

2018 Zoo Conservation Support Grant Summary - Purdue University

Grant: Foundation for the Conservation of Salamanders Zoo Conservation Support Grant

Title: Expanding Eastern Hellbender Captive-Rearing Facilities in Fort Wayne Children's Zoo

Recipient: Rod Williams, Nick Burgmeier, Purdue University; Joe Smith, Fort Wayne Children's Zoo

Summary:

In 2018, Fort Wayne Children's Zoo initiated a renovation of their current Eastern Hellbender rearing facility. The purpose of this renovation is to replace aging systems and to upgrade the standard aquarium tanks with a raceway system. These raceways allow high flow to be introduced into the rearing system to help expose Hellbenders to more natural streamflow conditions.

Due to some unrelated unforeseen circumstances, the construction of the system was delayed. However, all raceways were purchased in January 2019 and construction has commenced. We expect construction to be finished by summer of 2019.