

2023 Annual Meeting

Friends of Baxter State Park

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

via Zoom Webinar

- 6:00 pm Welcome and Call to Order – *Ellen Baum, President*
- 6:05 pm Business Meeting
- Overview of Zoom tools for voting and participation – *Aaron Megquier, Executive Director*
 - Approval of the Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting
- ** Vote conducted via live poll during meeting ****
- Selected committee Reports
 - Finance Committee – *Nate Tefft, Treasurer and Chair*
 - Youth Programs – *Ryan Linehan, Chair*
 - Policy Committee – *Jerry Bley*
 - Nominating Committee Report and Election of Directors – *Josie Quintrell, Vice President*
- ** Vote conducted via live poll during meeting ****
- 6:20 pm Park Updates, followed by Q & A – *Nava Tabak, Natural Resource Director, Baxter State Park*
- 6:50 pm Program Updates & Member Forum – *Aaron Megquier, Executive Director*
- 7:00 pm Adjourn

**Friends of Baxter State Park
Minutes of Annual Meeting
April 7, 2022 via Zoom Webinar**

*** DRAFT FOR APPROVAL AT 2023 ANNUAL MEETING ***

Votes are recorded in this order: Favor-oppose-abstaining

Board Directors in attendance: (10) Ellen Baum (President), Josie Quintrell (Vice President), Nathan Tefft (Treasurer), Jerry Bley, Matt DeLaney, Alec Giffen, Peter Millard, Jim Mroch, Carla Ritchie, Steuart Thomsen

Board Directors not in attendance: (3) Jym St. Pierre (Secretary), Bill Green, Ryan Linehan

FBSP staff in attendance: Aaron Megquier (Executive Director), Mary Weitzman (Deputy Director), Rachel Spatz Bidstrup (Membership Coordinator), Cathy Brown (Communications & Outreach Coordinator)

1. Opening Remarks

At 6:01 pm, President Ellen Baum called the meeting to order and welcomed all the participants. She said we were on the verge of completing our first endowment campaign and thanked its 219 contributors. She recognized Steuart Thomsen and the Development Committee members for managing the campaign. Ellen introduced Rachel Spatz Bidstrup, our new Membership Coordinator. She mentioned we had just completed a new strategic plan, our first in 10 years, and updated our mission and vision statements. Executive Director Aaron Megquier then introduced participants to the Zoom tools, including instructions on participating in the evening's votes. He also alerted everyone that the meeting was being recorded.

2. 2021 Annual Meeting minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2021, Annual Meeting was made by Charlie Jacobi and seconded by Peter Millard. Using the Zoom polling tool, members voted 80-0-0 to approve the motion.

3. Committee reports

3.1 Finance Committee. Nathan Tefft, Treasurer and Finance committee chair, reported that we experienced an abnormal 2021. We weathered another year of the pandemic and launched our first endowment campaign, resulting in a significant increase in assets. We experienced a \$23k operating loss in 2021. This is close to the amount of our 2020 Paycheck Protection Program loan, which was not offered again in 2021. We prepared our 2022 operating budget based on our learning and experiences from the first two years of the pandemic, and can adjust it if needed.

3.2 Youth Programs Committee. Executive Director Aaron Megquier reported that the committee has built up the last several years in response to the growth of our successful youth programs. They have been essential in helping us pivot our program offerings in response to the pandemic. We ran the Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program (MYWLP) safely and successfully in 2021, thanks in large part to the help of Chewonki and their health center team. The MYWLP is on track to run again in 2022. The Baxter Youth Conservation Corps (BYCC) continued in modified form in 2021, with eight Conservation Fellows working remotely. Conservation Fellows will become a permanent part of the BYCC once we return to trail work, which is yet to be determined for 2022.

3.3 Strategic Planning Committee. Carla Ritchie, committee chair, reported that Friends completed a new strategic plan in 2021, which the board approved at the March 2022 meeting. Working with Lynn Hempen of Gary Friedmann & Associates, the process included a board and staff survey, followed by a board retreat in November. The plan carefully considers the organization's history as well as the new challenges we face due to the pandemic, climate change, and other external factors. The plan extends through 2025. Carla presented our new mission and vision statements and invited members to view the entire plan on our website.

3.4 Policy Committee. Josie Quintrell, Vice President and committee co-chair, reported that the committee meets regularly and monitors legislation that may impact the Park. Governor Mills recently signed LD 1756, which authorizes the Bureau of Parks and Lands to convey its ownership interest in the East Turner Public

lot to Baxter State Park. Friends testified in support of the bill and will continue to monitor it. After many years of advocacy by Friends, the National Park Service is considering moving the Katahdin Loop Road further away from Katahdin Lake. A Management Framework is expected this summer. Friends has been an active participant in the First Light Learning Journey and understands how profoundly important Katahdin is to the Wabanaki people. We continue to engage meaningfully on these issues.

3.5 Nominating Committee. Josie Quintrell, committee chair, thanked Jim Mroch for his service on the Board of Directors. Jim is retiring from the board and not seeking reelection this year. She also thanked Kimberly Bailey Shaw and Brian Threlkeld, who stepped down earlier last year. Four directors have agreed to stand for election for another term: Alec Giffen, Josie Quintrell, Carla Ritchie, and Steuart Thomsen. In addition, Anna Bastidas, Jensen Bissell, and Hope Rowan were nominated as new board directors. Wayne Hartz made a motion to elect the entire slate of nominees as presented. This motion was seconded by Charlie Jacobi. Using the Zoom polling tool, participants voted 86-0-0 to approve the motion.

4. State of the Park. Interim Baxter State Park Director Dan Rinard provided an update on the Park. First, he reported the transition in leadership is moving along as they search for a new Park Director, among other positions. Next, he addressed how the pandemic has changed everything they do, including managing supply chain issues, hiring seasonal employees and the lack of local housing, and the reawakening of the public to explore nature. The Park experienced a 24% increase in attendance this winter. Reservations are open to pre-pandemic levels. Park staff are keeping an eye on overcrowding and are confident they will maintain Baxter's vision.

5. Panel discussion on Scientific Research in the Park. Don Hudson, President Emeritus of Chewonki, and Justin Schlawn from the Maine Natural Areas Program presented the findings from their scientific research projects in BSP. Don has studied alpine plants on Katahdin, conducting the first survey of plants in the 1980s, and assisting with a new survey being conducted now. Justin's work in the park focuses on long-term ecological monitoring. He described some of the research he is currently involved in, and also spoke about the critical importance of this work. Don and Justin both explained that Baxter State Park is home to many rare species and is an ideal area for this research due to the lack of human intervention. Their baseline work will help determine the impact of climate change on Baxter State Park.

6. Members Forum. Aaron Megquier, Executive Director, moderated the Forum. In response to questions from members, he said that Friends has reached 96% of its \$250,000 goal for the endowment campaign, and that he is not aware of any plans to expand campsites or trails in the Wassataquoik Valley.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Weitzman, Deputy Director

NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Presented at the Annual Meeting, April 4, 2023

Friends of Baxter State Park has fifteen positions on the Board of Directors. A standard term on the board is three years. Five positions are scheduled to expire each year. Terms are expiring in 2023 for five Director positions. Four of these positions are held by incumbent Directors Alec Giffen, Bill Green, Ryan Linehan, and Hope Rowan, all of whom are seeking reelection. The fifth term expiring in 2023 was held by Matt DeLaney, who resigned in September 2022 and is not seeking reelection.

The Nominating Committee nominates four incumbent Directors (Alec Giffen, Bill Green, Ryan Linehan, and Hope Rowan) and one new Director (Liz Burroughs) to fill the five Director positions up for election in 2023, with terms as follows:

FOR ACTION BY THE MEMBERSHIP

Nominated for three-year terms:

Liz Burroughs
Alec Giffen (incumbent)
Bill Green (incumbent)
Ryan Linehan (incumbent)
Hope Rowan (incumbent)

About the Director Nominees:

Liz Burroughs is a math teacher at Chewonki's Maine Coast Semester in Wiscasset, where she enjoys exploring the natural world with teenagers through a mathematical lens. Before discovering her passion for teaching, Liz she worked in the conservation field as a stewardship manager for the Forest Society of Maine. She taught math at several public schools in Maine before coming to the Maine Coast Semester where she combines her passion for math and ecology. She has a BA in English, a MS in Forestry and Environmental Management, and a MS in Science Teaching. Liz lives in Bowdoinham near the Cathance River with her teenage daughter, who shares her passion for Baxter State Park. She enjoys raising bees, swimming, skating, and knitting.

Alec Giffen is a Fellow with The Clean Air Task Force, focused on the role that forests can play to mitigate global warming. He is also the New England Forestry Foundation's representative in Maine. As Maine Forest Service Director Alec served on the Baxter State Park Authority. He also served as Director of the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission, with the Natural Resource Planning Division of the Maine State Planning Office, and founded the consulting firm Land & Water Associates that resolved disputes over land management and facility licensing. He has a Master of Science in ecology and a Bachelor of Science in Forest Science. Alec is an avid outdoorsman, a licensed professional forester and a registered Maine guide. After years of stories of family trips to Baxter, Alec got to the Park in the early '60s on a family backpack from Katahdin Stream to South Branch and has continued trips to the Park since. In speeches he often cites Governor Baxter's achievement in creating the Park and finds it particularly remarkable that Baxter included both wildlands and scientific forestry.

Bill Green is Executive Director of the Maine Sports Hall of Fame having retired from his 47-year television career in November 2019. For 19 years, Bill was host and executive producer of "Bill Green's Maine" which became appointment TV on Saturday nights for thousands of Mainers. Beginning in 2014, he began entering regional awards competition and was nominated for 11 Emmys and won two as well as an Edward R. Murrow Award for his feature reporting. A lifelong Mainer, Bill was born in Bangor, educated in Bangor schools and the University of Maine and is holder of its prestigious Black

Bear Award. He holds three honorary degrees including an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Maine at Farmington. He is an inductee into the Maine Broadcasters' Hall of Fame, Maine Sports Hall of Fame, and the Silver Circle of the New England Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. He is a Registered Maine Guide, Senior Warden at Trinity Episcopal Church of Portland, and Spokesperson for the Freedom Boat Club. Bill and his wife Pam reside in Cumberland. They have two grown children, Sam and Emily.

Ryan Linehan is a small business owner in Wiscasset, Maine. He formerly served as Director of Outdoor Education at Colby College, where he oversaw the Colby Outdoor Orientation program, Outing Club and Mountaineering Club. These clubs and organizations provide students with opportunities to develop social connections while being challenged at an appropriate level through a wide range of experiences throughout Maine. Prior to joining the Colby staff, Ryan was the Summer Wilderness Programs Director at Chewonki Foundation, during which he supported Friends of Baxter's Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program for five years. He has been a registered Maine guide for more than 20 years and is passionate about introducing others to the wilderness areas of the state. Ryan lives on Westport Island with his wife Stacy and children Sawyer and Kestrel.

Hope Rowan is a GIS Specialist at Community Geographics, where she creates maps of all kinds but particularly of trails, assisting trail managers across the state publicize and map their trail networks, including management of the online resource Maine Trail Finder. She has also published two hiking guides for children, *Ten Days in Acadia* and *Ten Days in the North Woods*. Hope received a B.A. in Music from Colby College, and an M.Phil. in Human Ecology from the College of the Atlantic, and has since focused her work on land preservation and providing and encouraging access to the outdoors. When not making maps, writing, or teaching piano, Hope spends as much time as possible out in the woods and ascending summits, making many trips between her beloved Maine coast and the equally loved Maine mountains, both for hiking in the summer and cross-country skiing in the winter. Hope resides along the down east coast with her dog Tess, in Southwest Harbor for much of the year and in Steuben during the summer.

Report presented by the Nominating Committee.

NOMINEES FOR OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION

**Presented at the first Board of Directors Meeting
after the Annual Meeting, April 4, 2023**

Officer Nominations

Officers are elected by the Board of Directors at the first meeting of the Board following the Annual Meeting of members.

FOR ACTION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following are nominated to serve one-year terms:

President:	Josie Quintrell
Vice President:	Steuart Thomsen
Treasurer:	Nathan Tefft
Secretary:	Hope Rowan

Report presented by the Nominating Committee.

Friends of Baxter State Park

Balance Sheet

	Dec 31, 2022	Dec 31, 2022	Dec 31, 2022	Dec 31, 2022	Dec 31, 2022	Dec 31, 2021
	General Fund	Endowment Fund	Combined	Eliminations	Consolidated	Consolidated
ASSETS						
Current Assets						
Cash						
Checking - BSB	233,047	0	233,047		233,047	152,383
PayPal Account - BSB	1,533	0	1,533		1,533	22,853
Event Change Fund	50	0	50		50	50
Total Checking/Savings	234,630	0	234,630	0	234,630	175,286
Other Current Assets						
Misc. Receivables	187	0	187		187	101
Due from PayPal & ProPay	5,533	0	5,533		5,533	2,492
Prepaid Expenses	1,600	0	1,600		1,600	1,600
Inventory	3,623	0	3,623		3,623	4,050
Total Other Current Assets	10,943	0	10,943	0	10,943	8,243
Total Current Assets	245,573	0	245,573	0	245,573	183,529
Other Assets						
BHBT Investment Account	0	331,832	331,832		331,832	283,015
Due from Operating Fund	0	10,748	10,748	10,748	0	0
Total Other Assets	0	342,580	342,580	10,748	331,832	283,015
TOTAL ASSETS	245,573	342,580	588,153	10,748	577,405	466,544
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS						
Liabilities						
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	5,548	0	5,548		5,548	4,497
Sales Tax Payable	272	0	272		272	229
Total Current Liabilities	5,820	0	5,820	0	5,820	4,726
Reserve for Legal Defense Fund	10,000	0	10,000		10,000	10,000
Due to Endowment Fund	10,748	0	10,748	10,748	0	0
Total Long-term Liabilities	20,748	0	20,748	10,748	10,000	10,000
Total Liabilities	26,568	0	26,568	10,748	15,820	14,726
Net Assets						
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions - BYCC	26,403	0	26,403		26,403	30,500
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions - MYWLP	6,791	0	6,791		6,791	1,500
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions - Endowment	0	272,148	272,148		272,148	196,319
Unrealized Gains/(Losses)	0	(5,471)	(5,471)		(5,471)	35,172
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	185,811	75,903	261,714		261,714	188,327
Total Net Assets	219,005	342,580	561,585	0	561,585	451,818
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	245,573	342,580	588,153	10,748	577,405	466,544

Friends of Baxter State Park

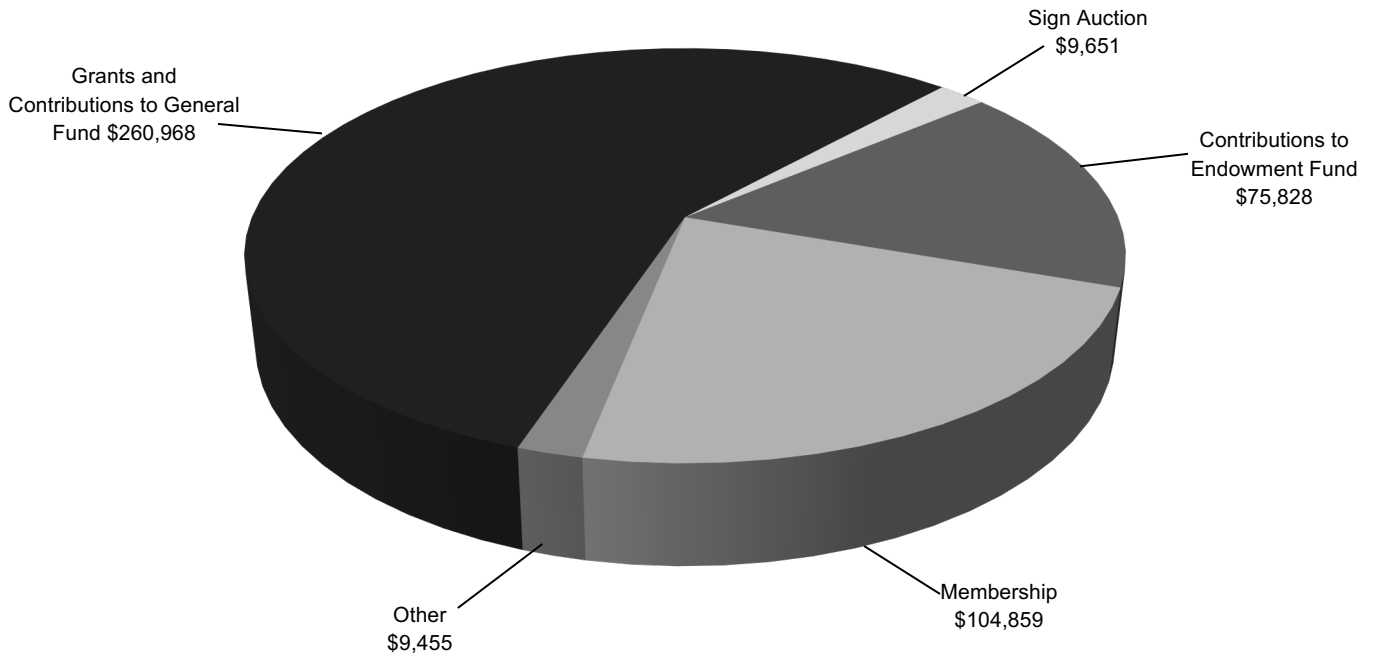
Budget vs. Actual

General Fund

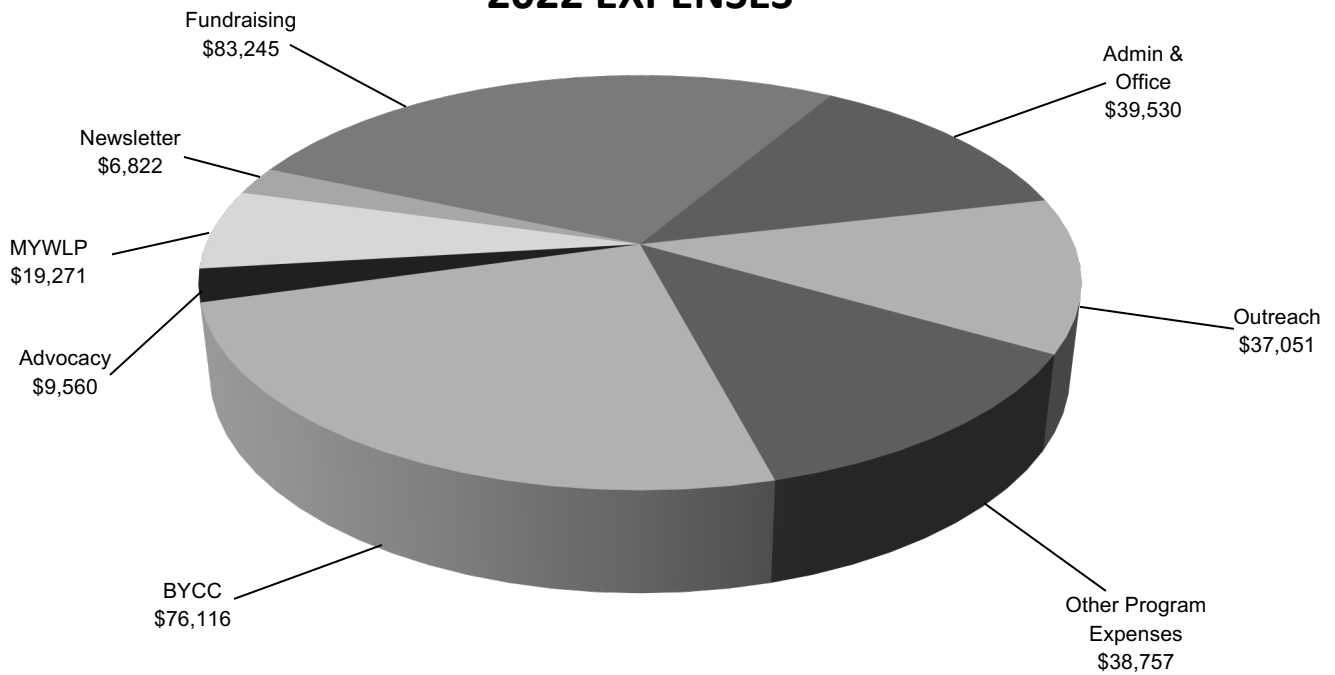
	Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2022	Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2022	
	Actual	Budget	Fav (Unfav) Variance
Income			
41350 · Grants	155,500	143,000	12,500
41600 · Restricted contributions	0	27,000	(27,000)
42000 · Business support	1,328	6,000	(4,672)
42420 · Unrestricted contributions	101,214	60,000	41,214
42430 · Board contributions	0	10,000	(10,000)
42440 · Memorial contributions	2,827	0	2,827
44200 · Membership Income	104,724	106,000	(1,276)
45000 · Royalties	76	200	(124)
48030 · Interest Income	87	430	(343)
48800 · Transfer from Endowment	0	15,000	(15,000)
49200 · Fundraising Events	9,651	12,000	(2,349)
Total 46000 · Sales	5,623	5,400	223
Gross Income	381,030	385,030	(4,000)
Less: Cost of Goods Sold	2,524	2,427	(97)
Total Income	378,506	382,603	(4,097)
Expense			
60100 · Salaries, wages and benefits	217,469	264,740	47,271
60920 · Business fees and licenses	96	60	(36)
62110 · Accounting Fees	6,160	8,000	1,840
62130 · Website	259	251	(8)
62140 · Legal Fees	50	0	(50)
62150 · Other contracted services	24,364	40,068	15,704
62300 · Facility fees	6,950	7,050	100
62400 · Electricity	432	600	168
62840 · Repair & Maintenance	59	0	(59)
65020 · Postage	7,693	12,164	4,471
65025 · Design services	579	2,000	1,421
65030 · Printing & copying	12,451	18,300	5,849
65040 · Supplies	3,868	5,116	1,248
65045 · Equipment	1,212	350	(862)
65050 · Telephone	2,186	2,400	214
65052 · Internet	840	842	2
65055 · Software	3,682	2,627	(1,055)
65100 · Advertising	0	700	700
65110 · Memberships & Subscriptions	1,140	875	(265)
65120 · Insurance	1,964	1,627	(337)
67000 · Contributions	4,592	6,000	1,408
68300 · Travel	4,007	5,150	1,143
68315 · Refreshments	196	0	(196)
68320 · Training	299	800	501
68400 · Event fees	363	100	(263)
68500 · Credit card fees	2,089	2,190	101
69000 · Other expenses	501	490	(11)
Total Expense	303,501	382,500	78,999
Net Income (Loss)	75,005	103	74,902

FRIENDS OF BAXTER STATE PARK

2022 INCOME

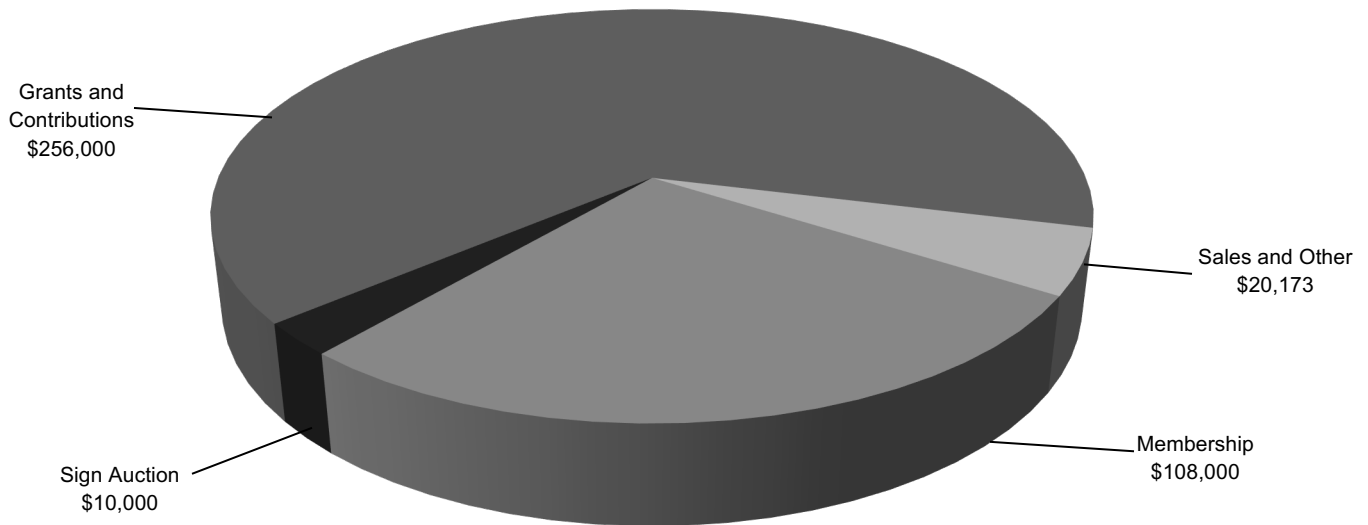


2022 EXPENSES

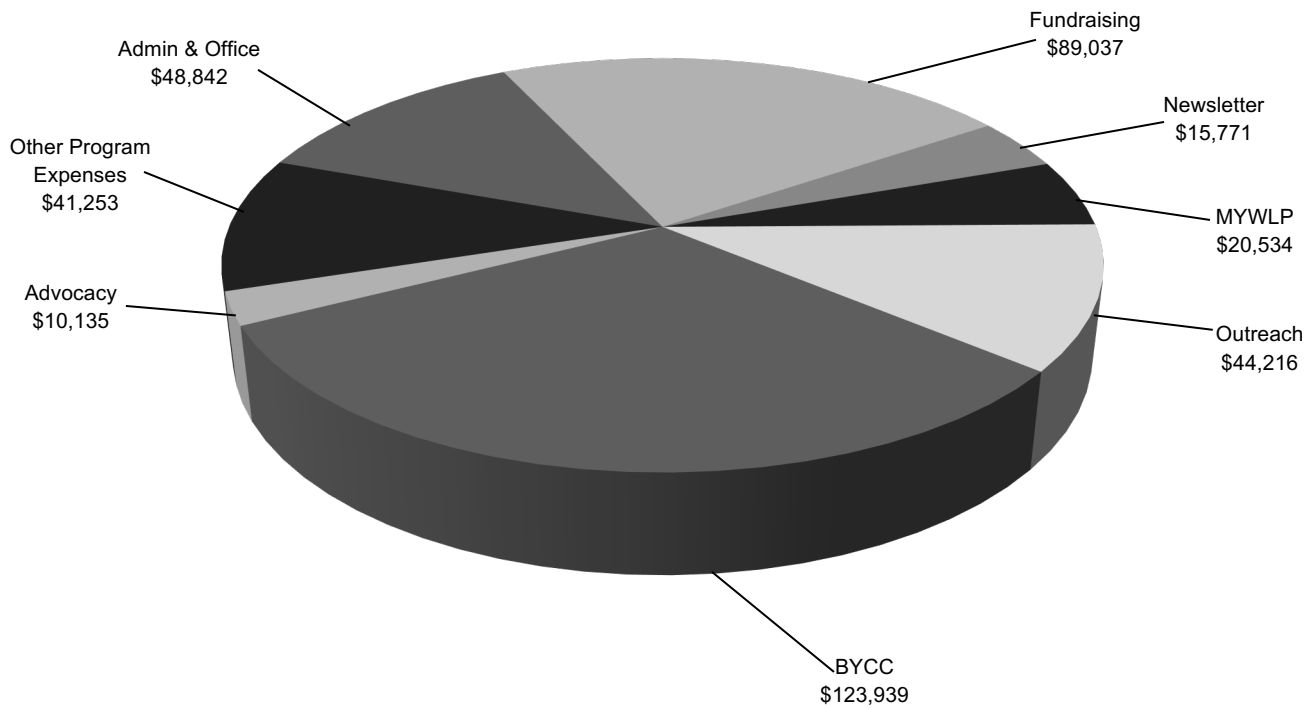


FRIENDS OF BAXTER STATE PARK

2023 BUDGETED INCOME



2023 BUDGETED EXPENSES



Friends of Baxter State Park

2023 Operating Budget

	<u>Jan - Dec 23</u>
Income	
41000 · Grants	153,000
41600 · Restricted contributions	27,000
42000 · Business Support	6,000
42420 · Unrestricted Contributions	70,000
44200 · Membership Income	108,000
45000 · Royalties	200
46000 · Sales	5,400
48030 · Interest Income	2,000
48800 · Transfer from Endowment	15,000
49200 · Fundraising Events	10,000
Total Income	<u>396,600</u>
Cost of Goods Sold	<u>2,427</u>
Gross Profit	<u>394,173</u>
Expense	
60100 · Salaries, Wages and Benefits	288,990
60920 · Business fees and licenses	60
62110 · Accounting Fees	8,000
62130 · Website	359
62150 · Other contracted services	31,112
62300 · Facility Fees	7,680
62400 · Electricity	600
65020 · Postage	9,565
65025 · Design services	2,500
65030 · Printing & copying	15,621
65040 · Supplies	5,066
65045 · Equipment	1,900
65050 · Telephone	2,400
65052 · Internet	842
65055 · Software	2,492
65100 · Advertising	600
65110 · Memberships & Subscriptions	950
65120 · Insurance	2,000
67000 · Contributions	5,000
68300 · Travel	4,640
68320 · Training and Workshops	500
68400 · Event fees	110
68500 · Credit Card fees	2,190
69000 · Other expenses	550
Total Expense	<u>393,727</u>
Net Income	<u><u>446</u></u>