



Rattray Marsh Living Discovery Centre



Its future is in
your hands.

Our Vision

Ratray Marsh Conservation Area will be transformed into the Ratray Marsh Living Discovery Centre, an outdoor living classroom and invaluable environmental education resource for local residents and visitors.

Campaign Leadership

Since 1959 local residents, community members and other environmentalists have played an active role in the acquisition, protection and appreciation of the Ratray Marsh. In 1979 this group of volunteers adopted the name Ratray Marsh Protection Association (RMPA). RMPA is dedicated to ensuring that the community benefits from quality educational, interpretive and stewardship opportunities at Ratray Marsh.

In 2009, RMPA joined the Credit Valley Conservation Foundation as a volunteer fundraising committee. For a listing of members please contact us.

Ratray Marsh: An Environmental Gem

Located in a unique natural setting within the City of Mississauga and as the last remaining coastal wetland in the western basin of Lake Ontario, the 94 acres of lakeshore, field and woodland habitats and environmentally sensitive wetland offer a delightful experience for nature lovers. Ratray Marsh is home to a variety of wildlife and plants and a definite must see for avid bird watchers, photographers and nature lovers.

With a diverse and growing urban population on its boundaries, Ratray Marsh serves as an important protected environment for a significant number of wildlife species including 428 species of plants, 227 bird species, 26 mammals, 18 reptiles and amphibians and 11 fish species.

Ratray Marsh Then & Now

Secured by Credit Valley Conservation in 1972, and officially opened in 1975, Ratray represents many things to its visitors. Some recall how it was saved from being a marina and housing development. Others remember it as a diverse natural area which they enjoyed on their own or as a participant in a guided walk.

Today, Ratray Marsh Conservation Area is being established as a contemporary and unique Living Discovery Centre. A high quality experiential learning environment where children, the general public, educators, researchers, scientists and the regional environmental community can explore the natural environments of the Conservation Area and learn about them through interactive opportunities.

A History of Generosity and Community Leadership

Ratray Marsh Conservation Area has a history of generosity and community leadership. Since 1975 when the Conservation Area opened, local residents have been generous with their contributions of time and resources to provide protection, stewardship and recreation.

In recent years, the Pendle Fund of the Community Foundation of Mississauga has made a significant investment in the Living Discovery Centre. The fund's generosity has enabled Credit Valley Conservation to implement numerous trail upgrades and viewing platforms that preserve the area's many sensitive features.

Now there is an opportunity for those who love Ratray Marsh to continue the tradition of philanthropy and leave a legacy that will be appreciated for generations to come.

A Living Classroom for Environmental Education and Sustainability

The Rattray Marsh Living Discovery Centre will be open year-round and will ideally provide outdoor learning opportunities and activities such as:

- ⦿ An upgraded trail and boardwalk system that protects sensitive natural areas throughout the property.
- ⦿ Several viewing platforms along the trail system that provide staging areas for some of the more significant features of Rattray Marsh and the surrounding habitat.
- ⦿ Upgraded kiosks and interpretive signage that guide visitors through a variety of educational and informative natural and cultural heritage themes.
- ⦿ High quality environmental education programs such as guided hikes, presentations, children's programs and workshops focusing on the themes of Rattray Marsh.
- ⦿ Opportunities for local residents and visitors to engage in stewardship activities and restoration programs to protect the environmental health of Rattray Marsh.
- ⦿ Opportunities for visitors to participate in passive recreational programs such as hiking, bird watching and nature appreciation.
- ⦿ The introduction of an annual signature event for Rattray Marsh that will celebrate the uniqueness of the conservation area.

Meeting the Needs of the Community

The Living Discovery Centre benefits the local community by:

- ⦿ Instilling a sense of community pride in playing a key role in local and global environmental protection through education.
- ⦿ Providing community youth with unique and experiential learning opportunities.
- ⦿ Protecting the natural environments that are so vitally important to the social and physical well being of the community.
- ⦿ Providing economic, social and physical benefits to the community and visitors, while simultaneously offering significant environmental benefits.
- ⦿ Building support and interest in community environmental issues and attracting leading supporters of such causes.
- ⦿ Serving as a symbol of environmental protection and appreciation.



How You Can Support the Living Discovery Centre

Make a cash donation.

Gifts can be made in the form of cash, cheque, money order, credit card or online via our website at www.landscapesforlife.ca

Make an in-kind donation of goods or services.

Donors considering gifts of building materials, equipment or services should contact the campaign chair for advice. The campaign committee has a list of specific materials, equipment and services needed for the campaign. Where appropriate, tax receipts for gifts-in-kind can be provided.

Get your business or community organization involved.

You have the opportunity to have a direct and profound impact on our community. Whether it is through sponsorships, donations, services or volunteers there are countless ways we can work together.

Volunteer.

Give of yourself. Volunteers are always needed on our various fundraising sub-committees to help with special events, grant writing and donor recognition. Volunteers are also always welcome to assist with stewardship activities and park clean up days.

For More Information or to Make a Donation

c/o Credit Valley Conservation Foundation
1255 Old Derry Road
Mississauga, Ontario L5N 6R4
Tel: (905) 670-1615
Email: foundation@creditvalleyca.ca
www.landscapesforlife.ca

Established in 1964, the CVC Foundation is a registered environmental charity working to help protect and conserve the lands and waters of the Credit River Watershed. The Foundation accomplishes this by raising funds in support of the valuable conservation projects and initiatives of Credit Valley Conservation.

Charitable Registration # 118879048 RR0001

