

Special Store Features

WILDLIFE DIORAMAS - Cabela's dioramas resemble displays found in the finest natural history museums. Project coordinator Mark Dowse, who is overseeing construction of the dioramas, said, "The animals are so perfectly presented that you have to look twice to make sure they're not moving!"

As well as showcasing wildlife native to Connecticut and North America, the East Hartford store features a fascinating African diorama, including an elephant, cape buffalo, white rhino, lion and other game, which educates adults and children alike through an accurate recreation depicting life on the African plains.

CONSERVATION MOUNTAIN - The store's vast, sunlit interior is punctuated by its centerpiece, a two-story Conservation Mountain with a trout pond, running waterfalls and streams and even a beaver dam. The mountain's ponds run on the same recycled filter system as Cabela's aquarium.

The mountain features dozens of wild game mounts in their distinct habitats, including mountain goats, mountain lion, caribou, antelope, coyote, American elk, wolverines, wolves, musk ox, mule deer and whitetail deer. Smaller North American animals include bobcat, fox, otter, beaver, muskrat, badger and a variety of grouse and quail.

The two-story tall Conservation Mountain also sports the "Grand Slam of Sheep" (bighorn sheep, desert bighorn, Dall's sheep and Stone's sheep); and bears and moose from Alaska, Yukon Territory, Wyoming and Canada.

Hundreds of big-game trophies and other wildlife mounts -- from the western prairie and northern woodlands to the Alaskan tundra and Arctic ice -- are prominently displayed throughout the store. "Visitors who come to the store will be amazed and will understand why Cabela's is truly unique," said Dowse.

AQUARIUM - Cabela's stores are also known for their huge walk-through aquariums. The East Hartford aquarium will be stocked with hundreds of freshwater fish indigenous to the region. Information kiosks with interactive touch-screens identify each species and explain its characteristics. Kids as well as adults will find the kiosks educational and fun.

The aquarium is 16,000 gallons comprised of three separate tanks. The water for the walk-through aquarium is continuously recycled in a "closed system," which reclaims and re-circulates the water, then replaces it in the aquarium. In addition, the aquarium department will have its own specialized staff including trained biologists.

TROPHY DEER MUSEUM – Cabela's dedication to wildlife is spectacular, continuing with a 2,800-square-foot wildlife museum, displaying species native to Connecticut. The museum boasts an extensive collection of trophy mounts, including elk, moose, whitetail and mule deer.

SIGNATURE BRONZE WILDLIFE SCULPTURE – Outside the store, Cabela's will feature an original signature bronze sculpture. The identity of the sculpture will remain secret until it is revealed at a special unveiling on October 18. The sculpture was enlarged, molded and cast by Eagle Bronze of Lander, Wyo.

Additional features

- Boat showroom and a maintenance shop.
- Indoor archery range where archers can test and fine-tune their equipment.
- Full-service fly-fishing shop, much like a store within a store, has the products – and helpful, experienced staff – for all fly-casters from novice to expert.
- Shooting gallery providing fun along with the opportunity to learn basic shooting skills in a safe environment.
- World-class Gun Library, providing gun collectors and aficionados the opportunity to browse through a collection of examples of the gun-making art.
- Cabela's famous Bargain Cave, featuring discount prices on returned and discontinued merchandise.
- Specialty furniture store, art gallery and country store with homemade fudge.
- Service for firearms, archery equipment and fishing gear.
- A deli-style restaurant, located on the mezzanine with a grand view of Conservation Mountain and the store below, with a menu that includes delicious wild-game sandwiches, as well as tamer fare.
- Dog kennels so customers can let their animals out to exercise while they are enjoying the store.
- Interior features authentic fieldstone fireplaces and wood furnishings made from trees recovered from fire-swept forests, and an atrium bathed with natural light from overhead skylights.
- Beautifully landscaped grounds featuring native trees and plants.
- Walking path through the landscaped grounds featuring native trees and plants.
- Two large conference rooms and educational center for school groups, seminars, conferences and conventions.