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**SAVE THE
DATE**

Spring Spree

Saturday, March 4, 2017

Watch for details

Plan to attend

Fun and educational

For a great cause

To receive Springbrook news by email, go to springbrookfoundation.org then click on *Communications*, then click on *Sign Up* to Complete the form

BOARD OPENINGS

The Springbrook Nature Center Foundation Board of Directors is recruiting Board candidates. Go to springbrookfoundation.org, click *Board Openings*, then call or email to inquire.

Grand, Grand Opening

An estimated 1,000 attendees enjoyed the July 30 *Grand Opening*

which included a formal ribbon cutting ceremony (see dignitaries in photo), several congratulatory speeches, guided tours of the new *Interpretive Center*, lots of free ice cream, and toe-tapping, *Fridley City Band* music. It was a joyous, proud, rewarding celebration.



Interpretive Center - Wow!

First you see butterfly garden ponds, then an exceptionally attractive building set in the forest, and finally, an inviting entrance.

Clever internal spaces provide efficient group management. Four large multipurpose rooms with stunning



outside views come outfitted with the latest A/V technology near a catering kitchen. Exhibit space is filled with unique, educational, hands-on natural environment exhibits. Wow!

Cool Exhibits

Several unique, cool exhibits are original designs (*Crawl-through Soil Cube*, *Interactive Tree*, *Phenology*, *Springbrook Is Sustainable*, *Wetland Habitat Sculpture*, *Puppet Theater*).



Some exhibits are new, spiffier versions of old exhibits (*Touch and Feel Play Stations*, *Fridley Tornado Touchscreen Kiosk*, *Terrarium Wall*, *Aquarium Wall*). All exhibits provide superb learning experiences. While viewing exhibits, look

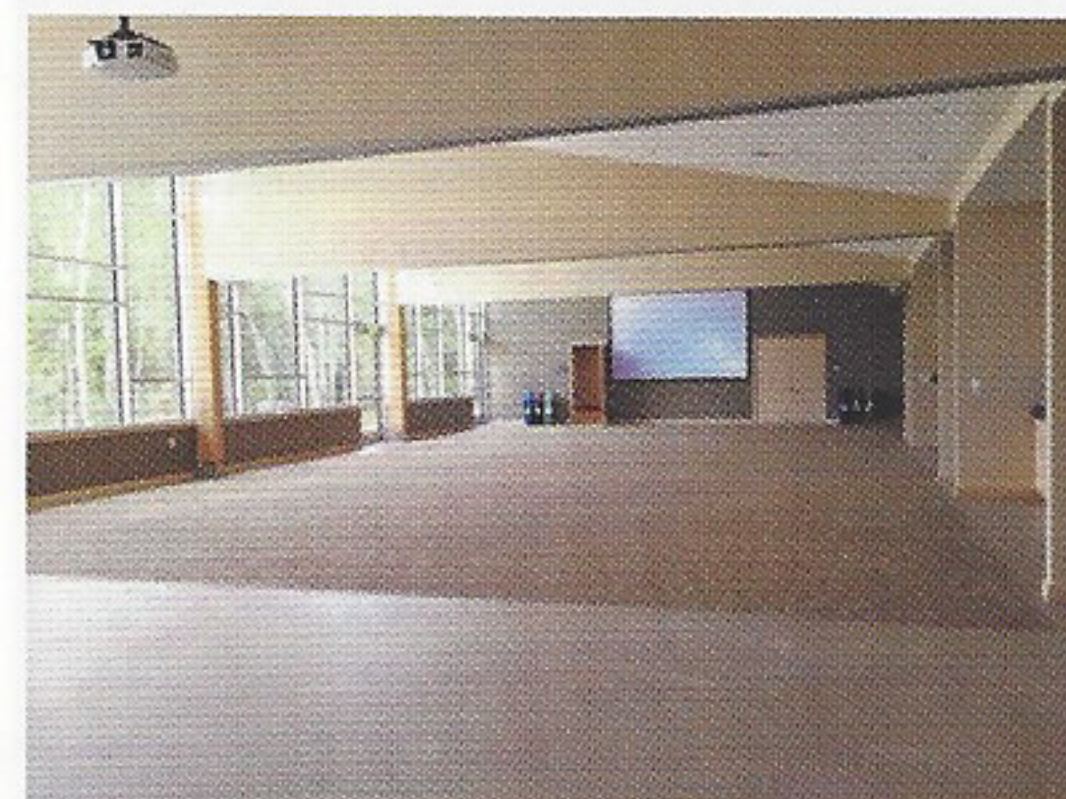
through the large expanse of glass to enjoy nature (turkeys, deer, squirrels, birds, forest, etc.).

SPRING Project Overview

Over a decade, a dedicated group worked to implement the SPRING (*Sanctuary Protection and Renewal Into the Next Generation*) Project to revitalize the park's 7 acre gateway area with these goals:

- 1) Provide greatly improved environmental education programs
- 2) Provide enhanced outdoor experiences for all visitors
- 3) Continue to protect the park's fragile, diversified ecosystem
- 4) Create attractive spaces to host weddings and community events

These goals were achieved with a new *Interpretive Center*, new *Exhibits* (photo below), and many *Outdoor Amenities*. We were aided greatly with a \$5 million grant from the State of Minnesota. We are only 15% short of our additional funding goal (\$2.5 million) to complete the pro-



ject. There remain attractive gifting/naming opportunities. Also, anyone can leave a legacy by purchasing a paver, bench or tree (go to the Foundation website springbrookfoundation.org/overview/online-donations/ or call 800-675-4317).

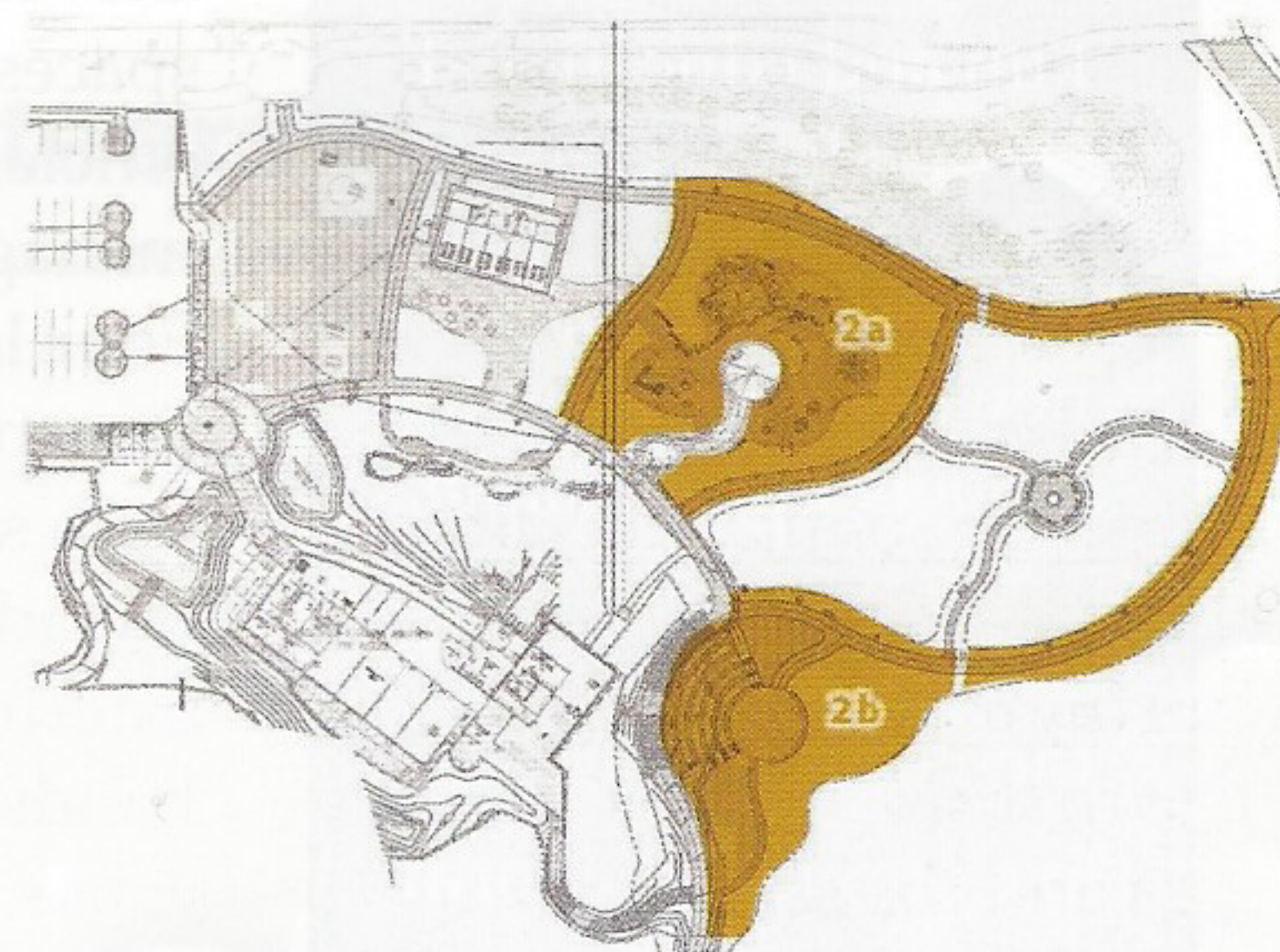


Phase 2 Part 2 Coming

Phase 1 of the SPRING Project (new *Interpretive Center*) is complete.

Phase 2 Part 1 (paver walkway, much landscaping and some outdoor site amenities) is complete.

Phase 2 Part 2 (nature-based play area, amphitheater and infrastructure) is scheduled for mid 2017 completion (see graphic). The planned new pavilion is waiting for sponsorship funding – a great major gift opportunity.



Sustainability - YES!

The new *Interpretive Center* incorporates several major sustainability (minimizing environmental impacts) features including: geothermal heating and air conditioning, porous hardscapes (paving), green roof, recycled construction materials, efficient LED lighting, bird-safe windows (right photo), butterfly garden holding ponds and a zero waste program. One exhibit (left photo) demonstrates the energy needed for three different lighting technologies.

