



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings! Another year of bustling activity, new program initiatives, and expanding partnerships has wrapped up at Upham Woods. We hosted the Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education (WAAEE) fall conference, welcomed two WisCorps Individual Placement volunteers and a WisCorps Traveling Trail Crew, completed one grant project, and kicked off two more. We're so proud of our On Site & Accessibility Coordinator, Rachael Lewandowski-Sarette, who was selected by the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) as a "30 Under 30" environmental change maker! We're also delighted to welcome Jen Maggio-Laack as our Program Planning and Outreach Coordinator, Jacob Malek as our Custodian and Darin Curtis as our Building and Grounds Maintenance Technician! Look for our new website launch in 2025, and as always, please do not hesitate to contact me with questions, feedback, and ideas for collaboration and partnership.

Sincerely,

Amy E Workman

amy.workman@wisc.edu

THREE GRANTS FUNDED INNOVATION IN 2024

Thanks to a Wisconsin Sea Grant and Dean's Innovation grant, work began on the "Engaging Youth in Monitoring Aquatic Invasive Species using Environmental DNA (eDNA)" project. In summer, we hosted a Freshwater@ UW summer research student who collected and analyzed Wisconsin river samples for invasive carp eDNA. Thanks to a Wisconsin Idea Collaboration Grant and funding from the Wisconsin DNR, we partnered with staff from Madison School & Community Recreation and UW-Madison forest diversity researchers to develop, lead, and train staff on the use of fire in oak regeneration and measuring forest diversity. Finally, thanks to a Rural Partnerships Institute grant, work began on climate resiliency education for rural audiences and will continue through 2026.





A YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

PARTICIPANTS SERVED

6,137 Youth
2,789 Adults

8,926 Total

PROGRAM TYPE

120 Onsite education
32 Conferences/Retreats
28 Outreach programs

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

25 4-H Groups
81 Schools
74 Other

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“Oh my goodness!!! The talk today was FANTASTIC!!! Both presenters were amazing and shared their passion for the Upham Woods animals and their jobs!! They did a great job of covering all the questions and igniting an interest in all your fun creatures. We learned sooo much!! We are sooo lucky each year to get to learn from you.”

- Carol Pincombe,
Kromrey 5th Grade Teacher

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“Thanks again for all of your work and efforts teaching each of our groups last week. We’ve had a lot of Upham staff over the years that have come & gone, but hands down, you guys rocked it out this year with strong leadership & teaching that made our camp experience “forever memorable” for our kids!”

- Mike Rhines,
Willowbrook Science/Math Teacher

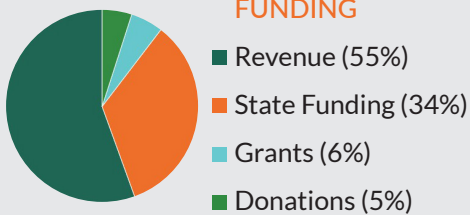
BLACKHAWK ISLAND LANDING IMPROVEMENTS

In spring 2025, visitors to Blackhawk Island will benefit from new and improved access to the island! Last fall, we hosted a Wisconsin Conservation Corps Traveling Trail Crew for three weeks to rebuild the landing and boardwalk on the south side of Blackhawk Island. With the help of Patriot Shore Services, we also replaced the wooden ramp with an aluminum gangway!

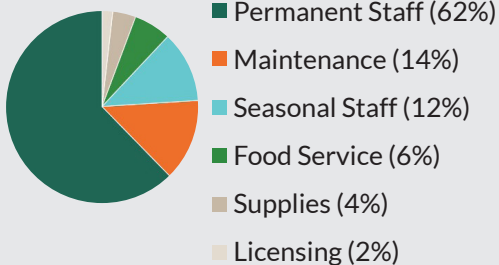


FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

FUNDING



SPENDING



SUPPORT OUR WORK

We are incredibly grateful for the continued support of our donors, who make ongoing improvements on our campus possible. Thanks to a \$10,000 matching challenge from Robin C. Buerki, last spring’s Day of the Badger brought in \$12,500 additional donations! Combined with an incredibly generous \$25,000 donation from Upham family member Thomas G. Hughes, we met our fundraising goal to complete the reconstruction of the landing and boardwalk on Blackhawk Island! In 2025, we turn our attention to the stairway leading to Peanut Butter Mountain, our popular low element challenge course. We already have a \$10,000 donation in memory of Patricia Buchanan for this project, and it will be the focus for the 2025 Day of the Badger. If you are able, please consider making a gift in any amount to the Upham Woods Fund. Thank you!!

