

Osprey Wilds

Environmental Learning Center



Fiscal Year 2022

JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022

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Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

This past fiscal year was one of big achievements for Osprey Wilds: big grants, big donations, big land acquisitions, big expansions to our charter schools portfolio, and big improvements to our campus. We were able to make substantial gains on the financial side of operations thanks in part to grants from the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Minnesota Land Trust, allowing us to create a Provisional Fund with the St. Paul & Minnesota Foundation, retire two loans, and invest in long-needed upgrades to our facilities.

Our education programs continued to bounce back from the previous year, and new programs were created. Despite all the successes you will read about in the coming pages, COVID-19 continued to have its presence felt with program adjustments, modifications and cancellations on a near daily basis. Our dedicated and adaptable staff rose to the occasion time and again to make the necessary changes to accommodate our participants, and ensure a safe setting where people of all communities could come together to learn and experience nature.

I am very proud to be part of this team and the work they do to bring our mission to fruition *instilling a connection and commitment to the environment in people of all communities through experiential learning*. With the pandemic disrupting our lives and the real challenges our environment faces, that mission has never been more important. Thank you for joining us on the journey and showing your support. We are extremely grateful.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan Wood".

Bryan Wood
Executive Director

About Us

Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) residential environmental learning center and conference and retreat facility on Grindstone Lake in Sandstone, Minnesota.

Mission

To instill a connection and commitment to the environment in people of all communities through experiential learning



Vision

A healthy planet where all people live in balance with the Earth

Core Values

We demonstrate respect, care and passion for the earth, all people and all living things.

We strive for excellence in everything we do through integrity, open communication and teamwork.

We value, engage and appreciate individuals for their unique contributions.

We believe in life-long learning through positive shared experiences with the natural world.

We encourage others to recognize their interconnectedness with the earth through their actions.

Learn more at OspreyWilds.org



Programs

This fiscal year we continued to test out new program models, rebuild our school-year residential programming, and brought on a new Education Director, Nadine Meyer. We piloted a new pay-as-you can day camp model in the summer of 2021 which was well received and met our goal of providing on-site programming for our local communities. Our fall started out strong, but with waves of COVID-19, we had multiple rescheduled residential school programs and some cancellations. We continued to fill gaps in our schedule with one-time pay-as-you-can day camps during school breaks. The end of the school year finished strong and we continued using the pay-as-you can day-camp model. For the summer of 2022 we also added a K-2 day camp which filled quickly and had waiting lists.



K-12 Program

1588 Residential Learners

777 Day Use Learners

158 Off-Site Learners

108 Virtual Learners

53 Attending Schools

10 New Schools

\$23,371 Awarded to schools in Scholarships

Wildlife Programs

1797 Learners

10 Programs



Charter School Programs

9514 Students

34 Schools

Other Programs

- 969 College Program Participants
- 89 Community Program Participants
- 29 Family Program Participants
- 197 Adult Program Participants



Facilities and Land Improvements

- 564 acres acquired from Blacklock Nature Sanctuary and Craig & Honey Blacklock
- 462 acres permanently protected through a conservation easement through the Minnesota Land Trust
- Maintenance Building completed
- Wetlands Cabin complete renovation
- New maintenance pickup truck
- Waterlines installed at Trapp Farm pastures
- Mobile Broiler Chicken Coop constructed
- Two bedrooms added to Staff House
- New water purification system installed campus-wide
- New furnace installed at Schwyzer Lodge
- New roofing on Lowry Lodge, Staff House and Schwyzer Cabin

Staff

Administrative

Bryan Wood, Executive Director
Jill Rudolph, Operations Director
Jim DeYoung, Development Director
Jolene Palme, Finance Manager
Janette Nash, Front Desk/Receptionist
Jamie Delton, IT Coordinator

Charter School Authorizing:

Erin Anderson, Director of Charter School Authorizing
Ashley Estis, Charter School Leadership Fellow
Alul Yesak, Compliance Clerk
Emily Edstrom-Moore, Authorizing Specialist, Academics
Addie Washington, Administrative Assistant

Education

Nadine Meyer, Education Director

Mary Dresser, Reservations Coordinator
Ashley Bozman, Fellowship Coordinator
Savannah Maiers, Wildlife Coordinator

Facilities

Ty Johnson, Buildings & Grounds Manager
Morgan Moris, Housekeeper
Kimberly Johnson, Housekeeper
Steve Hanna, Groundskeeper

Food Service

Amy Smyser, Food Service Manager
Leslie Haupt, Lead Cook

Fellows

Claire Adams
Lydia Berg
Finlay Bilden
Taryn Brandl
Devin Guilfoyle
Hannah Hernandez
Gwen Hughes

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Bill Owens, *Treasurer*
Susan VanGorden
Don Verbick

Finances

| Income | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Invested | \$100,459 |
| Individual Contributions | \$2,014,486 |
| Grants | \$1,945,978 |
| Program Fees | \$1,155,082 |
| Merchandise & Farm Sales | \$39,597 |
| Misc. Income | \$17,240 |
| Total Income | \$5,272,842 |
| Expense | |
| Payroll | \$1,036,508 |
| Program Services | \$988,650 |
| Restricted Expenses | \$57,370 |
| Loan/Interest | \$159,787 |
| Total Expenses | \$2,242,315 |
| Net Income | \$3,030,527 |
| Depreciation | \$192,071 |
| COVID-19 Relief Funds | |
| Shuttered Venue Operating Grant | \$866,353.71 |
| Main Street COVID Relief Grant | \$15,000 |
| Employee Retention Credits | \$115,722.10 |

Development

The generosity of nearly 400 donors brought giving to record heights in the past fiscal year. Boosted by a couple of exceptional gifts, contributions totaling more than \$430,000 provided funds for general operations, endowment, several special projects, and K-12 program support.

- Gifts for general operations came up just short of \$300,000. A big chunk of that came from the Craig and Honey Blacklock, who gave the cash assets of the Blacklock Nature Center, more than \$77,000, along with the center's 564 acres transferred to Osprey Wilds in 2021. Even so, donations from more usual sources surpassed \$222,000, well above the \$175,000 budgeted for support of general operations in the 2021-22 fiscal year.

- We received our largest ever endowment contribution in 2022—a bequest from the estate of Jill Mithun. The bequest included more than \$186,000 in cash and investments. The first distribution, nearly \$80,000, arrived in June, the final month of the past fiscal year, with the remainder distributed in the first quarter of the current year. Ms. Mithun’s generosity and foresight means a significant boost to Osprey Wild’s endowment, in which funds are invested in perpetuity to grow the principal and provide annual income for operations and special projects.
- Donors gave “restricted contributions” totaling almost \$37,000 to fund a number of special projects, including water lines and other equipment at Trapp Farm, finishing the new maintenance building, rehabbing the Schwyzer Lodge floor, and installing a second EV charging station.
- Bids for Kids returned as an in-person event after the pandemic forced it online. Though not yet back to pre-COVID attendance numbers, the event’s contributions, auction purchases, and other revenue surpassed the budgeted income amount of \$32,000 by just over \$1,000.

Far more important than the numbers above are the numbers of children, young people, and adults of all ages that your support helped Osprey Wilds serve in 2021-22. We were able to steadily build back our programs during that time, thanks in no small part to you. I’m happy to be able to say once again that your partnership over the past year was foundational to our success in helping thousands make meaningful connections with the environment, nurturing their commitment to its preservation. Thank you!

Jim DeYoung
Development Director

Donors

\$25,000+

Blacklock Nature Sanctuary
Marvin P Verhulst Foundation
Estate of Jacqueline (Jill) Mithun

\$10,000-\$24,999

Robert Clark
Ecolab
Richard & Constance Glattly
Initiative Foundation
George & Marillyn Knuteson
Richard & Joan Newmark
Tamarack Habilitation Technologies, Inc
Marilyn Thompson
Vernon Holcomb Household

\$2500-9999

Altar'd State - Mall of America
Anna Gerenday
Institute for Excellence
Donald Janes
Steve & Susan McNeill
Renaissance Charitable Foundation
Renee Potts Lane Family Fund
Robert S. Hunter Charitable Fund

\$1000-\$2499

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Sue & Don VanGorden
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Sylvia Winkelman
Jacqueline Wittmeyer

David & Pearl Wright

\$500-\$999

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Pam Brumfield & Ron Iverson
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Barbara Dunn
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\$250-\$499

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Gene & Nancy Pugh
Patricia Rainer
Julianne Ratliff
Jill Rudolph
Michael Russell
Miles Sledd
Tom Torborg
Timothy Whitfeld
Bryan Wood

Grants

Eco Lab
Headwaters Foundation for Justice
Initiative Foundation
Institute for Excellence
Marvin P Verhulst Fdtn Inc

Mille Lacs (ML) Corporate Ventures
Minnesota Department of Education
Minnesota Land Trust
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation
Shuttered Venue Operating Grant
Wolf Ridge ELC

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Chris Steele
Craig & Honey Blacklock
David Chasson
Deb Curran
Donald Janes
Donald Verbick
Douglas Wood
George Knuteson
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Great Lakes Aquarium
Heidi Bringman
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International Wolf Center
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Jim McDonell
Jolene Palme
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Mark Behrends
Mary Malsam
Nalani McCutcheon
North American Bear Center
Patagonia St. Paul
Petry's Bait
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Tammy Fleming
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Donna Mae Thomas

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Diane VanderVenter
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Gale Kunert
George Jamison
Glen Paulson
Grant Burau
Ial & Rom Matthews
Imogen Berchin
Joe White
John Masunas

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Lawrence & Mary Mans
Leonard Gangelhoff
Makayla Jane
Marcia May Sundquist
Marty Erickson
Mary Clark
Roger McNeil
Samuel Rankin
Scott Axell
Steven Chaffee
Terry Thell
Tom Day

In Honor Of

Don & Meg Arnosti
Douglas Wood & Elaine Thrune
Clarissa Ellis-Prudhomme
Angie R.
June Roubinek & Loyce Lindquist
Mary Dresser

Thank you from Osprey Wilds