



Greenburgh  
Nature Center



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2022 ANNUAL REPORT

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Current as of April 2023*

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Thank you to former 2022 Board Members: Sookie Lee-Kim and Emily Hamel.



# LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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We hope that you have noticed a new feeling of energy, beauty, and inspiration at the Nature Center as we completed our first full year of bringing our 2022-2024 Strategic Plan to life. Staff, board members, and volunteers focused diligently to achieve our goals to cultivate the preserve grounds, enhance educational offerings, and increase engagement with members and visitors, in addition to offering a greater variety of programs to broader age groups.



Visitors from all over Westchester and students from schools, local and beyond, have been able to return on a regular basis to explore the Nature Center and experience many of our environmental education programs. It is a joy to see so many school children back on the grounds and in the Manor House experiencing all the new and traditional seasonal programs our Naturalist Educators offer. Our scheduled program bookings doubled in 2022, accommodating twice the number of students interested in supplementing and enriching classroom learning with our hands-on, nature based outdoor curriculum.

2022 was the second year we offered a more robust K- 5<sup>th</sup> grade summer camp. It was inspiring to see our summer camp buzzing with nearly 500 budding environmental stewards. Additionally, we offered a S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) camp for students in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades offering exciting STEAM-influenced nature curriculum appropriate for New York State grade level standards.

Archery was a popular new offering, with students learning the technique of focus and controlled target practice under the guidance of our certified archery instructors. Movie nights offered a fun opportunity to experience our outdoor environment at night. And 2022 was our second year offering our Run Wild event; a weekend-long 1.25-mile forest run and obstacle course. Kids (and adults) of all ages enjoyed challenging themselves in some family fun competition.



Our greenhouse became the new home for the Garden Club of Irvington's plants, seedlings, and cuttings for their annual spring Plant Sale fundraiser. Our new partnership with the garden club revived our greenhouse and provided a lovely and vibrant spot for visitors to enjoy during the winter months while the young plants grew.

We continue to be committed to improving the member experience and thanks to a generous donation from one of our top donors, we have been working on a masterplan for our 33 acres that will allow us to alleviate parking constraints and develop opportunities for future growth. We have engaged an architecture firm to develop a Welcome Center design to greet and orient visitors and to better connect with guests upon arrival.

The Greenburgh Nature Center continues to be a valued community resource for nature exploration and learning as well as being a leader in best sustainable practices. We are excited to share our special haven and all the plans we have for the future. We know that providing quality experiences is important, and we could not do it without your continued support and participation. Thank you for your dedication and generous donations, we deeply appreciate your ongoing support and trust in the Nature Center and our mission.

Sincerely,  
Tracey Kurzweil  
President of the Board

Alix Dunn  
Executive Director

# OUR VISION

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- 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.

## CATHY'S MEADOW

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In 2022, we officially recognized our native plant meadow as "Cathy's Meadow" after our longtime board member, major donor, and catalyst for the project, Cathy Ludden. She undertook the arduous task of transforming 2-acres of a neglected apple orchard that had become infested with weeds into a vibrant meadow with a butterfly arbor and outdoor teaching spaces. Cathy was assisted by landscape architect Bill Boyce, of Biosphere Landscape Architects, and northeastern meadow planting expert, Larry Weaner, of Larry Weaner Design, both of whom donated their time and expertise. Together they were able to create a thriving ecosystem that provides nourishment for pollinators and wildlife.

The meadow's ecological value supports many native species of insects and butterflies, in addition to other wildlife that benefits from the diversity of food it provides. The butterfly arbor, stone ring, and oak circle each provide an outdoor classroom for our school groups and visitors to experience a natural meadow and healthy forest landscape that is disappearing at a rapid rate throughout New York.

Acknowledging Cathy's contribution to the Greenburgh Nature Center; "Cathy's Meadow" recognizes her decade-long commitment to empowering the next generation to carefully steward our natural resources.



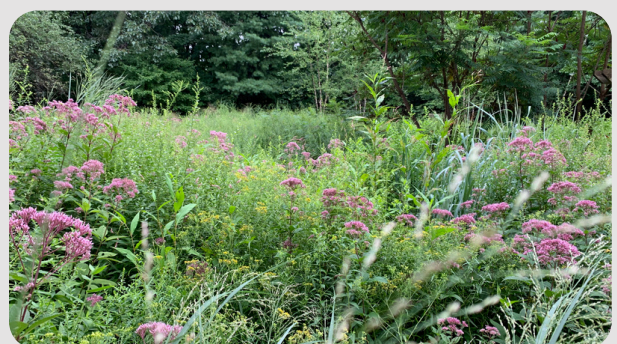
Neglected land



After the meadow was mowed



Cleared and ready to be planted



A vibrant playground for pollinators

# OUR IMPACT

15,536 STUDENTS



113,000 VISITORS



100+ ANIMALS



663 MEMBERS



365 GARDEN SCHOLARS



139 VOLUNTEERS



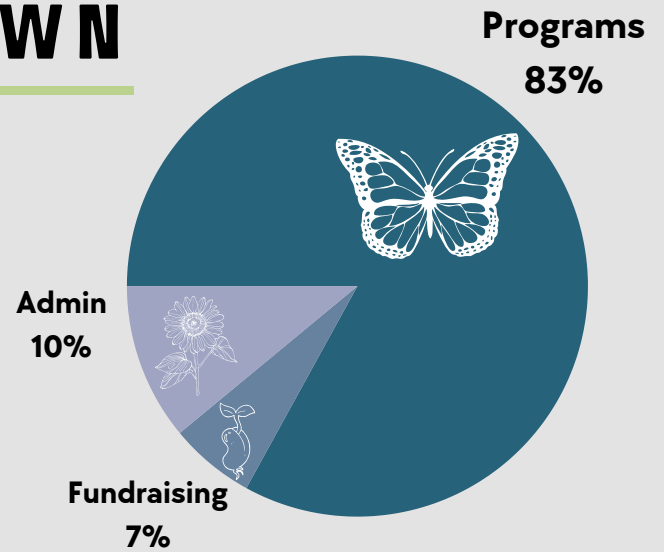
# EXPENSE BREAKDOWN

**Program - 83%**

**Administration - 10%**

**Fundraising - 7%**

*For every dollar raised, 83% goes directly toward educational programs.*



# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Year ending Dec. 31, 2022

## ASSETS

### Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$796,604
Investments	\$135,265
Accounts Receivable	\$29,356
Prepaid Expenses	<u>\$8,862</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>\$970,087</u>
Fixed Assets, Net of Accumulated Depreciation of \$372,438 in 2022	\$161,714
Operating right-of-use assets	\$7,423
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u><u>\$1,139,224</u></u>

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

### Liabilities

Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$49,652
Accrued Payroll	\$37,572
Accrued Vacation & Sick Time	\$19,826
Deferred Revenue	\$32,722
Operating lease liability, current portion	<u>\$3,543</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>\$143,315</u>
Operating lease liability, long-term portion	<u>\$3,880</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u><u>\$147,195</u></u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	
Without Donor Restrictions	\$955,365
With Donor Restrictions	<u>\$36,664</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u><u>\$992,029</u></u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<u><u>\$1,139,224</u></u>

# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year ending Dec. 31, 2022

## REVENUE AND SUPPORT

<b>Revenue and Other Support:</b>	<b>Without Donor Restrictions</b>	<b>With Donor Restrictions</b>	<b>Total</b>
Town of Greenburgh	-	\$337,100	\$337,100
Government, Foundation & Corporate Grants	\$12,499	\$105,661	\$118,160
Naturalist Tuition/Programs	\$481,197	-	\$481,197
Individual Contributions & Memberships	\$334,971	\$79,321	\$414,292
Fundraising Events, Net	\$30,002	-	\$30,002
Admissions	\$150,912	-	\$150,912
Gift Shop	\$35,352	-	\$35,352
Investment Return, Net	(\$25,823)	\$6	(\$25,817)
Rental Income	\$36,498	-	\$36,498
Miscellaneous Income	\$113	-	\$113
<b>Net Assets Released from Restriction Satisfaction of Program Restrictions</b>	<b>\$549,875</b>	<b>(\$549,875)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Revenue and Other Support</b>	<b>\$1,605,596</b>	<b>(\$27,787)</b>	<b><u>\$1,577,809</u></b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Program Expenses	\$1,364,304	-	\$1,364,304
Administrative Expenses	\$174,937	-	\$174,937
Fundraising	\$112,430	-	\$112,430
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$1,651,671</u></b>	<b>-</b>	<b><u>\$1,651,671</u></b>
<b>Increase (decrease) in Net Assets</b>	<b>(\$46,075)</b>	<b>(\$27,787)</b>	<b>(\$73,862)*</b>
<b>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</b>	<b><u>\$1,001,440</u></b>	<b><u>\$64,451</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,065,891</u></b>
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	<b>\$955,365</b>	<b>\$36,664</b>	<b><u>\$992,029</u></b>

\*2022 operating budget was approved as a deficit to support investments in more educational programming and exhibits.

# SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Greenburgh Nature Center is a 33-acre nature preserve known for its environmental education programs and scenic interactive natural exhibits. The work we do is supported by the over 110,000 yearly visitors from the tri-state area and beyond. We provide an array of different programs offered to people of all ages, nonprofit organizations, schools, and businesses. Our naturalists engage with over 15,000 students from over 250 schools annually, teaching environmental stewardship and introducing them to the natural world.

## Environmental Education

Our environmental education programs provide educational opportunities throughout the year for students that enrich and support the New York State curriculum. Students engage in an experimental learning environment and are challenged to utilize their critical thinking skills, while having fun and creating lasting memories.



## Sustainability

During our sustainability programs, students learn how they can make small and large changes in their everyday life to help protect our planet. This educational experience helps inform the next generation of land stewards. Students can integrate sustainability into their curriculum by creating a schoolyard habitat, an edible garden, or by becoming a zero-waste school.



## S.T.E.A.M.

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics) is at the forefront of all our programming at the Nature Center. Our STEAM programs promote creativity, critical thinking, initiative, communication, digital literacy, and problem-solving, along with teamwork and collaboration.



## Discovering Ecosystems

Students discover the interrelationships and life cycles of plants and animals and learn how interdependent they are in our diverse landscapes and ecosystems. These programs are designed to give students a holistic view of natural systems and how to best identify and care for them.





# SCHOOL PROGRAMS

## Climate Change & Carbon Footprint

In this program, students learn how greenhouse gases affect the ever-changing climate. Students learn how to calculate their own carbon footprint and naturalists teach easy, everyday ways to reduce it and help create plans to rely less on fossil fuels in the future.



## Water Conservation

Our naturalists teach the importance of protecting and preserving our waterways and drinking water. In this program, students learn where their water comes from, what the many uses for water are, alternatives to water use, and how to cut down water consumption.



## 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 own garden, students gain a greater understanding and respect for the natural world around them.



## Composting

In this multi-program series, students learn to properly sort their refuse into four categories (landfill, commingled recycling, paper recycling, and compostable). Students gain a thorough understanding of the process of composting and how to convert organic waste into healthy soil.



# OUTDOOR SITES AND EXPERIENCES



## Birds of Prey

The Nature Center is home to several non-releasable birds of prey that are unable to live on their own in the wild. Our outdoor exhibit features 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 replica Wigwam and Longhouse serve as interactive learning sites for the thousands of students interested in what the Hudson Valley looked like over 6,000 years ago. Complete with a dugout canoe and hide drying rack, these two sites help students understand the vital, unique, and ongoing contributions of this country's original inhabitants.



## Organic Garden

Our demonstration garden showcases the best organic approaches to designing and planting the perfect garden bed and how to harvest its vegetable and herbs. Our naturalists demonstrate how to tend a garden to ensure the soil has sufficient nutrients by covering topics like composting, microorganisms, and planting techniques.

## 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. While in the meadow, observe our butterfly arbor that is home to over 100 native free-flying butterflies including, Monarchs, Painted Ladies, and Eastern Black Swallowtails. In July, our butterfly exhibit allows for an interactive educational experience about the importance of these stunning colorful insects.



## Beehives

Honeybees are a vital part of our ecosystem, acting as highly efficient pollinators, they buzz about pollinating our food crops and native plants. We have 5 honeybee colonies that are cared for by our resident apiarist and used in demonstrations showcasing how crucial these pollinators are. 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, our 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

## Plan and Plant Your Home Garden

Throughout the year, our naturalists demonstrate how we prep and plant our organic garden at the Nature Center, teaching our guests how to optimize their gardens to attract native pollinators. Our naturalists also teach about crop succession, companion planting, square-foot gardening, and composting.



## Run Wild

Run Wild is an outdoor forest run and obstacle course for runners ages 5-15 to get active and enjoy nature. Participants 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.

## Movie Nights

Throughout the summer we host several outdoor family movie nights on our great lawn. These community events are free to the public and engage an older audience looking to enjoy a movie under the blanket of night.



## Spring Migration

Our naturalists host a walk through the grounds for visitors to observe the many species that visit our grounds during the spring. Watch as our forest becomes a living lab, home to the many new avian friends that visit.

## 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 highlighting the wonders of nature. In addition, we host several community events throughout the year to celebrate the changing of the seasons while engaging visitors of all ages with nature-based games, crafts, and activities.



## Archery

Target archery is an engaging way to help improve hand-eye coordination, mental acuity, and strength. Through this program, students are able to use a bow and arrow while also learning about traditional archery techniques. This new program has been a smash hit with multiple archery tournaments being sold out.

## Volunteer Programs

We provide an immersive experience for volunteers looking to further their careers as environmental educators. Our dedicated volunteer staff assists us with a variety of different tasks like helping out during festivals, greeting visitors, animal care, light carpentry, and participating in ecological restoration efforts. The volunteer staff are a vital part of our everyday operations and we rely on them to keep our grounds in the best shape possible.



# MAJOR DONORS

## **\$100,000+**

Cathy Ludden and  
Eric Rothenberg  
Town of Greenburgh

## **\$50,000+**

Anonymous  
NYS Environmental  
Protection Fund

## **\$40,000+**

Daniel S. Chillemi Charitable  
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Department of Parks,  
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## **\$20,000+**

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## **\$10,000+**

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## **\$5,000+**

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## **\$1,000+**

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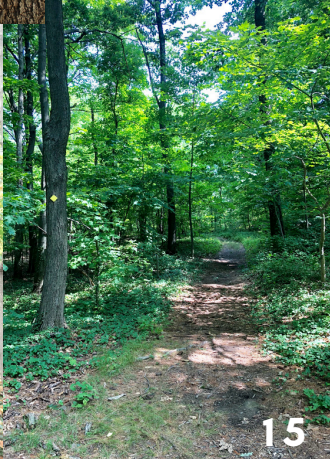
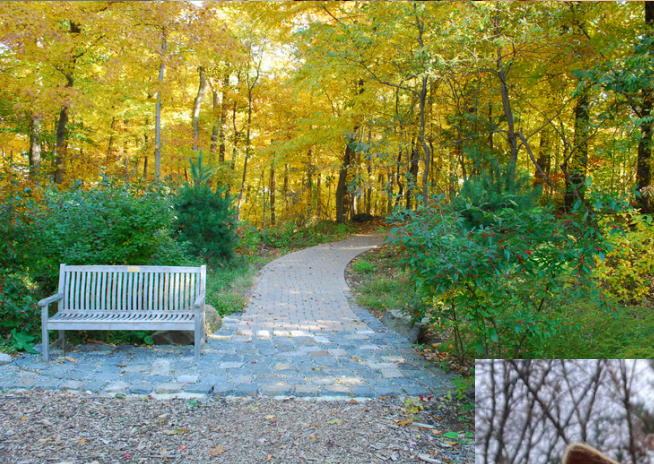
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## Greenburgh Nature Center

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(914) 723-3470  
[www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org)

**Non Profit Org.**  
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Permit #1195

## Welcome Center

At the end 2022, our board approved the study of a masterplan and welcome center design for our 33-acre natural lands. Set to be built off the meandering path to the Manor House. The welcome center is meant to orient visitors and teach them about our organization before entering the grounds.

These new additions are only possible thanks to the endless support of our donors and everyday visitors. As we continue to expand we want to say thank you for allowing us to be the home for your connections to the natural world.

