



Friends of Kenilworth
AQUATIC GARDENS

2022 IMPACT STATEMENT

FRIENDS OF KENILWORTH AQUATIC GARDENS



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The Highlights

2022 By the Numbers



40 Community
Touch Points



60+ Bags of
Trash Removed



950+
WELLderness
Participants



6 Educational
Waysides
Installed



70+ Yards of
Invasive Plants
Removed



2 Weeks of Free
Camp for Local
Youth



17K Lotus &
Water Lily
Festival Visitors



2000+
Volunteer
Hours

Nearly everyone who enters Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens describes themselves as experiencing a sense of peace. You can almost feel yourself being embraced by the lush greenery and growing lighter as you walk among the turtles, birds and butterflies.

Moments of peace and comfort in today's world are nothing to take for granted. And we all need much more of it.

In 2022, we worked to provide programming for neighbors and visitors to engage with parks in ways that are empowering, restorative, and joyous. WELLderness saw growth in participation - over 1,000 participants - and many from the surrounding neighborhoods. Volunteers continue to keep the park beautiful and provide a warm welcome to first-time and regular visitors alike.

We were thrilled to bring back the first in-person Lotus & Water Lily Festival since the pandemic. As many of you noticed, the festival included four weekends of live cultural and musical performances, live animal and educational exhibits, and a longer and more gradual bloom of lotus.

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens is an oasis. We are grateful for the thousands of volunteers and donors who love the park as much as us.

We are excited to share all that we accomplished together in 2022.

In gratitude,



Tina O'Connell *Justin Lini*

Tina O'Connell, Executive Director
Justin Lini, Board Chair



JUMP INTO WELLDERNESS

We held 37 WELlderness outdoor wellness events this year, bringing back a cadre of local instructors and introducing even more possibilities to the public. This event increase led to 83% more attendance than our inaugural year last year. 2023 will feature even more events, expanding activities along the river.

“As a therapist, I am thankful for FoKAG’s attention to the personal well-being of neighbors and visitors. There is so much need.”

Shanae Hudson



COMMUNITY FOCUS

During 2022, our community engagement program filled many gaps, allowing us to attract more park neighbors to our programming, events and messaging. By increasing 100 fold our participation in community events like Kenilworth Day, East End Market and the Taste of Ward 7, for example, we expanded our touchpoints with Ward 7 and Ward 8 residents, many of who have not visited or returned to the park in as many as two decades. We are excited to bring this collaborative energy into 2023.



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

In 2021, you helped raise funds for updated park signage. This year, we installed that signage at the park! We have updated the front entrance and Anacostia River Trail entrance signage, alongside more accurate wayfinding and more informational waysides. Be sure to take a read the next time you’re at the park.



2022 BY THE NUMBERS

*Financials are preliminary.
Final data available in July.

VOLUNTEER POWER

This year was our first year introducing park greeters- interpretive volunteers who help guide folks around the park and improve visitor experiences. We were so excited to increase touchpoints for visitors to learn more about this fantastic park, and we look forward to expanding the program in 2023.

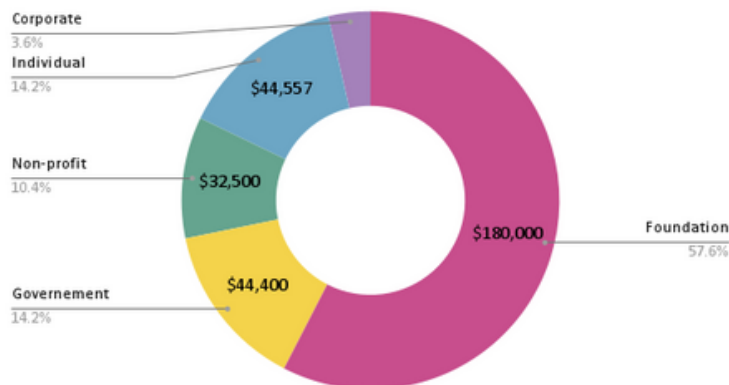
Stewardship volunteering continued climbing in numbers and frequency as we held sixteen events this year. We were so proud of how volunteers worked to improve the park grounds and ponds to help the National Park Service (NPS) with maintenance staffing. In 2023, we look forward to working alongside NPS to keep the park clean, healthy, and well-maintained.



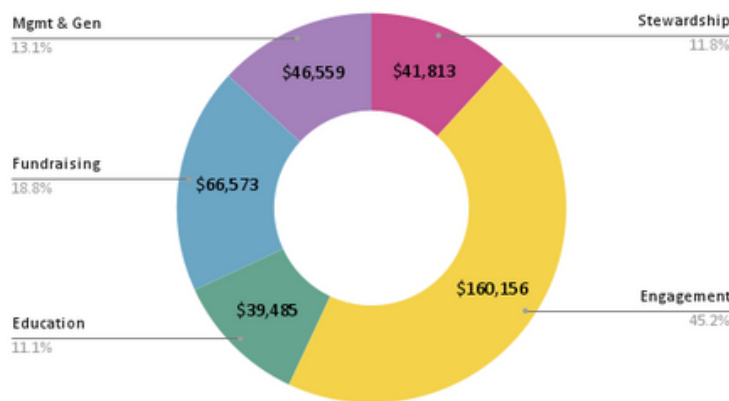
JUNIOR RANGERS UNITE

We partnered with Urban Adventure Squad to bring an immersive two-week experience to elementary and middle school children from the neighborhood. The kids had the chance to dive into nature with daily hikes and creative explorations of the park and other local outdoor spaces. The 2023 program will feature even more exciting opportunities for children to build relationships with their neighborhood national park.

2022 Revenue



2022 Expenses



THANK YOU, BOARD!

We want to acknowledge the work and contributions of our esteemed board of directors at Friends of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. Thank you for your service.

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