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Vice President
Jeffrey Strobel

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Mike Dubis

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Eugene Roark

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Johanna Allex
Tom Bergamini

Lloyd Eagan
Susan Fox
Rob Gottschalk
Chris Hughes
Ken LePine
David Simon
Carla Wright

Executive Director
Jim Welsh

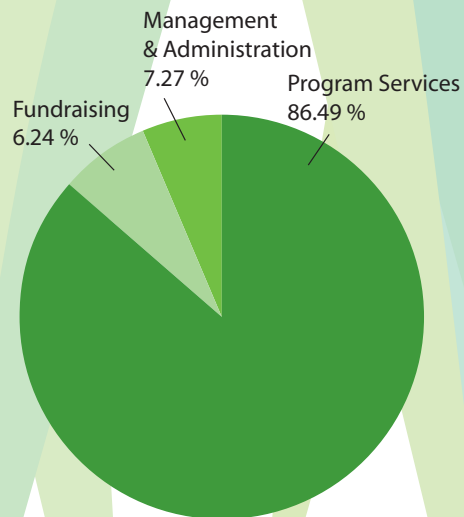
Development Director
Meg Nelson

Conservation Specialist
Kate Wipperman

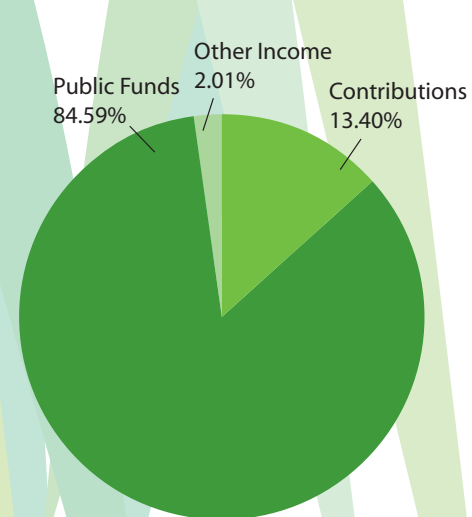
Office Manager
Linda Franklin

Volunteers/Interns
Kathy Brown
Steve Neary
Dave Nolan
Mary Schwoch
Kevin St. Angel
Alli Welch

Expenses



Income



Financials

The Natural Heritage Land Trust's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30.

Between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005, the Land Trust received \$1,615,365 and spent \$834,082.

The Land Trust's income and expenses fluctuate annually depending on its land protection work in a given year.

Income

Contributions & membership income	\$216,467
Public Funds*	\$1,366,460
Other income	\$32,438
Total	\$1,615,365

Expenses

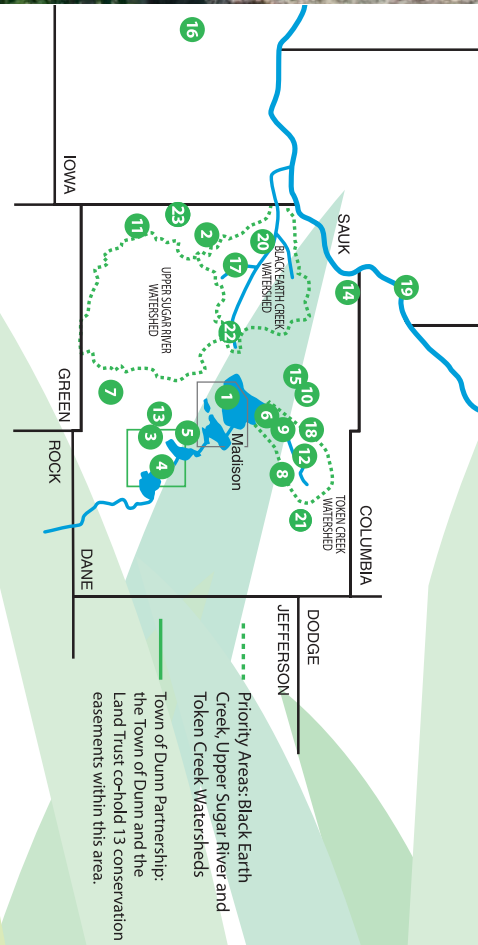
Program Services	\$721,365
Management & Administration	\$60,655
Fundraising	\$52,062
Total	\$834,082

Please contact us if you would like a copy of our audited financial statements for July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005. The Land Trust's federal tax returns (990s) are available on Guidestar, which provides information on non-profit organizations (www.guidestar.org).

* Includes Wisconsin's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Funds and Dane County Conservation Funds.

The places we've protected

- 1 Lower Eagle Heights Woods, Madison 1984
- 2 Evenson's Woods easement, Town of Vermont 1985
- 3 Watts easement, Lake Waubesa 1986
- 4 McClain easement, Lower Mud Lake 1987
- 5 Schmidt's Orchard, Nine Springs E-Way 1988
- 6 Addition to Cherokee Marsh 1991
- 7 Cell easement, Town of Oregon 1993
- 8 Thomas streambank easement, Token Creek 1993
- 9 Whiteside easement, Town of Westport 1993
- 10 Wilke Preserve, Town of Vienna 1994
- 11 Hayward-D'Alessio easement, Town of Blue Mounds 1995
- 12 Smith streambank easement, Token Creek 1996
- 13 Sinaiko-Nine Springs E-Way Project, Town of Dunn 1997
- 14 Fish Lake Project, Town of Roxbury 2001
- 15 Bolt Conservancy Park, Village of Waunakee 2001
- 16 Trewartha easement Iowa County 2003
- 17 Garfoot Creek, Black Earth Creek Watershed (acquired 2001, transferred 2004)
- 18 Pederson Token Creek (acquired 2001, transferred 2002)
- 19 Lake Wisconsin Addition, acquisition with Town of Merrimac 2004
- 20 Zander easements, Black Earth Creek Watershed 2004
- 21 Stern acquisition, Patrick Marsh Natural Resource Site 2004
- 22 Sunnyside I acquisition, Town of Middleton 2004
- 23 Brigham easement, Town of Blue Mounds 2004



Annual Report July 1, 2004–June 30, 2005



The Natural Heritage Land Trust is a land protection group that permanently protects lands with significant conservation values in the Dane County area of Wisconsin. We believe natural areas, working farms, scenic landscapes, and access to public land for outdoor recreation enrich our quality of life and contribute to a healthy economy. ► We protect natural areas—bluffs, prairies, creeks, wetlands, and woods. And we help ensure that prime farmlands can remain in agricultural production. ► Generally, we protect lands through voluntary agreements (called conservation easements) with landowners. Occasionally, we buy land to create nature preserves and parks that will be open to the public for hiking, picnicking, and other outdoor activities. ► Since our inception in 1983, we—working in partnership with our members, local groups, government agencies, and funders—have protected more than 3,260 acres of land.

Protected land in key areas.

In 2004/05, we focused our land protection work in four areas: the Black Earth Creek Watershed, Patrick Marsh Natural Resource Site, the Upper Sugar River Watershed, and the Town of Dunn.

Black Earth Creek Watershed

Helped Dane County purchase land for a new conservancy park. In the first part of a two-part land protection deal, the Natural Heritage Land Trust and Dane County purchased 73 acres of one of the largest undeveloped tracts of land (294 acres) in the Town of Middleton.

This property is located in the northwestern area of the Town of Middleton along Highway 14. It includes more than 3,000 feet along Black Earth Creek, which is a regionally important and locally treasured trout stream.

We plan to help Dane County acquire the remainder of the tract for a conservancy park. The entire property will be open to the public for hiking, deer hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities. The State's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and the Dane County Conservation Fund provided the money to purchase this property.

Protected 215 acres of high-quality farmland. Working with conservation-minded landowners, the Natural Heritage Land Trust helped protect 215 acres of high-quality farmland in the Black Earth Creek Watershed. The conservation easements on this property also help protect Black Earth Creek and the valley's scenic views.

This property has been in the same family for more than 100 years. The landowners have a deep appreciation for the land and for its ability to grow crops. According to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), more than 60% of the soils on this property are classified as prime or of statewide importance. The conservation easements ensure that the land won't be developed and that it can remain in agricultural production.

Protecting the property from development also helps protect Black Earth Creek.

Because this property provides a large "recharge" area for the creek, restricting the amount of development helps maintain the quantity and quality of water making its way to the Creek.

The Land Trust purchased the conservation easements with financial support from the federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, the State's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, the Dane County Conservation Fund, and the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Patrick Marsh Natural Resource Site

Purchased a 35-acre parcel of land at Patrick Marsh near Sun Prairie that we will restore to wildlife habitat and open to the public for outdoor recreation. The Natural Heritage Land Trust purchased 35 acres of land within the Patrick Marsh Natural Resource Site near the City of Sun Prairie.

This site encompasses 785 acres. Only a portion of it has permanent protection. The Site includes a 225-acre state Wildlife Area that provides habitat for more than 100 species of birds. It is used by outdoor enthusiasts who hike and picnic in the area and by Patrick Marsh Middle School students. The Site also includes a former Ho-Chunk village and hunting ground.

The Patrick Marsh Natural Resource Site has been identified for protection in the Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan 2001 - 2005 and in the Department of Natural Resources' Land Legacy Report.

The Land Trust worked closely with the Patrick Marsh Conservancy to raise community support and the funds to buy this land. The State's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, the Dane County Conservation Fund, the City of Sun Prairie, Ducks Unlimited, and local residents, businesses, and service organizations provided financial support.

Upper Sugar River Watershed

Assessed conservation opportunities within our focus areas. As a result of site conservation planning, the Natural

Heritage Land Trust decided to focus its land protection work in the watershed in two areas—the Verona Sugar River Valley and the area around Riley where conservationist Aldo Leopold experimented with wildlife habitat in the 1930's.

We completed a parcel-by-parcel analysis of the lands in our focus areas to determine the conservation characteristics and the likelihood of securing funding to purchase conservation easements or other interest in the parcels. We will use this information to set priorities for land protection with landowners who want to protect their land.

Town of Dunn Through its purchase of development rights program, the Town of Dunn protected 66 acres of land that includes farmland and wetlands. The Natural Heritage Land Trust and the Town co-hold this conservation easement and 12 others. The Land Trust and the Town jointly monitor all of their easements annually.

Assisted others working to protect important areas outside of our key areas.

Buffered Cave of the Mounds and a section of the Military Ridge State Trail from development. The Natural Heritage Land Trust, Dane County, and landowners collaborated to place a conservation easement on a nearly 30-acre parcel of land adjacent to Cave of the Mounds, a National Natural Landmark. Cave of the Mounds is just east of the Village of Blue Mounds in western Dane County.

The Cave is referred to as the "jewel box" of America's major caves. It attracts tourists from throughout the region and helps bolster the local economy.

In addition to protecting the natural setting of Cave of the Mounds, a section of the popular Military Ridge State Trail is now buffered from development. Furthermore, the conservation easement allows Dane County to create a new section of recreational trail between the Military Ridge State Trail and Brigham County Park.

The Land Trust and Dane County co-hold the conservation easement. The Land Trust will annually monitor and enforce the terms of the easement.

Land Trust leaders serve on Collaboration Council. Natural Heritage Land Trust executive director Jim Welsh was appointed to the Collaboration Council. The Council is a regional economic development effort comprised of a cross-section of leaders from Dane County's business, government, education, and non-profit communities. The Council seeks to enhance the county's economy in ways that advance the community's quality of life. Land Trust board of director Rob Gottschalk, Principal, Vandewalle & Associates, was instrumental in helping the Council identify the region's place-based economic assets and opportunities—including land and water—and develop a vision for maintaining and adding value to those assets as the county grows. He is also a member of the four-person staff team that guides the strategy and direction of the Collaboration Council.

Land Trust adopted Standards and Practices. The Natural Heritage Land Trust adopted the Standards and Practices developed by the Land Trust Alliance. The Standards and Practices are guidelines to help ensure a land trust is run in an ethical and technically responsible manner. The Land Trust Alliance is a national umbrella group that assists land trusts throughout the country.

Stewarded protected lands.

We monitored 30 parcels of land on which we hold conservation easements to ensure landowners are complying with the terms of the easements and to assist them with management issues.

The Natural Heritage Land Trust is grateful to all of its members for their support and wishes to recognize its major contributors. \$100,000 + City of Sun Prairie • Dane County Conservation Fund • Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program • US Department of Agriculture Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program **\$50,000 +** Estate of Stephen Ashman • Estate of Hazel Knudson **\$10,000** Evjue Foundation, Inc • Knupp & Watson • Madison Community Foundation • Pan O'Gold Baking Company **\$5,000 +** Sherren Clark • Eugenie Mayer Bolz Foundation • Veridian Homes Foundation • Vendura Industries, Inc. **\$2,500** Southern Wisconsin Chapter Trout Unlimited • Walt & Stacey Meanwell • Wilfred & Marie Pimentel **\$1,000 +** BT2, Inc. • Tom & Herika Bergamini • Robert & Anne Bolz • Lloyd & Pat Eagan • William Fairbanks • John A. Frautschi Foundation • Rob Gottschalk & Joy Stieglitz Gottschalk • Larry Hitch • Hooper Foundation/Hooper Construction & General Heating and Air Conditioning • Michael Lawton • Bill Lunney & Judy Pfeifer • Jean & Walter Meanwell, Sr. • Bill O'Connor & Krista Roys • Kathy F. & Bill Pielsticker • Glenn Reinl & Sara Kresbach • Dr. William & Alice Russell • David & Katie Simon • Michael & Linda Slavney • Jeffrey Strobel • Sun Prairie Rotary Foundation • Vandewalle & Associates, Inc. • Bill & Lorette Wambach • Webcrafters-Frautschi Foundation • Bill & Win Welsh • Patricia & Milfred Zastrow **\$500 +** Anonymous • Kathryn & Paul Anderson • Alliant Energy Corporation • Badger Office Supplies • Audubon's Land Fund for Wisconsin • Discovery Club/Patrick Marsh Middle School • Mike & Shelley Dubis • Emily Earley • Fontana Sports Specialties, Inc./John & Judith Hutchinson • Lola Hickey • Johnson Bank • Roma Lenehan • Two Men and a Truck • Madison Homebrewers & Tasters Guild • Oscar G. & Geraldine Mayer • Natural Resources Consulting, Inc. • Patrick Marsh Parent Student Teacher Organization • Placon Corporation • Wilson Radding & Terrie Reeves • Lucy & David Terry • Ron & Laureen Thorstad • Margaret Van Alstyne • Jim Welsh **\$250 +** Jean Bahr • Bremser Group, Inc. CPAs • Brian Bulter & Carolyn Lazar Butler • Diesel Truck Driver Training School • Jim Ely • Dan & Karen Erdman • Kristine Euclide & Douglas Steege • Mary Maloney Evert & Ray Evert • Bob Gurda & Betty Craig • Haen Real Estate • Terry Haller • Julie Hayward & Donn D'Alessio • John & Marlen Kaiser • Barbara & John Komoroske • Ken & Beth LePine • Marling Lumber Company • Wayne Pauly & Jackie Clancy-Pauly • Thomas & Kathy Pientka • Pat & Pete Sammataro • Scott Sauer • Jerry & Donna Smith • Town of Windsor • Williams Environmental Associates, Inc. • Bob & Nan Woodburn

