

2023 Year in Review

Administrative/Finance

- \$15,011.84 was added to the Endowment from new contributions made in 2023.
- The City went through a Strategic Planning Process with Deb attending the meetings along with the other Department Heads.
- NetSuite was implemented by the City Finance Dept. and we are utilizing this new financial system for receipting and to create the monthly reports for the Committee Meetings.
- Paycor was implemented by the City Human Resources Dept. which we are all using to punch in/out along with tracking our time and requesting time-off.
- The 1000 Islands Strategic Plan was completed and presented to the City Council.
- The Endowment was set up with the Community Foundation

Education

- We had a very successful Eagle Days with approximately 1,000 people in attendance and three presentations by the National Eagle Center.
- The Fox Valley Bald Eagle Nest Watch program started in February with 36 nests being monitored by 90 volunteers.
- We now have approximately 60 new snowshoes and are selling the old ones through the Gift Shop. New rental prices have been determined.
- Field Trip costs have been increased from \$2 to \$3 for a half-day program and from \$3 to \$5 for a full day program.
- Lilly Roehrig completed her student co-op year at the end of the school year.
- Jabber's health became an issue this year and he is now on two meds/twice a day.
- Liliana (summer intern) returned from last (2022) summer and was instrumental in helping with programming and various projects and events.
- The book *Grover the Goat* was completed and is on sale in the Gift Shop.
- All summer field trips were all half-day programs only and went over well and we will do the same programming in 2024.
- The Tree Seedling Sale was sponsored by Kaukauna Utilities again. Total proceeds from the 2023 sale are \$7352.64 and we received \$245 in donations with the seedling order as well.
- The Motus Receiver which collects data on migrating birds was installed in fall. The costs for this are covered by a grant received by the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory.
- A new Water Cycle program was developed for the 6th graders at River View.
- Focus on the Fox was on September 23 with a lower than anticipated turnout.
- Goat browsing sessions occurred in mid-June and late-September/early October 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.

Building & Grounds

- New flooring was installed in February of 2023.
- We discontinued building rentals for family-related parties as we saw an increase in noncompliance of our guidelines and overall disrespect for the live animals and building.
- Countless hours and donated funds were spent on removing buckthorn and planting native plant species throughout the year.
- An initial estimate came in for replacing the boardwalk for \$367,000 from Milbach Construction.
- We obtained two adult and two child EpiPens that are stored in the EAD box.
- Began aggressively treating and eliminating phragmites in the culverts near the intersection of Z and old ZZ (Kayak Launch). Also removed many buckthorn plants, opening the view to the river.
- Work began on clearing and preparing the area to be developed into an educational play area and tree nursery.
- Inaugural Service Saturdays volunteer program – provided drop in opportunities for volunteers and introduced our regular volunteer opportunities.
- Planted oak and maple seedlings and saplings in areas near nature center/trailhead cleared of buckthorn. This summer's drought made it tough to do much planting.
- Site Manager updated the conservancy invasives management plan and developed wildlife and habitat management plan and forestry evaluation for the Upper Woods.
- Changed HVAC service provider from Bassett Mechanical to Berken Heating and Cooling.
- Building siding project put on hold – Street Dept may do the labor, will get new material quotes in 2024.
- Received window quotes for possible ongoing replacement throughout building.
- Wildlife rescues on property included trapped Canada Goose, Great Blue Heron with broken wing, Egret caught in fishing line, etc.
- Yellow Jackets were a major issue in Fall, causing multiple stings to the Site Manager, disruption to visitors, closing sections of trail, and invasion of the bat house.
- After a promising start to the season, one of the bee colonies absconded from their hive. May have been caused by the yellow jackets in Fall.
- Welcomed multiple corporate volunteer groups who helped with invasives removal, fence and boardwalk repair, trail maintenance, tree planting, staining picnic tables, and more.