Upham Woods is one of Wisconsin’s shining gems.

The legacy of Upham Woods is in the pristine beauty of Blackhawk Island, the laughter of thousands of youth, and the innovative staff and programs. Thanks to the amazingly far-sighted vision of Elizabeth and Caroline Upham, one of the most unique and beautiful places in Wisconsin was protected nearly 75 years ago to create a hands-on laboratory for youth and adults operated by the Wisconsin 4-H Program. Today, the talented year-round professional staff at Upham Woods continue that vision, teaching a new generation the value of our natural resources.

The successful legacy of Upham Woods comes from bringing together youth, adults, and professional staff in a beautiful setting that can’t be found anywhere else. Campers learn outdoor skills and teamwork while canoeing through the towering sandstone cliffs of the Upper Wisconsin Dells. They develop a respect for nature when they hear the rat-a-tat-tat of a woodpecker in the lush forest. They learn leadership and teamwork when they plan and lead campfires. And, of course, sometimes they just simply have fun crawling through a cave on Blackhawk Island.

By upgrading and reinvesting in aging facilities, the Upham Woods Legacy Campaign is:

- enhancing learning environments,
- increasing capacity to accommodate larger youth groups,
- providing access to people of all abilities, and
- demonstrating sustainable, environmentally responsible building principles.

“...canoeing. Because of the peaceful waters. And the nice environment. And the island was cool. And the day was good for it.” - Erica
In today’s fast-paced, technology driven world, the mission of Upham Woods has never been more important. Time spent in nature is a catalyst for healthy youth and is critical for creativity, problem-solving, and emotional and intellectual development. Youth build a connection and a sense of place with the natural world at Upham Woods—connection that may help them build their own legacy of helping our natural world.

Upham Woods is having an impact.

Throughout the past 70 years, over a half million youth and adults have experienced the unique splendor of Upham Woods and its outdoor programming. Each year, over 8,000 people—primarily youth—participate in programs at Upham Woods. They come with 4-H groups, schools, Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops, churches and professional groups. They develop team building and leadership skills on the low ropes course, get down and dirty catching critters in the muck, and experience the resident owl and snake at close quarters in the nature center.

Upham Woods is leaving a Legacy of youth leadership and engagement with the natural world.

To ensure a place where youth and adults can practice skills they will use for the rest of their lives while surrounded by the wonders of nature, we invite you to join the Legacy.

Blackhawk Island

The 210 acres of Blackhawk Island were always a special place for Caroline and Elizabeth Upham. On weekend and summer camping trips, the sisters camped on this island, sometimes sleeping in a large sandstone cave—now named the “Upham Cave.”

During individual moments in history, Blackhawk Island has served as a resting place to “river rats” running timber down the Wisconsin River, been home to the Dell House, and clear cut and farmed by the Snyder Family.

Today, interpretive nature hikes on the island are one of the most popular programs offered at Upham Woods. Youth and adults visit the island’s historical sites, sift for Dell House artifacts in the sandy beach, explore sandstone caves, and learn about forest ecosystems on this one-of-a-kind island. Designated as a State Natural Area, Upham Woods provides exclusive access to this unique outdoor learning environment.
The Legacy Begins

In 1941, the Upham sisters created a lasting legacy by donating the land that is now Upham Woods to the University of Wisconsin. Through this generous donation, they were able to ensure a place and program that helps youth and adults learn and grow through the outdoor experiences that were so special to them throughout their childhood.

After the land was transferred to UW-Extension and the Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development Program, 4-H clubs throughout Wisconsin ensured their legacy by raising funds to build the structures and programming you see today at Upham Woods.

Among the stipulations set forth in the conveyance of the property by the Upham family were the following:

- The lands shall be known as Upham Woods
- The lands are to be used as an outdoor laboratory and camp for youth, such as 4-H clubs and other people cooperating with the University of Wisconsin in the advancement of conservation, of agriculture or of rural culture
- The lands are not to be used as a public park and are not to be developed commercially in any way
- No permanent buildings are to be erected or maintained on Blackhawk Island
- No large or permanent bridge is to be erected or maintained from the mainland to Blackhawk Island
- A committee, including educators and researchers, shall be selected to supervise the use of the property
- The University shall endeavor to preserve the wilderness condition of Blackhawk Island, and to perpetuate the island in its natural and informal condition
Our Challenge Today

At Upham Woods, you will find a model residential outdoor learning center, operated by the University of Wisconsin-Extension. Upham Woods consists of 310 acres of land (100 on the mainland and 210 on Blackhawk Island) and 17 buildings. Through private donations, the buildings on the property were constructed primarily in the late 1950’s and early 1960’s.

Now, 70 years later, Upham Woods is still dependent on its historical levels of generosity to keep its programming and facilities available for the next generation of youth and adults. **You can ensure the legacy of Upham Woods and benefit future generations through your donation.**

With the completion of the Legacy Campaign projects, youth and adults will gain first class learning facilities, more space to eat, stay, and gather, improved ADA accessibility throughout the facility, and learning opportunities to observe sustainable and environmentally responsible building designs.

The “Upham Woods Legacy Campaign” will raise funds for the following improvements. We plan to complete phased upgrades in the order listed below, but all funds for an individual project must be raised before its final design and construction begins.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
<th>Notable Pledges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sanitary System</td>
<td>Funding Received</td>
<td>$342,100 from UW-Extension $291,500 from State of Wisconsin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabin Hill Bathhouse</td>
<td>$1,084,800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADA Accessible Path Up Cabin Hill</td>
<td>$25,830</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADA Accessibility Addition to Cabin</td>
<td>$76,260</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabin Hill Program Pavilion</td>
<td>$190,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lodge Expansion</td>
<td>$1,968,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Your Part in the Legacy...

A contribution to the Upham Woods Legacy Campaign will help the next generation of youth experience teamwork, leadership, and the wonders of nature at Upham Woods. You will become a supporter of not only Upham Woods, but also of Wisconsin 4-H.

How You Can Support Upham Woods

1. Make a one-time donation
2. Make a 3-5 year pledge
3. Sponsor a specific project within the scope of the campaign. Naming rights are available with approval from the Upham Woods Advisory Committee
4. Donate gifts or services to assist in building projects
5. Support programming through a gift to the Upham Woods Endowment Fund

You are Part of the Legacy

Donors will be recognized in a variety of ways. Donors may be individuals, businesses, foundations, 4-H clubs, schools, families, or organizations.

Naming Rights

Projects that may be named as part of your legacy include the cabin hill bathhouse, cabin hill program pavilion, ADA accessible path up cabin hill, the ADA accessible cabin addition, and Lodge. Additional components of the Lodge may also be named including the new classroom, elevator, back deck, and patio.

Legacy Trees

To honor major donors, two Legacy Trees and a beaded waterfall display will be placed in the entrance of the Lodge expansion. Donors have the opportunity to be recognized on this piece of artwork with monetary or in-kind donations of $10,000 or more.

Legacy Bricks

A Legacy Fire Circle will be constructed around the main campfire circle. Donors may choose to be recognized on varying sized bricks with donations of $5,000, $1,000, or $500.

Legacy Book Entry

All donations, monetary or in-kind, received for the Legacy Campaign will be recorded in the Legacy Book displayed in the Lodge.

Annual Upham Woods Updates

Donors will receive an annual newsletter updating progress on campaign projects and other news from Upham Woods.

All gifts to the Upham Woods Legacy Campaign are tax deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
Help spread the word about the Upham Woods Legacy Campaign!

Could you provide a contact for other groups, individuals, corporations, or foundations you think would be interested in continuing the Legacy of Upham Woods?

Would you be willing to present information about the Legacy Campaign to small businesses, individuals, and organizations in your area of Wisconsin?

Would you like a representative from Upham Woods to speak to your group at an upcoming event?

Contact Jessica Jens at 608-254-6461 or jessica.jens@ces.uwex.edu

**Upham Woods Advisory Committee**

**Scott Craven**  
Extension Wildlife Specialist and Professor of Wildlife Ecology

**Randy Champeau**  
Director of Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education & Associate Dean of Extension and Outreach in the College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

**Donna Duerst**  
4-H Youth Development Agent, Rock County

**Bob Matysik**  
4-H Youth Development Agent, LaCrosse County

**Donna Menart**  
Interim State Program Director, 4-H Youth Development

**Sally Schoenike**  
4-H Youth Development Agent, Dodge County

**Ex-Officio Members**

**Pat Harrington**  
Wisconsin 4-H Foundation Director

**Jessica Jens**  
Upham Woods Director/4-H Environmental Education Specialist

**Jim Morgan**  
Community Volunteer

**Kay Buelke Schroeder**  
Retired 4-H Youth Development Agent, Ozaukee County

**Kerry Schumann**  
Executive Director, Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters

**Tim Talen**  
4-H Arts & Communication Specialist

**Legacy Campaign Committee**

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Did you know that over a half million people have participated in programs at Upham Woods over its nearly 70 year history?

“Best thing at camp: the opportunity for the children to build good relationships with each other and adults.” – Carlyn, adult 4-H volunteer

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"Best thing at camp: the opportunity for the children to build good relationships with each other and adults." - Carlyn, adult 4-H volunteer
Built in 1962, the bathhouse provides all of the showering and bathroom needs for up to 150 youth and adults who stay on cabin hill. After 47 years, constant repair issues are forcing Upham Woods to allocate more resources to this outdated and undersized facility.

The new bathhouse will encompass 3,500 square feet and includes a small laundry facility, boys and girls restrooms, individual shower rooms, and a comfortable gathering location where adult chaperones and counselors may wait for their youth. The new bathhouse will serve the needs of physically challenged participants through ADA accessible design features, and will also allow Upham Woods to practice what it teaches every day—to live lightly on our planet and use natural resources wisely.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Summary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction cost</td>
<td>$880,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design &amp; Other Fees</td>
<td>$116,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Contingency</td>
<td>$88,000</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,084,800</strong></td>
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Remodeling Cabin Hill for Youth Access

Upham Woods is steeped in tradition. One of the more notable memories for visitors may be the steep steps up cabin hill. This pathway to the cabins is not accessible by any participants who have difficulty walking. A new kinder, gentler path compliant with ADA accessibility requirements will lead to the cabins.

Many times youth with physical challenges are housed separately from their peers. Updating Bible Cabin will allow a bathroom and sleeping accommodations for participants with physical disabilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Summary</th>
<th>ADA Accessible Cabin Addition</th>
<th>ADA Accessible Cabin Hill Path</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Construction cost</strong></td>
<td>$62,000</td>
<td>$21,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Design &amp; Other Fees</strong></td>
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<td>$2,730</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Project Contingency</strong></td>
<td>$6,200</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$76,260</td>
<td>$25,830</td>
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</table>
Many times during the year, there is a need for additional indoor classrooms. The old bathhouse on cabin hill will be repurposed to provide a unique indoor learning area. By reusing this building, we will create a perfect “teachable moment” for our participants in sustainable building practices. The new meeting area will feature a fireplace for nighttime meetings, comfortable and durable furniture, a small storage room, and a preparation counter equipped with a small sink.

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<td><strong>Design &amp; Other Fees</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Project Contingency</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Visitors to Upham Woods notice the quiet and beauty of the grounds as they walk to the Lodge. Built in 1967, the Lodge provides headquarters for groups, a large area for educational programs, and the dining hall where all meals are served.

As school classrooms grow in size and more and more groups inquire about increasing the number of people they bring to Upham Woods; the Lodge is the one building that must grow to accommodate these larger groups. The opportunity to increase the Lodge facilities allows Upham Woods to reach more youth, more adults, and more lives.

The new expansion on the Lodge will:
- Add 2,000 square feet of dining space that could be separated from the existing dining space or connected based on group size
- Improve the ADA accessibility by including a new elevator to serve both levels of the Lodge
- Create new, enlarged restrooms
- Provide an upper level deck and ground level patio off the river side of the lodge; these additional areas add outdoor teaching and gathering places
- Add an additional classroom on the upper level
- Increase the size of the kitchen to make a more efficient food production area
- Create a vaulted ceiling entry room

### Budget Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction Cost</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design &amp; Other Fees</td>
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<td>Project Contingency</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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