

Observatory Park and Phase IV - Restoration of Nassau Station

Observatory Park's main campus officially opened in June 2012. It was constructed with funding by private contributions and 30 percent of that funding came from outside of Geauga County. When the capital campaign concluded in November 2012 it contained a grand total of \$2,167,452.

The final phase of the capital campaign for Observatory Park, Phase IV, is the restoration of the historic Nassau Astronomical Observing Station. To accomplish this, a fundraising goal for Phase IV of \$1,175,000 will be required.

The renovated Nassau station will include green restrooms & solar panels, an elevator to make the telescope handicapped accessible, restoration of the Cleveland-made Warner & Swasey 36" Cassegrain telescope. There will also be a museum of the history of astronomy in Northeast Ohio on the main floor "dark room" beneath the telescope, educational space in the former living quarters, adequate parking and entrance drive and construction of a trail linking the Nassau station with Observatory Park's main campus.

It is widely recognized that nearly all of today's scientists, professional and amateur alike, were inspired by a curiosity ignited when they were young.

The Nassau Astronomical Observing Station is an investment in both formal and informal, high-quality science education to support the next generation of science professionals who will be working in an environmentally at-risk world.

Student training at the Nassau station will revolve around the **mathematical, analytical and critical thinking skills** essential for the development of the physicists and astronomers of tomorrow.

Restoring the Nassau Astronomical Observing Station, as well as repurposing the 36" Warner & Swasey telescope for use in public education and student research, will allow Geauga Park District and our education partners to continue the legacy of astronomy research and education for the general public begun by Dr. Jason Nassau and Case Western Reserve University and lost to Cleveland residents with the demise and decay of the Warner & Swasey Observatory on Taylor Road once its dark sky was eliminated.

Click this link to view a video on dark sky preservation: <http://youtu.be/dd82jztFIo>

As many of you know, Nassau Station was the country's first Earth-bound robotic telescope available online to the public. When once again in working order, this telescope will be utilized for scientific research and investigation by middle and high school students, particularly those involved in Science Olympiad and Envirothon teams and for "citizen science" projects by amateur astronomers throughout our region.