As the world changed around us, we continued to deliver our mission.

To awaken a sense of wonder and inspire environmental stewardship and sustainability through natural science education.
DEAR FRIENDS

We are pleased to bring you the Annual Report for our fiscal year 2021 (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021).

The past year has been a story of perseverance, creativity, positive impact, and the increasing importance of our mission. Despite changing conditions due to the pandemic, our dedicated staff delivered programs for our students and communities that deepened understanding of, and passion for, environmental stewardship.

The puzzle of climate change consists of many pieces. The solutions are complex and the challenge is urgent, requiring generations of inspired global citizens to work together. We are proud of our work and we know that from our beautiful valley in the Rocky Mountains, we are doing our part to seek solutions.

Last year, our Board of Directors decided to eliminate fees for our Field Science Programs in public schools. Since all public school field trips were canceled, we brought these programs to schools and served more students than ever before! This was an important step in our efforts to make natural science and sustainability education accessible to all members of our community.

We completed construction on the Pete & Pat Frechette Field Studies Basecamp, and the George Meadow Learning Studio. Last year, our first cohort of Foley Graduate Fellows to reside in the new Pete & Pat Frechette Educator Housing moved into this employee housing on our campus. The importance of our mission. Despite changing conditions due to the pandemic, our dedicated staff delivered programs for our students and communities that deepened understanding of, and passion for, environmental stewardship.

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We completed construction on the Pete & Pat Frechette Educator Community and the Foley Graduate Fellows moved into the employee housing on our campus. The impact of staff housing and hiring more fellows was a major step in our efforts to make natural science and sustainability education accessible to all members of our community.

We are delighted to welcome you to A Taste of Nature, our annual celebration of our mission to “awaken a sense of wonder and inspire environmental stewardship and sustainability through natural science education.” We raise a glass with you to toast a milestone that we achieved last year, when we surpassed our fundraising goals! Additionally, you helped us close the capital campaign for the completion of the Avon Tang Campus which now features 13 energy efficient buildings and eleven acres of beautiful land along Buck Creek.

As you read this, we are celebrating the important milestones of the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Avon Tang Campus and we hope you plan a visit to walk the paths, enjoy the exhibits, and reflect on our responsibility to protect our natural environment together.

Thank you for your generous support -- we cannot do this work without you.

Stay Curious,
Markian Feduschak
President

In our system, we know that each donor, participant, and student attendee is a piece of the puzzle to create a healthy and sustainable Eagle County.

In 2020, we were unable to gather for our annual fundraising gala, A Taste of Nature. Even without the event, you exceeded our expectations to help us surpass our fundraising goals! Additionally, major gifts from our individual donors, local businesses and foundations, and the Frechette Family Foundation, are doing our part to seek solutions.

To all those working to create a healthy and sustainable Eagle County, we recognize your contributions and thank you.

Thank you for your support and your commitment to the mission of Walking Mountains.

Markian Feduschak
President
We really appreciate Walking Mountains thinking outside of the box and finding meaningful, safe experiences for our students during a pandemic. It was a breath of fresh air to experience a normal field trip! Amazing efforts put into providing our students with meaningful outdoor education. It was more than just a fun day; our students learned through experiencing the outdoors.

Kelly Place, ECCA 2nd Grade Teacher

THIS YEAR CHALLENGED US TO CREATE UNIQUE SOLUTIONS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our youth and community programs were unable to welcome students off the bus to campus. Instead, we adapted and brought our classes, learning, adventures and place-based science to them without a single COVID-19 incident.

Teresa Cierco
Edwards 4th Grade Teacher

122,000+ PEOPLE REACHED

Whether virtual, at campus, or on location… we never stopped teaching.

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Kelly Place, ECCA 2nd Grade Teacher

6

7
EAGLE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Preschool Programs (3-6 year olds)
School Field Science Programs (K-8th grade)
Sowing Seeds “Garden Special” (K-5th grade)

STEM PROGRAMS
Girls In Science (3rd-5th grade)
STEM Curiosity Lab (Middle School)

SUMMER SCIENCE CAMPS
Single Day Camps (Kindergarten students)
Week Long Day Camps (1st-8th grade)

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS
EarthKeepers (3-6 year olds)
Nature Tykes (1-3 year olds)

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Youth Programs positively impact the education of students by providing education experiences that increase science literacy, promote systems thinking, and create sense of place while fostering environmental stewardship.

6,392 STUDENTS TAUGHT IN FREE FIELD SCIENCE PROGRAMS

130 STUDENTS participated in after-school STEM programs

360+ pounds of produce harvested and donated to teachers, families & the Community Market from Sowing Seeds

1,500 PARTICIPANTS experienced an Early Childhood Program at no cost

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COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Community Programs engage members and visitors through experiential opportunities using our integrated facilities and the natural environment.

We inspire stewardship and help people develop a positive relationship with the natural world.

16,621 people reached through Community Programs
The Eagle Valley Outdoor Movement (EVOM) is a group of community members and local organizations working together to strengthen community and appreciation of nature through shared outdoor experiences for people of all ages, abilities and cultures.

El Eagle Valley Outdoor Movement, EVOM por sus siglas en inglés, es un grupo de miembros de la comunidad y organizaciones locales trabajando juntos para fortalecer la comunidad y la apreciación de la naturaleza a través de experiencias compartidas al aire libre para personas de todas las edades, habilidades y culturas.

107 OUTDOOR FAMILY programs with 1,140 participants

110 K-12 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS offered to 1,988 youth
We are all a piece of the puzzle for a sustainable future.
The Sustainability Programs department acts as an agent of change to achieve local climate action goals and improve the social, economic, and environmental resilience of the Eagle County community. We serve as a resource and education hub to inspire action from local to global.

99,372 people reached

166 residential + commercial energy assessments

37 days of zero waste events

12,296 lbs of waste diverted from landfill and sent to compost or recycle

56 people trained in business sustainability best practices
Climate Action Collaborative is a talented group of community stakeholders dedicated to combating climate change and fostering a more sustainable Eagle County community.

#BeBetterTOGETHER

FOUNDING PARTNERS
Colorado Mountain College – Edwards
Eagle County
Eagle County School District
Eco Transit
Edwards Metro District
Eagle River Water & Sanitation District
Eagle River Youth Coalition
Eagle-Vail Gold Club
Eagle Valley Land Trust
Holy Cross Energy
Mountain Recreation
Mountain Youth
R.A. Nelson
R&H Mechanical
The Community Market
Town of Avon
Town of Basalt
Town of Eagle
Town of Minturn
Town of Red Cliff
Town of Vail
Trapper Creek
Vail Daily
Vail Health
Vail Honeywagon
Vail Mountain School
Vail Resorts
Vail Valley Foundation
Valley Valley Partnership
Walking Mountains Science Center

146 CLIMATE ACTION MEETINGS totalling 180+ hours

241 ATTENDEES at CAC Quarterly Stakeholder Meetings

LAUNCHED TRENDS WITH BENEFITS CAMPAIGN
To reduce emissions from transportation and improve business resiliency.

THE GOAL
Reduce Eagle County carbon emissions 50% by 2030 & 80% by 2050.

In the last year, the CAC updated and released the new Climate Action Plan with a revised carbon reduction target and modeled priority actions to meet our target.

To read the full Climate Plan and Priority Actions, visit: walkingmountains.org/climateplan
Local students today. Global environmental stewards tomorrow.

We know that our puzzle must include all ages learning to become stewards. Through internships and graduate programs, we are expanding our reach locally and nationally.

8
FOLEY GRADUATE FELLOWS
Fellows teach field science programs and summer science camps while earning a master’s degree in Science Education from the University of Northern Colorado.

8
HIGH SCHOOL NATURAL RESOURCE INTERNS
Eagle County high school students are employed through paid conservation stewardship projects that enhance the resiliency of our mountain landscapes.

12
NATURALIST INTERNS
Naturalists staff nature centers, and lead environmental education and interpretive programs. They receive NAI’s Certified Interpreter training.

6
SUSTAINABILITY INTERNS
Interns gain hands-on skills in fostering sustainable behaviors while also gaining experience learning how communities, governments, and businesses are taking action to improve their environmental impacts.

THIS YEAR WE HIRED:

Following the completion of the Pete & Pat Frechette Educator Community, we were able to welcome a second cohort of Foley Graduate Fellows allowing us to expand our education programming.

"The Frechette educator housing is the reason I’m able to be here now, participating in the Foley Graduate Fellowship. It’s a dream to work for an incredible nonprofit, living in such a beautiful place, and being surrounded by the best coworkers and roommates right on campus!

Anna Kiewra
Foley Fellow Class of 2021-2023"
Walking Mountains Science Center believes that equity, inclusion, and cultural relevance are foundational values of a just world and sustainable future. We know that every piece of our puzzle is important, valued and needed.

As this work is never done, follow our developments and initiatives as we work to create a more inclusive place to work and learn.

walkingmountains.org/JEDI

Walking Mountains has been making important changes to our hiring, training, governance, and employment practices to better diversify our organization and culture.

Growth takes time, passion and an eagerness to create meaningful impact.

We involve our community to inform our work through committees, one-on-one interviews, community surveys and focus groups at local schools. In recent years, we wanted to create a new system of gathering feedback from our community so that we may dive deeper into the issue of an equitable outdoors.

Working with our Board of Directors, in 2020 we established a Community Advisory Committee. This committee hosts a broader representation of our community we hope to serve and provides a comfortable setting to learn and grow as leaders. Meeting bi-monthly, their responsibilities closely align with the work of Walking Mountains’ JEDI committee. This committee will ensure more diverse groups are represented and have a voice in the conversation.

The goal is to create a system that allows us, our community members, staff and board, to make decisions that are addressing the needs of our whole community. The Community Advisory Committee provides strategic and operational input to assure programs are accessible and relevant to our diverse community of residents, families and students.
PHILANTHROPY & DONOR EVENTS

Nearly 70% of our operating revenue comes from the charitable giving of individuals, foundations, businesses, and governments.

SAVE THE DATE
A TASTE OF NATURE GALA JULY 7, 2022

THE EDVENTURE SERIES
Donors of $1,000 or more annually are invited to educational adventures that bring our mission to life, showcase our educators and partners, and introduce new places across Eagle County. We are proud to have expanded our donor programming during the pandemic. We explored a wide variety of topics in person and via Zoom.

“...the program at Walking Mountains yesterday was wonderfully informative and presented in such interesting ways as are all events at Walking Mountains. We loved learning on the beautiful campus and spending time with intelligent and fun people. Thank you so much for the opportunity!!”

Laurie and Claude Pupkin Walking Mountains Supporters

152+ DONORS participated in EdVentures taught by 20 DIFFERENT EDUCATORS
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

ANNUAL OPERATING REVENUE $3,547,439
- 53% Fundraising $1,896,997
- 26% Programs $926,162
- 15% Special Events $533,420
- 6% In-kind & Other $190,860

ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENSES $3,593,197
- 63% Programs $2,277,899
- 18% Operations $634,227
- 17% Fundraising $620,380
- 2% Special Events $60,691

TOTAL ASSETS $23,636,649
- 82% Fixed Assets $19,348,236
- 6% Operating Cash/Reserves $1,486,280
- 6% Endowments $1,460,270
- 5% Accounts Receivable $1,159,442
- 1% Other Current Assets $108,730
- 0% Capital Cash $73,691
* Accumulated depreciation - $2,389,618

TOTAL REVENUE $3,929,666
- 35% Individual Contributions $1,375,186
- 23% Program Fees $924,695
- 21% Government Contributions $812,940
- 9% Foundation Contributions $348,260
- 7% Corporate Contributions $272,467
- 5% Other Income $196,118
* Capital restricted revenue $382,227
* Operating revenue $3,547,439

Full financial reports available at walkingmountains.org/reports
Walking Mountains Science Center operates under a special use permit from the White River, San Isabel, and Pike National Forests and is an equal opportunity service provider. All or part of this operation is conducted on public lands under special permit from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

PHOTO CREDITS: Walking Mountains Science Center, Chris Cohen, Andrew Taylor, Mackenzie Koffenberger, Karina Schorr, John-Ryan Lockman

Find us online walkingmountains.org