



Greenburgh
Nature Center



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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Current as of 2022

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Thank you to former 2021 Board Members: David Seal, Michael Sims, Betty Ong, Michael Tom, and Daphne Monnoyeur-Moore.

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LETTER FROM OUR CHAIRMAN AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2021 was a year of accomplishments that we are proud to share with you as our most faithful supporters.

Early in the year we concluded our transition period and hired Alix Dunn to take over the role of Executive Director. Alix is a strong and progressive leader who brings over twenty years of environmental non-profit leadership experience to the Nature Center. In a very short time, Alix has instilled a confidence among staff, increased overall morale, energized our commitment to the community, challenged us to create aspirational goals, and built positive relationships with key constituents. Her dynamic leadership is apparent in all corners of the organization and throughout the nature preserve.

Throughout 2021, we maintained our commitment to bringing enriching environmental educational programming to our visitors. Despite challenges surrounding our community during the pandemic, the Nature Center remained a respite, and we kept the park open and available for an escape to fresh air, open space, exercise, and nature's healing hand. The pandemic, which had a profound impact on our program revenues overnight, renewed our commitment to be an oasis for the surrounding area. Through great uncertainty, we were proactive in innovating how to deliver our mission safely, and we successfully accessed PPP funds to weather the storm financially.

Behind the scenes we worked diligently to define our strategic focus and direction. The Board of Directors, our team of dedicated employees, partners, and stakeholders met to create our three-year strategic plan. The outcome is a clearly defined roadmap that guides our programming, communications, resource generation and allocation, and operational structure. Our next level of focus is to become more than just a "beautiful gem" in the community, and going forward, we are dedicating our focus to become a "living lab" – a place for memorable nature experiences, engaging environmental education for all ages, and demonstration of sustainability practices that result in ACTION!

By December, we had already accomplished: strengthening our Board of Directors to reflect a diverse set of skills; improving governance across the organization; reenergizing and expanding our community events; implementing action-based programming with metrics to measure success; introducing summer internship programs for college students; increasing revenues to \$1.6 million; and restoring critical areas within the preserve grounds.

It's the support from all of you - our members, donors, friends, and neighbors - that has set the foundation to transform the gem of the Nature Center into a thriving outdoor classroom with demonstrations of cultural vegetable gardens, native plant specimens that thrive in our area, and trails with fun activities to challenge the whole family. We are gratefully thankful for your generosity and commitment to the success of the Nature Center.

Nature will always give us the strength to face whatever uncertainties lay ahead, and it is our job to protect, cultivate and steward her as much as possible to ensure we survive in harmony.

Sincerely,
Jim Blann
Chairman of the Board

Alix Dunn
Executive Director

2021 Impact



195 Schools



15,536 Students



90,000 Visitors



**Serving Town of Greenburgh,
Hastings-on-Hudson, Dobbs Ferry,
Tarrytown, Ardsley, Irvington,
Elmsford and more!**



100+ Animals



**400 Garden Scholars
students**



572 Members



**218 Back to Nature programs
held**



57 Volunteers

PARTNERSHIPS

For the past four years, our naturalist educators have brought our sensory gardening programs to The New York Institute for Special Education, School for the Blind located in Bronx, New York, to help visually impaired children learn about gardening. This program inspires independence and encourages each student to fully participate in growing their garden through hands-on activities that teach them how to plan, plant, care for, and harvest their organic garden.

We are excited about a new program and partnership we have developed with the Harold and Elaine Shames Jewish Community Center on the Hudson ("JCC"). The JCC has a program called LIFT (Leadership, Internship, Friendship, Transition) for special needs adults, ages 18-25. JCC participants work to achieve independent potentials through our programs that teach work place responsibilities while caring for our animals.

In November, the Irvington Garden Club brought our greenhouse to life when they utilized it to grow an assortment of plants for their annual Mother's Day plant sale. Annual plants lined the walls of our greenhouse, growing effortlessly under the care of the Garden Club.



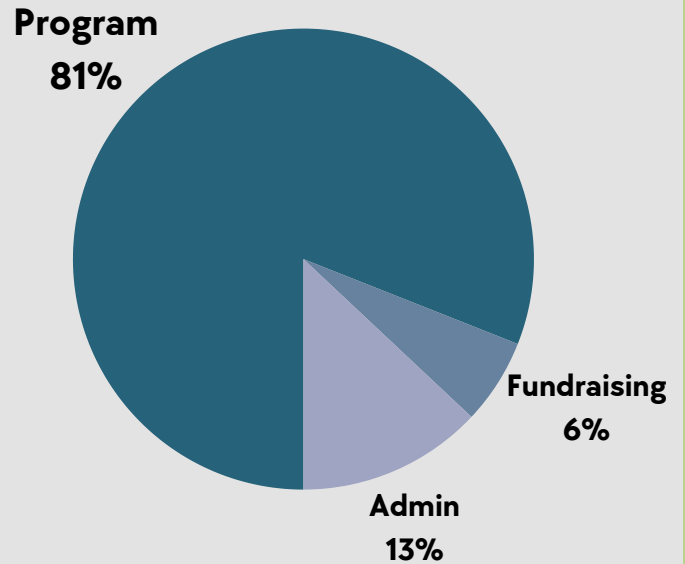
OUR VISION

- Transform our 33-acre nature preserve into a “living lab”, creating endless opportunities for inclusion, connection, and discovery.
- Inform, demonstrate, and inspire environmentally friendly and sustainable practices to live in harmony with nature and adapt to an ever changing environment.
- Excite and inspire our community to explore and learn with hands-on science-based programs on ecology, wildlife conservation, resource management, stewardship, and sustainability education.

EXPENSE BREAKDOWN

Program - 81%
Administration - 13%
Fundraising - 6%

For every dollar raised, 81% goes directly toward educational programs.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Year ending Dec 31, 2021

ASSETS

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$801,417
Investments	\$168,079
Accounts Receivable	\$37,202
Prepaid Expenses	\$5,458
Total Current Assets	\$1,012,156
Fixed Assets, Net of Accumulated Depreciation of \$340,689 in 2021	\$148,604
Other Assets - Artwork	<u>\$3,950</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>\$1,164,710</u></u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$37,496
Accrued Payroll	\$32,491
Accrued Vacation & Sick Time	\$22,747
Deferred Revenue	<u>\$6,085</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$98,819</u>

Net Assets

Without Donor Restrictions	\$1,001,440
With Donor Restrictions	\$64,451
Total Net Assets	<u>\$1,065,891</u>

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>\$1,164,710</u></u>
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STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year ending Dec 31, 2021

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Revenue and Other Support:	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Town of Greenburgh	-	\$337,100	\$337,100
Government, Foundation & Corporate Grants	\$29,054	\$294,244	\$323,298
Naturalist Tuition/Programs	\$457,815	-	\$457,815
Individual Contributions, Memberships & Admissions	\$451,250	\$27,566	\$478,816
Investment Return, Net	\$37,878	\$11	\$37,889
Rental Income	\$32,932	-	\$32,932
Miscellaneous Income	\$1,261	-	\$1,261
Gift Shop	\$12,219	-	\$12,219
Net Assets Released from Restriction Satisfaction of Program Restrictions	\$661,319	(\$661,319)	-
Total Revenue and Support	\$1,683,728	(\$2,398)	<u>\$1,681,330</u>
Expenses:			
Program Expenses	\$1,117,860	-	\$1,117,860
Administrative Expenses	\$179,818	-	\$179,818
Fundraising	\$92,993	-	\$92,993
Total Expenses	\$1,390,671	-	<u>\$1,390,671</u>
Increase (decrease) in Net Assets	\$293,057	(\$2,398)	\$290,659
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$708,383	\$66,849	\$775,232
Net Assets, End of Year	\$1,001,440	\$64,451	<u>\$1,065,891</u>

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Greenburgh Nature Center is a regional destination known for its highly respected environmental education programs. Approximately 90,000 people from around the tri-state area are impacted by the Nature Center's programs. Our programs cover a wide range of topics offered to students in pre-K through 12th grade, nonprofit organizations, and after-school groups. These programs reach approximately 16,000 students and 195 schools annually.

Environmental Education

Our environmental education programs provide a variety of educational opportunities throughout the year, and are designed to enrich and support the New York State education curriculum. Students engage in an experiential learning environment and are challenged to utilize their critical thinking skills, while having fun and creating memories.



Sustainability

Our sustainability programs teach children how they can make small changes to help protect our planet. We nurture the future stewards of the earth to care for our planet in an exciting, educational setting. Students can integrate sustainability into their curriculum by creating a schoolyard habitat, an edible schoolyard, or by becoming a zero-waste school!



STEAM

Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics are five very important pillars of our academic education. Our STEAM programs promote creativity, critical thinking, initiative, communication, digital literacy, and problem solving, along with teamwork and collaboration. Regardless of the future career path considered by the students, these skill sets go a long way in preparing them to be innovative.



Discovering Ecosystems

Through hands-on exploration, students use a variety of tools to discover aquatic ecosystems and learn to identify macroinvertebrates. Students learn about the interrelationships and life cycles of plants and animals and the adaptations of each. This program helps students understand how all parts of an ecosystem, living and nonliving, work together to help each other survive and achieve balance.



SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Climate Change & Carbon Footprint

Students learn what a carbon footprint is and how increases in greenhouse gases affect climate change. Students learn what their carbon footprint is and how to think critically about their lifestyle choices, identifying ways in which they can reduce their carbon footprint and create a plan to decrease it going forward.



Water Conservation

Students learn where their water comes from, what the many uses for water are, alternatives to water use and how to cut down on water consumption. Students learn ways to save water at home and how to avoid wasting it.



Garden Scholars

Students learn about vermicomposting, seed starting and dispersal, bees and how they are needed to pollinate our flowers, as well as garden invaders. By actively participating in caring for their garden, students gain a greater understanding and respect for the natural world around them. In addition to a wealth of basic gardening information, students learn life skills such as planning, organization, and teamwork.



Composting

In this multi-program series, students learn to sort traditional mealtime refuse into four categories (landfill, commingled recycling, paper recycling, and compostable). They gain a thorough understanding of composting by making a compost bin and exploring how materials can be converted into finished compost, as well as how to maintain a healthy compost. Students gain real life skills by calculating measurements, reading instructions, participating in scientific experiments and writing about their findings.



OUTDOOR SITES AND EXPERIENCES



Birds of Prey

The Nature Center provides stewardship to many non-releasable, native New York raptors that are unable to live on their own in the wild. Our outdoor Birds of Prey exhibit is home to two bald eagles, a great horned owl, and a red-tailed hawk. In addition to our raptors, we also have another large bird exhibit located behind the Manor House that is home to our white-necked raven named Zhou-Zhou.

Native American Village

Our Native American replica village exhibits the designs and techniques used 6,000 years ago by Eastern Woodland Native Americans. Set on two sites along our property, the village includes a life-sized wigwam, longhouse, dugout canoe, and hide drying rack. Students' imaginations soar as they learn how indigenous peoples met their daily needs for food, shelter, and survival. This program helps students understand the vital, unique, and ongoing contributions of this country's original inhabitants.



Organic Garden

Our seasonal demonstration garden showcases organic approaches to garden design, planting, cultivating, and harvesting of fresh vegetables and herbs. We demonstrate natural methods to tending a garden and ensuring that the soil has sufficient nutrients by teaching the benefits of composting, and why worms, bugs, and other microorganisms are important in maintaining a healthy soil to grow vegetables and herbs.

Native Plant Meadow & Butterfly Arbor

Planted with a wide variety of local species, our Native Plant Meadow is a beautiful and relaxing place to spend some quiet time. Near the meadow is our Butterfly Arbor which comes to life every summer to feature our live butterfly exhibit. This living exhibit features approximately 150 free-flying native butterflies, while viewing nature's beautiful palette of colors revealed in Monarchs, Painted Ladies, and Eastern Black Swallowtails. Our butterfly exhibit introduces visitors to the wonders of metamorphosis, the fascinating life cycle of butterflies, what they eat, and the pollinator plants they need to survive.



Beehives

Honeybees are a vital part of our ecosystem, acting as highly efficient pollinators, they buzz about pollinating our food crops and native plants. The Nature Center has 5 honeybee colonies that are taken care of by our resident apiarist and used in demonstrations to educate visitors. Our industrious honeybees help us by providing an invaluable service pollinating the plants and flowers surrounding the Nature Center grounds.

Great Lawn

Centrally located among our 33-acres, the Nature Center's Great Lawn provides an ideal space to start an outdoor adventure. Adjacent to the Great Lawn is a trail to our Native Plant Meadow, our organic gardens, children's discovery playground, and our wooden stage. The Great Lawn is a wonderful and tranquil place to rest and enjoy the beauty of nature in all seasons.



PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS



Run Wild

Run Wild is an outdoor forest run and obstacle course for kids ages 5-15 to get active and enjoy nature. Kids run, climb, crawl and traverse through our lush forest and grounds in a 1.25 mile course that includes obstacles such as a balance beam, rope climb, sandbag carry, tunnel crawl, and more kid-friendly obstacles to conquer.

Plan and Plant Your Home Garden

In this program our naturalists demonstrate how we prep and plant our Organic Garden at the Nature Center, teaching how to optimize your garden to attract native pollinators. Our naturalists also teach about crop succession, companion planting, square foot gardening, and composting.



Spring Migration

Our naturalists host a walk through the grounds for visitors to observe the many species that visit during the spring. Our forest becomes a living lab, home to the many new avian friends that visit the Nature Center, and visitors learn about the ongoing effort to build a better future for migratory birds.

Family Programs and Community Events

Our Back to Nature series of programs gets the whole family involved in fun and interactive hands-on educational activities that expose them to the wonders of nature. In addition, we host several community events and festivals throughout the year to celebrate the changing of the seasons while engaging visitors of all ages with nature.



Adult Programs

Adult programs include educational forums aimed at increasing environmental awareness within the community. Environmental leaders and guest speakers share their knowledge on proactive ways in which everyone can participate by making small lifestyle changes that can help to protect our planet. These forums encourage the exchange of ideas for development of sustainable solutions regarding a wide range of environmental issues.

Volunteer Programs

We have been expanding our volunteer program to reach all ages of nature enthusiasts who want to become more involved with what we do here at the Nature Center. Volunteers find many ways to express their interests such as assisting during family festivals and other special events, greeting visitors, animal care, light carpentry, assisting our administrative staff with special projects and office work, and participating in ecological restoration efforts.



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\$100,000+

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Eric Rothenberg

\$50,000+

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Ecology and Conservation Internship

2021 was the inaugural year for our Ecology and Conservation Internship ("ECI") program. ECI interns are typically undergraduates learning conservation skills between semesters, or young professionals just outside of a formal education setting. With a focus on native plants, our internship program provides hands-on training in conservation skills, applied ecology, research and data collection, and facilitates the interaction with conservation practitioners throughout the region.

In our first year we hired and trained three interns. Throughout the summer they surveyed sections of our forests, engaged with the public regarding conservation topics, removed invasive species, planted natives, designed and constructed a "Welcome" arbor at the junction of the parking lot and boardwalk, and much more. They really set a high standard for our ECI program. We look forward to growing the program and training more young professional conservationists in 2022.



Thank you to Katelyn, Becca, and Enrique for your hard work!