



President's Report

2022: A Return to the New Normalcy



After a tumultuous two-year period beginning with the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, 2022 saw the beginning of a return to normalcy. Or maybe it would be more correct to say a return to the new normalcy. The COVID years have forever changed our society and how we approach nature.

During 2020 and 2021 many in our society rediscovered the benefits of nature. What started as a safe escape from crowds that suddenly carried hidden dangers, turned into a realization that immersing oneself in nature was relaxing and enabled us to better cope with stress. Visitation at state and local parks and other natural areas soared.

Along with this increased usage of parks came the realization that for too long we had ignored them. Increases in funding, which had actually started before the pandemic, were stepped up. Repairs began. People could see improvements, but years of neglect takes years of work to correct. Would that increased interest in nature continue after the pandemic ended? And would the support continue?

While the full answer to that won't be known for many years, the initial answer seems to be a resounding YES. All divisions of DNR, as well as local parks and land trusts, report that usage of natural areas remain strong. State Parks continues to rebuild deteriorated facilities and trails. Both State Parks and Nature Preserves continue to manage invasive plants that are threatening natural areas. Spring Mill Inn, one of seven inns in the state park system, was closed in November for a \$10 million renovation, with reopening expected in early 2024. Design is progressing for a new inn at Potato Creek State Park, along with preliminary planning for an inn at Prophetstown State Park. Nature Preserves continues to add new preserves each year.

All indications are that the future for our state parks and nature preserves is bright.

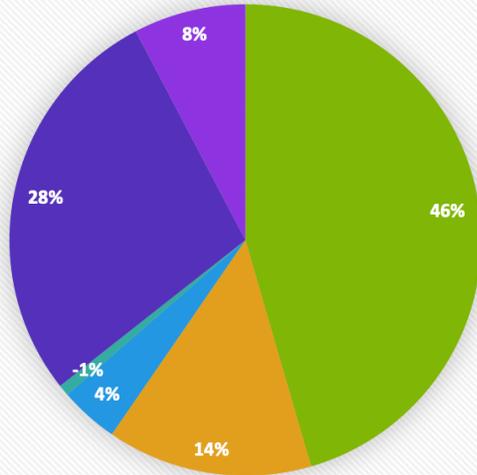
- Tom Hohman

IPA 2022 Accomplishments

- Continued participation with other conservation partners in the Indiana Conservation Alliance:
 - Meetings scheduled with several legislators and work continued to build bridges for conservation legislation
 - Recommendations for significant increases in conservation funding for the 23-25 state budget were adopted and shared with the governor's office and legislature
- Awarded \$5,550 in project grants to four state park friends' groups:
 - Friends of Mounds State Park - \$1,000 for restoration work on the historic Bronnenberg Home
 - Friends of Indiana Dunes - \$1,000 for ADA beach mats for wheelchair users
 - Friends of Ouabache - \$1,000 for Phase 2 of their invasive management initiative
 - Falls of the Ohio Foundation - \$1,000 to assist in purchasing equipment to allow those with vision, hearing, and sensory challenges to more fully experience the exhibits
 - Friends of Spring Mill State Park - \$1,000 to assist with development of a historically accurate working distillery
 - Friends of Lieber State Recreation Area - \$550 for purchase of soccer goals
- Managed a research study of tree growth at Donaldson Woods Nature Preserve in Spring Mill State Park utilizing a \$7,000 grant from the Sam Shine Foundation
- Continued the Save Our Ash Trees program with treatment of 37 ash trees at Turkey Run and Hardy Lake State Parks
- Purchased trail counters for the Division of State Parks and the Division of Nature Preserves, to help them document usage their trails are receiving
- Conducted our second annual virtual forum, continuing the partnership with The Eppley Institute at Indiana University
- Continued the annual end-of-year fundraising campaign, begun in 2020
- Approved purchase of trail signage for Clifty Falls State Park to improve visitor usage of their trail system
- Participated in outreach events, including two Earth Day events and the Indiana State Fair
- Sponsored and exhibited at several of our conservation partner's events
- Participated in the annual meeting of state park and nature preserves friends' groups

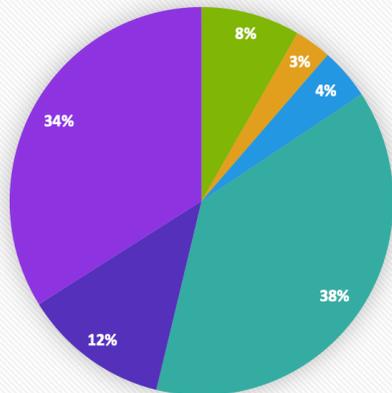
IPA 2022 Financial Summary

INCOME



■ Membership ■ Other Donations
■ Donations to Save Our Ash Trees ■ Less: PayPal Trans Fee
■ Grants: Donaldson's Wood Project ■ Year End Donations

EXPENSES



■ Administrative ■ Mailing and Office Supplies
■ Sponsorships and Events ■ Discover the Outdoors & Project Grants
■ Donaldson's Woods Project ■ Save Our Ash Trees

Watch IPA in 2023...

- Look for project grant awards to local DNR Friends groups.
- Watch for ways the Indiana Parks Alliance supports sustainable trails on DNR properties.
- Look for news on the status of the RecoverAmerica's Wildlife Act (RAWA) in Congress.
- Look for results of the old growth Donaldson Woods study at Spring Mill State Park.
- Look for IPA at Earth Day and other conservation-oriented events.
- Look for projects, position statements, and suggestions for contacting your federal and state lawmakers on issues at indianaparksalliance.org.

...And Get Involved!

- Join the Indiana Parks Alliance and help us build a strong financial foundation.
- Consider an end of year donation to IPA.
- If you are a state employee, you can donate to IPA through the State Employee Capital Campaign (one-time donation or payroll deduction).
- Use Goodshop or sign up to donate when you shop at Kroger.
- Contact your legislator and let them know that state parks and nature preserves are important to you. You can email your legislator thru the Indiana General Assembly website, <http://iga.in.gov/>.
- Help us staff booths at festivals and events.
- Serve on an IPA committee.
- Recruit new members or suggest potential donors.
- Follow IPA on facebook.com/indianaparksalliance

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

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