



FRIENDS OF THE
BLUE HILLS
PROTECT • PRESERVE • PARTICIPATE

20
24

ANNUAL REPORT

2024 Board Members

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VICE PRESIDENT

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VOLUNTEER AND EDUCATION

PROGRAM MANAGER

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FM Generator

Fruit Center Marketplace

Gray, Gray & Gray LLP

Hebrew Senior Life

Poirier Sales & Service Corp.

Quincy Auto Auction

Robert Dempsey Insurance

Sunrise Erectors Inc.

Trillium Brewing Company

Cover: 5-year-old Alice pulls
garlic mustard like a pro!

Friends of the Blue Hills
580 Washington Street,
Canton, MA 02021



"I look forward to working with Jen and the entire FBH community to further our mission of preserving, promoting, and protecting the Blue Hills Reservation. The FBH community and the park are both incredibly special; I want to see both continue to thrive."

— Mike Paglia, new FBH board president

Dear Friends!

2024 was a milestone year for Friends of the Blue Hills. I was honored to join as Executive Director, the first leadership transition in nearly 20 years. With your support, we've experienced exciting growth and renewed commitment to our mission: preserving, protecting, and promoting the Blue Hills Reservation.

Membership grew by 10%, with 125 new members. Public programs doubled — offering inclusive events that connected more people than ever to the beauty of the park. We also opened our first office in downtown Canton and welcomed our first Director of Advancement, Melissa Nelson, strengthening our foundation for the future.

Our advocacy efforts continued, including work with Mattapan Food & Fitness Coalition and Brookwood Community Farm to improve transportation access. Ongoing monitoring of buffer zone developments to safeguard the park's ecosystem remains a priority.

Thanks to your generosity, we raised critical funds to support:

- Trail maintenance and two new bridges
- 75 free programs
- Invasive species removal and 320 bags of litter cleared
- 8,000 volunteer hours by 775 people

These numbers reflect more than progress — they represent a growing community committed to the Blue Hills' future. Thank you for being part of this work.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script.

Jen Klein, PhD
Executive Director



2024 Snapshots



Jan: First guided hike of the year



Feb: Winterfest @ the Blue Hills Ski Area



Mar: Jen Klein joins FBH as Executive Director



Apr: Invasives removal around Ponkapoag at Green Up



May: FBH joins Northeast Environmental Resilience Collaborative



Jun: Summer Celebration for members @ Trillium



Jul: FBH signs lease for first-ever office



Aug: Let's Go Fishing event with Elevate Youth



Sep: Point32Health community service event



Oct: Fall foliage & sunset hike @ Great Blue Hill



Nov: Houghton's Pond area fire



Dec: Winter solstice sunrise hike



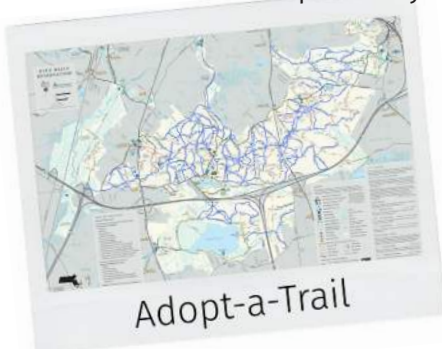
Lots of People Love the Blue Hills!

FBH organized and ran more than 80 programs, projects, and events in 2024 — not including programming with partners outside the park!

We hope you had a chance to participate in a few programs. The goal is to serve up even more to you throughout 2025.

The Adopt-a-Trail program started in 2012 and has been growing in popularity every year. Those who adopt a trail in the Blue Hills are dedicated volunteers who commit to keeping their trails in good shape for all users. **In 2024, six new volunteers joined the ranks of trail adopters, bringing the total to 40.** That means 90 sections of trails in the park have been adopted (see trails traced in blue below).

There are 111 more sections of trail that need adopting. Visit the Adopt-a-Trail page in the Trail Maintenance section of our website to find out how to become an official adopter today!



Adopt-a-Trail

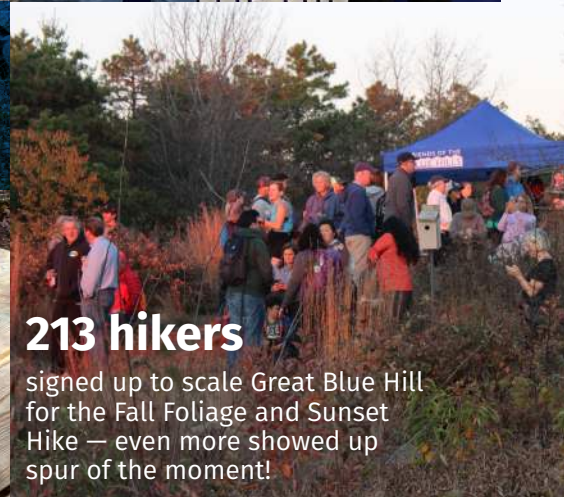


345 VISITORS

came into the park for trail work and team-building with 21 corporate and school groups



500+ people stopped by the FBH booth at the Boston Outdoor Expo



213 hikers

signed up to scale Great Blue Hill for the Fall Foliage and Sunset Hike — even more showed up spur of the moment!



125-Mile Club

Since 2021, 838 people have become **125-Mile Club** members and logged 16,450 miles in the park. **In 2024, 37 more joined up and started their path toward winning some patches!**

You can join the 125-Mile Club any time — logging miles at your own pace using your preferred tracking method. Sign up today on the 125-Mile Club page in the Volunteering & Programs section of our website.

The annual **FBH Photo Contest** showcases not only the beauty of the Blue Hills but also the talent of the many amateur photographers who enter. **In 2024, 139 entries from shutterbugs in 32 towns were narrowed down to just four winners.** A total of 2,041 votes had been cast in the popular vote!

The 2025 Photo Contest is now open for submissions. And this year, there will be up to 15 winners in five categories — including two that are just for kids. Visit the Photo Contest page in the News & Events section of our website and submit your snaps today!



Photo Contest



"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."
- Sherry Anderson

8,000+

Total hours volunteered



Hibiya High School did a trash cleanup around Houghton's Pond.

FBH volunteers donated their time and talents in so many ways – from event planners and marketers to tablers and event helpers, from crew leaders to trail workers. Thank you to every single person who offered to help and then showed up ready to work. The park is a better place because of you.



Putting in water bars is hard work but keeps runoff from ruining trails.



15 public events cleared debris, repaired trails, and removed invasive plants.



18 small-group hikes were led by FBH-trained leaders.

2024 Income

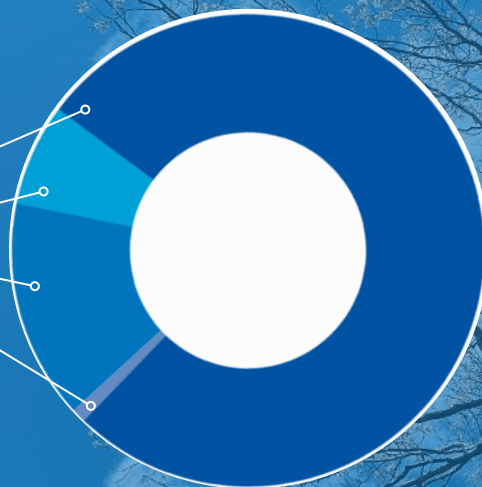
Individual contributions: 77%

Events: 7%

Grants: 15%

Interest: 1%

Total revenue: \$423,000



2024 Expenses

Management: 40%

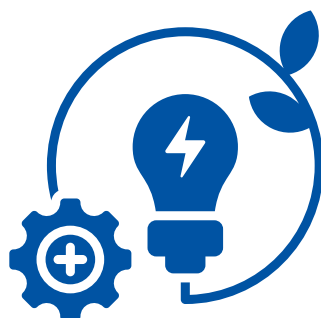
Fundraising: 10%

Programming: 50%

Total expenses: \$308,000



FBH's first ever office space eliminates the need for paid storage, provides a home base for FBH, and is furnished entirely with donated items from partners, members, board members, and staff.



Reviewing FBH operations with the help of free services specifically for nonprofits, such as TechSoup, has yielded more than \$2,000 in savings and efficiencies in purchasing.



Google Workspace for nonprofits has streamlined FBH email and phone services while offering savings and opening the door to additional grant opportunities.



Monthly Champions

Eric Cooper
Marie Cummins
Eddy Hernandez
Alyson Lazarovich
Jamie Mihaich

Donors

Charlotte Alger
Arc'teryx Boston
Margaret Bailey
Kevin Barrett
Bedford Diversity
Council
Stephen Bezilla
Dimpel Bhayani
Blue Hills Cycling
Club
Blue Hills Hiking Club
Michael Brennan
William Brockman
Nicole Brogan-Dumas
Taylor Bukowski
Jacquelyn Burke &
Jeremiah O'Connor
Sean Callahan
Sara Callard
Heydi Cambria
Nicholas Campbell
Canton Lions Club
Abby Coffin
Olivia Colombo
Bridget Conroy
Mark Cronin
Hope Crosier
Lynda Dugas
Grant & Meilee
Earnest
Michael Eckert
Susie Elliott
Juan Fernandez
Jessie Finocchiaro
Steve Fiske
Tara Foxx
Katy Gall
Helice Gillis
Nicholas Giorgio
Andrew Gorelik
Laura Greer
Jesse Grove
Zack Gulinello
Andrea Hillier
Kim Howard
Lily Huynh
Chris Jackson
Beatrice James-
Cockrell
Seli Kaya
Elena Kazlas
Kathryn Kearney
(Employer match for
Rich Lee)
Ian Darrell Kemp &
Sara Boubherhan
Geoff Klane
Margaret Kley
Jennifer Kung
Stephanie Kwei
Kelly Laurence
Sara Laverty
Kate Lena
Paula Levesque

Matthew Logan
Clarisse Lopes
Edward Lynch
Christine Lyons
Bill Manley
William Mannion
Chantrey Marchand
Laurie Marsden-ellis
Morgan McCarthy
Patrice McInnis
Susan McPherson
Ruthie Miller
Winnie Miller
Susan Mulligan
Abirami Natarajan
Rory Nordquist
Theresa Ochenkoski
Matt O'Malley
Evan Patton
Percent Impact
Foundation
(Goodstack)
Emily Pierre
Quarry Hills
Associates
Jan Reynolds
Loraine Riemer
Chris Ritchie
Erica Roberts
Deborah Roman
Hannah Roth
Penney Ryan
Rebecca Salvatore
Sonal Shah
Cara St. Hilaire
Julia Steele
Meredith Sweeney
Loretta Talios
Heather Viveiros-
Murphy
Atsushi Wajima
Lauren Wallace, Ms
Susan J Walsh
Marjorie Waterson
Heather William
Adam Winkler
Carol Zuerndorfer

Gift Memberships

Michael Bagshaw
Kimberly Baker
Diana Griffith
Ravi Jain
Elisabeth Mielke
Gail Schustek
Paulette Torrey

Grants

North American
Association for
Environmental
Education

In Honor or Memory of Someone

Alyssa Marie
Abruzzese
Michelle Bajdek
Lynne Bateman
Echo Bergquist
Beth Blevins
Karla Blossom

Sue Chandler
Matt Coombs
Russell Djerf
Margo Feeney
Elaine Feingold-Toper
Connor Grayson
Finlay
Carolyn Keddy
Thomas Robert Keske
Mary Lou O'Connor
Jeff Pierce
Anna Rubin
Barbara Tilley
Kiley and Eric
Waterhouse

Members

Gabrielle Abad
James Aftosmes
Luis Alcaraz
Mary Amaru
Kathy Anderson
Stephanie Arce
Synnove Ask
Meg Aucello
Olguine Augustin
Gene Avrus
Andrew Beal
Julie Berman
Maureen Berry
Meghan
Bierenbroodspot
Katherine Bishop
Anthony Bistany
Janet Bridges
Deborah Brigandi
Jack Bruneau
Tu Bui
Doris Burford
Colin Campbell
Jeanne Cannata
Kimberly Carlozzi
Donna Casey
Mary Cavanagh
Roger Roy
& Alice Chen
Nancy Collette
Adam Corbridge
John and Shannon
Costello
Carole Cousineau-
Reyes
Julie Cox
Kathleen Cox
Dale Davis
Susan Davis
Kimberly Dawson
Devin Dear
Christina DelBove
John Desrochers
Christian Desrochers
Reid Dexter
Elizabeth DiBattista
Kathleen DiManno
Christina Divoll
Mary Doherty
Jeff Doughty
Maureen Downes
Anthony Duris
Angelica Duron
James Eder
Jonathan Edwards

Elizabeth Emery
Amanda Ferguson
Catherine Finn
Julian Fisher
Gabe Fizer
James Flaherty
Jessie Flynn
Ann Fogarty
Stephanie Fougere
Brittany Francis
Ryan Frank
Mark Friedman
Jeffrey Frost
Nathaniel Furey-
Moore
Kevin Gailius
Marty Gallagher
Rahul Ganatra
Carla Ganter
Donald Garrick
Nupur Ghosh
Patricia Gillis
Theresa Gomes
Edith Graichen
Denise Graziano
Joe Greene
Andy Greenwell
Lee Gullage
Oguzhan Gurgun
Jessica Gustafson
Kathleen Harris
Lois Hart
Judy Haynos
Denise Heffron
Thor Helgason
Morgan Herring
Dani Hickman
Deborah Higgins
Edwin Huff
David Husted
Julie Jackson
Steve and Laurie
Jones
Michael Jordan
Kerri Joy
John Joyce
Frank Jurczak
Ita Kane
Shannon Keating
Kwiatek
Marie Kelly
Nora Kelly
Jean Kenney
Jackson Ketchen
Paul Kilrain
Jill Kimmel
Betsy Klein
Kevin Klim
Madhusoodanan
Kolothuparambil
William Kovarik
Matthew Labelle
Patty Lamb
Alicia Laughton
Rachael Leahy
Pamela Lee
Kathy Lehmann
James Leslie
George Lester
Bonny Liang
Michael Lombardo
Peter Loring

Siobhan Lucas
Scott Mabel
Roger Mann
Dan Martini
Tess McCann
Michael McCarthy
Mallory McCarthy
Robert McCarthy
Larry McCusker
Elizabeth McDonald
Patricia McGovern
Donna McPartland
Kathy Melchin
Vikas Merchia
Carolyn Messer
David & Sonya
Meysembourg

Adriana Michaud
Diedra Mikucki
Michelle Milos
Shauna Mitchell
Aliza Mon
Lauren Moreau
Meredith Morris
John Murphy
Christine Nee
Ellen Nichols
Barbara Noeth
Robert Oakes
Meghan O'Donnell
Julie O'Sullivan
Andrew Padilla
Domenic Papile
Edwin Peria

This list honors the generous
individuals and organizations who
joined our community just last
year. Each name reflects a shared
commitment to protecting the
Blue Hills. Thank you for being the
driving force behind our mission.

THANK YOU!

David Perloff
Jane Plank
Karen and Jim
Politano
James Polo
Christina Potenza
Robin Potter
Nik Pundit
Sydney Queally
John Quinn
Michael Radz
Nicholas Raphael
Jessica Rayno
Robin Reilly
Holly Renaud
Virginia Rengel
Bridget Rice
Nicholas Richardson
Steve Richmond
Suzanne Ridge
Joseph Ridge
Bobby Rinn
Dennis Rosen
Meghan Ruzzo
Joshua Ryor
John Saunders
Jenn Scarborough
Robert Schepis
Nels Schnobrich
Heather Schuhwerk
Andrew Sciotti
Pokmeng See
Larry Seggelin

Brigid Shaw
Kathy Shay
Eva Shea
Courtney Shearer
Alice Sheehan
Joseph Sheehan
Julia Simonds
Peter Smith
Cheryl Smith
Lauren Snyder
Jan Sobieraj
Meg Stewart
Paul Su
John Sullivan
Verma Taylor
Jorgette Theophilis
Sam & Mary Tsang
Solomon Tsegani
Margaret Tufts
Kimberly Turner
Patrick Tutella
Tom Ulrich
Shannon Umbro
Judy VanNostrand
Theo Viola
Martin Walsh
Didier Weizman
Richard Wells
Bill White
Erica Zanussi
Nick Zanuss

Thanks to your dedication, Friends of the Blue Hills is ready to take bold steps to protect and preserve the park we all love. Here's what's on the horizon:

- **Better Access for All.** We're pushing to make the MBTA bus to Houghton's Pond just the start of better public transit access to the Blue Hills.
- **Refreshed Vision & Values.** Your feedback is helping shape the updated FBH mission, ensuring it reflects the needs and voices of our whole community.
- **Stronger Partnerships, Stronger Park.** FBH is pursuing more grants and building new partnerships with local businesses and other nonprofits — to better care for the park.
- **More Trail Work Ahead.** From rebuilding Chicado Bridge to launching the first-ever trail leader training, trail care efforts are expanding.
- **Smarter Programs Through Feedback.** A new survey is providing info directly from park users and members like you to make FBH programs more engaging and effective.

Together, we're working toward a Blue Hills that's more welcoming, accessible, and cared for than ever. Thank you for making it possible.

Join Us!

friendsofthebluehills.org



/friendsofthebluehills



/friendsofthebluehills



Donate to act now for the Blue Hills!

Friends of the Blue Hills is a nonprofit, tax-exempt charitable organization (tax identification number 04-2627412) under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.