

# MORE ROOM TO EXPLORE

Project Update for  
Wheaton Montessori School's  
Capital Campaign 2026–2028



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For over 25 years, Wheaton Montessori School has served families through our **mission** to provide an authentic Montessori education that focuses on each student's needs, enabling them to discover, grow, and thrive in their unique potential. Our **vision** is to cultivate independent, confident, and empathetic children who are equipped to handle real-life challenges while making a positive impact on the world.

Integral to authentic Montessori education is the principal of exploration, which supports student curiosity and pursuit of knowledge. Wheaton Montessori School wants to give students more room to explore by expanding their access to high-quality outdoor experiences. With your help we plan to expand the student outdoor play space and open up currently inaccessible land for student use.



Wheaton Montessori School continues to make progress toward improving our one-acre parcel of land (“the Wetlands”) for student use. Thank you to the many community members who provided input during the campaign feasibility study. Here is what you can expect moving forward:



**① Autumn 2026**

- More Room to Explore fundraising campaign kicks off
- Wheaton Montessori School obtains zoning permits from DuPage County and City of Wheaton officials.

**② Winter 2027**

- Wheaton Montessori School engages local contractor to remove existing undesirable vegetation and prepare the Wetlands for improvement

**③ Spring 2027**

- Prepared land is graded in accordance with engineering plan
- Work to expand current student play space begins

**④ Summer 2027**

- Play space expansion, wetlands restoration, and installation of outdoor classroom elements

**⑤ Autumn 2027**

- Expanded student play space accessible for use
- Wetlands restoration and outdoor classroom development continues according to ecologically-sound practices.

**⑥ 2027-2028 school year and beyond**

- Wheaton Montessori School students gain more room to explore a larger play space and accessible acre of wetland to enhance their learning experience.



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- A Cut: 5,800 SF (0.13 acre) of new wetland
- B Fill: 5,800 SF (0.13 acre) of existing wetland area adjacent to existing playground
- C Remove existing chain link fence, inactive overhead electric lines, & retaining wall up to north edge of new fence
- D Unstructured play elements: Large logs, stumps, boulders, curriculum objects
- E Tree drum council rings / outdoor classrooms (2)
- F Relocate existing play components: Monkey bars
- G Relocate existing play components: Gaga ball
- H Relocate existing picnic tables
- I New chicken coop & supply shed
- J Relocated raised gardens



## Proposed Site Plan



## Perspective Rendering

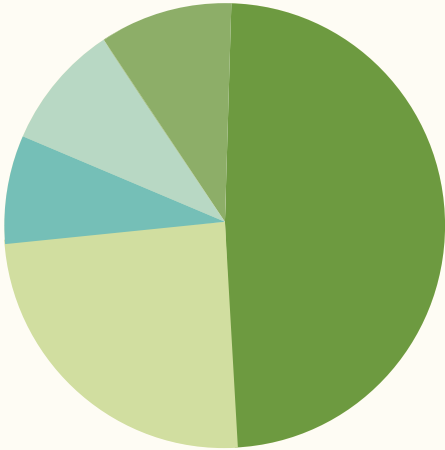
*Springtime perspective rendering from  
southwest corner of the new parcels looking  
back towards the new playground expansion  
and restored wetland exploration zones.*

March 30, 2026

# You're invited to be a part of this exciting development for Wheaton Montessori School.

The majority of the cost of construction will go towards clearing the land and preparing it for student use. Thoughtful fencing around the student play space and perimeter of the school's land will ensure continued student safety. Wheaton Montessori School is also partnering with industry expert landscape designers, a land-use attorney, and a professional fundraising consultant to ensure that this project results in a space that serves our students and their families for years into the future.

**More Room to Explore project budget**  
\$550K



- Tree Removal, Grading, Restoration and 5 Years of Maintenance
- Architectural Design and other Professional Services
- Project Fencing
- Annual Fund
- Contingency

**\*Note:** Wheaton Montessori School is pursuing a comprehensive fundraising campaign in 2026 and 2027. The school's annual fundraising letter will be folded into the More Room to Explore campaign in these two years. The annual Silent Auction, which benefits the school's operating budget, will remain separate from this effort.

Wheaton Montessori School is excited to share that our More Room to Explore campaign has already raised \$115K in cash donations in early 2026.

## **\$550K - \$115K = \$435K ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO RAISE**

In order to achieve the remaining \$435K, we are asking for your support to help Wheaton Montessori students have more room to explore.

All funds raised above the project construction costs will go directly to Wheaton Montessori School's operating budget in lieu of an annual fund appeal in December 2026 and 2027.

Please reach out if you would like to learn more about honoring your family's story at Wheaton Montessori school with a naming opportunity or about supporting the project with a two-year pledge.

Thank you again for your ongoing support of Wheaton Montessori School. With your help students will soon have more room to explore!



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For additional information please contact:

**Wheaton Montessori School**

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