



A Message from the Executive Director

VIKRAM KRISHNAMURTHY

The past year brought significant new developments at DCH, as well as a full return to important in-person programs. From starting the year with our TreeCycle event, now an established tradition, to hands-on Arbor Day programs, international travel to London's Chelsea Flower Show and Amsterdam's Floriade and the 40th Rare Plant Auction® held at DCH, the importance of having the Center as a place to gather, learn and celebrate was felt throughout the year. Our summer beer gardens and holiday season activities showed just how much the community appreciates DCH's work and each other.

We are also excited to continue our leading role as Delaware's representative in the Delaware River Climate Corps (DRCC), launched in early 2022 and piloted this past year as an extension of DCH's Branches to Chances® program. The development and progress of the DRCC helped us to retain more trainees as Corps members, extend the season, pay higher wages and increase the number of community greening projects – all while focusing further on the climate impacts of DCH's work. **Thank you for your continued support of DCH's mission to promote and share the power of plants, and as always, please let us know how we're doing.**

Enhancing climate resiliency and strengthening green career pathways | DELAWARE RIVER CLIMATE CORPS



DRCC Team identifying trees during plant identification class.

The Delaware Center for Horticulture is proud to continue its participation in forming the new Delaware River Climate Corps (DRCC), a regional initiative led and supported by the William Penn Foundation, The Corps Network, and important partner organizations throughout the watershed.

The DRCC is an initiative to enhance climate resiliency and strengthen green career pathways through expanding Corps programming within the Delaware River Watershed. This initiative spans Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. The DRCC recognizes the importance of building a workforce with the knowledge to address climate and sustainability issues, making the partnership a natural fit for the DCH Branches to Chances® and Public Landscapes Programs.

“For decades, locally based Corps programs have helped communities across the country provide workforce development programming and address critical conservation projects. As we confront the challenges of our climate future, it's important that we take action to build our climate resiliency and train the workers we need for a more sustainable tomorrow,” said Mary Ellen Sprenkel, President & CEO of The Corps Network.

In 2022, our pilot year with the DRCC, we have focused our adult education curriculum on reinforcing the horticultural education provided by the Branches to Chances® program through continued classroom instruction and hands-on fieldwork. Topics focus on green infrastructure within the horticultural industry, and its importance in promoting and protecting a healthy ecosystem. Specific instruction was provided on the role of native plants and their relationship to wildlife, stormwater management, and general instruction about climate change so that Corps members can learn the “why” in addition to the “how” of their job skills training. As we closed the year, we're proud that Corps members Cuthbert and Jose furthered their employment with new, full-time jobs.

Program Funders

2021-22

ABHA Architects
 Acme Markets
 Adele Meehan
 Adorn Goods
 All Seasons Landscaping
 American Public Gardens Association
 Anro Inc.
 Anthony and Catherine Fusco Foundation
 Arbor Day Foundation
 Bancroft Construction Company
 Bank of America
 Bartlett Tree Experts
 Dan Benarcik and Peggy Anne Montgomery
 BHA Foundation Fund
 Tyler Bozzuto
 Brown Advisory Charitable Foundation, Inc.
 Brushwood Nursery
 Capano Management Company
 Capital One
 Chanticleer Foundation
 Chicago Botanic Garden
 City of Wilmington
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 The Corps Network
 Corteva Agriscience
 Cotswold Gardens, Inc.
 Create A Scene
 Creek Hill Nursery
 Charles Cresson
 Crystal Trust
 Rick Darke and Melinda Zoehrer
 Davey Tree Expert Company
 Harold and Mary Davis
 Delaware Art Museum
 Delaware Community Foundation
 Delaware Department of Agriculture
 Delaware Department of Natural Resources
 & Environmental Control
 Delaware Nature Society
 Delaware State Parks/ Brandywine Zoo
 Delmarva Power, an Exelon Company
 DeWees Investment Consulting Group of
 Wells Fargo Advisors
 Sally and Don DeWees

GREENING PROGRAMS

Public Landscapes

Throughout Wilmington, DCH's portfolio of 22 public landscape sites, comprised of traffic triangles and medians, neighborhood gateways, and challenging hillsides, provide a natural landscape to the city and beneficial habitat for local wildlife. Throughout the year, the DCH team created, enhanced, and cared for these sites thanks to the support from our many sponsors. This year, the team planted over 1,700 native, perennial landscape plugs throughout these sites as well as in the DCH gardens, often involving community and corporate volunteers. Delaware native flowers that were planted included *Asters*, *Echinacea*, *Eupatorium*, *Lobelia*, *Rudbeckia*, and *Solidago* species, planted for their beauty and color, and for their pollen, fragrance, and foliage that attract pollinators.

Community Forestry

Through the coordinated efforts of our Community Forester and a multitude of corporate, government, and nonprofit partners and individuals, DCH was able to plant 496 trees throughout Delaware in 2022 and provide learning experiences to more than 200 children in those efforts. We continued our work partnering with historic Black cemeteries, including Mt. Zion, for tree plantings; revisited the Tri-Parks (Suratte, Rose Hill, and Oakmont) in the Route 9 Corridor for a spring tree giveaway, fall tree planting and native garden restoration; engaged students from the Christina and Brandywine school districts with Arbor Day activities; and hosted numerous virtual lectures and workshops to support neighborhood tree stewardship.

Urban Farm

The E. D. Robinson Urban Farm at 12th and Brandywine harvested over 250lbs of fresh food in 2022! This food was donated weekly to support community food pantries including Kingswood Community Center, St. John's Village Senior Center, and the Food Bank of Delaware, and was also distributed directly to local residents. To continue our Harvest 2020 commitment to provide food grown from the farm for free, DCH and the urban farm received an award from the United States Botanic Garden through the American Public Gardens Association for the Urban Agriculture Resilience Program, which works to build the capacity of communities nationwide for local, urban agriculture. The farm was also awarded a gift from the New Castle Conservation District (NCCD) for the continued support of the urban farm through the Urban Farmer & Gardener Mini-Grant Program.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Community Collaborations

This year we expanded the growing footprint of the Shearman Street Community Garden, owned by DCH and located in Wilmington's East Side community, by adding two, seventeen-inch metal raised beds. These new beds were installed as a trial for the coming year to gauge whether community members find taller beds easier to garden. Our team also repaired two existing beds and replaced five by rebuilding the structures to ensure a prosperous season. Using mulch from the 2022 TreeCycle, our Christmas tree recycling event, our team was able to mulch in between each bed to suppress weeds. Our teams, joined by volunteers, were also able to clean up, prepare, and plant in over six community gardens including the Hattie Phalen community garden, Sacred Grounds project gardens, Brandywine Mills Plaza, Mt. Zion Cemetery, and a meadow garden located adjacent to the Newark Center for Creative Learning school.

Membership

At the beginning of 2022, we welcomed our new Membership and Volunteer Manager, Liz Davison, to the team which has led to a reinvigorated membership program. We also hosted our first Members Fall Reception Event to allow DCH members to participate in the vote for our new board members. Look for some exciting new developments for DCH membership in 2023, including a revitalization of our member discount program and new tools for managing your DCH membership benefits.

Volunteering

As one of DCH's most vital assets in spreading our mission and our work, our volunteer program engaged 236 unique volunteers throughout the year for a total of 1,357 hours across all departments of the organization. Community members and corporate partners helped with tree plantings, grounds maintenance, seasonal event support, the 40th and Final Rare Plant Auction®, community gardens, and more. As one of our most important aspects of volunteerism, in 2022, our board of directors returned to in-person meetings, and we welcomed new board members and officers.

www.thedch.org

Program Funders

2021-22 cont.

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 Draper and Kramer Mortgage Corporation
 Edgar Joyce Nursery
 EDiS Company
 Linda Eirhart
 Ellice and Rosa McDonald Foundation
 Gordon Fournaris and Mammarella, PA
 Robert Gadon
 Garden Club of Wilmington
 Gateway Garden Center, Inc.
 Glenmede Trust Company
 Hagley Museum & Library
 Harry's Hospitality Group, Kid Shelleen's Charcoal
 House and Saloon
 Su and Peter Horthy
 Robert Hurka and Susan Stewart
 Incyte Corporation
 Iseli Nursery
 Janssen's Market
 JC Raulston Arboretum
 Jenkins Arboretum
 Jewish Family Services of Delaware
 JP Morgan Chase
 Kentmere Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center
 The Laffey McHugh Foundation
 Landcraft Environmental LTD
 Laurel Hill Cemetery
 Carol Long
 Longwood Gardens
 Manor View Farm
 M&T Bank
 M&T Charitable Trust
 Maffei Landscape Design, LLC
 Marmot Foundation
 Marshall Landscaping
 Mostardi Nursery
 Mt. Cuba Center
 Nathan M. Clark Foundation
 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
 National Wildlife Federation
 Nemours Estate
 New Castle Conservation District



Public Landscapes



Community Forestry



Urban Farm



Community Collaborations



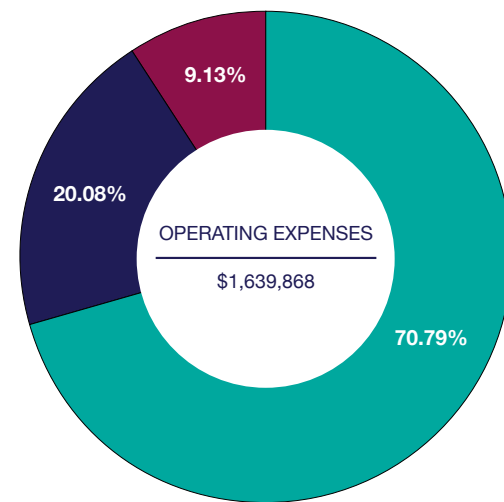
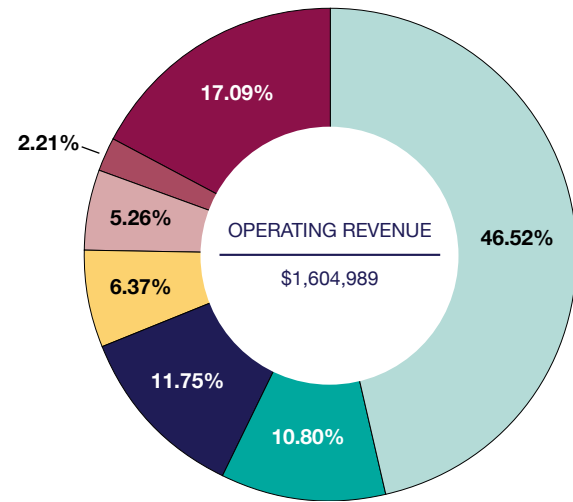
Membership



Volunteering



FY 2022 FINANCIALS: October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022



- Program Services & Grants - \$746,620
- Annual Giving & Membership - \$173,354
- Fundraising & Events - \$188,506
- Facility Rental, In-Kind, Other - \$102,287
- DCH Building and Operating Endowment (annual draw) - \$84,500
- DE Community Foundation (annual distribution) - \$35,502
- Employee Retention Credit - \$274,220

- Program & Grants Services - \$1,160,916
- Fundraising Expenses - \$329,240
- Administrative & Management - \$149,712

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For more information, please visit our profile at www.guidestar.org/profile/51-0252857.

SACRED GROUNDS

Sacred Grounds™, a National Wildlife Federation (NWF) program which recognizes congregations, houses of worship, and faith communities that link faith practices and caring for the environment, is ending a successful first year. The goal of the current initiative, supported by DCH, is to promote the installation of native plant gardens and wildlife habitat that connect people to nature and contribute to healthier, more resilient communities within Wilmington, Delaware. Ten faith-based organizations participated this year with technical guidance and support led by NWF, in partnership with the Delaware Nature Society, Delaware Interfaith Power and Light, and DCH, with funding provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).

This project successfully installed ten new native plantings during this first year in 2022 and has served as a means for involving DCH's new Delaware River Climate Corps (DRCC) with the installation of three of these sites; Interfaith Community Housing of DE, Temple United Church, and Praying Grounds Community Church. The installations provided an opportunity to reinforce classroom instruction with hands-on field work, strengthening the DRCC team's understanding of the need for pollinator habitat, while expanding on topics related to ecological processes as integral to improving climate resiliency. The DRCC will stay involved as the Sacred Grounds™ partnership advances into its second year in 2023, with the goal of engaging ten more organizations that will each install a Sacred Grounds™ pollinator garden.



Planting at Interfaith Community Housing of Delaware



Planting at Temple United Church

Program Funders

2021-22 *cont.*

- New Castle County
- New Castle County Executive Office
- Margarete Noesner
- Nor'Easter Foundation
- North Creek Nurseries, Inc.
- Old Brandywine Village
- Organic Mechanics Soil Company
- Susan Parker
- Patterson Schwartz Real Estate
- Pettinaro Management
- Leroy Pfisterer
- Plants Nouveau
- Pleasant Run Nursery
- The Polly Hill Arboretum
- Quality Greenhouses & Perennial Farm
- Alice Reilly
- Robinson Anderson Summers Inc.
- Rockford Woodlawn Fund Inc.
- Roger and Sarah Bancroft Clark Foundation
- Ross, Aronstam & Moritz LLP
- Sam Brown's Wholesale Nursery
- SC&A Construction, Inc.
- The Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College
- Alicia Smith
- Marcia Spoor
- Star Roses & Plants
- State Employees' Charitable Campaign
- State of Delaware
- Stonegates Retirement Community
- Stoney Bank Nurseries, Inc.
- Stoneleigh
- Sun East Foundation
- Mary Szewczyk
- TD Bank
- Trolley Square Maintenance Corporation
- United States Botanic Garden
- Vandemark & Lynch, Inc.
- Wallace Landscape Associates, Inc.
- West Laurel Hill Cemetery
- Ann and Calhoun Wick
- Williams Houck & Co., LLC
- Wilmington Country Store
- Wilmington Flower Market
- Wilmington Friends School
- Wilmington Trust
- Winterthur Museum Garden and Library
- Bridget Wosczyzna
- WSFS Cares Foundation
- Peter Zale



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Volunteers at the Rose Hill Park planting



NCCL PLANTING



NCCL students and Discover volunteers with the meadow planting plan



Freshly planted Landscape Plugs™ by NCCL students

In an exciting community project, we partnered with Discover volunteers and the Newark Center for Creative Learning (NCCL) to plant a native meadow garden at Phillips Park in Newark, DE, adjacent to the NCCL school. The site was first prepared by NCCL students, their parents, and the Newark City Parks Department by removing invasive plants in July. A few short months later, DCH staff and volunteers from Discover paired with NCCL students from K-8th grade to guide the installation of over 1,500 Landscape Plugs™, supplied by North Creek Nurseries, Inc.

This initiative brought a native meadow garden, designed by NCCL students, to the Newark area to increase habitat for pollinators and restore existing community greenspace. By adding beauty and ecological services to this area of the park, the meadow will provide continued educational experiences for students to learn about native plants and their role in supporting pollinators as students engage in future maintenance of the site.

Through interactive presentations provided throughout the day, DCH and NCCL leaders instilled the importance of installing native plants into the landscape and to expand upon this message, plants were provided to the NCCL students and Discover volunteers to take home for incorporation into their personal gardens.



Enjoying the 40th and Final Rare Plant Auction®



40th RPA Review

The 40th and Final Rare Plant Auction® was a resounding success! Historically hosted at Longwood Gardens, our Rare Plant Auction made a lasting impact with its location at DCH in 2022. We want to thank all our donors, sponsors, volunteers, committees, and advertisers for their generous support. A special thank you to Mrs. Sidney Scott, Jr., Honorary Chair; Sally and Don DeWees, Event Chairs; Melinda Zoehrer and Rick Darke, our Celebrated Plant Experts; plant donors; and everyone who attended.