

(c) Professional and Financial Assistance

The National Audubon Society, a pioneer in the Nature Center Concept, furnishes technical assistance with the development of such areas.

A community nature center represents an appreciable investment. The funds that are required are two kinds: capital outlay expenditures and annual operating funds. No center should be attempted on an inadequate or marginal budget. Initial capital expenditures may vary from \$30,000 to \$300,000 and more, and operating costs may range from \$15,000 to \$150,000 a year. A nature center can be established and run on a variety of budgets.

It is difficult to cite specific and detailed costs for such a project. Below are listed two budgets based only on general estimates.² Plan A estimates are minimal for the establishment and operation of a nature and conservation center. The facilities and services rendered under this plan are modest and constitutes a minimum undertaking. Plan B provides for a better, more adequate nature center program.

ESTIMATED CAPITAL COSTS

Cost Item	Plan A	Plan B
Entrance road and parking lot	\$ 2,000	\$ 5,000
Entrance gateway and sign	100	700
Educational interpretive building (1,600 and 5,000 sq. ft. respectively)	30,000	80,000
Caretaker's house		15,000
Landscaping and walks	1,000	4,000
Lunch area for groups	200	500
Trails, walkways, foot bridges	1,500	5,000
Office furniture and equipment	1,000	5,000
Educational features, displays, exhibits	1,000	1,000
Utilities (hook up)	1,000	1,000
Maintenance equipment: jeep and trailer		3,000
general tools	300	500
power tools	300	1,500
Contingencies	<u>1,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>
Totals	\$39,400	\$129,200

ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES

Cost Item	Plan A	Plan B
Personnel services* :		
Director-naturalist	\$ 7,000	\$ 8,500
Staff teacher-naturalist, Class I		6,000
Staff teacher-naturalist, Class II		5,000
Secretary-clerk-typist		4,000
Caretaker-handyman	4,000	4,000
Insurance, social security, etc.	1,000	1,000
Utilities (water, light, heat)	400	2,500
Gas, oil and lubrication, or travel	400	700
Maintenance materials	600	1,000
Miscellaneous supplies	400	1,000
Telephone and postage	200	500
New Equipment	500	1,000
Miscellaneous expenses and contingencies	<u>1,500</u>	<u>2,500</u>
Totals	\$16,000	\$ 37,700

*Average salary schedule is given; scale will vary by location and will depend on whether or not housing and other perquisites are offered.