

# Wellfield Botanic Gardens

## *At-A-Glance*

**The Mission** of Wellfield Botanic Gardens is to celebrate the inseparable relationship between water and life, inspire creativity and lifelong learning, foster stewardship of our natural world, and grow community.

**A Brief History** - - The Elkhart Rotary Club conceived the Gardens as a community service project in 2002 to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Rotary International in 2005. The club raised funds for the development and completion of a physical Master Plan which envisages 25 themed garden and event spaces, as well as a Visitors Center and guest amenities. The project was officially handed over to a newly formed Wellfield Botanic Gardens Board of Directors in 2005 to begin implementation of the Master Plan. Construction began in 2006 with the first earth-moving work to reshape and reconfigure the ponds. 36 acres in size, Wellfield resides on a historical piece of property originally known as the “North Main Street Well Field.” The property has been a source of hydraulic energy and drinking water for the City of Elkhart since the mid-1800s. Wellfield Botanic Gardens has a long-term lease agreement with the City of Elkhart, which still owns and operates 13 active wells on the site, providing a majority of drinking water for the community.

### **Facts and figures - -**

- Wellfield welcomed over 55,000 guests through its gates in 2020.
- Of Wellfield’s 36 total acres, 18 are surface water, including Christiana Creek running north to south through the Garden and 4 large ponds: South Pond, Swan Pond, Lotus Pond, and the Beardsley Mill Pond.
- Wellfield is a private, 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization and derives ALL its operating capital, development costs and endowment from private donations, user fees, memberships, private grants and earned income. Wellfield is a botanic garden and ‘living museum’ with a collection of accessioned plants... not a city park. Wellfield receives NO government or tax-based funding of any kind.
- Through 2020, Wellfield is approximately 80% complete. Most recent Master Plan achievements include a Children’s Garden opened in 2018 and a magnificent Japanese-inspired “Island Garden” opened May 2020.
- As part of Wellfield’s Mission to ‘grow community’, it gives generously throughout Elkhart County, donating over \$40,000 a year in complimentary admissions to Elkhart County residents, and over \$20,000 a year as ‘in kind’ facility rentals to other not-for-profit organizations who utilize Wellfield’s venues, as well as sponsoring and supporting numerous events in the community.
- Wellfield provides educational programs throughout the year for elementary school students, private groups, lifelong learners of all ages, and outreach to the community.
- Wellfield produces events including Groovin’ in the Gardens Summer Concert Series (June-August), Taste of the Gardens (fourth Sunday in August), Monsters in the Gardens (October), Winter Wonderland Holiday Lights (Thanksgiving weekend through December), and seasonal exhibits/events year-round.

**Want more info?** Check out [wellfieldgardens.org](http://wellfieldgardens.org), email [info@wellfieldgardens.org](mailto:info@wellfieldgardens.org), or come see us in person:

- Spring/Summer Season: Open April-October, Daily 10 am-6 pm
- Fall Season: Open November-December, Tuesday through Sunday, 12-5 pm
- Winter Season: Open January-March, Saturday and Sunday, 12-5 pm