

## Partnerships and People

This is the traditional homeland of the **Kalapuya**. Their people, both past and present, are perpetual stewards of the Willamette Valley.

In 2004, **Mark Gehlar** made a \$1.35 million bequest to the Salem Audubon Society to create a nature center. Gehlar understood the value of a gathering place where children and adults could discover how important the environment is to our future.

The main building is Mark Gehlar Hall. It has an outdoor and indoor classroom, a laboratory area and storage.

Eventually, it will be expanded to include an exhibit hall/entry, 2 offices, and a multi-purpose room.

On the map inside you'll see "The future site of the **David B. Marshall** Outdoor Classroom."

Dave Marshall helped create all of the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuges. An outdoor classroom sitting right alongside a wetland is the perfect way to honor him and his conservation legacy will live on through the education of future generations.

On the Northeast side of the parking lot is a memorial plaque to **Matthew**

**Hunter Withee**. Matt worked over 15 years for the US Fish and Wildlife Service as an Equipment Operator at the Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge. His work was essential to restoring and maintaining native habitats.

**Henry E. Ankeny** was born in the 1840's and came to Oregon as a boy. He owned a mine in southern Oregon, a farm in Klamath Falls and a 4,000+ acre grain and dairy farm in this area. The family's home and outbuildings were near where the Center is today.

## Education and the Future

The Center provides educational and interpretive opportunities to connect people with nature and to instill a sense of environmental stewardship.

- Your adventures are limitless in the Nature Explore Area!
- Grab an activity book as you journey along the Story Walk
- Visit the Oak Overlook and imagine that view through time....
- 6 interactive Education Nodes are being developed along the Little and Big Loop Trails

For more information and updates visit [www.ankenynaturecenter.org](http://www.ankenynaturecenter.org).



Photo Credit: Hope Presley

## A Place to Learn & Explore!

The Center is located at Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge, which was established in 1965 to provide overwintering habitat for the dusky Canada goose and other migratory waterfowl.

Phase 1 of the Center opened in early 2022. It is the result of a public-private partnership with the local Salem Audubon Society, Friends of the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Read on to learn about the people who shaped this place and plans for the future.



# Ankeny Hill Nature Center

## Other Features:

- An Outdoor Classroom
- Legacy Oak Stump
- Information/Interpretive Kiosk near Gehlar Hall
- Bicycle Racks

## Nature Explore Area Features:

- Tree Tunnel
- Fort Building Area
- Bridge
- Rock Swale
- Grass Hill
- Wood Cookie Steps

