



## 2021 Annual Report



Photo credit – Gary Bank

PRESERVE | EDUCATE | NURTURE

## CHAIR MESSAGE

There is so much to celebrate when I reflect back on the year 2021.

The Springbrook Nature Center Foundation remained steadfast in our commitment to support Springbrook Nature Center as the community and the nature center cautiously returned to programming, events, and community outreach.

With the support of our generous donors, we were able to provide more camp scholarships than ever before. Knowing that our children had been so affected by all the changes that came with the pandemic (activities canceled, virtual schooling, social isolation, etc.), the Foundation approved a measure that would open up the qualifications for camp scholarships to include families impacted by the pandemic.

*“The thought of gifting kids a connection to nature, especially those who otherwise might not have been able to participate in camp, was our single greatest accomplishment of the past year.”*

Also, with the help of our very gracious donors and a match from the Fridley Lions Club, we were able to help secure the funding to complete the green roof on the nature center. This exciting new feature will provide a multitude

of benefits while fulfilling the intended design of the roof when the building was constructed back in 2016.



While we weren't able to host any of the familiar in-person fundraising events that we have in the past, 2021 presented us with an opportunity to connect with the community in new ways. One of those ways was through hosting the community carving events in the week leading up to Pumpkin Night in the Park. This was a tremendous opportunity for Board members to connect with members of the community and talk about the work that we do, all while assisting Springbrook Nature Center's staff in the preparations for that incredible event.

We are so fortunate to have engaged Board members and an outstanding network of fiercely loyal donors.

Thank you for continuing to support the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation.

**Renaë Wrich**  
**2021-2022 Chair**

## STAFF MESSAGE

2021 was a year of “returns”. A return to in-person programming, a return to face-to-face communication, and a return to regular visitation of the interpretive building.

We might have started the year with virtual programming, outdoor-only teaching, and limited visitation, but we have finished the year with a return to many of our popular programs and activities. It was a year of flexibility amongst staff, volunteers and visitors. Thank you for your resiliency and dedication as we continued to find ways to provide recreational opportunities, educational experiences, and healing spaces during uncertain times.

We were excited by the return of a variety of popular programs in 2021. Migration Celebration returned as our first all outdoor special event. We welcomed campers onsite for a full summer program of running through the woods, climbing trees, canoeing, practicing survival skills, and reconnecting with other kids. Pumpkin Night in the Park and community pumpkin carving returned to a sold-out crowd.

2021 also brought in staffing changes and new additions to the Springbrook Nature Center team. We congratulate Mike Maher in his promotion to Director of Community Services within the City of Fridley. His leadership has been, and continues to be, instrumental to the team. Tara Rogness has

stepped into the role of Nature Center Manager this year, bringing with her more than 20 years of experience in the naturalist field and at Springbrook Nature Center. These changes led to the addition of Cody Rossetti to the Springbrook Nature Center staff. Cody brings creativity, innovation, energy, and many years of naturalist experience to the role of Interpretive Program Coordinator.

It was another busy year for visitation to Springbrook Nature Center. Seeing so many visitors provides a great reminder of the power of time spent in nature. It can reduce our anxiety, improve our health, and provide the opportunity for our natural curiosity to flourish.

We look forward to even brighter days ahead when our camps, events, programs, and classrooms are bustling once again with crowds of people. Until then, we are grateful that Springbrook Nature Center continues to fill an important need in our community. Our mission to cultivate connections between people and nature has never been more critical as we heal, look forward and strive towards a world where nature is appreciated and valued by all.

On behalf of the Springbrook Nature Center staff, thank you to all that have provided support and encouragement through donations, volunteer efforts, program participation, or simply visiting and enjoying the nature center.

**Sincerely,**

**Springbrook Nature  
Center Staff**

# HIGHLIGHTS & IMPACT

Check out the exciting things that happened at Springbrook Nature Center in 2021.

1. Yay! Camp Springbrook is back in session.



3. Pumpkin Night in the Park and community pumpkin carving were back and quickly SOLD OUT!



5. A fun and interactive app-based scavenger hunt, EcoDash, was offered as an Earth Day Event.





2. Received grants from Xcel Energy Foundation and International Paper Foundation to fund the Becoming a Bird Watcher exhibit.



4. Migration Celebration returned with live birds, bird hikes, bird crafts, and bird games!



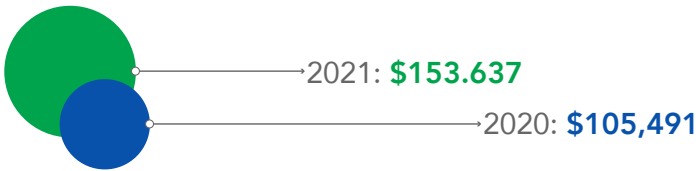
6. We hosted (with financial support from the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation) a summer concert series featuring Anthony Miltich, Blue Groove Bluegrass, and Xibaba Brazilion Jazz.



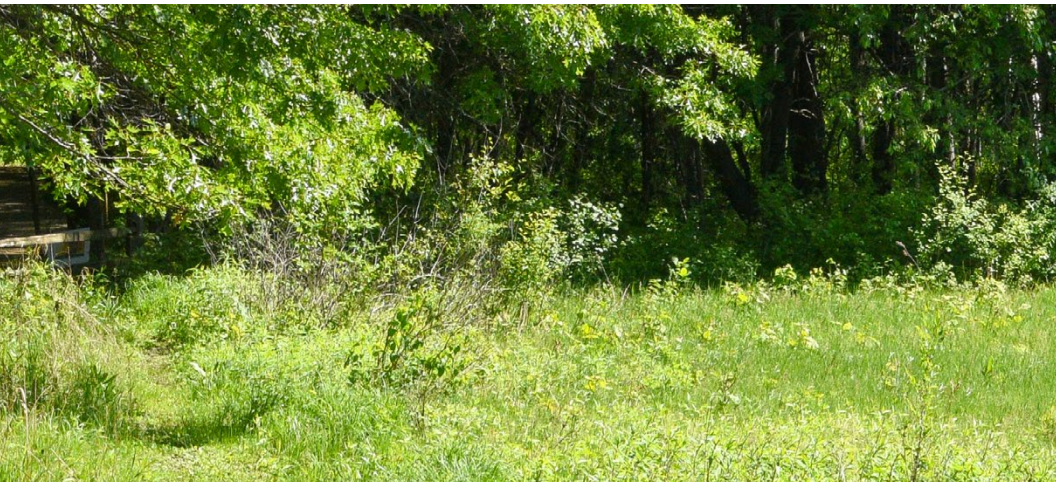
## FINANCIALS

<b>INCOME:</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	*Fiscal Year: January 1 – December 31
<b>Contributions</b>			
Individual	37,943	69,382	
Corporate/Foundations	14,608	16,650	
Green Roof Campaign	72,000	–	
PAC Capital Project (Fireplace)	25,275	–	
Special Events	3,800	19,617	
Interest and Other Income	11	–	
Investment Loss	–	(158)	

### Total Income



*The Springbrook Nature Center Foundation is a 501(C)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization separate from the City of Fridley. Its mission is to protect and enhance Springbrook Nature Center. However, different from most non-profit organizations, the City of Fridley owns and operates the Springbrook Nature Center while the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation raises funds for additional programming, capital enhancements and other program support. The above unaudited financial statement does not include personnel and other general operating expenses for Springbrook Nature Center. The Springbrook Nature Center Foundation is in final stages of a major capital fundraising campaign to support the enhanced development of Springbrook Nature Center. Note that during the pandemic, the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation has not been able to run many of its fundraising events.*



## FINANCIALS

### EXPENSES:

**2021**

**2020**

\*Fiscal Year:  
January 1 –  
December 31

### Capital Support

Pavilion Activity Center	–	80,312
Benches, Pavers, Trees & Picnic Tables	3,162	5,256
Program Support	2,625	12,983
Special Events	–	5,900
Scholarships	7,495	–
Fundraising	228	–
Newsletters & Communications	2,254	5,122
Office/Miscellaneous	984	636
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$16,748</b>	<b>\$110,209</b>

### Net Revenue

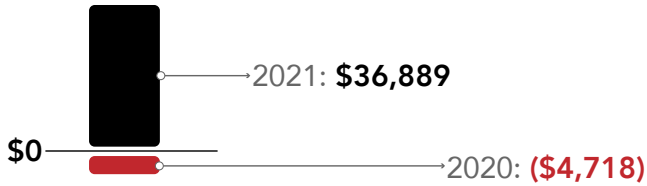


Photo credit – Gary Bank



## OUR SUPPORTERS

*The generous support from individual, organizational, and event contributions helps us support the needs and programming of Springbrook Nature Center.*

### INDIVIDUALS: TOP SUPPORTERS

Irene and Joseph Maertens	\$25,000	\$15,000	Gary Bank
Ed Meyer and Barbara Jackson	\$7,300	\$5,934	Donna and Jerold Bahls
Gerald and Kathy Bury	\$5,000	\$4,225	Karen McCulloch
Evan Brewer	\$3,500	\$2,500	Bonita Johnson
Mandy Meisner	\$2,000	\$1,885	Janine Backer
Ross Meisner	\$1,250	\$1,100	Jeremy and Ruth Powers
Malcolm and Annette Mitchell	\$1,000	\$1,000	Lawrence and Patricia Johnson
Connie Bernardy	\$600	\$525	Stephen and Mary Eggert

### INDIVIDUALS: \$500 & BELOW

Lynda and Dave Adams	Walter Grivna	Carolyn Rice
Brenda Anderson	Jennifer Hanson	Tara Rogness
Cindy Angerhofer	Jerry & Trish Hartlaub	Joe Royer
Randee Arfmann	Joseph Hendren	Diane Sannes
James Bauer	Diann Hendrickson	Gene & Martha Schermer
Hatice Bilgic Lim	Andi Hengel	Charles Schmidt
Jerrilynn Boehland	Barb Hovey	Kenneth and Holly Schultz
Ann Renae & Harry Bolckom	Lillyan Hoyos	Frank & Maija Sedzielarz
Jami & Eric Bornetun	Jeffrey Huston	Martha Sinko
Elaine Boyer-Haymond	Diane Jachymowski	Debra & David Szaflarski
Cole Buckley	Marvin Kolling	Lee and Margo Tech
Kathleen Burek	Sue Kramolisch	Jeff & Kathy Thayer
Helen Carlson	Beverly Kronstedt	Thomas & Kimberly Tillberry
Bill Clark	Jana Larson	Janice Trustheim
Marc Davies	Marsha LeClair	Bonnie & Mark Turpin
Lyncee Davies	Chad Lukkarila	Mary Ellen Vetter
Suzanne & Randy Edinger	Patricia Maher	Wesley Volkenant
Allison Egan	Ronald & Mary Mattson	Catherine Voss
Michael Ellingsworth	Roberta McKechnie	Richard & Erin Walch
Eric Erdahl	Merilyn Moran	Thomas & Lynette Ward
Deborah Fellows	Rick & Cindy Mueller	Lenny & Ann Witucki
Timothy & Paula Foley	Paul & Robin Nelson	Renae and Kyle Wrich
Patricia Gabel	Cynthia Ness	Mary Wright
Susan Gardiner	Jeannette Oliverius	Delores & Curtis Zbikowski
Jill Genaw	David Ostwald	William Zelm
John Grams	Martha Reckdahl	Brandon Zembal
Judi Green	Michael Reich	



## OUR SUPPORTERS

### ORGANIZATIONS

Fridley Lions Club	\$35,000	<b>\$500 &amp; BELOW</b>	
BNSF Railway Company	\$10,000		ADH Creative Solutions, LLC
Xcel Energy Foundation	\$7,500		Delta Dental of Minnesota
International Paper Foundation	\$4,000		inFaith Community Foundation
RAO Manufacturing	\$2,500		Lurie, LLP
Target Foundation	\$1,000		Medtronic Philanthropy
Michael Servetus Unitarian Society	\$662		Spring Lake Park Lions Club



Photo credit – Gary Bank

## STAFF AND BOARD

### STAFF

Tara Rogness

Alicia Little

Amanda Bixler

Catrina Mujwid-Cole

Dina Cyrus

Erica Northwick

Joe Gavin-Ballanger

Benjamin Odegaard

Rachel Giemza

Cody Rossetti

Jenny Hengel

Nicole Smith

Tod Jordan

### OFFICERS

**Renaë Wrich**

Chair

**Ross Meisner**

Vice Chair

**Amy Collura**

Secretary

**Richard Walch**

Treasurer

**Hatice Bilgic-Lim**

Vice Treasurer

### MEMBERS

Gary Bank

Neal Hayford

Kim Tillberry

Jami Bornetun

Ed Meyer

Jan Wright

Allison Egan

Kathryn Olson

Mary Wright

Jerry Hartlaub

Maneesh  
Shrivastav



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