



# FRIENDS of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Much has changed since the organization sprouted from concerns over the management of the County's largest park some thirty-five years ago. For that matter, much has changed in the past five years. The Board of Directors oversaw measures to improve fiscal accountability, selected a new Executive Director and collaborated with the Mount Pisgah Arboretum to investigate a merger. This report presents organizational highlights and financial information for our 2023 fiscal year. While it was the Friends founding practice to hold the Annual Meeting in the spring, early in 2023 it was decided to move the meeting to August to conform with the merger timeline. The Board reported our financial position to the membership and members engaged in formative questions regarding the path forward with consideration of the decision not to merge. Several Board members resigned while others stepped forward to serve on the Board.

Review and comparison of our 2023 financial statement with that reported last year showcases an organization demonstrating fiducial responsibility and diligently working to address its liabilities while accomplishing long-planned outcomes. As we look to 2025 we ready ourselves to recruit our next Executive Director. This will require restoration of suspended relationships with foundation partners and fundraising to afford our next Director a platform to build upon.

One thing that will not change: Friends will continue as a membership supported, volunteer powered, grassroots organization. An organization that implements Howard Buford's vision to protect the lands and ecosystem services within the confluence of the Coast and Middle Forks of the Willamette River and to nurture a regional park that affords accessible recreational experiences for all residents at the center of the County's largest metropolitan area.

This November marks twenty five years of my service to the community, to the land, and to the membership.

Please join me in the year ahead and decade beyond as we bear this torch to light the way.

Jason Blazar,  
Stewardship Director and Interim Executive Director



**2023** was marked by transition, including transitions of staff and board members whose terms of service ended. We thank each who left in 2023 for their commitment and contributions to lead and serve the organization.

**Thank you to Janelle McCoy** for three years of service as Executive Director, for her efforts to evolve the Friends transactional relationships into transformational relationships, to pursue success in the face of adversity and to accept when it was time to change directions. Her pursuit of Covid-related funding and swift action to secure two ppp loans (later forgiven) as well as cultural trust funds allowed the Friends to keep the doors open when many others were shuttered during the pandemic.

**Thank you to Anise Thigpen, Dante Zuñiga-West, and Kate Stover.** Each is an educator of significant practice who joined the Board as the organization sought council to advise on how a merged organization might function.

**Thank you to Natanya von Engel** for serving as the Board's Treasurer and working to secure a \$100,000 refund from the Federal Government.

**Thank you to Alyssa Larimer** for her dedication and care for the park's trails. As Trail Steward, Alyssa empowered interns and volunteers to maintain the trailway throughout the park. We thank her for her perseverance and commitment to secure permits in support of East Trail 3 construction while navigating bureaucracy and challenges with consultants. We thank her for an improved Trail 56 and for broadening our perspective of accessibility in a practice of inclusivity.



*Kurt Kamin loads the seed spreader in preparation for sowing post-burn areas in the North Bottomlands.*



*Fire practitioners gather to review and light a test fire to confirm the unit is within prescription as the group readies to complete the burn in the Meadowlark South Management Unit started earlier in the week.*

**Thank you to Kurt Kamin** for twenty years of stewardship of the floodplains within the Coast and Middle Forks of the Willamette River. Thank you, Kurt, for sharing your humor, your commitment to safety and punctuality, and for never hesitating to speak truth to power.



2023 marked significant progress to advance projects stalled or slowed by the experience of the Pandemic and the hardship attributed to changing climate. Doves of volunteers including families, local businesses, individuals, and service organizations renewed their commitment to community stewardship, a 170 percent increase over 2022 and a significant match to secured grants and contracts.

Lane County engaged in a twenty year agreement with the Freshwater Trust to manage an area of riverside forest for enhanced shade. Friends was selected to implement prescriptions and steward the site in the South Bottomlands Stewardship Zone.

Restoration forestry continued within the Ponderosa Management Unit as staff and contractors implemented prescriptions to release legacy oak and madrone trees while resetting savanna and open oak woodland across tens of acres of habitat during the summer and fall.

The US Fish & Wildlife Service provided a National Fire Plan-Wildland Urban Interface Community Fire Assistance grant, which bolstered Friends' capacity to ready prairie

and savanna for the experience of fire and implement prescribed burns. This grant complimented multi-year funding provided by the Bureau of Land Management and made possible our most successful burn season to date. Burns occurred within five of the HBRA's seven Stewardship Zones as well as at three additional conservation properties including Turtle Flats! Partners from numerous Rivers to Ridges agencies and organizations as well as Oregon Department of Forestry and Pleasant Hill - Goshen Fire Department contributed to the success of each burn day.

With concurrence of our wetland delineation in hand and determination that no permit was required, Phase II of the East Trail 3 project began in earnest in October with the installation of bottomless culverts at numerous crossings of the creeks that flow through the hillside prairie and savanna of the Meadowlark South Management Unit and the hire of Camille Best, a former intern, as the Project Manager.

The Friends nursery provided hundreds of pounds of live seed to broadcast over each fire footprint and areas of site disturbance. The seed represents diverse plant communities and rich habitat made possible through the cultivation of over 120 crops of native forbs, grasses, and woody plants.

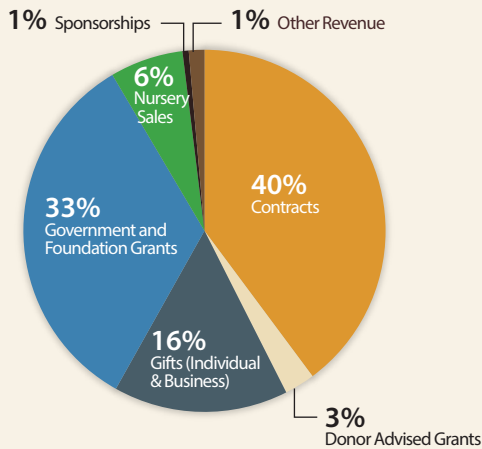


Curious to learn more? Please refer to our archive of published articles in the eNews, in the Rookery, as well as project descriptions each available at [bufordpark.org](http://bufordpark.org).

# 2023 Financial Report

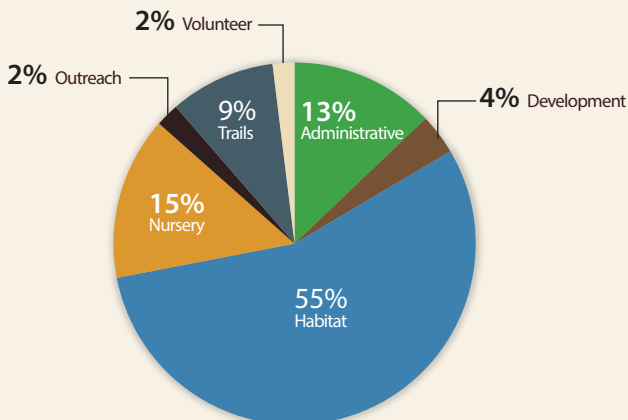
## INCOME

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Contracts  | \$340,715        |
| Donor Advised Grants   | \$23,274         |
| Gifts (Individual, Business, Organization)                   | \$133,407        |
| Grants (Government, Business, Organization, Foundation)      | \$285,544        |
| Nursery Sales  | \$55,976         |
| Other Income   | \$4,752          |
| Sponsorships   | \$11,900         |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME (shown in chart)</b>                         | <b>\$855,568</b> |
| Gifts In-Kind (Labor and Materials)                          | \$15,730         |
| Other Income   | \$4,469          |
| Realized and Unrealized Gain on Investment                   | \$12,779         |
| <b>TOTAL INCLUDING GIFTS, IN-KIND &amp; INVESTMENT GAINS</b> | <b>\$888,546</b> |



## EXPENSES

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Administration        | \$121,546        |
| Development           | \$34,110         |
| Habitat               | \$523,853        |
| Nursery               | \$137,590        |
| Outreach              | \$19,661         |
| Trails                | \$89,041         |
| Volunteer             | \$18,413         |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b> | <b>\$944,214</b> |



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

| ASSETS                             | Dec 31, 2022     | Dec 31, 2023     |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Current Assets</b>              |                  |                  |
| Cash                               | \$73,499         | \$30,425         |
| Accounts Receivable                | \$64,265         | \$163,217        |
| Other Current Assets <sup>1</sup>  | \$14,688         | \$23,570         |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>        | <b>\$152,452</b> | <b>\$217,212</b> |
| <b>Fixed Assets</b>                |                  |                  |
| Fixed Assets (Equipment & Nursery) | \$127,242        | \$103,202        |
| Real Property                      | \$90,000         | \$90,000         |
| <b>Total Fixed Assets</b>          | <b>\$217,242</b> | <b>\$193,202</b> |
| <b>Other Assets</b>                |                  |                  |
| Inventory <sup>2</sup>             | \$0              | \$0              |
| Stewardship Endowment <sup>3</sup> | \$79,623         | \$88,640         |
| <b>Total Other Assets</b>          | <b>\$79,623</b>  | <b>\$88,640</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                | <b>\$449,318</b> | <b>\$499,055</b> |

## LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

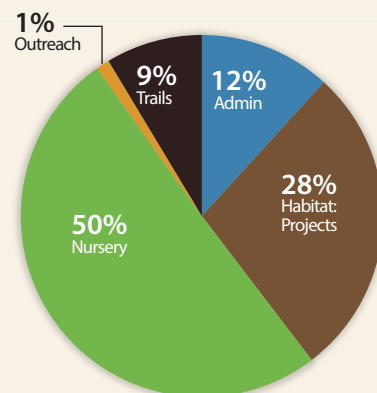
|                                       |                  |                  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Liabilities</b>                    |                  |                  |
| Current Liabilities                   | \$148,290        | \$253,695        |
| Long Term Liabilities <sup>4</sup>    | \$0              | \$0              |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>              | <b>\$148,290</b> | <b>\$253,695</b> |
| <b>Equity</b>                         |                  |                  |
| Board Designated Stewardship          | \$35,200         | \$44,827         |
| Temp. Restricted Net Assets           | \$138,459        | \$132,768        |
| Unrestricted Net Assets               | \$319,029        | \$123,433        |
| Net Income                            | (\$191,660)      | (\$55,668)       |
| <b>Total Equity</b>                   | <b>\$301,028</b> | <b>\$245,360</b> |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b> | <b>\$449,318</b> | <b>\$499,055</b> |

### Notes:

- 1 Includes current and future year pledges receivable
- 2 Converted SWAG to on-demand
- 3 Includes realized and unrealized gains on investments
- 4 Includes loan on new tractor and implements

## VOLUNTEER SERVICES

| Program                   | Volunteer Hours | Value of Vol Time |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Administrative            | 1491            | \$91,545          |
| Habitat/Stewardship       | 3529            | \$133,297         |
| Nursery                   | 6405            | \$269,259         |
| Outreach                  | 151             | \$5,228           |
| Trails                    | 1093            | \$41,100          |
| <b>TOTAL ALL PROGRAMS</b> | <b>12,669</b>   | <b>\$540,429</b>  |



2023 VOLUNTEER HOURS

NOTE: These financial statements have undergone an accountant's financial review. As of November 2024, all end-of-year corrections have been made.

# We Thank Our 2023 Supporters

## \$25,000 and over

Ellen Otani +  
Head and Heart Foundation  
Lane County Parks Division  
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Oregon Parks & Recreation Department  
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
United States Fish & Wildlife Services

## \$5,000-\$24,999

Anonymous  
Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council  
Helen Reed +  
Julia Cissel  
Larson Family Foundation  
Upper Willamette Soil & Water Conservation District

## \$1,000 - \$4,999

Allen Hancock  
Barry & Maradee Girt\*  
Betsy Crockett  
Bonneville Power Administration  
Carolyn & Dean R. Kortge  
Charles & Leslie Patton  
Christopher Jones & Julie Polhemus Fund  
Dave J. Schroeder & Linda Riepe  
David & Lauren Hulse  
David Dombrow  
Dolly & Donald Woolley  
Elizabeth Coker  
Elliott M Grey  
Gail Harris\*+  
George Chrones  
Glenn & Renee Buchanan  
H. Bright Crosswell

Herbert J. Merker  
Jane W. Straub  
Joanne Karlton +  
Jonathan B Stout  
Kathleen & Stewart Hoeg  
Laura Osinga +  
Margie James\*+  
Mary Humphrey\*  
Michael & Susan Sanders  
Mount Pisgah Arboretum  
Mountain Rose Herbs +  
Peter M O Day  
Rebecca C. Bent & Jerry Welsh\*  
Robert Castleberry & Joyce Thomas  
Robert Cummings  
Spark Fund (Joan Gray & Harris Hoffman)  
The Freshwater Trust  
The Winquist Family Fund (John & Patricia Winquist)  
Wayne David  
Willamalane Park & Recreation District  
Wizard Island Foundation

## \$500 - \$999

Alvin Urquhart  
Ann & Erik Muller  
Ann Hinnen\*  
Barbara Cowan & Richard Larson  
Bill Davenport  
Daniel Paulson  
David and Judith Berg  
Erin Mckenna  
Faxon Deiters Charitable Fund  
Gary Davis\*  
Gillian Hearst  
Harold Hushbeck  
James & Laura Marshall  
Jan Huston  
Jason Blazar\*

Jeffrey Morey & Gail Harris\*+  
Jim & Gayl Ritz  
Julie Daniel\*+  
Katheryn Carnahan  
Kay Coots  
Leigh Raaen  
Linda & Dennis Howard  
Linda Cheney & Fred Felter +  
Lynda Gingerich & Randy Turney  
Mandy Lund  
Michael B. Mooser  
Pam Whyte & Ronald Saylor  
Patricia Atkins +  
Peter & Josephine von Hippel  
Philip Bayles\* +  
Sara Cline  
Vince Barone

## \$250 - \$499

Alice Barkan\*  
Alison Cantril & Andrew Pearsa Fund  
Allen & Ann Heide\*  
Anice Thigpen & Andrea Halliday +  
Ann & David Fidanque  
Ann Bowers  
Beatrice Ellen Fontana  
Bev Holman and Sabin Lamson  
Bob & Kim Clark\*+  
Clayton Gautier & Gail Baker  
Daniel & Kay Robinhold  
David Wagner  
Debra Jones & Jeem Peterson\*  
Diane Jeffcott\*  
Diane Steeck & Dennis Hollenberg  
Don Wirtala  
Eleanor Vandegrift  
Eric Swegles\*  
Gerald & Veronika Walton  
Gregory & Heather Nieckarz  
Hugh & Sue Prichard  
Jack Van Dusen +  
Jeffrey Krueger  
Jill Hoyenga +  
John Jacobsen  
John Koenig & Deborah Toobert\*  
Karla Pattis  
Katharine MacKendrick\*  
Keli Osborn  
Lana Lindstrom & Richard Hughes  
Laurie Monico  
Lawrence & Sandra Dunlap\*  
Linda Jo Eldridge  
Lorna Baldwin +  
M Janise Augur\*  
Mary Jaqua  
Michael Reidy  
Mieko Aoki & Christopher Hayes +  
Nancy Menning +  
Patricia Shemkus  
Paul Hoobyar +  
Pepper & Richard Miller +  
Priscilla Gould

Robert Swank & Colene Doll\*  
Rochelle Rosen +  
Rooted Remedies LLC  
Ruth Schmidt  
Samuel Cornell  
Sandra D. Poinsett  
Sandra K. Wu  
Scott Crable  
Shannon Kracht +  
Stephanie Harris Fund  
Stephen Caird\*  
Stephen Pruch & Brooke Belcher  
United Lutheran Church  
Victoria Deroose  
Wendy Loren\*

## \$249 and under

443 individuals, households and businesses

\*= Pisgah Patron (recurring donor)

+ = Nursery Supporter

## 2023 Board of Directors

Stephen Moore, *President*  
Philip Bayles, *Vice President*  
Natanya von Engel, *Treasurer*  
Nate Zantzinger, *Secretary*  
Jonathan Hood, *Member*  
Kate Stover, *Member*  
Anice Thigpen, *Member*  
Dante Zuñiga-West, *Member*  
Abi Kretschmar, *Member*  
Jason Murphy, *Member*



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