

City Of Oaks foundation

ANNUAL REPORT FY 2023

CITYOFOAKSFOUNDATION.ORG

Mission Driven, Results Achieved:

The Passing of Batons

It cannot be taken lightly that the City of Oaks Foundation is well-positioned and thriving following the pandemic. Under the direction of Executive Director, Chris Heagarty, we have stayed the course and along with the sustaining leadership of former Board Chair Nell Joslin, the Foundation has continued to chart an ambitious path forward. In 2022, I was honored to receive the baton from Nell as Chair of the Board. I have mighty shoes to fill but will proceed with the wisdom and help of those who have paved the way up to this point.

Before we highlight our successes and share a vision of the future, I would be remiss if I didn't share our condolences and immense gratitude for the lives and contributions of two board members who passed away in 2022. **Betsy Buford** and **Marshall Harvey** left behind an incredible legacy and their work with the Foundation continues to leave mighty ripples. Again, the baton is being passed to new board members, but we remember Betsy and Marshall who helped shape the Foundation's new strategic vision and its current state today.

If you reread our & Vision Mission statements, you see the phrase, "The City of Oaks Foundation is closely aligned with Raleigh's Park, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department." This partnership has been the backbone of the Foundation, and I am excited that as we move into a new season, we will not only continue in this work but seek to expand our collaboration with the Department under the leadership of newly minted Director, Stephen Bentley. Our growing and dynamic relationship with the Department will yield new opportunities and relationships. We are excited to see this partnership grow, and our work magnified.

We celebrate a few areas with particular excitement:

- Expanding our financial assistance programs to provide youth with more opportunities for recreational programs and educational enrichment
- Exploration of new opportunities for land conservation that help protect our open space and natural areas and create new parks and greenways
- Further investment and improvements for Joslin Garden and its thriving volunteer program

These are just the tip of the iceberg. We are also excited to partner and support the Parks Department's initiatives to increase health and wellness in all areas of Raleigh through its camps, parks, greenways, and improved access to community centers. The grants that come through the Foundation are ensuring kids are engaging the best of Raleigh through our community's parks, and our recreation and cultural resources. The work ahead is expansive but entirely exciting and our board is ready to work with the City, the City's Parks, Recreation & Greenway Advisory Boards, and local businesses and community groups to achieve these objectives.

As we welcome Antoine Marshall and Jessica Tisdale as the newest board members, we are grateful for the lives and the leaders who have gotten to this point. We are ready to take the baton and enter into the next stage of the race of the Foundation. We want to sincerely thank YOU for your continued support in our shared vision that "We believe lives are made richer by nature and we work to keep nature nearby for all to enjoy."

Grateful,

Sandy Roberts
Board Chair

THANK YOU!



BETSY BUFORD



MARSHALL HARVEY



SANDY ROBERTS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022-2023

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Nell D. Joslin
Antoine Marshall *
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Jessica Tisdale *
Stephen Bentley
(ex officio)

** partial term*

Chris Heagarty, Executive Director
Charles Meeker
(Trustee Emeritus)
Diane Sauer
(Trustee Emerita)

OUR VISION

The City of Oaks Foundation believes that lives are made richer by nature and we work to keep nature nearby for all to enjoy.

OUR MISSION

We work to promote healthy outdoor lifestyles connected to nature to ensure a great outdoors for a great Raleigh through our partnerships with our public parks and recreation programs. We also work to remove financial barriers to participation in the city's outdoor and recreational activities, especially for children.

OUR PARTNERSHIP

The City of Oaks Foundation is closely aligned with the City of Raleigh's Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Department and uses this relationship to provide equitable access to our community's natural resources in the form of parks, nature preserves and greenways for everyone to enjoy.

Design & layout: **Sergio Analco** | Photography: **Chris Heagarty**

CITY OF OAKS foundation

City of Oaks Foundation
PO Box 6147
Raleigh, NC 27628

info@cityofoaksfoundation.org

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Financials July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

OPERATING REVENUE

CONTRIBUTIONS & GRANTS
$112,617

INVESTMENT INCOME
$125,527

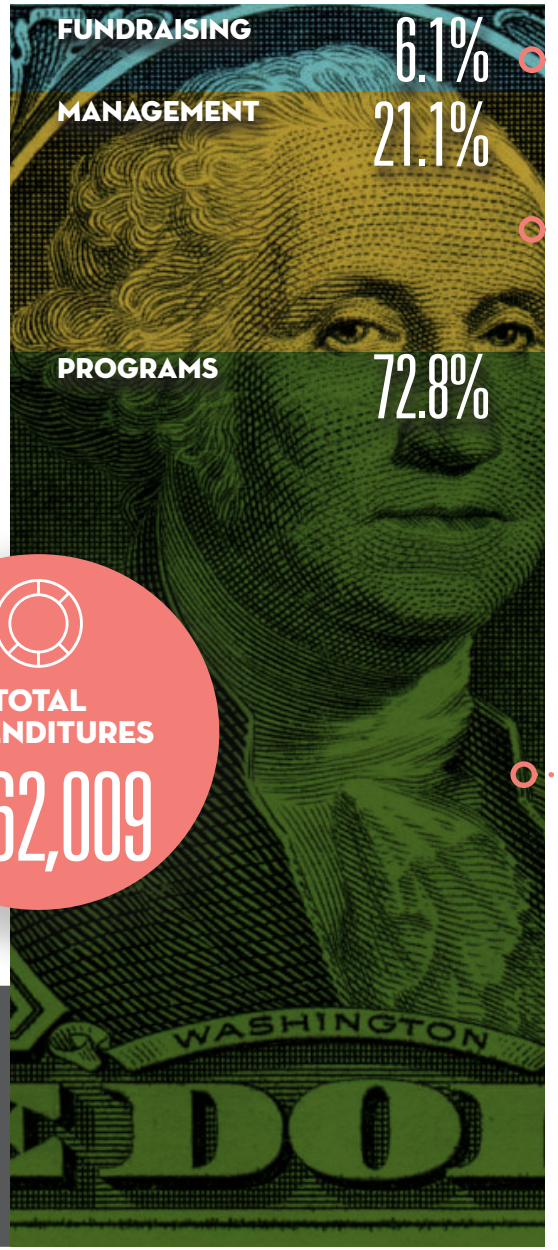
IN-KIND GOODS AND SERVICES
$2,372

OTHER INCOME
$21,521

CONTRACT SERVICES & PROGRAMS
$73,623

TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE
$335,661

EXPENDITURES



FUNDRAISING
$17,700

MANAGEMENT
$68,649

PROGRAMS
$175,660

TOTAL EXPENDITURES
$262,009

*The City of Oaks Foundation extends its deep and sincere gratitude to **Mr. Charles Sedberry** for his generous donation of investment property in Oak Island, North Carolina, with proceeds from the sale dedicated to the Joslin Garden endowment fund. A former law partner of William Joslin and his daughter Nell Joslin, Mr. Sedberry's contribution to the Joslin Garden endowment will help ensure stewardship of the Garden for many years to come.*

Note: FY 2023 income includes funds accepted and held by the Foundation that are designated for the Skate Raleigh project and held over for the following fiscal year.
An independent financial audit and financial review of the financial statements of the City of Oaks Foundation, Inc. was performed by PLC Rouse Norton PLCC, Certified Public Accountants, completed March 1, 2024.

Joslin Garden

The City of Oaks Foundation was originally created in 2010 to help deliver this hidden natural treasure as a gift from the family of William and Mary Coker Joslin to the people of Raleigh. Joslin Garden became Raleigh's newest public park and garden in July of 2021, with the Joslin House serving as the new headquarters for the Foundation.

Though maintained by Raleigh's Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Department, the City of Oaks Foundation continues to offer financial stewardship and community programming at Joslin Garden throughout the year, bringing music and exhibitions of visual arts to the Joslin House and youth programs to the Garden, including the famous "Owl-oween" nature program in October.

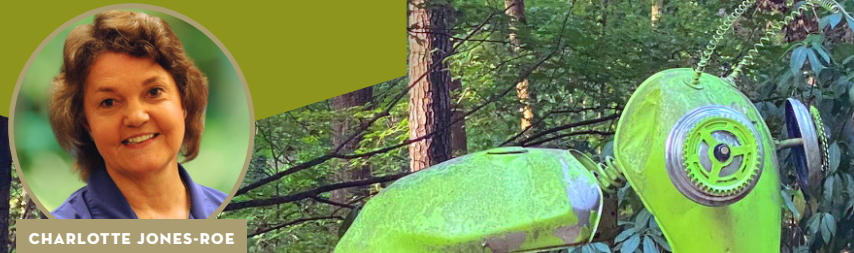
Volunteers work with the Parks Department to help keep the Garden beautiful, with the Gardeners of Wake County working on a special sensory garden and renovating the gazebo and benches, among other special beautification projects.

Continued investment by the City of Oaks Foundation and its supporters continue to make Joslin Garden great. A special gift to the Joslin Garden endowment in 2022, the donation of coastal investment property by Charles Sedberry, former law partner of William and Nell Joslin, has helped pay for special park features and improvements throughout the year.

Thanks to the generosity of the Daniels family, a beloved piece of artwork been added to the Garden. A neighborhood fixture on Raleigh's White Oak Road, a giant mantis sculpture has re-located to Joslin Garden just down the street from its original location, at the former home of Frank and Julia Daniels. Working with Julia Jones Daniels, the City of Oaks Foundation accepted donation of the sculpture and neighbors and guests to the Garden alike are overjoyed that this unique character is staying local.

"The Joslin Garden is a green oasis and a place to connect with nature. Beautiful native plants along the creek and pathways sustain birds and pollinators. Formal gardens, natural woodlands, a camellia collection, and heirloom perennials remind visitors of a calmer and more patient era. The Joslin Garden is a community treasure, a setting for special events as well as a place for solitude and quiet reflection.

– Charlotte Jones-Roe,
Board of Trustees Vice-Chair



CHARLOTTE JONES-ROE

Land Conservation

Through the Foundation's **Raleigh, Naturally** land conservation program, landowners wishing to protect their land in a natural, green state are able to do so through conservation easements and land donation. In some cases, the Foundation may be able to help facilitate donation of protected land to city or county governments as a future park such as they did for conservation easement donors Bob Kellam and Susan Wyatt, in creating the **Kellam-Wyatt Farm** and **Nature Preserve**. This almost 60-acre property of fields, forests, and lakes is protected by a conservation easement held the by the City of Oaks Foundation, and is in the master-planning phase of design and will become a new county park scheduled to open in coming years. In other cases, a gift to may help be held by the Foundation as protected conservation land as it did with a donation from **Judy and Thomas Tung** that helped preserve important species registered in the North Carolina Natural Heritage Registry while allowing visitors safe access through the land via an important extension of Raleigh's Greenway system through the **Azalea Falls** property.





"*Every square foot of green space in Raleigh is important, and its importance increases as our city grows. The City of Oaks Foundation has permanently conserved some of Raleigh's special places, and we are committed to being a land conservation leader because great outdoors make for a great Raleigh.*

– Kevin Brice,
Board of Trustees Treasurer



CHARLOTTE JONES-ROE



Citizens are also able to support existing parks, greenways and nature preserves through the City of Oaks Foundation, which allows donors to designate gifts to existing parks and recreation sites around Raleigh, from basketball and pickleball courts to beautiful landscaping and tree planting. The City of Oaks Foundation also plays an important role helping steward new and emerging neighborhood groups that are aligned with our mission, serving as an advisor and fiscal sponsor to help them operate as a charitable organization, such as the **Friends of Millbrook Dog Park** and the **Skate Raleigh** organization. This year many donors helped memorialize **Marilyn Sorin**, and her generous gift to the Foundation that created new pickleball courts at North Hills Park, with additional donations used to support parks and recreation programming.

Youth & Nature Programs

The City of Oaks Foundation's programs for youth focus on conservation, environmental education, and getting outdoors and active. Its signature youth program, **Give Play**, provided over 110 families with financial assistance to attend active outdoor summer camps in 2023, rebounding back from limited opportunities during the pandemic.



"At the core of our mission is the belief that every child should have access to fun and educational programs that connect them with the wonders of nature. Through initiatives like Give Play, the City of Oaks Foundation offers amazing outdoor camps and experiences that inspire children to develop a profound appreciation for the natural world. By fostering a love for nature at a young age, we are sowing the seeds of environmental stewardship that will protect our planet for generations to come.

We recognize the importance of making these experiences available to children in financially vulnerable communities. By aiding families in need, we ensure that opportunities are accessible to all the youth in our communities. These programs may also provide a needed alternative to the everyday challenges they may face and empower them with knowledge and skills that could shape their future. When we invest in the education and well-being of children, we are investing in the sustainability of our neighborhoods.

Through hands-on STEAM based programs like Roots 2 STEM and immersive outdoor camps and clubs, the City of Oaks Foundation hopes to spark a deep sense of reverence for the natural world, encourage lifelong connections, and equip children with the tools to become responsible stewards of our communities.

It is important to emphasize that these programs aren't just about having fun and making friends; they are about fostering a connection with nature and empowering children to make a positive impact on their communities. The City of Oaks Foundation aims to bridge the gap and ensure that more children can experience nature in the world around them.

– DeAntony Collins,
Board of Trustees Secretary



DEANTONY COLLINS



The development of the new **Roots 2 STEM** program was launched with a successful pilot project in the late summer of 2023. STEM stands for "Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics", important fields that provide the advanced skills needed for high paying jobs that are growing in our area. However, students quite often need enrichment outside of school to build these skills, and the high cost of many STEM enrichment programs has been a barrier for many families. The City of Oaks Foundation sponsored 16 students attending the Lawrence and Irene Clark STEM and Leadership Academy, providing project-based learning STEM education curriculum designed for rising 3rd and 5th grade students. The students were selected from multiple schools in the Raleigh area to increase community partnerships and reach underserved population goals. With this successful pilot, similar programming will be sponsored next year and beyond at community centers serving economically vulnerable neighborhoods through the Raleigh Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Department.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE GIVE PLAY PROGRAM PLEASE VISIT
bit.ly/GivePlayVideo



Through the **Neighborhood Ecology Corps** program, created by Randy Senzig and the Center for Human Earth Restoration, the Foundation partners with Raleigh Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Department to sponsor an after-school program that gets teams of students involved in assessing the environmental condition, assets, and needs of their shared neighborhoods. In FY 2023 expansion of this program was made possible in part through the support Fund for the Triangle – Support for the Environment of the Triangle Community Foundation.

The City of Oaks Foundation also thanks the Bank of America Foundation for its continued sponsorship of **Partnership Raleigh** which employed a team of young adults over the summer to conduct a variety of natural resources-related projects within several Raleigh parks and nature preserves and the Office of Sustainability. The primary goal of the program was to expose the students, made up primarily of youth under-represented in conservation professions, to a variety of natural resources issues, expert speakers, educational experiences, and professional development opportunities geared towards helping them take the next step in their careers.

Raleigh™ BANK OF AMERICA

Skate Raleigh

In 2022 and 2023, the City of Oaks Foundation partnered with the new Skate Raleigh organization to build a skate park in Downtown Raleigh. Acting as a fiscal sponsor for the Skate Raleigh group, the Foundation assisted in raising and managing almost $250,000 in private funds used to activate a vacant lot along the City's main downtown entry corridor at Capitol Boulevard. Using a public-private partnership with Raleigh's Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Department, Skate Raleigh and the City of Oaks Foundation raised funds to build a temporary skating facility on the site of the future Smoky Hollow Park, to benefit Raleigh's youth and add a new and exciting amenity on the City greenway system for minimal investment.



> *"Helping neighbors to find ways to support their local parks, and in this case build a new one, is one of the really great ways the City of Oaks Foundation makes Raleigh a better place. It has been really exciting watching this project come to fruition!*
>
> **– Chris Heagarty**,
> *City of Oaks Foundation Executive Director*



CHRIS HEAGARTY

SKATE RALEIGH

THANK YOU TO OUR 2022-2023 SKATE RALEIGH DONORS!

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THANK YOU TO OUR 2022-2023 SKATE RALEIGH DONORS!

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Donors

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Humana
NC Beverage Association
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Nestle USA
Poplar Springs Christian Church
Raleigh Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Department
Revive Boost Rebuild Physical Therapy
YMCA of the Triangle

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Memorials
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Marilyn Sorin

Honorary Recognitions
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Troy Burton
Ivan Dickey
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Giavonia Harris
Tansy Hayward
Chris Heagarty
Ken Hisler
Nell Joslin
The Joslin Family
Helene McCullough
Jenny Street
Aundrea White

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Watson, Elizabeth
York, Smedes

Donors

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THANK YOU TO OUR 2022-2023 DONORS!

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Baker, Prentiss
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Bitters, Susanna
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Wooten, Rachel
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The Foundation has also partnered with the City of Raleigh to support important youth programs such as the new Skate Raleigh organization to build a skate park in Downtown Raleigh

Let's roll!



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