



River Bend
NATURE CENTER

2022 Annual Report

**Looking
Back,
Moving
Forward**

Just a Note...

Dear Friends of River Bend Nature Center,

We are pleased to provide you with an update on our work in the following pages of our 2022 annual report.

Looking back at the last year, it's been an important time for River Bend. Together we've navigated significant transitions and some setbacks including emerging from the pandemic with even more demand for helping people stay connected with nature, saw a significant reduction in our endowment funds caused by the stock market downturn, facilitated a successful move away from charitable gambling revenue and operations as a core part of RBNC's model, and led a successful executive director search when Breanna Wheeler decided to leave her role as executive director of River Bend.

Even just one of these major transitions or setbacks would have been enough for a smaller non-profit like River Bend to falter but through all of that, work- staff, board members, and volunteers continuously focused on **moving us forward** and made 2022 a banner year for River Bend Nature Center. While navigating these transitions we successfully welcomed Brad Bourn as our new executive director, met increased demand for programming and trail use, laid the foundations of improving our partnerships with the City of Faribault and the DNR, secured near record levels of contributions and grants to all but eliminate our need to draw from our endowments in 2022 while still doing our work and making investments in our aging infrastructure. We're also proud to have begun our work on a long-term strategic planning process to guide River Bend's work for the next generation.

In the following pages, you'll read in more detail about our work as one of the most important environmental stewards in Southern Minnesota. We're so proud to have made positive impacts in the lives of thousands of people in and around Faribault hailing from all walks of life and all corners of the globe as we protected our natural resources and **helped people discover, enjoy, understand, and preserve the incredible natural world that surrounds us all.**

Thank you for the incredible work River Bend staff, board members, funders, and volunteers who made our 2022 impacts possible.

Dust Dienst
Board Chair

Brad Bourn
Executive Director

Conservation

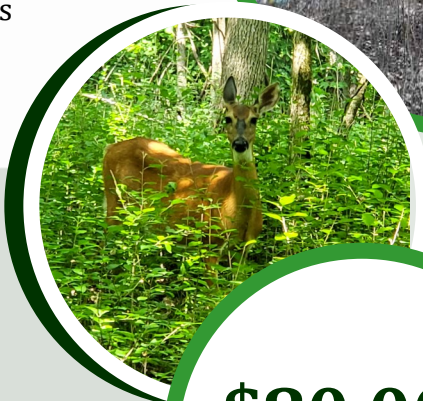
Building Partnerships: It takes support from the \community and other organizations dedicated to preserving the our natural resources to accomplish our mission. This year through a near record number of grants and partnerships we were able to actively manage and restore 116 acres of critical habitat.

- ◆ The Nature Conservancy
- ◆ MN Zoo
- ◆ MN DNR

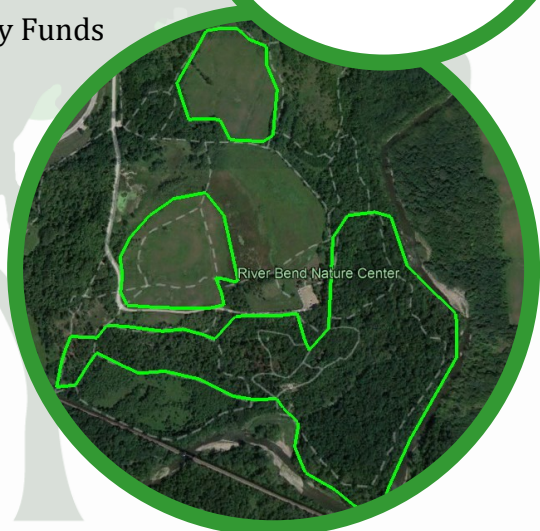
Conservation Grants

- ◆ Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation
- ◆ Conservation Reserves Program
- ◆ Conservation Partners Legacy Funds
- ◆ Xcel Energy Foundation
- ◆ Henkel Foundation
- ◆ City of Faribault

116 Acres of prairie & forest habitat actively being restored



\$80,000
for Conservation



Our Support Team

112 volunteers helped us accomplish so much! **Thank You!**

- ◆ Trail Maintenance
- ◆ Natural Resource Management
- ◆ Educational Programs
- ◆ Office mailings
- ◆ Special events
 - ◆ Maple Syrup Fun Run & Pancake Brunch
 - ◆ Bats, Bones, & Bonfires

GreenCorps Member

Zac McCarty, serving 1,310 hours
at River Bend Nature Center
Sept 2022 - Aug 2023



1,241
volunteer
hours



5 St. Olaf students
conducted a survey on
Accessibility to
find ways in which
River Bend can be
more inclusive of
everyone.

Inspiring Youth, Build

9200
youth &
community
engaged



ding Community

5 new programs

- ◆ Master Recycler/Composting
- ◆ Raptors of MN
 - ◆ All About Owls
 - ◆ Peregrine Falcons by Mayo Clinic
 - ◆ Forest Therapy

28 recurring programs

2 programs sunset



12 Cities | 29 Schools

More About Us

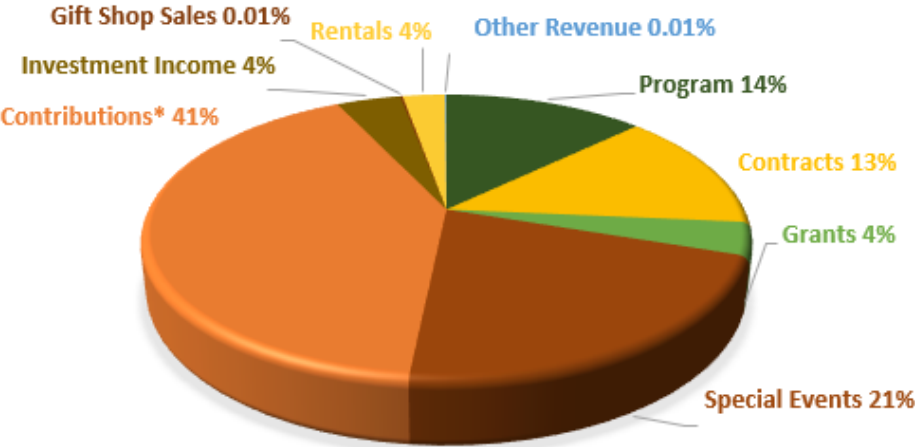


To help people **Discover**
Understand
the incredible natural world



363 Monetary &
In-Kind Donations

ORDINARY INCOME: \$443,604



Statement of Activities, YE Dec 2022	
Ordinary Revenue	\$443,604
Ordinary Expenses	\$466,071
Ordinary Gross Profit	-\$22,467
2022 pledges rec in 2023	\$15,000 *
	\$7,467

*The 2022 pledge was recognized in 2023 and not reflected in 2022 audit

Enjoy
and **Preserve**
that surrounds us all

Est.
1978

Members

**848 Individuals
& Businesses**

ORDINARY EXPENSES \$466,071



Endowment & Balance Sheet Activity

Board Approved Draw	\$32,370
Actual draw	\$7,467
Net gains and losses to investments	-159,496 **
Total net assets Dec 31 2021	\$1,477,032
Total net assets Dec 31 2022	\$1,295,069

** As of June 30th, 2023, our endowment investments have recovered \$53,000 of the 2022 losses

RBNC Audited Financial Statements are available by request. email rbncinfo@rbnc.org

Looking Back, Moving Forward

2022 Capital Improvements

- ◆ Interpretive Center building repairs
- ◆ Prairie & Upper Prairie dock repairs



2022 Staff Accomplishments

- ◆ River Bend Maple Syrup voted best of 2022
- ◆ Erin Tone became a MN Master Naturalist instructor
- ◆ Erin Tone and Molly Dulka elected to the board of Association of Nature Center Administrators

g Forward

Southern MN Initiative Foundation Grants

- ◆ Outdoor Diversity Initiative
- ◆ Little Sprouts

Strategic Planning

- ◆ To guide River Bend's future planning
- ◆ Survey and community meetings
- ◆ Analyze data



Board of Directors

Dustin Dienst, *President*
Patrick Mader, *Vice-President*
Karen Zeller, *Treasurer*
Tom DeMatteo, *Secretary*
Tom Spooner, *City Council Liaison*
Cindy DeSormeau, Derek Haars,
Sarah Hammer, Erica Jakes,
Nort Johnson, Erin Liu,
Abby Malmanger, Patrick Schaefer,
Greg Simons



Staff

Executive Director
Brad Bourn

Associate Directors
Katy Anderegg, Administration
Molly Dulka, Programs & Engagement
Brittany Smith, Environmental Stewardship

Program Coordinators
Erin Tone & Matt Johnson

Naturalists
Kate Ford, Leah Inman, Sydney Monge,
& Mary Lu Kavanagh-Beltman

AmeriCorps Members
Zach McCarty & Randall McMeekin



Former Staff & Board Members Serving in 2022

Breanna Wheeler, Kevin Mattson,
John Sheesley, Laura Isenor

www.rbnc.org . <https://www.facebook.com/MNRiverBend>