & Reserve	\$262,764
TOTAL.....	\$5,500,000



NOTE: Thorne is partnering with Farout Construction for pricing at each stage of design and value engineering the project to a \$5.5 million budget in order to mitigate for volatility within construction markets and ensure project completion. Fundraising success beyond \$5.5 million could allow the project scope to include elements that were proactively removed or grow to add value for Thorne and the community it serves.

HELP US BUILD A HOME FOR NATURE CONNECTION

TIMELINE



HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

Thorne is actively seeking gifts and pledges from individuals, corporations, foundations, and local governments. Pledges can be made payable over three years through December 31, 2024. Colorado taxpayers can dedicate their donation towards the parts of the project that are used for camp, afterschool, and preschool programs and claim a Colorado income tax credit up to \$100,000 per year for 50% of their total contribution (See Attached Colorado Child Care Tax Credit FAQ). \$1.75 million has already been secured from eight donors and an additional \$2 million must be raised before the end of 2022 in order for construction to begin on schedule. Custom donor recognition is available for all donations of \$25,000 or more. To discuss how you can participate in making the dream of the Lafayette Nature Center a reality or to make a donation, please contact Thorne's Executive Director, Keith Desrosiers at:

keith@thornenature.org
or 303.499.3647 x 105

FUNDRAISING PLAN

TOTAL GOAL: \$5,500,000

GIFT AMOUNT	NUMBER OF GIFTS	TOTAL RAISED
\$1,000,000	1	\$1,000,000
\$500,000	2	\$1,000,000
\$250,000	5	\$1,250,000
\$100,000	10	\$1,000,000
\$50,000	10	\$500,000
\$25,000	15	\$375,000
\$10,000	15	\$150,000
UNDER \$10,000	50	\$225,000
108 GIFTS NEEDED		

Thanks in advance for your support in helping Thorne to build a HOME for Nature Connection!

