

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends of the Severson Dells Nature Center,

Today is March 10 and our region awoke to a heavy blanket of snow. If I'm being honest, I'm ready for spring and warmer weather. That being said, it's hard to ignore the beauty and silence of our snow-covered landscape. On my drive into work the trees were breathtaking, and I was treated to Sandhill Cranes mining for food in a local cornfield. The changing seasons, wildlife, and natural beauty reminded me of how much I enjoy calling the Midwest home. More importantly, it's a reminder of the important role Severson Dells Nature plays in our region and its mission of:  
...linking people to nature through education and research in the northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin region. We promote awareness of the natural world, fostering respect, enjoyment, and preservation now and in the future.

We are committed to connecting people of all ages with the natural world, and we believe that nature education is more important than ever. Northern Illinois is home to a rich diversity of plants and animals, and through our educational programs, we aim to inspire a sense of wonder and stewardship among our community members who will become the next generation of conservationists. The positive impact our organization has had in the region would not be possible without our supporters who have helped us continue this important work. Your support has allowed us to provide vital nature education experiences to thousands of people, inspiring a love of nature and promoting environmental conservation. For this support, we thank you.

Over the past year our organization emerged from the pandemic. Under Director Ann Wasser's leadership and her talented team, we have emerged stronger than ever, both from a financial and programming perspective. This is a testament to their tremendous resilience and adaptability to pivot and use their creativity to execute our mission. Unfortunately, we have faced another challenge with the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County recently electing to terminate Ann and the Severson staff effective March 2023. This decision was made unilaterally by the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County board and came as a surprise to the staff at the Nature Center and to the Severson Dells Education Foundation board of directors. With that being said, the Severson Dells staff and board of directors has worked tirelessly over the past three months to establish payroll, insurance, benefits, and HR support for Ann and her team.

We have nearly completed this process but will undoubtedly need your support to help us manage a significant monetary increase to our 2023 annual operating plan. Please consider a donation to Severson Dells Education Foundation. Your support will help guarantee that school field trips, guided hikes, camps, lectures, and all the other programs you have come to expect from us continue. Secondly, there is a small, but mighty staff operating the nature center and we are always looking for volunteers to support our education programs and help with habitat restoration.

Finally – thank you. None of our mission would have been possible without you. We are grateful for the generous donations, volunteer hours, and words of encouragement that have helped sustain us during these difficult times. Your support has enabled us to continue our mission of providing nature education to our community and we are deeply grateful.

Thank you for your continued support, and I hope to see you at Severson Dells Nature Center soon!

Always Moving Forward,  
Chris Samuelson  
Board President



Chris Samuelson, Board President



## ASSETS

### CURRENT ASSETS:

\$	318,921	Cash
	37,388	Grants receivable
	-	Pledges receivable, current
	30,448	Inventory
	-	Prepaid expenses

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**\$ 386,757 Total current assets**

### NONCURRENT ASSETS:

\$	2,163,511	Investments
	-	Pledges receivable, longterm
	50,409	Furniture and Equipment
	(31,194)	Less: Accumulated depreciation
	19,215	Property and equipment, net
	71,211	Endowment investments

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**\$ 2,253,937 Total noncurrent assets**

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**\$ 2,640,694 Total assets**

### CURRENT LIABILITIES

\$	-	Payroll liabilities
	32,000	Accounts payable
	5,409	Deferred revenue

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**\$ 37,409 Total current liabilities**

### NET ASSETS

\$	2,472,182	Without donor restrictions
	131,103	With donor restrictions

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**\$ 2,603,285 Total net assets**

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**\$ 2,640,694 Total liabilities + net assets**

## 2022 PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

**3,320**

@ Public Programs



**2,559**

Students on Field Trips



**2,173**

Students at Off-site Programs



**641**

Students in School Programs



**2,548**

Walk-In Visitors



And countless others that came out to enjoy the trails & play at The Grove.