FOW is on track to accomplish more in the next ten years than it has in the previous ninety.

In 1924 concerned citizens came together to restore Wissahickon Valley Park after a winter storm destroyed over 200 trees. Ninety years later, their legacy of stewardship thrives in the programs developed and executed by the Friends of the Wissahickon and its members, partners, supporters, and the community at large. We celebrated these countless friends and their tireless efforts with our 90th Anniversary events held throughout 2014: the Forbidden 10K, Birding Hike, Family Picnic, and the 90th Anniversary Gala at Valley Green Inn. FOW also made extensive improvements to the Inn, for no other spot in the Wissahickon is as well known or loved, and it has always been a focal point of FOW’s work.

Forging ahead, FOW remains committed to the goals outlined in our Long Range Plan (2013-2017), and has made great strides in achieving them this year. We are building a corps of advocates for the Wissahickon along with our membership. With them, our upstream partners, and the State, FOW is developing the protections needed to restore and protect the entire Wissahickon Watershed. In addition to holding numerous public meetings this year to solicit input on our field and program work, FOW made Valley Green Inn the centerpiece of our 90th Anniversary Celebration. Keeping this historic building vibrant and fresh so it remains a place of memory in the valley for future generations is a big part of broadening our constituency.

Throughout 2014 FOW worked on habitat and water quality issues with our many dedicated volunteers and partners: Philadelphia Parks & Recreation; the Philadelphia Water Department; the Department of Environmental Protection; the Environmental Protection Agency; and our upstream neighbors at the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association. We also made substantial progress in completing the work of the Sustainable Trails Initiative (STI), which will reduce erosion and stormwater runoff, provide healthy habitat for wildlife, and enhance user safety and enjoyment. Improvements to the Andorra Natural Area and the Wissahickon Environmental Center (WEC) will reduce stormwater damage on the trails and enhance this important environmental education resource in the park. Plans for the Upper Trails Wayfinding and Signage System were finalized, and other STI trail and habitat projects completed this year will greatly improve the water quality of the Wissahickon Creek. FOW’s outreach initiatives have grown in size and scope, and our volunteer training programs are thriving. The Trail Ambassador program, which started with nineteen members, now has eighty-two. The Crew Leader program has trained fifteen volunteers to date in the skills needed to complete STI capital projects. Through education programs such as Valley Talks, TA Walks & Talks, and the activities FOW supports at the WEC, we are building a community that cares about and understands the needs of the Wissahickon.

Our 90th Anniversary events were meant to celebrate all of you and the work you and your predecessors have done over the past nine decades and lay the groundwork to forge ahead into the next ninety years of Wissahickon stewardship. We are pleased that these events resulted in FOW making an estimated 286 new friends. Success in completing the objectives of the Long Range Plan depends on our members, volunteers, partners, and supporters. With you, we can ensure that Wissahickon Valley Park will endure for future generations.

Mission
To preserve the natural beauty and wildness of the Wissahickon Valley and stimulate public interest therein.

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Elizabeth Werthan, Vice-President, Advocacy
Heidi Grunwald, Vice President, Finance
Robert Harries, Vice-President, Governance
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Chris McCausland
John Meigs
David P. Pope
Chris Rabb
Jean Sachs
Elizabeth Werthan
Patricia R. West
William Whetzel

William Whetzel, President
Maura McCarthy, Executive Director
FOW launched STI in 2006 in partnership with Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, and developed a comprehensive approach to improving forest habitat, stormwater management, and park user experience through improvements to natural surface trails and park infrastructure. STI will make the 50 miles of trails in Wissahickon Valley Park an environmentally and socially sustainable system that works for all park users.

Goals

- Improve riparian habitat and water quality of the Wissahickon Creek with redesigned trails and restored habitat.
- Protect and restore habitat along park trails by replacing invasive plants with native trees and shrubs.
- Enhance park user experience by reducing conflicts and making trails more enjoyable.
- Increase user safety with improved wayfinding and signage.
- Involve the community with an enhanced volunteer training program.

Completed STI Capital Projects

1. Andorra Natural Area 2012-2015
2. Composting Toilet Installation 2014
4. Andorra Trail Closure 2013
5. Orange Trail (EIT) 2008
6. Houston Meadow 2011-2012
7. Demo 2 2007
8. Demo 1 2006
10. Cresheim Trail 2012-2014
11. Valley Green to Livezey 2009
12. Saul to D4 2010
15. Gully Restoration 2011-2012 (4 sites)
16. Blue Bell Park 2012-2014
17. Orange Trail Trailhead Stabilization 2013-2014
18. Golf Course Climb 2010
In 2014, the Friends of the Wissahickon made great progress toward the completion of three major projects at the Wissahickon Environmental Center (WEC) in the Andorra Natural Area, an important public resource in Wissahickon Valley Park. Affectionately known as the Tree House, it is part of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR). FOW worked with professional trail builders and dedicated volunteers to overhaul the trail system and install a composting toilet. A new porch with a green roof will be built onto the Tree House in 2015 to serve as an outdoor classroom.

These projects are part of the Sustainable Trails Initiative, and FOW would like to give special thanks to our partners at PPR, our donors, and the many volunteers that have helped with the various aspects of this project.

**Andorra Natural Area**

In 2014, the Friends of the Wissahickon made great progress toward the completion of three major projects at the Wissahickon Environmental Center (WEC) in the Andorra Natural Area, an important public resource in Wissahickon Valley Park. Affectionately known as the Tree House, it is part of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR). FOW worked with professional trail builders and dedicated volunteers to overhaul the trail system and install a composting toilet. A new porch with a green roof will be built onto the Tree House in 2015 to serve as an outdoor classroom. These projects are part of the Sustainable Trails Initiative, and FOW would like to give special thanks to our partners at PPR, our donors, and the many volunteers that have helped with the various aspects of this project.

By the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Built or restored</th>
<th>2.77 miles of trail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>3.10 miles of trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net gain of</td>
<td>2.75 acres of habitat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,161 Volunteer hours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*figures reflect work at Andorra from 2012-2014.*

**Trail System Overhaul**

After years of agricultural land use and the unchecked formation of rogue trails, the area surrounding the WEC had a well established dense network of old roads and footpaths, many of which were in poor condition and causing degradation of the surrounding habitat. FOW built, restored, and closed several miles of trail with volunteers and professional trail builders.

**Composting Toilet**

Until now, only a portable toilet in the lower parking lot was available for WEC visitors, including the more than 3,000 students that visit the Tree House each year. A two-stall composting unit made of pre-cast concrete was designed and constructed by Modern Precast and Bio-Sun Systems. Located in the lower parking lot, the new unit features two ADA accessible toilets, automatic indoor/outdoor lighting, and diaper changing and hand-washing stations.

**Looking Back**

FOW’s inaugural project, begun in 1924, was the planting of 14,000 native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers in the Wissahickon, many of which may still be thriving today. In the following decades, the Friends restored Valley Green Inn, repaired WPA structures, planted more native trees and plants, removed invasives, rebuilt trails, and more. Today, FOW still operates on the basic principles established by its founders, whose work set the stage for the organization’s current projects that seek to preserve the forest, encourage safe and appropriate use of the park, and improve water quality.
Litter and Debris Removal

Litter and debris left in the Wissahickon damages the habitat and harms wildlife. Discarded fishing lines can trap waterfowl, such as wood ducks. Broken glass can cut the feet of foxes or raccoons, and birds, fish, and mammals may be ensnared by plastic six-pack holders. FOW volunteers worked tirelessly to remove litter, debris, and graffiti throughout 2014.

- The most creative effort was undertaken by FOW Trail Ambassador Bradley Maule, who committed to picking up trash in the Wissahickon for a full year and chronicling what he found. He kept FOW informed of his progress on “One Man’s Trash” through the quarterly newsletter, and will display his collection of trash in an exhibit in 2015.
- Over 300 volunteers from FOW, the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association, and the Wissahickon East Project (WEP) joined together at the Annual Creek Clean Up. Volunteers from FOW and WEP focused their efforts on the Wissahickon East Parcel in East Mt. Airy.
- The crew from the Student Conservation Association were the caretakers of Devil’s Pool over the summer, and they kept control of litter and graffiti at this popular spot. In addition to removing over 100 bags of recycling and trash, they conducted sight-line clearings and other trail maintenance projects.
- FOW partnered with Keep Philadelphia Beautiful, Clear Channel, and Radio 104.5 to clean up after the Forbidden 10K on May 18. Fifty-six volunteers collected twenty-six bags of trash and were rewarded with a drawing for Jack Johnson tickets at the Mann Center.
- Over fifty volunteers came out for FOW’s Martin Luther King Day of Service to remove litter from alongside the Lincoln Drive Trail and within the Monoshone Creek area. They carried out almost forty bags of trash, several large car parts, and some heavy pieces of damaged guardrail.

By the Numbers

- Clean up hours: 1,131
- Volunteers: 432
- Trash Bags Removed: 426

*figures reflect work in 2014

Volunteers broke FOW’s record for trail work hours in 2014 due to an increase in community resources and funding.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volunteer Trail Work Hours</th>
<th>1,982</th>
<th>2,114</th>
<th>3,720</th>
<th>3,067</th>
<th>4,202</th>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td></td>
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<td>2014</td>
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Trail Construction

FOW’s trail work consists primarily of new trail construction and trail corridor restoration. New trails are constructed to replace trail corridors that are decommissioned. Some trail corridors are restored by making improvements to the trail tread, establishing proper drainage, and refurbishing or installing new trail amenities. The goals of these projects are numerous. Ideally, sustainable trails reduce the negative environmental impacts to the fullest extent possible, while ensuring safe, equitable access to the park. This year the Conservation Committee started walking the trails that have been renovated under the Sustainable Trails Initiative, with the goal of formulating a means of evaluating the effectiveness of the program in the future.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Trail Projects 2014</th>
<th>Other Projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bells Mill to Andorra Meadow</td>
<td>Carpenter’s Woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange Trail Corridor Restoration</td>
<td>Trail Maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Bell Bridge and Trail Restoration</td>
<td>Houston Meadow Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sightline Clearing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Forbidden Drive Drain Cleaning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Orange Trail Sightline Clearing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Upper Trails Wayfinding and Signage System

Since 2011 FOW has been developing a signage system for the upper trails. This will make Wissahickon Valley Park more accessible and allow all park users to maximize their experience. Through an online survey, stakeholder meetings, and a special public meeting, FOW identified design themes for the signage and developed a set of goals for the project.

- Make the park more accessible to all citizens
- Promote responsible park use
- Increase user safety and reduce user conflict
- Develop a cohesive park identity
- Create a durable signage system that is simple to maintain

Using a $271,000 grant from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, two contracts were awarded for programming and fabrication. Tahawus Trails LLC is designing and building the trailhead kiosks, and A.D. Marble & Company is overseeing the final design and fabrication of the kiosk information panels and trail markers. Installation of the new system is expected to be complete by the summer of 2015.

The new signage system that FOW has developed for these trails is part of the Sustainable Trails Initiative. The quality of the habitat and water within the lower Wissahickon Watershed is intrinsically linked to the quality of the trails and to the use of them by the 1.1 million annual visitors to the park. A new trail signage system is an important step toward delineating established trails, managing trail traffic, and connecting with and informing trail users. FOW is also working with the City to expand the help locator system to the upper trails to increase user safety.

What is being installed?

- 25 new trailhead kiosks
- 160 trail markers
- Trail blazes along trail corridors

Structures Restoration

FOW’s Structures Crew maintains the integrity and heritage of Wissahickon Valley Park. Since 1996 this dedicated group of volunteers has completed countless building and restoration projects, focusing mainly on wooden, man-made structures, such as bridges, shelters, fences, gates, and signs.

In 2014 they completed numerous projects, including: reconstructing over twenty benches and tables; installing new railing at the Emlen Street trailhead; installing an enclosure for trash and recycle containers at The Cedars House; building dozens of bird houses and bat boxes; and constructing a shed roof at PPR District 4 headquarters.

In conjunction with FOW’s 90th Anniversary Celebration, the Crew completed several projects to improve the appearance of Valley Green Inn and the surrounding area: made and installed a new menu sign for Valley Green Inn; pointed and whitewashed the warming shed; replaced ten broken windows at the guard shack near the Inn; and built four new picnic tables.

Above photo: Ron Kantor, Buzz Wemple, and Merritt Rhoad (bottom) repair the bridge near the upper parking lot at Valley Green.
Deer Management Program

The Wissahickon Deer Management program, operated by Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR) in close cooperation with FOW, mitigates the devastating impact of deer overpopulation on native plants and trees and reduces the number of deer-vehicle collisions on Philadelphia roadways. The program, which provides venison to local food banks, is conducted with safety as a paramount concern, as well as efficiency and minimal inconvenience to the public.

The veery in the photo above is a ground nesting thrush that prefers to breed in forests with a closed canopy and dense understory. According to Keith Russell of Audubon PA, deer management activities in the Wissahickon have helped to maintain suitable breeding habitat for veeries.

Valley Green Inn

FOW has been the steward of Valley Green Inn since 1934, so it was fitting that the Friends celebrated their 90th Anniversary in 2014 by refurbishing this historic and much-loved structure in Wissahickon Valley Park. These improvements generated renewed interest in maintaining the Inn and an increase in diners and special events, in addition to protecting the Inn from future stormwater damage.

Led by Interior Designer Ann Kelly, a renovation team of local designers–Amie Cafiero, Jane Good, and Rebecca Paul–generously donated their skills to the project. The Inn benefited from some key new design elements, including: new tile floors in the back hallway bar; plaster repairs, painting, new chairs, and refinished wood floors in the main dining rooms and foyer; new lighting and light fixtures throughout; and renovation of the bathrooms. Major repairs and improvements made under the leadership of FOW’s Valley Green Inn Oversight Committee to prevent stormwater damage included a backflow preventer, sump pumps in the basement, and a new generator.

FOW is responsible for overseeing the physical condition of the Inn's structure and its immediate surroundings under the auspices of the Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust (now Fairmount Park Conservancy). In 2014 FOW contracted with the Historic Trust to repair and repaint several of the Inn's original mullioned windows, the hanging sign, and the archway of the old rose garden. Restaurant Proprietor Jack Ott financed the repainting of the building's exterior in prescribed historic colors and repairing the porch steps, and John Duffy of Stable Tables refinished the wooden bar in the rear room.

FOW also began implementing a twenty-year maintenance schedule, developed from a 2013 Frens & Frens Facilities Assessment of the Inn. A Maintenance and Repair Fund, with annual accrual in sufficient amounts to cover major expenses in the upkeep of the Inn, has been established.

Habitat Restoration

Habitat restoration work at FOW is comprised of forest reclamation and invasive plant removal projects. Forest reclamation generally involves closing excessively wide and/ or deteriorating trail segments and restoring them to natural habitat using native plants. Invasive, or non-native, plant removal is important to ensure that foreign plant populations do not displace native species, which generally are more beneficial. FOW’s goals are to increase the acreage of forest habitat within Wissahickon Valley Park and improve the quality of existing forest habitat.

In 2014 the Conservation Committee began investigating the mapping and integration of the park into FOW’s GIS (geographic information system) database. Such mapping may include vegetation, areas of unique habitat or character, presence of important marker species, areas of invasive plants, and other elements.

Habitat Restoration by the Numbers

- Native Trees Planted: 353
- Planted area: 61,488 square feet
- Planting: 302 Volunteer Hours
- Invasive Removal: 82 Volunteer Hours

*figures reflect work in 2014.

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Events and Education

In addition to Trail Ambassador Walks & Talks, FOW offers outreach activities and events that offer the public, including families, a chance to enjoy and appreciate the Wissahickon, while learning about its wildlife, history, ecology, stewardship challenges, and more. FOW invited its Biennial Photo Contest participants to document "A Day in the Life of the Wissahickon." Photographers submitted photos taken in the Wissahickon on May 10, 2014, on a subject of their choosing. The contest judge was Brian Peterson, who has over thirty-five years of experience as a curator, critic, artist, and arts administrator in the Philadelphia area.

Annual events, such as the Ice Cream Social and Winter in the Wissahickon, have become seasonal traditions for the community. Other events, including public meetings and lectures, like those offered through Valley Talks, seek to educate park users on environmental issues essential to the preservation of the Wissahickon. At this year’s Annual Meeting, guest speaker Nathan Boon, Program Associate with the William Penn Foundation, discussed the three funding priorities that comprise the Foundation’s Watershed Protection Program.

Looking Back

FOW membership in the 1920s numbered around fifty. Today, there are about 1,600 Friends of the Wissahickon. Education and outreach activities such as lectures and bird walks, still offered today, had their start in the 1940s. Publications have always been a part of FOW’s outreach efforts, with pamphlets on flora and fauna of the Wissahickon going back to 1945, a trail map first offered in the 1970s, and the popular quarterly newsletter which began publication in 1994. Early advocacy efforts included the legal fight to prevent the construction of a twenty-three-story high-rise along the border of the park in the 1970s. Today, FOW continues to educate the public through a variety of outreach activities and materials, initiate effective advocacy efforts, and operate a robust volunteer training program.

Valley Talks

Philadelphia’s Future: The Increasing Impact of Climate Change
Frank Niepold, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

Native Gardening: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in our Gardens
Douglas Tallamy, University of Delaware

Philadelphia’s Living Waterways: The Past, the Present, & What We Have To Look Forward To
David Hewitt, Ph.D., Academy of Natural Sciences

Valley Talks are an important part of FOW’s educational outreach and are held at Valley Green Inn.

Biennial Photo Contest Winners

First Place
William Hoffman
(Shown here)

Second Place
Kim Wood

Third Place
Jessica Clevenger

People’s Choice Award
Kevin Bennett
Volunteer Programs

Trail Ambassadors

The presence of FOW Trail Ambassadors (TAs) in the Wissahickon creates a safer, more enjoyable experience for all park users. These volunteers patrol the park, lead hikes, present lectures, write articles for FOW’s newsletter, and staff information tables at outreach events with other FOW volunteers. In 2014 they led sixty-five guided hikes, including several with the Woodmere Art Museum, inspired by its exhibition on landscape artist Walter Elmer Schofield (1866–1944), some of whose paintings were inspired by the Wissahickon. TAs worked 387 patrol shifts this year, and their electronic field reports provide useful information, including details on park damage observed on the trails. This allows FOW to schedule work in the park more effectively.

FOW’s Trail Ambassador program has grown steadily, making the park safer and more enjoyable for all park users and increasing FOW’s constituency.

Volunteer of the Year

John Cassidy was honored with the Kevin Groves Volunteer of the Year Award for his valued contributions over eight years. As a Crew Leader, John has served as a mentor, leader, and smiling face at workdays throughout the park and is well respected by all of FOW’s volunteers and staff. He has volunteered over 600 hours for FOW since 2004. This past year, more than 800 volunteers contributed over 11,000 hours throughout Wissahickon Valley Park.

Wissahickon Environmental Center

FOW partners with and supports the Wissahickon Environmental Center (WEC) of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation in its efforts to offer environmental programming to Philadelphia school children and families. Trail Ambassadors also volunteer time there and lead hikes in the area. WEC programming on watershed issues is part of FOW’s Protect Our Watershed program. In addition to jointly hosting events and providing publicity support for Tree House programs, FOW has restored the building, installed a compost toilet, and overhauled the trail system in the Andorra Natural Area, part of the Sustainable Trails Initiative. (See p. 4.)
FOW celebrated its 90th Anniversary with four events held throughout 2014 and extensive improvements to Valley Green Inn. The Inn is close to the hearts of most park users in the Wissahickon, and has always been a focus of FOW’s stewardship efforts. (See p. 7.) Fifty-eight volunteers donated their time and expertise in organizing all of FOW’s anniversary events, and each event was successful because of their contributions.

Local bird expert and photographer Ruth Pfeffer led a Bird Hike in the park on May 10 to kick off FOW’s year-long 90th Anniversary Celebration. On May 18, a total of 215 runners participated in FOW’s Forbidden 10K. The winner was twenty-five-year-old Michael Deasey of Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, with a winning time of 35:10. On July 12 FOW hosted a Family Picnic at Pachella Field. Families were entertained with old-fashioned picnic games, music from the Bacchus Boys, and visits from the Phillie Phanatic and Engine 66 of the Philadelphia Fire Department. An outstanding 90th Anniversary cake was donated by Bredenbeck’s Bakery in Chestnut Hill.

Over 250 guests joined FOW at Valley Green Inn for the 90th Anniversary Gala Celebration, Cabinet of Curiosities. The event logo and invitation designed by Leslie Newbold set the tone for the evening, which included natural history items on display from the Academy of Natural Sciences, the private collection of FOW Trail Ambassador Nick Bucci, and other generous lenders. Tables were decorated with floral designs by Bibby Crane Loring, while the menu was designed by Talula’s Daily, Garden, and Table restaurateur Aimee Olexy and brought to life by Valley Green chef Helen Kang. A Live Auction led by Lu Ann Cahn, author and Emmy award-winning journalist, followed dinner, after which guests enjoyed dancing to the Scott Romig Band.

Thanks to many generous contributions, funds raised netted over $70,000 and will directly support FOW’s stewardship of Valley Green Inn and other operations and educational programs. Such a successful fundraiser would not have been possible without our generous 90th Anniversary Sponsors, Benefactors, and Donors (see p. 15) and the help of FOW volunteers and Anniversary Committee members, led by Co-Chairs Christine Bamberger and Christopher Bentley. A special thanks goes to FOW’s hard working volunteers and Valley Green Inn restaurant owner Jack Ott and his staff.

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Photos: Page 10, top to bottom: 90th Anniversary Gala Celebration Cabinet of Curiosities; eight Superheroes showed up to run the Forbidden 10K; Joy and Sarah Minnick with Phillie Phanatic at the Family Picnic; Ruth Pfeffer (far left) leading the Bird Hike in May. Page 11, center: Volunteers at Cabinet of Curiosities, Amanda Childs, Gwen Taylor, Shelly Brick, Cynthia Turecki. Below: Trail Ambassadors Bruce Wagner and Valerie Fitter on patrol.
Safety Initiatives

In 2014 FOW’s Advocacy Committee addressed a number of incidents and emergencies in the park. They circulated a memo to Mark Focht, First Deputy Commissioner at Parks & Recreation (PPR), the Police Commissioner, and others, outlining important communications issues: 911 operators refusing to dispatch police to a location without a street address; poor communication to the public of police district boundaries that serve the park; and a perceived reluctance by police officers to respond to calls. FOW Project Manager Henry Stroud began meeting with PPR staff regarding these issues and reported significant progress. In addition, communication among FOW, the police, and police communications professional staff has improved.

Swimming and litter at Devil’s Pool is a perennial problem. FOW invested significant resources to hire park rangers to patrol the area. In addition to the presence of the Trail Ambassadors in the park, they encouraged visitors not to swim, jump, litter, or graffiti at Devil’s Pool. FOW organized frequent clean-up efforts throughout the summer, but park-user behavior in the area did not improve. The Advocacy Committee continues to address this issue and remains concerned about the safety of visitors and the negative impact their large numbers have on this site. In 2015, the installation of the Wayfinding and Signage System will promote responsible park use and increase user safety. (See p. 6.)

Conservation Easements

The Joint Easement Program of FOW and the Chestnut Hill Historical Society (CHHS) encourages property owners within the Wissahickon Watershed to donate potential development rights to CHHS, a land trust accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. This assures that the properties will never be inappropriately developed. The program currently protects over ninety acres in Chestnut Hill, Mt. Airy, and Springfield Township.

In 2014 the Joint Easement Program acquired an easement on over nine acres of land near Wissahickon Valley Park in Springfield Township, and an easement on a historic façade in Chestnut Hill. CHHS monitors easements through inspections and follow-up reports, and issues plaques that identify CHHS as the easement holder on eased properties. Eight plaques have been installed to date through this program, funded by the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association.

FOW manages the conservation portion of the program, which focuses on the health of the Wissahickon Watershed. Many of the thirty-two conservation easement properties border on or are adjacent to Wissahickon Valley Park, and/or possess natural features that help to manage stormwater runoff. The easements on these properties also provide scenic views, sustain natural habitats, and prevent inappropriate development.

Advocacy

In 2014 FOW’s Advocacy Committee refined its procedures and approved its Charter and Action Plan so FOW can continue to build trust within the community. They also worked with the Philadelphia Parks Alliance to secure funding in the City’s budget for Parks & Recreation. The following zoning issues were also addressed:

**Tecce Tract:** FOW submitted a statement to the Springfield Township Commission in May 2014, outlining concerns about this high-density plan along the northern boundaries of the park and urging the Commission to consider the following: loss of ever-diminishing open space and disruption of wildlife; the designation of the lower Wissahickon Watershed as an Important Birding Area by the Audubon Society; and flooding and stream bank erosion caused by stormwater runoff. The Springfield Township Commissioners denied the zoning change in July 2014.

**Proposed Velodrome:** The Advocacy Committee attended a hearing about a proposed Velodrome in FDR Park in South Philadelphia and subsequently wrote a letter of objection to the proposed use of park land. We continue to advocate for appropriate use of Fairmount Park.

Today, FOW continues to educate the public through a variety of outreach activities and materials, initiate effective advocacy efforts, and operate a robust volunteer training program.
The financial condition of the Friends of the Wissahickon remains sound. The Budget and Finance Committee understands that some years will have income in excess of expenses, and others will not. FOW’s goal is not to amass assets, but to judiciously invest resources to the betterment of the Wissahickon Valley. Once the assets are deployed to the Valley, they do not appear on the balance sheet.

As expected, FOW spent more than the organization raised in 2014. This is caused by several factors:

- the unpredictable nature of major gifts;
- accounting rules which generally require multi-year gifts to be recognized in the first year;
- the enactment of a strategic plan that includes investment in outreach, marketing, and membership growth; and
- two projects conducted in 2014 which do not get reimbursed until after completion of the project.

Note that management costs have remained flat, while development costs have increased. The increase in development costs is the result of ramping up FOW’s strategic plan. FOW has been promised a large major gift that will greatly impact next year’s financial statements. Thank you to our loyal supporters for enabling all that we do.

Jeffrey T. Harbison, Treasurer

---

**Statement of Assets, Liabilities, & Fund Balances**

### Assets 2013 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$1,024,970</td>
<td>$710,077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and grants receivable, net</td>
<td>1,089,949</td>
<td>949,628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
<td>46,777</td>
<td>32,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$2,161,696</td>
<td>$1,691,970</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Liabilities and Net Assets

#### Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valley Green Inn reserve</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable and Accruals</td>
<td>458,841</td>
<td>80,443</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$483,841</td>
<td>$32,265</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$742,797</td>
<td>$621,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
<td>935,058</td>
<td>989,581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td>$1,677,855</td>
<td>$1,611,527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and net assets</strong></td>
<td>$2,161,696</td>
<td>$1,691,970</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: All 2013 and 2014 figures are audited.

---

**Looking Back**

To execute its first project, planting 14,000 native trees and shrubs throughout the park, FOW raised $9,000 ($122,157 in today’s dollars), an impressive figure for a small, volunteer-run organization. FOW remained largely volunteer-run for almost eighty years, until it was awarded a William Penn Foundation “Capacity Building” grant of $280,000 in 2002.

This grant made it possible for the Friends to hire full-time professional staff members, enhance revenue, and undertake major projects for improving Wissahickon Valley Park. Since then, FOW has made tremendous progress on its outreach and capital programs, such as the Trail Ambassador program and the Sustainable Trails Initiative. Today, FOW’s annual budget totals over $1 million.

**Total Net Assets (Net Worth) changed very little in 2014.**

---

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The Friends of the Wissahickon wishes to extend thanks to all those who supported our work during 2014. Many individuals, foundations, and corporations gave generously to help fund FOW’s programs and operations. We are grateful for every gift we receive and are pleased to list the following contributors whose cumulative gifts were above $250.

In May of 2007 FOW began raising funds for Phase III of the Sustainable Trails Initiative. Phase III will cost $10,000,000 in implementation and ongoing stewardship funds. As of December 2014, FOW has commitments of over $6,000,000 and would like to recognize the following individuals and organizations for their support:

- **$10,000 and Up**
  - Cindy and John Affleck
  - Susan and David Dannenberg
  - Ms. Lisa Gemmill
  - Sarah and Dan Gordon
  - Mr.* and Mrs. Robert Harries
  - Mr.* and Mrs. David Hilton
  - Mr. and Mrs.* Hugh McB. Johnston
  - Mr. and Mrs.* Robert Kennedy
  - Estate of Kenneth Kipple
  - Carolyn Adams and John Meigs*
  - Mr.* and Mrs. David Pope
  - Mr.* and Mrs. John Rollins
  - Mr.* and Mrs. William Whetzel
  - The Albert J. Lofgren and Antoinette Farrar Seymour Fund at the Philadelphia Foundation
  - Beatrice Fox Auerbach Fund of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
  - Friends Fiduciary Corporation
  - The Glenmede Trust Company
  - Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
  - REI, Inc.
  - Schwab Charitable Fund

- **$5,000 to $9,999**
  - Mr. and Mrs. Murray Blackman
  - Mr. and Mrs. James Conner
  - Mr. and Mrs. William Doran
  - Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Ginsburg
  - Ms. Heidi Grunwald*
  - Mr. and Mrs. Steve Kapp
  - Mr. Michael Mann
  - Mr. and Mrs. Frank Reed
  - Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Sudhoffs
  - The Elizabeth B. and Arthur E. Roswell Foundation, Inc.
  - Malver Foundation
  - The Nararo Foundation
  - Rouse Family Charitable Trust
  - Valley Green Bank

- **$2,500 to $4,999**
  - Eric Lochner and Drew Beach
  - Mr. and Mrs.* Michael Bamberger
  - Mrs. Wendy Wurtzburger-Bentley and Mr. Chris Bentley*
  - Mr. and Mrs. Richard Berman
  - Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Dilks
  - Mr. and Mrs. Martin Heckscher
  - Mr.* and Mrs. John P. Kelly
  - Mr.* and Mrs. Robert Kennedy
  - Mr.* and Mrs. Charlie Lee, Jr.
  - Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lukens
  - Mr. and Mrs. David Montgomery
  - Mr. and Mrs. Pennock J. Yeatman IV
  - Fairmount Park Conservancy

- **$1,000 to $2,499**
  - Ms. Jessie Deming and Mr. Robert Boyer
  - Ms. Liz Wherthan* and Mr. Bob Brand
  - Mrs. Philip A. Bregy
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  - Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
  - Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
  - Ms. Nancy Petersmeyer
  - Roger Collegeville Community Grants Program
  - Philadelphia Authority for Industrial Development
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  - Mr. and Mrs. David Montgomery
  - Mr. and Mrs. Pennock J. Yeatman IV
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