



Dear Foundation Friends:

2022 was an uplifting year with continued growth for the Foundation and park usage for Three Rivers Parks. Together we worked tirelessly to fulfill our mission of connecting everyone to the wonders of our parks. And it's working! Year round, our parks are an invaluable place of peace and connection to nature.

In August, we hosted our premier annual fundraising event, Summerbration at beautiful Hyland Hills. It was wonderful to see so many of you, and we're happy to report that it was our most successful event ever, topping \$50,000 in funds raised thanks to your support and participation! These funds support the Foundation's mission including adapted recreation programs, the Pathways Internship program, and Explorer camps.

Give to the Max Day – A remarkable Minnesota tradition, this is one of our largest single-day fundraising events. Thanks to generous supporters like you, we raised over \$29,000.

In 2022, the Foundation conveyed our highest amount ever to the Park District — over \$180,000. We couldn't have done it without your support for our mission, and other unique projects in the District.

New officers – In December, our board of directors elected new officers: Don Winter, president; Michael Glaser, secretary; Anthony Hirschman, treasurer. They join SarahJane Nichols,

vice president, on our Executive Committee. We are grateful to our previous officers, president Jennifer Patel, and treasurer Pat Skinner, whose remarkable vision and contributions to the Foundation over the years along with the officers before them are immeasurable!

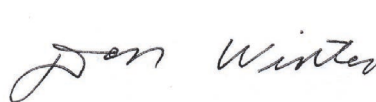
Growth – We also added a new member to our team, Christine Wittman, administrative assistant. Christine has quickly made an impact with her passion for support our mission and our Executive Director Chris.

Mark your calendars – Thursday August 10, 2023, for Summerbration, our largest fundraising party of the year, at Hyland Hills! Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram for event details over the coming weeks. And as always, we will have other special events throughout the year to support and celebrate our mission of connecting everyone to the wonders of our parks!

Looking forward – One year into our five-year growth strategy, we are on track to growing our board of directors, growing our staff and pointing towards the north star of raising \$1MM by 2027. This plan along with the generosity of our partners will lead to transformational impact in our parks. We thank you for your extraordinary ongoing support in this journey, and we'll see you in the parks!

Join Us in Making a Difference

- Donate via check or online. You can also donate a Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA.
- Donate stock or mutual funds.
- Include the Foundation in your estate planning.
- Give to the Max Day November 2022.
- Donate via your Donor Advised Fund.



Don Winter
President



Chris Boyer
Executive Director



Board of Directors - 2022

Jennifer Patel,
President

SarahJane Nichols,
Vice-president

Pat Skinner,
Treasurer

Judith S. Anderson

Patty Feeney

Jane Ladky

Tom McDowell

Candice McElroy

Beth Nash

Steve Piekarski

Cindy Piper

Carol Schreiber

Eric Vos

Don Winter

Sara Wyatt

Christopher Boyer,
Executive Director

Boe Carlson,
*Three Rivers Park District
Board Liaison, Superintendent*

Welcome to Our Newest Board Members

Anthony Hirschman

It's an honor to serve on the board and support a mission of connecting everyone to the wonders of our parks. I love our parks and confident playing in them has shaped who I am and wish to be. I want to bring the magic of nature and our Three River Parks to all families in the Twin Cities.



Michael Glaser

Having not grown up in Minnesota, I've gained a special appreciation for our parks. Both my family and I have enjoyed Three Rivers Parks for nearly twenty years, and they have grown near and dear to our hearts. Knowing how important these parks have been to us, I take pride in serving on the Foundation's board to help all people enjoy them as much as we have.



Kari Clark

John Muir knew that "in every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks." Hyland Lake Park, Richardson Nature Center and Glen Lake have been important parks for my family and me over the past two decades. They have been places of contemplation, exercise, learning and communication, to name a few of ways these parks have served us. In serving on this board, I want to help ensure that access to these gifts of nature are accessible and available to everyone in our community.



Patrice Benoit

My family has made so many memories in Three Rivers Parks over the years – first time on cross country skis at Elm Creek, kayaking at Fish Lake & overnight camping trips at Baker Park. We've enjoyed countless picnics, days on the beach and even a fishing birthday party at French Park. From visits at various nature centers to a day on the slopes, our family has learned to be curious, to embrace new challenges and to work together. In no small way, our family would not be the same without these parks. I believe it's critical that we ensure access to our wonderful parks to all community members, no matter their cultural, economic or social backgrounds. I serve as a board member to ensure future families can have the same (or better) access and services that our family enjoys.



Why We Serve *a note from some of our board members*

SarahJane Nichols - Vice President

I have many childhood memories of playing in the woods, biking, and spending time at my grandparent's farm. Now as an adult, I am able to enjoy these same experiences with my family at Three Rivers Parks! I love to spend time walking in the woods at Eastman Nature Center, biking along the Medicine Lake Regional Trail and visiting Gale Woods Farm. The reason I serve on the Foundation Board is to be part of the effort to connect everyone to Three Rivers Parks, regardless of their age, ability, ethnicity, or income level.

Tom McDowell

I believe spending time in the outdoors is critical to healthy human development and that an understanding and appreciation of nature is central to our wellbeing. Unfortunately access to the outdoors is not as easy as it once was. The Three Rivers Parks Foundation's mission of connecting ALL people with the outdoors regardless of age, ethnicity, income, or ability is an effort that I want to support.

Beth Nash

During 30-plus years of working for Three Rivers Park District, I could see the many ways outdoor experiences make a difference in people's lives. I also saw that many people encountered barriers to enjoying the parks. Serving on the Foundation board is one way I can help open up opportunities for everyone to connect with nature and enjoy outdoor experiences.

Cindy Piper

I have lived near Baker Park since it opened. It has a spectacular horse trail for those of us who love to ride. I joined the Foundation Board because of that interest, only to learn that Three Rivers (formerly Hennepin County Parks) had many other offers. My ten years on the Board has been a true gift toward my understand of what parks can do. I am grateful to be having the experience of serving.

Carol Schreiber

Our parks and activities are the best mental health we can give ourselves. I serve on the Foundation to help all citizens find their serenity in the parks.

Don Winter

Getting people outdoors to enjoy our beautiful parks helps us find a better balance in our lives. This is especially important for children and young adults. Serving on the Foundation board allows me to support the community and help people who might not otherwise have the opportunity to experience our Three Rivers parks.

Sara Wyatt

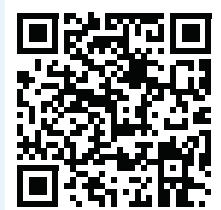
From the age of four, I was fortunate to spend summers in lake country with the freedom to explore nature, watch wildlife, swim, hike, bike and sail. These experiences had a huge impact on my life, and many of my most memorable moments have had a nature backdrop. Not everyone has the easy access to the outdoors that I have been blessed with, so I serve to help bring more of these opportunities for everyone to connect with nature in the parks, trails and programs of Three Rivers Park District.



Growing the board


The Foundation is seeking talented and passionate people to help fulfill our mission. If you are interested in learning about serving on our board of directors, please contact Chris Boyer: Chris.Boyer@ThreeRiversParks.org or 763-559-6760. You can also review our board of directors job description using the QR code or at this link:

ThreeRiversParksFdn.org/About-Us



Special Donation Stewardship

The Foundation helps a growing number of generous people and organizations achieve their philanthropic goals, including supporting our core mission and designated programs like Forests Forever, Pathways student internships, ski trail improvements, water quality and more. If you are passionate about supporting certain causes, parks or programs, please contact us to learn more.



A traditional timber frame shelter was constructed through a partnership with the North House Folk School. It was paid for through a donation to the Three Rivers Park District Foundation from the Wojnicz family, longtime Gale Woods program participants and youth volunteers. Three Rivers carpenter Aaron Wagner participated in the course and assembled the structure on site. Tim Reese, Supervisor of Gale Woods Farm, said the shelter will be used as a teaching space for school groups, summer camps and public events. It will also provide shade and shelter for farm visitors and program participants. In 2023, an outdoor oven will be constructed next to the shelter. The oven combined with the shelter will allow us to host pizza baking programs and event rentals in the future.

Explorer Camps

Taking Three Rivers' incredible educational and recreational programs beyond park boundaries, Explorer Camps travel to traditionally underrepresented communities that may not have the ability or means to travel to the parks.



"It doesn't even matter if we see birds. It's just so nice walking out here in nature."

*– Adele, age 8
on a birding hike*



Adapted Programming

Our commitment to adapted programming removes barriers to participation and empowers people with physical and cognitive disabilities to connect with nature. By providing the equipment and support personnel needed, we ensure that everyone can participate in Three Rivers outstanding recreational and educational opportunities.



“Doing these kinds of activities helps me to be more okay with what is happening [with my body], since there are still options to stay active and to learn new things.”

— Annie Hickman, adapted mountain bike program participant

My Summer as a Pathways Intern



by: Alex Carey

August 31, 2022

This spring, I found out Three Rivers Park District had a Pathways Internship Program that hires high school and college students to work at different locations throughout the park district.

I've always had a passion for the outdoors and a desire to share it with others. This seemed like the perfect opportunity for me. I applied for a position in Outdoor Education. After a few emails and an interview, I received the great news that I was accepted to work at Mississippi Gateway Regional Park!

My Internship Experience

The first week of my internship was spent onboarding, training, and meeting the staff at the park. As an Outdoor Education Intern at Mississippi Gateway Regional Park, my main focus was working with the professional naturalists and helping them lead the educational summer programs in the park. The following week was my first camp of the summer, and it was called "Wildlife Adventures." It was adventurous for sure — from digging for critters to exploring the Mississippi River, there was never a dull moment. It was a great way to kick off my summer intern experience!

Overall, the summer camps went very well. Summer camps are a blast; you never know what to expect each day, and interacting and playing with the kids is fun. I spent a lot of time playing games and doing activities with the kids. Throughout the summer, I got to work with lots of kids, which I really enjoyed. We participated in many different fun activities, like making fires, birding, archery, catching critters, rafting, and fishing the Mississippi River. I got to know many naturalists and volunteers. In some of the camps, we got to fish the Mississippi River and caught various fish.

I have never been at a summer camp before so seeing not just how it works, but being behind-the-scenes was pretty interesting. A highlight of my internship was that even though I was the intern who was learning, I got to lead a birding activity. I've had some experience with birding and thought it would be something I could provide some useful insight. The group spotted a few birds while walking around the park, like bald eagles, ospreys, great blue herons and green herons. I was happy to have shared my knowledge with the kids.

The Pathways Program

One of the Program's goals is for the interns to gain knowledge that can help them make decisions for their futures.

Over the summer, we had development days in which we learned skills like resume writing, networking, and learning from professionals. Another one of their goals is to show that there are many different jobs and positions in the parks, like outdoor education and recreation, natural resources, maintenance, administrative and more. I have developed valuable experience in these areas, which will serve me well throughout my life.

What I learned

From my experience as a Pathways intern, I've found there are numerous career paths in the parks. In the outdoor education field, I have learned how the programs run in the parks, as well as skills like resume writing and networking that will help me in the future when I look to get a career or a job. I've had a wonderful time serving alongside the naturalists at the park. This opportunity was the highlight of my summer. I'm thankful for the people that invested in me, and I look forward to continuing to develop my passion for the outdoors and sharing the importance of connecting to our natural resources.



PATHWAYS INTERNSHIP TRANSPORTATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The Pathways Internship program is a paid internship providing hands-on experience exploring careers in parks and recreation to youth and young adults in particular, those facing barriers to employment. Despite the success of this program, there are applicants who must withdraw from taking part each year due to transportation barriers.

Beginning in 2021, the Three Rivers Park District Foundation provides scholarships to Pathways interns who face transportation barriers which impact their ability to participate in the program.

“Even with a license, you don’t always have access to a car, especially if you’re going every day, it gets really hard with parents who work.”

–Harshita

“[Transportation] is a huge factor because I don’t have my license yet and my parents are working at a restaurant like 12 to 14 hour work shifts a day.”

–Joyce

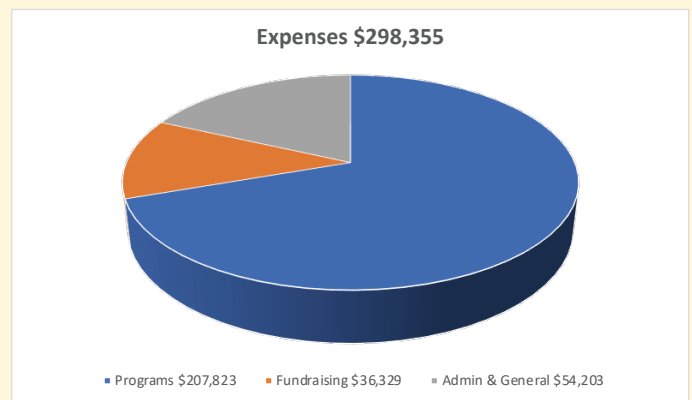
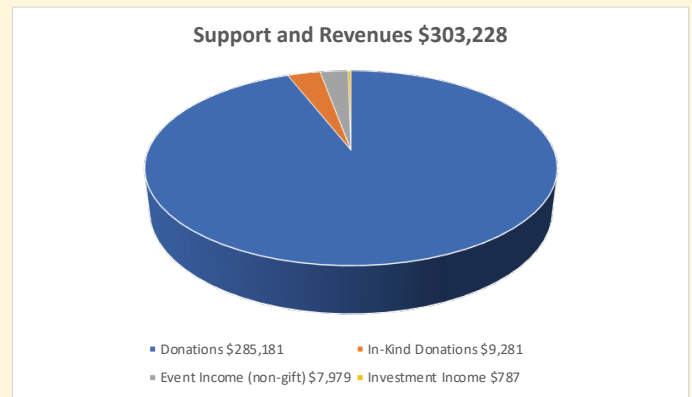


Financials

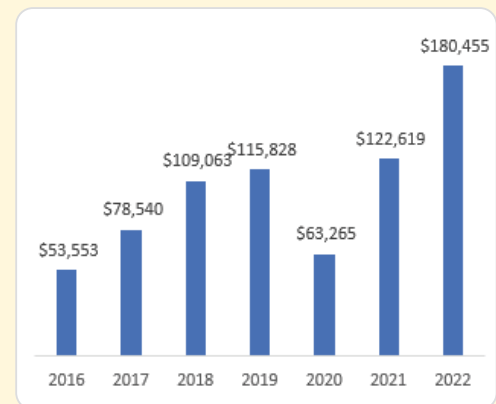
Statements of Financial Position as of December 31

ASSETS	2022	2021
CURRENT		
Total Cash	\$140,945	114,960
Total Contributions Receivable	\$4,069	8,172
Undeposited Funds	\$6,865	15,506
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$151,879	138,638
OTHER-Marketable Securities	\$89,802	94,015
TOTAL ASSETS	\$241,681	232,654

LIABILITIES and EQUITY	2022	2021
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$5,075	875
Grants Payable	\$44,941	35,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$50,016	35,875
EQUITY		
Beginning Unrestricted Assets	\$231,779	184,836
Net Income	\$4,873	46,943
Current Year Restricted Assets	\$(44,987)	-35,000
TOTAL EQUITY	\$191,664	196,779
TOTAL LIABILITIES and EQUITY	\$241,681	232,654



Foundation Support to Three Rivers Park District



5 Year Plan – Growing Capacity and Staff

One year into our five-year growth strategy, we're excited to report that we're making great progress. We have hired an administrative assistant, added board members, and exceeded our first year fundraising target. We couldn't have done this without your support! As we enter year two of our strategy, we remain passionate about our belief that together we can make a transformational impact in our community through increasing access to nature and outdoor programming for persons of all abilities and backgrounds. This remains our guiding "why," and we are as enthusiastic as ever about the future. Thank you for joining us on this meaningful journey!

PLANNED GIVING CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

Including the Foundation in your estate plans is a powerful statement of your values and helps ensure that we can continue connecting everyone to the wonders of our parks. To learn more, please contact Executive Director Chris Boyer at Chris.Boyer@ThreeRiversParks.org or 763-559-6760. You can also visit the "Donate" page on our website for more information including sample bequest language. Be sure to discuss your estate goals with your financial planner and estate attorney.



Thank you to our Business Supporters

We'd like to thank the growing number of businesses in our community who are supporting our mission. If your company would like to support Adapted Recreation programs for veterans, children and seniors, and Explorer Camp programs for kids from underrepresented communities, please contact us. We'd love to have you help!



Sustaining Business Supporters

Allina Health Systems
Amazon Smile Foundation
Brown Cow Design
DL's Radiator & Exhaust
Bell Mobile, Inc.
Hiller Stores, Inc.
Bryan Rock Products, Inc.
Advantage Signs and Graphics, Inc.
Lee's Refrigeration
FPI Paving Contractors, Inc.
Duane's Septic Service
Leuthner Well, Inc.
Luce Line Brewery
Podium Sports Marketing, Inc.
Underferth Enterprises
Riverview Sports and Marine
Lisa Foster Associates, LLC

New Business Supporters in 2022:

Fidelity Investments
Unilev Management Corp.
PEO Chapter CG
SolarPod
Tisbest Philanthropy

Employer Match Business Supporters

Ameriprise Financial
Best Buy
Boston Scientific
Cargill
General Mills
Google
Thrivent Financial Foundation
United Health Group
Workday
US Bank Foundation

Thank You to Our Donors

We are pleased to thank the following businesses, organizations and individuals for their generous contributions during 2022:

*denotes in-kind support

\$50,000 and up

Douglas Schmid

\$10,000 - \$49,999

Shannon and Shane Davis
Phyllis Droher
Fidelity Investments
William Lundberg
Cindy and Tad Piper
Weck Family Donor Advised Fund
Wendy Wojnicz

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We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this donor information. However, if we have inadvertently missed or misspelled your name, please accept our apologies and notify us at 763-559-6760 so we can correct it for the future.

EIN 41-1579104

The Three Rivers Park District Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization providing philanthropic support to Three Rivers Park District. Located in the Twin Cities west metro area, the Park District promotes environmental stewardship through recreational and educational opportunities throughout its 27,000-acre natural resources-based system, reaching more than 13 million visitors annually.



