

Board of Directors

Dustin Simpson, **President**

Jane McWilliams, **Vice President**

Matt Carlander, **Treasurer**

Penny Hillemann, **Secretary**

Sara Beebe

Dirk Peterson

Tim Madigan

Paul Stegmeir

Steve Underdahl, **City Council Rep**

Cody VanDerVeen

Wendy Wustenberg

Served in 2017—

Greg Carlson, Nalani McCutcheon,

Betsy Wright

Staff

Breanna Wheeler, Executive Director

Cindy Clayton, Operations Director

Molly Olson, Naturalist / Program Coordinator
(Outreach)

Allison Shaw, Naturalist / Program Coordinator
(School Programs)

Brittany Smith, Naturalist / Program Coordinator
(Natural Resources)

Environmental Educators 2017-2018

Jen Arndorfer, Abigail Barten, Sydney Dean, Katie
Elam, Augusta Grumdahl, Kara Johnson, Elsa
Litecky, MacKenzie Nagel, Stephanie Rath sack,
Allison Shaw, Leah Weston

40

Years of igniting love of nature through
Education • Conservation • Recreation



2017 Annual Report



RBNC Staff: Breanna Wheeler, Molly Olson, Brittany Smith, Allison Shaw, Cindy Clayton

Celebrating 40 Years: Your Local Nature Connection

Interpretive Center Hours

Monday—Friday 8am to 4:30pm

Saturday 9am to 4pm

Trail Hours: Everyday from 6am to 10pm

1000 Rustad Road, PO Box 186, Faribault, MN 55021

507.332.7151 www.rbnc.org

Helping people discover, enjoy, understand, and
preserve the incredible natural world that surrounds us.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

River Bend Nature Center continued to solidify foundations and systems in 2017 that will increase our resiliency as a 501c3 nonprofit as we move forward. The most significant area was a staff structure change from hiring a revolving door of temporary educator staff to investing in our mission and the long term by hiring regular, professional naturalist / program coordinator staff.

We reduced expenses and organizational risk and renewed our commitment to natural resources stewardship and conservation. We made connections in the community to seek collaborations to increase our impact.

From Board and Committee development to groundwork for a strategic plan, alignment of activities with mission, prioritization and effective structures, we have covered a lot of ground.

Thanks to all who have provided resources of charitable donations and volunteer time. We are committed to using your gifts wisely. Your contributions are needed so we can work toward our mission of helping people discover, enjoy, understand and preserve the incredible natural world that surrounds us.

We look forward to increasing our community presence, celebrating our 40th anniversary with you, and working together to seize potential through increased opportunities for the community and region to get involved.

Thank you,

Breanna Wheeler
Executive Director

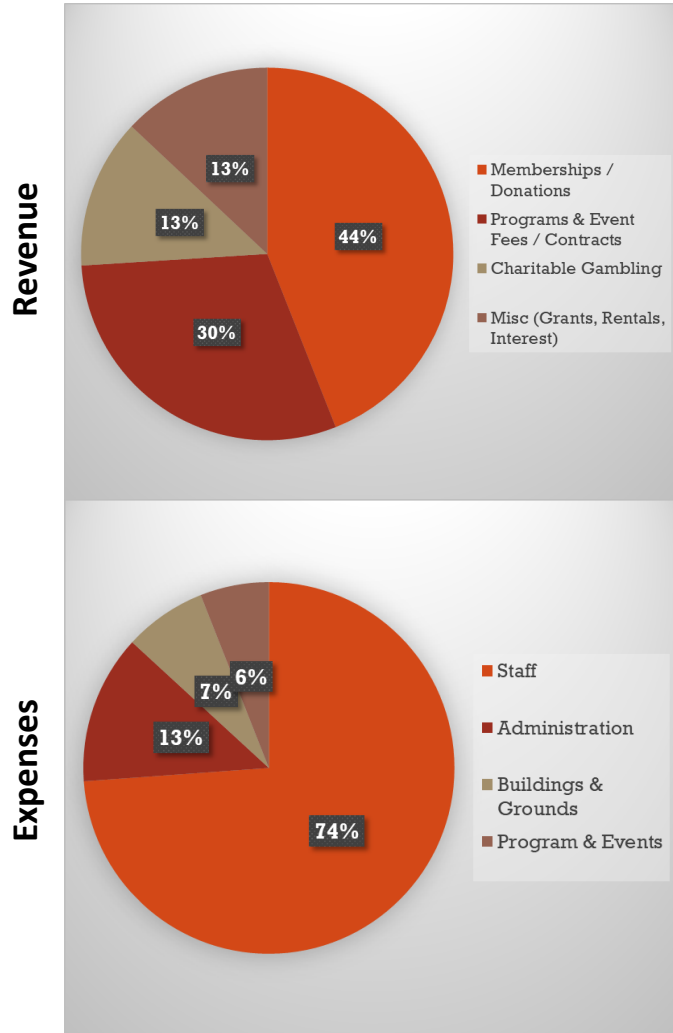


WAYS YOU CAN HELP RIVER BEND

- **Become a member or renew your membership.**
- **Give a donation.**
- **Sponsor an event / become a community partner.**
- **Planned Giving—Leave a Legacy—is RBNC in your will?**
- **Dedicate a Memorial Paver in your loved one's honor.**
- **Name River Bend to be the beneficiary of gifts or memorial gifts for yourself or a loved one.**
- **Sign up for volunteer opportunities at www.rbnc.org/volunteer.**
- **Like us on social media and share our posts.**
- **Talk to your child's / grandchild's teacher about scheduling an environmental education or outdoor recreation program at RBNC.**
- **Talk to your school / college leadership about outdoor learning opportunities at RBNC.**
- **Think of us for an internships and real world practice for school projects.**
- **Book a nature centered birthday party with us (*for all ages*).**
- **Call us about a nature or outdoor recreation program for your club or organization.**
- **Invite your employer to become a matching donor or corporate member.**
- **Book a meeting or party /event with us.**
- **Contact us to learn about how to help remove invasive species / adopt a trail.**
- **Lead a public program on a topic of your interest.**
- **Join the Board of Directors or a Board Committee.**
- **Help us with clerical duties / mailings.**
- **Be a building host.**
- **Help with trail / grounds maintenance.**
- **Do citizen science at RBNC and share your findings.**
- **Be an ambassador for RBNC with people you know—show why you love it and let them know how they can help.**

SUMMARY OF 2017 REVENUE & EXPENSES

(data source: 2017 year end financial statement)



Total Revenue = \$414,480
(data source: 2017 preliminary 990)

Total Expenses = \$403,811

*2017 audited financial statement available upon request

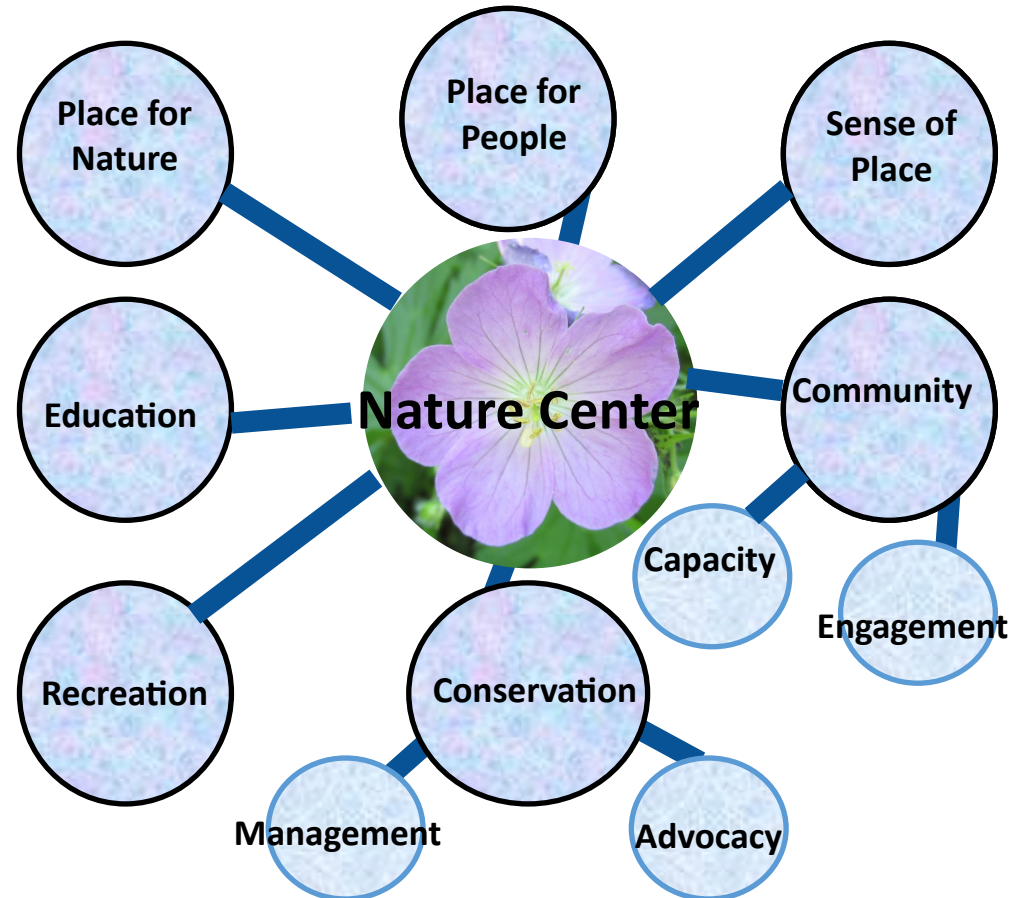
RIVER BEND'S STORIES AND IMPACT

Here are ways you enjoy River Bend (2017 Community Survey)

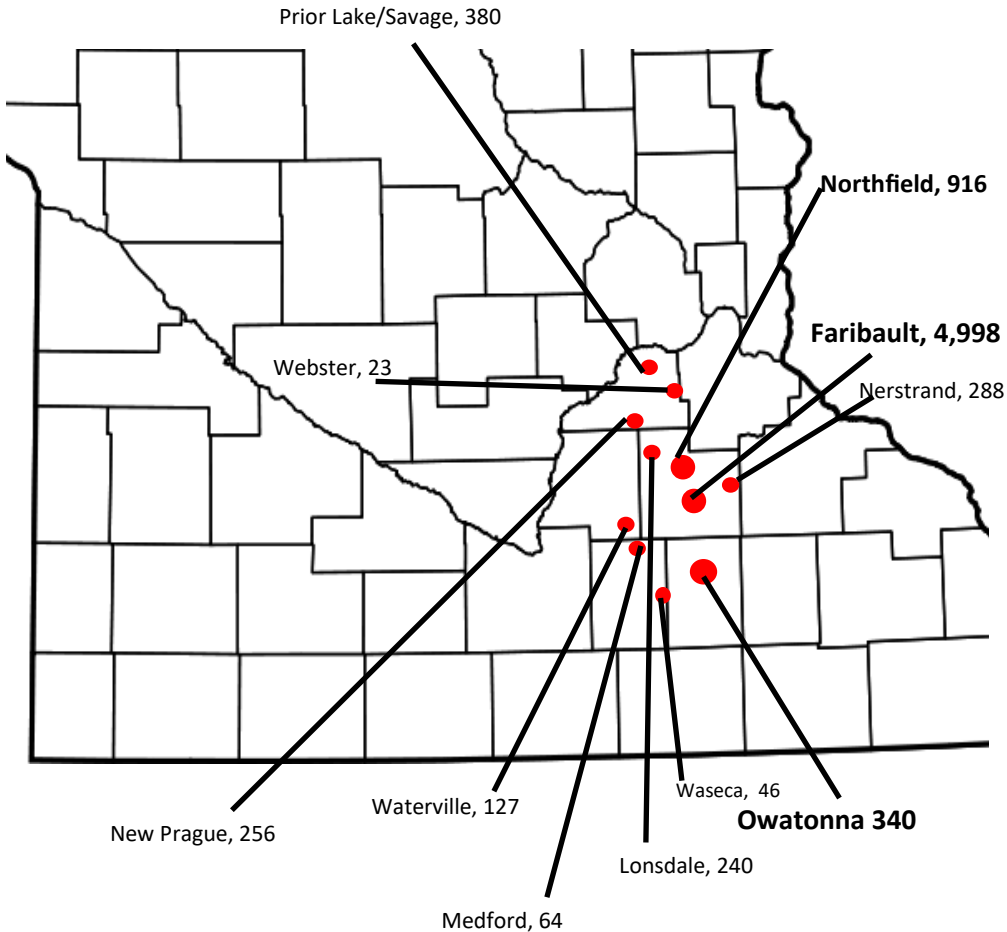
- *Place to access, observe, explore, and enjoy nature* with family and friends.
- *Part of the Faribault community identity* and is a draw for people to come back to.
- *We want River Bend here for future generations.*
- Place for *lifelong learning* through the programs and events.
- Kids get outside in nature and *learn about why nature is a gift* to be taken care of.
- It's a *gateway to the natural world*. Every turn in the trail has a new adventure.

Balancing the Many Facets of a Nature Center

*Source: ANCA Nature Centers: Staying Relevant, Achieving Impact by Corky McReynolds, PhD, CPF, Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Founder & Principal, LeadTeam, LLC



SCHOOL PROGRAMS —TOTAL VISITS 7,874



VOLUNTEERS GAVE 2,200 HOURS = \$54,318 VALUE!

TOP 5 VOLUNTEERING AREAS:

- Programs & Summer Camps
- Special Events & Community Programs
- Buildings, Grounds & Land Restoration
 - Clerical & Office
- Board of Directors / Committees

NATURAL RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

River Bend Nature Center is committed to removing invasive species...the work continues.



In 2017, River Bend completed a 32 acre prescribed burn. The benefit is to maintain the health of an existing natural area containing native plants. The fire helps manage weeds and other growth and it helps restore nutrients to the soil, leading to more desirable plant growth in the future.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS / EVENTS



Bats, Bones & Bonfires
719 participants



Winterfest



Maple Syrup Fun Run
200 participants



Summer Camps
232 participants

Public Programs
611 participants

Maple Syrup Open House
OWLS

Family Fridays Series
Basics of Archery, Campfires, Geocaching, and Orienteering
Monarch Larva Monitoring Project (MLMP) Workshop
Night Hikes, Snowshoeing, Geology Tours
Paper Making, Taxidermy, Maple Syrup Workshops
Star Finders, Foraging, Wildflower Workshops
Animal Ambassadors