



Saco Bay Trails Annual Report 2022

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Brenda Austin	Josh Fecteau	David Mokler
Elizabeth Bean	Susan Field	Pamela Morgan
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Carol Benoit Reynolds	Roberta Gallant	Maggie O'Neil
Susan Penna Bernier	Jonathan Gardner	Shawn and Amy Ouellette
Marty Birmingham	Charles Garland	Sheila Painchaud
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Kyle Bolduc	Mark and Rayma Griffin	Kate Peterlein
Nancy and Charles Borg	Fran Halamandaris	Patti and Malcolm Poole
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Barbara Boutet	Vietta Hamblen	Lynn Quincy
Maria Brandt	Marcia Hanson	Mogens and Donna Ravn
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Richard Buhr	Justin Hill	John Morrill Read
Joan Buotte	Andrew Holbrook	Burgess and Sandra Record
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Margaret Carney	Caryn Husman	Linda Rogoff
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Lynn Copeland	David Kortz	Susan Slee
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Sharon Danis	Kimberly Matthews	Elaine Vadeboncoeur
Odette Dansereau	Christine McAuliffe	Pieter Whitemore
Doug Dolan	Deborah and Christopher	Patricia Wright

Mission

Saco Bay Trails' mission is to create and maintain this network of trails and to promote its acceptance and use by the public. We are an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization dedicated to creating and maintaining recreational trails in the Saco Bay Area.

We envision a permanent network of free, easily accessible, well-maintained, well-marked and well-publicized trails, which people with a broad range of abilities can use and enjoy.



Saco Bay Trails
P.O. Box 720
Saco, Maine 04072
We are a 501(c)(3) organization

Trustees

Ryan Gorman, President
Marty Birmingham, Vice President
Janice Lane, Secretary
Susan Slee, Events & Outreach
Jane Hamblen, Events & Outreach
John Riordan
Andrew Dabczynski

Advisory Trustees

Andrew B. Hutchinson
Andrew Holbrook
Bill & Mary Johnson
Bob Hamblen
Bruce Napolitano
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Caryl Everett
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Dan Ross
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Odette Dansereau
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Sheila Painchaud
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Annual report design

Custom Communications
7 Paul Avenue
Saco, Maine 04072

Photos

Odette Dansereau, Dan Ross,
Susan Slee, Ryan Gorman



People have flocked to the outdoors since the pandemic, and in the process, they have rediscovered a connection to nature. As the largest manager of public trails in Saco, we have seen firsthand the increase of trail users running, walking, biking, skiing, and snowshoeing in our communities' open spaces.

Our volunteers have been integral to maintaining the largest trail network in the Saco Bay Area with approximately 15 miles of trails in 9 locations. We manage two trail systems on City-owned land, at Horton Woods and Cascade Falls, and the Atlantic Way, Plymouth, and Vines trail system that is partially on City-owned land. Saco Bay Trails is also the official trail manager in the Goosefare Brook Division of Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge. Additionally, our trail partners in the Saco Bay area include The Ecology School, Saco Valley Land Trust, Sweetser, Leary Farm, and Oceanwood Camp & Conference Center.

Some things in life are hard to put value on – passion, dedication, and selflessness. These are all attributes our volunteers embody, and while these are truly invaluable, there is an organization that helps nonprofits determine the value of a volunteer hour. I am proud to report that in 2022, Saco Bay Trails hosted ten volunteer events attended by over 60 volunteers totaling over 330 volunteer hours. Those hours are valued at over \$8,800.00 in service, including trail maintenance, family-friendly nature programming, and outdoor education & awareness.

In 2022, we focused on engaging new members & families. We started in the spring with our popular bird walk series. We doubled the number of walks in our popular Spring Bird

Walk series! Naturalist Josh Fecteau led walks twice a week, so our members could experience the changing bird populations through the peak of the spring migration. In July, our first annual Fairy House Building Day had over 125 attendees join the festivities making the event a huge success! Our booth at Saco Main Street's Pumpkin Harvest Festival had over 100 youths visit to make an owl craft project and learn about owls that live along their local trails. In the fall, Saco Bay Trails attended Age Friendly Saco's Annual Wellness Fair to share information about walking & hiking opportunities on our local trails.

Looking forward to 2023, we will continue to focus on engaging new members & families. We plan to continue our bird walks this spring and we are excited to bring back Fairy House Building Day this summer with our new event sponsor, Saco & Biddeford Savings! We will continue our community outreach at local events, including Saco Main Street's Sidewalk Art Festival, Bark in the Park event, and Pumpkin Harvest Festival, along with Age Friendly Saco's Annual Wellness Fair.

We are also excited to continue our partnerships with all of our trail partners as we work to improve trails and recreational signage across our community.

Thank you for being a part of our community and for supporting your local trails... and don't forget to "Take a Hike!"

Sincerely,

Ryan Gorman
President, Board of Trustees



Middle Goosefare Trail

This is truly a hidden gem among our trail system. It offers some really nice views of a small pond where Innis Brook and Goosefare Brook connect. This past year we were saddened to hear of the passing of our long term friend and supporter Max Brandt. He and his family have been great supporters of Saco Bay Trails. Several donations were made in Max's memory and with great pleasure we honored Max at our last work party of 2022 by placing a memorial bench in a location, selected by his family, that was one of his favorite places to sit and take it all in. Even though the weather was cold and rainy, we were joined by Max's wife, children, and other family members and friends. It was truly a momentous occasion for all who turned out. Max will always be remembered as one of the greatest supporters of Saco Bay Trails.

Atlantic Way

This is one of the highest-use trails in our trail network. In early 2022 a large winter storm and flooding impacted the marsh portion of this trail. The flooding and storm surge blocked the old culvert under the bridge, eroded the bank, and undermined the stability of the bridge. In February, a crew of volunteers made emergency repairs as a temporary fix. The May 2022 Work/Walk Party focused on cleaning up the storm damage, repairing the bridge, and adding stone riprap to stabilize the banks. In December 2022, another major winter storm floated this bridge off its supports and moved it about 60 feet up the trail. We held our most publicized and attended emergency work party ever. We were joined by the UNE Men's Ice Hockey Team as well as many other local volunteers. Channel 8 WGME news and the Portland Press Herald both did stories covering this event. Many hands made for light work as we walked back the bridge securing it back in its proper location. In the spring we will address a plan for securing the bridge this spring/summer. Saco Bay Trails, the City of Saco, and Rachel Carson NWR are working on a plan for long-term improvements to this trail.



Cascade Falls

We had a great year at Cascade Falls. We kicked off our first annual fairy house-building event. It was a huge success thanks to board members Susan Slee and Jane Hamblen. We are already looking forward to this event again in 2023. The City of Saco is currently working on completing the new bridge across Cascade Brook. This spring, Saco Bay Trails will be providing new signage, updating, and rerouting pathways to the bridge installed by the Saco Parks & Recreation Department.

Wildwood & Branch Brook Loop

We finished up the Branch Brook Loop trail off of Wildwood this year. We added a bunch of new bog bridges as well as a viewing bench that overlooks the marshlands. We have plans to hopefully add a viewing platform right down at the closest point to the marsh at some point either in 2023 or 2024.

Wildwood is a highly used trail with two of our favorite bridges that our longtime board member John Riordan designed and built for Saco Bay Trails over the past few years. This year we also added a viewing bench about 2/3 of the way along the trail on the right side overlooking Goosefare Brook as well as Biddeford-Saco Country Club across the way.



Sylvan Trail

The Sylvan Trail continues to be well used by locals, particularly those walking their dogs. This trail is also a popular trail for cross-country skiing. Generally, this trail requires very little maintenance with yearly mowing being the primary activity. This trail is on privately owned land and the landowner promotes in-season hunting and trapping on the property. We have added signage to the area to make visitors aware of these conditions.



Mary Merrill Trail

Our newest trail in our trail system. This trail has continued to gain popularity over the past year. One of our most scenic trails along Stackpole Creek to the Saco River. There is a great spot to sit and take in the beauty of the Saco River. The nice feature of this trail is that it's a very easy hike from the Ecology School parking lot or if added to a through hike from Horton Woods; it provides you a scenic, welcoming place to take a break before heading back on the 3-mile return hike. We have plans to place a new viewing bench at the end of this trail in 2023.

Horton Woods

This trail gets a lot of use and is our longest trail system offering many great hikes for all levels. We rerouted the first part of the trail during one of our work parties this summer to help with the long section of exposed roots at the beginning of the trail. We have big plans for this trail in the coming year. The City of Saco has committed to installing a new boardwalk over the wetland at the very start of the trail, replacing the bog bridging currently in place. We also have plans with an Eagle Scout on

a project to replace and improve the bog bridging through the wetland just beyond the Stackpole bridge. We are excited to make these improvements to one of our most utilized trails.

Ted Wells Trail

It has been another quiet year on the Ted Wells Trail. This trail is mainly used by the local community and guests at Oceanwood. The trail has required only minor maintenance and releveling of some bog bridging. We hope that with the recent improvements, more visitors will discover it and take the scenic walk at this lovely and peaceful location.

Ferry Landing

The Ferry Landing Trail is in good condition due to the efforts of a Saco Bay Trails member who lives in the vicinity. Every year about 30 to 40 boards rot out and need to be replaced. We are using pressure-treated wood for the replacements so we hope this trail will be an easy walk for a long time to come. In 2023, we will explore having a larger work party on this trail to get ahead of the deteriorating decking boards.

Annual Meeting Minutes: April 12, 2022 via Zoom

Call to order and Introductions - President Dan Ross called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Trustees attending were Marty Birmingham, Clint Chase, Ryan Gorman, Jane Hamblen, Andrew Holbrook, Janice Lane, Joyce Mailman, John Riordan, and Sue Slee. In addition to the board, 9 members took part in the Zoom meeting.

Business:

President Ross welcomed all to the meeting.

2021 Review:

Three new trails were created this year.

Mary Merrill Trail on the Ecology School Grounds. Two thirds of the funding for this trail came from Saco Parks & Recreation and the Saco Conservation Commission.

Wildwood Trail

Branch Brook Loop off the Wildwood Trail

Middle Goosefare Trail sustained major tree damage due to a micro burst.

A branding iron was created to allow branding our bridges and benches.

We purchased a trailer to allow us to have a mobile workshop to bring to our work parties.

Several popular bird walks were hosted. We will host more in the coming year.

Maine Geological Survey has determined the Horton Woods was built on a landslide area. They used an auger to take a core sample to determine the age. It was carbon dated to 500-600 years old.

2022 plans

Horton Woods needs work on the entrance area and will need bog bridges built.

Cascade Falls trail will need work once the City of Saco replaces the bridge that was washed away in the heavy rain.

Branch Brook trail will be completed and have a ribbon cutting opening.

Continued maintenance of all of our trails.

Ryan Gorman and Marty Birmingham, the incoming President and Vice President presented their goals and plans for 2022.

Goals:

Increase member engagement

Host more outdoor activities

Engage more people in ownership and maintenance of trails. Recruit trail stewards.

Use trailer and social media to increase our brand awareness

Add weeknight work parties

Increase family centered activities

Re-establish the Trails committee

Partner with Center for Community GIS/Maine Trail

Finder Network for our trail maps

Ryan presented a slide show tour of our new trailer. He noted that we are looking for donations of hand tools and rakes to be used at work parties.

Business:

Our membership increased by 36 members over the last year, bringing our total members to 108. Three of the new memberships were lifetime memberships. Donations were up 25% over the previous year. Ryan noted we received a \$1,000 donation yesterday. The rise in memberships and donations is believed to be the result of our new trails, successful bird walks and overall higher visibility in the community.

The financial reports were reviewed.

We will discontinue the printing of our trail guides and moving to online media. The trail finder maps will still be printed.

Clint Chase, Andrew Holbrook and Joyce Mailman will be leaving the board this year.

Proposed 2022-2023 Board:

Ryan Gorman – President

Marty Birmingham – Vice President

Patti Poole – Treasurer

Janice Lane – Secretary

Andrew Dabczynski

Jane Hamblen

John Roirdan

Dan Ross

Sue Slee

Motion to accept the slate of board members:

M: John Riordan

S: Janice Lane

The motion was carried.

Motion to accept the minutes of the 2021 meeting.

M: Dan Ross

S: Ryan Gorman

The motion was carried.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm.

M: Dan Ross

S: Andrew Dabczynski

The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted, Janice Lane, Secretary

Saco Bay Trails Profit and Loss:
Prev. Year Comparison: January - December 2022

	Jan - Dec 22	Jan - Dec 21	\$ Change	% Change
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Donations				
Annual Appeal	2,427.85	2,340.49	87.36	3.7%
General donation	1,849.15	1,273.96	575.19	45.2%
Memorial Donations	1,650.02	0.00	1,650.02	100.0%
SacoBiddefordSavings Doer Pr...	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Donations	6,127.02	3,814.45	2,312.57	60.6%
Funding from Municipalities	7,500.00	0.00	7,500.00	100.0%
Fundraising				
Memberships	1,796.37	4,194.51	-2,398.14	-57.2%
Trail Guides	100.00	382.50	-282.50	-73.9%
Total Fundraising	1,896.37	4,577.01	-2,680.64	-58.6%
Interest Income	43.30	22.31	20.99	94.1%
Total Income	15,566.69	8,413.77	7,152.92	85.0%
Expense				
Administrative Expenses				
Annual Report Expenses	606.32	146.95	459.37	312.6%
Bank Fees	1.00	0.00	1.00	100.0%
Filing Fees	75.00	75.00	0.00	0.0%
Insurance	1,599.75	1,599.75	0.00	0.0%
Letterhead/envelope printing	227.41	395.41	-168.00	-42.5%
Meeting expenses	0.00	139.95	-139.95	-100.0%
Membership Software	442.80	421.20	21.60	5.1%
Misc. office supplies/copy chgs	74.95	91.74	-16.79	-18.3%
Office Supplies	429.14	367.05	62.09	16.9%
Post Office Box Rental	283.00	113.00	170.00	150.4%
Postage	100.00	410.40	-310.40	-75.6%
Storage Space Rent	0.00	944.99	-944.99	-100.0%
Website expenses	246.00	313.88	-67.88	-21.6%
Total Administrative Expenses	4,085.37	5,019.32	-933.95	-18.6%
Correcting entry	224.13	-114.91	339.04	295.1%
Fundraising Expense				
Annual Appeal				
Annual Appeal Postage	128.80	0.00	128.80	100.0%
Annual Appeal Printing Expe...	35.84	0.00	35.84	100.0%
Total Annual Appeal	164.64	0.00	164.64	100.0%
Trail guide printing	0.00	595.02	-595.02	-100.0%
Total Fundraising Expense	164.64	595.02	-430.38	-72.3%
Outreach Expenses				
General event expense	379.35	0.00	379.35	100.0%
Outreach Expenses - Other	854.44	50.00	804.44	1,608.9%
Trail Map Printing	434.02	334.14	99.88	29.9%
Outreach Expenses - Other	300.00	150.00	150.00	100.0%
Total Outreach Expenses	1,967.81	534.14	1,433.67	268.4%
Taxes				
Taxes (state/federal)	13.64	12.97	0.67	5.2%
Taxes - Other	0.00	6.24	-6.24	-100.0%
Total Taxes	13.64	19.21	-5.57	-29.0%
Trails Expense				
Mary Merrill Trail	0.00	2,839.36	-2,839.36	-100.0%
Trail Building & Maintenance	844.57	2,074.89	-1,230.32	-59.3%
Trails Expense - Other	6.34	387.40	-381.06	-98.4%
Total Trails Expense	850.91	5,301.65	-4,450.74	-84.0%
Volunteers				
Miscellaneous expenses	0.00	115.00	-115.00	-100.0%
Total Volunteers	0.00	115.00	-115.00	-100.0%
Total Expense	7,306.50	11,469.43	-4,162.93	-36.3%
Net Ordinary Income	8,260.19	-3,055.66	11,315.85	370.3%
Net Income	8,260.19	-3,055.66	11,315.85	370.3%

Balance Sheet

	Dec 31, 22
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Petty Cash	17.75
SBS - Middle Goosefare	3,240.46
SBS - Savings Capital Account	15,954.17
SBSI Checking	11,864.26
Wix Payments	36.90
Total Checking/Savings	31,113.54
Total Current Assets	31,113.54
Fixed Assets	
Land Values	12,000.00
Storage Trailer	4,900.00
Total Fixed Assets	16,900.00
Other Assets	
Equipment and Supplies	1,782.00
Total Other Assets	1,782.00
TOTAL ASSETS	49,795.54
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	56,447.74
Retained Earnings	-10,152.36
write off/depreciation of asset	-5,450.50
Net Income	8,950.66
Total Equity	49,795.54
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	49,795.54

Annual Appeal Donors

Ron Albert
 Linda Beane
 Christina Buckley
 Denise Clavette
 Ellen Corrigan
 Larissa Crockett
 Odette Dansereau
 Doug Dolan
 Joy and Roland Eon
 Caryl Everett
 Josh Fecteau
 Charles Garland
 Gerard Gaudette
 Jane and Bob Hamblen
 Marcia Hanson
 Deborah Hjort
 Andrew Holbrook
 Jean Horton
 Bill and Mary Johnson
 Keith and Melissa Kennedy
 Joyce Mailman
 Karen Malmgren
 Spencer McElwain
 Deborah and Christopher McKenney
 Gail and Ernie Merritt
 Maurice and Claudette Nadeau
 Patti and Malcolm Poole
 Mogens and Donna Ravn
 Sharon Robinson
 Rosemarie and Clifon Smith
 Carolyn and Martin Turnidge
 Martha Wood
 Saco and Biddeford Savings

Fairie Day 2022 @ Cascade Falls



Cascade Falls is usually a magical place, but on July 23, 2022, with over 100 bewinged fairies fluttering along Trout Pond Trail it was even more magical.

Kim Tarbox of Maine Life Real Estate greeted children as they arrived and offered them katydid green fairy wings. The “fairies” then danced along the Trail to the tunes of C.A. Wortley. A ribbon cutting ceremony for the new fairy village was conducted by Fairy Mayor, Jane Hamblen.

Using items found in nature and some gifts from the sea, provided by visiting mermaids, many fairy houses were built between Trout Pond Trail, and Cascade Stream. “Fairies” also participated in

making fairy crowns, and having their faces painted.

“Fairies” made their wands with the help of Brooke Palmer, Dyer Library’s Children’s Librarian.

The Book Pantry Fairy supplied fairy themed books for “fairies” to sit quietly in the shade by Cascade Stream and read for a while.

Tropicality Shaved Ice offered a cool all-natural refreshment. Over a dozen adults donated their time to make this happy, magical event possible.

We hope you can join the magic at this year’s Fairy House Building Day on July 22, 2023.

By Susan Slee

