



**Walking
Mountains**

EDUCATION | SCIENCE
SUSTAINABILITY

2023 ANNUAL REPORT





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Welcome

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well and filled with the same sense of wonder that our incredible natural world has to offer. I am pleased to present our annual report for our fiscal year 2023, beginning July 1, 2022, and concluding June 30, 2023.

This year is extra special as it marks our 25th anniversary, a remarkable milestone achieved thanks to the unwavering support of our generous supporters, along with the dedication of our current and former board members and staff. Walking Mountains has experienced tremendous growth over the past 25 years, driven by the continued demand for our programs and the invaluable partnerships and collaborations we've cultivated within our community. The importance of our mission continues to grow and its impact resonates throughout our Valley and beyond.

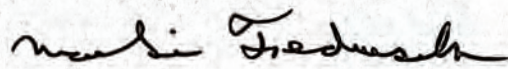
In July, we celebrated the opening of the new 224-acre Precourt Family Sweetwater Campus and George Family Education Center. This expansion allows us to offer even more diverse programming and provide access to unique ecosystems and learning environments in western Eagle County.

We are excited to continue inspiring a love for science, education, and sustainability and look forward to welcoming more students to experience the magic of Sweetwater in the months to come.

As we look ahead to the next 25 years, we are more determined than ever to achieve our vision—an Eagle Valley where everyone understands the science of nature and is inspired to act as an environmental steward. At Walking Mountains, we cannot realize this vision without the unwavering support of our donor community. Your dedication and enthusiasm are the driving forces behind our success, and we're incredibly grateful for your steadfast support.

I would like to thank every one of you for being a part of the Walking Mountains community. It is your curiosity, enthusiasm, and passion for our mission that makes it all possible. Here's to the next 25 years of discovery, wonder, and growth. I can't wait to see what the future holds for us all.

With Gratitude,



MARKIAN FEDUSCHAK, PRESIDENT

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Amy Sadler
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John Shipp
Brian Sipes
David Smith
Carol Wellbaum
Bill Woolfolk

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As of June 30, 2023

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Kelly Bronfman
Alan Danson
Buck Elliott
Holly Elliott
Jenny Maritz
Ben Peternell
Pat Tierney

We connect people with nature and empower them to protect it.

Walking Mountains is a leading environmental education organization that fosters stewardship and builds transformative partnerships across Eagle County. We teach people of all ages about our natural world through immersive science-based experiences, groundbreaking sustainability initiatives, captivating programs, and engaging events.

OUR MISSION

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

OUR VISION

We envision an Eagle River Valley where everyone understands the science of nature and is inspired to take action as an environmental steward.

OUR LOCATIONS



◀ AVON TANG CAMPUS



◀ NATURE DISCOVERY CENTER ON VAIL MOUNTAIN



◀ VAIL NATURE CENTER IN FORD PARK

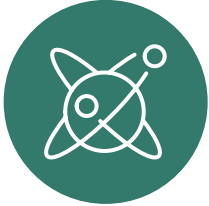


◀ PRECOURT FAMILY SWEETWATER CAMPUS

Our Annual Impact



410,058 *Total lives reached across all programs.*



Our Avon Tang Campus reached 8,802 residents and visitors, providing innovative natural science learning opportunities.



4,540

students served from Vail to Gypsum and beyond through our experiential nature-based field science programs.



We visited all 34 Eagle County School's preschool classes at least 4 times, spending over 1,598 service hours bringing nature to preschoolers and teachers.



840

Reached through Development Events or Programs.



47,785

Reached through Youth & Community Programs.



361,433

Reached through Sustainability Programs.



Walking Mountains staff and programming cannot be beat. So caring and fun and stimulating!”

REBECCA, TEACHER



Our zero waste events team coordinated 118 days of events, reaching an estimated 320,000+ people.

Youth Programs

We positively impact learners by providing equitable experiences that increase science literacy, connect learners to the natural world, and promote environmental stewardship.

6,310

local students participated in our free school-based science programs.

487

youth participated in summer science camps.

3,880

children (6 months-6 years) attended a nature-based science education program.



Foley Graduate Fellowship

A multi-faceted program that focuses on K-8th grade field science education, leadership, and helping to grow a reputable nonprofit organization.

12

Foley Graduate Fellows earning a master's degree from the University of Northern Colorado.

4,540

youth taught during Field Science Programs.



Learn more about our passionate Graduate Fellows in the blog: [Not Your Typical Camp Counselor](#)

Community Programs

We engage community members and visitors of all ages and backgrounds through experiential opportunities, workshops and lectures, and guided backcountry experiences.

40,857

community members and visitors reached through experiential programs using our integrated facilities and the local environment.



Eagle Valley Outdoor Movement (EVOM)

EVOM is a group of local organizations and community members led by Walking Mountains, striving to provide equal access to outdoor spaces and opportunities for youth and families in the Eagle River Valley.

”

EVOM has strengthened and changed the Latino community. Now there are activities being offered for us every week, where we can meet new people, have fun, and explore the outdoors.”

ANGELICA, PARTICIPANT

2,677

people reached through 128 outdoor-based family programs.

32

community partners offered inclusive programs to increase access to the outdoors.

Sustainability Programs



I learned so much about what to recycle and compost. The tour really opened my eyes to the amount of waste in the landfill.”

TOM, RECYCLING CENTER TOUR PARTICIPANT

We act 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. We facilitate climate action, energy-efficiency and assistance programs, recycling and waste reduction, sustainable business training, and sustainable destination programs.



52,000+

pounds of waste from 118 days of events was diverted from the landfill through the Zero Waste program.

\$275,293

in energy-efficiency rebates granted after completing 225+ home and business energy assessments.

\$332,323

in estimated annual utility costs saved by homes & businesses who got a rebate and energy visit, reducing GHG emissions by 1,545+ MtCO₂e annually.

Philanthropy & Donor Events

Walking Mountains depends on the philanthropic support of our community to fund 70% of our annual operating budget, as well as to fund capital projects and ensure long-term fiscal sustainability. We are deeply grateful for the incredible generosity of our donors, who make all of this possible.



The dedication of the Walking Mountains staff to making a difference now and into the future in the areas of natural science and sustainability is tangible. I'm proud to be a member of the strong community of Walking Mountains supporters investing in the future of our Valley."

LAURA TUMPERI



The new Precourt Family Sweetwater Campus and George Family Education Center offer expanded programming and access to unique ecosystems and learning environments in western Eagle County.



Donors who contributed \$1,000 or more were invited to participate in fun, engaging, and educational EdVenture events.

**JUL
09**

**SAVE THE DATE
A Taste of
Nature Gala**



This year we successfully launched our “Endowment for the Future” campaign to secure endowment and planned giving commitments to ensure long term fiscal sustainability. This can provide critical funds to supplement annual fundraising efforts.

Thank You for Your Support

INDIVIDUAL, FOUNDATION, GOVERNMENT, AND CORPORATE DONORS

This list includes contributions received toward our annual campaign, capital fundraising, and endowment from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Please see Endowment for the Future Campaign Donors section and Campaign for Growth Donors section for total commitments for those initiatives. Every effort has been made for accuracy on pages 10–13. If you feel there is an error, please contact Tessa Allen at (970) 827-9725 x145.

VISIONARIES

\$1,000,000+

Frechette Family Foundation
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TRAILBLAZERS

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Nancy and Stephen Dowdle
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US Forest Service
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Vail Resorts EpicPromise
Vilar Performing Arts Center
Vines at Vail Winery
Vintage Magnolia
Sunnie and Mark Wang
Wolf Property Services, LLC

CAMPAIGN FOR GROWTH DONORS

Recognized for their contributions to our Comprehensive Campaign for expansion.

\$1,000,000+

Alpine Bank
The Borgen Family
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Frechette Family Foundation
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George Family Foundation
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\$500,000+

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Teri and Tony* Perry
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Western Colorado Community
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\$50,000+

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\$25,000+

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\$1,000,000+

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\$500,000+

Barbie and Tony Mayer

\$100,000+

Don Brownstein and
Lisa Tannebaum
and the Brownstein
Family Foundation
Jennifer and Don Holzworth
Colleen and David Reitan

\$50,000+

Craig Foley
Mimi and Woody Stockwell

\$25,000+

Sunny and Phil Brodsky

UP TO \$25,000

Kristen and Steve Bertuglia
Kristie and Fritz Bratschie
Stacy and Mike Brown
Nancy and Stephen Dowdle
Samantha Hodgkins
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Magda and Tony King
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Colleen and David Reitan
Elizabeth and Brian Sipes
Laura Tumperi
Carol and Lance Wellbaum

*With deep gratitude to those deceased

Financial Highlights

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	209,568
Restricted cash held for others	137,587
Investments	742,276
Accounts receivable	135,468
Pledges receivable	758,420
Bookstore inventory	21,772
Other current assets	86,320
▶ Total current assets	2,091,411

Non Current Assets

Pledges receivable	628,378
Endowment cash and investments	1,901,039
▶ Total non current assets	2,529,417
Fixed assets, net	20,403,611
▶ Total Assets	25,024,439

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities

Accounts payable	172,012
Accrued payroll	196,842
Line of credit and cash reserve payable	396,815
Deferred revenue	675,592
Held for others	137,587
▶ Total current liabilities	1,578,848
▶ Total Liabilities	1,578,848

NET ASSETS

Without donor restrictions

Net investment in fixed assets	20,403,611
Undesignated	685,928

With donor restrictions

▶ Total net assets	23,445,591
▶ Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$25,024,439

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)

Revenues

Contributions and grants	
Without Donor Restrictions	\$1,955,787
With Donor Restrictions	1,037,035
Contributed nonfinancial assets	334,765
Program fees and tuition	1,298,302
Special events	83,995
Investment income (loss)	
Without Donor Restrictions	130,056
With Donor Restrictions	127,154
Bookstore sales	23,174
Other	10,015
Net assets released from restrictions	
Without Donor Restrictions	1,101,388
With Donor Restrictions	-1,101,388

▶ Total Revenues

Without Donor Restrictions	4,937,482
With Donor Restrictions	62,801

▶ Total Revenues

Expenses:

Programs	3,317,334
Management and general	706,342
Fundraising and other supporting services	1,026,772
▶ Total Expenses	5,050,448
* Operating Income (Loss)	-50,165

Change in Net Assets	-50,165
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	24,006,477
Net Assets - End of Year	23,445,591

*Please note FY23 depreciation expense was \$511k. Not reflected here.





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