

FRIENDS OF THE

BLUE HILLS

PROTECT • PRESERVE • PARTICIPATE



Mile-a-minute
vine doesn't stand
a chance with our
trail maintenance
volunteers!

2023 Board Members

- Matt Panucci
PRESIDENT
- Mike Paglia
VICE PRESIDENT
- Mike Albert
TREASURER
- Carina Bandle
SECRETARY

Trustees at Large

- Dan Barcan
- Jean Beebe
- Russell Parkman
- Morgan Pearson
- Bob Quinn
- Oliver Truog

Staff

- Jen Klein, PhD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- Melissa Nelson
DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT
- Mary Timilty
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR
- Julia Milot
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Sponsor Organizations

- Barrie Naji, Realtor
- Canton Cultural Council
- Dedham Savings
- FM Generator
- Hebrew Senior Life
- Morgan Stanley - The McGowan Group
- Public Lands
- Trail Animals Running Club

Friends of the Blue Hills
PO Box 416
Milton, MA 02186

Cover photo by: Julia Milot

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the board of trustees, staff, and volunteers of Friends of the Blue Hills (FBH), we are pleased to present our 2023 annual report. It is an honor to lead this organization and share some of our collective accomplishments during 2023 as we build on that momentum in 2024.

The great work of FBH is supported by staff, board members, and volunteers, but it's fueled by you – your passion for the park, your love of nature, and your trust in FBH to make our park the best in greater Boston and beyond. In 2023, your dedication inspired strong membership support and ensured our park is stewarded and safe and has protected boundaries. You've made space for people of all ages and abilities to connect to this amazing place. Your heartfelt commitment is as inspiring as it is supportive.

As you look through this report, I hope you feel pride, gratitude, and excitement for the good work you are doing as an FBH supporter—and we are celebrating and thanking YOU, who made it all possible. We look forward to the continued growth and evolution of FBH and are thrilled to have you by our side in making that happen.

A significant milestone of 2023 was a transition of leadership that brought passion and innovative vision already shaping our future. We also welcomed several new board members whose diverse expertise is proving invaluable.

With a strong team in place, we are confident in achieving even greater heights going forward. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication. Together, we will preserve this cherished natural treasure.



Jen

Jen Klein, PhD
Executive Director



Matt

Matt Panucci
President

Investing in the Park

Friends of the Blue Hills may be the organization tasked with taking care of the 125 miles of trails in the park, but our members, volunteers, and other supporters are the ones who really make that care happen. Without your efforts, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to wind your way safely through the 7,000 acres of forests, meadows, and wetlands, up hills, and around ponds.

Individuals and groups, schools, and corporations from the greater Boston area and beyond make up this invaluable support structure.

Volunteers. FBH recruits, organizes, and trains volunteers on how to blaze, brush, prune, clear, rake, and repair trails so that you can enjoy safe access.

Members and Champions. Investing in FBH means you're investing and supporting programs that educate the public. In 2023, more new and renewing members, and more monthly, quarterly, and yearly champion donors stepped up in honor of the park. That means new programming, more events, and new initiatives can happen.

	2023	2022	% change
Renewed members	810	689	18%
New members	221	167	32%
Champions	449	305	47%
All members and champions	1,480	1,161	27%



147 BAGS of invasive plants and trash removed

37 TOTAL events



390 VOLUNTEERS working in the park – 30% more than last year!



35 TRAIL ADOPTERS spent

215 HOURS taking care of

18 EVENTS corporate/school and other groups

85 TRAILS (out of 200)

A Landmark Year for Friends of the Blue Hills

2023 was a landmark year for Friends of the Blue Hills, your 1,400-member non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, protecting, and promoting the Blue Hills Reservation. The collective efforts of our volunteers, members, and partners significantly enhanced the natural beauty, diverse habitats, and recreational opportunities within the reservation. Here are some key achievements from the past year.

Over 1,200 Hours Dedicated to Preservation



Woodard & Curran volunteers cleaning up the trails.

One of the most impressive highlights of 2023 was the extraordinary dedication of our volunteers. Individuals and private groups contributed over 1,200 hours to a range of essential activities, including trail maintenance, trash pick-up, and invasive plant removal. Their hard work ensured that the trails will remain accessible and safe for all visitors, while also preserving the habitats that make the Blue Hills home for more than 20 endangered species.

Volunteers also made a difference beyond the park's borders by engaging in educational outreach and advocacy efforts, stuffing envelopes, and assisting with other administrative tasks. All of these efforts amplify the impact of our mission across the community.

New Bridges for Better Access

Infrastructure within the Reservation saw significant improvements in 2023, with the construction and replacement of two essential bridges in the Fowl Meadow and Great Blue areas of the park. These structures both enhance the accessibility of frequently used trails and make the park safer for thousands of hikers, bikers, and other park visitors. The bridges are a testament to your ongoing commitment to maintaining and improving the reservation's appeal to all, ensuring that it can be enjoyed by future generations.



The bridge at Fowl Meadow (left) before our volunteers got to work on it.

Record-Breaking Event Attendance

October's Sunset and Fall Foliage Hike shattered previous attendance records, with over 400 people participating, making this the largest event in the history of FBH and demonstrating the growing interest in and support for the park's natural beauty. Hikers who trekked up Great Blue Hill enjoyed breathtaking views, vibrant fall colors, and the camaraderie of fellow nature lovers. Music by Milton-based Owl Haus and snacks and flashlights provided by Orchard Cove contributed to the enjoyment of all. The high turnout underscores the demand for opportunities to connect with nature and each other.



The 2024 Sunset and Fall Foliage Hike is scheduled for Saturday, October 19. See our online calendar for details.

Expanding Understanding Through Education



Understanding the forest aids appreciation of the park. In May, FBH collaborated with the Mary May Binney Wakefield Arboretum on the event "Meet the Trees of the Blue Hills." The three-mile walk through the reservation offered insight into the unique tree species that make up this interconnected and diverse ecosystem.

Debbie Merriam, Executive Director of the Arboretum, shared tips on identifying forest age, the contributing factors of logging and farming, and the types of trees in the park, making the hike both educational and engaging. The family-friendly event continued with a gathering at the arboretum, where everyone enjoyed soup and hot cocoa.

What kinds of educational programming would you like to see? Share your ideas any time by sending a message to info@friendsofthebluehills.org.

Continuing the Mission in 2024 and Beyond

As we reflect on 2023, we are filled with gratitude for the incredible support from our volunteers, members, and partners. Your dedication and passion have helped accomplish so much in just one year.

In 2024, our volunteer base has expanded – forging new partnerships, and introducing more innovative programs that promote conservation and community engagement.

Thank you to everyone who is part of this journey. We look forward to another year of progress and partnership in our shared mission to protect the Blue Hills!

We celebrate the latest group of incredible individuals and organizations that joined our community last year in the spirit of generosity and dedication. Each name reflects a commitment to making a positive impact in our community. We recognize that new and long-time supporters are what fuel our mission to protect the park. Thank you for your unwavering support and partnership.

Champions

Annual

Karl Becker
Harry Brett

Monthly

Nec Baba
Donna Carver
Matt Ekstrom
Cheryl Elkins
Elizabeth Faye
Rachelle Innocent
Bethany King
Stephen Lynch
Anthony Marag
Christina Maurais
Kevin McGowan
Madden Payne
Mike Rivers

Donors

Martha Abdella
Peter Annunziata
Patrick Boyle
Robin Cabral
Vincent Camillo
Michael Cannon
Bill Comer
Joseph Coughlin
Alicia Cutter
Marie Deame
Michael Denly
Stephen Doody
Lori Earl
William Farago
Donor Foundation
Andrea Friedenson
FM Generator
Theo Greenbowe
William Henning
Charles Hunter
Harry Kong
Unkei Kou
Scott Kuhn
CJ and Benjamin
Lambrecht

Public Lands
Jan LeDonne
Richard Lee
Leonard Family Fund
Betty Lo
John Longhurst
Riley Lovendale
Stephen Luszc
Steven MacFarland
Andrew Maxymillian
Nina Miller
Karen Murphy
Barrie Naji, Realtor
Judith O'Brien
Gyee O'Malley
Marcel Parnas
Jane Powers
Resier Charitable
Gift Fund
Andres Ripley
Roger Winfield Scott
Foundation
Danielle Rones
Rotary Club of
Braintree Climate
Committee
Linda Sacchetti
Schnitzer Steel
Industries
Corp Sponsor
Christopher Stetler
Ken Thress
Steven Tower
Patrick Tracy
Imani William

Grants

The William P.
Wharton Trust

In Honor Of Someone

Amy Allen
Valentine Burr
Veronique Chisholm
John Henry Keltner
Amy Kvilhaug

Sandeep Manocha
Janice Martell
Pauline McCaffery
Andreas and Pretty
Meier
Barbara Pearce
Amy and Nico
Sepinwall
Deborah Sepinwall
Martha Westland
Jennifer Zoll

In Memory Of Someone

Edward Berk and
Naomi Weinberg
Laurie Costa
Beth Crutcher
Kristen DeGrecie
Susan Karp
Deborah Meserve
Sarah Mills
Lori Page
Mr. and Mrs. Charles
Park, Jr.
William Ryan, Jr.
Daniel Sierra
Stephanie Sinclair
Brendan Toomey
Sandra Whelan

Matching Gifts

America's Charities
Point32Health
Foundation

Members

Pamela Aberle
Jude Alfaro
Brian Anderson
Justin Anderson
Patricia Apfel
Lisa Bacon
Susan Ball
Elizabeth Ballard
Sally Barkan

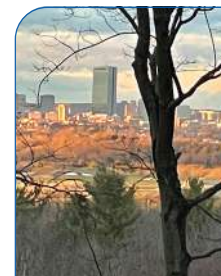
Kay Barnes
Kathy Barrett
Michael Bates
Emily Bauernfeind
Nelson Bauman
David Berson
Frederick Bieber
Paul Bierden
Michele Block
Brook Brook
David Brown
Sharon Browne
Al Bruno
Karen Buckley
Alana Burke
Gerard Campbell
Simone Maya
Carpenter
Kara Casten
Frank Cavalieri
Patricia Caya
Imge Ceranoglu
Kristine Ciampa
Dave Clark
Patricia Commane
Will Corrdin
Lain Coryell
Alex Cowing
Paul and Donna
Curran
Katerina Danova
Joanna Darling
Amy Delaney
Linda Delaney
Matt Dentch
Richmond Dickson
Melissa DiPetrillo
and Erik Dykes
Philip Doherty
John Downey
Arlene Doyle
Patrick Doyle
Eric Dresser
Mary Ann Drury
Emily Dufresne
Kendra Dwyer
Marcus Falcone

Tim Farmer
Amber Flockton
Kerry Flood
David Folan
Maura Foley
Joann Foscaldo
Liz Froment
Victoria Gall
Patricia Gass
Anne Gatnik
Caitlin Geissler
Ingrid Gerst
Leah Giunta
Jessica Goldhirsch
Kathleen Gordon
Djamil Graham
Mimi Graham
Pauline Grappie
Susan Greenbowe
Betsy Gwin
Brenda Hairston
Kyle Harrow
Alex Hasha
Douglas Hasting
Denise Hiltz
David Hudson
Brittany Jarrin
Steven Jefferson
Carol Johnson
Lynn Jolicoeur
Michael Jones
Francis Joyce
Gretchen Juliano
Manuel Kaufmann
Cheryl Kelly
Ginny Keniry
Jordan LaColla

Harley Laing
Marc Laliberte
Rachel Lambright
Sophie Lane
Karen Lavelle
Debra Lefkowitz
Wendy and Ben
Levinson
Margaret Lloyd
Barbara Luke
Matt Lyons (The
Lyons Committee)
Kristen Macauley
John MacDonald
Brian MacKinnon
Ryan MacNeil
Julie Mallozzi
George Mandell
Richard Mansfield
Ali Manson
Christine Marag
Anthony Mavilia
James McCarthy
Lorraine McGrath
Neal McGrath
Tara McHugh
Paul McIntire
Lisa McLellan
Maria Miller-Larson
Catherine Mirick
Stephanie Pickman
Monahan
Nathan Morgan
Kim Morse
Maryann Murray
Amanda Myers
Elizabeth Needham
Kiley Nichols

Cyndi Norton
Kathleen O'Keefe
Meaghan
Ohrenberger
Wesley Painter
Puneetha Palakurthi
Julie Palma
Shayla Parker
Stephen Peckiconis
FJ Perfas
Francine Price
Yvonne Readdy
Michael Regan
Chris Regnier
Gregory Rego
Martin Rigby
John and Deborah
Riley
Brenda Ripley
Phyllis Robinson
Andrew Rosenzweig
Robin Ross
Carla Roussin
Joseph Rubino
Pam Russell
Dawn Ryan
Diane Ryberg
Sonia Santos
Deb Savona
William Scannell
Irene Scharf
Ann Schroth
Anne Semler
Marva Serotkin
Diane Shannon
Andrea Shea
Rob Shepard
Diane Simms

Matthew Skelly
Seth Snyder
Hilary Sochacki
Janet Stotsky
Kathleen Sullivan
Linda Sullivan
Marjorie Sullivan
Paula Sylvester
Rebecca Tarby
Pam Tassej
Bernadette Thie and
Ian Roke
Ronald Thomas
Bruce Thompson
Lois Tow
Charles Tuttle
Thomas Tuttle
Rebecca Vasquez
Michael Vhay
Mary Walker
Pauline Walker
Diane Wall
Brian Walsh
Lucy Wang
Debbie Waterhouse
Wendy Welch
Mary Jane West
Steven Wetzner
Joanne Wheeler
John Wilcox
Brett Williams
Edward Woll
Lou Wollrab
Riley Woods
Patrick Young
Rosa Zhang



"Loving my time in the Blue Hills! I have begun trail tracing with a small group and it has really pushed me to explore parts of the Blue Hills I have never experienced before. I feel so lucky to have such a treasure so close to my home in Boston. I've been telling lots of friends and co-workers to explore the Blue Hills beyond the most well loved and traveled trails."

Julie Young, West Roxbury

Make a difference and join,
renew or donate today!



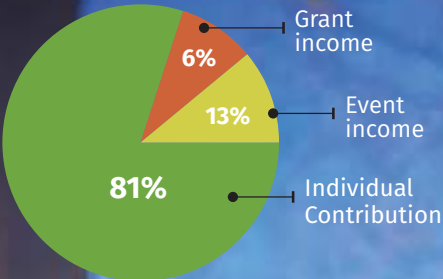
Join/Renew



Donate

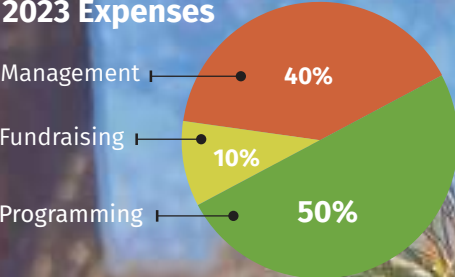
Financial Snapshot

2023 Income



Total revenue
\$330,000

2023 Expenses



Total expenses
\$289,000



Looking forward to what's next!

Did you miss the Summer Celebration? Save **October 17** in your calendar to ensure you're part of the celebration at our annual meeting. There will be fun and games, plus food and friends. We hope to see you there. Watch for more details in your mailbox and inbox.