



FRIENDS *of* ANACOSTIA PARK



2022 Impact Report





CONTENTS

4	Letters from our Leadership
8	2022 by the Numbers
10	Friends Corp
11	Residencies
12	Experience AP
12	Anacostia Park Late Skates
14	Anacostia Environmental Youth Summit
15	Thrive DC
16	Respite Programming
18	Access AP
20	Corps Spotlight
24	Financial Information
25	Board of Directors
26	Our Supporters



Dear Friends,

If you are reading this report, it is likely because you supported our mission last year—through volunteer service, financial contributions or simply showing up when it mattered. Maybe you see your service as a small act of kindness, but believe us when we say that it is much, much more than that. When you support Friends of Anacostia Park and our community-driven conservation, you become a part of an environmental movement that is focused on the restoration of city parks and their neighboring communities.

Anacostia is unique in many ways, but the history of institutional neglect here is all too familiar. Yet, the outcomes contained in this report show that Friends of Anacostia Park—working with our ever-widening base of stakeholders like you—is undoing the legacy of disinvestment that have defined this area of the city for decades.

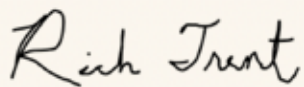
To avoid the inequitable development missteps of the past, Friends of Anacostia Park works with the National Park Service and many other partners to drive participatory planning that elevates the voices of residents in the Park revitalization effort. To address the health challenges of distressed communities, we power culturally relevant programming that promotes wellness and kinship throughout Anacostia Park. To help residents build wealth in their own neighborhoods, we create living wage employment opportunities in the Park for people who live nearby and promote a model of workforce development that other community-based organizations can replicate.

Your support of our mission is much more than a flash of generosity. It is a step toward building an equitable and inclusive nation, starting with our precious shared resources: parks. It is a journey that we cannot complete without your steadfast support. Thank you.

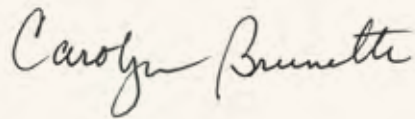
And if you are just getting to know us, we encourage you to visit the Park and see our mission in action. Come see Bruce Holmes of our Friends Corps lead Community Fishing every Saturday at the boat dock. Come see Phyllis Nelson (also of our Friends Corps) rattle off all her favorite go-go bands while grilling hamburgers for families.

Come see one of the last places in the city where strangers become neighbors over the course of a sunny afternoon.

Cheers,



Richard Trent
Executive Director



Carolynn Brunette
Board Chair





Letter from Superintendent Tara Morrison

The National Park Service (NPS) at National Capital Parks - East manages a diverse collection of parks, historic sites, parkways and recreational areas in the District of Columbia and Maryland. In caring for these sites, we also strive to be good neighbors and to serve community members and those who visit from far away. The NPS cannot do this work alone and values the work and commitment of partners in helping to achieve the NPS mission. Friends of Anacostia Park began with an idea in 2017 on how best to invest in Anacostia Park and its neighboring communities. Over the last few years, I witnessed the formation and was excited to welcome Friends of Anacostia Park as an official philanthropic partner in 2022. This is a testament to many people's efforts – all who are dedicated to supporting, enhancing, and championing the restoration, preservation, and activation of Anacostia Park. Together, we engage surrounding communities and improve access, experiences, and opportunities. In early discussions, it was clear the NPS and new Friends group must work to ensure the park is healthy for it to be a welcoming place that's beneficial to people's health and well-being.

Together, we have welcomed and engaged park neighbors and people from the broader community. Over the last year, Friends has increased park programming and presence in the park. From offering Late Skates at the only roller skating pavilion in the national park system to inviting community organizations into the park and serving our neighbors outside of the park, together we have made it a priority to reconnect people to Anacostia Park and invite those who have never visited to give it a try. Our shared goal is to make sure everyone feels that this is their national park – a place for respite and fun, a place to learn about the natural environment, and our collective responsibility to care for.

As we move forward, we are grateful to have Friends of Anacostia partner with us to ensure we hear community voices as we consider future investment in the park including improving access, enhancing recreational amenities, and making park infrastructure more resilient to flooding and extreme weather. In the meantime, we are working together to make sure the park is well-maintained and beautiful and will work together to seek funding for major improvements.

We could not be more excited about our partnership with the Friends of Anacostia Park and our work together to ensure that Anacostia Park is a vibrant and vital place—a shining example of a national park connected with its community.

Tara Morrison
Superintendent
National Capital Parks-East
National Park Service





Our partnership with the National Park Service

Working at the behest of the National Park Service—and in collaboration with Ward 7 and 8 residents—Friends of Anacostia Park (FoAP) ensures that the local community can access and enjoy Anacostia Park and benefit from its resources. We leverage the power of local residents and public/private partnerships to revitalize historic Anacostia Park, activate the space as a convening point and locus for inclusive community development. Moreover, FoAP believes that an Anacostia Park that functions as an educational resource for youth, an economic resource for parents, and a recreational resource for all families improves the health of the community and increases residents' capacity to serve as stewards of the ecosystem. Today, we work with the National Park Service to center the needs of the surrounding community in the revitalization effort and ensure that residents are plugged into the planning. We are people for the Park—and a park for the People.

2022 BY THE NUMBERS



28

Living wage opportunities created

4,462

Hours of outdoor programming for youth



9,600

Hours spent restoring the Park

800+

Youth participated in programs



25,000

Pounds of trash removed from the Park



200

Volunteers



OVER

2,000

Participants in Late Skate events

FRIENDS CORPS



Our Friends Corps workforce development program turns the revitalization of urban parks into an opportunity to connect residents of underserved communities with meaningful work opportunities and transferable skills. We hire returning citizens, seniors and young parents—populations that are often overlooked as job-seekers—and empower them to lead in-Park programming and conservation, preserve the land and water, maintain the facilities and welcome visitors with a smile. As such, we increase community access to the Park by strengthening the culture of outdoor exploration in this mostly BIPOC region of DC.



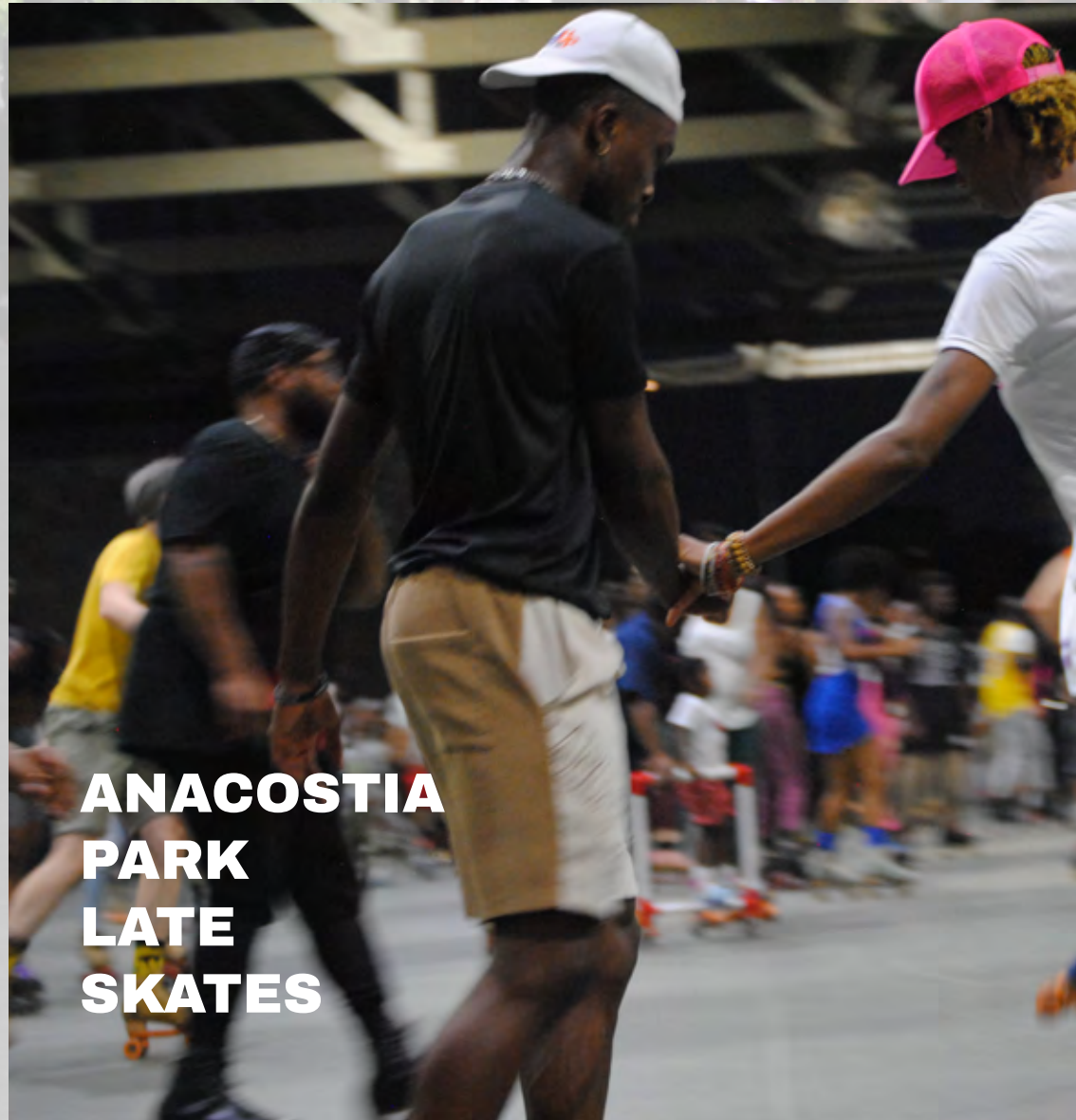
RESIDENCIES

There is a great deal of untapped wisdom and expertise in Anacostia, and the Residency turns Anacostia Park into a platform for highlighting community-led programming. In 2022, our residents led a wide array of programming, including:

- Stress management workshops
- Arts and crafts for seniors
- Emotional wellness seminars
- Group drumming lessons
- Nutritional health seminars
- Double Dutch clinic
- Jewelry making classes

EXPERIENCE AP

From May to November each year, partner programming brings the DC community together and promotes cultural exchange. We work with other nonprofits that care about the Anacostia community to power events meant to unite the community and protect the social and emotional wellness of park-goers.



ANACOSTIA PARK LATE SKATES



In 2022, FoAP convened residents at 5 different Late Skates—fostering kinship among 2,000+ attendees through:

- Free skate rentals
- Grilling
- Boat rides from the Anacostia Watershed Society
- Live skate performances from Rollway Productions
- Music from DJ Graylin and the LinkUp DC
- Tabling from local nonprofit partners.



ANACOSTIA ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH SUMMIT

In May, Friends of Anacostia Park partnered with the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) to host 400 3rd-8th graders in Anacostia Park for an interactive day of STEAM learning. Participating students learned about the Park's ecosystem and what they can do to become stewards of the environment. The National Park Service opened up skate rentals so that students could recreate with their friends, families and teachers.



Our out-of-school program, Thrive DC, provides high schoolers from Wards 7 & 8 with safe, positive respite and recreation options. We co-created programming with local schools and community partners to promote:

1. Social and emotional learning
2. Cognitive and academic development
3. Reducing risky behaviors
4. Maintaining mental and physical health
5. A safe and supportive environment for youth

Our long-term objective is to build and strengthen the outdoor education networks that serve children and their families in stressed communities.



RESPIRE

In total, the Friends of Anacostia Park Friends Corps members facilitated 8 outdoor respite events for seniors and returning citizens during our 2022 programming season. As keepers of the communal story, older adults hold the potential to guide the equitable development of revitalizing spaces—especially when they feel a sense of connection to those spaces. FoAP’s Senior Respite programming does more than simply show elders a good time outdoors; it also ensures that the restoration of the Park is rooted in a holistic narrative of the community that honors the folks who have enriched the land and water for decades. In partnership with Iona Senior Services, Victoria Square Senior Apartments, East of the River Strengthening Collaborative, Martha’s Table, and the DC Hand Dancers, FoAP convenes local elders to experience the Park through boat rides, grilling, and fishing on the River.



Finding peace of mind and forging lasting bonds with family can be difficult for returning citizens. To that end, we leverage outdoor exploration to help returning citizens reconnect with friends and family in a stress-free environment. Our respite summits—hosted in partnership with the Mayor’s Office of Returning Citizens (MORCA) and the National Reentry Network—provide space for returning citizens to engage with their families in a meaningful way. Families at that event participated in fishing, boat rides, and free skate rentals.



ACCESS AP

Friends of Anacostia Park is the official nonprofit partner of the National Park Service (NPS) in Anacostia Park. We ask people living near the Park what improvements they would like to see, and we work with NPS to fundraise and turn those ideas into reality. The Development Concept Plan (DCP) is the National Park Service's planning process for moving forward with park improvements, and we are supporting NPS and the DCP by sharing residents' hopes and concerns for the future of the Park with NPS.





CORPS SPOTLIGHT

WAYNE





“

I’ve been in and out of prison for about 30 years. It’s been a long time. I’m 71 years old now and it was hard for me to transition from prison life. I didn’t know where to go.

I was looking for a job at MORCA (Mayor’s Office of Returning Citizen Affairs), and a woman handed me a flyer. It said, ‘*No experience required*’ and it was at Anacostia Park. I came down and walked around a little while and said to myself, ‘These people are doing something good here. I mean, really helping people.’ So, I interviewed for the position, and I’ve been with the Friends Corps since.

The only place I ever found peace was in a park. I call it ‘from the street to the sweet’ because being here is comfortable. It’s peaceful, and I don’t have to walk around with my barriers up. People aren’t fighting or mean-spirited. I see sharing and lots of genuine love.

Everyone feels good about what they’re doing here—not just the Friends Corps but the community too. So I said, ‘Okay, yeah. This is where I want to be.’

”

Wayne never shies away from the task at hand. Whether it’s working with the grounds crew to remove invasive plants, building picnic tables, or roving the Park on a bike, Wayne says his “age is just a number”. He hopes to continue seeing repairs throughout Anacostia Park—as well as more environmental educational activities for kids to learn about trees and other plants.

CORPS SPOTLIGHT

PHILANA





“

I want to help kids, period. When I was growing up, I didn't have anyone. Nobody was there to advocate for me. A lot of the kids that come down here need a role model, so I try to step up and be that for them. That's a really big thing for me.

This one little girl asks the team to set up my crafts table before I even get to work. She knows everything that I put on it too. When we tell their parents everything is free, they are like, 'For real!?' You should see the smiles we put on people's faces. All I want to do is serve and help. Some people are afraid to ask for help because they've been scorned for needing something. Not here, we make sure the environment is loving and caring.

My best friend brought her kids here after they witnessed a murder on a football field near their home. She took them straight to Mr. Holmes and Mr. Bobby (of the Friends Corps). Once they started talking, fishing, and just enjoying each other's company, their mindsets shifted. Just like that their nightmares went away. No wonder people love it here.

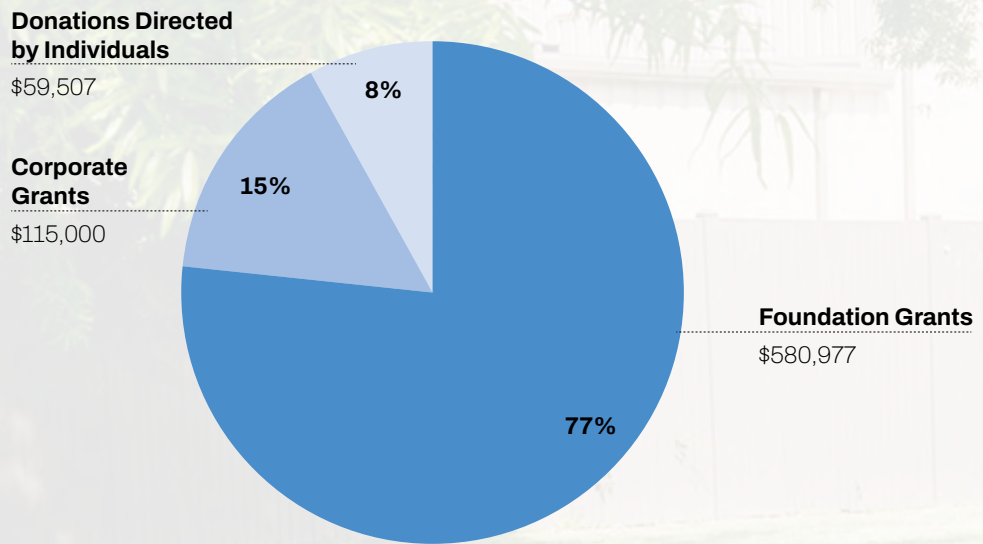
I'm thankful for this opportunity in many ways. It's hard to find work while I'm taking care of the boys. All three are in different schools. You should see me at 3PM trying to get to the first school; it's crazy. But, I've gained knowledge and resources that have helped me move towards my goals. We'll see what happens—I just know I'm blessed to be here.

”

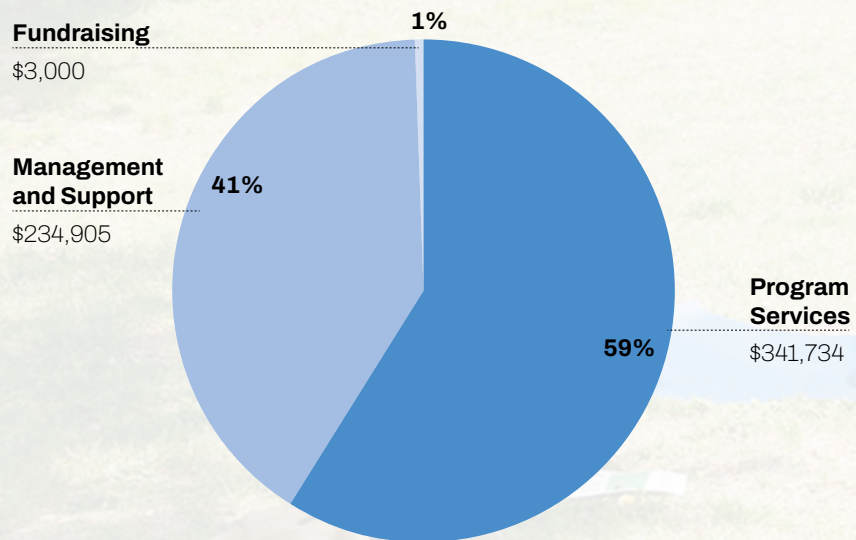
Mom, friend, co-worker, role model, creative, advocate—these are just a few of the roles Philana juggles day-in and day-out. In the next few years, Philana hopes to become a home health aide and turn her passion for art into a thriving business.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

CY 2022 Revenue



CY 2022 Expenses



Revenue	\$755,484
Expenses	(\$579,639)
Working Capital	\$175,845

FY23 Board of Directors

Caiti Anderson, Secretary

General Manager, REI Flagship (DC)

Carolynn Brunette, Chair

Managing Director, Prince Charitable Trusts

Gretchen Mikeska, ex-officio

Anacostia Coordinator, District of Columbia Department of Energy & Environment

Keisha Mims, Vice Chair

Special Projects, District of Columbia Office of the City Administrator

Tara Morrison, ex-officio

Superintendent, National Park Service; National Capital Parks-East

Kristin Rechberger

Founder and CEO, Dynamic Planet

Andy Shallal, Treasurer

Owner and Founder, Busboys and Poets

Anthony Williams

CEO, Federal City Council; former mayor of DC

FY23 Staff Leadership Team

Richard Trent

Executive Director

Akiima Price

Community Liaison

Lydia Daniel

Director of Programs

SUPPORTERS

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS

\$100,000 and Higher

The 11th Hour Project
The MARPAT Fund at Prince

\$50,000 - \$99,999

The Chesapeake Bay Trust
The Conservation Fund
REI Cooperative Action Fund
National Park Foundation
The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz
Foundation
CareFirst

\$25,000 - \$49,999

The DC Department of Energy
and Environment
Prince Charitable Trusts
Clean Water Action
Agua Fund
Nimick Forbesway Foundation
Diane & Norman Berstein
Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Anonymous
Anonymous
The Outdoor Industry
Foundation
General Motors
The Greater Washington
Community Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Diverse City Fund
Rock Spring Congregational
United Church of Christ

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Paul Albergo	Dana Kumar
Bryce Albin	Anna LaCombe
Georgios Anagnostopoulos	Mike Litt
James William Baxter	Sarah Maliakel
Sara Bernard	Keith A. Marzullo
Andrew Boyd	Erik Meyers
Emma Brownstein	Elana Mintz
Carolynn Brunette	Lamont Mitchell
Elise Cardinale	Brenu Nsiah
Janet Chen	Erin Palmer
Ronnie Coleman	Ruthanne Peebles
Alexander Denny	Keerthi Potluri
Craig Edelin (in honor of Ronald Edelin)	Tamina Leslie Pryor
Brianna Gavio	Roger Sant
Matthew George	Stephen Scheaffer
David Getachew-Smith	Stephen Sellers
Rebecca L. Goodstein	Will Shafroth
Reginald "Flip" Hagood	Michael J. Shank
Michael Halpern	Erin R. Shetter
Dira Hansen	Corissa Smith
Linnea Hegarty	Todd Spangler
Laura Hornbuckle	Siobhan Starrs
Wendy Hoskins	David Steer
William Irwin	Patrick Swann
Corinne Irwin	Duncan Taylor
William Katt	Ayanna Williams
Shawn Kinney	Leigh Wilson
	Dan Wolf

PEOPLE FOR THE PARK PARK FOR THE PEOPLE

Donate at friendsofanacostiapark.org/donate

