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Dear friends,

It's a wonderful feeling to be part of a project that's growing, bringing people together, and producing positive results. Those of us affiliated with Shenandoah National Park Trust know the feeling. During 2021-2022, our work has been gaining major momentum! And thanks to generous people like you, that growth is impacting our beloved Shenandoah National Park in positive ways:

- This year, we awarded \$545,348 in grants—an all time high—for projects that had a far-reaching impact on youth, wildlife, forest health, and visitor experiences.
- We donated 225 acres of land to the Park.
- We facilitated over 40,000 volunteer hours in the Park.
- Revenue from the sale of Shenandoah National Park license plates hit a record high of \$262,240.
- Over 300 new donors joined our family.
- Over 30 donors pledged monthly, unrestricted gifts.

We have set a bold intention: by 2025, we will give \$1 million to the Park annually.

Over the past 12 months, we outlined a framework that will serve as the foundation for all our investments going forward. This framework is informed by research, data, as well as input from Park staff and diverse community partners, and of course, donors like you.

In partnership with Superintendent Patrick Kenney, we have a clear path to guide the projects and programs that you, our donors, care about most. We have set a bold intention: by 2025, we will give \$1 million to the Park annually, making a significant and lasting impact in Shenandoah National Park.

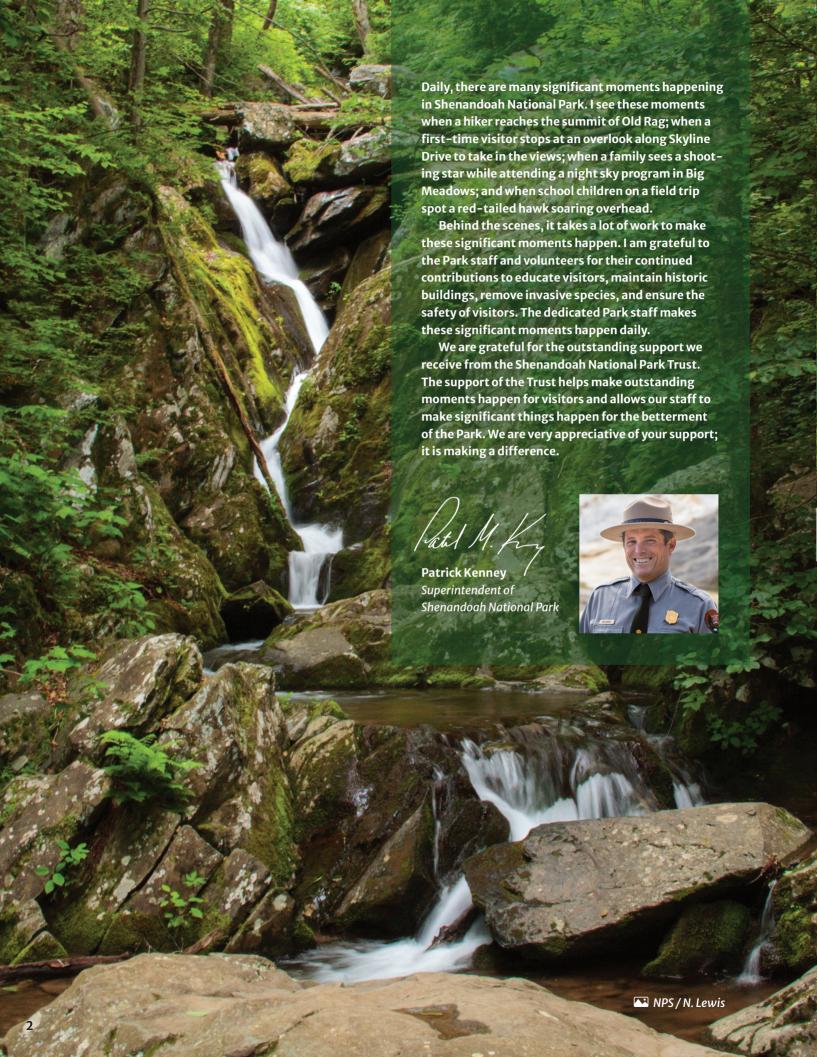
We envision an inspired and engaged community of stakeholders coming together to ensure a sustainable future for Shenandoah through conservation, collaboration, and inclusivity. You help us remain committed to that vision. Thank you for sticking with us!

Jessica Cocciolone Executive Director

Ed Fuhr Board Chairman









The first night the six members of the Shenandoah Youth Corps camped in Mathews Arm, a doe and her fawn came to

visit. The young campers watched in awe as the deer wandered the campsite, even sniffing a few tents. "They looked like they were checking in on us," says Lote Patterson, the staff crew leader.

Some of the crew members had never camped before, but they embraced the experience—even when summer thunderstorms drenched their tents. In the morning, Patterson says,

he heard them talking "about all the weird sounds they heard, and how cool it was to see the bolt of lightning shoot across the sky."

The Trust-funded program brings two youth groups, ages 16–18, to the Park to spend four weeks each volunteering on projects such as trail maintenance and campground cleanup. But the experience is more than weedwhacking and trash pick-up; it's also exposing participants to future jobs with the National Park Service and related professions.

In Patterson's groups, Corps members taught each other how to identify trees, insects, and birds. In the evenings, rangers gave educational talks about the Park, ongoing research, and the work they do. The most popular, Patterson says, were the wildlife technicians, who discussed their work educating visitors and protecting the Park's black bears. As one member

of the Corps said, "It would be really cool to work in the Park and be a ranger."

That's exactly what Reki Everett realized when she was a Trust-funded Night Sky Assistant intern in the Park last year. As an intern, she helped build the Park's night-sky program, leading stargazing programs in Big Meadows, Mathews Arm, and Loft Mountain each week.

She pointed out constellations with green lasers and spoke with visitors about how people have long used the stars to guide

navigation, seasonal migration, planting, and reaping: "Humans have always looked up to the nighttime sky to better understand what's going on down here on Earth."

Hearing 300 Park visitors ooh and aah as they watched the Perseid meteor shower during the Night Sky Festival was magical, she says. "It makes me want to do this job forever." In December 2021, Everett was hired for her dream job: full-time ranger.

For young people like Everett and the Shenandoah Youth Corps participants, these Trust-funded experiences in the Park can be the start of a career in conservation and public service. The programs we support help to create professional pathways for young people to explore their passion and their purpose. Thanks to your generosity, the Trust is proud to invest in these future stewards of Shenandoah National Park.

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and be a ranger."



Shenandoah National Park would be a very different place without its huge cadre of volunteers. More than 1,000 people donate their energy and expertise to the Park each year, working alongside staff to get crucial projects done. Among other responsibilities, Park volunteers:

- Work with biologist crews to protect the Park's treasured hemlocks by treating them for woolly adelgid infestations
- Educate Park visitors about bear safety and proper food storage, which protects black bears and people alike
- Help remove invasive vegetation that threatens Shenandoah's native ecology
- Assist search-andrescue operations for lost and injured people in the Park
- Serve as campground hosts who answer campers' questions and teach them about rules and regulations
- Lead educational programs and tours
- Welcome Park guests in the visitors' centers
- Clean and maintain campgrounds, trails, and other facilities

Organizing these efforts is an enormous job, which is why the Trust funds a Volunteer and Youth Project Lead position through the Appalachian Conservation Corps (ACC), one of our trusted partners. For the past three years, this position has been held by Leah Cawthorn, who works alongside Park staff to organize and oversee more than 40,000 volunteer hours per year, spanning an enormous range of projects.

Notably, Cawthorn helped organize

All volunteers in

the Park make

a difference, no

of their stay.

matter the length

the first-ever Show Your Love for Shenandoah Day on April 23, 2022. More than 120 volunteers—including some Trust board members—committed a day to doing much-needed work in Shenandoah,

from campground cleanup to vegetation trimming at overlooks. This effort "gets so much work done in just a short amount of time," Cawthorn says. "You can see the impact right away."

While volunteers are essential in Shenandoah, one obstacle to recruitment is housing. The Park, unfortunately, can't always provide places for people to stay, and short-term rentals are expensive. The Trust is funding upgrades to trailer pads with full-service hookups that will be reserved for volunteers.

This will allow the Park to recruit longterm, full-time volunteers who will assist with the bear management program and visitor center operations.

All volunteers in the Park make a difference, no matter the length of their stay. Youth from Groundwork Richmond and crews from the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club may come for a week or two to conduct trail maintenance. Corporate groups, such as those from Merck, S&P Global, and KPMG, get a lot done in just one day. All of these hours add up to an enormous impact in Shenandoah.

"Without the Park's loyal helpers," Cawthorn says, "a lot of things would fall through the cracks." Volunteers give more capacity to Park staff, allowing them to focus on public outreach and safety.

We're grateful for all Park volunteers, and for the Trust donors whose gifts sustain them! If you're interested in contributing your time, please email us at info@snptrust.org to learn more about volunteer opportunities in the

Park and for the Trust. Or, you can scan this QR code to fill out a "Volunteer Interest" form.



BECAUSE OF YOU...

Shenandoah's trails remain open to all

You probably know the names of Shenandoah's most beloved trails, such as Dark Hollow Falls, Hawksbill Loop, White Oak Canyon, and of course, the Appalachian Trail.

These, however, make up a fraction of the Park's 500-plus miles of trails. Often overlooked are the horse paths, backcountry routes, and old fire roads that criss-cross the Park. Even though these routes provide crucial access for visitors and staff, they receive limited federal funding for maintenance. If it weren't for the Trust, these trails would eventually become unusable.

Thanks to our donors, the Trust funded work on 16 Shenandoah trails this year: removing fallen trees, cutting back encroaching vegetation, and cleaning and repairing water control structures. The Trust partnered with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) to provide volunteers with housing, a vehicle, meals, and oversight by NPS staff as they worked on trail projects.

"Everything that we're doing here is so beneficial to our visitors," says Steve Printz, Maintenance Worker Supervisor (Trails), who oversees this work. One place you can see the Trust's impact is the Browns Gap fire road in the south district of the Park, which intersects both the Jones Run and Doyles River trails and is used by many hikers. "If this work wasn't done," Printz says, "you could not use that trail at all. You would have to take an alternate route."

When trails fall into disrepair, the effects can be profound. Hikers can get lost. Or, finding their route blocked, they may detour into ecologically sensitive or dangerous areas. Stormwater wears away paths, causing erosion and harmful runoff. "Ultimately, it is about protecting the resources and making sure that our visitors stay safe," Printz says.

Thanks to Park staff and our donors, the Trust ensures that all the trails within Shenandoah are welcoming to visitors.





BECAUSE OF YOU...

We're learning more about the Park's long history

> **Skyland Resort Complex** NPS Archives

(Inset)Dr. Thomas M. Urban performs archaeological survey

NPS / B. Carter

There are around 600 recorded archaeological sites on the land we now call Shenandoah National Park-"which is really low for a landscape this large that's been occupied for [at least] 10,000 years," observes Brinnen Carter, the Park's Cultural Resource Program Manager.

This fact means there is much more to discover, if the land's full history is to be told. This year, the Trust funded one such investigation: the archaeological remote sensing of a Civilian Conservation Corpsera campground at Big Meadows.

Led by Cornell University archae-

Knowing the

location of these

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history.

and contributes

to our knowledge

ologist Dr. Thomas M. Urban, investigators used ground-penetrating radar on a 15-acre site. Other known sites across Big Meadows date from the Middle Archaic period (8,000 to 5,000 years ago) to the Late Woodland period (1,700 to 1,000 years ago). Researchers wanted to know if there might be any

other sites of interest in this area, whether ancient or recent.

The radar detected one site that looks like a long-ago hearth. It hasn't yet been

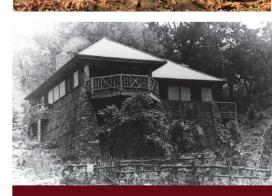
excavated, but "at some point, I'd like to go out and test it," Carter says. Further exploration of sites like this will help us understand the history of the Park, the land that it is on, and the people who inhabited it.

While nothing else was found, that's expected for this kind of work, Urban says: "Maybe 1 in 10 surveys turn up something truly interesting, so it's not at all unusual. At the same time, the result is still useful for the Park." Knowing the location of these sites preserves their integrity and contributes to our knowledge of the land's history.

Little funding is available in the Park's

budget for this kind of work, which is part of a broader mission to understand Shenandoah's history. There are big questions that we still don't know the answers to, Carter says, such as: "How were the Blue Ridge mountains utilized over time, throughout the prehistoric period, and how did that use change?"

Thanks to donors, efforts to find answers will continue—and some new questions will be unearthed in the process.



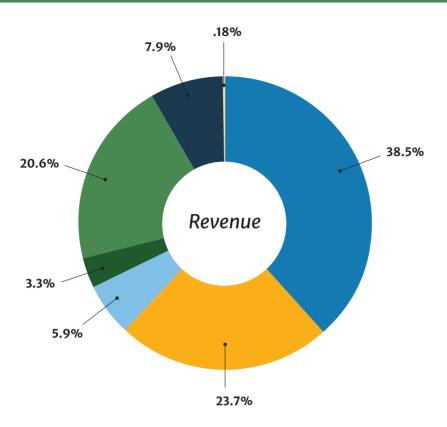
Massanutten Lodge then and now 💄 NPS Archives



BY THE NUMBERS



IMPACT



🛊 Individual Contributions:	\$490,513
A Corporate Contributions & Foundation Grants:	\$302,102
Special Events Revenue:	\$74,709
Lodge Donation Program Revenue:	\$42,379
♠ SNP License Plate Revenue:	\$262,240
♣ Investment Income:	\$100,702
A Other Revenue:	\$2,353

Total \$1,274,998

*Numbers shown here have not been audited. For a more detailed financial report, please contact our office at (434) 293–2728 or info@snptrust.org.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events, and in the meantime stay tuned for:

- Shenandoah in the City
 Washington, D.C. | November 10, 2022
- Giving Tuesday
 Online qiving day | November 29, 2022
- Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival Kick-off Party Charlottesville, Va. | February 16, 2023
- Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival Charlottesville, Va. | March 5 & 6, 2023
- National Park Week
 April 15 23, 2023

Grants to the Park: \$545,348

Volunteer hours in the Park: over 40,000

Acres donated to the Park: **225**

Visitors to the Park: **1.5 million**

Number of interns supported: **6**

Beetles released to fight the invasive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid:

1,117

Volunteers at the inaugural Show Your Love for Shenandoah Day:

125

Bear Aware trainings by wildlife technicians:

Over 1,000

Students served: Over 11,200

Trails cleared:
16, with 105 trees
removed

Artists-in-Residence funded: **5**



Gifts included in this list were received between October 1, 2021 and September 30, 2022. If your name has been omitted in error from any of these lists, please accept our apologies and let us know by calling 434-293-2728.

Shenandoah Legacy Society

Shenandoah Legacy Society members are including Shenandoah National Park Trust in their wills/and or estate plans.

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Hawksbill Circle (\$25,000+)

Delaware North at Shenandoah
The Elisabeth Reed Carter
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Luray Caverns
Merck Foundation
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Foundation
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S&P Global Foundation
Virginia National Bank

Blackrock Circle (\$10,000-\$24,999)

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Blue Ridge Circle (\$1,000-\$2,499)

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THANK YOU FOR MAKING 2022 A HUGE SUCCESS



We have hiked to a dozen or more waterfalls, reclined in the dark of Big Meadow to watch the Perseid meteor shower, and got a wonderful view of the Neowise Comet from the Franklin Cliff Overview. We introduced our granddaughter to Shenandoah by volunteering for Earth Day events, and our oldest grandson made his first visit on a grandfather-grandson road trip that began with two nights in the Park. We have visited all 423 units managed by the National Park Service, but we feel most at home in Shenandoah.

PASSES THROUGH

SHENANDOAH

Eric and Kathy Johnson, Alexandria, VA

For the past 25 years, our family has enjoyed Shenandoah National Park. Our 6 kids were raised hiking, camping, and rock climbing in the Park. They were taught about the Park's rich flora and fauna throughout the seasons and often explored the Park for such life, such as monarch caterpillars among the blooming milkweed. We have savored the cool, quiet night stays at the lodges, with the sounds of nearby owls calling to each other. The Park is a magical place that refreshes the soul, and we hope future generations will continue to have similar delightful experiences.

Christopher Holstege, Charlottesville, VA

▼ I recently did the Bearfence scramble hike and came upon a group of young folks from Elk Hill at the top of the rocks. They were in a program being led by two rangers, Ann and Margo. I asked the rangers if their positions were sponsored by SNPT and they said they were. They were so fantastic working with these kids. They said that they had groups every day this week. It made my day seeing the impact of the SNPT!

Sharon Celsor-Hughes, Charlottesville, VA



A Having done the math, I'm somewhat amazed to realize that I've been coming to Shenandoah National Park for well over 50 years. As beautiful and amazing today as it was 50 years ago, and hopefully it will continue to be so for generations to come.

Chuck M., Sperryville, VA

Shenandoah National Park Trust (SNPT) entices and connects people to our home park—Shenandoah National Park. We enjoy hiking in the Park and appreciate workplace volunteer days with SNPT. SNPT sponsors youth programs, internships, volunteer coordination, upgrades to trails and facilities, and preservation of structures. These projects give others enlightening, transformative, and timeless experiences. We enthusiastically support SNPT in its work.

Helen and David Penrod, Harrisonburg, VA





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