



Kinnickinnic River Land Trust

ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2023
July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023



CONNECT

EDUCATE

PROTECT

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Staff:

Steve Leonard

Executive Director

Molly Barritt-Luebke

Donor and
Community Relations
Manager

Marty Engel

Land Stewardship
Manager

Greetings

Kinnickinnic River Land Trust continues to build our conservation and education efforts. What makes our success possible is our members who have helped grow this organization over the past thirty years. Thank you for all your support!

Land Stewardship Manager Marty Engel, the Conservation Committee, and volunteers continue efforts protecting the watershed and restoring key habitats. 100 acres were protected with a conservation easement in the spring of 2023, with another easement of 30 acres finalized in September. Our restoration and maintenance objectives are defined over the winter and then implemented each spring. For the next several years, Headwaters Preserve will be the focus of our restoration efforts to restore the landscape back into prairie and oak savanna.

Molly Barritt-Luebke continues to connect our members and community to our preserves and mission. As our Donor and Community Relations Manager, she shares our story and inspires others to help protect the Kinni. In the spring of 2022, we were able to hire UW-River Falls graduate Jane Taylor on a contract basis to help Molly enhance our social media platforms. Our need to protect the Kinni and share our story is critical as we continue to see the landscape develop around us.

On behalf of the board and staff, we both want to thank all our members who have supported us over the past year.

Sincerely,



STEVE LEONARD



CHARLIE RADER

**We work with the community to conserve
and protect the beauty and health of the
Kinnickinnic River and its watershed.**

Community and Outreach

Outdoors for All

A Community Conversation about Nature, Health, and Equity.

In 2022, the KRLT received a grant from The Mortenson Family Foundation for accessible trail work at Kelly Creek Preserve. When Executive Director Steve Leonard joined the organization in January of 2023, he saw a need to connect with the community to understand barriers before the trail work could begin. KRLT had an opportunity to better understand inequities and barriers to green spaces. Momentum grew, and after conversations with The Mortenson Family Foundation, the funding was adjusted to support the groundwork of focus groups and a workshop. As we continue these conversations, we look forward to sharing what we have learned and how we can make the four preserves more accessible for all.

PHENOLOGY REPORTS

My name is Jane Taylor and I write monthly Phenology reports for the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust. Phenology is the study of biological changes in relation to seasons and cycles. My reports encompass factors such as changes in weather, migration, habitat, harvest, recreation, temperature, and more! Phenology reports are important because they document the current state of the environment and allow us to compare and contrast reports from the past. I graduated from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls with a degree in Environmental Conservation, and it has been such an exciting journey to work with the KRLT to write these reports; I look forward to continuing this important work to help protect the Kinnickinnic watershed.



R4F 2023

The 2023 River Falls Fly Fishing Film Festival celebrated the fishing community and Conservationist of the Year - Gary Horvath. The event was a fundraiser, and proceeds went equally to The Rihno Foundation, which is dedicated to helping support families in Western Wisconsin affected by cancer, and to the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust. The event raised over \$15,000 for each organization!



STORIES FROM THE WATER



KRLT, in partnership with KinniCC, hosted Stories From The Water, a film by Mike Wurm at the UWRF campus. It's a film that is told through the voices of five kids from River Falls. The film includes the stories of residents and scratches the surface of conservation, wetlands, prairie, winter on the river & the soul of the fly fishing.

Conservation and Land Stewardship



NEW CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

In 2023, a new conservation easement was completed in partnership with the landowner Linda Eggert. It secured the protection of over 100 acres in the headwaters of the South Fork, an important tributary of the Kinnickinnic River. This protection honored her late husband, John's dream to see their property protected forever. The new conservation easement abuts an existing conservation easement that also consists of over 100 acres that Linda and John had put into protection in 2002. This conservation mindset has created habitat and will ensure that the headwaters of the South Fork will never be developed.

HEADWATERS PRESERVE RESTORATION



The restoration of the Headwaters Preserve is in full swing! Thanks to supporting grants from Star Prairie Fish and Game, Tropical Wings Foundation, WDNR, and the Kinnickinnic Pheasants Forever Chapter, the preserve is slowly being transitioned back to a prairie and oak savanna. The access lane was recently prepped and seeded for prairie. The removal of a large area of Box Elder Trees will make way for additional prairie plants. These native landscapes will provide critical habitat to pollinators and grassland birds. The prairie ecosystem will also be beneficial in the filtration of the headwaters of the Kinnickinnic River.



KRLT staff and board members took part in a multi-day training that focused on soil health. This was part of a three-part grant in the amount of \$10,000 from The American Farmland Trust Soil Health Award that will be used to help support conversation and handouts on the importance of soil health within the Kinnickinnic River Watershed. Stay tuned for more information and ways that you can make a difference in your own backyard.

FREE FLOWING KINNI

The Kinnickinnic River Land Trust was part of a pass-through grant from the Art and Martha Kaemmer Fun of HRK Foundation to the KinniCC that will support the costs associated with the dam removal feasibility study by the Army Corp of Engineers. We look forward to the results and are hopeful for a future with a free-flowing Kinni.



Financial Overview

The Kinnickinnic River Land Trust's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30 of the following year. This annual report represents the activities and financials from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. Please contact the KRLT office if you would like to receive a copy of our published financial statements for FY2023.

Assets

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | \$212,883 |
| Investments | \$354,017 |
| Promises to Give | \$7,350 |
| Prepaid Expenses | \$3,605 |
| Pledges | \$19,714 |
| Property and Equipment | \$1,244,111 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total Assets | \$1,841,680 |

Liabilities and Net Assets

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Current Liabilities | \$8,118 |
| Total Net Assets | \$1,833,562 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total Liabilities & Net Assets | \$1,841,680 |

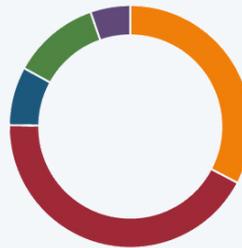
38 Conservation Easements

4 Nature Preserves



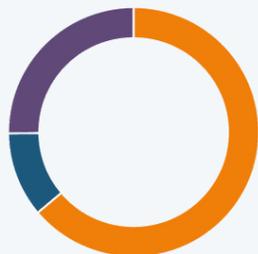
REVENUES

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Individual Restricted/Unrestricted Contributions | \$123,517 |
| Corporate/Foundation/Grants | \$160,525 |
| Investment Income | \$29,532 |
| Special Events | \$44,141 |
| Other Income | \$20,126 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total Revenue & Other Support | \$395,695 |



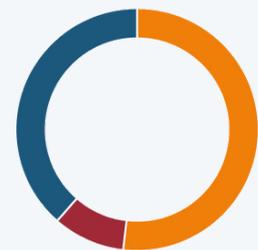
FIXED ASSETS

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Land - | \$1,231,110 |
| Land Improvements | \$21,200 |
| Equipment | \$48,527 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | -\$56,760 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total Fixed Assets | \$1,244,111 |



EXPENSES

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Program Services | \$178,434 |
| Management & General | \$33,057 |
| Fundraising | \$132,783 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total Expenses | \$344,274 |



Fiscal Year 2023 Contributors

July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

THE PROTECTION OF THE KINNICKINNIC RIVER AND WATERSHED
ARE MADE POSSIBLE WITH YOUR SUPPORT!

*KINNI GUARDIANS

\$10,000 +

Art and Martha Kaemmer Fund of HRK Foundation
Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation
Laird-Norton Family Foundation
MAHADH Fund of HRK Foundation
The Mortenson Family Foundation
*Dan & Mary Wilkening

\$5,000 - \$9,999

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\$1,000 - \$4,999

*Anonymous
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*Rick & Sandy Bowen
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Clifton Hollow Golf Club Inc.
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Star Prairie Fish & Game Inc
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*Michael & Sandy Wurm
YourCause, LLC/ United Way
Worldwide/The Blackbaud Giving Fund

\$250 - \$999

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Barry Frieler
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*David and Tami Gregg
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\$100 - \$249

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Margel Johnson
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Morgan Stanley
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Virgil Nylander
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Eugene and Donna O'Keefe

\$100 - \$249

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Stephen Pawelski
Pershing
Doug and Barb Peterson
Timothy Philips
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John Potts
Ron Pratt
Mark & Judie Raether
Tom Rasmussen
Reis Insurance Agency
Geoff Roznak
Daniel and Rose Rude
Rush River Brewing
Eric Schlobohm
Steve and Doris Schmaltz
Judy Schultz
Todd & Kensey Schultz
Charles Shaw
David and Ruby Sienko
Scott Simenson
Greg & Siri Smith
Charles Stirrat
Richard and Ann Stout
Lynnette Sweet
Tammy Tollefson & Jim Camery
Ben Toppel
David Trechter
John Van Vliet
Patrice Veit
Melanie Waldon
R.A. & S.R. Wallace
WESTconsin Credit Union
John P. and Annette M. Whaley
Lawrence Wiesner
Sandra Wilkinson
Lauri Wilson
Richard Wilson
Vera Ming Wong & W Earl Morren
Ruth Wood
Mark Wyman
Valerie and Jack W Young

UP TO \$99

AmazonSmile Foundation
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Molly Barritt
Jill Barthen Berke
Jeffrey and Lorraine Bartynski
Denny Behr
James and Jan Benson
Peter Borden
Reva Brandt
Brickhouse Music

Lori and Jeff Burks
Nancy Caya
Krista Cleary
Kenneth Croes
John Cullen
Sarah Hall & Dave Fehringer
judith emmett
Christopher Erickson
Roald Evensen
Matthew Fitzgerald
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Leah and Ron Gavin Freeman Drug, Inc.
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Steve Leonard
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John and Evy Nerbonne
Network for Good
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Larry and Sandra Persico
Jeff and Mary Ranta
Kathy & Beth Rausch
Justin Ritzinger
Michael Rogers
Steven and Jacky Rolf
Patricia Rusch
Patricia and Patrick Ryan
Greg Schlink
Tammy Schmulke
Kendra Sievers
Charlene Simonson
Michael and Darlene Sittlow
John and Eleanor Strand
Krista Spieler & Thomas R. Smith
Peter Truitt
Paul and Deborah Van Den Meerendonk
Rose Walker
Dave and Leigh Weiss
Michael Yandrasits

IN MEMORY OR TRIBUTE

In Memory-
Terry Acers:
Tammy Schmulke
Dick and Sue Beckham:
Patricia Rusch
Keith Bennett:
Judith Edgar
Eroly Bowitz:
Judy Schultz
Clarke A. Chambers:
Beverly Stadum
Jeremy Davis:
Marge and Ralph Fessler
Marvin Dusek:
Judith Edgar
Eroly Bowitz:
Judy Schultz
Gary Gibson:
Judy Schultz
Rev. Lowell Hesterman:
Paul Hesterman
Bonnie Lundell:
Judy Schultz, Richard & Linda Kling
Mark Nelson:
Judy Schultz
Dan Newman:
Judy Schultz
Paul Wiemerslage:
Susan and Anthony Alleva,
Lynn Heiser,
Dave and Leigh Weiss,
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Patricia and Patrick Ryan,
Richard and Ann Stout,
Ernie and Lynn Betker,
Jonathan & Karen Jacobs,
Michael Hutton,
Kevin Kealy,
James Obermueller & Stacy
Williams,
Christopher Erickson,
Walker & Helen Wyman:
John Wyman
Eva Wyman:
Mark Wyman
In Tribute-
Webster Barsness:
Dan Barsness
Chris Bye:
Marcy Armstrong-Dorau
Nick Jadinak and Mary Foster:
Jeff Horner
John Kaplin:
John and Julia Griffin
Charlie Rader:
Jack and Deb Flynn
Kenneth and Helen White:
Charles E. and Ruth Anne White

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Thank you to the following individuals who are leaving a legacy of land stewardship with a conservation easement on their property. Original owners of the easement are italicized.

Robert Chambers
(Clarke & Florence Chambers)
Gregory Erickson & Jamie McNaughton
Jon McGuire
(Greg Erickson)
Jeffrey & Nancy Christensen
(Peter Bloch & Bonnie Rubenstein)
Richard Purdy & Maureen Ash
Ronald Evensen & Pamela Thurow
John & Carrie Kaplan
Patrice Veit
(& Douglas Johnson)
Kelly & Ruth Cain, Robyn Langkos & Anthony Matthews, Jim Peterson & Victoria Rader, Thomas Lewanski, & Gail Cenemius.
Allan Klein & Harriet Lansing
Steve & Carolyn Cooper
(Keith & Barbara Avise)
Steven & Shelly Rucks
(Mary Swanson-MacLeod)
Edgar Family Trust
John & Linda Eggert Trust Agreement
Mark & Kelly Kopacz
(Dorwes Farms)
John Rohl Jr
(John Rohl, Sr. & Jeanne Rohl)
Brian & Sheila Schils
Russ & Sheila Loucks
(Lee Sheehy)
Shawn Monaghan & Greg Plotnikoff
(Richard & Finette Magnuson)
Bob & Wendy Hanson
(Roberta A. Johnson Revocable Trust)
Jessica Kramer
Michael Miller & Susan Goode
Charlie & Pete, LLC
Dwayne & Lois Johnson Family Trust
Steven Meads & Jennifer Johansson
Stephen Rohl & Margaret Rohl
School District of River Falls
City of River Falls
Doug & Olivia Gavic
(Michael Miller & Susan Goode)
Justin & Jill Kaufenberg
(Gregory Erickson)
Mary Foster & Nick Jadinak
Keith Rodli & Katharine R. Grant

If your name has been omitted or misspelled. Please contact us at 715.425.5738 and we will make a correction.

KRLT IS A NON-PROFIT, 501(C)3 PUBLIC TAX
EXEMPT ORGANIZATION EIN 39-6593121

The Kinnickinnic River Land Trust would like
to thank the generous supporters of FY2023

710 N Main Street, Suite 205 | P.O.Box 87 | River Falls, WI 54022

www.kinniriver.org 715.425.5738

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River Falls, WI 54022
715.425.5738
www.kinniriver.org



**Thank you
Volunteers!**

