



# 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 65<sup>th</sup> 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

## DONORS

*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.*

### DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE (\$10,000+)

Bauer Family Foundation  
Connecticut Humanities  
Connecticut Department of  
Energy & Environmental  
Protection  
Chris & Jim Corgel  
CT SeaGrant  
Richard & Marissa Ferguson  
Jeniam Foundation  
JS Howe Family Foundation  
Long Island Sound Study  
Marilyn M. Simpson  
Charitable Trust  
Michael B. Fales Irrevocable  
Trust  
National Fish and Wildlife  
Foundation  
New Canaan Community  
Foundation  
Tooker Family  
Town of Westport  
Malcom Weiner †

### STEWARD (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Anonymous Donor  
Athletic Brewing Company  
Elizabeth Raymond Ambler  
Trust  
Anonymous Donor  
Howe Family  
Jesse Family Charitable Fund  
Kiev Foundation  
Mark Kirby  
Lewine Family Foundation  
New Canaan Conservation  
Commission  
Elizabeth Sacksteder & Peter  
Harrar  
Chris & Denise Tait  
Yale New Haven Children's  
Hospital

### PROTECTOR (\$2,500-\$4,999)

Anand Family  
August Wealth Advisors  
David\* & Eunice Bigelow  
Brian Gold Charitable Trust  
Aaron & Liane Dahlke  
Dunne Family  
Greenfield Foundation  
Jamieson Family  
Linde Global Giving  
Diana & Chris Mashia  
McGrath Family  
Mianus Chapter of Trout  
Unlimited  
Norwalk River Watershed  
Association, Inc  
Read-A-Thon  
Saugatuck Financial  
Starwood Property Trust  
Craig B. Tate Foundation

Tito's Handmade Vodka  
Town of Wilton  
Veolia  
Andrew Wertheim & Sibyl  
Peyer  
Westport Rotary Club

### GUARDIAN (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Susan & Gregory Battersby  
Rick & Totney Benson  
Diana Bowes  
Barbara Britt\*  
Brown and Caldwell  
City of Norwalk  
Curated Cellar  
Eversource Energy  
Foundation  
Exxon Mobile  
Howard & Katherine Abel  
Foundation  
Mark Loughridge & Michele  
Williams  
Eileen Lavigne Flug  
Gichon Family  
H. Peet Foster  
Stephanie & Brian Foster  
Becky & Mike Goss  
Jacqueline Hamilton  
Michael Handwerker  
Katie Irwin  
Jeff Kaufman  
Steve & Yvette Kohn  
Sean McGee  
David & Molly McGrath  
Andrea & David Moore  
Outdoor Sports Center  
Kevin Rodman  
Jim Rossman & Lisa  
Cummings  
Carol Spears  
Brian & Barbara Stern  
Sullivan Family  
Target  
Town of Fairfield  
Westport Medical & Wellness  
Center, PLLC

### NATURALIST (\$500-\$999)

David Ader & Pippa Bell Ader  
Molly Alger & Jay Dirnberger  
Christa Andresky  
Aquarion Water Company  
Ian & Nancy Ashken  
Mark & Deborah Blackman  
Helen Martin Block  
Nancy Breakstone  
Bromberg Family  
Peggy & Matt Bud  
Michael Burns & Amy Bauer  
Chakraborty & Bhowmik  
Family  
Claudia & Arthur Cohen  
Kevin Conroy

Nancy & Glenn DeKraker  
Fairfield County's Community  
Foundation Hope Fund  
Thomas & Ann Feeley  
Ferrone Family  
Mary Foss-Skiftesvik  
Keith & Julia Frey  
Garden Homes Fund  
Clare & John Hare  
Herman Family  
Justin & Tara Hixson  
Insight Tutors, LLC  
Rady & Diane Johnson  
Kenta Family  
Hannah Knox  
Jackie Kolek  
Daryle Kowalsky  
Matthew Lillvis  
Matthew & Cara Mandell  
Jim & Mary Ellen Marpe  
Jeff Mayer & Nancy Diamond  
John Megrue  
Julie Oh & William Lutkins  
Palmer's Market  
Diane Parrish  
Pramer Oyster Company  
Rowayton Seafood  
Restaurant  
Everett & Sally Schenk  
Jane & James Spiller  
Ted Sullivan & Faith Taylor  
Town of Ridgefield  
Louise Washer  
Westport Garden Club  
Bill & Sally Wright

### SUPPORTER (\$250-\$499)

Ashley Antar  
Bai & Lee Family  
Chris Bell & Terri Egan Bell  
Ken Bernhard  
Damian Breier  
Gregg Buckbinder †  
William Chase  
Robert & Holly Chasin  
Mary Cordeau & Derek  
Sabine  
Datar Family  
Jo Ann Davidson  
James & Ginger Donaher  
Margaret Farley  
Richard & Dorothy Fincher  
David Fisher  
Kevin & Kerry Fitzgerald  
Bill & Nancy Gault  
Wendy Giffords & Jonathan  
Fleisig  
Goldberg Family  
John & Anna Henry  
Catherine Hill  
King Industries, Inc.  
Brooke Koller-Faloon & David  
Bier  
Helen & Sergei Lemberg  
Will & Jen Lloyd  
Lobdell Family  
Dick & Ellie Lowenstein  
Ed Mally  
Thomas Maloney  
William Cohen & Diane  
Mangano-Cohen  
Tony & Dede McDowell  
Patrick McKenna  
William & Andrea Pecoriello

Perkins Family  
Petterson Family Fund  
Pfaff Family  
Kristin & Terrence Purcell  
Gene & Sarah Qualman  
Rex Marine Center, Inc.  
Stephen & Frances Rowland  
Patrick & Danielle Ryll  
Kristy Scully  
Jay Sherwood  
Catherine & Bengt Stenbeck  
Emily Ashken Zobl & Tim Zobl

### SUSTAINER (\$100-\$249)

Melissa Banks  
Bayard Family  
Don & Dorothea Bell  
Ann Marie Bello  
Jay & Gabriela Bockhaus  
Duane Bollert  
M. Chapin Boyd & Pamela  
Wriedt-Boyd  
Owen & Ellen Bregman  
Carol Burgess  
Christopher & Janine Burke  
Chris & Susan Calger  
William & Carol Christiaanse  
Anthony Coscia  
Jacqueline Duvoisin  
Robert & Paula Elfont  
Susan S. Ellis & Byron Miller  
Barbara Evans  
Peter & Jane Eyes  
Harris & Elizabeth Falk  
Dan & Jenn Farrington  
Clifton & Justine Fink  
Michael Finn  
Walter Flor  
Mary Clay Flynn  
Peter Fraboni  
Luisa Francoeur  
Leigh Gallagher  
Mary Ellen Gallagher  
Lowrie Gibb  
Marta Godecki  
Peter Gold  
Jill Greenberg & Mitchell  
Lester  
Greens Farms Garden Club  
Dick & Pat Harris  
Houston & Lin Family  
Charles & Joanne Hoyt  
John Hubble & Jessica  
Caldwell  
Susan Kail  
Dan & Judyth Katz  
Elisabeth Keane  
Nancy Kenworthy  
John Koizim & Martha Castillo  
Timothy Kwong & Chelsea Li  
Frank Lang  
Larson Family  
Ashley Locke  
Richard Lowenthal  
Dorothy Lucas  
Katherine Lucas  
Benjamin & Jill Mann  
Adam & Jessica Mantzaris  
Dan Marcus & Andrew  
Bartolotta  
Lisa Martin  
Elizabeth McCance  
Mark & Nancy McDade

Pete McElroy  
Robert & Elizabeth McGrath  
Jessica McGroarty  
Don & Ellen McNees  
Leslie Meredith  
Mergenthaler Family  
Lisa Mezoff  
John & Barbara Moeling  
Lee Norman & Cynthia Gibb  
Palmer Family  
Edward Perrault & Laurie  
Goldberg  
Price Family  
John & Meghan Ready  
Fred & Kathryn Riccio  
Benjamin Riley  
Billie Gastic Rosado  
Mitchell Ross  
Joseph Scordato  
Jane Sherman  
Alan & Lynne Sherman  
Cynthia Sila  
Melissa Slattery  
Daniel & Jennifer Smailes  
Rick Smilow & Debi Berger  
Steve & Susan Smith  
Sonsino & Pazner Family  
Dawn Sullivan  
Jeff Swearingen & Gately  
Ross  
Gary Tannenbaum & Helen  
Mills  
Jim Torrey  
Bill & Val Vanzetta  
Vasale Family  
Nancy Vener  
Elizabeth Walton  
Robert A. Webber & Mary  
Filippelli  
Carey & Doug Weber  
Weisberg Family  
Tim & Margot West  
Penny Wickey

### FRIEND (<\$100)

Carol Anne Ances  
Dan & Maureen Aron  
Nancy Axthelm  
Kyle Baker  
Edward Barnhart  
Tom Barrell & Lori Romick  
Peter & Jody Boyd  
Zoë Browne  
Randy Burnham & Linda  
Hudson  
Arlo Bushell  
David Callan & Jalna Jaeger  
Cantatore Family  
Margaret Carkner  
Carnegie Family  
Erika Carter  
Cerabino Family  
Martha Coleman  
Davis Family  
Doug Donato  
Jason Earle  
Jane Eason-Purdue  
Falcone Family  
Jeff & Sharon Fiarman  
Ryan Flanagan  
Jennifer Formoso  
Jon Fraade & Rita Appel  
Suzanne Fruithandler  
Fullilove Family  
Giada Gallo-Quiroz

## LEGEND

† In Memory of Mary Padgett  
‡ In Memory of Carol Rubenstein  
\* Deceased

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023

Garcia & Farello Family  
Cindy Garcia  
Arline Gertzoff  
Jeffress Gouverneur  
Jennifer Gresinger  
Bill Hanrahan  
Erin Hayes  
Alex Henkes  
Hensel Family  
Raymond Hilson  
Dawn Hogan †  
Mary Hogue  
Jeff & Amelia Holl  
William Humphrey & Nancy Saipe

Martina Israely  
Kaljo Family  
Phil Kann  
Edward & Irene Karazin  
Kevin Kennedy  
Belinda Ker  
Ellen Kiernan  
Lance Klein  
Martin & Roberta Krauthamer  
Barry Kresch & Leslie Miller  
Jerry Kuyper  
Ann Lloyd  
Elizabeth Lockhart  
Richard & Christine Lorusso  
Ted Luchsinger  
Catherine Lynch  
Lori Martello  
Mary Meany

Antonio & Sandra Paz Mini  
Diane Mongiardo  
Marcia Moreno-Baez  
Carolynn Olsen  
Cornelia Olsen  
Janey Peterson †  
Carla Pizarro  
Nicholas & Barbara Pizarro  
Joseph & Gesa Raciz  
Stephen & Barbara Raffel  
Dominic & Lisa Rispoli

Eric Riznyk  
Bob & Judy Rosenkranz  
Heidi Rowen  
Mateusz Rozbicki  
Molloy Rubin  
Mike Russo  
Lee & Brooke Scharfstein  
Louis Schede & Amanda Ingrassia  
Shah-Nathwani Family  
Allen & Leslie Silberman  
Connie Slimmon  
Catherine Smith  
Jan Sopko  
Hannah Spencer  
Spiller Family  
Dolores Steady  
Alana Stein

Stephen & Linda Stein  
Richard Steinschneider  
Peter Swift  
Frances Vallery Thomas  
Robert & Abby Tolan  
Sofia Toomey  
Norman Trepner & Susan Thomsen  
Diane Ugrin  
Upwell Coffee  
Ventrella Family  
Rowene Weems  
Georgiana White  
Andrew Zimmerman

### IN KIND

Athletic Brewing Co.  
Atlantic Clam Farms  
Barton & Gray Mariners Club  
Black Bear Wines & Spirits  
Brescome Barton, Inc.  
Broken Symmetry  
Carefree Boat Club  
Copps Island Oysters  
Dunkin' Donuts  
Elicit Brewing Co.  
Fjord Fish Market  
Izzo & Son Country Gardens  
MoCA Westport  
NewSylum Brewing Co.  
Nod Hill Brewery  
Oriental Food Market  
REI Co-op  
Sacred Heart University  
Sap!  
Silvermine Arts Center  
Stew Leonard's  
Stop & Shop  
The Home Depot  
Tito's Handmade Vodka  
Trader Joe's  
Westport Journal

### COMMUNITY PARTERS

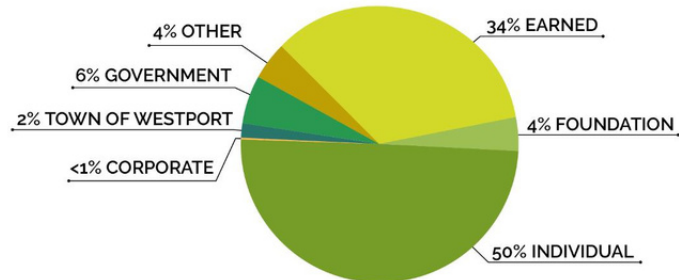
ACCESS Educational Services  
Backyard Bee Keepers  
Builders Beyond Borders  
City of Bridgeport  
City of Norwalk  
City of Stamford  
Eagle Scouts  
Greens Farms Academy  
Greens Farms Garden Club  
Housatonic Valley Association  
Interstate Environmental Commission  
New Canaan High School Green Team  
New Canaan High School Science Team

In Fiscal Year 2023, we experienced a year-over-year revenue gain of 71% compared to 2022 results, and an operating surplus of \$2,483,104 after depreciation. The biggest driver was a legacy gift of approximately \$2.4 Million from former Board Chair Nancy Fales which pushed our unrestricted net assets to \$4.9 Million. Our operating results also benefitted from an 18% improvement in earned income over fiscal year 2022.

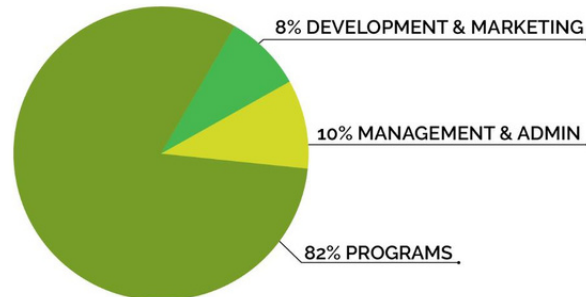
This report is based on audited results of continuing operations and include a small non-recurring government grant of \$4,101. Our inbound and outbound nature programs and summer camp showed the biggest jumps in attendance and geographic diversity.

We are pleased to report that our regular individual giving continues to increase. We rely on contributions from campaigns and events to support our nature programs and exhibits, Harbor Watch and our 62-acre nature sanctuary. We are extremely grateful for the generous, on-going support from our community and beyond!

### EARTHPLACE REVENUE 6,278,486 (audited)



### EARTHPLACE EXPENSES 3,795,382 (audited)



Northeastern University  
Norwalk River Watershed Association  
Norwalk River Watershed Initiative  
Sacred Heart University  
Sasco Brook Pollution Abatement Committee  
Save The Sound/CT Fund for the Environment  
Silvermine Arts Center  
SLOBS  
Star, Inc.

Stew Leonard's  
Sustainable Westport  
The Commons  
The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk  
The Westport Library  
Town of Darien  
Town of Fairfield  
Town of Greenwich  
Town of New Canaan  
Town of Newtown  
Town of Ridgefield

Town of Stratford  
Town of Westport  
Town of Westport Shellfish Commission  
Town of Wilton  
Unified Water Study  
University of Connecticut  
Westport Farmers Market  
Westport Garden Club  
Westport Human Services Department  
Wilton High School Marine Biology Club

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Denise Persau Tait, *Board Chair*; A. Morris (Mo) Tooker, *Vice Chair & Treasurer*; Peggy S. Bud; Jim Corgel; Ariel Dunne; Dick Ferguson; Nikki Gorman, M.D.; Matthew Mandell; Diana Lawrence Mashia; Elizabeth Sacksteder; Emily Ashken Zobl; Kenneth Bernhard, *Board Attorney*; Tony McDowell, *Executive Director*

### HONORARY TRUSTEES

Barbara Britt; Rob Chasin; Kerry Fitzgerald; Helen Garten; Randy Glendinning; Jackie Hamilton; Ted Hampe; Stuart Hawley; John Horkel, *Executive Director Emeritus*; Diane Mangano-Cohen; Tom Pajolek; Carolyn Trabuco

Board list at the end of our fiscal year, June 30, 2023.



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

For more information on what's going on at Earthplace, visit [earthplace.org](https://earthplace.org).  
Earthplace is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that relies on the generosity of its supporters and members.