



FRIENDS
of Buford Park
& Mt. Pisgah

2024 Annual Report



Acorn Woodpecker (Melanerpes formicivorus), an indicator of biological integrity as a function of Friends' habitat stewardship. Photo by DM Gallagher.

A message from Jason Blazar, Interim Executive Director

When I think back to the year that was 2024, I find myself reflecting on the collaboration, cooperation, orchestration, and perseverance shown in our community during a period of calamity and disturbance.

I fully embrace the adage that the only constant is change and with change we experience transformation. Transformation of self, transformation of our organization, and transformation of our partnerships.

On January 13 a storm swept across western Oregon. The southern Willamette Valley was center to its path, encrusting powerlines, roads, and trees in a thick layer of ice. Some later described this event as the worst storm on record, crippling the metropolitan area for weeks on end as everyone struggled to dig out, remove debris, and restore power.

The impacts to the park were significant as the weight of the ice buckled powerlines and trees collapsed everywhere.

Friends staff rallied to assist with park closure. We worked to restore access to the nursery, stewardship campus, Glassbar, Sorenson, and Turtle Flats. We assessed trail conditions and storm impacts; mobilized and led crews of volunteers to clear select trails; collaborated with the County to prepare a strategy to mitigate hazards and manage debris for the balance of the park; provided feedback to BPA; and supervised the selected contractor hired to implement the strategy.

Close to one hundred volunteers contributed nearly 1,000 hours to assist with storm clean up activities. Individuals, community service groups (such as the Scorpions, Obsidians, and Back Country Horsemen), as well as a work crew from the Northwest Youth Corps came to the park's aid. This event tested our systems, proved the power of our partnerships, and highlighted the willingness of folks to come together to make short work out of what appeared to be an insurmountable objective.

Land stewards and nursery staff returned to their winter work plan the first week of February. Buford Park re-opened in mid-March.



Trail 5 at the edge of the south bottomlands on January 22.



The same location on March 12 after hours of volunteer, staff and contractor labor to clear the debris.

With each project and at every turn of season we encountered additional obstacles attributed to the ice storm. It slowed our effort to install plantings along the river. It multiplied the volume of work and complexity of prescriptions to ready the savanna and woodland for prescribed burning. It withdrew financial resources from our meager rainy-day fund as we awaited reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It



Volunteers working with Habitat Intern, June Haselton (3rd from left), gear up for another day of storm debris cleanup.

slowed construction of east Trail 3 as we had to remove entire trees cast into the trail corridor and eliminate hazards suspended in the canopy.

Friends' members contributed unsolicited donations to share in the burden of the cost. Their generosity set the tone for 2024. Numerous partners made new investments in support of the Friends' Habitat program. Friends received the first installment of a multi-year grant of levy funds from Lane County Parks. The grant supported staffing as well as acquisition of new equipment. The Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District (UWSWCD) granted the Friends \$25,000 to purchase a used fire engine (the BIG Friendly – 76). In addition, they provided a 0% interest bridge loan as a trial investment to recover funds in association with project expenditures that will be reimbursed once the projects are complete. In the short-term Friends was able to utilize the loan to increase its capacity to manage cash flow. Friends will repay the loan as soon as the associated grant-supported projects are complete.

We had more fire-line-qualified staff in 2024 than any prior year. Following our best practice, we offered seasonal positions to recent and past interns. We hired experienced professionals to join us for the season. The increased capacity they provided was integral to our effort to prepare for—and later implement—controlled prescribed burns in 55.60 acres of prairie, savanna, and oak woodland. None of this would have been possible without the investment of in-kind resources from Pleasant Hill – Goshen Fire, ODF, and Rivers to Ridges Partners (Institute for Applied Ecology, Long Tom Watershed Council, McKenzie River Trust, the Nature Conservancy) and contracted services from Oregon Woods. Grants from several partners (UWSWCD, the USFWS, and the BLM) also provided essential gear, supplies and equipment.

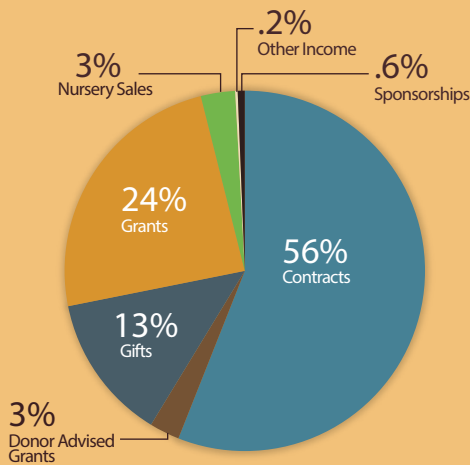
In 2024 we planned for staff transitions, however, we did not plan for so many folks to leave—some after several years of service while others departed just a few weeks after they joined us. We wish them great success. We hope their experience working for the Friends broadened their foundation and honed skills to contribute for the betterment of community as they embark in the next step of their professional journey.

The impact of the storm remains visible throughout the park and to the organization. In its aftermath we find ourselves wrestling with formative questions. Was this storm a natural disaster or human catastrophe? Do the impacts afford more benefits than detrimental outcomes? How might we internalize the lessons it shared to refine our stewardship practice and prepare for future disruption?

We ended the year with a barn full of equipment suffering from deferred maintenance, a crew of talented new stewardship staff, and a purse full of IOU's. And so it goes. Stewardship is not a one-time production—it's a practice refined through repetition. With that in mind we welcome the opportunity to continue our work in 2025.

INCOME

Contracts	\$522,128
Donor Advised Grants	\$25,211
Gifts (Individual, Business, Organization)	\$122,521
Grants (Government, Business, Organization, Foundation)	\$225,732
Nursery Sales	\$28,662
Other Income	\$2,070
Sponsorships	\$5,900
TOTAL INCOME (shown in chart)	\$932,223
Gifts In-Kind (Labor and Materials)	\$3,495
Other Income	\$351
Realized and Unrealized Gain on Investment	\$4,493
TOTAL WITH GIFTS-IN-KIND & INVESTMENT	\$940,563



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	Dec 31, '23	Dec 31, '24
Current Assets		
Cash	\$30,425	\$48,015
Accounts Receivable	\$163,217	\$140,945
Other Current Assets ¹	\$23,570	\$17,474
Total Current Assets	\$217,212	\$206,433
Fixed Assets		
Fixed Assets (EQUIPMENT & NURSERY)	\$103,202	\$103,202
Real Property	90,000	90,000
Total Fixed Assets	\$193,202	\$193,202
Other Assets		
Stewardship Endowment ²	\$88,640	\$89,392
Total Other Assets	\$88,640	\$89,392
TOTAL ASSETS	\$499,055	\$489,028

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

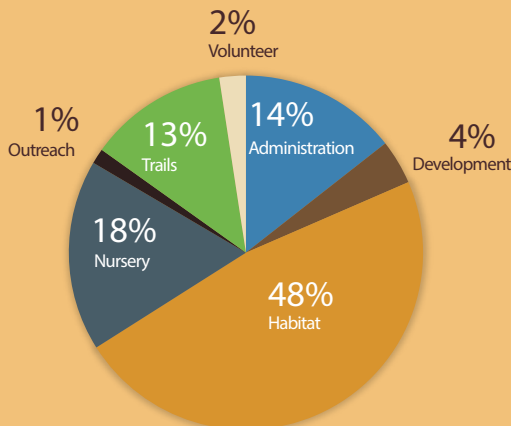
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities	\$253,695	\$178,045
Equity		
Board Designated Stewardship	\$44,827	\$44,827
Temp. Restricted Net Assets	\$132,768	\$174,533
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$123,433	\$81,669
Net Income ²	(\$55,668)	\$65,623
Total Equity	\$245,360	\$310,983
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$499,055	\$428,797

¹ Includes current and future year pledges receivable

² Includes realized and unrealized gains on investments.

EXPENSES

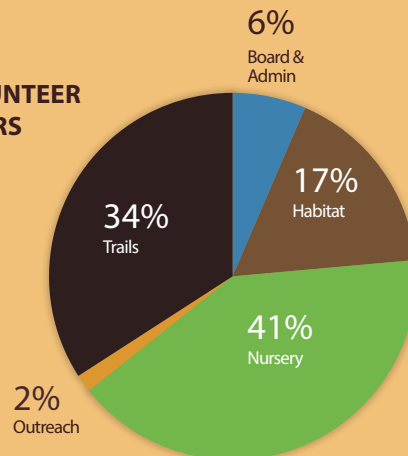
Administration	\$112,785
Development	\$31,795
Habitat	\$371,804
Nursery	\$136,595
Outreach	\$10,864
Trails	\$99,549
Volunteer	\$18,892
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$782,285



VOLUNTEER SERVICES*

Program	Volunteer Hours	Value of Vol Time
Board and Admin	879	\$32,031
Habitat	2,324	\$106,004
Nursery	5,614	\$269,096
Outreach	214	\$7,798
Trails	4,636	\$218,461
TOTAL ALL PROGRAMS	13,667	\$633,390

VOLUNTEER HOURS



* Hours are best estimates and may underrepresent total hours contributed.

NOTE: These are preliminary financial statements as of 6/6/2025. Following accountant's annual financial review, end of year corrections may be made.

We Thank Our 2024 Supporters

\$25,000+

Upper Willamette Soil & Water Conservation District#
Lane County Parks#
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife#
Oregon Parks & Recreation Department#
United States Fish & Wildlife Services#
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board#
The Freshwater Trust#

\$5,000-\$24,999

Anonymous Donors
Edward Farren
Harriot Jackson
Helen Reed+
Gail Harris*
Joan Gray & Harris Hoffman
John Larson
Julia Cissel: Turtle Farm#
Mount Pisgah Arboretum#
Norman & Olga Evelyn Wildish

\$1,000-\$4,999

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Euro-Asian Automotive
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Glenn & Renee Buchanan
H. Bright Crosswell
Helen Liguori
Herbert J. Merker



Trails Intern, Jalen McNulty, installs geocell and gravel to allow improved subsurface water flow through east Trail 3.

Jane W. Straub
Joanne Karlton+
Lana Lindstrom & Richard Hughes
Lucy Vinis*
Margie James*
Mark & Nichol Rauch
Michael Barkman
Peter & Josephine von Hippel
Rebecca C. Bent & Jerry Welsh*
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Wizard Island Foundation
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Christopher Jones & Julie Polhemus

David & Lauren Hulse
Faxon Deiters
Charles Patton & Leslie Harris
Kathy & Stewart Hoeg
Mike & Sue Sanders
Bob Cummings

\$500-\$999

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Ann Hinnen
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Daniel Paulson
Harold Hushbeck
James & Laura Marshall
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Lynda Gingerich & Randy Turney
Mary Humphrey
Michael B. Mooser
Pam Whyte & Ronald Saylor
Peter M O'Day
Roger & Robin Best
Mountain Rose Herbs#
Janis C. Weeks & William M Roberts

\$250-\$499

Alice Barkan*
Allen & Ann Heide*
Beatrice Ellen (Bea) Fontana
Bob & Kim Clark+
Clayton Gautier & Gail Baker
Connie Wagner
Darian & Karen Morray
David and Judith Berg
Debra Jones & Jeem Peterson*
Diane Jeffcott*
Diane Steecker



Purchase of "The Big Friendly -76" fire truck to support ecological burns was made possible with funding from the Upper Willamette Soil & Water Conservation District.

Eric Swegles*
Ian Kimball
Jeffrey & Sally Krueger
Jeffrey Morey & Gail Harris*
Jim & Nancy Stark
John & Janet Jacobsen
John Koenig & Deborah Toobert*
Julie Daniel*
Karla Pattis
Lawrence & Sandra Dunlap*
Linda Jo Eldridge
M Janise Augur
Mark Horney & Sharon Reed
Marylyn Klein Larsen & Kit Larsen
Michael Reidy
Nancy J Hosticka
Nicky Connors
Patricia Shemkus
Reida & Charles Kimmel
Robert Swank & Colene Doll
Ruthann Maguire
Scott Crable
Stephen Caird*
Stephen Pruch & Brooke Belcher
Susan Markley*
United Lutheran Church
Victoria Derosé
Alison Cantril & Andrew Peara
Ann Bowers
John & Barbara Mundall
Sandy Poinsett

\$249 and under

377 individuals, households and businesses

= Contracts or Grants
* = Recurring Donor
+ = Nursery Supporter

2024 Board of Directors

Stephen Moore, *President*
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Philip Bayles, *Member*
Abi Kretschmar, *Secretary*
Jason Murphy, *Treasurer*

2024 Staff

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Carson States, *Land Steward*
Iris Garber, *Land Steward*
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Nathan Ruchames, *Land Steward*
Lane Michelson, *Land Steward*
Camille Best, *East Trail 3 Project Manager*
Mike Beasley, *Ecological Burn Boss*
Scott Polhamus, *Single Resource Boss - HOLB*
April Dawne Christen, *Administrative Assistant*
Caroline Baucom, *Nursery Assistant*
Hannah English, *Nursery Assistant*
Mieko Aoki, *Nursery Manager*



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