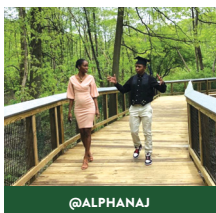
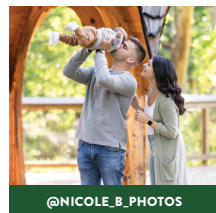
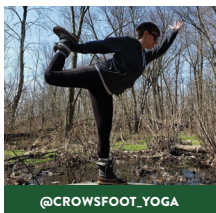
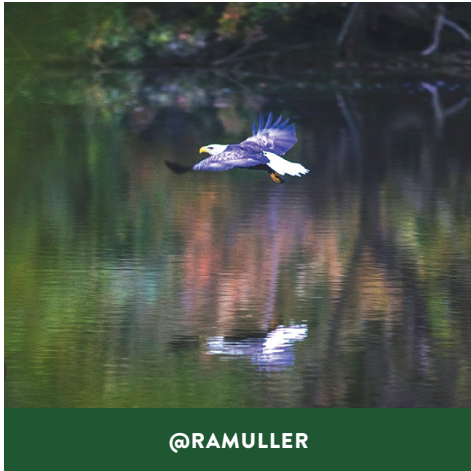


# REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

# YOUR PARK. YOUR FUTURE.

SEPTEMBER 1, 2019 – AUGUST 31, 2020



**WE ARE DELIGHTED  
TO HAVE BEEN HERE  
FOR YOU!**

**YOUR VISITS. YOUR SMILES.  
YOUR MOMENTS.**

From fighting against a freeway to pushing through the pandemic, it is our community that has built us, fought for us, and continues to make us what we are today!

Though our building was closed for nearly half of 2020, **YOU** never stopped hiking, sharing, attending, and supporting us. Just as outdoor spaces such as the Nature Center have proven to be indispensable, **YOU** have been essential to us.

While we may have kept our physical distance, you stayed socially active and found your escape outdoors, enjoying each and every aspect of our 20 acres. Thank you for tagging us on your adventures and making us **YOUR** Nature Center through this past year.

 **NATURE CENTER**  
AT SHAKER LAKES  
Conserve. Connect. Inspire.

#SHAKERLAKES



## DEAR FRIENDS,

With so many uncertainties this year, the Nature Center remained deeply rooted in our mission. Before the pandemic, we served a record number of people through our educational, nature-based programs and events. School children soaked up critical science and environmental lessons, and of course, fresh air. When school field trips were cancelled in March, we swiftly adapted these same lessons to a virtual format, innovating to reach and share nature moments and education with those in the region and beyond. Our trails and 20 acres of habitats remained open as a safe, natural place for outdoor activity—offering a physical escape from the confining walls of our homes, and respite from the stresses brought forth by a world which was seemingly upended overnight.

Despite the challenges posed during the last year, we were able to maintain our focus. We restored native habitats by planting 2,312 new trees, shrubs, and plants, providing crucial habitats for animals and birds often pushed out by urbanization. This will strengthen the biodiversity of our preserve and offer invaluable educational experiences.

This year highlighted one important piece of our mission: welcoming everyone in our community to enjoy a beautiful, natural place. Our new, fully accessible All People's Trail (APT) has allowed us to serve you in unique and exciting ways. Through the generosity of our community, we were able to unveil this rebuilt and enhanced trail, coming in under budget and on schedule—fortuitously ensuring the trail was available when you needed it the most. This past year, we saw a three-fold increase in visitation on the APT.

While respecting the safety of our visitors and staff, we persevered with the planned repair and improvement of our Stearns Woodland Trail. Over the summer we restored the trail, built bridges that will



protect wetland areas, and added a nature play area, among other features. This is all part of our five-year vision and capital campaign to foster our outdoor classroom, which is proving to be prescient. These are glimpses into YOUR FUTURE at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes as we continue to reinvigorate and enhance YOUR PARK, bringing nature experiences to life to further attract and engage a broad range of visitors.

In an urban landscape, it is a difficult balance to coexist with nature, and opportunities for outdoor, environmental education can be limited. Yet, we exist in this special urban space for you, as an integral part of the surrounding neighborhoods and communities. We see you walking the trails, watching and listening for birds, playing alongside the Doan Brook, and learning with nature. There are also the quiet moments hidden from humanity that are more difficult to see, but that peacefully exist around us: life under logs, fungus thriving, tiny salamanders foraging for insects, and millipedes crawling under leaf litter. Together, these experiences form the heart of the 20 acres that we are so fortunate to share with all of you.

We have overcome many challenges throughout the pandemic and were able to fulfill our mission more deeply than we could have imagined—thanks to YOU. Our incredible team of staff and trustees has been our backbone. Your support allowed us to keep our trails open, our programming strong, and carry on our work to enhance precious native habitats. As the novel coronavirus has proven, our world is deeply interconnected, and we must work together to sustain our environment for the future. We hope you will continue this journey with us to educate, connect, and steward our beautiful and accessible gem where humanity and wildlife coexist with such grace.

With appreciation, warm regards and one final THANK YOU for a fantastic year,



*Kay Carlson*  
Kay Carlson  
President & CEO



*Karen*  
Karen Kidwell  
Chair, Board of Trustees



*Jim Dixon*  
Jim Dixon  
Past Chair

Thank you to Jim Dixon, outgoing Board Chair, for his two years of service and a warm welcome to incoming Board Chair Karen Kidwell.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES\*

### CHAIR

Karen G. Kidwell

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Justin M. Croniser

James T. Dixon

Jef E. Fowler

Jeanne V. Gordon

Graham P. Hearn

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Shaker Lakes Garden Club Liaison

Victoria Mills

Executive Director, Doan Brook

Watershed Partnership

Brianna Treleven

Executive Director,

Shaker Historical Society

Tres Roeder

City of Shaker Heights Representative

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Clara T. Rankin

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Julie A. West

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### FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

A. Chace Anderson

Cynthia Bassett

William G. Batcheller

David C. Fulton, Jr.

Margaret R. Giltinan

\*As of October 1, 2020

Out of an abundance of caution and with great respect for the health and safety of our volunteers and staff, we limited volunteers opportunities and group sizes. Even so, volunteers proved extremely helpful; they worked tirelessly with our Natural Resources staff, helped with Virtual Summer Outdoor Adventure Camp, and assisted with critical operational and administrative tasks. **WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION!**



## YOUTH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

### CLOVIS WESTLUND



Clovis, now a senior at Shaker Heights High School, began volunteering at the Nature Center at age 13. This summer Clovis proved incredibly helpful as a volunteer with our Virtual Outdoor Adventure Camp by editing camp worksheets, showing new volunteers around, and reminding campers to be gentle with the bugs they observed in nature.

## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

### DICK OBERMANN



Dick, a Nature Center member since 2002, has volunteered as a member of the Annual Plant Sale Committee. In 2014, he took over as Homegrown Chair of our Annual Plant Sale, leading a team of volunteer local plant experts growing and organizing donations of several hundred plants over the years. We are thankful for his service and green thumb!

To read more about our Volunteers of the Year, visit: [shakerlakes.org/volunteer](http://shakerlakes.org/volunteer). If you are inspired to volunteer in any capacity, visit [shakerlakes.org/volunteer](http://shakerlakes.org/volunteer) to view current opportunities.

## EVERGREEN SOCIETY GIVING:



**MICKEY HORNER**

The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes has a wonderfully rich history, one that begins with the dedicated individuals who helped not only to create it, but to help the organization evolve into what it is today. *Mary Alice ("Mickey") Horner* is a wonderful example.

As a long-time friend and supporter of the Nature Center, Mickey spent endless hours working on events and programs alongside her husband John Horner, a former Board President and two-time interim Executive Director of the Nature Center. Mickey was also one of the passionate individuals that helped to create the Nature Center's Duck Pond, our wonderful gift shop that visitors enjoy today.

Mickey was always excited about what the Nature Center meant to the community and the important role it continues to play today. Before she passed away in 2019, she made a gift to the capital campaign to enhance our outdoor classroom. In addition, she joined the Evergreen Society with a planned gift. This is a wonderful reflection of how much she valued the Nature Center, and will help us continue to be a vibrant part of our community for generations to come.

To learn more about planned giving and the Evergreen Society, please contact Rob Sikora, Director of Development at [sikora@shakerlakes.org](mailto:sikora@shakerlakes.org) or 216.321.5935 ext. 223.

## THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL DONORS

VISIT [SHAKERLAKES.ORG/SUPPORTERS](http://SHAKERLAKES.ORG/SUPPORTERS) TO VIEW ALL WHO HAVE SUPPORTED OUR MISSION AT THE \$100 LEVEL OR HIGHER THIS FISCAL YEAR.

The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes extends its deepest appreciation to the many donors, members, and institutional supporters whose generous contributions helped us overcome challenges and ensure a successful year.

## MILESTONE VOLUNTEER HOURS\*

### 200+ HOURS

• Ruffing School (812.5 hours!) •

### 100-199 HOURS

• Charles Stephenson •

• Norma Storer •

### 50-99 HOURS

• Michelle Anselmo • Allana Appleby •

• Dion Davis • Jane Donnell •

• Stephen Kushnik • Barbara Peskin •

• Margaret Poutasse • Emily Qian •

• Rotary Club • Isabelle Warren •

• Clovis Westland • Kaleob Woodson •

### 20-49 HOURS

• Moriah Altman • Karen Ault •

• Trey Banyard • Grace Bourdrez •

• Steve Cagan • Abigail Coffey •

• Tom Connor • Barbara French •

• Lisa Gannon • Sophy Gao •

• Henry Crampton Hays • Sam Hren •

• Tim Kalan • Susan Kent •

• CJ Keyes • Mary Jane Krivanka •

• Eva Nieman • Dick Obermanns •

• Isaac Ortman • Margaret Senturia •

• Bill Shaul • Chase Sloan •

• Hazel Smith • Helena Souffrant •

• Emma Spencer • Susann Strauss •

• Lydia Vadnal • Linda Yanega •

• Grace Zhang •

\*Does not include Board Trustees

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION FY2020

(Unaudited)

### REVENUE: CONTRIBUTED

- INDIVIDUAL DONORS  
\$201,690
- CORPORATIONS/  
FOUNDATIONS  
\$437,764
- GOVERNMENT FUNDING  
\$73,393
- EVENTS  
(Net of COG - Plant Sale/Art on View)  
\$216,392
- ENDOWMENT (Distribution)  
\$103,936

### REVENUE: EARNED

- PROGRAM FEES  
\$65,895
- FACILITY RENTALS/  
MERCHANDISE (Net)  
\$19,625

**TOTAL REVENUE**  
**\$1,118,694**

### EXPENSES

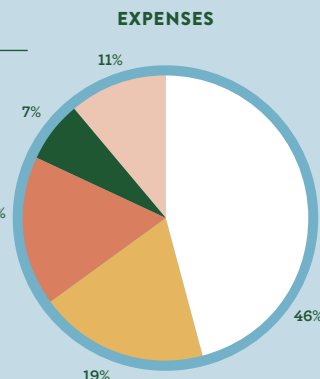
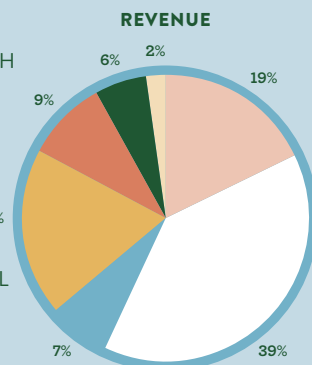
- EDUCATION & OUTREACH  
\$609,551
- FACILITIES  
& LAND MANAGEMENT  
\$251,771
- FUNDRAISING  
\$225,269
- MANAGEMENT & GENERAL  
\$145,762
- MARKETING  
\$92,758

**TOTAL EXPENSES**  
**\$1,325,112**

**NET OPERATING  
REVENUE\*\***  
**-\$206,418**

PPP LOAN/  
GRANT RECEIVED\*\*\*  
\$209,800

**NET OPERATING  
INCOME INCLUDING  
PPP LOAN/GRANT**  
**\$3,382**



\*\*Excludes depreciation and other year-end adjustments.

\*\*\*The NCSL received a Payroll Protection Program Loan of \$209,800 to supplement its budget during the shutdown due to COVID-19. NCSL complied with all aspects of the program and fully expects the loan to be forgiven in full in 2021.

Our community saved this unique green space not only to PRESERVE the habitats, but to PROVIDE outdoor experiences that ENGAGE and EDUCATE all.

Today, we are called together to STRENGTHEN that legacy by investing in our outdoor classroom to further ENHANCE those experiences—both formal and informal, personal and shared—that will ENRICH our community now and into the future.



### ENHANCING YOUR OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

CAMPAIGN for  
THE NATURE CENTER  
at SHAKER LAKES

The Nature Center's role in our community has become even more apparent in the last year as thousands have flocked to our trails during COVID-19. Public natural areas like the Nature Center are essential community infrastructure for health and well-being and as such, **we saw a 270% increase in trail usage since the pandemic began.**

Fortunately, we have been able to accommodate this surge in visitors with one of the largest highlights of Fiscal Year 2020—the grand opening of our **NEW All People's Trail**. With its larger observation areas and new features such as the Rose Foundation Gazebo and the Cleveland Foundation North Woodland Trailhead, the trail has drawn new visitors to experience and connect with nature. Its construction was made possible by our campaign supporters to date, who have invested in the Nature Center's comprehensive, multi-year vision—**Enhancing Your Outdoor Classroom: A Campaign for the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes.**

In May 2020, we began construction on the **Stearns Woodland Trail**. This spring, we plan to move forward with the final phase of the campaign, which includes a treehouse, new community trailhead entrances, parking lot improvements, and new wayfinding and interpretive signage that will help visitors interact with and learn from our habitats.

In the coming months, look for new, exciting opportunities to join us as we move into the final phase of **Enhancing Your Outdoor Classroom**. As the campaign nears completion and we work to expand our capacity to meet the growing needs of our region, your support will be critical in continuing to provide free, outdoor experiences to people of all ages and abilities.

Learn more at [shakerlakes.org/outdoorclassroom](https://shakerlakes.org/outdoorclassroom).

