



WALTHAM LAND TRUST  
2024 Annual Meeting  
Our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



# Welcome!

DR. NADENE STEIN, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

## Annual Meeting Agenda

Welcome & Opening Comments

Dr. Nadene Stein

Highlights of the Past Year

Sonja Wadman

*Inge Uhlir Environmentalist of the Year*

Sonja Wadman

Engaging Youth as Environmental Justice  
and Community Educators

Dr. Michael Barnett

MCRT Update

Laurel Carpenter

Financial Status of the WLT

Marc Rudnick

Business Meeting: Vote on Returning and New Directors

Anna Richardson

Q&A

Various members

Conversations and ice cream



# 2024 Program & Stewardship Highlights

SONJA WADMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Program Highlights

“Eyes on Owls of the World” children’s program (60 attendees)



# Program Highlights

Earth Day Cleanups along the Charles River (45 volunteers), in neighborhood parks (20+ vols), and around Hardy Pond (60 vols)



# Program Highlights

Early morning bird walk at Weston's Sears Land Heron Rookery in June



# Program Highlights

## Guided Mushroom Foray in August



# Program Highlights

Lakeview Preserve Party with Giardina family in September (50 folks)





# Program Highlights

Charles River Path and MCRT Openings Celebration last week



# Stewardship Highlights

- ▶ Western Greenway, Prospect Hill, Charles River, Mass Central Rail Trail, Beaver Brook North and Historic reservations, Hardy Pond watershed, Wellington Fields
- ▶ Since 2012, over 350 people have attended annual training
- ▶ Countless more get mini-training at WLT office
- ▶ 230+ people completed our interest form, on stewards e-list
- ▶ **Restoring landscapes is a major focus!!!!**
- ▶ Many folks growing natives from seeds at homes
- ▶ Watering newly planted vegetation is serious challenge

# Wellington Fields in 2024

- ▶ 4th season of volunteer work and advocacy (since 2021)
- ▶ Wellington Fields Committee formed
- ▶ Facebook page created
- ▶ **Well over 568.5 volunteer hours just this year!**
- ▶ **75 work days, including 3 corporate and youth groups**
- ▶ Social events held, too!
- ▶ Paths
  - ▶ Open to the public all season, mowed by WLT volunteer every 2-3 weeks
  - ▶ New hillside path
  - ▶ Expanded and improved access paths to Trapelo and Woburn Street
  - ▶ New plants at access path from Trapelo; watering June-Sept

# City's Support at Wellington in 2024

- ▶ WF Committee coordinates with, gets assistance and direction from, Ranger Adam Green in Wellington Fields and Consolidated Public Works
- ▶ Annual mowing of fields
- ▶ Seeded with wildflowers
- ▶ Paths mowed once
- ▶ Removal of huge wood pile at Woburn Street
  - ▶ Plans to remove cement and misc. debris
- ▶ Provided soil and wood chips for volunteer work
- ▶ Removal of downed trees

# Wellington Fields in 2024

- ▶ Restoring Wellington House lawn, yard
  - ▶ Vista to Wellington Fields restored
  - ▶ 4,500 sf seeded with grass
  - ▶ 400-450 gallons/week in October; 300 gallons/week in November
  - ▶ New plants along stone wall; watering June-Sept
  - ▶ 3 yew large bushes pruned
- ▶ Challenges
  - ▶ On demand water for improving yard and fields
  - ▶ Consistent execution of field mowing annually, and path mowing every 2-3 weeks
  - ▶ Storage on site













*Inge Uhler*  
*Environmental*  
*of the Year*

SONJA WADMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# History of this Award

- ▶ Named for Inge Uhler, a founding director, in 2011, to recognize her retirement from the Board. Sadly, Inge passed in April 2024
- ▶ Not necessarily 'Volunteer of the Year' or a WLT member
- ▶ Recent previous recipients include:
  - ▶ Stewards: Emily Szczypek, Betty MacKenzie, Bob Primak
  - ▶ Advocates: Dee Kricker
  - ▶ City officials: George Darcy
  - ▶ Others: Ann Clifford, Naoe Suzuki (also a steward)

# And this year's Environmentalist is...

- **Betty MacKenzie!**
- Even though she was recognized in 2018, we want to honor her again because **she ROCKS!!!**
- Betty organizes weekly landscape restoration at
  - Hardy Pond & Lakeview properties every Tuesday morning
  - Wellington Fields every Monday and/or Tuesday, Saturday afternoons, more as needed (water)
- In 2024, an estimated **1000+ volunteer hours** have been spent at HP, Lakeview, and WF!



# More about Betty

- Works closely with Ranger Adam Green on Recreation Department parcels
- Advocates for improving visitor experience at Wellington Fields
- Coordinates with City Engineer, CRWA, HPA, others at Lakeview Preserve
- Always happy to run volunteer and corporate events with a **big smile**
- Since April, Betty estimates she's spent **over 200 hours** planning, advocating, etc.!
- We could use 100 more leaders like Betty!!!



# We want to hear from you!

Please complete our Green Space/Events survey, if you haven't already.

<https://walthamlandtrust.org/gsbj-survey>





# Engaging Youth as Environmental Justice and Community Educators

DR. MICHAEL BARNETT

PROFESSOR AT BOSTON COLLEGE



# MCRT Update

LAUREL CARPENTER, WLT LEAD STEWARD AND  
RAIL TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER



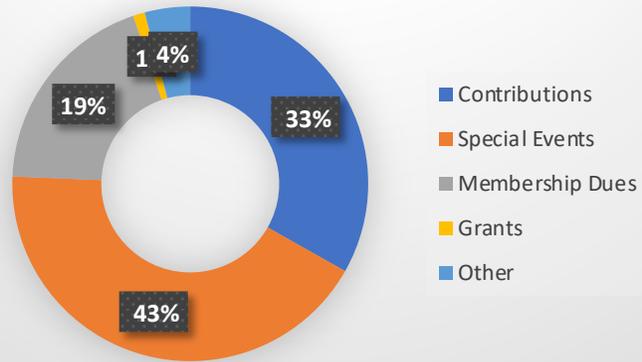
# FY 23 Financial Results

MARC RUDNICK, WLT TREASURER

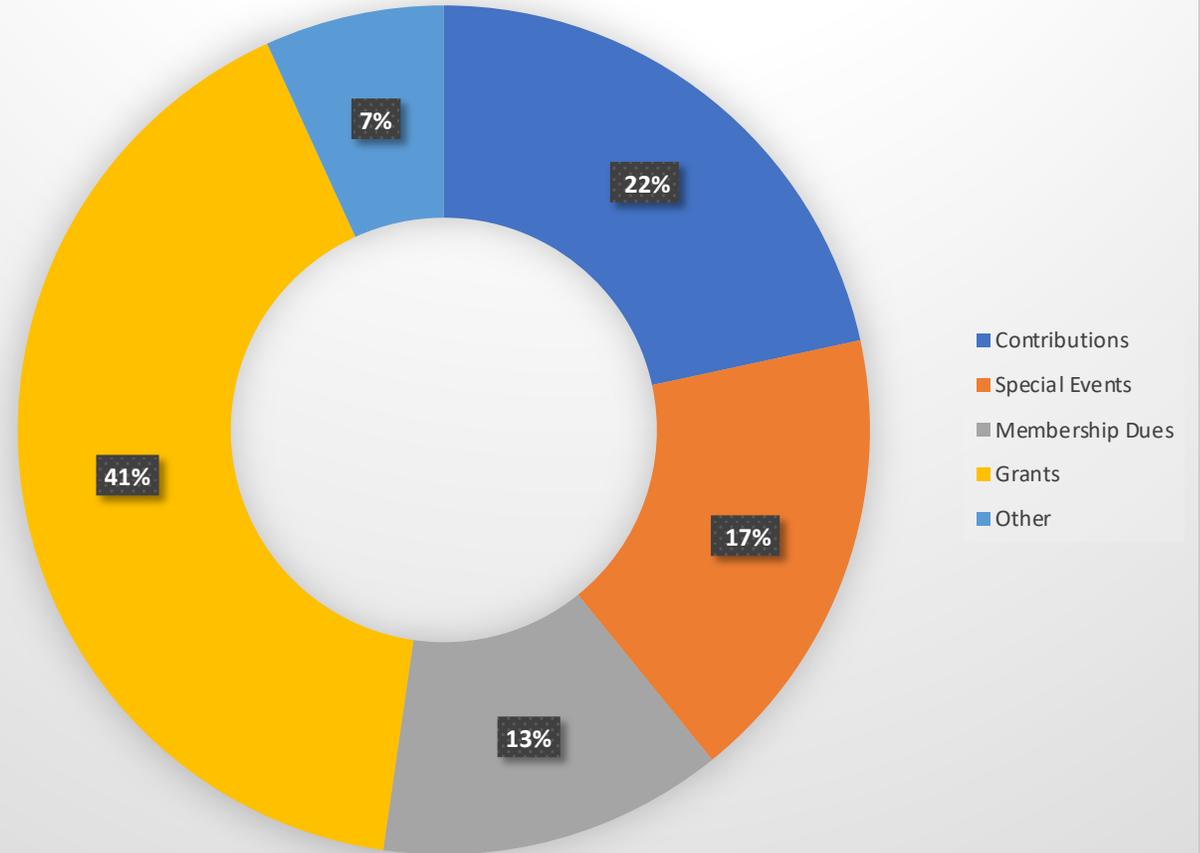
# Waltham Land Trust FY24 Financials

FY23 REVENUE		FY24 REVENUE		CHANGE
Contributions	\$40,570	Contributions	\$40,752	0.4%
Special Events	\$51,897	Special Events	\$33,096	-36%
Membership Dues	\$23,405	Membership Dues	\$24,733	6%
Grants	\$1,300	Grants	\$77,163	5836%
Other	\$5,040	Other	\$12,843	155%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$122,212</b>	<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$188,587</b>	<b>54%</b>
FY23 EXPENSES		FY24 EXPENSES		
Payroll	\$65,909	Payroll	\$68,566	4%
Program	\$10,330	Program	\$86,073	733%
Office	\$10,728	Office	\$20,805	94%
Administrative	\$7,346	Administrative	\$4,972	-32%
Fundraising	\$823	Fundraising	\$667	-19%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$95,136</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$181,083</b>	<b>90%</b>
<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>\$27,076</b>	<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>\$7,504</b>	

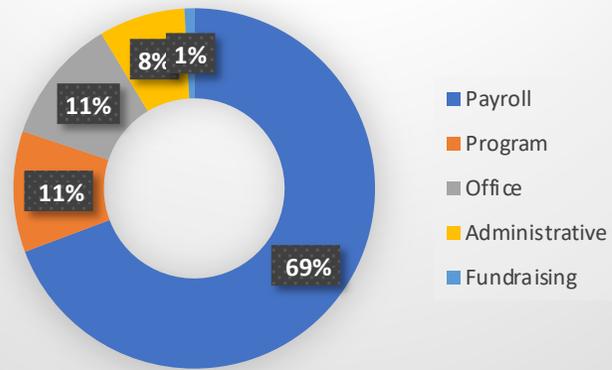
### FY23 Revenue



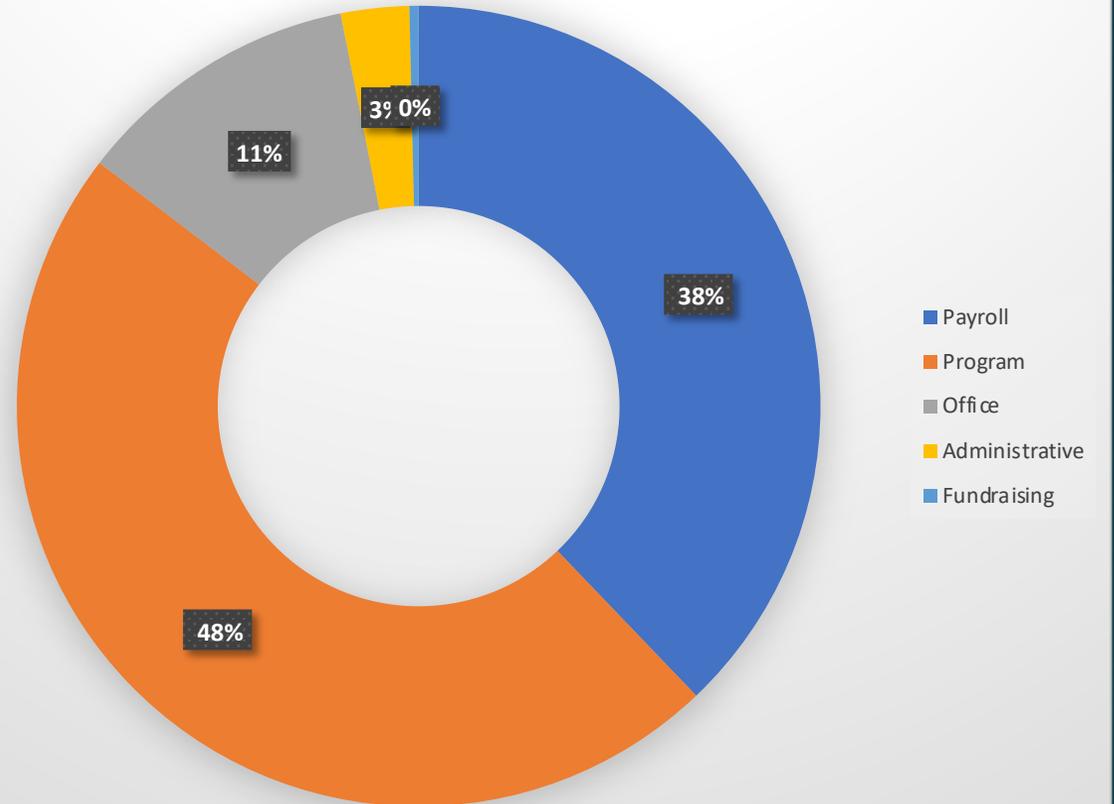
### FY24 Revenue



### FY23 Expenses



### FY24 Expenses



# WLT Balance Sheet – year end FY24

CASH	158,294
PREPAIDS	1,777
OTHER CURRENT ASSETS	6,039
LAND & EASEMENTS	78,480
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>244,590</b>
PAYABLE/LIABILITIES	4,002
EQUITY	
RESTRICTED FUNDS	64,935
RETAINED EARNINGS	175,653
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>244,590</b>

# Additional Financial Information

- ▶ In FY 24, we received a grant from Mass Trails of over \$56,000 and attracted \$19,000 in additional grants to fund our final push for a trail agreement with Historic New England to connect the Western Greenway with the Mass Central Rail Trail at the Lyman Estate.
- ▶ This funding allowed us to complete a land survey, wetlands delineation, and an engineering study for a footbridge over Chester Brook as part of the trail connection project.
- ▶ That work was completed, and we are now seeking funding to build the trail and bridge.
- ▶ In FY 25, we received an earmark of \$75,000 through Senator Barrett to acquire and improve land, our largest single funding commitment ever!

Now, for another commercial  
break...

Please remember the Waltham Land Trust  
on Giving Tuesday, December 3.

We also appreciate your contributions  
on any other day of the year, too!





# Business Meeting

ANNA RICHARDSON, WLT CLERK

# And the Nominees are...

## New Board Nominees:

Rita Cramer

Emily Szczypek

## Returning Board Members:

Dan Melnechuk

Nadene Stein

# Now to Vote...

- ▶ If you are a MEMBER of the Land Trust, please vote:

Please raise your hand to record if you accept the slate of Dan Melnechuk, Nadene Stein, Rita Cramer, and Emily Szczypek, for three-year terms.



Q&A

SONJA WADMAN AND BOARD MEMBERS

# Join us for some special treats

## Toscanini's Ice cream

Complements of Sally Wetzler and Marc Rudnick (and Toscanini's)



Thanks for coming!