



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

I AM PLEASED TO SHARE OUR ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTING THE UNIQUE ROLE EARTHPLACE PLAYS IN OUR COMMUNITY AS WELL AS OUR MOST RECENT FINANCIAL REPORTING.

In our fiscal year ending on June 30th, 2017, results show continued growth both in terms of program attendance and top-line revenue, including a record number of summer campers and a double digit growth in overall nature program attendance. We are also proud of the third consecutive year of positive operating results—a testament to the hard work of board and staff, and the generosity of all those who gave of their time, talent and treasure to make this year a success.

ANIMAL HALL

Success came the hard way for our animal residents who in April had to endure a fire, a move to new quarters and adjust to a freshly renovated Animal Hall. We are very grateful to the first responders who contained the smoke damage, and the staff and volunteers who provided seamless care for the animals.

AMPHITHEATER

Our new outdoor amphitheater/classroom adds another educational venue for all to enjoy. This summer we hosted our annual neighborhood block party featuring a program on the importance of bees as pollinators, as well as the first *Movie Under the Stars* which attracted over 140 kids and their parents to the amphitheater!

HARBOR WATCH

We measure success one river at a time. This past Harbor Watch monitoring season included testing on 18 waterways in 18 Fairfield County towns from Greenwich to Stratford—the biggest geographic reach in our 31 year history. We also now have six municipal contracts for pollution track-down work once problem areas are identified.

DEER EXCLOSURE

Work was recently completed on the half acre deer exclosure fence. This project was recommended as a result of our Conservation & Management Plan to prevent over-browsing by deer and to enhance the growth of native species.

At Earthplace, we work with individuals and groups every day to help develop and sustain a lifelong connection with the natural world. In today's culture of multiple distractions and shorter attention spans, this objective becomes both more critical and more challenging. Richard Louv, nature 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."*

As we look for ways to increase our value to the community, we are also very grateful for our many friends and supporters who share our mission and vision for the future. Please come by for a visit, and see what's new at Earthplace.

See you on the trails,

Tony McDowell
Executive Director

AT EARTHPLACE, WE ENVISION A COMMUNITY WHERE CONSCIOUS REGARD FOR THE NATURAL WORLD GUIDES INDIVIDUAL ACTION.

DONORS

It is with our deepest thanks that Earthplace recognizes and honors each and every donor to our Annual Fund. With your support, we become partners together in our vision of building a community where conscious regard for the natural world guides individual action. All gifts listed are from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. We have made every effort to be accurate and hope you will contact us if you see errors or omissions.

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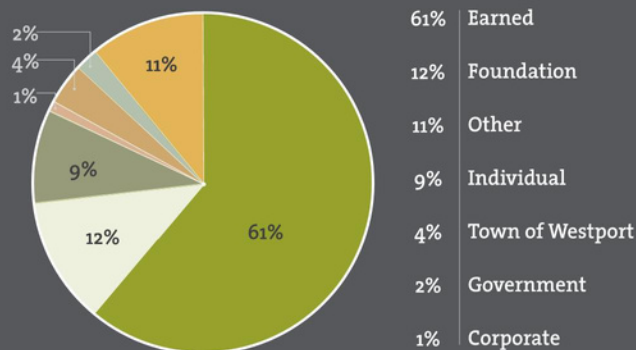
July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

In fiscal year 2017, we enjoyed a year-over-year revenue gain of \$20,798 and a small operating surplus of \$7,998 before depreciation. We also completed several capital projects including the new Amphitheater and a half-acre deer enclosure to promote understory growth. Our percentage of earned income kept pace with our overall revenue growth and 77% of our expenses were allocated to program delivery, both indicators of healthy programs and virtually unchanged from 2016. On the revenue side, foundation support grew from 9% to 12% while government support dropped from 5% to 2%. Generous private contributions and volunteers continue to provide the bulk of support needed to care for our 62 acre sanctuary and live animal exhibits. Thank you to all our donors listed on these pages!

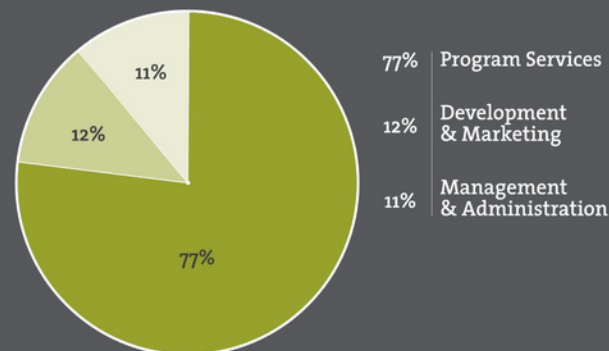
EARTHPLACE REVENUE:

\$2,283,552 unaudited



EARTHPLACE EXPENSES:

\$2,275,554 unaudited



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Earthplace

10 Woodside Lane
Westport, CT 06880
earthplace.org

Earthplace by the Numbers

HARBOR WATCH:

Tested thousands of water samples for **16** different water quality indicators

Evaluated **18** rivers in **18** towns across Fairfield County

316 unique monitoring locations – **50%** more than last year

Trained **43** high school and college interns in field and laboratory techniques including data analysis and use of research equipment

TRAILS & GROUNDS:

1 amphitheater/ outdoor classroom completed from onsite wood sources

4 new species planted in our Warren Memorial Garden: sweet pepperbush, prairie dropseed grasses, asters, and goldenrod

5 new species planted by Frog Hollow Pond: buttonbush, marsh marigold, and swamp milkweed

2 new aquatic plants planted by Frog Hollow pond: pickerelweed and arrow arum; both provide food and cover for animals as well as benefiting pollinators

All plantings are easily accessible and attractive to pollinators while not attractive to deer!

ANIMAL HALL:

16 Mammals

18 Birds & Raptors

15 Reptiles

8 Amphibians

Many bees, beetles & crabs

NATURE PROGRAMS:

40% enrollment increase in after school nature programming

1 beehive installed for observation outside Natureplace

5 teens hired as Natureplace summer Docents

3,892 students participated in K-8 school outreach programs

PRESCHOOL & CAMP:

2,500 children came to after school programs

7,600 individuals and families participated in community and family events



Our oldest animal is Zeke, an Eastern Box Turtle. He is approaching **43** years old!



★★★★★
CHARITY NAVIGATOR
Four Star Charity

Earthplace has received the highest rating from Charity Navigator, four stars for sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency.



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