

Annual Report



President's Report



2016 was a year of contrasts. It was the centennial of the Indiana State Park system, which began with the establishment of McCormick's Creek and Turkey Run State Parks in 1916. We celebrated this event along with state park personnel at a series of dedications and ceremonies across the state. These dedications highlighted new or renovated facilities that continued the tradition of excellence in providing first class outdoor recreation opportunities to Hoosiers.

In the general assembly IPA helped with efforts to revitalize the Indiana Heritage Trust Fund (IHT), the source of much of the money for protection of natural areas since its inception in 1993. Fees from purchases of the environmental license plate are its base, but have traditionally been heavily supplemented by legislative appropriations. These appropriations have dried up in recent years, leaving the fund unable to continue the momentum it originally created. In an effort to re-energize the program, The Nature Conservancy spearheaded an effort to rename and redefine the program as the President Benjamin Harrison Conservation Trust. While retaining the key elements of IHT, the bill streamlined it and broadened the base of support. IPA testified in favor of the bill. The bill was passed with bipartisan support, and there was renewed optimism for the future.

While celebrating past and present accomplishments, IPA continued to press the realities of deferred maintenance. The Divisions of State Parks and Nature Preserves, as well as the rest of the DNR, continued to struggle with deterioration of facilities. While DNR has never publicly

IPA 2016 Accomplishments

- Worked in partnership with the Indiana Conservation Alliance (INCA), a coalition of Indiana conservation organizations, on funding for deferred maintenance for DNR properties and the framework and funding for the new President Benjamin Harrison Conservation Trust (PBHCT) that has replaced the Indiana Heritage Trust.
- Donated \$750 to the Discovering the Outdoors Fund for school field trips to Indiana State Parks. Our gift is helped to support field trips for 22 different schools and more than 1600 students.
- Met with Governor Mike Pence's staff to encourage support for state parks and nature preserves.
- Contributed \$1000 to create a new guide to state-owned dedicated nature preserves.
- Funded a shared Indiana State Parks – National Park Service 100th birthday party at the Indiana State Fair in honor of Indiana State Parks Centennial Celebration.
- Supported local friends groups with travel and meal funding to attend an annual networking workshop.
- Authored a resolution of support for the Mounds Greenway along White River near Anderson that would provide alternative recreation and economic development with much less impact than the proposed Mounds Reservoir.
- Developed and publicized a "bucket list" of favorite state park and nature preserve sites/activities for Hoosiers to visit. The results are in the IPA Press Center at indianaparksalliance.org/press-center/.
- Hosted the first annual Indiana Parks Alliance gathering for members and guests at Mounds State Park, with a hike, a cookout and informational speakers.
- Promoted Indiana Nature Preserves and Indiana State Parks and IPA through participation at Earth Day Indiana, the Indiana State Fair and the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society Annual Conference.

quantified the extent of this need, it is believed to amount to hundreds of millions of dollars. IPA and our partner conservation organizations continued to warn legislative leaders of these unmet needs. As a result, the general assembly established a summer study committee to look at the needs of land acquisition and deferred maintenance. IPA testified before this committee, stressing the dire situation, and providing photos of some of the problems that are visible to the average user.

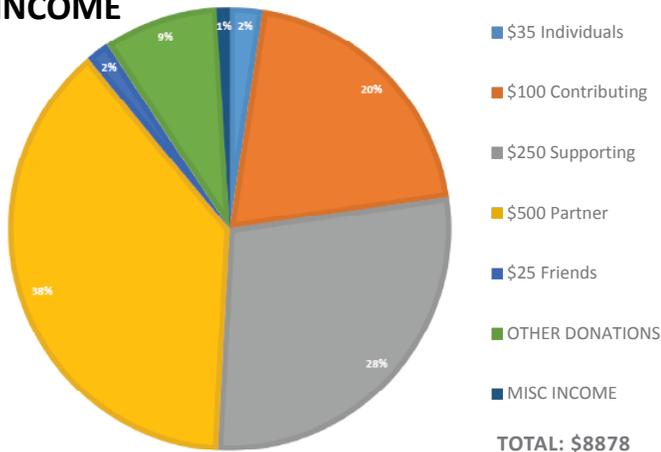
The reality is that for every visible problem, there are probably 2-3 infrastructure issues that are not visible.

IPA will continue to celebrate the accomplishments while warning of unmet needs. Thank you for your financial and verbal support of both IPA and our state parks and nature preserves. Your participation reinforces the messages we carry to legislators and government officials.

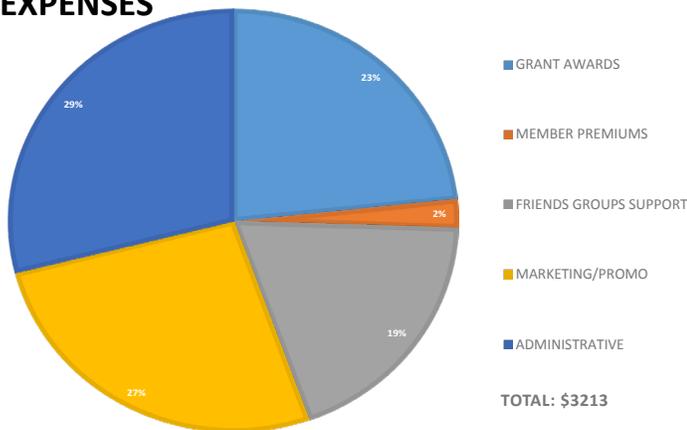
---Tom Hohman

IPA 2016 Financial Summary

INCOME



EXPENSES



A Birthday to Remember

2016 was a great year of celebration of the history, natural and cultural resources, interpretation, facilities, recreation opportunities and staff of Indiana State Parks. Highlights included:



- 11 Bricks and mortar centennial legacy projects
- Centennial curriculum for schools and groups
- “Ranger Lore” interviews of past staff members archived in the Library of Congress
- Birthday celebrations at each property
- Indiana State Parks/National Park Service birthday party at the Indiana State Fair.
- Commemorative centennial spaces at each property
- 32 centennial geocaches
- Centennial Fitness Challenge (25,000 miles recorded)
- Hosted the National Association of State Park Directors annual conference
- 128 “Arts in the Parks” and Traditional Arts events
- Fall Color Photo Contest with 2000 entries

IPA participated in legacy project dedications and funded the Indiana State Parks/National Park Service 100th Birthday Party at the Indiana State Fair. Learn more at INStateParks100.com. In 2017, IPA is celebrating 50 years of Indiana’s Nature Preserves Act - watch for those details in the 2017 report!

Watch IPA in 2017.....

- Join us for the second annual IPA gathering for members and guests on October 7, 2017 at McCormick’s Creek State Park.
- Look for an award of up to \$5000 in small project grants to local DNR friends groups.
- View the IPA webinar “The State of Indiana State Parks and State-Owned Nature Preserves,” a conversation with IPA leaders about successes and needs of these unique sites (link from website).
- Watch for news of IPA’s role in saving ash trees from the Emerald Ash Borer in nature preserves and state parks.
- Look for projects, position statements and suggestions for contacting your legislators on issues at indianaparksalliance.org/press-center/.

...And Get Involved!

- Join the Indiana Parks Alliance and help us build a strong financial foundation. If you are a state employee you can donate through the State Employee Capital Campaign (one time donation or payroll deduction.)
- Donate to the new “Save Our Ash Trees” Campaign at indianaparksalliance.org/save-our-ash-trees/.
- Use Goodshop(goodsearch.com/goodshop) or Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com) to donate when you shop.
- Help us staff booths at festivals and events.
- Serve on a committee.
- Recruit new members or suggest potential donors.
- Follow IPA at facebook.com/indianaparksalliance then like and share posts from the page.

IPA Board Members

Thanks to these leaders for their service to Indiana State Parks and Indiana’s State-Owned Dedicated Nature Preserves through the Indiana Parks Alliance. Learn about them at indianaparksalliance.org.

Tom Hohman <i>President</i> Plainfield	Tom Burkhart Shelburn	Jim Parham Indianapolis
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