Summer is our busiest time in the Wissahickon, but this year it’s even more so. I am thrilled to announce that in mid-July we will be embarking on our much-anticipated Valley Green Run Restoration and Pedestrian Bridge Project. Through two simultaneous projects, Friends of the Wissahickon is investing more than $2.5 million to remediate years of worsening erosion, reduce the speed and force of water flow, and restore an essential trailhead link along Valley Green Road, while creating a new pedestrian bridge that is destined to become an iconic feature and unofficial gateway to the park.

Thank you to those who have contributed more than $1 million and counting toward our total investment; your support is indispensable in order to restore safe park access for all. We are grateful for the recent pledge of a $150,000 matching gift for the bridge project from an anonymous local donor. Help us reach this goal and others so we can open Wissahickon Valley Park’s “front door” with what will be both a functional and beautiful addition to one of the park’s most popular destinations.

Valley Green Road is expected to be closed just below Wolcott Drive for six months, and both vehicles and pedestrians will not have access to the park via this route. Valley Green Inn will remain open during normal business hours with parking access via Wises Mill Road off Henry Avenue in Roxborough. Current details are on page 14 of this newsletter. Updates about parking, access, and other project updates will be posted at fow.org/vgbridge, as well as donor recognition opportunities that will offer a permanent connection to this unique community asset.

Last year, we made significant progress on this and other important capital projects. I’m proud of what we were able to accomplish, thanks to FOW crews and volunteers and our generous donors. See for yourself in our 2022 annual report presented on pages 2–13.

With new wayfinding kiosks (p. 15), the return of the Wissahickon Trail Classic (p. 16) and the 8th Annual All Trails Challenge (p. 20), these are exciting times for FOW, especially as we gear up for our centennial next year. If you want to be part of our work in the Wissahickon, consider becoming a member – now or anytime of the year.

Let’s continue to be great friends.

Ruffian Tittmann, Executive Director
MEMBERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Support our stewardship mission in the Wissahickon Valley Park and enjoy some great perks too!

All members at the $45 level and up receive:

- 10% off FOW park merchandise
- 10% off at Chestnut Hill Brewing Co.
- 10% off at the Cedars House Café
- Wissahickon pocket trail map
- Digital membership card
- Annual Wissahickon Valley Park Calendar [at $75+ level]

Become a member here:
2022 was a year of building back to pre-pandemic levels of stewardship and engagement—and, in some cases, beyond.

Isn’t it nice to be back together in person?

That sentiment seemed to echo throughout the Friends of the Wissahickon (FOW) universe in 2022. We were excited—and grateful—to be back out in the park enjoying activities with our friends, from cleanups to guided hikes and public meetings.

Highlights

A record 425 people attended our annual Ice Cream Social; the largest number of corporate groups in one year—17—joined us for service days; and when we and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation closed Lincoln Drive for a large-scale cleanup, more than 100 volunteers came to help. We closed out 2022 with our highest number of volunteer service days in any year (176), capturing 11,827 volunteer hours—nearly 26% more than in 2021! And we welcomed the first class of Trail Ambassadors and Crew Leaders in two years. FOW was able to hire more full-time and seasonal staff members, which increased our capacity to keep up with educational outreach to park users, host consistent cleanup days in high-use spaces, and ramp up for our largest year of large-scale restoration projects yet in 2023.

Investing in the beauty and resilience of our beloved urban forest

2022 saw much progress on several capital trail and habitat improvement investments:

- The $2.5 million Valley Green Run Restoration and Pedestrian Bridge Project, expected to be completed by the end of 2023, will stabilize the streambank, reduce water flow, and restore an essential trailhead while the beautiful, functional bridge and viewing platform is destined to become the newest iconic feature to grace our park.

- Design on the Germantown Neighborhood Connection Project (aka the Harvey Street Project) continued with the goal of creating safe pedestrian access to the park from Wissahickon Avenue near Rittenhouse Street for neighborhood residents who currently must cross heavily trafficked Lincoln Drive. New plantings and increased stewardship will beautify the area, discourage illegal dumping, and encourage more recreation. Developed in collaboration with neighbors, contractors, and other stakeholders, the project is funded in part by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Councilwoman Cindy Bass, the National Recreation and Park Association, Sensodyne, and the Clean Air Council.
• The ongoing East Falls Reroute and Habitat Restoration Project will close a rapidly eroding, steep trail, then reroute it and install native plantings to mitigate stormwater runoff. This project is one of five outlined in the Sustainable Trails Completion Plan.

• We completed our Restroom Facilities Master Plan, which helped us identify up to 16 potential sites for toilets in up to seven different locations. A key goal of this major strategic project is reducing human impact in our watershed park. Many thanks to the over 1,000 people who contributed via survey and public comment to inform and help shape the plan.

Guiding FOW's work are elements from our three-year Strategic Blueprint, which began in 2018 but was extended through 2022 because of the pandemic.

Building on momentum

The post-pandemic rebound of our volunteer corps and the amazing gain in financial support we saw during the pandemic are prime examples of how a broad base of ongoing support directly relates to our ability to get things done. As we move ever closer to our centennial in 2024, we are acutely aware that we need to continue gaining such momentum year after year to sustain us. Long-lasting, wide-reaching stability will cement our capacity to develop critical infrastructure in the Wissahickon, manage stormwater runoff, improve visitors’ experiences, and engage with the community through education and outreach ... the possibilities are endless.

Treasuring the natural world is about more than just passing through it. It’s also about stewardship and planning for the future. Join us in taking care of our very special place. Because when the Wissahickon Valley Park thrives, we all do.

Ruffian Tittmann
Executive Director

Alyssa Edwards
President

FRIENDS OF THE WISSAHICKON
Treasurer’s Report

2022 proved to be another tremendous year for Friends of the Wissahickon. We ended the year in a strong financial position with Contributed & Earned income totaling $2,200,000, marking a $245,000 increase from 2021. At year end, a total of $472,000 remained in funds without donor restrictions; this will cover a combination of personnel and operating costs in 2023 and allow us to increase operating reserves. During the last quarter of the year, we also raised $440,000 for the Valley Green Pedestrian Bridge project through donor-restricted contributions. This project is part of the larger ongoing $2.5 million restoration project of Valley Green Run. These financial and non-monetary contributions continue to exhibit strong community support and trust for the organization.

As we begin 2023, we continue to execute on our 2022 plans and pursue our fundraising goals. To start the year, we were awarded an additional $356,000 from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

We are excited for the upcoming projects and activities on the horizon for the Wissahickon this year. Our staff and dedicated volunteers look forward to carrying out our mission of conserving the natural beauty and wildness of the park. We thank our visitors, volunteers, and donors for supporting these efforts.

Submitted by

Darium Poke, Treasurer

**Includes donated services.
Note: All 2021 and 2022 figures are audited.
Volunteers are the engine that drives our stewardship. The Wissahickon Valley Park would not be the same without them.

**Engagement**

**Volunteer Service:**
- 1,367 individual volunteers
- 176 service days—most ever in one year!
- 11,827 hours—nearly 26% more than in 2021!
- 87 Wissaherio shifts—our solo stewards collected 2,160 pounds of litter in over 200 hours

**Trail Ambassadors:**
- 275 outreach shifts with 67 Walks & Talks—over 600 attendees
- 15 new TAs—the first class in 2 years

**Group Engagement:**

**Youth**
- Nine school groups from The Episcopal Academy, Friends Select, and Woodlynde School
- 16 seniors from W.B. Saul High School of Agricultural Sciences natural resource management class met each week, plus 2 summer interns for five weeks
- Eagle Scouts
  - One Scout’s project repaired the boardwalk and built a turnpike on the trail in Carpenter’s Woods
  - Another helped cut back invasives and clean out storm drains
- Nearly 200 people attended Let’s Go Outdoors community programming centered around the partnership with FOW’s Little Friends of the Wissahickon program

**Corporate**
- 17 corporate groups— the most in one year!
  - Baker Tilly (twice)
  - Boston Consulting Group
  - Deloitte Green
  - DPS
  - Green Mountain Energy
  - Hamilton Lane
  - hMetrix
  - IPS
  - NewRez
  - Penn Beer
  - Univest
  - Vertex
  - Victrex
  - WTW
  - Xylem
  - ZS Associates

**Community Outreach:**
- Lectures, virtual events & public meetings—1,895 attendees
- Park users and neighbors engaged with FOW online:
  - FOW.org—783,586 page visits
  - Twitter—3,166 followers
  - Facebook—23,069 friends
  - Instagram—28,653 followers

Whether it’s school groups or Scouts fulfilling Eagle projects, we love when young people help steward the Wissahickon.
Infrastructure

- 20+ miles of trail improved, rerouted, and/or cleared from the corridor, mostly by Crew Leaders who also:
  - Conducted a large planting along the Monster Trail
  - Rock armored a large swale at Blue Bell Park
  - Repaired a gully on the Lavender Trail and installed logs on the hillside to slow stormwater flow
  - Removed a collapsing bridge near the Summit Ave. trailhead
- 17 new Crew Leaders, the first in 2 years
- 64 downed trees removed from the trails
- 475+ fence rails and posts were repaired by the Structures Crew

We also worked with the Eastern Pennsylvania Alliance of Climbers to remove graffiti from the rocks on the paved bike path

Habitat

- Nearly four acres of invasive plants removed
- 740 native trees and shrubs planted
- 1,206 herbaceous plants installed, many of which were used to create a pollinator garden, turning a stormwater pond into a healthy habitat
- 20+ tons of litter removed
- Habitat boxes (young fledged):
  - 14 Eastern Bluebirds
  - Three Carolina Chickadees
  - 85 House Wrens
  - 85 Tree Swallows

Bluebirds are taking wing! We fledged 14 from our habitat boxes, up from eight in 2021. A sure sign that our Andorra and Houston Meadows are thriving.
Members are vital advocates for our conservation mission in the Wissahickon Valley Park and a powerful voice for the watershed.

With special recognition to our national, state, and city partners:

- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development
- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- Philadelphia Parks & Recreation
- Philadelphia Streets Department
- Philadelphia Water Department
- The Cedars House Café
- Fairmount Park Conservancy
- The Friends of Cresheim Trail
- Historic Rittenhouse Town
- Let's Go Outdoors
- PAPERtrail Bike Cafe
- PowerCorpsPHL
- Wissahickon Restoration Volunteers

PowerCorpsPHL to the rescue. We were lucky to have a crew from the City’s workforce development initiative to help us clear downed trees from the trails.
Friends of the Wissahickon wishes to extend thanks to all those who financially supported our work in 2022. Many individuals, foundations, and corporations gave generously to help fund FOW’s programs and operation. We are grateful for every gift we receive and are pleased to list the following contributors whose cumulative donations were above $500.

### $10,000 and up
- Anonymous
- The Boston Family Office Investment Services
- Mary Pat and Tom Boyle
- Brandone Franchise Development LLC
- Estate of Richard Brown Jr.
- Doran Family Foundation
- Ryan Dorris and Christina Haas
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- Christopher and Adrianna Henkels Charitable Fund
- Paul and Mary Henry
- Cassandra Kaldor
- The Korein Foundation
- B. Inez Koff
- Mandie and Blair Lyon
Our pilot Zone Steward Program is working! Dividing the park into 18 mini zones is helping Crew Leaders better monitor and steward the park by focusing on areas needing repair and other trail work.
The Biennial Wissahickon Photo Contest 2022 we hosted with the Woodmere Art Museum and Wissahickon Trails captured the park’s beauty in all seasons. Our team of skilled nature and wildlife judges chose this Best in Show winner by Daniel Kalamarides for his amazing shot of a male northern flicker spitting wood chips out of a nest cavity near Houston Meadow.

In honor of Jared Adams
Olemeku Aledan

In honor of Allen’s Lane GTOR Team
Lisete Clevely

In honor of Mira Baylson and Hal Morra
Frances and Michael Baylson

In memory of Jim Bear
Maura Heldig

In memory of Christopher Bentley
Robert Braham
Maura Hunter

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Moss Rehab-Aphasia Center

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In honor of The Boarders and Stewards of the Monastery
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In honor of Tyler Braun
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In memory of Naomi Decter
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Rachel Lewyn

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In honor of Ryan Dorris and Christina Haas
Steve and Louise Mygatt
Jeffrey Swart

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Alexandra Durham
Mark Durham

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Susan Rosen

In honor of Robin Eisman and David Stein
Anne and Marty Foley
Frances LaRose
Patricia Nalsmith
Mika Namji

In honor of Bob Elftan
Lauren Elftan
Jamie Grafe

In memory of Will Ferguson
Amy Ferguson

In honor of James and Henry Field
Pam Schaefer

In memory of Don Finkelestein
Joan Finkelestein

In honor of Sadie Francis
Kris and Mark Sofo

In memory of Carl and Mae Fromuth
Sandy Williamson

In honor of Isaac Garfield
Rob Garfield

In honor of Hannah and Taylor Gentile
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Gabriella Egan
Shane and Michelle McDevitt

In memory of Libby Gartseifer
Cassandra Kaldor

In honor of Donald Gold
Kristina and Kenneth Gold

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Martha Davis

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B. Inez Korff

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In memory of Sherr Kung
Mei-Ping Kung

In memory of Stephen R. Lawrence
Andrew Lawrence

In honor of Meghan O'Rourke LeCates
and Gregory Mountain II
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John Dagit
Sarah Kercipus
Jeff Maag
Tom Picelli
Katherine St. Onge
Linda Wharton and Bob Turrin

In honor of Josh Levandoski
Rosalind Mondel

In memory of Joseph Levitt
Sam Levitt

In memory of Jonathan Liss
Nancy Lozoff
Marcus Urioste
Richard Weinstein

In memory of The One and Only Luc
Anonymous

In honor of James Lynch
Colleen Lynch

In honor of Molly MacGregor and Duncan Watts
Cynthia and Martin Heckscher

In memory of The One and Only Maggie!
Anonymous

In honor of Oak Manos
Joan and George Manos

In memory of Eva Mayro
Anonymous

In honor of Mike and Carly McDade
Abigail Lederman

In honor of Andrea Michel
Abigail Lederman

In memory of Mitchell Michalak
Jonathan Weiner

In honor of Jaclyn Milici & Timothy Kozo
Patrice Kozo
Tanya Olaszewski

In honor of Samantha Morse, who loved
trees and Valley Green
Anonymous

In memory of Timothy Moyer
Myriam Exum

In honor of My Volunteer Recognition
Amy Yuter

In memory of David Nation
Suzan Willcox

In honor of James Oliveira
Laura Oliveira

In memory of Peter Povanda
Stuart Kaplan

In memory of Posey Randall
Anonymous

In memory of John Rauch
David Hollenberg and Linda Bantel
William Becker
Lynne Porter Borgia
Nancy and J. Randolph Williams

In honor of Peter Leon Remai
Sandy Delopoulos

In memory of Merritt Rhoad Jr.
Eric Bachmann
Peggie Bachmann
Rosemary Balla
Dithy Cannon
CMC Energy, IT Department
Bruce and Anne Dawson
John Difeo

In honor of Peter Leon Remai
Sandy Delopoulos

In memory of Merritt Rhoad Jr.
Eric Bachmann
Peggie Bachmann
Rosemary Balla
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Eric Bachmann
Peggie Bachmann
Rosemary Balla
Dithy Cannon
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Bruce and Anne Dawson
John Difeo

In honor of Beth White
Lauren Malinowski
Joly Walton Stewart

In memory of Dave White
Susan Henick

In honor of The Wilmerding Family
Daniel Rosenak

In memory of Stanley Woodward
Marie Woodward

In memory of Charles Zimmerman
Free Library of Springfield Township Employees

While great care has been taken to ensure
the accuracy of these lists, mistakes can occur.
Please accept our sincere apologies for any
discrepancies, and let us know if you are
listed incorrectly.
FOW would like to recognize the following organizations for their support:

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Friends of the Wissahickon

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215.247.0417 // office@fow.org // fow.org
Construction will begin in mid July on FOW’s Valley Green Run Restoration and Pedestrian Bridge Project. The two-phase project will first remediate years of worsening erosion on both sides of Valley Green Run, which caused the natural surface trail to collapse in 2014 along with the elevated wooden boardwalk, forcing the area’s closure to pedestrian traffic. After the streambank is stabilized, a new 200-foot elevated walkway will be built to allow pedestrians to safely access the Valley Green area. An added feature will include an observation platform that will give visitors an expanded view of the Wissahickon schist outcropping and the historic Valley Green Bridge. This structure is expected to be a new Wissahickon landmark, welcoming visitors to the most popular area of the park.

Partnering with FOW on the project are Philadelphia Parks & Recreation and the Philadelphia Water Department. It is supported by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Commonwealth Financing Authority, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Philadelphia Water Department, Philadelphia Parks and Recreation, Anonymous Foundation, Wyncote Foundation, McLean Contributionship, Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, and individual donors.

The project’s general contractor and design/builder for the streambank restoration is Skelly & Loy, with subcontractors CVMNEXT Construction serving as design/builder on the pedestrian bridge, and Krieger & Associates Architects serving as design architect for the pedestrian bridge and project architect for donor recognition.

Visit fow.org/vgbridge often for updates on the Valley Green Run Restoration and Pedestrian Bridge Project, upcoming road closures, detours, and donor recognition opportunities.

STAY ALERT! SAFETY FIRST!

When you’re in the park near the construction sites, don’t assume that equipment operators see you. At all times, give heavy equipment the right-of-way, slow your pace, and keep children, dogs, and horses under control and at a safe distance. When approaching work locations, remove audio earbuds/headphones. Under no circumstances should any park visitor enter work zones. During the construction period, stay out of the work zones and always heed safety signage—even when crews are not working.

More Routes to the Wissahickon on SEPTA

The Valley Green area can be accessed by the 27 Bus from the Henry Ave. and Domino Lane stop. Then, walk the Yellow Trail going south toward Forbidden Drive. Other bus routes that service the park include the 9, 53, 65, and 125.

FOW anticipates that Valley Green Road will be closed for about six months. During this time, park visitors will not have access to the park via this road. Valley Green Inn will remain open during normal business hours. Parking at the Inn will be accessible via Wises Mill Road off Henry Ave. in Roxborough.

Other Park Areas to Visit—in the Wissahickon and Beyond

Wissahickon Valley Park offers 50+ miles of trail for visitors’ enjoyment and exploration. Some of FOW’s favorite places in the Wissahickon include:

- Andorra Natural Area – parking area available (hiker, equestrian)
- Carpenter’s Woods – street parking available (hiker only)
- Lavender Trail – street parking available (hiker only)
- Houston Meadow trails – street parking available (open to all)
- East Falls trails – street parking available (hiker, biker)

Nearby recreation areas:

- Upper Roxborough Reservoir Preserve
- Awbury Arboretum
- Pastorius Park
- Gorgas Park
- Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education
In 2015, FOW developed a wayfinding and signage plan, which informed the installation of 25 kiosks. The plan also identified additional kiosk locations for when new funding became available. Based on the plan, FOW recently installed new tertiary wayfinding and signage kiosks at these park locations: Rittenhouse Street (across from Saylor Grove), Cathedral Road (at Courtesy Stable) and Sumac Street. The fourth kiosk was added at Harvey Street as part of FOW’s Germantown Neighborhood Connection Capital Project, which includes plans to expand the trail network for entry to the main stem of the park.

The new kiosks, which cost approximately $60,000 in total, are an investment in community engagement to help visitors easily identify trailheads. The name of the park is larger and the designated trail use is clearer. Leave No Trace language has also been added. The work was completed by recreational trail design and construction company Tahawus Trails.

NEW KIOSKS SHOW VISITORS THE WAY

Four new wayfinding and signage kiosks like this one at Rittenhouse Street were recently installed to help visitors identify park trailheads.

EARTH DAY

More than 150 volunteers came out to show the park some extra love this Earth Day at FOW’s four-location service event. They removed litter, cut back invasive plants, cleaned drains, and worked along the trails at Harvey Street (pictured), Ridge Avenue, Historic Rittenhouse Town, and Valley Green.

Introducing FOW’s Crew Leader and Trail Ambassador Class of 2023, the first one in two years.
Momentous Return of the WISSAHICKON TRAIL CLASSIC

It was a beautiful late spring morning on June 3 when the more than 460 runners lined up on Forbidden Drive to take on the 14th Wissahickon Trail Classic, a 10K run through the woods, back after a three-year absence due to COVID. But it was the first time that this iconic trail race, always held on National Trails Day, benefited FOW.

The Wissahickon Wanderers Running Club established the WTC in 2006 to highlight the park as one of the best trail-running destinations on the East Coast. The day’s event included a 1-mile family-friendly nature walk. Thanks to the support of runners, sponsors, and friends, FOW exceeded its fundraising goal of $50,000! These funds will help FOW’s ongoing stewardship of the Wissahickon trail system and watershed. Bonus: FOW welcomed 70 new members from the running community!

Thank you to the following organizations that contributed to the success of this event:

On this day of service and advocacy for our nation’s trail systems, FOW also celebrated with a variety of volunteer improvement projects in the area surrounding the historic Hermitage Mansion, where volunteers started work on a trail re-route project.
Eight women, six who grew up in the Chestnut Hill area, all runners, decided to try trail running. After entering the Ragnar Relay, a 134-mile race through Zion National Park, the group knew of no better place to train for the mid-May event than on the beautiful, challenging trails of the Wissahickon.

As they logged mile after mile, spending hours in the park to build endurance, “we were reminded how fortunate we are to have this incredible natural resource in our backyard,” said Rebecca Morley, one of the friends who together formed the team they called Wissahickon Ladies.

To show their appreciation for the park and to give back to the trails that helped them train for their adventure, they set a fundraising goal of $20,000 to benefit FOW.

“We wanted to give back to this impactful organization that preserves and protects the Wissahickon Valley for people and wildlife alike, said Rebecca.

In the end, after each running about 18 of the relay’s 134 miles in three shifts, the Wissahickon Ladies had exceeded their goal, raising nearly $29,000 for FOW!

From day one, Springside Chestnut Hill Academy (SCH) Lower School students use the Wissahickon as an outdoor classroom—tending trails, clearing invasives, taking water samples, and more. Stewardship of the park right outside their back door is a decades-old tradition. Mobilizing for social good and making an impact in the larger community is an equal part of the SCH ethos. Therefore, it’s no surprise that when SCH students were choosing an organization for their Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership projects to support, Friends of the Wissahickon was a top choice!

Nearly $2,500 in proceeds from two student initiatives, Gifts for Good and Laurel Leaf Designs, were earmarked to support FOW’s efforts.

In the Lower School, Gifts for Good were designed by enthusiastic and enterprising second-grade students. Their gifts—Earth Day-inspired buttons, wood-burned, die-cut animal-shaped pendants and earrings—flew off displays at a recent school event and the Chestnut Hill Home and Garden Festival.

“Through FOW visitor presentations in the fall, the students gained an understanding and appreciation for the work that goes into maintaining the Wissahickon, a wonderful space that we consider to be a valuable extension of our classrooms,” said Tess Ramsey, the students’ teacher.

Laurel Leaf Designs features handcrafted nature-inspired, resin earrings in a variety of shapes and colors handcrafted by rising junior Leah Laudenbach. Proceeds from her sales at Chestnut Hill’s Shop & Stroll last December and more recently at the Garden Festival added to the total from SCH students.
**FOW WELCOMES A NEW STAFF MEMBER**

FOW’s new Communications Coordinator Claire Brennan works to tell the story of Wissahickon Valley Park to the people who love it. Responsible for overseeing FOW’s digital presence, she edits the weekly e-newsletter and blog posts, and runs the Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn accounts. Previously, Claire worked for Art-Reach, an organization advocating for accessibility to the arts in Philadelphia, where she created a weekly newsletter distributed to thousands of local subscribers. With a B.A. in Journalism from Temple University’s Klein College of Media and Communication, Claire freelanced for the features section of the Temple News, writing profiles about the accomplishments of professors, students, and distinguished alumni. When she isn’t spreading FOW’s news, she might be cooking, reading the latest non-fiction bestsellers, or out playing pool or seeing live music.

**2023 SEASONAL FIELD CREW**

Meet our 2023 Seasonal Field Crew (left to right): Turner Burns, Marisa Miller, Amber Farruggio, Hannah Blumenfeld, Malcolm Jennings

**SAVE ROOM FOR OUR ICE CREAM SOCIAL.**

August 9, 2023

Watch FOW’s social media and web calendar for location and other details.
We're kicking off our 8th Annual All Trails Challenge (ATC) at the end of this summer, a race of sorts that isn't about the speed at which you go but your commitment to going the distance.

Our trails are a safe passage into the great outdoors, a vestige of a time before eight-lane highways and an intensely globalized world, and a means to sustainable travel for all.

Wissahickon Valley Park is home to over 50 miles of trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding, dog walking (on leash, of course) and just adventuring through and basking in the beauty of the 2,000 acres of our beautiful park. How many of these trails have you explored?

Now is your chance to venture beyond your usual routes and explore new ones, with the help of weekly route recommendations to keep you on-trail and out of your comfort zone throughout this three-month-long event.

By registering as a Challenger, you'll have the chance to meet like-minded adventurers, maybe experience the Wissahickon in a new way, and benefit the park by having friends and family pledge on behalf of your ATC journey.

Find out how to participate at fow.org/event/2023atc1/ and visit often to find out about giveaways and prizes.

Keep up with the ATC fun by following @FOWissahickon and #FOWAIlTrails on Facebook and Instagram.

**S A V E  T H E S E  D A T E S**

**FOR THE 8TH ANNUAL ALL TRAILS CHALLENGE**

**Tuesday, August 8**

Information session

Learn about the ATC, including mileage tracking and hike apps, setup for your fundraising page, tips for getting donors, sharing updates with friends and family, and more. Register here.

**Monday, August 21**

Start date for FOW members

**Tuesday, September 5**

General start date.

**Tuesday, November 28**

Last day to compete

Once you register as an ATC Challenger and start sharing your progress, you're well on the path toward fabulous prizes for mileage and more! Along the way, while ATC Challengers help fundraise for FOW's trail improvement projects, they'll be getting cool swag and building a Challenger community at ATC events. (All participants must register with a minimum of $50 raised or contributed to be eligible to compete for any prizes.)
SUMMER SCRAMBLE
Unscramble the words below. Hint: they are all things you can find or do at Wissahickon Valley Park in the summer.

FLUBETTRY __________
WOLFERS __________
DEAWOM __________
STERE __________
ZREBEE __________
DRIBS __________
NIKGIH __________
ERCKE __________
NICCIP __________
SLATIR __________
NIBKIG __________

MAZE
Help the ladybug find their way to the strawberry patch.

DRAW & COLOR
Bee is searching for pollen. Use paint or markers to add flowers to the stems below.
WHOSE LINE IS IT?
Trace the fishing lines to discover who caught the fish.

FOX’S SCAVENGER HUNT
Go for a hike this summer in Wissahickon Valley Park and help Fox find everything on his list.

- FERN
- DUCK
- HIKER
- TOAD
- BIKE RIDER
- DOG
- PERSON FISHING
- BRIDGE
- MUSHROOM
- FLYING BIRD
- INSECT