



WILDERNESS
LOUISVILLE, INC

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2023**

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Construction began on the **Chickasaw Forest Play Area** in 2023. Groundbreaking on the project happened in Spring 2023 and continued through the summer and fall. The official opening of the Chickasaw Forest Play is scheduled for Summer 2024, with a ribbon cutting ceremony. We hope to see you all there!



Restoration of the **Chickasaw Pond** began in Summer 2023, with a press conference by Mayor Greenberg, Council Member Purvis, and our own Natural Areas Administrator, Jessica Kane, officially kicking off the event. The anticipated completion of the restoration is Spring / Summer 2024.



MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Louisville ECHO had another successful and fun year! More than 2800 youth were served through school programming, out-of-school time, nature play, and community events. The 2023/24 school saw ECHO's continued partnership with 2nd through 4th grade students at King Elementary as well as K through 5th grades with Coral Ridge. In the fall of 2024, ECHO will be adding Atkinson Elementary to the partner schools. Through a grant from LG&E, the ECHO program youth planted 66 trees in the environmental education field at the Horine Reservation in Jefferson Memorial Forest.

Tom Wallace Improvement Project began in Fall 2023. It is a \$2.7 million improvement project for the Tom Wallace Recreation Area and the largest investment in Jefferson Memorial Forest in more than a decade. Funding for the project came from several partners, including funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The project will make the Tom Wallace section of the park more accessible for everyone. Improvements include

- ~ Accessible path for lake access
- ~ New picnic shelter
- ~ Boardwalk over a wetland area
- ~ Additional parking
- ~ Designated fishing locations and a kayak launch



MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Summer 2023 was activity-filled for the Natural Areas Land Management team.

With the help of volunteers, 80 native trees were planted in a reforestation planting project at Joe Creason Park during Tree Fest 2023. Hard working volunteers helped the Natural Areas team to finish a significant reroute on the Scott's Gap trail in order to avoid steep sections and hazardous creek crossings. Both volunteers and staff participated in the official opening of the new entrance to Scott's Gap trail on August 19, 2023 (and the closing of the existing trail entrance). Natural Areas staff and volunteers completed the resurfacing and widening of the Environment Education Stream trail in 2023, repaired sections of various natural areas trails, damaged by uprooted trees and erosion, and cleared the trails from debris and fallen trees from several storm events. Work to control invasive species continued in many natural areas properties. This included efforts with SummerWorks participants at Beargrass Creek Greenway. The team also installed pollinator gardens at the Jefferson Memorial Forest Welcome Center and the Horine Conference Center. In partnership with University of Kentucky and the Kentucky Division of Forestry, we hosted a field day studying and learning how to identify Laurel Wilt Disease (LWD), which is a new threat to our native Sassafras and Spice bush caused by the Redbay. Annual survey of Kentucky glade cress at McNeely Park took place to establish & maintain a healthy ecosystem within the park.



LOCAL IMPACT

7246

Acres of Forest & Natural Areas
354 Acres are actively under management



682

Volunteer Hours

50 volunteers donated 682 hours of their time over the 2023 year. Approximate value: \$20,337.24

47.9

Miles of Shared use trails
Hiking, biking, and equestrian trails



3726

Youth received outdoor education experiences

Programming included ECHO, Summer Camps, School Field Trips, and Community Events

236

Trees Planted
In reforestation efforts



2023 Financials

NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR

\$857,499

REVENUES

GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

\$305,533

NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR

\$961,012

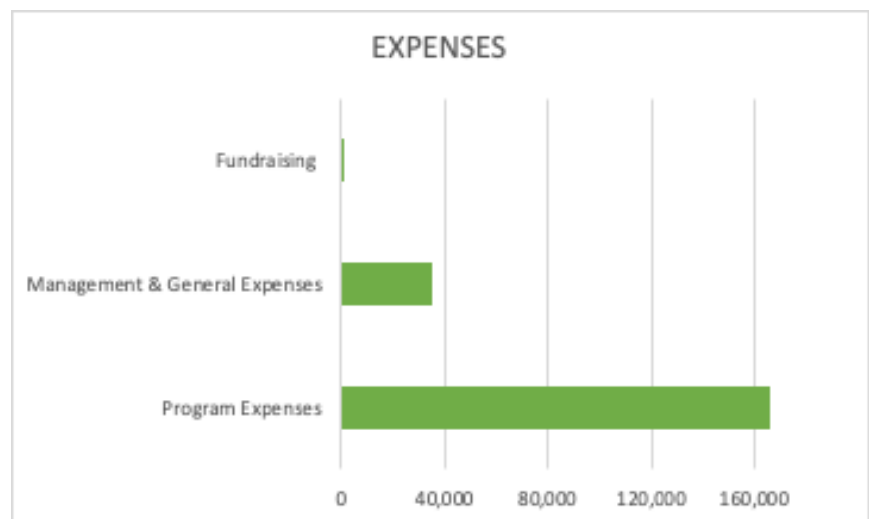
TOTAL EXPENSES = \$202,018

PROGRAM EXPENSES = \$166,298

**MANAGEMENT & GENERAL EXPENSES =
\$35,221**

FUNDRAISING EXPENSES = \$499

EXPENSES



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



**KENTUCKIANA WORKS
LG&E
NORTON FOUNDATION
SNOWY OWL FOUNDATION
MSD COMMUNITY BENEFITS
PROGRAM**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

OVER \$999

LENORA METCALFE

\$100 TO \$499

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UP TO \$99

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