Connecting our PAST TO our FUTURE

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019
Dear Friends,

It’s hard to capture all the incredible things that happened at Asbury Woods during 2018-2019. It was a year of transformation and growth in so many ways. More than three years have passed since Asbury Woods Partnership purchased the property and Nature Center and we couldn’t be more excited about the new directions, programs, growth and expanded community engagement taking place. At the same time, we are keenly aware of the history of Asbury Woods, the valued community traditions and the countless donors, volunteers, advocates and supporters who helped us reach this transformational stage.

As we continue to evaluate, expand and improve our school programs, we have also re-evaluated our community programming to ensure we are offering environmental education, environmental awareness and outdoor recreation programs for all ages. During 2018-2019 we offered 100 more community programs than we did the prior year! A large part of this was more adult programs, more teen programs and offering popular programs more frequently.

Last year we invested heavily in our people, our property, our mission and our infrastructure to ensure Asbury Woods is a vibrant, dynamic and engaging organization with a talented, committed staff and well-maintained buildings and property for visitors. As we continue to move the organization forward and widen our impact, we also pledge to ensure we are connecting Asbury Woods’ rich past to its bright future.

I’m ever grateful for your support of Asbury Woods and look forward to what we can accomplish together to deliver on our mission of environmental education, environmental stewardship and outdoor recreation for all members of the community.

From the Woods,

Jennifer A. Farrar, CFRE
Executive Director

-Year at a glance-

**Audited Financials**
**JULY 1, 2018 – JUNE 30, 2019**

**Program Impact**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Programs</th>
<th>Number of Program Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>11,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>11,972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-19</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>13,168</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“\[I took a walk in the woods and came out taller than the trees.\]”
-Henry David Thoreau
Annual Fund

Friends of Asbury Woods (1-50)
• Patricia & Leroy Rose
• Sandy & Barry Lauder
• David & Katherine Lewis
• Robert & Barbara Lewis
• Robin & Andrew Sassa
• Anne & Tom Chenet
• Craig & Karen Eckert
• Reid & Martha Mecham
• Frank & Trudy McGlothlin
• Bob & Carol Colvin
• Mark & Cindy Leith

• Jill & Alan Baer
• John & Mary McCool
• Maeve & Brian Carr
• Philip & Viola Bower
• Marcy & Richard Baker
• Paul & Jennifer Healy
• Susan & Tom Morrisey
• Jonathan & Sarah Ross
• Sally & Michael Martin
• Ken & Paula Marr
• Eric & Christy Morland
• Karen & Bill Givens
• Mary & Dan Mitchell
• Dorothy & John Smith
• Robert & Bernadette Freeman
• Michael & Susan Weis-Frigon
• Tom & Catherine McKeever
• Jack & Connie Mace
• Michael & Margaret Hepler
• Michael & Elena Weil
• Christopher & Kate Russell
• Mary & Robert Abbot

Supporting ($50 - $99)
• John & Beth Whitman
• Elizabeth & Robert Rich
• Summer & John Mahan
• Judy & Ed Dudley
• Bob & Carol Geist
• John & Karen Farnham
• Judy & Thomas Payton
• Thomas & Mary Link
• Michelle & Thaddeus Anderson
• Lance & Lisa Charles
• Mary & Gary King

SCHOOL PROGRAMS
During the 2018-19 school year 12,794 students had an Asbury Woods experience as part of their curriculum, whether they went to them at their school or they learned in the outdoor classroom that our property provides. We continued long-standing partnerships with Millcreek Township School District and Fairview School District while also developing and deepening relationships with new districts and schools.

Students grades K-12 from across Erie County visited Asbury Woods for curriculum enhancing experiences. Students from Millcreek Township School District, Fairview School District, Wattpark Area School District, PT. LaMoore School District, Grand School District, Harborcreek School District, North East School District, General Mclean School District, Diocese of Erie Catholic Schools, homeschool groups and private schools all had the opportunity to participate in our environment-based STEM experiences. Our environmental STEM programs are giving students the experience, tools and skills they need to confidently pursue STEM studies and careers while sharing the values of environmental sustainability.

Last school year we were particularly thrilled to welcome 799 elementary children from three schools of the School District of the City of Erie. Grant funding from the Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust made this experiences possible by underwriting the program fees and paying for bus transportation to bring these children to Asbury Woods.

Drop-in and Discover

Saturday mornings came alive at the Nature Center with the launching our new weekly program for kids and families. Each week a fresh hands-on, minds-on educational activity was presented focused on a theme. Themes included animal tracks, snowflake science, vermicomposting, leaf printing, the lifecycle of plastic, animal myths, nature hikes and much, much more.

Earth Day All Month Long
During April 2019 Asbury Woods celebrated Earth Day all month with a series of programs, communications and articles that focused on sustainability. Programs covered topics for all ages such as a zero-waste picnic lunch, building a rain barrel, sustainable cleaning products, recycling and composting.

Programs to educate and inspire

During 2018-19, donor support helped Asbury Woods bridge the past and present by reimaging long standing programs, adding new programs and sharing our mission of environmental awareness, stewardship and outdoor recreation.
SNOW CAMP WITH THE SIGHT CENTER OF NWPA

During January and February 2016, Asbury Woods was delighted to partner with the Sight Center of NWPA to host their weekly after-school snow camp for low-vision children. The main goal of the program was to provide rural country ski instruction to the children but on days when the snow wasn’t on the ground, the kids enjoyed indoor and outdoor activities. Asbury Woods contributed the costs of all equipment and staff time to help provide new experiences outdoors and with nature to these kids of the Sight Center.

Partnerships expand impact

UNEARTHED WITH MERCYHURST UNIVERSITY

During July 2016, Brown’s Farm Barn was transformed with an installation of fossils from the Seneca Natural History Collection of Mercyhurst University. The exhibition was an exciting partnership that highlighted the fields of geology, history and the excitement of scientific discovery while highlighting the history of the Earth and the processes that continue to shape our planet and life on it. The fossils included specimens that showcased roughly 500 million years of geologic history. In addition to public visual tours, several programs and lectures were offered in conjunction with the exhibition. During the month-long exhibit, 434 people viewed the exhibit and/or participated in an associated program.
Sponsors

Mondays in the Woods
This summer we hosted over 3,000 people in the Woods for seven weeks of musical acts along with food trucks, extended Nature Center hours, and more. The music series brought old friends back into the Woods and introduced a whole new audience to Asbury Woods. Monday Music in the Woods was presented by Bock Insurance Agency with additional support from Horstman and Son’s Country Store and Lavery Brewing Company.

WINE AND DINE IN THE WOODS
Over 350 people joined us for our signature fundraising event. This is an elegantly casual outdoor evening of unique food pairings, delightful wines, craft beers and live music. The evening was infused with elements of our mission that reflects environmental education & stewardship, outdoor appreciation and exploration of natural places.

INTO THE WOODS 5 MILER
On June 1, 2019 we hosted our 3rd annual Into the Woods 5 Miler Trail race that 213 runners were vying for top honors, along with 25 kids in the half-mile fun run and 19 walkers covering 2 miles of trails. Into the Woods run highlights our mission focus on outdoor recreation.

SPONSORSHIPS LAUNCH NEW EVENTS

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In October 2018 we officially wrapped up the successful Preserving a Legacy Capital Campaign that infused $5.2 million into Asbury Woods for the purchase and preservation of the property and current and future needs. The official acquisition in July 2016 was just the beginning of the impact of these critical dollars for Asbury Woods. Campaign funds have helped Asbury Woods evolve into a dynamic organization with new and innovative programs, updated facilities, necessary maintenance equipment and a fresh branding initiative.

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The premiere projects that the Preserving a Legacy campaign has accomplished to date include:

- Purchase of a truck, snow plow and salt spreader to handle snow removal
- Purchase of a tractor for maintaining the property
- Purchase of a phone system, hardware and computer server
- Maintenance of the Nature Center’s geothermal system, a key part of the overall green building design
- Overall marketing plan that included new logos for branding and new website
- Beautiful new signage with solar lighting to ensure high visibility
- Maintenance projects such as parking lot sealing, systems repairs, refreshing the chimney, and more
- Exterior remodeling of the cottage portion of the Nature Center including siding, windows, trim repair and gutter work to ensure this historic portion of our property is preserved well into the future
- Replacement and expansion of the boardwalk, a key part of the property that is enjoyed by thousands of people each year. The new boardwalk totals 2,800 feet in length to access the field, forest and wetland habitats of Asbury Woods. It also features an observation deck, large gazebo and a covered wetland teaching pavilion
- Revision and expansion of the curriculum-based nature and STEM experiences available to school students in Erie County. The new curriculum offers topics in the areas of life sciences, physical science and Earth and space science, all using Asbury Woods unique property and outdoor classrooms to offer hands-on learning experiences
- Investment in educational technology to complement and enhance the new curriculum. Ipads, a weather station, digital sensors, trail cameras, stream tables, and more for measuring environmental conditions, collecting and analyzing data and integrating scientific methods into our environmental based STEM education programs.

The generosity of the Preserving a Legacy Campaign donors will live on for years to come as we continue to invest in our mission, the property and the people of all ages who come to Asbury Woods for environmental education and nature experiences.

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Asbury Woods

The mission of Asbury Woods is to provide all members of the community with meaningful environmental, educational and recreational experiences that inspire a greater sense of environmental awareness, sustainability and stewardship.