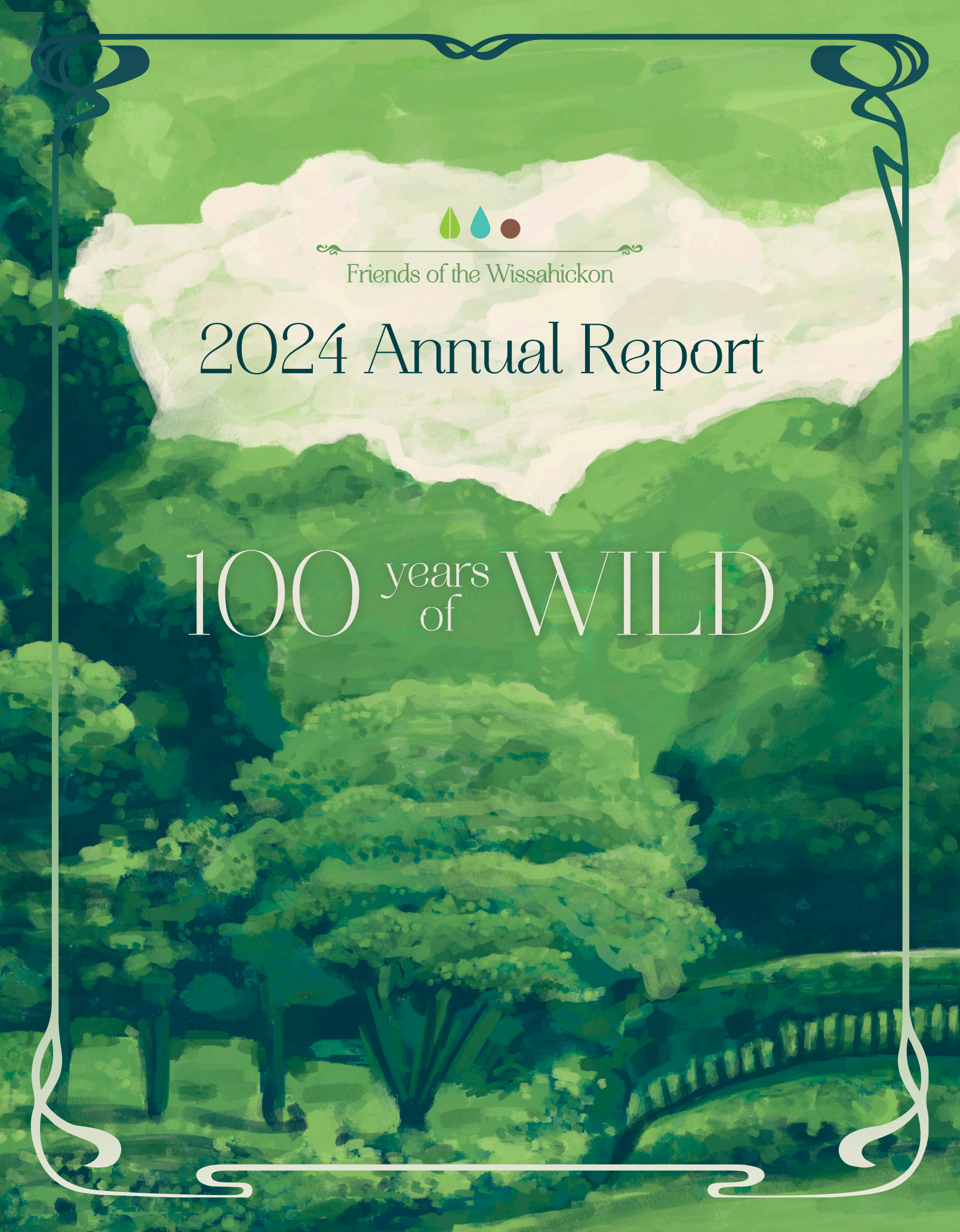

Friends of the Wissahickon
2024 Annual Report
100 years of WILD

Dear Friends,

During a year of monumental celebrations for Friends of the Wissahickon (FOW), we are reminded that what is most important is the company you keep. That small community of neighbors who came together in 1924 has grown into a vibrant network of thousands of friends dedicated to conserving the wild heart of Wissahickon Valley Park and welcoming all who seek the solace and adventure this park provides.

It takes a lot of care to keep the Wissahickon wild. As FOW marked 100 years of stewardship in 2024, we were surrounded by dedicated supporters who have always stood behind us, championed our ambitious projects, and helped shape the future of this beloved park.

In this report, we'll reflect on all the FOW community was able to accomplish as we commemorated a century of stewardship. We saw the culmination of decades of planning on our largest capital project to date, burst with gratitude at our Anniversary Celebration, and were continuously blown away by the generosity and passion of our volunteers at some of the most well-attended service days in the history of the organization.

The Valley Green Run Restoration and Pedestrian Bridge Project, at a cost of $3.5 million, was completed in December to improve access to the Valley Green area, the gateway of Wissahickon Valley Park. Thanks to numerous generous donors, we've ensured the resiliency of the streambed and streambank of Valley Green Run, all while creating a new signature feature in the park: The Lida Way Pedestrian Bridge. **This project has forged a new pathway to wildness, welcoming more visitors with safer passage to this already popular area of the park.**

The 100 Years of Wild Gala was the most successful fundraising event in FOW history – the perfect end to a spectacular year. Joined by 250 friends, new and old, we celebrated the organization's history and honored a few distinct agents of change. Together, we raised more than $440,000 to support the continued care of the park that has brought us all together. **With the support of our generous donors, we'll continue to fuel important engagement initiatives, such as the Little Friends of the Wissahickon program, and empower children with critical access to nature.**

The Martin Luther King Jr. Service Day and Super Mega Earth Day of Service were the largest volunteer engagement events in the history of FOW. When we call out for the support of our community, they respond. We were joined by 240 volunteers at our MLK service day and 304 volunteers across five locations on Super Mega Earth Day. **Our volunteers enable us to care for every inch of the 2,000+ acres of parkland, allowing FOW to balance the preservation of the park's biodiversity with growing public interest.**

This past year felt like a whirlwind night, meticulously planned and gone in the blink of an eye. We are so grateful for your continued support and look forward to the next 100 years of stewarding Wissahickon Valley Park with you!

Sarah Marley
Interim Executive Director

Garrett Trego
President

FRIENDS OF THE WISSAHICKON





TREASURER'S REPORT

2024 was a year of bold investment and disciplined financial stewardship for Friends of the Wissahickon. We closed the year with total contributed and earned income of $3,789,506—an increase of more than $829,000 over the prior year. This growth was driven by sustained philanthropic support, a strong grants program, and expanded fundraising efforts, most notably our 100th anniversary celebration, which generated $441,617 in net revenue.

A major focus this year was our strategic, mission-driven investment in park infrastructure. The $3.5 million Valley Green Run Restoration and Pedestrian Bridge Project—the largest capital project in our organization's history—was a centerpiece initiative. Funding for this transformative project came primarily from previously secured restricted contributions, resulting in the release of $2.9 million in donor-restricted net assets. This planned use of funds contributed to a decrease in total net assets, which closed at $1,199,952, while we maintained a strong unrestricted balance of $889,343 to support core operations and reserves.

Despite the scale of our capital investment, we preserved liquidity and financial flexibility, ending the year with $2.5 million in financial assets available for use in 2025. This includes cash, receivables, and marketable investments earmarked for program delivery, staffing, and strategic priorities.

These results reflect the generosity of our community and our strong stewardship practices. With a solid financial foundation in place, we're well positioned to continue advancing our mission, honoring our centennial legacy, and meeting the evolving needs of Wissahickon Valley Park for generations to come.

Submitted by

Darium K Poke

Darium Poke, Treasurer

**Includes donated services.
Note: All 2023 and 2024 figures are audited.

ASSETS

ASSETS	2023	2024
Cash	$387,011	$403,035
Investments	$2,014,100	$1,172,424
Contributions & Grants Receivable	$626,501	$1,226,602
Operating Lease Right-of-Use Asset	$82,367	$156,627
Other Assets	$103,112	$110,439
TOTAL ASSETS	**$3,213,091**	**$3,069,127**

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES	2023	2024
Valley Green Inn Reserve	$25,000	$25,000
Accounts Payable & Accrued Epenses	$294,631	$1,189,782
Operating Lease Liability	$82,367	$156,627
EIDL COVID Loan Payable	$510,297	$497,766
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**$912,295**	**$1,869,175**

NET ASSETS	2023	2024
Without Donor Restrictions	$866,015	$889,343
With Donor Restrictions	$1,434,781	$310,609
TOTAL NET ASSETS	$2,300,796	$1,199,952
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	**$3,213,091**	**$3,069,127**

REVENUE & EXPENSES

REVENUE	2023	2024
Membership	$261,173	$283,253
Contributions & Grants	$2,312,508	$2,700,720
Special Events, Net	N/A	$441,617
Donated Services	$31,546	$24,698
Other Income	$354,406	$339,218
TOTAL REVENUE	**$2,959,633**	**$3,789,506**

EXPENSES	2023	2024
Programs	$1,798,952	$4,076,081
Development & Marketing	$338,680	$384,476
Management	$371,890**	$429,793
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$2,509,522**	**$4,890,350**



Volunteers enable our stewardship of 2,000+ acres of parkland. Their dedication keeps Wissahickon *wild*.

Photo by Stacey Gray.

Engagement

VOLUNTEER SERVICE DAYS:

- **2,215 individual volunteers**—the most ever!
- **193 service days**
- **19,396 Volunteer Hours**—2,190 more than in 2023
- **105 Wissahero shifts**—our solo stewards collected 5,080 pounds of litter

TRAIL AMBASSADORS:

- 203 outreach shifts
- 44 Walks & Talks—653 attendees
- Welcomed 10 new Trail Ambassadors!

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT:

- **14 school groups, including:**
  - Episcopal Academy
  - Fox Chase Farm
  - Holy Ghost Preparatory School
  - Germantown Academy
  - Gateway Regional High School
  - Norwood-Fontbonne Academy
  - Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School
  - Multicultural Academy Charter School

Interns planting live stakes along a Wissahickon tributary. Photo by FOW staff.





Volunteers planting native trees and shrubs by the Thomas Mill Covered Bridge. Photo by Chuck Uniatowski.

- 12 interns joined us from W.B. Saul High School of Agricultural Sciences, Lankenau Environmental Science Magnet High School, and Central High School.
- The Little Friends of the Wissahickon program welcomed 1,473 K-2nd graders from the School District of Philadelphia.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

Outreach event attendees: 1,234 attendees

Park users and neighbors engaged with FOW online:

- FOW.org—400,800 page visits
- Facebook—25,611 friends
- Instagram—30,291 followers
- FOW Map App—4,440 users

Habitat

- 127,000 square feet of invasive plants removed
- 1,100 native herbaceous plants, trees, and shrubs planted at:
  - North of Thomas Mill Covered Bridge
  - Yellow Trail near Kitchen's Lane
  - Harvey Street
  - Orange Trail Closure
  - Yellow Trail Closure
- 17 tons of litter removed
- Habitat Boxes (young, fledged): 8 Eastern Bluebirds • 6 Carolina Chickadees • 47 House Wrens • 88 Tree Swallows

Infrastructure

TRAILS IMPROVED:

- 38.6 miles of trail improved
  - ◊ Much of this was completed by our volunteer Crew Leaders who are involved in our zone steward initiative, heading out in groups to trim the corridor, clear drains, remove debris, and report issues to FOW staff.

VOLUNTEER & STAFF PROJECTS:

- Rock steps installed on Orange Trail
  - ◊ Installed 15 steps that now connect the Orange Trail to the White Trail, protecting the surrounding habitat and creating a more sustainable trail.
- Trail Rerouted on Yellow Trail near Cathedral Run
  - ◊ Closed ~600 feet of unsustainable trail and replaced it with ~1,000 feet of trail that better follows the contours of the hillside and provides safer passage for all trail users.

CREW LEADERS:

- 83 downed trees removed from the trails
- Welcomed 18 new Crew Leaders!

STRUCTURES CREW:

- Rebuilt the rustic live edge benches at Valley Green Inn
- Reshingled the roof of the Bluestone Shed
- 650+ fence rails and posts repaired

Structures Crew with the newly shingled Bluestone Shed. Photo by FOW Staff.





FOW was thrilled to welcome friends to the ribbon-cutting of the Lida Way Pedestrian Bridge, a critical infrastructure improvement a decade in the making this December. Photo by Chuck Uniatowski.

VALLEY GREEN RUN RESTORATION & PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE PROJECT

Stream Restoration:

- 201 linear feet of stream channel was rebuilt, the streambank was regraded, and 224 Philadelphia-native shrubs were planted, resulting in a pollutant load reduction of 11.6 tons of sediment annually.
- 9 boulder step pools installed and 2 boulder bank revetments constructed

Pedestrian Bridge:

- Approximately 200 feet long, the bridge has a galvanized steel superstructure and Black locust decking with galvanized steel donor planks interspersed, and a brand-new viewing platform.

North Approach:

- A new trailhead built with improved stormwater infrastructure and seating that also serves as hillside retention, and donor recognition included.

Project Team:

- Skelly & Loy, a Terracon Company: general contractor and stream restoration designer
- Resource Restoration Group: stream restoration builder
- CVMNEXT Construction: pedestrian bridge designer and builder
- Krieger Architects: pedestrian bridge design architect and project architect for donor recognition

DONORS

Friends of the Wissahickon wishes to extend thanks to all those who financially supported our work in 2024. Many individuals, foundations, and corporations have donated generously to help fund FOW's programs and operations. We are grateful for every gift we received and are pleased to list the following contributors whose cumulative donations were above $500.

- Current members of FOW's Board of Directors
- Current members of the Society of Generous Friends who have contributed $1,000 or more. These major gifts are unrestricted and support the mission of Friends of the Wissahickon.
- Deceased

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

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development

Pennsylvania Commonwealth Financing Authority

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Philadelphia Parks & Recreation

Philadelphia Department of Streets

Philadelphia Water Department

Fairmount Park Conservancy

Cedars House Cafe

Hike+Heal

Historic Rittenhouse Town

Friends of the Cresheim Trail

Let's Go Outdoors

PAPERtrail Bike Cafe

PowerCorpsPHL

Photography Without Borders

School District of Philadelphia

TB Wildlife Photography LLC

Wissahickon Restoration Volunteers

Wissahickon Wanderers

Lida Way Pedestrian Bridge

In December 2024, FOW completed construction on its signature capital project, the Valley Green Run Restoration and Pedestrian Bridge Project. A decade in the making, FOW raised $3.5 million to address worsening stormwater damage and unsafe pedestrian access to the Valley Green area. We would like to recognize the following public and private donors for their support.

Bridge Gifts

Carolyn Adams and John Meigs

Anonymous

Sherman Aronson and Joyce Lieberman

Leigh Ashbrook

Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

Christine and Michael Bamberger

Heather Blackburn

The Boston Family Office Investment Services

Sabrina Cellarosi and Marcien Jenckes

Jeffrey and Margot Clark

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Emily and Ted Daeschler

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Doran Family Foundation

Nanie and Jay Flaherty

Marie Ford and Mark Winicov

Wendy and Walter Foulke

Theresa and Geno Germano

Linda and David Glickstein

Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation

Mary and Paul Henry

Rick Hock

Louise Johnston

Stacy Levy

The Lida Foundation

Betsy and Robert Lukens

Debbie Maine

Malfer Foundation

Laura and Marc McKenna

The McLean Contributionship

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Susan and Robert Peck

Pennsylvania Commonwealth Financing Authority

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Philadelphia Parks & Recreation

Philadelphia Water Department

John Powers

Raynier Institute & Foundation

Ann and Frank Reed

Marshall Reynolds Foundation

Rita and Lawrence Salva

Julia Shapiro

Sheppard Family Fund

Brooke Silva

Timken Foundation of Canton

Caroline Tyler

Patrick Walsh

Margaret Wismer

Wyncote Foundation



Trail Ambassadors welcomed 653 attendees on free guided hikes throughout the Wissahickon in 2024.

Photo by Stacey Gray.

$10,000 and up

Cindy and John Affleck
Anonymous
Christine and Michael Bamberger
Alice and Christian Bullitt
CHUBB
Wendy and Walter Foulke
Lisa Clark and David Haas
Katy and Jason Friedland
Steven Gendler
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Elizabeth Stokes and Lynne Brown
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Anna and Charles Woodward
Wyncote Foundation

$5,000-$9,999

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Kris and Mark Soffa
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$2,500-$4,999

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$1,000-$2,499

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Kathleen Colson Mulroy
Annette Congdon
Deb and Jim Crisfield
Anneclaire De Roos and Steve Rice
Doug Dixon





FOW, Hike+Heal, and Troy Bynum partnered for a family birding hike this fall across the meadows and through the woods. Photo by Stacey Gray.

James Dugan
Risa Ellovich
Elliot Feinstein
Nanci and Keith Fitzgerald
Regina and Theodore Forrence
David Foulke
Christina and David Fryman
Amy and Christian Gagliardi
Leigh and Jacob Gantz
Theresa and Geno Germano
Rosamond and James Gleason
Gwen Glew
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Richard and Lesley Seitchik
Seres Therapeutics
Laura and Ronald Siena
Ivan Snyder
Jonathan Sprague and Caroline West
Dean Springman
Roy and Faith Stander
Anne and Baird Standish

Our awesome crew from just one of five locations on our Super Mega Earth Day Service in honor of Earth Day, our largest multi-location volunteer day, ever! Photo by Stacey Gray.



Friends of the Wissahickon staff and volunteers improved more than 38 miles of trails in 2024.

Photo by Stacey Gray.

James and Lisa Steiker
Caitlin and Jason Stevens
Julie Stone and Michael Rueter
Reinhart and Paula Struzyna
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Kenneth Surowitz
Tailored Home
Michael Talbot
Robert Tate and Ann Greene
Daniel Taupin
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Lori Wernersbach and Bruce Labaw
Sarah West
Ammie White
Robert White
Kate Williams and Scott Richelson
Mark Winicov and Marie Ford
Barbara and Timothy Wohlfahrt
YPTC
Cathy Zeanah

Tributes

In honor of Aaron Aleiner
Jeremiah Curtiss

In honor of Ania's 50th Birthday
Laura Lynam

In memory of Michael Bailin
Sherry Clothier
Scott Heacock

In memory of Jerome Balka
Irv Ackelsberg and Patricia Urevick
Ruth Bacharach
Margaret Bogart
Amy Cohen
Thomas and Candace Decker
Julia and Samuel Finney
Phyllis Ruben and Alan Garfield
Pi Lambda Phi PA Alpha Delta Alumni Association

In honor of Kaelin and Craig Baumbach
Rachel Reilly

In memory of Mark Berenbaum
Linda Barth
Rita and Wayne Morra

In honor of Charlie Berk
James Lear

In memory of Ellen Bernstein
Stuart Shils

In memory of Gene Bishop
Andrew Stone

In honor of David Bower and the Q-Team
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Rick Hock

In honor of Tyler Braun
Karen Olejarz

In memory of Madelyn B. Carpenter
Martha and Vince Leva

In honor of James Charnock
Mark Cohen

In honor of Jolley B. Christman
Roy and Faith Stander

In memory of Joan L. Coale
Anne and Baird Standish

In honor of Walter Crimm
Sara and Allan Crimm

In honor of Andrea DeSabato
Terri Soifer

In memory of Sreenivas Dingari
Chai Dingari

In honor of Lisa Donahue
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Marta McGovern

In honor of Lewis J. Dondrea
Martha Boggs

In honor of Linda Elgart
Stuart Baker

In honor of Joel Fish
Anonymous

In memory of Carl and Mae Fromuth
Sandy Williamson

In honor of Isaac Garfield
Rob Garfield

In honor of David and Linda Glickstein
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Risa Ellovich
Vance Zavela and Jean Schiro-Zavela

In honor of Margaret Guerra
AFS

In memory of Bob Gurmankin
Philadelphia Trail Club

In memory of Daniel Halevy
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In memory of Gordon Henderson
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In honor of Maddie Hoch and Mike Lee
Judith Tschirgi and Steven Hoch

In memory of Ken Jackson
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In memory of James Jennings
John Grady

In memory of Ken Johnstone
David Berg
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In honor of Lee Kaplan
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In memory of Peggy Knoebel
Anonymous

In memory of Stephen R. Lawrence
Andrew Lawrence

In memory of Joseph Levitt
Sam Levitt

In memory of Mary Kay Logan
Margaret Shatt

In honor of James P. Lynch
Colleen Lynch

In memory of Joseph Maguire
Anonymous
Linda Barrett
Chris and Bob Beisel
Kathleen Blakeslee
Mary Ellen Domzalski



Rock steps on the Orange Trail completed by FOW staff, volunteers, interns, seasonal crew, and PowerCorpPHL. Photo by FOW staff.

Jacqueline Dwyer
Margaret and James Frankenfield
Tim Higgins
Kathy and Mark Magno
Joseph Maguire
Judy McCormick
Matthew Moxey
Kathleen Murphy
Constance Nolan
Operational Security Solutions - OSS East
Judy Philactos
Jean Pierre and Madelyn Azar
Carolyn Schmitt
James Schmitt
Michael Sloss
Ellen Wall

In memory of Michelle McBrearty
Kathleen Lambert

In memory of John McDevitt
Denise O'Donnell

In memory of Charles R. McDonald
Linda Werner

In memory of Claire McGuire
Caroline Grano
Deidre Grano
Matthew Lyons and Virginia McGuire
Clifford McGuire
Chelsea Ruben
Virginia St. Claire
Barbara and Timothy Wohlfahrt

In honor of Laura McKenna
Andrew Kindfuller

In honor of Zach Miller's Bar Mitzvah
Zach Miller's Bar Mitzvah

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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.

Having a hoot in the photo booth at the first annual Backyard Bash, a community celebration at the Valley Green Inn in honor of FOW's 100th anniversary. Photo by Stacey Gray.



Wissahickon Valley Park welcomes 2+ million annual visits.

100th Anniversary

In November 2024, FOW held its "100 Years of Wild" Gala at The Pump House at Pencoyd Landing, Bala Cynwyd. This milestone event capped off a year of 100th Anniversary celebrations with a record setting $441,617 raised through events and contributions.

FOW would like to recognize the following individuals and organizations for their support.



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