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QUARRY HILL NATURE CENTER
2015 ANNUAL REPORT



WELCOME

Dear Friends,

It has been an exciting year for the Nature Center. In late 2014, Quarry Hill Park and Nature Center applied for and was formally designated by the Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails Commission as a Minnesota Park of Regional Significance. Over 90 applications representing 80 counties across Greater Minnesota were submitted during the commission's inaugural application process for this special designation. Applications were vetted down to 19 formally recognized by the State. Quarry Hill scored highly through this process, ranking in the top four of those granted this special designation.

The Friends of Quarry Hill along with the City of Rochester Park and Recreation Department completed a master plan with recommendations for improvements, restoration and revitalization of both the Nature Center and park land. Many stakeholders across the community joined us in developing this plan which honors our legacy, envisions our future and charts a course to meet the needs of future generations.

This first ever master plan for the Nature Center and park helped to affirm and articulate the vision and values which make the Nature Center a unique and important part of our community and region. In this annual report you will see this vision and values reflected in our words and actions.

This special designation is an honor; one which we could not have achieved without the tremendous dedication of those who laid the foundation for all Quarry Hill would become along with those who continue to cultivate ideas which inspire deep connections to the natural world.

We are grateful for the community which embraces and supports the vision, mission and values of Quarry Hill. Together we look forward to continuing our legacy of stewardship and environmental education here at the Nature Center.

Pam Meyer
Executive Director

► **View the Master Plan at**
www.QHNC.org

OUR MISSION

Opening eyes & minds through natural science discovery.

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to be a catalyst for a culture of smarter, healthier, and happier citizens inspired by and deeply connected with the natural world.

OUR VALUES

EXPERIENCE: We provide experiences in nature that engage the senses, foster discovery, ignite learning and inspire action.

SCIENCE EDUCATION: We deliver innovative natural science education using the park and nature center's resources and the methods of science to bring lessons to life through immersive inquiry-based learning for all ages.

LIFE-LONG LEARNING: We provide experiences for all ages that have lasting and meaningful impact and instill and nurture ones natural curiosity about the world around them for years to come.

INCLUSIVITY & DIVERSITY: We strive to be a welcoming place for everyone; where experiences transcend all ages, races, genders, languages, abilities and comfort levels.

SUSTAINABILITY: We invest in smart choices which support the long term health, stability and sustainability of the park and nature centers natural, historical, and educational resources.

COMMUNITY: We hold a sense of responsibility to the community that supports our work to communicate, collaborate and implement practices which provide quality experiences for all.

PARTNERSHIPS: We collaborate to build strong partnerships which support and strengthen our impact.



2014

Best Regional Summer Camp – Runner up
Post Bulletin Reader's Choice Awards

Greater MN Parks and Trails

Designation: Minnesota Park of Regional Significance

Category: Natural Resource-based Regional Park

2015

Best Park or Public Area
Med City Best Places in Rochester

EXPERIENCE

At the heart of our value system is providing experiences in nature that engage the senses, foster discovery, ignite learning, and inspire action.

Science teachers in the late 1960's built the foundation for Quarry Hill's long-term community impact. Today our work with local schools continues to flourish as we provide districts across the region unique opportunities for students to immerse in engaging, hands-on, inquiry based lessons which enhance their classroom science instruction. During the 2014-15 school year, 26,482 K-12 students participated in our natural science classes.

Quarry Hill continues to expand educational efforts to reach beyond the traditional K-12 student and to connect with a broader and more diverse audience to fulfill our mission and inspire learners of all ages and abilities.

Highlights from this past year include:

- Creation of ABC's Naturally book totes, a free family engagement and science literacy tool
- Launch of thematic adventure backpacks for check out in the park
- More diverse camp offerings for teens and early elementary students
- Expanded education and outreach efforts around monarch conservation, 282 citizen scientists helped tag nearly 400 monarch butterflies this season.

The education we are providing today is still relevant, impactful and needed. During the 2014-15 program year Quarry Hill welcomed over 88,000 visitors.

While Quarry Hill is a local treasure to many, our impact reaches well beyond our community. Since 2013, our visitors represent every county in Minnesota, all 50 states, and over 56 foreign countries. We are a regional gateway for all seeking a meaningful experience in the natural world.



HARRY BUCK

founding director and current volunteer

"Once a teacher, always a teacher."

Harry Buck founded the educational programs at Quarry Hill and continues to work with students today as a volunteer. For Harry it's about rejoicing in the shared joy of discovery with students.

A volunteers effect can be infinite - their efforts can ignite learning that transforms the way we think and see the world. Friends of Quarry Hill Nature Center volunteers are an integral part of the delivery of quality programming.



Education remains paramount to our mission. Innovative natural science programs for all ages are offered year round from formal K-12 science curriculum to one-of-a-kind experiences for adults and nature-themed birthdays for kids.



SCHOOLS & ORGANIZATIONS SERVED

Early Childhood

Bethany Nursery School
Civic League Day Nursery
Families First Rochester
First Steps Childcare
Kindercare Learning Center
Kingdom Kids
Lewiston ECFC
Primrose School
New Horizon Academy
St. Charles ECSE
Stewartville St. Johns Wee Care
Migrant Headstart

K-12 Schools

Ambassador Academy Inc
Byron Elementary
Chatfield Elementary
Christ Lutheran
Dover-Eyota Elementary
East Homeschool Coop
Faribault Elementary
RPS GATEway
Hayfield Elementary
Hollandale Christian
Holy Spirit Catholic
RAASCHE
Kasson-Mantorville Elementary
La Crescent-Hokah Elementary
Lanesboro Elementary
Lewiston Elementary
Medford Public
New Dominion

Owatonna Public

Austin Pacelli Catholic
Pine Island Senior High
Plainview Elgin Millville
Red Wing Public
Resurrection Lutheran
Rochester Central Lutheran
Rochester Math and Science Academy
Rochester Montessori School
Rochester Public Elementary
Rochester Public Middle & High
Schaeffer Academy
Southland Elementary
St. Charles Elementary
St. Felix Catholic
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic
St. Pius Catholic
Stewartville Elementary & Senior High
Triton Elementary
Waterville Elysian Morristown Elementary
Young Homeschool
Zumbrota Mazeppa Public

Higher Education

Augsburg College
RCTC
University of Minnesota Rochester

Senior Communities

Pine Haven Care Center
Realife Cooperative
Shorewood Senior Campus
The Waters on Mayowood

Organizations and Clubs

Assembly of God Church
Harriet Bishop PTSA
Boy Scouts
Boys & Girls Club of Rochester
Cardinal Kids
Cub Scouts
Region 10 Deaf & Hard of Hearing Students
Elton Hills PTSA
George Gibbs PTSA
Girl Scouts
Kingsland SACC
Lanesboro SACC
MN Master Gardeners
MN Master Naturalists
MN Adult & Teen Challenge Rochester
National Eagle Center
People of Hope Lutheran Church
Pinewood PTSA
PossAbilities
Rochester Area Retired Teachers Association
Rochester Community Education - Adults with Exceptional Abilities
Rochester Covenant Church
Rochester Public Schools SACC
Ronald McDonald House
Sunset Terrace PTSA
Train A Child Center
Washington PTSA
Zumbro Valley Mental Health
Zumbrota Public Library

VISITATION

Children & Adults Served

Science & Environmental Education 34,731

K-12 Science Classes	26,482
Adult Education	247
Preschool	521
Families	157
Sunday Naturalist Programs	858
Birthdays	2,358
Scouts, 4-H, Boys & Girls Club	434
Naturalist Outreach	1,182
Other Naturalist Presentations	2,492

Camps 2,860

Summer Nature Camp	2,291
Good-natured Kids	144
Camp Grand	58
Longfellow Days	325
Spring Break	42

Community Events 7,728

Fall Festival	6,621
Creatures of the Night	751
New Years Eve	156
Winterfest	140
Earthday	60

Nature Center & Exploration Hall Walk-in Visitors 43,512

Weekday walk-in visitors	21,991
Weekend walk-in visitors	21,521

TOTAL Children & Adults Served 88,755

The schools and organizations served as well as the visitation numbers represent the September 2014 - August 2015 program year.

DONORS

We are grateful for our Community of Donors who provides necessary resources to provide affordable and accessible nature programs, maintain quality staff, maintain facilities and equipment, and provide a year-round public Exploration Hall with live animals at free admission.

Thank you to the members and friends who supported Friends of Quarry Hill Nature Center with charitable donations between September 1, 2014 and August 31, 2015. The depth and breadth of membership giving does not permit us to print a complete membership list here. For a full list, visit www.QHNC.org. Every attempt was made to ensure the accuracy of this list. Please contact Quarry Hill Nature Center at 507-328-3950 if there is an error or omission.



Individual Donors

\$20,000 +

Dolores Sande Estate

\$10,000 - \$19,999

Philip R. and Catherine M. Karsell

\$5,000 - \$9,999

George & Pat Penokie *

Raymond Schmitz & Gael Entrikin *

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Barbara Madsen

James & Lulu Gores

Megan Williams *

Michael & Maggie Herman *

\$500 - \$999

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Jasper & Cynthia Daube

Jennifer Ginder

Bernice Krug Fund

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Kah Whye Peng *

Brian & Anne Purrington *

Sylvia Quast *

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\$250 - \$499

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William & Mary Ann Boyne *

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Jeff & Jennifer Feece *

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Yolanda Garces & Joseph Gliniecki *

Todd Heins

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Melody Tiedeman *

Rich & Marian Van Dellen Donor

Advised Fund *

\$100 - \$249

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Patrick & Katherine Arendt

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Crystal Bain

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Brent & Kristin Bauer *

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Kyle Christianson

Greg & Amy Caucett

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Robert Cline & Patricia Barrier *

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Jim & Jenny Dervin

David & Bianca DeLone *

Nancy Disque

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Elaine Eck *

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Andrew & Anastasia Folpe *

Randy & Dorothea Fritz *

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Paul & Annette Godtland *

Sally Gough

Leon & Linda Gregg *

James & Darlene Habinek *

Don & Jean Hanson

Tina Hursh

Kimberlie Ignatius

John & Jana Janosik *

Dennis & Joann Johnson *

Nancy & Richard Joyce *

Don & Donna Pfeifer *

Jeannine Karnes *

Jordan Kautz

Christina Keferlis

Verliss Keller-Miller

Arthur Warrington & Eileen Kennedy *

Dave & Alice Kerr

Bob & Karen Kertis *

Dan & Nancy Klema *

Suresh & Nirmala Kotagal

Eric & Connie Larson *

Jennifer Larson

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Jim & Cindy Martenson

Alex McLaren

Malcolm & Elizabeth McIntosh

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Michael & Dena Mundy *

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A. Deedee Odell

Tom & Lori Oftedahl *

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Wendy White & Jim Onigkeit *

Philip Osmundson *

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Chuck & Linda Willihnganz *

Shelly Wolesky Herman

John & Virginia Woodruff *

Herman and Marilyn Yates *

Ken & Mary Zaiken

** Indicates 5 or more consecutive years of giving*

Consecutive Year Donors

The donors below have given for five or more consecutive years and have not yet appeared in this report.

Lester & Eileen Backus

Greg & Stephanie Barsness

Ted & Sarah Bauer

Krista Below

Dave & Maureen Bhaskaran

Roland & Deb Bice

Diane Blakley

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Richard & Nancy Brubaker

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Paul & Jill Daniels

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Joel & Sandy Dunnette

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Jason & Alana Eldrige

Mark Federspiel & Linda Gregory

Kenneth & Karen Fetterly

Keith Fisher

Bob & Cindy Gathje

Gregg & Pamela Geerdes

Donald & Stephanie Glascock

Kerry Graves

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Charles & Nancy Handlon

George & Monica Hansen

Ray & Mary Hansen

Jon & Julie Hanson

Chad Garren & Lisa Hartzheim

Brad & Angie Haugen

Sandy Hokanson

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John & Jan Iverson

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Erik & Tara Kaufman

Dan & Betsy Kennedy

Daryl & Molly Kor

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John & Sue Schaffner

Henry Schiller & Jean Fox

Mike & Roxanne Schlasner

Don Scholz

Troy & Jestine Schuler

Brian & Brenda Shamblin

Karl & Betty Shidler

John & DeAnna Stelley

Mona Stevermer

Kevin & Andrea Strauss



IN MEMORY

of Al Strom & Dolores Sande

Al Strom was a dedicated teacher and lifelong learner who loved nature – always attentive to and appreciative of the lessons which unfold when you step outside – one of the greatest classrooms.

Al moved to Rochester in 1966, where he taught biology at John Marshall High School for 30 years. Al had strong connections to Quarry Hill, working alongside founding director Harry Buck in the early years, using the park to bring science lessons to life for area students. As an active Master Gardener, Al was instrumental in establishing the butterfly garden at the Nature Center.

Al's family generously directed memorials to Quarry Hill. Those funds are being used to restore and improve our bird and bee study area. As an avid birder and one who loved to dig in the dirt, this gift will not only provide resources for wildlife but will also facilitate an opportunity for visitors to learn through observation.

Al is remembered as a kind, patient and intelligent educator who was a friend to everyone.

*"...Come forth into the light of things,
let nature be your teacher"*

– William Wordsworth

Dolores Sande also a dedicated teacher began her teaching career in Rochester, at Holmes Elementary School where she taught third grade for 26 years, retiring in 1993.

Dolores is remembered by those who loved her as having a curious mind, devoted to helping others, lifelong learning and teaching children.

Among many things she enjoyed hiking, nature and reading. Dolores' generous bequest to Quarry Hill funds a new literacy program called ABC's Naturally. For years, Quarry Hill naturalists have used children's books during early childhood programs to help illustrate natural science concepts in a fun and engaging way. ABC's Naturally expands that practice by providing thematic tote bags for families to use while visiting the nature center. Aimed at young readers ages 2 – 8 each bag contains a variety of children's books chosen to introduce children to the language of science and the natural world around them. Also included is an activity to do in the park that springboards off concepts presented in the books, and a take away to continue the learning at home. Totes are free to check out for use in the park.

The impact of Al & Dolores' generosity and more importantly the many lessons they have imparted will continue to be a gift to the community.



WHAT OUR VISITORS ARE SAYING

The plans you have presented are excellent! It gives the Nature Center a clean, fresh and updated appearance – one that will rival the Science Museum. Children will LOVE all of these improvements! I think these improvements will also increase attendance for pre-school, school aged & adult programming. Go forth!

– Master plan public input session participant

My child learned so much from this class and the excellent instructors. He said it's been his favorite camp so far and is so excited to go every day. Thank you!

– Parent of summer camper, age 10

Quarry Hill is so hands-on. There are many things to touch and feel and they make you feel like it's your own backyard!

– Michelle Manguson via KAAL TV interview

QHNC camp has been an enriching, fun & educational experience. My son loves to come and explore outside and learn new facts/information. Thank you!

– Parent of 2015 summer camper, age 5

I love Quarry Hill. When I grow up, I want to work at Quarry Hill. Quarry Hill is the place to be!

– Longfellow Elementary student

The hands-on things are wonderful ways to keep the kids engaged. Thank you for giving us a local area that won't become a concrete jungle - one that will remain through my son's generation.

– Karen, Rochester, MN



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Friends of Quarry Hill Nature Center financial statements are audited annually by an independent certified public accountant.

PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE

PUBLIC SUPPORT	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Contributions	60,689	19,232	79,921
Memberships	36,174		36,174
In-kind Contributions	227,370		227,370
Grants	3,000	2,000	5,000
Equal Access Scholarship Program		33,002	33,002

REVENUE

Programs	230,064		230,064
Fundraising events & exhibits	100,832		100,832
Rentals	19,261		19,261
Contract Services	31,665		31,665
Merchandise Sales	22,068		22,068
Interest and Dividends	7,123		7,123
Unrealized Gain on Investment	6,969		6,969
Net Assets released from restrictions			
Equal Access Scholarship Program	33,002	(33,002)	
Program supplies/equipment	25,427	(25,427)	

TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE	803,644	(4,195)	799,449
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EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES	597,149		597,149
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE	87,587		87,587
FUNDRAISING EVENTS	40,651		40,651
TOTAL EXPENSES	725,387		725,387

Total Change in Net Assets	78,257	(4,195)	74,062
Net Assets - beginning of year	645,306	68,105	713,411

NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	723,563	63,910	787,473
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ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash & Equivalents	\$436,806
Other Current assets	\$16,297
Total Current Assets	\$453,103

FIXED ASSETS

Property and Equipment (at cost, less depreciation of \$72,871)	\$54,709
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ENDOWMENT

Beneficial interest in assets held by RAF*	\$320,054
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TOTAL ASSETS	\$827,866
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LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Total Current Liabilities	\$40,393
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NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$403,509
Unrestricted endowment assets held by RAF*	\$320,054
Temporarily restricted	\$63,910
Total Net Assets	\$787,473

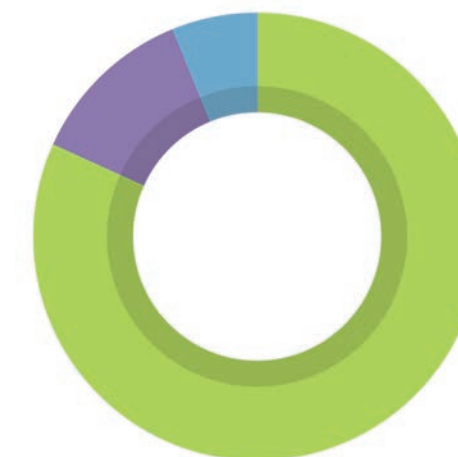
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$827,866
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* The Friends of Quarry Hill Nature Center, Inc. has established an endowment fund that is managed by the Rochester Area Foundation (RAF). This fund is property of RAF and under their complete control. Distributions from the fund may only be made to the Friends of Quarry Hill Nature Center Inc. at the discretion of the RAF Board of Trustees. As of December 31, 2014 the market value of the fund was \$320,054.

Gifts to the endowment fund are appreciated and can be made at any time. Contact Quarry Hill Nature Center for more information.

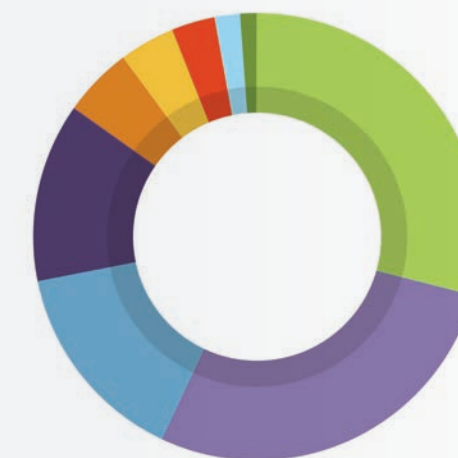
EXPENSES

Program Services	82%
General & Administrative	12%
Fundraising Events	6%



SUPPORT & REVENUE

Program Fees	29%
In-kind Contributions	28%
Contributions	15%
Fundraising events & Exhibits	13%
Grants	5%
Contract Services	4%
Merchandise Sales	3%
Rentals	2%
Interest & Investments	1%



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Cline, President	Christopher Davis
Michael Sadauskis, Vice-President	Nora Dooley
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Mike Nigbur, City of Rochester Park & Forestry Division Head	

STAFF

Pamela Meyer	Executive Director
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Jenna Daire	Naturalist
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Carrie Nelson	Naturalist
Kirk Payne	Teacher/Naturalist
Sammie Peterson	Naturalist



QUARRY HILL NATURE CENTER

"Opening eyes & minds through natural science discovery."

