Building Resiliency and Expanding Capacity for the Next Century

The Vision

As Maymont approaches its hundredth anniversary as a public space in 2025, the Maymont Foundation seeks to raise $3.75 million in public and private funds to complete a $11.75 million series of enhancements designed to enrich guest experience, expand accessibility and capacity, and ensure a more resilient future. These funds will complement an $8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) awarded in 2022 under a program intended to boost tourism throughout the country.

Our vision for a resilient future: Maymont thriving as a public space for another hundred years (and beyond).

The Investment

This $11.75 million project will enhance two of Maymont’s most public-facing assets: the Maymont Mansion and the Virginia Wildlife Trail at Maymont. Work is scheduled to begin in July 2023.

In the Maymont Mansion, funds will be invested in replacing the 60-year-old roof, returning it to its original red slate, and modernizing its ventilation, fire suppression and safety systems. The new roof and environmental systems will better protect the building and its collections well into the 21st century, so more guests can experience what Maymont teaches about this pivotal period in Virginia at the turn of the 20th century.

Throughout Maymont’s rescued native Virginia wildlife habitats, funds will be invested to reconfigure a more fluid connectivity between locations and to accommodate more guests at a time, with viewing options for people of different abilities. The redesign will incorporate facilities for enhanced educational programming and provide the animals and their caregivers with more space as well. Two additional species will also be added to tell a wider story of Virginia’s ecosystem.

The Impact

We must help steward Maymont’s historical and environmental resources to accommodate the preservation, adaptation and enrichment of the experiences it provides. Here are the areas that Maymont 2025 will enhance, building more resiliency at Maymont so that no matter what life-changing events it faces over the next century it will remain a thriving public space of Virginia history, environment and education:

- Animal Welfare
- Regional & National Tourism
- Historic Preservation
- Historic & Environmental Education

To contribute to the impact of Maymont 2025, or for more information about the project, please visit maymont.org/maymont-2025.
Maymont Mansion

Maymont plays a unique role in showcasing Virginia history at the turn of the 20th century and is the only intact estate of its kind in Virginia. The National Register of Historic Places lists it as a Virginia Historic Landmark and the American Planning Association recognizes it as one of America’s Top Ten Great Public Spaces.

In a typical year, more than 40,000 guests pass through the Maymont Mansion, including 2,500 students from K-12 schools, where they engage with the entwined history of the Gilded Age and Jim Crow era and experience the importance of historic preservation. Since the 1893 Romanesque-style mansion is at the center of these efforts, it is imperative that it continues to serve as a significant expression of history for another 100 years. To prepare, in 2018, a historic structure report was completed following a two-year comprehensive assessment of the structure. Two key findings were prioritized in the report: 1) replacing its 60-year-old roof and 2) modernizing its environmental systems.

Project Highlights

Maymont 2025 will allow Maymont to:

- install a new roof using its original, historically-accurate red slate material (see photograph)
- replace its environmental systems, including museum-grade HVAC, mist fire suppression, and security systems
- enhance guest experience by ensuring the safest possible indoor environment
- increase the protection of the mansion and its object collections

To contribute to Maymont 2025 and the Maymont Mansion, or for more information about the project, please visit maymont.org/maymont-2025.
The Virginia Wildlife Trail at Maymont

Maymont cares for over 300 native and domestic animals, including more than 85 different species, many of which are rescued, rehabilitated wildlife that cannot be released to the wild. The new Virginia Wildlife Trail will highlight keystone predators, birds of prey, and animal rescue and recovery stories, while educating guests about some of our region’s most maligned animals.

Beginning at The Robins Nature Center, the first component of the trail will feature aquatic and semiaquatic animals of the James River and Chesapeake Bay, such as fish, turtles, sturgeon, and river otters. The second component starts at Maymont’s bison habitat and concludes at its black bear habitat, with habitats for wildlife such as bobcats, coyotes, elk, raptors, porcupines, and red foxes along the way.

Project Highlights

This opportunity will allow Maymont guests to learn about longstanding native species, species that are no longer considered native but once were, as well as some of Virginia’s newest regional additions. Enhancements provided by the Virginia Wildlife Trail will include:

- more accessible connections through the habitats with fun trails and bridges
- two new habitats, adding porcupine and coyote
- and new and improved habitats for other rescued wildlife such as:

  Monty, our resident bobcat, who was abandoned as a kitten and is unable to survive in the wild on his own, and Phoenix, our resident black bear, whose rare form of dwarfism requires special care

To contribute to Maymont 2025 and the Virginia Wildlife Trail, or for more information about the project, please visit maymont.org/maymont-2025.