

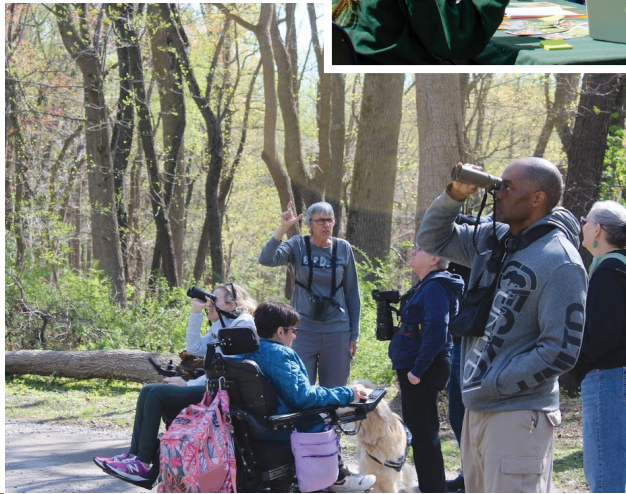
2024 Impact Report




The Schuylkill Center is rooted in resilience. The seasons show us that a dormant winter precedes a majestic and wild spring. In nurturing strong and stable roots, we are able to grow stronger. Our preschoolers build resilience on the trails, developing courage and confidence whose roots last a lifetime. The native plants that we distribute create a network of biodiversity, each one an oasis for wildlife in pots and gardens across our region.

For nearly 60 years, the Schuylkill Center has grown deep roots, becoming a place where a lifetime of connection to nature starts. The Center has been the site of beginnings, first experiences in the woods, the region's first accessible nature trail, a first job out of high school or college, the first nature preschool in Pennsylvania, and this year, the first accredited arboretum in Roxborough. Over decades, we see the benefits of our roots, as this landscape that used to be farmland has grown into a woodland habitat of tall, mature trees.

2024 is our first full year at 365 acres of preserved wilderness. 365 is an auspicious number for a nature center, an acre for each day as we ro-



of the growth and stewardship of our tree collection through the years. Through partnerships with Drexel University and the University of Pennsylvania we advanced scientific discoveries by using the Center as a living laboratory for research.

The roots reach down, and we reach up. Nature teaches us that our work is never done, that we are always growing, teaching, changing, and building. We are writing the story for the future of our wild landscape, the stewardship we've inherited, and what we must continue to nurture. As we look forward to our 60th year, we are thankful for your sustaining support. It is friends like you that keep the Schuylkill Center growing, and a place of deep roots, wild wisdom, and many firsts in nature for years to come. 

“Nature teaches us that our work is never done.”



tate around the sun. And it was a celestial year at the Schuylkill Center. We hosted a watch-party of the solar eclipse and shared darkened glasses and moon pies together with neighbors and friends. Like so many, we marveled at seeing the northern lights over our region.

This year we broke ground on the renovation of our Tall Trees Nature Playscape to transform it into the first fully accessible nature playground in our region. We became the first accredited arboretum in Roxborough, an important moment of pride for our community and a demonstration



ERIN MOONEY
Executive Director



MARILYN TINARI
*President,
Board of Trustees*

365 Days *on* 365 Acres



MAE AXELROD

Stewardship

- **26 labeled trees** in our accredited arboretum
- **3,710 native plants** sold in our plant sales
- **10 public volunteer days** to restore habitat, clean up our landscape, and maintain trails
- **20 Scouts** conducted experiments on air quality in the branches of our trees



Adventure

- **120 eclipse glasses** worn
- **1,392 people** attended events
- **960 campers** ages 4 to 12 spent summer days exploring and growing outdoors



MAE AXELROD

Education

- **53 Nature Preschoolers** learned in our forests and fields
- **90 toddlers** played outside during our Sprouts play groups
- **65 children** became Wild Wanderers during our after-school program
- **21 teachers** and pre-service teachers visited the Center to learn from our Nature Preschool
- **123 students** spent their days in nature during our popular Day Off Camps
- More than **3,000 Philadelphia students** attended field trips at the Schuylkill Center

Support

- **865 donors** supported our mission to inspire people with nature's wonders
- **295 people** joined our community of nature heroes as first-time donors
- **10,962 hours** of caring for wildlife, nature, and our community were given by volunteers



Wildlife

- **Treated 3,200** sick, injured, or abandoned wildlife
- **8 squirrel boxes** built by families
- **1,016 American toads** safely crossed the road assisted by volunteers



- More than **2,000 community members** delivered 136 different species to the Clinic
- Answered more than **4,500 messages** on our hotline 🐾

2024 Highlights

A Museum of Trees

This year, the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education became an official arboretum. Accreditation is awarded by the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program. The opening of the arboretum was celebrated in November with a tour led by Catriona Briger, board member and co-author of Philadelphia Trees. Visit the Schuylkill Center for a map of the arboretum and the opportunity to explore our tree collection!



Pollinator Paradise

Thanks to a grant from the Pennsylvania Native Plant Society, we seeded a butterfly meadow along our driveway. We chose deer-resistant perennials along with a native grass mix to create this haven for pollinators.



Improved Clinic Facilities

Thanks to funding from private donors and foundations, and the hard work of Neighborhood Contracting, we completed construction on a brand new row of enclosures at the Wildlife Clinic. These outdoor enclosures provide a safe environment for animal patients to acclimate back to the wild. Much like physical therapy for humans, these enclosures allow animals to practice foraging, flying, climbing, and socializing before being released into nature. Neighborhood Contracting returned to the Schuylkill Center in the fall for a day of volunteer action. Contractors and their children cleaned up trails, painted the building's exterior and built eight new squirrel boxes for recovering wildlife patients.



Sustainable Communities

A huge thank you to Green Philly for awarding the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education the TD Bank Sustainable Communities award in October. This award is given to organizations who raise awareness and expand access to sustainable solutions within the community.

Flying Wild

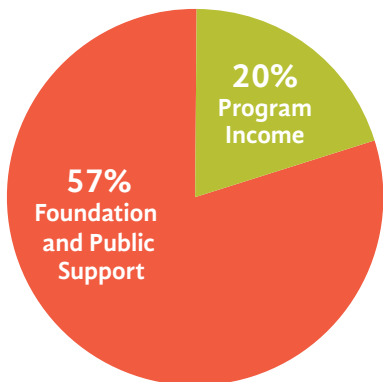
This spring, two fledgling Red-Tailed Hawks from separate nests were found in critical condition. One was attacked by crows leaving him with a massive open wound to the chest and a broken chest bone. The other was dehydrated and weak. Our rehabilitation team reacted quickly to help these birds recover. After a few months of intensive care the hawks were released. In 2024, we treated over 37% more raptors than last year.



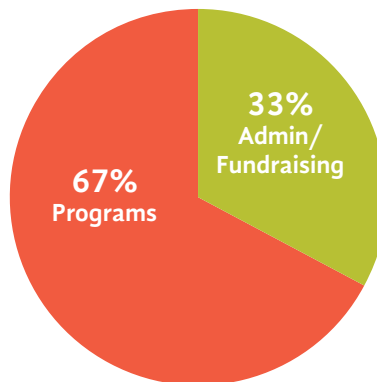
Cultural Ecology

This year, the Schuylkill Center received a \$360,000 grant from The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage to present TERRA: Bodies & Territories, a project led by movement artist Silvana Cardell exploring the deep connections between women's bodies and the earth. Next spring, this dance project will blossom with a series of workshops and performances. 🍁

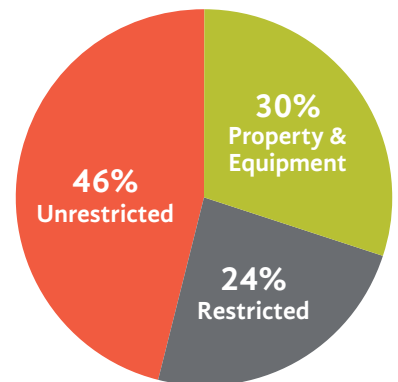
Financials as of June 30, 2024



OPERATING INCOME
\$5,886,457



OPERATING EXPENSES
\$3,506,536



TOTAL ASSETS
\$12,932,545



Patient Number 2000!

By July, we had accepted our 2,000th patient to the Wildlife Clinic, an American Kestrel that was found on Broad Street in Center City. This year, the Clinic accepted 3,200 patients.



GIFTS TO THE SCHUYLKILL CENTER ARE AN INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION, INSPIRATION, AND 365 ACRES OF PHILADELPHIA WILDERNESS.

**Volunteer.
Partner.
Give.
Share.
Plan.**



There are so many ways of giving—big and small—that advance our mission at The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education. Every dollar • hour • gift matters.

Thank you!

Stay Connected!

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BASTIAN SLABBERS

From the opening of the art exhibition: "Fire Season"