



**Walking
Mountains**

EDUCATION | SCIENCE
SUSTAINABILITY

2024 ANNUAL REPORT





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Welcome

Dear Friends,

Reflecting on the past year, I am reminded of the strong partnerships we've built over Walking Mountains' 26-year history. Our collaborations with generous individuals, community organizations, and local governments allow Walking Mountains to expand our reach and impact in ways we couldn't achieve alone, helping us make a lasting difference in Eagle County and beyond.

This summer, we celebrated the completion of the Pete and Pat Frechette Educator Community. With the generous support of the Frechette Family Foundation, we've built three homes which provide housing for 18 of our educators, interns, and naturalists. In Eagle County, where affordable housing is scarce, these homes allow our staff to live on campus and focus on fulfilling our mission without the stresses of housing insecurity.

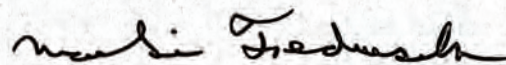
Our partnership with Eagle County Schools is at the heart of Walking Mountains' mission, providing every K-8 student the opportunity to participate in one of our school programs each year at no cost. Teachers share that our outdoor, nature-based lessons engage students in ways traditional classrooms

cannot, creating impactful and memorable learning experiences. In a 2024 survey, 100% of teachers stated that our programs met or exceeded their expectations.

With the support of over 30 community partners and Great Outdoors Colorado, the Exploremos program (formerly known as EVOM)—now in its seventh year—offered inclusive, Spanish-language outdoor experiences. This year, Exploremos delivered 143 family programs, reaching 2,265 community members.

As I look ahead, I am filled with gratitude for the support and connections that make our work at Walking Mountains possible. Together with our dedicated community of donors, partner organizations, and local leaders, we are able to reach new heights and create meaningful, lasting change. With your partnership, we can continue to strengthen our impact, inspire environmental stewardship, and build a more resilient and sustainable Eagle County for generations to come. Thank you for standing with us on this journey—we couldn't do it without you.

With Gratitude,



MARKIAN FEDUSCHAK, PRESIDENT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As of June 30, 2024

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We connect people with nature and empower them to protect it.

Walking Mountains is a leading environmental education organization that fosters stewardship and builds transformative partnerships across Eagle County. We teach people of all ages about our natural world through immersive science-based experiences, groundbreaking sustainability initiatives, captivating programs, and engaging events.

OUR MISSION

To awaken a sense of wonder and inspire environmental stewardship and sustainability through natural science education.

OUR VISION

We envision an Eagle River Valley where everyone understands the science of nature and is inspired to take action as an environmental steward.

OUR LOCATIONS



◀ AVON TANG CAMPUS



◀ NATURE DISCOVERY CENTER ON VAIL MOUNTAIN



◀ VAIL NATURE CENTER IN FORD PARK



◀ PRECOURT FAMILY SWEETWATER CAMPUS

Our Annual Impact



327,315

Total lives reached across all programs.



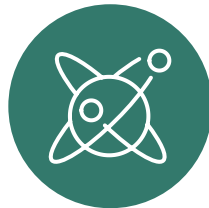
Walking Mountains is truly a special organization in our community. My kids always enjoy their school field trips there, and they absolutely LOVE their weeks at summer camp!”

AMY, PARENT



4,898

Students participated in Field Science programs, exploring the outdoors, practicing scientific observation, and deepening their connection to nature.



Our Avon Science Center reached 9,570 residents and visitors, offering innovative natural science learning experiences.



We visited all 36 Eagle County Schools' preschool classes at least 4 times, dedicating over 1,647 service hours to bringing nature-based learning to preschoolers.



Our Zero Waste team coordinated 108 event days, promoting waste reduction and reaching 264,000+ people.



51,939

People reached through Youth & Community Programs.



272K +

People reached through Sustainability Programs.

Youth Programs

We positively impact learners by providing equitable experiences that increase science literacy, connect learners to the natural world, and promote environmental stewardship.

6,388

Students served through our broader free K-12 science education initiatives.

474

Youth participated in summer science camps, with 98% enrollment.

3,787

People reached through our early childhood natural science education programs.



Foley Graduate Program

A multi-faceted, graduate program that focuses on professional development of leaders in the field of K-8th grade science and environmental education.

12

Foley Graduate Program students pursuing a master's degree from the University of Northern Colorado.



Growth, Gratitude
and Moving Forward:
Reflections from
our passionate
Graduate Fellows

Community Programs

We engage community members and visitors of all ages and backgrounds through experiential programs, workshops and lectures, and guided backcountry experiences.

45,342

Community members and visitors engaged in hands-on programs utilizing our integrated facilities (Avon Science Center, Vail Nature Center, and Nature Discovery Center) and the natural environment.



In just one year of participating in the Exploremos program, I've explored more of Colorado—hiking, connecting with wildlife, and visiting new places—than in the past 10 years living here.”

ALVARA, PARTICIPANT



Community Programs
Celebrating 50 Years of the
Vail Nature Center:
[A Legacy of Conservation and
Education for Eagle County](#)

Exploremos

Exploremos is a community group managed by Walking Mountains in collaboration with many partner organizations. We enjoy a variety of outdoor activities to connect more with our world and our people.

2,265

People reached through 143 outdoor family programs offered in Spanish.

32

Community partners provided inclusive programs to expand access to the outdoors for everyone.

Sustainability Programs



Thank you for teaching me how to save energy in our properties. It's been a pleasure working with Walking Mountains, and I've gained valuable knowledge to apply to future projects."

AMANDA, PROPERTY MANAGER

We act as an agent of change to achieve local climate action goals and improve the social, economic, and environmental resilience of the Eagle County community. We serve as a resource and education hub to inspire action from local to global. We partner with local government to facilitate climate action, energy-efficiency programs, recycling and waste reduction, sustainable business training, and sustainable destination programs.



51,000+

Pounds of waste from 108 event days were diverted from the landfill through the Zero Waste program.

\$421,567

in energy-efficiency, electrification, and safety rebates were granted following 206 home and business energy visits.

\$211,715

in estimated annual utility costs were saved by homes and businesses that received a rebate and energy visit, reducing GHG emissions by 942+ MtCO₂e annually.

Philanthropy & Donor Events

With over 72% of our annual operating budget, as well as all capital projects and our endowment, funded through philanthropic initiatives, we are incredibly grateful to our generous community of supporters. Your contributions enable Walking Mountains to make a significant impact on our entire community.



The Frechette Family Foundation is honored to support Walking Mountains in fulfilling their vision for educator housing. Our parents, Pat and Pete Frechette, were committed to creating space for educators to come to the Valley to learn together, teach others, and ignite a love of learning and passion for nature. They would be so proud today.”

**KATHY FRECHETTE TENHULA AND
KRISTY FRECHETTE WOOLFOLK**



The third Pete and Pat Frechette Educator Community home was completed at the Avon Tang Campus, addressing critical employee housing needs.



Learn more about the [Pete & Pat Frechette educator community housing](#)



**JUL
08**

**SAVE THE DATE
A Taste of
Nature Gala**

Thank You for Your Support

INDIVIDUAL, FOUNDATION, GOVERNMENT, AND CORPORATE DONORS

This list includes contributions received toward our annual campaign, capital fundraising, and endowment from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Please see Endowment for the Future Campaign Donors section and Legacy Donors section for commitments for those initiatives. Every effort has been made for accuracy on pages 10-14. If you feel there is an error, please contact Tessa Allen at (970) 827-9725 x145.

VISIONARIES

\$1,000,000+

Frechette Family Foundation
Oscar Tang and Agnes Hsu-Tang

AMBASSADORS

\$100,000 - \$249,999

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Kelly and Sam Bronfman
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Dana Tang and Andrew Darrell
Nancy and Stephen Dowdle
Eagle County
Great Outdoors Colorado
Barbie and Tony Mayer
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Kevin Yang

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Caroline Wagner
Deborah Webster and
Stephen Blanchard
Wendy Weiss
Grace Wellwerts
Monica White
Nick Williams
Nancy Winship
Traci and Michael Wodlinger
Beth Zimmermann

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Active Energies Solar, LLC
Alpine Quest Sports
Aspen Skiing Company
Avon Liquor
Big Bear Bistro
Blue Moose Pizza
Boone's Wine & Spirits
Sunny Brodsky
Chasing Rabbits
Colorado Mountain College
Dormie Network Foundation
The Duncan Family
Dusty Boot Roadhouse
East West Hospitality
Holly and Buck Elliott
Exhale Spa
Fairmont Grand Del Mar
Fjallraven
Flame Restaurant at Four
Seasons Resort Vail
Foods of Vail
Footers Catering
The Golden Bear
Gravity Haus
Ty and Roxanne Hall
HF Bar Ranch

Don Holzworth
 The Hythe Vail
 KSL Capital Partners
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 and Operator of Village Bagel
 and The Minturn Saloon)
 Yung Ming
 Dale and Jeanne Mosier
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 Springs Resort
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 Eli Gerstein
 Nature Valley
 New Belgium Brewing
 Company
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 Todd Winslow Pierce
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 Shift Bikes
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 Vail Honeywagon
 Enterprises, Inc.
 Vail Resorts EpicPromise
 Vail Stables
 Vail Valley Foundation
 Mark and Sunnie Wang
 Well & Being Spa
 West Vail Liquor Mart
 Wolf Property Services, LLC

ENDOWMENT FOR THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN



*We invite you to become a member of the
Walking Mountains Stewardship Society in support
of our Endowment for the Future Campaign.*

We are now undertaking the Endowment for the Future to ensure the continued capacity of Walking Mountains to fulfill its important mission, and to give its loyal supporters an opportunity to provide a current gift and/or planned gift for that purpose. A successful Endowment for the Future will enable Walking Mountains to create a permanent investment fund that can provide critical funds annually to supplement ongoing annual fundraising efforts.



We were inspired to create an endowment for professional staff development after witnessing what a stellar job Walking Mountains' staff does day in and day out. We wanted to ensure they have the opportunities and training to grow their careers and offer even more to the organization."

BEN AND PAM PETERNELL

STEWARDSHIP SOCIETY

Recognized for their commitment to ensuring the long-term fiscal sustainability of Walking Mountains.

ENDOWMENT FOR THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN DONORS

\$1,000,000+

Frechette Family Foundation
Pam and Ben Peternell
Oscar Tang and Agnes
Hsu-Tang

\$500,000+

Barbie and Tony Mayer

\$100,000+

The Brownstein Family
Foundation
Jennifer and Don Holzworth
Colleen and David Reitan

\$50,000+

Craig Foley
Mimi and Woody Stockwell

\$25,000+

Sunny and Phil Brodsky
Holly and Buck Elliott

UP TO \$25,000

Anonymous
Kristen and Steve Bertuglia
Kristie and Fritz Bratschie
Stacy and Mike Brown
Nancy and Stephen Dowdle
Samantha Hodgkins
and Todd Vermeer
Magda and Tony King
Sandy and Fred Pack
Phil Qualman
Amanda and Adam Quinton
David and Jody* Smith

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(Planned Giving)

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Laura and Jeff Malehorn
Sandy and Fred Pack
Tony Perry*
Susan and Al Pollack
Colleen and David Reitan
Elizabeth and Brian Sipes
Pat Tierney
Laura Tumperi
Carol and Lance Wellbaum

**With deep gratitude to those deceased*



Financial Highlights

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	23,703
Restricted cash held for others	284,913
Investments	864,058
Accounts receivable	196,319
Pledges receivable	2,009,509
Bookstore inventory	33,166
Other current assets	123,666
▶ Total current assets	3,535,334

Non Current Assets

Pledges receivable	837,870
Endowment cash and investments	2,297,509
▶ Total non current assets	3,135,379
Fixed assets, net	21,537,182
▶ Total Assets	28,207,895

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities

Accounts payable	431,820
Accrued payroll	264,752
Line of credit and cash reserve payable	527,763
Deferred revenue	538,438
Held for others	284,913
▶ Total current liabilities	2,047,686
▶ Total Liabilities	00

NET ASSETS

Without donor restrictions

Net investment in fixed assets	21,537,182
Undesignated	821,043

With donor restrictions

▶ Total net assets	26,160,209
▶ Total Liabilities and Net Assets	28,207,895

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)

Revenues

Contributions and grants	
Without Donor Restrictions	\$5,227,168
With Donor Restrictions	1,722,785
Contributed nonfinancial assets	310,105
Program fees and tuition	1,403,383
Special events	154,205
Investment income (loss)	
Without Donor Restrictions	101,112
With Donor Restrictions	194,669
Bookstore sales	24,379
Other	1,908
Net assets released from restrictions	
Without Donor Restrictions	471,522
With Donor Restrictions	-471,522

▶ Total Revenues

Without Donor Restrictions	7,693,782
With Donor Restrictions	1,445,932

▶ Total Revenues

9,139,714

Expenses:

Programs	4,449,910
Management and general	820,905
Fundraising and other supporting services	1,154,281
▶ Total Expenses	6,425,096
* Operating Income (Loss)	2,714,618

Change in Net Assets	2,714,618
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	23,445,591
Net Assets - End of Year	\$26,160,209



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