



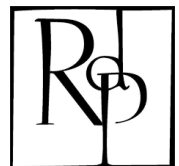
# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

## River des Peres Watershed Coalition

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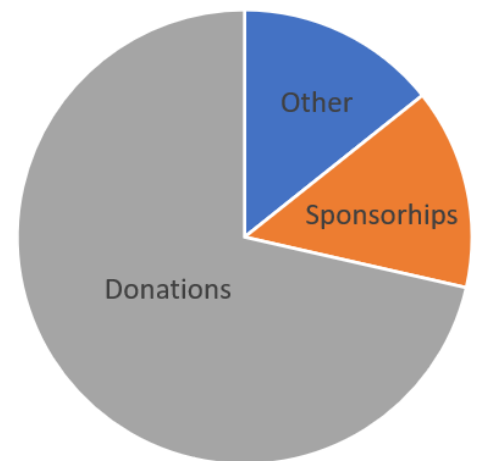
# MISSION

The mission of the River des Peres Watershed Coalition is to improve, protect, and maintain the River des Peres, its tributaries, and its watershed as a vital natural and cultural resource in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

<b>Net Assets</b> <i>(as of 12/31/2023)</i>	<b>\$ 16,619.62</b>
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<b>Income</b>	
Other	\$ 100.00
Sponsorships	\$ 100.00
Donations	\$ 499.90
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 699.90</b>



<b>Expenses</b>	
Insurance	\$ 1,343.00
Post office	\$ 248.00
Advertising materials	\$ 250.00
Bike with your boots on	\$ 84.43
Trash bash & festival	\$ 615.00
Domain renewal	\$ 365.98
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,906.41</b>



# PROGRAMS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Trash Bash and Watershed Festival

The River des Peres Trash Bash is an annual clean-up of the streams, greenways and parks in the River des Peres watershed and riverbank of the Mississippi River. Volunteers choose from multiple clean-up locations or storm drain marking sites each year. Storm drain marking reminds the community to keep trash, chemicals, and other pollution out of our storm drains. On October 28, volunteers collected about 6 tons of trash and marked 59 storm drain inlets at multiple locations across the watershed.



After a successful morning of litter pickup and storm drain marking, volunteers gathered at Willmore Park for a Watershed Festival! Between live music, food, a Unique Trash Contest, and educational opportunities for kids, there was no shortage of fun to be had. Special thanks to supporting partners and prize donators Open Space Council, Great Rivers Greenway, MSD Project Clear, Earthways Center, St. Louis Aquarium Foundation, Alpine Shop, and Pretium Packaging. The new PA system donated to the River des Peres Watershed Coalition by Stream Teams United was put to good use at the event!

## Bike With Your Boots On



The River des Peres Watershed Coalition hosted two Bike With Your Boots On water quality monitoring events. On June 10 and September 30, trained Stream Team water quality monitors collected chemistry data from the streams and other volunteers assisted and learned about the important roles of citizen science in the community. This effort helps to get a snapshot of water quality of the streams and the data is reported to Missouri Stream Team program. Thanks One Mississippi for the event grant!

## Adopt A Greenway

The River des Peres Watershed Coalition was proud to participate in Great River Greenway's Adopt-a-Greenway pilot program. Adopt-A-Greenway is a regionwide stewardship program designed to provide a framework for continued care for the growing network of greenways across the region. The program hopes to supplement the ongoing work of GRG operations and maintenance partners throughout the region and engage community members in the process. In 2023 the River des Peres Watershed Coalition adopted a 2.5 mile of greenway and at four event, groups picked up 10 stream team trash bags and placed 5 no dumping storm drain inlet makers.



## 2022 Annual Meeting

The River des Peres Watershed Coalition returned to an in-person, since the start of the covid pandemic, annual meeting on February 28. Guest speakers presented on River des Peres watershed activities. Earthday 365 presented on Environmental Justice Days of Action, the Green Dining Alliance program, and the Marine Debris Tracker app. Deer Creek Watershed Alliance and Earthways Center gave updates on the Deer Creek Watershed 319 Plan and MSD Project Clear Small Grant opportunities for raingardens. Forest Park Forever reviewed rain gardens and wetland restoration in Forest Park. Two 2022 Watershed Hero awards were also presented. Special Thanks to Urban Chestnut Grove Brewery & Bier Hall for hosting the event.

# WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DONATE?

It is difficult to commit. We are busy with work, family and just managing our lives. Time for ourselves barely exists. So what is the reason to volunteer or to donate to a cause we believe in?

When we volunteer to make a difference in the world we also develop and fulfill our own sense of purpose. In doing this we also get the benefits from finding a sense of peace and connecting with other people that share your passion. This can lead to better health, better relationships and a better perspective about our lives and the world in general.

We find great encouragement from working with people willing to set aside their differences and focus on a shared commitment. Finding common ground, realizing that we can get along and working together to achieve great things brings great optimism and hope.

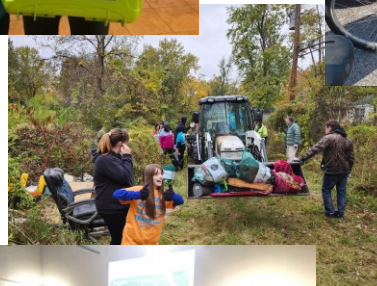
By donating money, we provide financial support to fund programs and services that allow us to connect with the community with projects and activities that educate, inspire and help green our communities.

Another benefit of donating time and money is that it can also be tax deductible. In the United States, charitable contributions are tax-deductible, which means that individuals and organizations can deduct the amount of their donations from their taxable income. This can help to offset the cost of giving and make it more affordable for people to support the causes they care about.

Ultimately, supporting a cause is a rewarding way to make a positive impact in the world. We hope each of you can donate a bit of your time, talents and financial support to help the River des Peres Watershed Coalition so we can continue to improve, protect, and maintain the River des Peres, its tributaries, and its watershed as a vital natural and cultural resource in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

## 2023 Board of Directors

Roland Biehl  
 Doug Geist  
 San Mueller  
 Bob Ochs  
 Joe McMullen  
 Besa Schweitzer  
 Theo Smith  
 Angie Weber  
 Terry Winkelmann



## 2023 Officers

Chairperson, Zoe Geist  
 Vice Chairperson, Bob Ochs  
 Secretary, Roland Biehl  
 Treasurer, Joe McMullen  
 Membership Coordinator, San Mueller

