

22-23

Annual Report

Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023



Botanical Garden
of the Piedmont

We'll Grow Together





“

Adding an Advisory Council to BGP helps support the Board of Directors through strategic thinking, specialized information, experience and skills to supplement and help the Board achieve its mission and goals.”

— JOAN SWANBERG

Co-chair of the Advisory Council and former Board President

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Greetings

FY 2022–2023 helped the Garden spread its roots in many ways including the adoption of a core values statement: “Inspiring connection, learning, and joy through nature.”

Throughout the year, the Garden benefitted from the inspired leadership of a new Advisory Council, our many volunteers who generously donated their expertise in so many different ways to develop a project of this size, and the staff who were inspired to reach out into the community to host more programs on site and build strong relationships with the local organizations.

The Garden’s connections continued to grow and flourish this year. They include a matching grant from the Perry Foundation and gifts of support from local businesses, our new architectural partner tasked with bringing our world-class aspirations to life, and new event partners and sponsors.

The Board and staff continue to learn from the volunteers, donors and community about how this Garden can best serve the community and what it takes to build a world class Botanical Garden. In return, we have provided walks, talks, and classes to share the wonders of the natural world with our visitors. This year we have expanded the programs offered on the Garden site and instituted a year-round Educational Coordinator position.

There has been a lot of joy in the Garden this year through improvements to the organization and the land. We are grateful to all the volunteers who are providing services to support the

Board and staff in charting the course for the future, and to the partner organizations who help us care for the site and make it possible to host programs, tours, and local pollinators. We are especially excited about activating the South side of the stream and the new features on the northside. We hope the Garden sparks joy in all our visitors and contributors.

FY 2022–2023 expanded the Garden in many ways, including our ability to work with the land near the railroad tracks through a beautification lease with the Norfolk Southern Railway. It’s been wonderful to be able to remove invasives and extend the boundaries of stewarded nature on the site. We offer connections to nature through educational programs, specialized tours, our new blog, and the photo archives we are building to document the beautiful wildflowers and wildlife taking advantage of the Garden’s haven of native plants.

Thank you for the many ways that you are helping the Garden grow!

In gratitude,



Christine Palmer



Jill Lickman-Marks



Mission, Vision, Values

Mission Statement

The mission of the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont is to welcome all community members and visitors to engage in nature, to inspire learning through the beauty and importance of plants, to advance sustainability, and to promote human and environmental well-being.

Our Vision, Today and For the Future of the Garden

Create and maintain the Garden designed to unite plants natural to our region with appropriate architecture and landscape design.

Provide access to the Garden and its natural spaces for exploration, observation, and restoration.

Present affordable, engaging programming to provide educational and inspirational experiences for all ages.

Commit to inclusion, excellence, and upstanding management while maintaining a positive impact on the eco-system and our community.

Core Values

Inspiring connection, learning and joy through nature.

Inclusion Statement

The Botanical Garden of the Piedmont brings people of all ages and backgrounds together as a community to celebrate and nurture our native flora and fauna. The organization embraces inclusion by inviting everyone to participate in the Garden whether they be visitors, supporters, volunteers, or staff, to further our goal of being a place that promotes human and environmental well-being. In nature and in society, diversity matters—we welcome and celebrate it!





We accomplished the following objectives toward our goal to create and maintain the Garden to unite plants native to our region with complimentary architecture and landscape design:

- Approval of revised landscape schematic plan by Charlottesville City's Department of Parks and Recreation (August 2022), Charlottesville City Council (November 2022), and the Albemarle County Planning Commission application for Compliance with the Comprehensive Plan (January 2023). This allowed for BGP to move on to the next phase of the landscape design of the Garden.
- BGP issued an RFP for architectural services in September, 2022. In January 2023, 15 architecture firms came for a mandatory tour and information session. In March, eight proposals for services were received and in June, BGP announced their selection – Maryann Thompson Architects – to design the buildings in the Garden.

“

Since cleanup began in 2019, the Garden property has become a healthier and more diverse habitat for plants, birds and aquatic life. In the past four years, corporate partners and community volunteers have developed and maintained trails and gathering areas, clearing debris, trash, and invasive species from the Garden site.”

— LLOYD SNOOK

Mayor of Charlottesville





“

The Garden is quiet, peaceful and contemplative, with lots of bird activity, and it's right here in the city! It's not just what it will be someday, it's a wonderful place to be NOW.”

— WENDY AND
CARLTON CARROLL
Garden volunteers



Explore the Garden Now

Our progress toward our goal to provide access to the Garden and its natural spaces for exploration, observation, and restoration included the following:

- With money from a Ballyshannon Fund grant, last fall we began stewarding the site south of the stream. In January the work continued with a lot of help from our friends on MLK Day of Service. In June the work continued with targeted removal of invasive plants.
- Low to no cost site improvements built with donated materials and volunteer labor on the north side of the stream, including a small amphitheater.
- Several Eagle Scout projects, including a wheelchair accessible table, benches, birdhouse renovations, and a labyrinth.
- The Virginia Bluebird Society donated and installed two bluebird boxes, including the Garden on the Virginia Bluebird Trail.
- Volunteers from the Building Goodness Foundation installed a new information kiosk on the south side of the stream.





Our efforts to present affordable, engaging programming to provide educational and inspirational experiences for all ages include the following:

- Ellie Forney served as our summer volunteer assistant Education Coordinator.
- We offered regular programs in Arts, Literacy, STEM, and special seasonal events.
- We hosted a special event with Bennett's Village, based on the book *Just Ask!* by Sonia Sotomayor
- Our Earth Day festival was part of the TomTom Festival.
- We hired Bruce Gatling-Austin as our full-time Educational Coordinator, enabling us to offer year-round educational programs to the public.



“

As a champion for environmental protections, I applaud the efforts of BGP to make the site welcoming and usable, their proactive outreach to the community, and their proximity to a diverse population living within a small radius of the Garden.

— CREIGH DEEDS
Senate of Virginia





“

*Many dedicated
volunteers have held
on tenaciously and
worked hard over
the years to arrive at
this wonderful time
when we are seeing the
Garden take shape
before our eyes!”*

— RUTH KASTENMAYER
Volunteer archivist



Community Outreach, Support and Volunteers

Our commitment to inclusion, excellence, and upstanding management while maintaining a positive impact on the ecosystem and our community included the following efforts:

- Volunteer Outreach intern Nancy Etro, a graduate student in UVA's Master of Environmental Planning program provided a community research project entitled "Community Outreach Recommendations".
- We established an Advisory Council, composed of nineteen local residents with unique perspectives and/ or expertise to help guide the growth of the Garden.
- We provided more than 100 tours and presentations to groups and organizations, including Charlottesville United for Public Education, Farmington Breakfast Club, Parks & Rec Advisory Council, Blue Ridge Rotary Club, PHAR, Cville, and the Music Resource Center.
- We provided program space to outside groups such Links, Inc., Albemarle Garden Club, Blue Ridge PRISM, CATS, Scouts, and others.
- Corporate and foundation gifts to the Garden came from came from Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation, Perry Foundation, Lumos, Prana Fund, Bama Works, Virginia National Bank.





Our Impact

35% of Grants Awarded

The volunteer Grant Writing Team continued to impress, with a record of being awarded over 35% of the 28 prospective grants. These grants funded all of the programming and much of the costs for stewarding the Garden site.

The Bama Works Fund of Dave Matthews Band continued to fund the educational component of our Stream Restoration Project and the Prana Fund Grant supported our “Create with Nature” program.

The grant from the Ballyshannon Fund continued to steward the land and the Bessie Bocock Carter Award from the Garden Club of Virginia provided funding for a new pollinator education program.

3,634

FY 2023 Volunteer Hours

1,739

Attendance at Events

including tabling

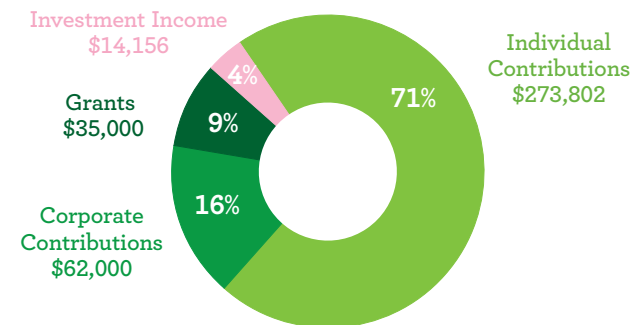
71 Programs Offered

including tabling

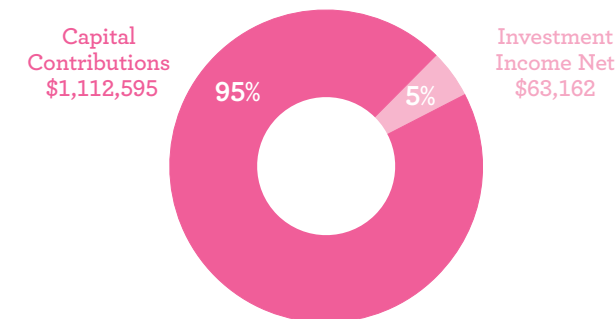


Financials FY 2022-2023

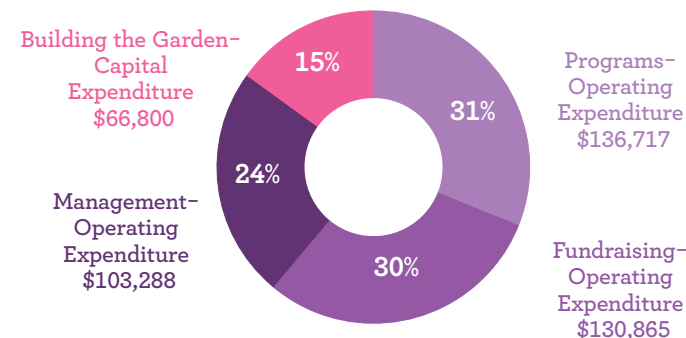
Operating Revenue Total: \$384,958



Capital Revenue Total: \$1,175,757



Operating and Capital Expenses Total: \$437,670



For the first time this year, our audited financial statements reflect the in-kind land use contribution from the City of Charlottesville. Recognition of these non-cash items is required by the IRS. For our fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the in-kind value of our land lease reflected in our audited Statement of Financial Position was \$24,677,978 based on the appraised value of the land that the Garden occupies. The audited Statement of Activities reflects an in-kind contribution of \$634,811 for the land use. Since these non-cash items do not affect the actual operation, building and maintenance of the Garden, they are not reflected in this financial presentation.

The Board of Directors and staff of the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who supported the organization by making a contribution between July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023. Through the dedication and generosity of our supporters, we are able to continue our mission to build a premier public Garden in Charlottesville.

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This year we are thrilled to list our Donor Honor Roll.

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PO Box 6224
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