



Earthplace

10 Woodside Lane
Westport, CT 06880
earthplace.org

Non-Profit Org
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #7
Westport, CT



Earthplace By The Numbers

Nature Programs

- 50** Teachers from Cranbury School participated in our first nature-based Professional Development Day
- 68** Girl scouts and **50** boy scouts earned badges through our workshops
- 1800+** Students joined us for outdoor programming

Preschool

- 75** Returning families from school year 2022/2023
- 252** Animal programs attended
- 452** Music and dance classes performed
- 2,000+** Markers used

Animal Hall

- 1** New oasis created for Lotus the Diamondback Terrapin
- 35** Wild vultures visited our birds of prey
- 100+** lbs of vegetables and edible flowers grown in our garden

Summer Camp

- 16** Canoe trips down the Saugatuck River
- 28** Field trips to local habitats
- 166** Campers from other states
- 457** Campers total

Trails & Grounds

- 3** New interpretive signs installed at Partrick Wetlands
- 50** Participants observed nocturnal insects at our Moth Ball lightsheeting event
- 258** Species observed and added to our "Earthplace Trails" iNaturalist project

Harbor Watch

- 1** New boat
- 7** Environmental research projects
- 22** Waterways monitored in **12** towns
- 200** High school & college students taught
- 2000+** Samples processed for bacteria

2023 Annual Report

To our Stakeholders: I am pleased to share our most recent financial report for our fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 and honor our many loyal supporters who helped position Earthplace for a sustainable future.

I am humbled and thankful to be part of a legacy institution with generous supporters across generations who have allowed us to expand our mission. Across our programs, we continue to embrace the joys of being outside, and making nature feel like home in the hearts of children of all ages. Thanks to our talented professional staff, and the generous support from our community, I am pleased to report we continue to grow our reach and have solid financial footing closing our 65th year in service to Fairfield County.

Nature Discovery

Building on last year, Earthplace memberships and daily admissions continue to grow. Our 62 acres and two miles of trails are attracting more visitors who benefit from 11 interpretive signs featuring local plants, animals, and ecosystem details. In 2023, at our nearby 22-acre Partrick Wetlands, we added a new boardwalk for easy circumnavigation and three interpretive signs to enhance self-guided trail walks through that unique nature preserve.

Environmental Learning

Harbor Watch, our renowned water quality research team, co-led the launch of a coordinated Long Island Sound bacteria monitoring network to fill existing data gaps and ensure high quality data is being collected and shared. Staffed by four full-time scientists, their continued research and data collection includes partnerships with academic and research organizations across the region. In 2024 Harbor Watch plans to expand their mission to include active measures to reduce trash in local estuaries.

Ten years ago, I penned in this space: "Earthplace has been known by local residents as a 'diamond in the rough.'" Today, thanks to our many supporters and partners, it has regained its position as a regional treasure and educational resource for the wider Fairfield County community.

See you on the trails,

Tony McDowell
Executive Director

After 65 years, our co-founder's mission holds true:
"To foster informed stewardship of our natural world."
– Dr. Andreas E. Laszlo, 1958

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It is with our deepest thanks that Earthplace recognizes and honors each and every donor. With your support, you become a partner in our mission to build a passion for nature and the environment in the community through environmental education, experience, and action. All gifts listed are from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. We have made every effort to be accurate and hope you will contact us if you see errors or omissions.

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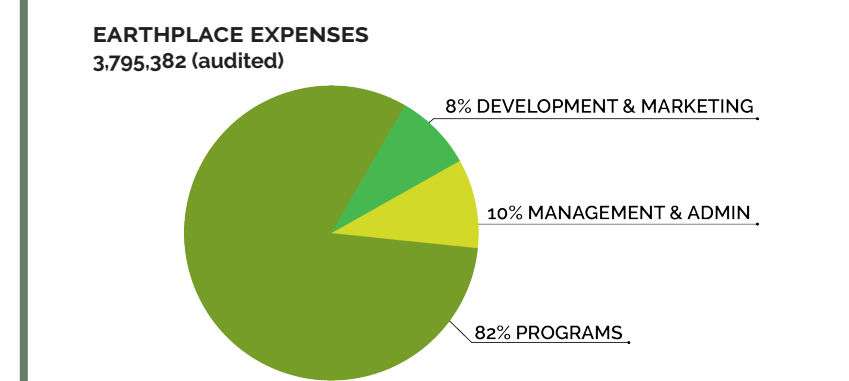
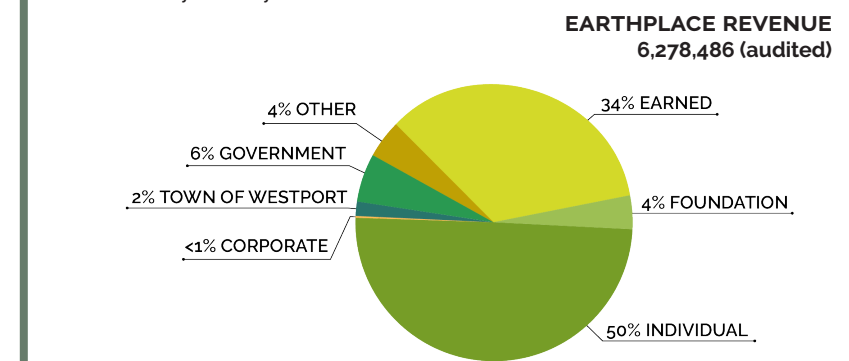
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‡ In Memory of Carol Rubenstein
* Deceased