



NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
LAND TRUST

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

PROTECTING LAND, WATER, AND WILDLIFE IN
NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

Wilson Springs



Dear Friends of NWALT,

2023 was a transformative year for the Northwest Arkansas Land Trust (NWALT), and 2024 promises to be just as impactful. Conservation efforts have surged, bringing us closer to our goal of protecting 10,000 acres by the end of 2024. Our mission is simple yet profound: to enhance the quality of life in NWA through the permanent protection of land. Here are some of our proudest achievements:

Lake Frances Preserve: We received an 840-acre donation along the Illinois River, a critical habitat now preserved for future generations. This preserve features 17 miles of single-track trails and a greenway, making it a prime destination for hikers and bikers.

Private Land Protection: We worked with individuals like Philip and Rebecca Thompson, who purchased and protected a significant property in Crawford County through a conservation easement with NWALT. This collaboration highlights the importance of private landowners in our conservation efforts. So many other individuals have made significant contributions to conservation that will make a difference in our quality of life.

Looking ahead to 2024, we are excited to continue our work with various partners to protect critical lands. These efforts will directly enhance the quality of life for everyone in NWA, ensuring that our natural landscapes remain vibrant and accessible for generations to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Grady Spann". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Grady Spann
NWALT Executive Director & CEO

Friends of NWALT,

In 2023, we celebrate a remarkable milestone in our organization's history – our 20 year anniversary! Twenty years of working with land owners, agencies, and our community to protect the vital landscapes around us. Twenty years of relationships based on trust and vision for the future of our region. Twenty years of work, resulting in 7,696 acres of land protected in perpetuity for wildlife.



NWALT began from a few like-minded conservationists, volunteering their time, and has grown to fully staffed organization, earning respect from the conservation community along the way. Our diligent and hardworking staff, volunteers, and Board of Directors continue to be committed to our mission, to preserve and enhance the quality of life for all people in Northwest Arkansas through the permanent protection of land.

Thank you for your part in NWALT's growth, and consequently the land saved in northwest Arkansas. We hope to see you again next year. Cheers to 20 years!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny C. Burbidge". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jenny C. Burbidge
NWALT Board President

We invite you to pause, take a deep breath, and celebrate all that we have accomplished together in 2023.

“The Mountain Property is famously scenic, and the Land Trust’s conservation easement that is now in place will ensure that the mountain remains open space in perpetuity, either as privately owned land or until it becomes part of a state park, a national forest, or other protected land,” said Rebecca Thompson.

“The Mountain” Property

580 Acres

June 2023



K. R. Estr. Johnson, Renee Szigocsi, Rebecca Thompson, Philip Thompson, Pam Noller, Mason Kance, and
Cindy Spivey

Fun Fact

The property is part of the Boston Mountains Scenic Wildlife Corridor, a priority area for the land trust where a substantial block of U.S. Forest Service land is located

“Every chance we get, we encourage landowners to get in touch with NWALT and learn about conservation easements.”

2023 IMPACT NUMBERS



ACRES PROTECTED



PROPERTIES PROTECTED



OUTREACH PROGRAMS



ACRES STEWARDED



LIFELONG LEARNERS*

OVERALL IMPACT NUMBERS



ACRES PROTECTED



PROPERTIES PROTECTED



OUTREACH PROGRAMS*



ACRES STEWARDED



LIFELONG LEARNERS*

*ESTIMATED

“Both my husband and I grew up running loose in the woods and rivers around our childhood homes in the Missouri Ozarks,” said Linda Stith. “Our land has allowed our children and grandchildren to experience that same kind of freedom and enjoyment of the natural world.”

Local Landowners Linda and Lloyd Stith Permanently Protect 200 Acres on the White River



JOIN OUR MISSION HELP SAVE LAND IN NWA

Thanks to the support and leadership of so many, the Northwest Arkansas Land Trust has worked continuously over the last two decades to save the places that matter most to our community. With the guidance of our new Strategic Land Protection Plan we are prepared to increase the rate of land protection in our region, but we cannot do it without the support of people like you.

We invite you to join us in our critical mission to protect the places that sustain our high quality of life in Northwest Arkansas, before they are gone forever.

DONATE TODAY





Original Board Members Honored at Second Acre by Acre Event. NWALT held the second Acre by Acre event at the Ozark Mountain Smokehouse in October to honor The original board members of NWALT. Over 160 friends joined us for a perfect fall night on Kessler Mountain to honor their commitment to building community and protecting our region's natural beauty and to begin an awareness campaign of the significance of our work to protect our home's water, land, and wildlife.



X

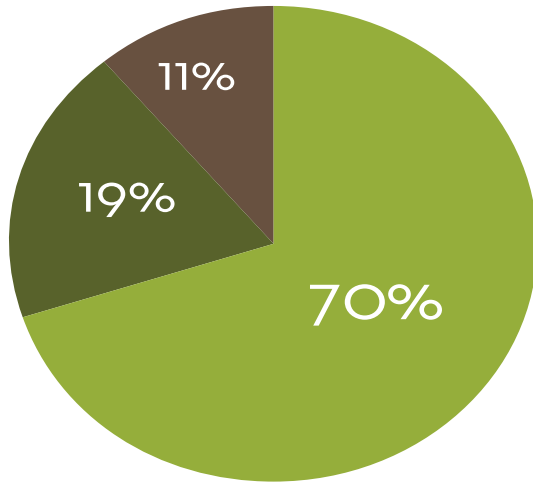


NWALT collaboration with Fossil Cove Brewing to produce a beer called "Acre by Acre" and donated proceeds from sales (\$1 from each pint benefits a local outdoor non-profit).

EXPENSES / REVENUE

2023

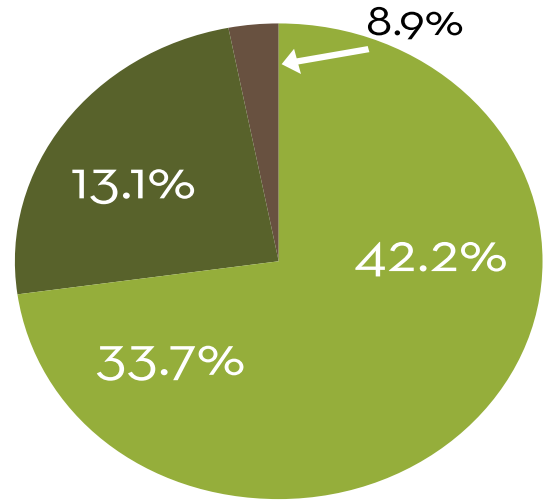
\$776,240.44



Total Expenses

- Programs
- Management
- Fundraising

\$695,652.20

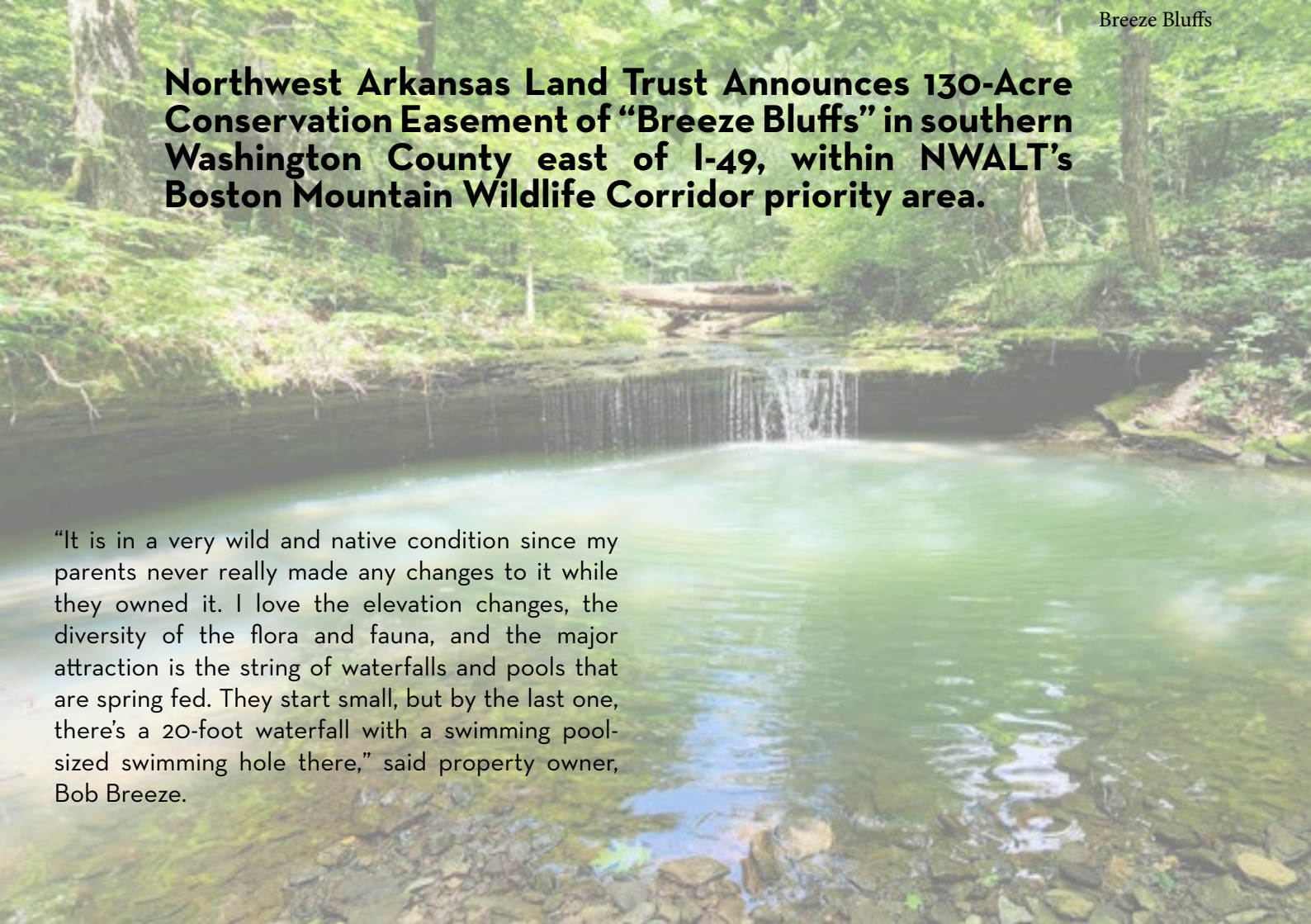


Total Revenue

- Individual Gifts and Grants
- Program Services
- Other

Northwest Arkansas Land Trust Announces 130-Acre Conservation Easement of “Breeze Bluffs” in southern Washington County east of I-49, within NWALT’s Boston Mountain Wildlife Corridor priority area.

“It is in a very wild and native condition since my parents never really made any changes to it while they owned it. I love the elevation changes, the diversity of the flora and fauna, and the major attraction is the string of waterfalls and pools that are spring fed. They start small, but by the last one, there’s a 20-foot waterfall with a swimming pool-sized swimming hole there,” said property owner, Bob Breeze.



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E | D | G



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NWALT staff listed below from left to right



STAFF

Robert Hopper, Director of Engagement and Giving

Susan Koehler, Farmland Preservation Manager

Evan Johnson, Community Engagement Manager

Mikayla Alderson, Administrative & HR Manager

Pam Nelson, Director of Land Protection

Grady Spann, Executive Director & CEO

Renee Sneigocki, Land Stewardship Manager

Marson Nance, Director of Land Stewardship & Research

Ryder Snell, Creative & Marketing Manager

BOARD

Jenny Burbidge, President

Eileen Jennings, Vice President

Don Walker, Secretary/ Treasurer

Michele Harrington

Jami Lockhart

Regina Buono

Mark Clippinger

Rick Spicer

Steve Adair

Matt Dickhut



NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
LAND TRUST

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www.nwalandtrust.org



2023 Donors

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