

2024 Year in Review

Administrative/Finance

- We navigated a year of transition with the departure of Deb Nowak (Dec 2023), Maureen Feldt (Feb 2024), and Sarah Ironside (May 2024) and the move of the center to the Community Enrichment Department under CE Director Terri Vosters. The Naturalist position was updated to remain as center manager, with the responsibilities of Director moved to the CE Director.
- Cassie Kohls was hired as the new Administrative Assistant in February.
- Nathaniel Blood was hired as Naturalist in March but ultimately decided to return to teaching high school.
- Brad Garrity (then Site Manager) assumed Assistant Naturalist duties in April in addition to Site Manager duties, and his weekly hours increased to 29 hours. Brad was hired as the full-time Naturalist in August.
- Eric Gonnering was hired as the Site Manager in August.
- Kat Berge was hired as Assistant Naturalist in August.
- Matured CD's were transferred into the Endowment fund throughout the year. All outstanding CD's have now closed.
- A revenue and expense account was established for Jabber's care. This allows us to see what is being spent on his medical expenses and plan fundraising opportunities for any shortfalls.

Education

- We did not offer the Seedling Sale in 2024 due to the staff transition. It will resume in 2025.
- The Pancake & Porkie Breakfast was taken over by the Friends of 1000 Islands from the Kiwanis Club. The funds were previously donated to 1000 Islands but will now go to the revenue of the Friends to support 1000 Islands.
- Focus on the Fox was held in September to great success. Many other organizations participated to provide a lot of different learning experiences focused on the Fox River.
- Goat browsing sessions occurred in both spring and fall again this year. The project continues to make impacts on our invasive plants but also generates a lot of visitor traffic, donations and gift shop sales.
- Crayfishing continues to be our most popular program and was a bit more challenging in 2024 due to heavy rains and flooding, as well as booms placed in Konkapot Creek at our usual site for crayfishing. We shifted our programs upstream near the bridge with positive results.
- We had a blockbuster year for both school and public programming with growing interest. It seems that we have finally fully recovered from the Covid pandemic with respect to attendance numbers at public events.
- Nathaniel began the process of reviewing and revamping educational programming. Brad and Kat have continued this going into 2025.
- Maddie West was our Summer Intern. She is a KHS grad and now attends UW-Stevens Point and hopes to pursue a career in Conservation Law Enforcement.

Building & Grounds

- The David L. and Rita E. Nelson Family Fund within the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region awarded 1000 Islands a grant of \$240,000 for use towards the boardwalk project. An additional \$2,237.40 was awarded from the Environmental Stewardship Fund.
- Radtke Construction, Inc got the Boardwalk Reconstruction project underway in October.
- Countless hours and donated funds were spent on removing buckthorn and planting native plant species throughout the year.
- “Mud Hill” between the boardwalk and Nelson Overlook was graveled which significantly improved the trail conditions and experience in that area. In the near future we will look to add some barriers along the edge to help prevent washout.
- Washer/Dryer installed in January.
- The Company Woods stormwater retention pond construction at the Valley Trail and Hillcrest Dr was completed. Work will continue establishing wetland and prairie plantings around the pond.
- New sinks and faucets were installed in the restrooms. The feature one lower sink for children (to eliminate use of step stools,) as well as following ADA compliance specifications for accessibility.
- Randee Mooney completed her Eagle Scout project, revitalizing the Mooney Butterfly Garden near our front lot entrance. She installed a new walking path, removed invasive plant growth, and built and donated 5 Leopold style benches for the area and elsewhere on the property. She will complete her Girl Scout Gold Star project by installing interpretive signage and butterfly houses in 2024.

	2022	2023	2024
Total Usage	10,416	13,493	14,636