

# DEAR FRIENDS,

## Community is in our nature.

Fifty years ago, this community came together to establish Quarry Hill, Rochester's first and only Nature Center. The vision that kids should experience natural science education in the field became a reality. Now, the Nature Center has grown into a place where all ages can access green spaces and nature education, connecting our community to the natural world and each other.

In all seasons, whether you come for adventure or leisure, learning or retreat, YOU have a place here. Nature is for you.

As we launch into our 50th year, our collective efforts can do big things to preserve greenspace and provide opportunities for all to enjoy experiences of learning, exploring and stewarding the land.

### With your continued support in 2023, we will:

- Plant 350 trees on over 10 acres in an effort to restore the native habitat.
- Increase our bird banding research efforts in a newly restored bird study area, engaging community members and students in science research at a national level.
- Develop new community connections to Quarry Hill by expanding our M is for Minnesota program.
- Increase our member opportunities to come together as like-minded nature supporters through special member events.

## As a non-profit, we rely on the generosity of our supporters and members.

Support the places and people you care about. Together we can do more to explore, protect & respect nature.

Please donate today by returning the enclosed envelope, or donate online at [QHNC.org](http://QHNC.org)



## EVERY GIFT IS IMPORTANT

**TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE TO EXPLORE,  
PROTECT & RESPECT NATURE.**

Quarry Hill receives no tax dollars to support our mission. As a non-profit we rely solely on the generous support of our members, individuals, and organizations to remain free and open to the public.

Please partner with us in our mission to conserve a natural space, connect people with nature, and inspire environmental stewardship. Every gift makes a difference.

Thank you.



### QUARRY HILL NATURE CENTER

507.328.3950 | [www.QHNC.ORG](http://www.QHNC.ORG)

"Opening eyes & minds through natural science discovery."

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# COMMUNITY IS IN OUR NATURE



Quarry Hill provides experiences for all ages that **INSPIRE LIFELONG APPRECIATION AND RESPECT FOR THE NATURAL WORLD**. From outreach at senior living communities to PreK programs like Young Naturalist Summer Day Camp, there is a place here for both the young and young at heart.



**PROTECTING THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE AND OUR OUTDOOR CLASSROOM FOR GENERATIONS TO COME**, we partner with Minnesota Conservation Corp, Weed Warriors volunteer group, and Rochester Park and Recreation Department to manage the land. This season, goats joined the team to battle invasive buckthorn! Grazing 10 acres to clear the understory, we will plant 350 trees next spring to restore that land to native habitat.

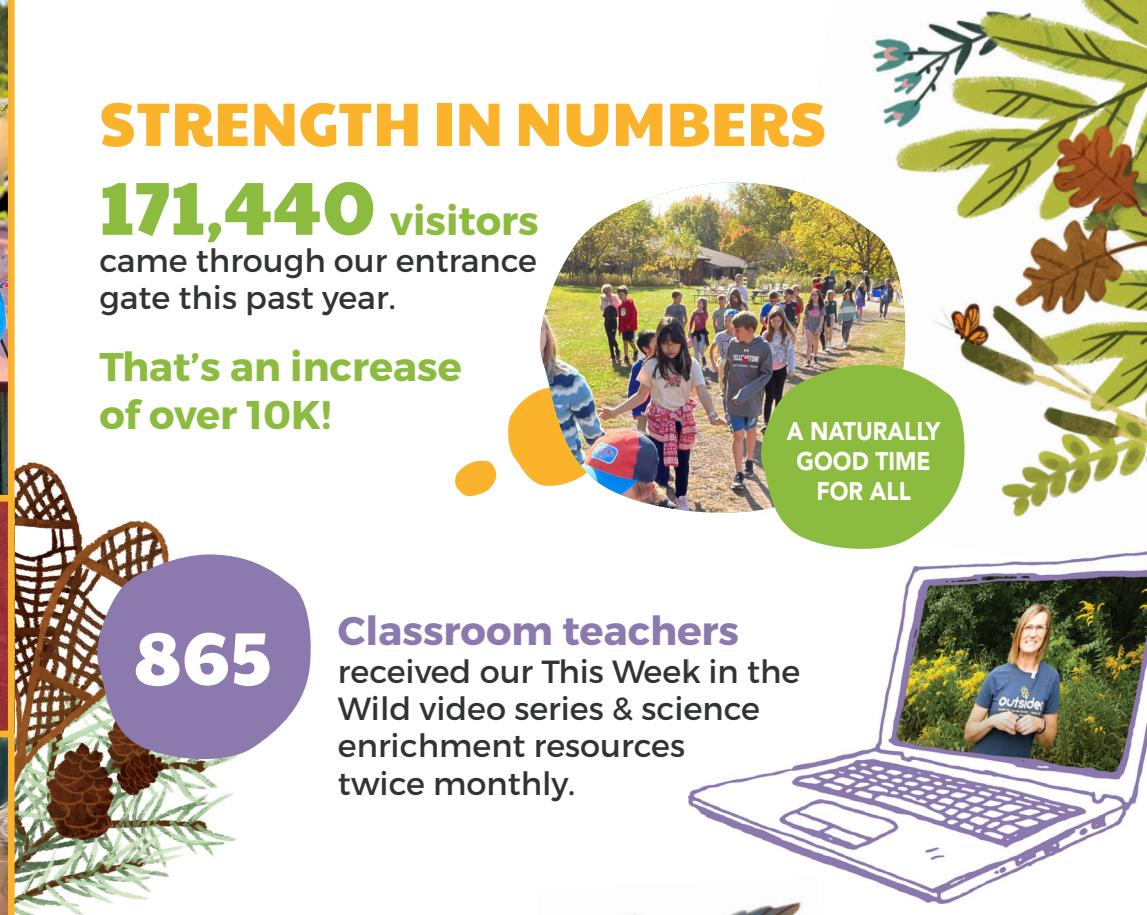
**QUARRY HILL IS A HUB FOR VALUED COMMUNITY PARTNERS** like Zumbro Valley Audubon Society, Southeast Minnesota Beekeepers, Minnesota Master Naturalist and Rochester Public Schools. These partners gather here to collaborate, provide education, and lend their expertise to connect our community to nature.



**MORE THAN 945 MEMBERS** (that's our highest membership yet!) make it possible to offer more nature education to more members of our community than ever before.



Each summer local students participate in our independent study science course, a collaboration with Rochester Public Schools. Assisting our staff with summer camp programs, these student leaders earn high school science credit during a mentored experience in the field of education and science. For many, it's a chance to pay it forward as they were once campers themselves! **THESE 33 STUDENTS COMMITTED A COLLECTIVE 1980 HOURS TO THIS COURSE.**



## STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

**171,440 visitors** came through our entrance gate this past year.

That's an increase of over 10K!

865

**Classroom teachers** received our *This Week in the Wild* video series & science enrichment resources twice monthly.

151



**Volunteers donated 1,698 hours** assisting with our programming, welcoming visitors to the Nature Center and helping steward the parkland.

