

2023 Impact Report



ACCOKEEK
FOUNDATION
at Piscataway Park

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters:

Reflecting on our journey together in 2023 fills me with profound gratitude as I continue to serve as Executive Director. Stepping into this role, enriched by fifteen years of history within our organization, alongside Laura, has been a deeply humbling and invigorating experience.

Our dedication to the Accokeek Reimagined vision has been pivotal. I take great pride in the strides we've made toward enhancing diversity and efficiency within our team. Central to our efforts has been a commitment to representation, particularly in amplifying the voices of the Piscataway and African American communities. Welcoming Tiara Thomas and Jeff Frederick as directors has strengthened our collective mission, infusing it with invaluable expertise.

With 2024 now underway, our focus remains on deepening our impact and fostering stronger connections within our community. Collaborating closely with the National Park Service and Tribal partners, our aim is to ensure the inclusive and sustainable management of Piscataway Park, while also addressing essential maintenance needs. The renovation of our garden spaces stands as a testament to our commitment to providing accessible areas for education and exploration, inviting visitors to engage more deeply with our mission.

Crucial to our endeavors is the involvement of volunteers in ecological restoration projects, vital for preserving and enhancing native ecosystems within the park. Through initiatives like our Accokeek Conservation Corps internship program, we're empowering young leaders, fostering their connection to the land for a sustainable future. Additionally, curating oral histories and developing multimedia resources will enrich the cultural and environmental narrative of the Piscataway cultural landscape. Education remains a cornerstone of our mission, and we're dedicated to aligning our school programs with evolving curriculum standards. By delivering professional development workshops and forging partnerships with local educational agencies like Prince George's County Public Schools, we ensure our programs remain relevant and engaging for students, nurturing a new generation of stewards. As we gaze toward the horizon, preparing for America's 250th anniversary in 2026, we renew our commitment to honoring historical milestones while safeguarding the future of Piscataway Park. Finalizing the renewal of our Cooperative Agreement with the National Park Service will ensure our continued partnership in stewardship.

Hand in hand with our partners, we shall honor the past, cherish the present, and safeguard the future, for in the heart of Accokeek beats the soul of a nation.

With boundless gratitude for your unwavering support, wanishi,

Anjela



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

As I reflect on 2023, the 66th year of the Accokeek Foundation, I continue to be energized by what drew me to board service ten years ago. The land at Piscataway Park, at Moyaon, the sacred homelands of Piscataway, and the opportunity to support Indigenous connections to their homelands at a national park drew me to service. The intersection of relations at this place, through the Foundation, and the unique good work of the Foundation inspired me to be a part of this organization. The Accokeek Foundation's bold creativity as one of the country's first land trusts that, with its partners, combined historic preservation of the Mount Vernon viewshed with care of the land along the Potomac at Moyaon stands as a significant, lasting vital contribution to the region and nation. Our dedication to using stewardship of the land and waters to reach people, build connections, and educate new generations remains our core mission.

The Board of Trustees celebrates 2023 as a transformative year. Our new Executive Director Anjela Barnes is leading a strong team of stewards and educators who are building, enriching, and strengthening relations with the many communities related to the land and waters at Piscataway Park. Our relation through a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service enables us to provide visitor services and steward the land.

This year the Foundation collaborated in sharing knowledge and practice with incredible partners so that together we could advance our region. Our hosting of the 2023 Launch of the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area at Piscataway Park; working with The Nature Conservancy on prescribed burn training and sharing of land care knowledge across our region among our staffs; supporting Piscataway interpretation of their homelands within the Park; and welcoming back busloads of school children for our rich cultural and environmental field trips demonstrate our commitment to stewardship and meaningful education in a collaborative way.

The Foundation will continue its tradition of partnering, stewardship, and education in 2024. With grant funding, we are poised to listen to the land, waters, and communities and to amplify what we hear. For the next year our listening will include collecting stories of fisherfolk and celebrating the rich history of the waterways, fish, plants, and people along the Potomac.

In closing, I am reminded of what our Vice Chair Joe Harley observed about the core work of the Accokeek Foundation – the land remains, generations of people change, but the duty to care for the land and its relations remains. What a blessing it is to be here on the river, at Moyaon, with an organization dedicated to caring for the land and its relations. To the Piscataway, Moyaon means “everything is here”. The Foundation honors the significance of this place and all its relations. Please support and share in the lasting and good work of the Accokeek Foundation.

With gratitude,

Virginia R. Busby, PhD
Chair, Board of Trustees





ACCOKEEK REIMAGINED

As we look seven generations ahead, the Accokeek Foundation's vision for Reimagining Accokeek is to engage public audiences in teaching agroecology, traditional foodways, and seed saving for a *rematriation* of Indigenous culture at Piscataway Park. This work is based on three core concepts: regenerative agriculture, ecological restoration, and Piscataway cultural restoration.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

2,262

Volunteer hours

109,521

Piscataway Park visitors

3,521

Students from 68 schools



HIGHLIGHT: INDIGENIZING THE CURRICULUM

This year, through support from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, we updated content covered during the Wild Rice unit in 7th grade classrooms in Prince George's County. The addendum was created to indigenize the conversation around Manominx (wild rice) and introduce the plant within its indigenous cultural significance as a food source. In partnership with Piscataway tribal members and the William S. Schmidt Center, over 50 teachers received professional development and training on the new content.



HIGHLIGHT: ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

To counter decreasing plant biodiversity and declining health of culturally-relevant native plants due to invasive species, the Foundation is removing hundreds of pounds of invasive plant material from targeted areas throughout the park. Utilizing volunteerism, internships, consultation from Indigenous tribal partners, support from National Park Service partners, and targeted animal grazing, the Foundation is working to restore ecosystems to balance. Volunteers also actively contributed to removing pollution from the Potomac River and riparian ecosystems.

Restoration efforts not only mitigate habitat deterioration but also create a healthy environment for people, plants, and animals. Pasture management plans are underway to rewild monocrop pastures into ecologically diverse meadows through targeted livestock grazing. The newly revived Ethnobotanic Garden will serve as a demonstration and seed-saving space for medicinal, cultural, and sensory native perennials cared for based on Indigenous methods.



HIGHLIGHT: **SOUTHERN MARYLAND** **NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA**

On May 25, 2023, hundreds of Marylanders gathered in Piscataway Park to celebrate the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area designation. Piscataway leaders welcomed Governor Wes Moore, Lt. Governor Aruna Miller, Senator Ben Cardin, and Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Shannon Estenoz for the celebration.





HIGHLIGHT: **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Foundation remains actively involved in regional initiatives, representing Piscataway Park and advising on the development of planning, sustainable tourism, and culturally-responsive environmental education, with an intentional focus on sharing Indigenous cultural heritage. This is done in partnership with:

- National Park Service
- Piscataway Indian Nation
- Piscataway Conoy Tribe
- Southern Maryland National Heritage Area
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- Malloes Bay National Marine Sanctuary
- The Nature Conservancy
- Prince George's County Public Schools
- Prince George's County William S. Schmidt Environmental Center
- Prince George's County Summer Youth Enrichment Program
- George Washington's Mount Vernon



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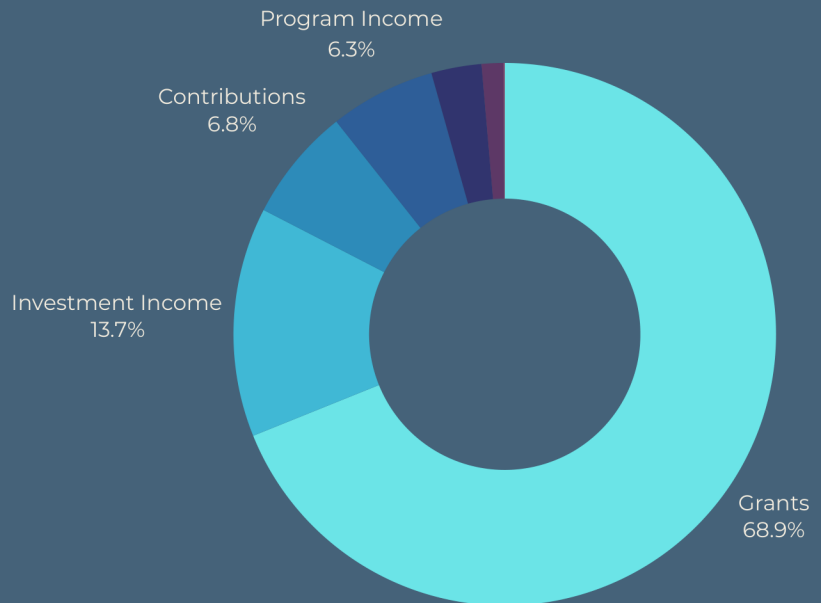
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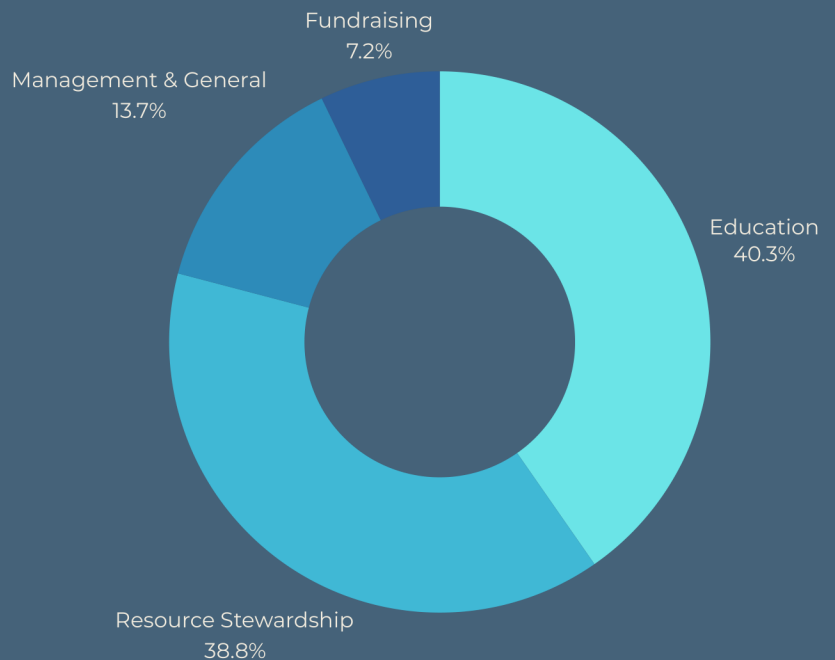
REVENUES

Grants	\$946,804
Investment Income	\$187,942
Contributions	\$92,988
Program Income	\$86,588
Other Income	\$41,036
Rental Income	\$17,850
In-Kind	\$1,000
Total Revenues	\$1,374,208



EXPENSES

Program Expenses	
Education	\$724,285
Resource Stewardship	\$696,326
Total Program Services	\$1,420,611
Support Services	
Management & General	\$246,764
Fundraising	\$128,992
Total Support Services	\$375,756
Total Expenses	\$1,796,367



The Accokeek Foundation is a donor-supported, non-profit organization that cultivates passion for the natural and cultural heritage of Piscataway Park and commitment to stewardship and sustainability. A partner of the National Park Service, the Foundation stewards 200 acres while honoring the Indigenous people and values that shaped this land, A copy of the audited financial statement and IRS form 990 is available by emailing development@accokeek.org.

Thank you
to all our donors and volunteers.



development@accokeek.org



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