

**Earthplace** serves a unique role in our community – transforming the way we look at nature. Each year thousands of school children, families, and visitors of all ages come through our gates looking for nature in a trail walk, animal visit or quiet reflection on a bench in the woods. Each of us connects with nature in our own way – our job here at Earthplace is to help find that connection.

Every day we work with individuals and groups to develop a lifelong relationship with the natural world. In today's culture of multiple distractions and shorter attention spans, this role has become both more critical and more challenging. Richard Louv, author and journalist, says it best: ***“The future will belong to the nature-smart—those individuals, families, businesses, and political leaders who develop a deeper understanding of the transformative power of the natural world and who balance the virtual with the real. The more high-tech we become, the more nature we need.”***

Today, many fewer children are connecting with nature and, in turn, not developing an environmental ethic. Millennials in particular, if disconnected, will not influence family decisions with conscious regard for the planet, and also not assume the leadership of tomorrow necessary to protect our natural resources.

At Earthplace, we feel strongly that **if we, as a society, do not dramatically increase the value of nature, little else will matter**. Our greatest opportunity to do this is to instill a passion and respect for nature and its creatures in the hearts and minds of youth, and provide access to nature for all. That is the purpose of Earthplace.

## About Earthplace

The mission of Earthplace is to build a passion in our community for nature and the environment through education, experience, and action. **We envision a sustainable community where conscious regard for the natural world guides individual actions.** Earthplace works toward our mission every day by providing a diverse continuum of hands-on, nature-based learning experiences throughout childhood into young adulthood, as well as environmental education programs for teens and adults.

## History

Earthplace has been based in Westport, Connecticut since its founding in 1958. The organization has grown to include many mission-related resources including a nationally accredited preschool, Natureplace interactive discovery area, and our renowned water quality research program, Harbor Watch. Our nature sanctuary consists of 62 contiguous acres of open space that supports a variety of habitats and several miles of walking trails—including a universal access trail suitable for wheelchairs and strollers and a 120 seat amphitheater. The outdoor facilities are open to the public from dawn to dusk, every day. We are also home to a live Connecticut Birds of Prey Exhibit and an indoor Animal Hall. **An estimated 10,000 visitors enjoy the trails each year, engaging the natural world on quiet walks and cultivating a conscious regard for their surrounding environment.**

## Programs

Earthplace offers programs in early childhood education, water quality research, nature discovery, animal care, sanctuary exploration and environmental awareness. We are looking to the future with a reimagined Natureplace interactive discovery area, increasing our interpretive signage to enhance the experience of each visitor and expanding the number of staff naturalists to provide enrichment to each age group. We want to follow the science to educate about climate change and train the next generation of citizen scientists. ***“Passion is lifted from the earth itself by the muddy hands of the young; it travels along grass-stained sleeves to the heart. If we are going to save environmentalism and the environment, we must also save an endangered indicator species: the child in nature.” (Richard Louv)***

## 10 Reasons Earthplace Makes a Difference

1. 84 total acres of protected land where visitors can explore nature at their own pace and in their own way.
2. Educators who provide nature-based learning, the outdoors as the playground, and live animals as teaching assistants.
3. Harbor Watch – our water quality research program conducts over 4,000 tests that provide actionable data to protect our local waterways.
4. Outdoor events that connect a community of friends with a shared appreciation for the natural world.
5. Volunteers who satisfy their love for nature by caring for our animals, trails and waterways.
6. A trusted local resource that promotes environmental understanding and a sustainable community.
7. High school and college intern programs that prepare students for careers in the natural sciences.
8. Environmental Learning Series which presents film screenings, panel discussions, and subject matter experts that invite dialogue on a variety of environmental topics.
9. Over two miles of wooded trails open to the public from dawn to dusk.
10. More than 50 resident animals that offer visitors the opportunity to explore the behavior, habitat and diet for a wide variety of species.

## Testimonials

"I have kept the lessons I learned at [Earthplace] with me throughout my life. The hands on approach to conservation [was] critical in educating me on the necessity of the protection of natural resources and the importance of good environmental stewardship."

– **Commander Daniel Caldwell, United States Naval War College**

"Working at [Earthplace] was a life changing experience. I volunteered from 7<sup>th</sup> grade until I graduated high school. My time there set me on a path that led to some amazing experiences and a lifelong commitment to science."

– **John T. Kelley, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Biology & Environmental Science, University of New Haven**

"There is always a walk waiting for me at Earthplace – 365 days a year."

– **Earthplace Member & Donor**

## Contacts

### **Tony McDowell**

Executive Director

t.mcdowell@earthplace.org

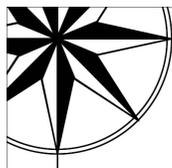
203-557-4401

### **Sophie Pollmann**

Director of Marketing & Development

s.pollmann@earthplace.org

203-557-8406



★★★★  
**CHARITY NAVIGATOR**  
Four Star Charity

For the third consecutive year, Earthplace has earned a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator. Attaining the coveted 4-star rating verifies that Earthplace exceeds non-profit industry standards and has demonstrated strong financial health as well as a commitment to accountability and transparency.

## Earthplace Corporate Sponsorship Levels



### Eagle

\$10,000/year | 3 year commitment

- Company logo on Earthplace website for duration of sponsorship
- Platinum Sponsorship for all events for duration of sponsorship including recognition in all digital, print and verbal acknowledgments
- Feature in one of two annual print newsletters (1,500 distribution)
- Acknowledgment in Annual Report (1,500 distribution)
- Twice annual corporate volunteer day with guided trail walk with Earthplace naturalist
- Time in nature is proven to improve emotional and physical wellbeing:

**Physical Health Benefits:** Outdoor activities such as nature walks and hikes are physically enduring activities that are beneficial for one's health and physical wellbeing.

**Mental Health Benefits:** Simply being amongst nature is proven to decrease stress, and you can test your mind by absorbing new knowledge about nature.

**Social Benefits:** Enjoying an outdoor activity as a group improves social skills as well as team building and problem solving skills.

**Productivity Benefits:** By releasing stress through an nature-based, outdoor activity, people become more motivated, increasing their productivity with their job and their personal life.

**Environmental Benefits:** Not only will volunteerism at Earthplace help us care for our sanctuary, but getting outside and exploring the natural world helps us develop an appreciation for the environment, the environmental issues we face today, and how we can make a difference to improve the environment, locally and globally.

- 4 tickets to each of three major events (Garden Party Gala, Cocktails & Clams and Woodside Bash) *decreases charitable contribution*
- 10 tickets to Earthplace Festival



### Hawk

\$5,000/year | 3 year commitment

- Company logo on Earthplace website for duration of sponsorship
- Gold Sponsorship for all events for duration of sponsorship including recognition in all digital, print and verbal acknowledgments
- Feature in one of two annual print newsletters (1,500 distribution)
- Acknowledgment in Annual Report (1,500 distribution)
- Annual corporate volunteer day with guided trail walk with Earthplace naturalist  
*See benefits listed above*
- 2 tickets to two of three major events (choose from Garden Party Gala, Cocktails & Clams and Woodside Bash) *decreases charitable contribution*
- 6 tickets to Earthplace Festival

### Owl

\$2,500/year | 3 year commitment

- Company logo on Earthplace website for the duration of sponsorship
- Silver Sponsorship for all events for duration of sponsorship including recognition in all digital, print and verbal acknowledgements
- Annual Report Acknowledgement (approximately 1,500 distribution)
- Annual corporate volunteer day with guided trail walk with Earthplace naturalist
- 2 tickets to one event of choice (choose from Garden Party Gala, Cocktails & Clams and Woodside Bash) *decreases charitable contribution*
- 4 tickets to Earthplace Festival



Earthplace would be happy to customize a sponsorship package to suit your unique marketing needs.