

Deeply Rooted

2017 Annual Report



Explore • Respect • Protect Nature

Letter from the Director



The metaphor of “deeply rooted” seems most appropriate as we begin to hit our stride in our tenth year on Garrison Forest Road. Thanks to your support, we offered over 800 programs and exposed 80,000 children and adults to the wonders of nature here in the Caves Valley. We have established Irvine as an important community resource. In fact we were recently awarded Baltimore’s Best Nature Center (rural) by Baltimore Magazine.

While we have been putting down roots, we also branched out to people who cannot come to Irvine. This year naturalists reached out to nearly 10,000 community members, teaching them about our connection to nature and their important role as its stewards.

We expect even more visitors in the coming year as we complete our wetlands restoration and open Bauer Preserve, providing 210 acres of open space in this increasingly crowded corner of Owings Mills.

None of this would be possible without you. Thank you for helping us nurture the next generation of environmental stewards.

Sincerely,
W. Brooks Paternotte
Executive Director



Branching Out

Irvine goes to learners wherever they are: in City preschools, after school programs, retirement homes, conferences and communities. More than 9,300 people from “cradle to grey” embraced nature through Irvine’s outreach programs.



Tilling the Soil

Spending time in nature enhances educational outcomes by improving children's academic performance, focus, and behavior. Exploration and discovery through outdoor experience can provide motivation to learn.



Irvine's school programs set a new record in FY 2017: 9,167 students learned to observe, measure, analyze, and enjoy nature, a 19% increase over previous years!



New curricula matching state outcomes attracted a record 108 school groups for field trips through our wetlands, meadows and woods.

Eco-Explorers, our afterschool program, nearly doubled in size. Seventeen schools extended the learning day with hands-on environmental programming delivered by Irvine.

Our phenomenally successful Nature Preschool pioneered “The Irvine Way” to graduate children who are curious, confident, inquisitive, and happy. Now we are sprouting new programs for kids of all ages – Little Birds, Forest Dreamers, Earth Friends – that use the same nature-based, child-focused teaching approach.



Tending the Garden



Last year, more than 850 volunteers committed their time, talents and love of nature to our programs, exhibits, property, and animals. We could never accomplish so much if not for them.

A grant from the State of Maryland is helping us honor the indigenous peoples who once lived upon the land that Irvine has committed to preserve, protect and respect. A new Native American encampment is beginning to take shape.

Our resident mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds and fish are vital to our mission. Many have permanent injuries, others were raised by misguided animal lovers. All can teach our visitors lessons about environmental stewardship. These animal ambassadors bring environmental issues to life, rather than remaining abstract principles open to debate.





Directed Growth

A \$1.9 million wetlands restoration project returned cornfields to the ponds and streams that once ran through Irvine. Snapping turtles, green herons, bullfrogs, and sandpipers quickly found their way home. With the opening of Bauer Preserve in 2018, we will have more trails ready for exploration.

Cultivating Our Resources

Our greatest resource is our donors. Without you, Irvine would not be able to welcome over 80,000 visitors every year; expand our property to include woods, wetlands, and meadows; and continue to cultivate the next generation of environmental leaders.



Trailblazers

Trailblazers are recognized for their generosity to the annual fund.

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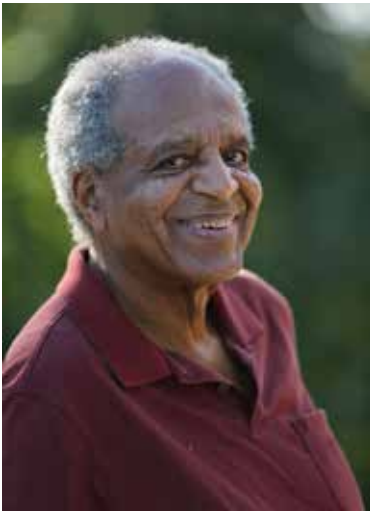
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“I support Irvine as both a volunteer and a donor. Exploring nature and interacting with visitors is a delightful experience, due in no small part to the wonderful staff.”
- Malcolm Gee

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Garden Club of Twenty
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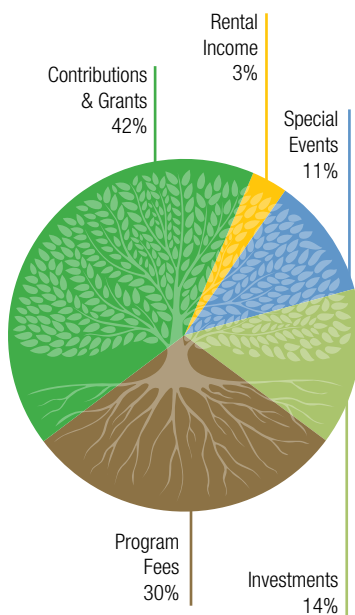
Financial Report

	2017	2016
SUPPORT & REVENUE		
Contributions	428,878	301,534
Contributions for Land/Endowment	89,150	1,707,109
Foundation Grants	527,713	262,613
Membership	29,830	32,907
Program Income	699,709	652,660
Special Events, net of direct costs	261,900	263,987
Rental Income	78,185	92,538
Retail Revenue, net of COGS	11,736	11,722
Investment Return	341,320	26,028
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE	2,468,421	3,351,098

EXPENSES		
Program	1,421,998	1,280,759
Management & General	58,580	57,425
Fundraising	274,144	309,915
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,754,722	1,648,099

Change in Net Assets before Depreciation	713,699	1,702,999
Depreciation Expense	(180,482)	(187,155)
<i>Change in Net Assets</i>	<i>533,217</i>	<i>1,515,844</i>

ASSETS, LIABILITY, & NET ASSET SUMMARY		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	882,458	1,188,561
Investments for Endowment	3,199,506	2,085,090
Pledges Receivable, net	308,738	546,258
Inventory	982	32,779
Total Liabilities	214,741	239,885
Total Net Assets	11,017,368	10,484,151
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	11,232,109	10,724,036
Prepaid Expenses	12,431	32,617
Property & Equipment, net	6,827,994	6,838,731
TOTAL ASSETS	11,232,109	10,724,036





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