



RIVEREDGE NATURE CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2023



A LETTER FROM MIKE AND JOHN

Dear Riveredge Community,

At Riveredge, we are stewards to 485 acres of Wisconsin's natural beauty, as well as a 55-year legacy of environmental education. In many ways, stewardship is the opposite of ownership. While we do own the responsibility of caring for this place, Riveredge truly belongs to everyone who steps foot on the trails, gathers together at our events, or learns beneath these trees. We connected over 40,000 people with the natural world this past year!

The concept of stewardship connects intrinsically to the concept of community. Our work can only be accomplished collectively, and that spirit radiates outward as we collaborate with others to maximize positive impact. Our ever-growing network of over 140 partners consists of schools and community organizations from throughout Southeastern Wisconsin. Partnerships strengthen Riveredge and the collective work of building healthier human and natural communities.

For example, our partnership with the Savanna Institute has informed agroforestry work on the Sandhill parcel of Riveredge, creating an outstanding setting for educational opportunities. Thanks to donors and partners like Balance, Inc. and the Ozaukee County Aging and Disability Resource Center, we're able to offer outdoor experiences to those who might not otherwise have the opportunity to experience it. In 2023, we've begun providing a nature-focused QPR crisis intervention training for community members and organizations across Washington County. All these things are part of our collective stewardship goals—to care for the natural world, to care for people, and to care for the relationship between the two.

We are incredibly grateful to all those who nurture the stewardship of Riveredge. Our thanks goes out to the members, donors, volunteers, staff, board of directors, and all who support this organization in ways large and small. Together, we see a bright future.



JOHN RAKOWSKI

Executive Director

MICHAEL FALEY

Board of Directors President



WELCOME TO RIVEREDGE

For 55 years, Riveredge Nature Center has grown as a regional leader in conservation, environmental education, and connecting to community through shared time in nature. Thousands of people continue to sustain this mission through membership, volunteer service, donations, and attending our vibrant schedule of programs. We are thankful for each and every one of our community members, including you!

Together, we continue to deepen our commitment to accessible environmental education for all people, connecting to nature both within and beyond our 485 acres. These joyful experiences in the outdoors fuel the dedication to stewardship that has defined our work since 1968.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Fiscal Year 2023

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

OFFICERS

Libby Larsen, President (Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission)

Kim Pemble, Treasurer (Health Information Consulting)

Liz Stueck-Mullane, Secretary (WEC Energy Group)

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Ryan Reigle (Regal Ware, Inc)

Mark Repenshek (Ascension Health)

Cate Tinker (Bookworm Gardens)

Dawn Wagner (Community Volunteer)





RESEARCH & CONSERVATION

For over 55 years, our staff and volunteers have safeguarded the ecological restoration of woodland, wetland, river, and prairie ecosystems in the Riveredge sanctuary and surrounding communities. As a destination for environmental research, Riveredge is a hub for regionally and nationally significant conservation work.

(Y)OUR IMPACT IN FISCAL YEAR 2023



4,300

native trees given away to community members, increasing stormwater buffering and reducing carbon in the atmosphere.



3,060

hours of research and conservation work completed by Riveredge volunteers.



74

unique bird species observed by Riveredge volunteers during the annual Christmas Bird Count, contributing to national research.



1,156

is the new grand total of bluebirds fledged in Riveredge bluebird boxes since 1981, thanks to 24 new fledglings this season.



33

new acres of land brought into our stewardship, bringing the Riveredge sanctuary to 485 total precious acres.



1,521

youth engaged in water quality testing throughout the Milwaukee River watershed with the Testing the Waters program.

A group of approximately ten diverse young children are standing in a snowy outdoor setting. They are wearing various winter coats, hats, and boots. Some are wearing bright green rubber boots with patterns, while others are in snow boots. The children are smiling and looking towards the camera. In the background, there is a wooden play structure with a roof and a white picket fence. The word "EDUCATION" is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters across the top of the image.

EDUCATION

Riveredge creates transformative educational experiences for people throughout Southeastern Wisconsin. Through programs, field trips, classes, workshops, and community outreach, our educators ignite excitement about the natural world. We believe that joyful, meaningful encounters with nature contribute to healthier human and natural communities.

(Y)OUR IMPACT IN FISCAL YEAR 2023



11,081

kids experienced outdoor learning through Riveredge programs, field trips, and events.



1,168

students served by the Scientist in Residence partnership with the NOSD and LUMIN school districts.



1,601

visitors got out on the water, on the snow, and up in the trees through Riveredge adventure programs.



69

elementary, middle, and high schools came to Riveredge for a nature-focused field trip.



3,092

people of all ages participated in a maple sugaring program or field trip at Riveredge.



55,000

hours were spent outside by kids participating in Riveredge programs.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT & STATEMENT OF POSITION

JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023

OPERATING REVENUE		ASSETS	
Unrestricted Contributions	\$ 426,841	Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 493,184
Endowment Income	\$ 163,832	Investments	\$ 5,068,245
Restricted Gifts / Grants	\$ 270,456	Accounts Receivable	\$ 438,469
Other Investment Income	\$ 494,315	Property and Equipment	\$ 4,777,126
Program Fees	\$ 405,051	Other Assets	\$ 117,547
Visitor Fees	\$ 4,707		
Fundraisers	\$ 163,526		
Other Income (Net)	\$ 185,667		
		Total	\$ 10,894,571
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 2,114,395		
OPERATING EXPENSES		LIABILITIES	
Program Services	\$ 1,807,808	Accounts Payable	\$ 40,733
Management + General	\$ 149,816	Unearned Revenue	\$ 216,967
Fundraising	\$ 156,771	Other Liabilities	\$ 72,233
		Total	\$ 329,933
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 2,114,395		
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS		NET ASSETS	
Change in unrestricted net assets	\$ 297,065	Without Donor Restrictions	\$6,765,431
Change in restricted net assets	\$ 85,208	With Donor Restrictions	\$3,799,207
Net assets - beginning of year	\$ 10,182,293		
		Total	\$ 10,564,638
Net assets - end of year	\$ 10,564,638		
		TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	
		\$10,894,571	

Riveredge Nature Center holds three designated endowment funds: the Jane B. Pettit Fund, Andy Larsen Legacy Fund, and East Property Endowment Fund. As of June 30, 2023, these funds had an approximate combined market value of \$2,938,820. Riveredge has drawn 5% of the combined average market value of the three endowment funds on December 31 of the past three years to cover endowment-designated expenses.

The Center also holds unrestricted investment funds. As of June 30, 2023, these funds had an approximate combined market value of \$966,998. Riveredge has drawn 5% of the combined average market value of these funds on December 31 of the past three years to partially cover operating expenses for the Center. Additional withdrawals are made from the unrestricted funds to support capital projects and special projects/initiatives. The Riveredge Nature Center Board of Directors approves all uses of these funds.

Please visit our website at www.riveredgenaturecenter.org/financials for our audited financials
which include a combined balance of Operating and Capital Campaign Funds.

CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS

265 VOLUNTEERS
11,576 HOURS WORKED
IMMEASURABLE VALUE



The Riveredge volunteer community is a robust group of talented and dedicated people who share a commitment to service. You'll find our volunteers in so many places: out in the prairie or forest, at the farm, in the kitchen at special events, interacting with the public at outreach tables, caring for sturgeon at the streamside rearing facility, in a kayak, at summer camp, wearing a tool belt, playing a guitar... the list goes on. We are ever thankful for the immeasurable dedication of these wonderful people. To begin your volunteer legacy, please call or apply on our website to learn about opportunities.



DONORS

JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023



\$5,000+

A. O. Smith Foundation, Inc.
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WI Department of Administration-
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\$2,500-\$4,999

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West Bend Community Foundation's
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Terry and Amy Ziegler



\$1,000-\$2,499

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\$500-\$999

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Dawn and David Wagner
Mary Wagner
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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS

Your investment advances the mission of Riveredge to support conservation through education that awakens curiosity, engages the body, and explores connections to nature for all.

These donor lists include donors with cumulative gifts above \$250 within the specified time frame.

A full list is available online. We believe donor information to be complete.

If we have made an error, please contact the Development Office to correct our records.

MAPLE LEAF LEGACY

Interested in leaving a lasting legacy?

Consider joining the Maple Leaf Legacy Society through a planned gift to Riveredge. If you have already made a commitment to Riveredge in your planned giving but aren't a part of the Maple Leaf Legacy Society - please let us know.



George Affeldt, Jr
Jean Ansay
Anonymous (4)
Doug and Mary Bockstiegel
Joanna Bratt
Pat Fairchild
Don and Barb Gilmore
Barb Heiligenstein
Peter Hitler

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