



Friends of DuPont Forest

**2022
ANNUAL
REPORT**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

DuPont State Recreational Forest stands at the beginning of an exciting future as the work towards a Master Recreation Plan is officially underway. This plan will assess the current conditions of the Forest for safety and sustainability and provide the North Carolina Forest Service guidance for future recreation management. Friends of DuPont Forest has been advocating for this Master Recreation Plan and it is so thrilling to see it begin to take shape.

In 2022, Friends of DuPont Forest applied for and was awarded a total of \$99,000 in grants from the Tourism Development Authorities in Henderson and Transylvania counties to help fund the plan. These grants will supplement the funds allocated to creation and implementation of the Master Recreation Plan by the General Assembly in late 2021. We look forward to seeing a draft plan in late 2023 that balances the needs of the Forest and the 1.3 million visitors who come to view waterfalls, ride horses and bikes, hike, run, hunt, and fish.

DuPont is well utilized and well loved. The trails received care all year from our Trail Crew, which logged 1,600+ volunteer trail crew hours, partnering with the Forest Service to maintain 20+ miles of trails. The ever-popular Ridgeline, Hooker Creek, Jim Branch, and Issac Heath Trails benefited from major trail maintenance projects, while a generous grant from Athletic Brewing allowed the Friends to host a Trail Maintenance Training for 15 members of our Trail Crew led by sustainable trail experts. We also worked with the Forest Service to launch an Invasive Plants Removal program to support a healthy ecology and maintain biodiversity.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We'd like to extend special thank-yous to our top Trail Crew member volunteers:

- Barry Beyer
- Jack (John) Rhicard
- Jon Taylor
- Randy Jackson
- Ginger Jackson
- Randy Eggen
- David Menis
- Tracy Walker
- Bev Parlier
- Dick Childs

Friends of DuPont Forest continued to expand our event offerings in 2022, including 18 members-only events on the history of DuPont and its unique ecosystem. In September, the DuPont Forest Festival attracted more than 700 people with hikes, rides, and activities celebrating the adventure to be found in DuPont. We also hosted a well-attended Policy Breakfast for local elected officials to highlight the economic impact of DuPont Forest in Henderson and Transylvania counties and the importance of planning for its future.

While 2022 was a busy year, we are looking forward to more progress in 2023. We couldn't do it without you.

Thank you to all our members, donors, and sponsors! We look forward to seeing y'all on the trails in 2023.

Ericka Berg



Friends of
**DuPont
Forest**

2022 SUMMARY

800



2022 MEMBERSHIP

In 2022 we welcomed over 200 new members. By the end of the year, we were 700 strong and growing!

2000



TRAIL CREW

In 2022 Friends of DuPont Forest launched a new volunteer program in partnership with the N.C. Forest Service to remove invasive plants in the Forest.

Between our Trash Bash, Trail Crew, and the Invasive Plant Removal program, our volunteers dedicated more than 2000 hours to the trails which equates to an economic benefit to the Forest Service in excess of **\$40,000**.

34



2020 TRAIL CREW PROJECTS

Airstrip	Issac Heath	Rocky Ridge
Barn	Jim Branch	Ruffed Grouse
Boundary	Joanna Road	Shoal Creek
Briery Fork	Little River	Tarklin Branch
Buck Forest Road	Locust	Thomas
Cascade Lake	Longside	Cemetery Road
Corn Mill Shoals	Mine Mountain	Three Lakes
Grassy Creek	Plantaion	Turkey Knob
Hickory Moutain	Reasonover	Twin Oaks
High Falls Shelter	Creek	Wintergreen
Connector	Ridgline	Falls
Hill Top	Rifle	
Holly Road	Rock Quarry	

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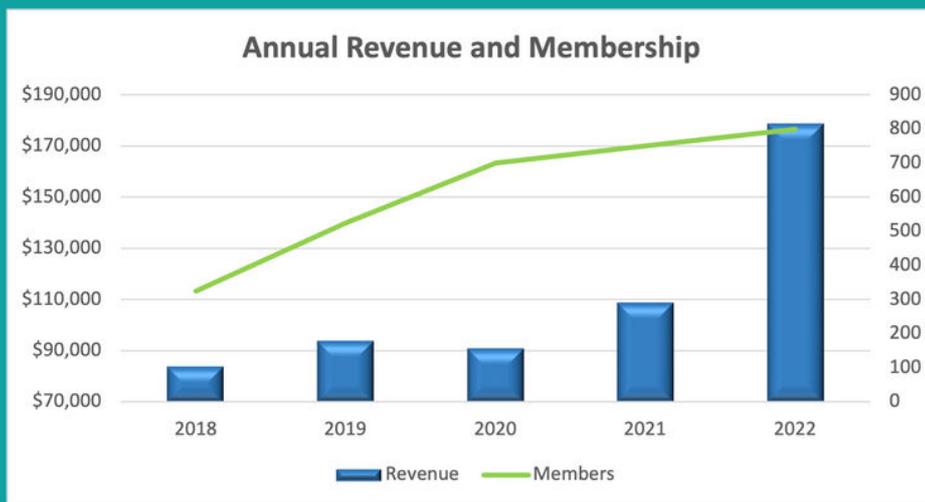
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Chris Siemasko
Aleen Steinberg
Justin Stokes

**The Buck Forest Club is for donors who give \$1000+ annually.*



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DuPont Forest
A History

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