

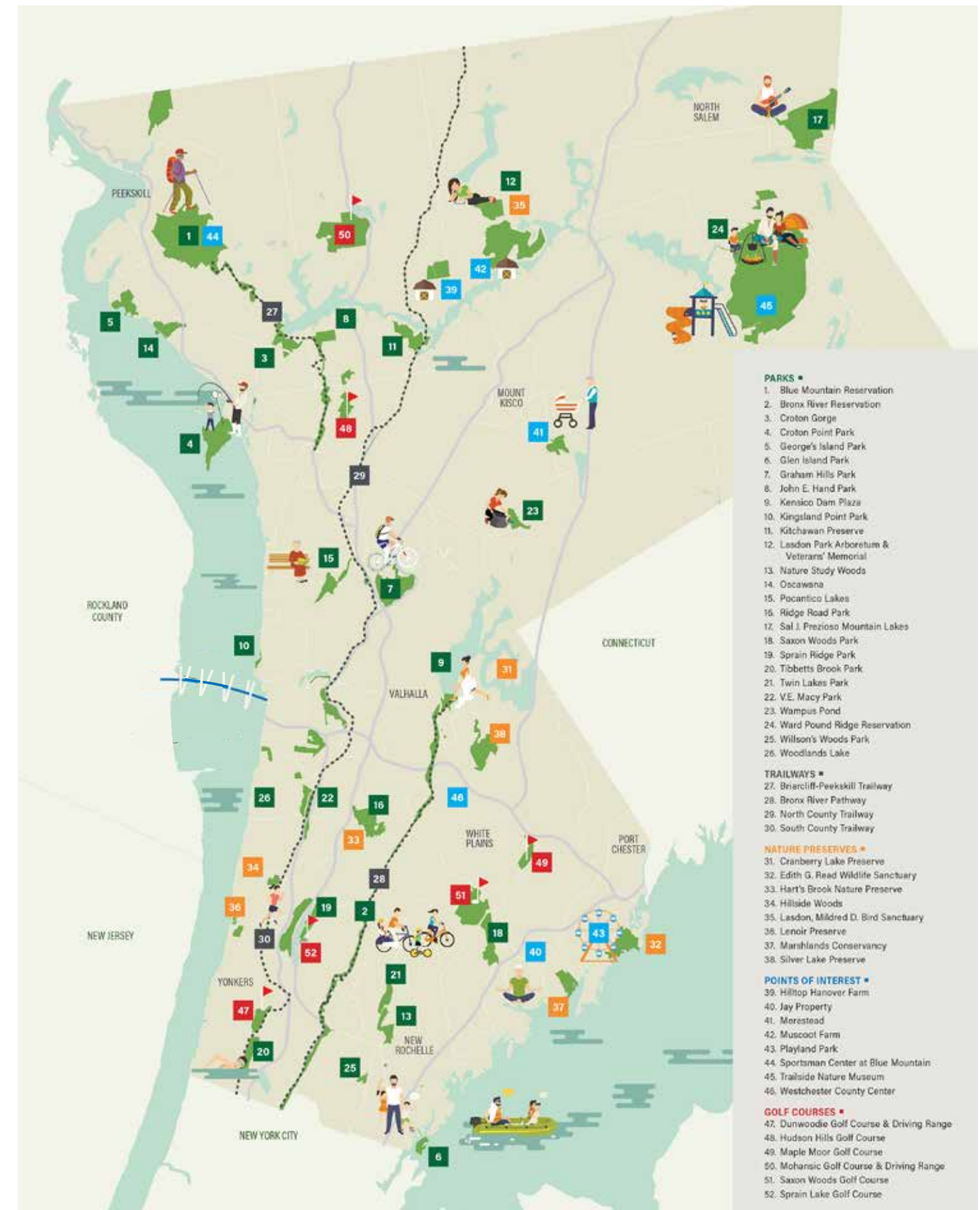


2023 IMPACT REPORT

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WHEREVER YOU ARE IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY, THERE'S A GREAT PARK NEARBY!



OUR MISSION

Westchester Parks Foundation invests in, advocates for, and enhances the over 50 parks of the Westchester County Parks system.

Westchester Parks Foundation is a private, not-for-profit organization. For more than 45 years, we have invested over 23 million dollars to enhance and preserve county parks for all to enjoy. Our Board of Trustees comprises a diverse team of committed individuals who devote time and expertise to ensure that our parks will be here for future generations to enjoy.

We envision a future where Westchester Parks Foundation's innovative experiences and programs inspire engagement in Westchester County Parks. Our work helps safeguard a County Parks system that is open to all and available for everyone to enjoy. Our role is distinct and critical as the primary nonpartisan, nonprofit partner of the County Parks system. With passion and commitment, we bring together public and private partners for fundraising, infrastructure and investments, programs, and community events to ensure the sustainability of our cherished parks, trails, and open spaces for generations to come.

WHY SUPPORT PARKS?

We are united by the fact that we all have fond memories and experiences in our parks and outdoor spaces. Everyone, from all walks of life, refresh mind and body in our parks. Westchester County Parks are home to a wide array of settings including lakes, bike trails, golf courses, beaches, pools, campgrounds, athletic fields and nature preserves. We are lucky to say that few other areas in the country have such a large and varied parks system – open to all and available for everyone to enjoy. Whatever you like to do, there is a park in Westchester for you, so let's collectively support and preserve them for future generations.



Park users enjoying Kensico Dam Plaza

Parks are here for you, let's all #STANDUPFORPARKS

STRATEGIC PLANNING

In 2023, Westchester Parks Foundation completed a Strategic Planning process, with a committee comprised of Board Members and Staff, to refresh our mission, and guide the organization towards the next five years, and beyond. This process yielded four **Core Values** and five **Goals** that will set the direction of our planning, programming and initiatives as we look towards the future.

CORE VALUES

Passion: It is evident that we are enthusiastic about and committed to Westchester County Parks and the people and places they serve.

Community: We support access and opportunities for all to share the benefits of Westchester County Parks.

Growth: We believe in creativity, innovation, and learning for ourselves, our organization, and our community.

Sustainability: We make thoughtful and forward-looking decisions that support the environmental and organizational sustainability of the Foundation and the County Parks system.

GOALS

Goal 1: Westchester Parks Foundation has stable and diverse funding and sustainable financial practices.

Goal 2: Westchester Parks Foundation expands its impact on Westchester County Parks and our community.

Goal 3: Westchester Parks Foundation energizes its community with engaging programming that reflects its needs.

Goal 4: Westchester Parks Foundation is recognized as a distinct, critical, and successful nonprofit throughout Westchester County and beyond.

Goal 5: Westchester Parks Foundation staff and Board continue to develop their strengths, flexibility, and diversity to best support the Foundation's mission and community.

ADVOCACY

Westchester Parks Foundation continues to be a vocal advocate for parks, leading the call to keep Westchester County Parks the best for all who use them. Throughout each year, we meet with elected officials to advocate for parks improvement projects, staffing, funding, and more. Whether it's encouraging the safe and timely expedition of capital projects, to keeping parks and recreation issues at the forefront of the agendas for county and business leaders, our board and staff are continually speaking up and speaking out for our precious park system. We have always believed that investment in infrastructure and preservation of current parkland are critical to keeping Westchester's parks beautiful, vital, and accessible to all as part of a thriving economy and vibrant community. We thank our County's leaders and the Parks Board for all of their efforts to move much-needed capital projects forward in our parks and improve the Department's capacity to plan for the future.

TIBBETTS GAZEBO

In 2023, we continued to make progress on the restoration of the historic Gazebo on Tibbetts Brook Park Lake, thanks to funding from a generous private donor and proceeds from our programs. Original to the park and conceived during the "roaring 1920's" as a lakeside pavilion and bandstand, the gazebo has stood in a state of disrepair in recent decades. The Romanesque structure, which boasts nine elegant arches, will be restored to its former glory becoming a destination at the park. Paint coatings and graffiti will be removed to restore the original finish and help to re-establish its historic relationship to its setting, on a point projecting into the lake that has long eroded away. Enhanced plantings, lighting and sound will allow new staging for music, plays, opera, weddings & gatherings: A "Mini Tanglewood at Tibbetts". This project, together with WPF's other efforts to restore the water quality of the lake, will continue to bring the area back to recreational use. Walter Sedovic Architects, locally based in Irvington, is the architecture firm chosen for the project, and has been working hand in hand with WPF and Westchester County Parks to carefully complete the project, with an anticipated grand reopening in 2024.



The Gazebo at Tibbetts Brook Park



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

In 2023, our dedicated volunteers made an impressive impact giving back to the parks they love. By the end of the year, 4,127 volunteers had contributed 13,088 hours of service to the parks, trails, and open spaces across the county. This is equivalent to \$391,993 worth of investment of sweat equity into Westchester's Parks.¹ This year we were pleased to strengthen existing relationships with local businesses and organizations while also launching new initiatives.

Our **Corporate Partner Program** included 18 sponsors this year, including new partners **Brightcore Energy** and **Flik Hospitality** and returning sponsors **Morgan Stanley** and **CVE North America**. Our 2023 corporate volunteers contributed over 2,200 hours of service in the parks on projects that included building raised garden beds at **Muscoot Farm**, painting the Nature Center at **Marshlands Conservancy**, and cleaning the beaches at **Edith Read Wildlife Sanctuary** and **Glen Island Park**. The support of these businesses helps to sustain the work of the Volunteer Program throughout the year.

Our **Green Squad** leaders continued to make an impact by going out to the parks on their own schedule to remove trash, manage invasive species, and lead other volunteers at cleanups. The Green Squads removed 1,363 lbs. of trash from 20 park locations.

In 2023, Westchester Parks Foundation entered year six of **Lake Revitalization at Tibbetts Brook Park**. Prior to our involvement, ten acres of Tibbetts Brook Park Lake were infested with the invasive species, Water Chestnut (*trapa natans*). Thanks to our partners **Xylem**, **Osaka Gas**, **Thalle Industries**, and **GA Fleet**, we once again secured funding to remove the Water Chestnut using a mechanical harvester. Our community volunteers and Summer Greenters contributed an amazing 444 hours of hand pulling efforts to remove 11,456 pounds of Water Chestnut from the lake. With each year of continued management, Westchester Parks Foundation is one step closer to bringing aquatic recreation back to Tibbetts Brook Park.

The Volunteer Program was proud to mobilize volunteers at events co-organized with other organizations. From the hyper-local initiatives like **9/11: Serve + Remember** with **Volunteer New York**, to **International Coastal Cleanup Day** with **Ocean Conservancy**, we hosted events with 15 partners in 8 different parks! We also engaged with 15 schools and camps to help students achieve their conservation and community-building goals.

2023 saw the return of the **Greentership Program**—a hands-on conservation internship held in winter and summer with 36 participants. The Greenters performed 701 hours of service, both in-office and in our parks. They learned about invasive species and led 168 community members at environmentally-focused volunteer projects.

To ready our parks for the busy season, **Pitch in for Parks** was held in April. In just one week, an incredible 692 volunteers reached 14 park locations, including record breaking numbers for **Earth Day** itself with 479 people showing up to pitch in!

To prepare for the new **Trails Without Limits** program, the Volunteer Team staff surveyed 25 miles of trails across the county. Following these surveys, 16 volunteers were recruited and received Trackchair operation training. By the end of the season, TWL Volunteers logged 156 hours of trail time with Trails Without Limits hikers.

¹ According to the Independent Sector's estimate of value of Volunteer Time in New York State.

Volunteers participating in Pitch In for Parks

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



CLEAN RIVER PROJECT

This year, our **Clean River Project** celebrated its sixth year with the support of sponsor **PepsiCo**. Through hands-on science, 83 volunteers removed and cataloged 7,438 items of floatable trash from two locations on the Bronx River. We also launched a water testing initiative in partnership with Bronx River Alliance. Our **Water Quality Stewards** routinely took samples and compiled data that will help us better understand the health of the Bronx River.

ALL OF WESTCHESTER INTERNSHIP

The Volunteer Program was awarded funding for a second year of the **All of Westchester Internship**, a paid internship that provides work experience to individuals from groups that are underrepresented in the environmental field. This project was contracted by the **Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management** using funds from the Environmental Protection Fund as administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Our 2 interns, **Laura Mendoza** and **Jovan Thompson**, led community members in native tree care, performed maintenance on 268 plantings, and created new educational games for the WPF table at community events!



REFORESTATION NATION

The WPF Volunteer Program broke their record for tree planting again in 2023—an incredible 2,632 trees and shrubs were planted thanks to partners and sponsors including **Westchester Soil and Water Conservation District**, **US Forest Service** and **CUNY**, **Riverkeeper**, **Regeneron**, **Fujifilm**, and **Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Conservation**. Westchester Parks Foundation was also awarded planting grants from **One Tree Planted** and the **NYS Department of Conservation "Trees for Tribs"** program. These plantings will benefit park environments by reintroducing pollinators, providing research plots to study the effects of Beech Leaf Disease, and restoring riparian buffers.

VOLUNTEERS SINCE PROGRAM INCEPTION: 2015–2023

25,519
VOLUNTEERS

76,100
HOURS OF SERVICE

\$2,247,990
SWEAT EQUITY

2023 VOLUNTEER PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

\$391,993
WORTH OF
SWEAT EQUITY

7,438
PIECES OF TRASH
REMOVED FROM
BRONX RIVER

4,670
SQ FT. PICNIC AREAS
AND PLAYGROUNDS
MULCHED

340
FT. WOODEN
WALKWAYS BUILT
OR REPAIRED

120,050
SQ FT. INVASIVE
SPECIES MANAGED

9,559
SQ. FT. FLOWERBEDS
MAINTAINED

367
FLOWERS
PLANTED

45
INTERNSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES

22,211
LBS. OF AQUATIC
INVASIVE SPECIES
REMOVED

3,632
GOLF BALLS
RETURNED TO OUR
RANGES

598
TREES
SAVED

36
CORPORATE
PROJECTS

8,620
LBS TRASH
REMOVED

4,127
VOLUNTEERS

2,632
TREES AND
SHRUBS PLANTED

15
SCHOOLS
ENGAGED

13,088
HOURS OF
SERVICE

7,582
SQ. FT.
PAINTED

295
COMMUNITY
PROJECTS

38
PARKS
REACHED



Campers enjoying recreation time at Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park

In the summer of 2023, Camp Morty had another exciting season of overnight camp at Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park! Westchester Parks Foundation staff dedicated months of planning over winter and spring to create dynamic programming for our campers. Camp Morty hosted staff from five countries including as far away as Australia. We were also proud to have had a total of 13 returning staff, including two former CITs. Our outstanding staff were ready to welcome our campers back to camp for an incredible summer!

This summer, a total of 356 campers and CITS got to attend camp and swim, hike, and explore the outdoors while learning valuable life skills and making new friends. From our camper population, we had a total of 5 counselors-in-training complete our summer program. 43% of campers came from the most challenging situations – those who come from homeless shelters, foster care, child preventive and protective cases.

Camp Morty maintains its national accreditation with the **American Camping Association** and, as a result of our accreditation, we received scholarships to send seven additional campers to camp! Camp Morty was also grateful to be the continued recipient of grant funding from **Gabrielle's Wings!** Gabrielle's Wings sponsored training for Morty staff from Ramapo for Children - staff were trained on Trauma-Informed Practices and Social Emotional Skills, all to better support our campers during their time at camp. Gabrielle's Wings also helped outfit Morty's new sensory space, called the Peace Corner, with vital sensory tools for our campers. The Peace Corner was an oasis of calm for campers and staff alike!

This summer saw the return of Sibling Week! A total of 21 families were reunited at camp for a week filled with swimming at the lake, a camp-wide color war, singing and dancing, and celebrating community!

Thank you to our dedicated partners in **Westchester County, the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Conservation, the Department of Social Services, and the Department of Community Mental Health!** We are appreciative of the continued support of these departments to further the mission of our camp. DCMH ran a workshops and drop in sessions for staff. Camp Morty hosted PRC Nature Center staff and administrators as well, to better prepare staff for supporting campers during their time at camp.

WPF is immensely proud of the experience that our campers receive as a result of this collaboration.

MERRIWOOD

This season saw the official launch of the new teen camp program **Merriwood!** A total of 54 Merriwood campers participated in all Morty camp activities, and also attended Career Fairs on Saturdays and got to network with local professionals from around the community. Teens did a Shark Tank-style challenge where they worked on two-week long projects of their choice, and created business plans for new shoe companies, new water-conserving inventions, and even their own unique and original summer camp program! Merriwood teens also built their leadership and collaborative skills by conducting various "service projects" around camp, including assisting the kitchen staff prior to meal service, reading bed-time stories to younger campers, and creatively repurposing an old canoe into a flower bed. Some of our Merriwood teens even had the opportunity to take a field trip and go to a Mets game!



ANNOUNCEMENTS!

EMERGING LEADERS COUNCIL

WPF launched the **Emerging Leaders Council (ELC)**, implementing one of the many goals from our Strategic Plan. The ELC is comprised of hardworking and accomplished individuals living or working in Westchester, who are in the early stages of their careers. As of the end of the year, the ELC is comprised of twelve members of diverse industry backgrounds, including real estate, environmental sustainability, parks & recreation, and more. Not only will the ELC provide members with opportunities to network and focus on professional development, but it also serves as a pipeline for future Board of Trustee participation. This is a major step for the long-term leadership viability and the sustainability of Westchester Parks Foundation for years to come.



SPONSOR A CAMPER

Our local community once again provided wonderful support for **Camp Morty**; a residential camp experience for children residing in underserved communities throughout Westchester County. Local businesses and community members generously **sponsored 15 campers** for one week, throughout our campaign period, providing the most vulnerable children access to a safe, fun, and affirming summer experience filled with positive memories and lifelong friendships.

GIVING TUESDAY

We're thrilled to announce that our **#GivingTuesday** campaign in support of **Merriwood at Camp Morty** successfully allows us to restore two more cabins necessary to open the dedicated space on the property. Merriwood, a brand-new expansion of Camp Morty, is a teen camp complete with its own counselors, activities, and life-skill programming tailored to adolescents. While Merriwood's inaugural program was a great success, WPF is focused on establishing this dedicated space to enhance the experience for vulnerable teenagers. Support from community members, board members, and a generous donor puts us one more step closer toward a fully restored Merriwood space comprised of seven residential cabins and one bathhouse.

WPF continues to participate in initiatives at Kensico Dam Plaza, with our beautiful seasonal hanging baskets and sponsorship of July 3rd Music Fest.



Westchester's Winter Wonderland Drive-Thru Holiday Light Extravaganza continues to be a cherished holiday tradition, celebrating its tenth season in 2023. In partnership with Westchester County Parks, Recreation, and Conservation, and made possible by founding sponsor **Westchester Medical Center Health Network**, Westchester Parks Foundation continued to host a classic holiday experience the whole family could enjoy. Over 88,000 people were dazzled and delighted along the 1.2 miles of holiday lights by several new additions for 2023 including new character Snowball the Elf, who interacted with children of all ages from the Ice House, kept cool in the breeze of Old Man Winter. Other brand-new additions included the Transporter Tunnel, a 175-foot-long glowing string tunnel with a central stargate running along the middle, and Rudolph's Runway with colorful light tubes ushering you into and out of the North Pole, and more electrifying lights surrounding the largest holiday Christmas tree in Westchester County! Fan favorite Santa returned to his beautifully decorated snow globe, and for the grand finale guests made their New Year's wish upon a thirty-foot glistening star that was featured at the end of the interactive show.

Special event nights included the official tree lighting celebration on opening night, and a continuous ball drop for a family-friendly festive way to ring in the New Year. Also available to purchase were Winter Wonderland logoed snowflake light batons, moose plushies, glow necklaces, and fun holiday snack items!

Winter Wonderland attendees also generously supported the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital and Camp Morty in the **Help to Heal initiative**. The light show was created and programmed this year by the incredibly creative minds of Eclectic Precision and Dark Tech Effects. We are sincerely grateful to our founding presenting sponsor Westchester Medical Center Health Network and returning platinum sponsor Con Edison. We also thank tree lighting sponsor Robison Oil, New Year's Eve sponsor M&T Bank, Holiday music sponsor Iona Preparatory School, live character sponsor Wegmans, and as always, our media sponsors Westchester County Tourism, Westchester Magazine, and Altice Media. The use and enjoyment of our parks is core to our mission, and Winter Wonderland invites people of all ages to enjoy the spectacular beauty of Kensico Dam Plaza during the holiday season. Proceeds from this event directly benefit Westchester Parks Foundation and allow us to serve the park system year-round through programming, advocacy, and direct support.



Attractions at this year's Westchester's Winter Wonderland 14



BICYCLE SUNDAYS

Sponsored by



NewYork-Presbyterian

We welcomed back co-presenting sponsors **Con Edison** and **NewYork-Presbyterian**, who continued their generous support for another season of car-free fitness, fresh air, and environmental appreciation on the historic Bronx River Parkway. This year we were also pleased to applaud a brand-new Bike Shop sponsor **Jen's Cycles**, in support of the program. Westchester Parks Foundation also hosted our second annual WPF Day.

Bicycle Sunday participants stopped by the Northbound rest stop to meet WPF Staff, learn about our various programs throughout the year, receive giveaways, and enjoy refreshments. Our Westchester community continues to show their love for this iconic Westchester tradition. The public has contributed to fundraising, voiced support through social media, and shown strong attendance on event Sundays totaling an incredible 13 days this season. Bicycle Sundays continues to provide opportunities during a time when people need outlets for recreation and fitness. We love that people got out of their cars each week to make incredible memories on the Parkway. Incredibly, over 60,000 people biked, walked, and jogged in the 2023 season.



Golfer practicing at Dunwoodie Driving Range



Bicycle Sunday participants enjoying their ride on the parkway

DUNWOODIE AND MOHANSIC DRIVING RANGES

We had a big year in 2023 at our Golf Ranges at Dunwoodie in Yonkers and Mohansic in Yorktown, due to the continued capital improvements and investments we made in 2022. A generous donation from Montesano Brothers and Local 137 Operating Union completed in December 2022 refurbished and leveled out the fairway, and \$40,000 in new energy efficient outdoor lighting, as well as enhancements to our new "Range Star" Payment system were all major contributing factors to helping us reach our highest grossing (non-covid) sales year! Additionally in early 2023, Mohansic Golf Range added a third "short" Target Green, attracting more golfers who want to practice the game they love. In 2024 we are planning on more improvement to our Ranges, with our partners to help us to revitalize the practice fairway with an additional third Practice Green and a smoother field at Dunwoodie Golf Range. We will also be adding higher netting to keep more balls in-bounds to further enhance Mohansic Golf Range. Several individual volunteers and participants from ARC of Westchester were able to plant flowers and beautify both facilities at Mohansic and Dunwoodie Golf Courses and Ranges as well as recover several thousand golf balls while helping to clean up the environment. Each time golfers practice at our two ranges we generate funds to support parks, trails, facilities and the programs you love all over Westchester!

TRAILS WITHOUT LIMITS

Westchester Parks Foundation, with the support of Westchester County Parks, officially launched the **first adaptive hiking program** in Westchester County parks, **Trails Without Limits**. Trails Without Limits allows people who may be living with cerebral palsy, spinal cord injury, amputation, paraplegia, arthritis, cardiac issues, joint replacements, or have other mobility concerns the opportunity to immerse themselves in nature and receive all corresponding benefits. Those who participated in the free program use specially designed All-Terrain Trackchairs, capable of navigating roots, rocks, mud, sand, and grass, to access a rustic hiking trail.

Westchester Parks Foundation officially launched the program in March at Saxon Woods Park in White Plains, with our board members and partners from Westchester County Parks. The first parks to offer the program were Saxon Woods Park, Lenoir Preserve in Yonkers, and Muscoot Farm in Katonah. Over 8 months the program offered 384 opportunities for 64 unique hikers and their caregivers. Community members contributed 736 hours through WPF's Volunteer Program, assisting in trail maintenance and serving as trail guides for the program.

George Latimer, Westchester County Executive, spoke highly of the program: "The Nationally Accredited Westchester County Parks system is here to serve our entire community. I'm elated Westchester Parks Foundation is taking the necessary actions to create accessibility in our parks."

Fundraising efforts for the Trails Without Limits program began in the Fall of 2022, with Westchester Parks Foundation's **#GivingTuesday** campaign, which launched after a successful pilot program. WPF also received generous funding from **The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation**, **Veolia**, and most recently the **Craig H. Nielsen Foundation**, all generous supporters of this groundbreaking initiative. For some, it may be the first hike they've ever had the chance to be included in. In addition, our 2023 Gala directly supported the program with our enthusiastic attendees raising over \$70,000 during our paddle raise, our most successful to date!

Westchester Parks Foundation is proud to announce that Trails Without Limits will expand in 2024, not only reaching more locations but with the addition of handcycles so community members have access to join Bicycle Sundays and used the paved pathways around the county.



Trails Without Limits participant, Mike Owen, with family on a hike



Parks Are Essential Gala Reception

In 2023, Westchester Parks Foundation celebrated our most successful **Annual Gala** to date, honoring the remarkable vision and leadership in our community by individuals and businesses who help our Westchester County parks grow and flourish all year long.

- **Hillary Rodham Clinton**, *Westchester Parks Foundation Leadership Award*, For her leadership in environmental sustainability, advocacy of children and the disabled. Hillary Rodham Clinton has spent over five decades in public service as an advocate, attorney, First Lady, U.S. Senator, U.S. Secretary of State, and presidential candidate. She traveled to more than 80 countries as a champion of human rights, democracy, and opportunities for women and girls. She also worked to provide health care to millions of children, create jobs and opportunity, and support first responders who risked their lives at Ground Zero. She is a Westchester resident married to former U.S. President Bill Clinton, has one daughter Chelsea, and three grandchildren: Charlotte, Aidan, and Jasper.
- **Montesano Bros, Inc.**, *Community Partner Award*, for the generous gift of repairing the turf at the Mohansic Driving Range, and the planning and commitment made to this project that makes a significant impact in our community. President Dominick Montesano's strong personal affinity for Mohansic has now helped WPF to enhance the experience for park users at the range and continues to provide the wellness benefits associated with outdoor recreation.
- **Wegmans**, *Business Impact Award*, for the leadership that the 107-year-old family company has shown since their introduction to Westchester County, supporting WPF's programs such as Bicycle Sundays and Westchester's Winter Wonderland, allowing the community to benefit from affordable, family-friendly, local traditions. With their company goal of "making a difference in every community" that they serve, Wegman's has played an instrumental role in supporting parks, open space, and recreation in Westchester.
- **Eileen Andreassi & the Adaptive Sports & Therapeutic Recreation Program at Burke Rehabilitation**, *Special Recognition Award*, for their commitment to supporting people of all abilities and their instrumental role in the development of WPF's new adaptive hiking program, Trails Without Limits. Eileen Andreassi, MA, CTRS, Director of Recreational Therapy and Adaptive Sports, and her team continue to provide expertise and knowledge to ensure our program meets the needs of the community.

On the beautiful night of September 21, Westchester Parks Foundation and our dedicated supporters filled the large upstairs ballroom at Glen Island Harbour Club. Not only did we celebrate a successful evening of fundraising, but our generous attendees raised their paddles high in support of our new adaptive hiking program, Trails Without Limits! We are sincerely grateful and look forward to continuing to honor Westchester County's park and open space champions!



Gala honoree Hillary Clinton

GRANT AND SPONSOR HIGHLIGHTS

Thank you to the outstanding corporate, local, and individual partners who sponsored our programs and provided grants to help us fulfill our mission and support parks and the community in 2023.

- **Westchester Medical Center**, presenting sponsor of Westchester's Winter Wonderland for the 10th year, and continued sponsor of the Westchester County golf courses.
- **The Moriarty Family** for their transformational contribution to allow for the historic restoration of the Tibbetts Brook Park Gazebo, scheduled to be completed in 2024.
- **The Valerie Ann Briehl Foundation** for their endowment of a campership at Camp Morty, and for their sponsorship of two cabins at Merriwood.
- **Con Edison**, co-presenting sponsor of Bicycle Sundays for a 12th consecutive year and platinum sponsor of Westchester's Winter Wonderland.
- **NewYork-Presbyterian's** generous 9th year of co-presenting sponsorship of Bicycle Sundays.
- **Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation** for their foundational grant to begin our Trails Without Limits program and provide free hikes to individuals with mobility issues.
- **The Craig H. Neilsen Foundation** for their commitment to the expansion of Trails Without Limits, enabling new equipment to launch in 2024.
- **Veolia North America's** sponsorship of Trails Without Limits.
- **Xylem, G.A. Fleet, and Osaka Gas's** continued funding of the Tibbetts Lake Revitalization, to help us in our efforts to fight the invasive plants threatening the eco-system of the lake.
- **Triton International's** support of our Volunteer and Trails Without Limits programs.
- **Thalle Industries** ongoing sponsorship of our programs including Tibbetts Lake Revitalization, and generous gold sponsor of our Gala.
- **Fujifilm's** annual commitment to beautification of Kensico Dam Plaza, in preparation each year for 9/11 Remembrance.
- **Captain Lawrence Brewing Co.** for their generous sponsorship of Kensico Dam's July 3rd Music Fest and fireworks.
- **PepsiCo Foundation** with their continued sponsorship of our Clean River Project.
- **Robison**, a yearly generous sponsor of Bicycle Sundays, Giving Tuesday, Golf Classic and kickoff of Winter Wonderland.
- **Wegmans** for our Santa's North Pole Sponsorship at Winter Wonderland.
- **CVE North America** returned for a fifth year as our Adopt-a-Park sponsor of Lenoir Preserve.
- **Iona Preparatory School**, continued sponsor of holiday music at Winter Wonderland.
- **Regeneron Pharmaceuticals** in partnership with Volunteer New York! In celebration of their Day for Doing Good throughout our county parks.
- **Smart Outdoors** for their support of Westchester's trailways.
- **Gabrielle's Wings**, for their support of our Camp Morty kids and staff.

Thank you to program sponsors SCOPE Foundation, Morgan Stanley Foundation, Maxx Properties, USI Insurance, M&T Bank, Industrial Arts Brewing Company.

And thank you to for the generosity of our many donors, particularly the United Way of Westchester & Putnam, Pamela & Alexander Dubitsky, Barbara Abeles, the V& L Marx Foundation, the Ruth & Seymour Klein Foundation, Sigmund Cohn Family Foundation, Riverkeeper, Douglas Rosenow, Bryce Wagner, Osaka Gas, Operation Santa, Westchester Cycle Club, One Tree Planted, Dan Reingold, Woodrow Jewelers, Tarnok Family Foundation, Lucy R. Waletzky, Joel & Joyce Seligman, John & Susan Kirkpatrick, and our generous Board of Trustees.



WPF Board Members volunteering at Ridge Road Park

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Westchester Parks Foundation continues to support the professional development of the management and staff of the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Conservation. Professional Development contributes to the high quality of service that PRC staff provide, enabling our park system to be clean, safe, and well-managed. Staff provide park visitors with a level of excellence that they have come to expect, and we are proud to sponsor staff development seminars and conferences throughout the year.

HELPING PARKS & COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTY

Westchester Parks Foundation is the fiscal sponsor for "Friends" groups around Westchester. Our sponsorship enables the Friends of Read Sanctuary to offer additional beautification to the nature preserve, a boost in fundraising capacity to the Rivertowns Skate Society and Port Chester Skatepark, and facilitate online donations to the Friends of the Riverwalk and Friends of New Rochelle Parks, among others.

FINANCES

Westchester Parks Foundation ended 2023 with revenues of \$4,127,150 and expenses of \$3,611,780 (unaudited). The resiliency of our earned revenue streams and business operations, coupled with the growth of our fundraising program and continued controlled spending, contributed to an overall increase in net revenue and our ability to contribute to key projects in our treasured parks.

REVENUES:

Programs and special projects: 72%
 Fundraising & Grants: 20%
 Administrative: 8%

EXPENDITURES:

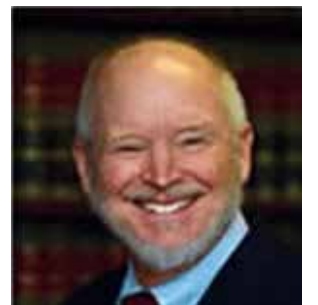
Program and facility support: 83%
 Administration: 10%
 Fundraising: 7%

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS

Westchester Parks Foundation wishes to thank the members of our 2023 Board of Trustees. We cannot support parks and open spaces in Westchester County without our talented and dedicated Trustees. This year we were pleased to welcome Steve Gifford, Joe Graziose, Bill Greenawalt, Shelby Green and Erica Child to our Board.

REMEMBERING OUR FRIEND, JOHN KIRKPATRICK

The Board and Staff of WPF remember our longtime Trustee, John Kirkpatrick, who passed away in November 2023. John became a Trustee when Executive Director Joe Stout revived the "Friends of Westchester County Parks" in the early 2000s, and served as Secretary of the Board until his passing. A great supporter and champion of Westchester County Parks and the community in White Plains, John was a city planner and land use lawyer for almost 50 years. He was a great friend and advisor to many on our board and staff. WPF plans to honor his memory with a tree and a bench in 2024.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Vice-Chairperson

Jane Solnick, *Con Edison*

Treasurer

Mark S. Tulis, *Tulis & Geiger LLP*

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John Kirkpatrick, *Kirkpatrick Law LLC*

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