

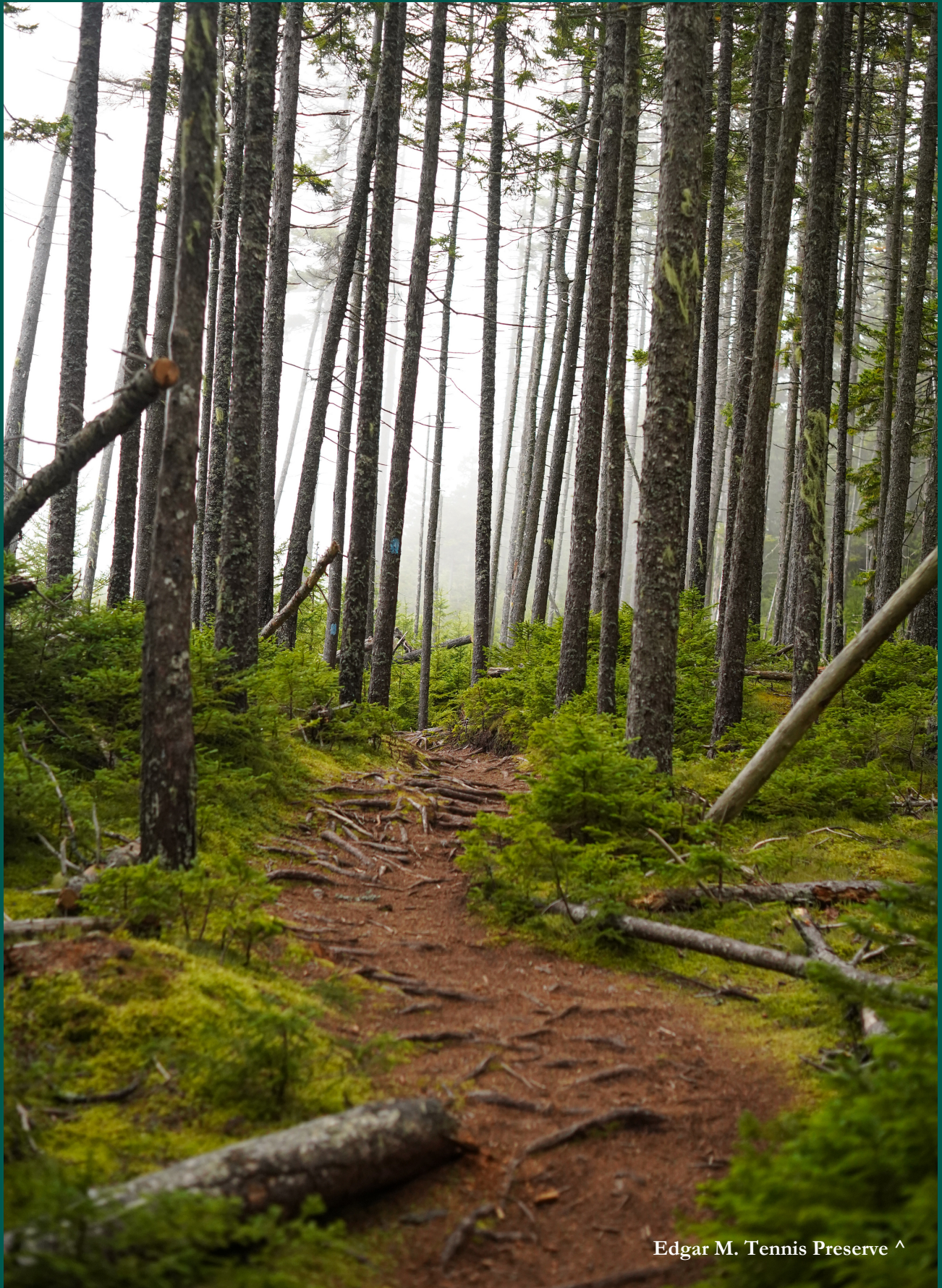
2022

ANNUAL REPORT



ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

420 Sunset Road, Deer Isle, Maine 04627
www.islandheritagetrust.org



Edgar M. Tennis Preserve ^

SENSE OF PURPOSE

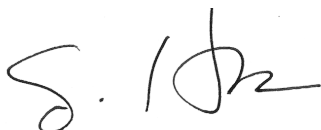
In early 2022 Island Heritage Trust (IHT) shared the news of our successful accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, the culmination of years of effort by the Board of Trustees, multiple Executive Directors, and staff. The year-round staff journeyed to New Orleans in September 2022 for the National Land Trust Alliance Conference, RALLY, to be celebrated amongst the other Class of 2022 accredited and renewal land trusts and join our colleagues in a robust professional development opportunity. The team brought back an enlivened sense of purpose, new ideas for solving old problems, strategies for implementing best practices in our work, and perhaps most importantly: a feeling that IHT is on par with our peers and even a leader in some areas. We may be one among many regional land trusts across the country, but rest assured that we are doing exemplary work on Deer Isle and beyond!

We learned at RALLY that 2022 was another banner year for land conservation, with a strong reminder that local actions can have global impacts. Over 61 million acres of land were conserved by 1,281 individual land trusts across the country, including over 6 million acres in Maine by 72 currently active land trusts. IHT plays a critical role in this success by paying close attention to the specific needs in our region in the context of the larger whole.

And what are those specific needs in our area? We're considering what climate change and sea level rise mean for Deer Isle and the lands we steward. We need to understand that land and infrastructure – like the Deer Isle Causeway – must be reassessed. What are the greatest land use needs of our community? We're thinking about cultural and economic use and options for furthering our mission beyond typical conservation methods, such as fostering neighborhood coalitions to support the health of their adjacent woodlots and tackle harmful invasive species. We must provide a truly inclusive opportunity to access our services, with more open space and educational programming, and adapt our current systems to better welcome all who want to participate. At IHT, we are pulling on these various threads to see where they take us and are hopeful to be a vital part of this resilient community into the future.

While we look back on 2022 with gratitude for all our successes and look ahead with excitement to share new conservation projects in the works, we always come back to the present – the joy found by families splashing in the tide, the awe found in the bioluminescent sparkle of a late summer evening, and the quiet calm found by walking through the woods. We take comfort in knowing we are working to care for many of the things that make this place special and that it wouldn't be possible without all your support.

Thank you.



DIANA HARTNETT
Board Chair



JULIA ZELL
Executive Director

ACHIEVEMENTS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022



1. Jessica Crandell



2. Stewardship Boat



3. Mickie Flores



4. Scott's Landing

1. We were once again awarded a recipient of the Richard G. Rockefeller Conservation Internship program through Maine Coast Heritage Trust, providing us funds to take on a paid intern for ten weeks of the summer. Jessica Crandell, who has family ties to Deer Isle, was integral to all aspects of IHT's success during Summer 2022. She has since graduated from Slippery Rock University and will fulfill her dream of moving out West and working for a land trust.

2. We acquired our first boat for stewarding our offshore islands and a new stewardship truck after our previous one died. Successful "Giving Tuesday" campaigns funded both of these efforts. Now our Stewardship Director and Summer Stewardship Assistant have the tools to access all of IHT's conserved lands and ensure proper monitoring and annual care.

3. Our Board of Trustees Secretary, Mickie Flores, received a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Recent efforts resulted in a Rethinking Remote Education Ventures grant to complete an accessible boardwalk and Outdoor Classroom expansion for the school's nature trail.

4. We were awarded a Land and Climate Grant by the Open Space Institute and Land Trust Alliance to embark on a one-year pilot project at Scott's Landing Preserve to provide us, and other land trusts around the country, with a dynamic template for re-envisioning how to highlight indigenous voices, particularly around climate change, into our communications on the land and with each other. We are just beginning this learning journey and look forward to sharing more as we grow.

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Our Luna Society is made up of recurring monthly donors.
 Their pledged commitment to the Island Heritage Trust leads to sustainable support of our mission.

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Island Heritage Trust (IHT) contributes to the well-being of the island community by conserving its distinctive landscapes and natural resources, maintaining public access to valued trails, shoreline, and islands, and by providing educational programming for all ages.

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS

IHT celebrated its 35th Anniversary in 2022. From a fledgling idea started around a dining room table, through years of dedicated volunteer leadership and action, to where we are today – it is a remarkable journey. Our deepest gratitude goes to the many hands that have played a role in making this all happen.



Lily Pond Park ^

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

2022 projects included citizen science work and helping to expand the School Nature Trail by building a second outdoor classroom on the trail. Being outdoors during the school day calms students' minds and sharpens their focus, allowing them to learn in new ways. Students now have more room, and the trail's boardwalks are broader, creating greater accessibility for limited mobility visitors.

We launched the first Project Monarch in 2022, a collaboration with the Deer Isle-Stonington schools and The Garden Project. Individual volunteers from the community also helped prepare seedlings and garden beds, including the Mariners Soar! after school program. With events spanning the seasons, the efforts focus on the importance of pollinators, such as the monarch butterfly, and how anyone in the community can help support their health and habitat.

IHT's Environmental Educator, Martha Bell, continues to be present nearly every day in our local schools, and special programs such as the collaboration with Creating Healthy Oceans Project brought our environmental education from land to sea. We helped teachers, the lobster industry, and community members teach our students about climate change and the action necessary to keep plastic out of our oceans.

Education can sometimes feel intangible, but we're grateful for your support in shaping the next generation of open-minded thinkers.



BY THE NUMBERS:

55

FIELD TRIPS TO
IHT PRESERVES

500 +

STUDENTS
SERVED

1,830 ft.

BOARDWALK AT THE
SCHOOL NATURE TRAIL

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

STEWARDSHIP

With nearly 1,500 acres of conserved land, including 21 additional offshore islands, proper stewardship requires a great deal of capacity. Thankfully, 2022 proved to be another successful year of volunteer "Trail Tuesdays," including being awarded a winner of the "Love Maine Trails Month" for *Most Volunteers and Volunteer Hours in 1-2 Project Days* for our efforts to define a path protecting sensitive beach grass and work to open a new trail on Wreck Island Preserve.

By engaging in a rooted experience nurturing the land, we find a deeper relationship with this place and how Deer Isle connects Island Heritage Trust's community worldwide. We hope you enjoy another year of getting outside and engaging with the environment. We appreciate your commitment.



"Trail Tuesdays" Crew



Wreck Island Trail Building

"TRAIL TUESDAYS":

Island Heritage Trust's Stewardship Director, Alex Drenga, has fostered such a welcoming and engaging community of volunteers that several of the "Trail Tuesdays" crew have become committee members, and one has even joined IHT's Board.

"As an avid hiker, I have thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated the many beautiful IHT preserves on the Island and in the bay. I was thrilled to join a robust group of volunteers who gather every Tuesday to work on the various trails. I have learned a great deal through my involvement with IHT: from conserving habitats for wildlife to providing educational programs for all ages. After two years, I'm excited to expand my involvement with IHT by becoming a member of the Board of Trustees."

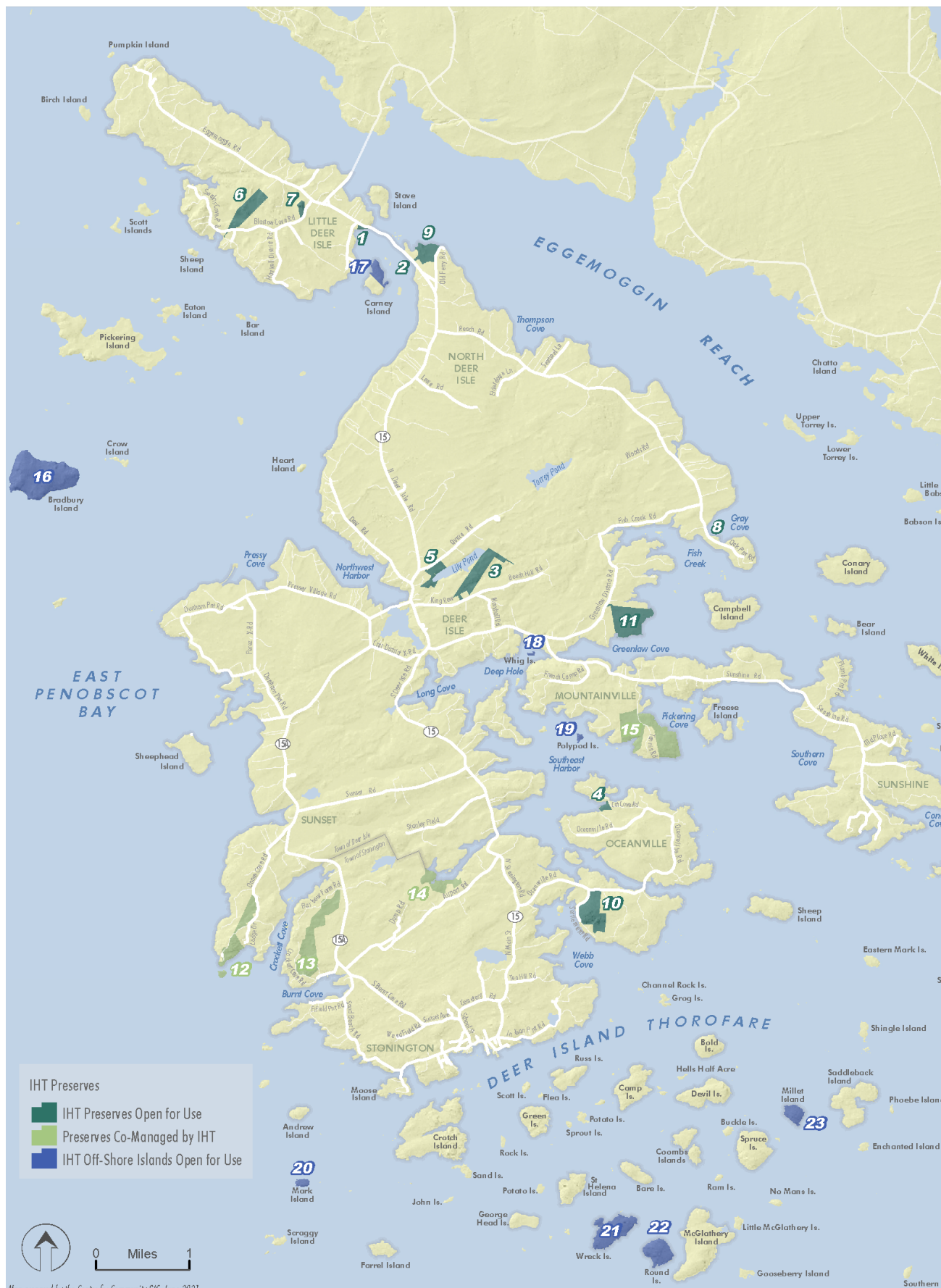
- Catherine Washburn

IT TAKES A VILLAGE:

2,100 +
VOLUNTEER
HOURS

\$55k +
VALUE OF
IN-KIND TIME

30 +
STEWARDSHIP
VOLUNTEERS



IHT PRESERVES

PRESERVES OPEN FOR USE:

1. Bowcat Overlook
2. Causeway Beach
3. Church Land
4. Crystal Cove
5. Lily Pond Park
6. Lisa Tolman Wotton Nature Preserve
7. Pine Hill
8. Reach Beach at Gray's Cove
9. Scott's Landing
10. Settlement Quarry
11. Shore Acres

CO-MANAGED PRESERVES:

12. Barred Island
The Nature Conservancy
13. Crockett Cove Woods
The Nature Conservancy
14. Holt Mill Pond
Town of Stonington
15. Edgar M. Tennis Preserve
Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands

OFF-SHORE ISLANDS:

16. Bradbury Island
17. Carney Island
18. Whig Island
19. Polypod Island
20. Mark Island
21. Wreck Island
22. Round Island
23. Millet Island



Barred Island ^

4

PRESERVES CO-MANAGED BY IHT

21

MILES OF PROTECTED SHOREFRONT

21

OFF-SHORE ISLANDS CONSERVED BY IHT

25

PRESERVES OWNED BY IHT

37

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

1,450

ACRES OF PROTECTED LAND

2022 FINANCIALS

With gratitude, 2022 was another solid financial year. Net income for 2022 was \$160,301, an increase of 44 percent from the prior year, and our revenue increased by 25 percent. Contributions were \$531,000 from 714 donors, including 122 new donors. As COVID restrictions lifted, we resumed programming, including the popular "Wings, Waves and Woods" event in the spring, which is reflected in our revenue.

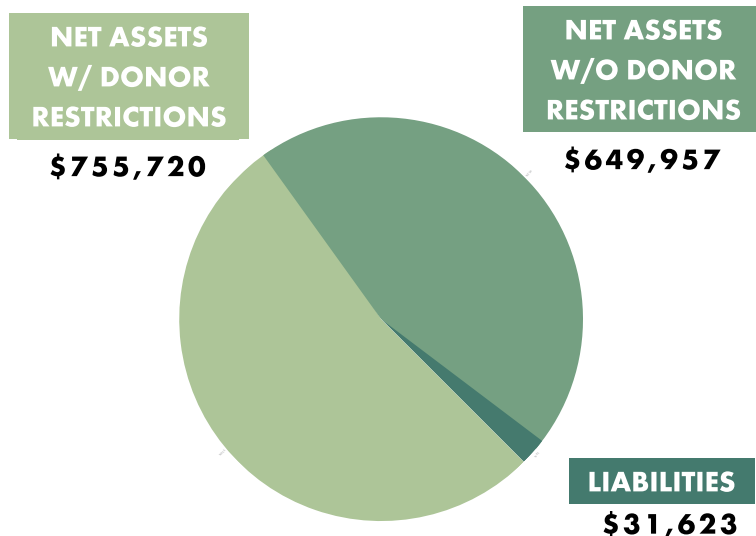
Expenses increased by 20 percent in 2022 and totaled \$470,518. 62 percent of our total expenses supported programs, including purchasing a new stewardship truck and boat. Management expenses also increased as we were fully staffed and began paying health reimbursement benefits.

Our Total Net Assets totaled \$1,437,300, down 3 percent from 2021. Our investment portfolio of donor-restricted and unrestricted funds was \$835,929 at the end of our fiscal year, a decrease of 17 percent from the prior year due to market declines. It has since recovered.

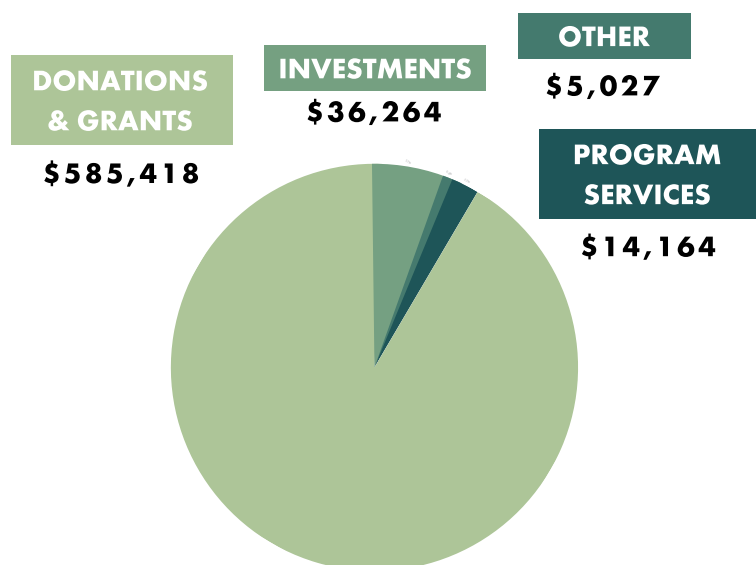
In 2022 we set aside funds to repair the Heritage House, our headquarters. This work provides needed maintenance and makes the building a safer and more attractive workspace for staff and volunteers. Future plans include renovating the barn for year-round use, including lectures and programming.

We were awarded national accreditation in early 2022. Financial planning played a big part in the application process, which required thorough documentation of our financial position and needs. Thanks to the generosity of supporters, we established a board-designated fund in 2022 to meet our future obligations.

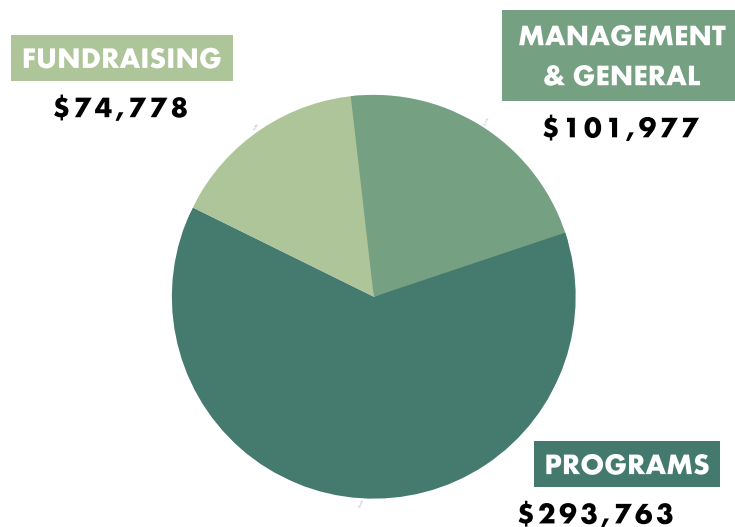
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS: \$1,437,300



TOTAL REVENUE: \$630,819



TOTAL EXPENSES: \$470,518



A photograph of a wooden boardwalk or bridge crossing a stream in a forest. The boardwalk is made of several parallel wooden planks and extends from the foreground into the background. The stream is shallow and flows over rocks, with water reflecting the surrounding greenery. The forest floor is covered in moss and fallen leaves, and trees are visible in the background.

STAFF

Julia Zell, Executive Director

Martha Bell, Environmental Educator

Alex Drenga, Stewardship Director

Pat Gross, Bookkeeper

Jacob McCarty, Development Associate

Terry Real, Summer Stewardship Assistant

Noël Ruth, Outreach Manager

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Open Space
Open Minds

Causeway Beach ^
Front Cover: Barred Island ^