

TEACHING YOUNG PEOPLE TO READ THE MOUNTAINS, THE RIVER, AND THE FOREST



GREEN RIVER PRESERVE
2022 IMPACT REPORT

Dear GRP Community,

As we reflect on our progress over the last 35 years there is so much to celebrate. We have made great strides - where once campers rode in the open beds of pickup trucks to mentor hikes they now bounce along the road in fantastically reimaged school buses; our trails have expanded over our 3400+ acres in new and different directions; our populations served are increasingly diverse thanks to the many, rich partnerships we have cultivated in the region. And while change and transition are a constant, Green River Preserve holds steadfast to our core mission of **inspiring environmental stewards through a joyful connection to nature**. So as we look forward to our upcoming season (and our 35th summer), we are rooted in our values and our core truth - we exist to play, inspire, and educate and we do so through a nature-centered focus.

The entirety of our programming utilizes the land - our forests, rivers, caves, and bald mountains - as a foundation for teaching and forging connections. Through a curiosity driven approach we inspire life-long learners, leaders, and Earth advocates. Your support makes it all possible.

As we look ahead, there are many bright spots from our short history to celebrate:

- Our first summer had 75 campers over 2 sessions. In 2022, we had 6 camp sessions and 10 expeditions, **welcoming 564 campers total!**

- The School of Environmental Education (SEE) was created to help sustain the summer camp in the shoulder seasons. SEE started in the early 90's with three schools. In 2022, our SEE program hosted 19 schools from Asheville to New Orleans **serving 866 students and 161 parent participants**.
- We are grateful to be in a place where we can invest in business and improve our assets. This past year we broke ground - and are nearing completion on - a gorgeous Fly Fishing Pavilion that overlooks our lakes. This is quite the evolution from budgeting every dollar to buy big ticket kitchen appliances in 1988.
- Our camp and our community are vibrant and ever evolving; we have welcomed new staff (including **3 new year round team members**) and even reimaged old traditions like our cabinville names and woodcraft laws. This is a long way away from our days of operating on a shoestring, not being able to pay our admin, and staff training being 3 days!

Our ability to focus on the alignment of our mission and vision is critical to our ongoing success. The following report highlights our organizational health and the positive impact of our educational approach.

On behalf of all of us at Green River Preserve, thank you for your continued support and generosity. Your commitment to our growth is critical to our continued success.

Thank you for believing in the magic of GRP,

Anne & Steve



2022 IMPACT REPORT

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GRP IS THE CAMP WE NEED FOR THE WORLD WE WANT

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

1,430 YOUTH OUTSIDE

Campers, expeditioners, and students during SEE, GRP served over 1,000 youth outside this year.

96 SEASONAL EMPLOYEES

GRP welcomed a diverse group of seasonal employees this summer with 15 international staff.

3 NEW SCHOOLS

We served 19 schools during our School of Environmental Education (SEE) this fall and spring, and welcomed three new schools.

867 LBS OF VEGGIES

From March to October, 867 lbs of vegetables were harvested, 38 dozen eggs were collected, and 2 pigs were raised on the GRP farm.

252 CUBIC YARDS

With our new thermo compost, GRP composted 252 cubic yards of waste during the summer season that went directly back into the garden.





WHERE WE ARE NOW

FINANCIAL STABILITY

In 2019, we set out a new strategic plan and specified a number of goals. One of these goals was to work towards **an economically sustainable future**. Our mantra for this is, "It is our goal that GRP experiences financial stability and freedom to support all desired initiatives. GRP is the non-profit of choice for many local and regional donors."

With this guiding mantra and the incredible work of our dedicated team, we are driving towards an economically sustainable future for GRP; as of this year, we have paid off all of our debt (approximately \$150,000), established an endowment and reserve fund, and strengthened our scholarship process.

GRP EXPERIENCES FINANCIAL STABILITY AND FREEDOM
TO SUPPORT ALL DESIRED INITIATIVES. GRP IS THE
NON-PROFIT OF CHOICE FOR MANY LOCAL AND
REGIONAL DONORS

ALL DEBT PAID

ESTABLISHED AN ENDOWMENT AND RESERVE FUND

STRENGTHENED SCHOLARSHIP PROCESS

WHERE WE ARE NOW



STAFF AT GRP

We strive to cultivate GRP as a great place to work with a goal that **both administrative and seasonal staff want to return year after year.** To work towards this pillar of our [strategic plan](#), we have made a number of changes in our staff operations since 2019. We have revised our organization chart, defined new roles based on the needs of our operations, and instituted annual reviews, feedback, and regular check-ins to ensure effective communication

at all organizational levels. Additionally, we have evaluated administrative benefits for our year-round team, and paid our admin team a competitive industry wage. This year, we provided end-of-season bonuses for all of our seasonal employees and raised the seasonal staff salaries for the 2022 and the upcoming 2023 season. We value our staff at all levels at GRP, and will continue to make positive efforts into the work environment we foster.

WE ARE OUR BEST WE AT GRP!

DEFINED NEW ROLES

EVALUATED ADMIN BENEFITS

RAISED SEASONAL SALARIES

WHERE WE ARE NOW



EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENT

GRP makes conscious decisions based on how we can improve the environment; this helps us continue our goal of **raising future environmental stewards**. Since 2019, we have worked towards this goal by aligning our values as a community through revising our organizational mission and vision and refining the objectives of the rituals and traditions at GRP. To do this, we created focus groups to identify our main areas of growth, reviewed the current rituals and traditions, learned from outside elders, and took our

learnings to make major revisions in our Woodcraft Laws and Sandy's Letter as well as renaming our cabins. Additionally, we have done a lot of work in the archeological areas of camp such as filing sites with the state. This year, at camp, we added an **"environmental tip of the day"** to educate campers about simple, sustainable switches and practices they can implement at camp and at home. We also hired a sustainability intern and created a 5 year plan for sustainability investments for the organization.

REVISED MISSION AND VISION

REFINED OBJECTIVES OF TRADITIONS

HIRED SUSTAINABILITY INTERN

FROM GRP PARENTS



I will never forget his first year. He cried the entire way up not believing our insistence that it was going to be great. When we drove in the counselor yelled out, "Welcome to camp. My name is Parme-John". Rainey looked a little less skeptical. 30 minutes later, as we were making his bed, he looked over, smiled and said, "I hate it when you are right." ***He was hooked for life.***



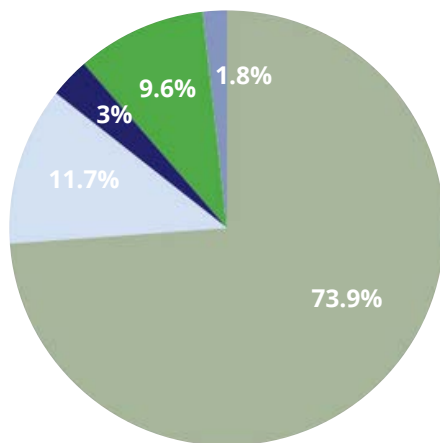
I think the sense of ***independence*** and ***community*** are really high up there for me, as well as the learnings about the land and stewardship



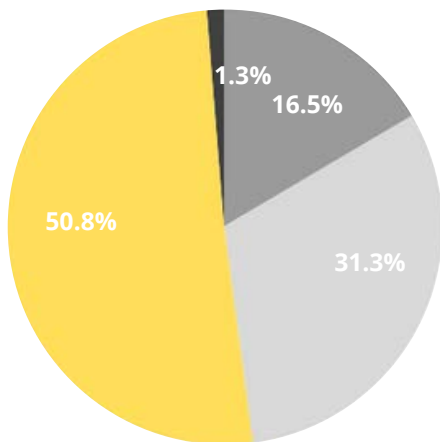
Thank you for letting everyone be ***fully themselves!***

FINANCIALS*

Operating Revenue: \$2,417,877



Operating Expenses: \$1,887,486



HIGHLIGHTS:

- For the 2nd year in a row, **GRP has turned a small surplus!**
- We have chosen to invest our surplus into 4 areas:
 - **Investment in our mission**, including funds towards scholarship, upkeep & capitol improvements, & planning for the future
 - **SAVE IT!**
 - **Debt Retirement**
 - **Rewarding Employees**
- Our big project for 2022-2023 has been building the **Trout House** (pictured below). This is a pavilion in the front part of camp that will be a base for fly fishing & allow us to raise our own trout!
- **Staff is our biggest investment** (45% of overall revenue & 50% of expenses). That is right on target. We are proud to be offering a competitive wage in the camp industry. In 2022, we were able to provide a "end of summer" bonus to all employees.

OUR VISION



OUR PROGRESS



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Maple (\$1-\$99)

The Baler Family
The Barker Family
The Bateman/Law Family
The Becker Family
The Bolin Family
The Bomar Family
The Bradley/Merrick Family
The Brodie Family
The Bundy/Richardson Family
The Caldwell Family
The Cannon Family
The Chapman Family
Cheryl Ackerman
The Cobin/Simpson Family
The Cohen Family
The Davis/Peebles Family
The Delmonico Family
The Demosthenes Family
The Dudley Family
The DuVall Family
Emma Domby
The Evans-Sills Family
First United Methodist
Frances Bryan
The Ghosh Family
The Gibson Family
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The Green/Newell Family
The Grider Family
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Melisa Fox
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The Sillman Family
The Silver Family
The Smith Family
The Smith/Allen Family
The Stephenson Family
The Taylor Family
The Terry Family
The Theobald Family
The Turner Family

The Twombly Family
The Valentine Family
The Whitesides/Schnake Family
Will Langford
The Wise Family
The Woodward Family
The Zylka/de Bourguignon Family

Oak (\$100-\$499)

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Jennie Hill
The Malde Family
Mary Dingleline
The Mellina Family
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The Paul/Bauer Family
Richard Goldberg
Sally Scruggs
The Sandreuter Family
The Shearin Family
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The Smith/Monaco Family
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Theo Sturz
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Lunsford Richardson Family Trust
Schenck Comm. Foundation
Trip & Cristian Caldwell
Wayfinders Trails Scholarship
YourCause LLC

Pine (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Deb McDonald
The Evans Family
Summer Camp Fund

Rhododendron (\$10,000+)

Costal Community Foundation



WITH YOUR HELP THIS CALENDAR YEAR WE:

- Raised **\$72,235.31** with our 2022 Annual Fund
- Provided **\$169,973.10** in scholarships and tuition trades
- Assisted **51 campers** with scholarships; 20 of them through our partnership with Wayfinders, AAUW, and Edisto Land Trust



DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN DONATE THE REMAINDER OF YOUR CAMP STORE ACCOUNT TO THE ANNUAL FUND?

2022 LEADERSHIP

ADMINISTRATION

Anne Izard, *Executive Director*

Stephen Mead, *Executive Director*

Hayne Beattie-Gray, *Parent Communication and Enrollment Director*

Catherine Schenck, *Director of Education and Outreach*

Alexandria Bates, *Business Director*

Jace Besold, *Operations Director*

Nathan Ahlgrim, *Program Director*

Geoffrey Whitesides, *Farm Manager*

Rayette Frair, *Kitchen and Dining Director*

BOARD MEMBERS

Sandy Schenck

Dr. Chris Paul

Dr. Susan Gebhard

Nicole Mihalas

Kathy Worm

West Willmore

Julia Buerger

Missee Fox

