Dear Friends,

This has been an exciting year for us at the Greenburgh Nature Center! Renewable energy lit up Westchester County schools thanks to a generous grant from Con Edison. We are proud to present a comprehensive renewable energy curriculum that satisfies New York State K-12 Next Generation Science standards.

Our Native Plant Meadow has been growing and blooming beautifully, providing our visitors with a special experience as they walk our property. The beauty of our native grasses and wildflowers is also complemented by the variety of wildlife attracted to them for sustenance, shelter, and protection.

Thanks to the additions of a wigwam and longhouse, the Greenburgh Nature Center has created engaging and enriching on-site Native American programming. Our new elementary education programs allow children to learn more about the family life and relationship to nature of our early predecessors.

We launched a STEM-based program series for pre-teens and teens -- the Teen Scene Science Cafe. Monthly meetings are held at the Nature Center when teens can engage with top STEM-related professionals and scientists to increase their awareness in how STEM can influence our lives.

Our Manor House restoration project started at the top this year with a new roof! We are thrilled with the opportunity to improve our historic Manor House with generous support from the Town of Greenburgh. We look forward to welcoming our visitors in to our new and improved space as our building turns 100 in 2018!

Sincerely,

Margaret Tjimos Goldberg
Executive Director

Catherine A. Ludden
President, Board of Directors

Our Mission

The mission of the Greenburgh Nature Center is ignite passion, curiosity and respect for our natural world.

The Greenburgh Nature Center’s vision is to be a leader in the region for environmental education and best sustainable practices, while providing enriching hands-on visitor experiences and a venue for community activities.

We will continue to offer exciting, unique, and interactive educational programs for people of all ages, as well as a range of community activities to engage people, businesses, and governmental entities with each other on environmental sustainability issues, while aiming to instill in future generations an appreciation for and will to protect nature.
About Us

• 33-acre woodland preserve with trails, a pond, a native plant meadow, gardens, great lawn, butterfly arbor and educational exhibits
• Nature’s Discovery Playground
• Outdoor animal exhibits include a birds of prey aviary, barnyard, chicken coop and rabbit hutch
• Indoor exhibits include a live animal museum with over 100 specimens, hands-on nature exhibits, changing art exhibits and a greenhouse with botanical and hydroponics exhibits
• Native American Replica Village, including a Lenape Longhouse and Weckquaesgeek Wigwam
• Year-round classes and programs for all ages
• Camps for children during school holidays and summer months
• Birthday party options for children ages 3 and up
• Special seasonal community events
• Nature and environmental education programs for school groups, scouts, companies, counties, school districts, and other groups of all ages and backgrounds
• Volunteer opportunities for all ages and skill levels

Our grounds are open daily dawn to dusk throughout the year. The Nature Center’s indoor exhibits are open daily (CLOSED Fridays and a few holidays), 9:30AM - 4:30PM on weekdays and 10AM - 4:30PM on weekends.
Our Events, Programs, and Special Events

In 2017, 18,645 people participated in our 632 school programs.

We participated in Project FeederWatch where visitors ages 7 and up enjoyed an immersive bird watching experience with our Naturalist Educators on our grounds as they gathered data on local birds.

Every spring, we host an Earth Day Celebration as part of our commitment to the environment. This year, we held a Solarize Your Home workshop, partnered with the Hudson Valley CSA Coalition to promote shopping sustainably, highlighted a composting demonstration, and worked with volunteers to plant native plants and flowers at our preserve. Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins initiated our traditional tree-planting ceremony.

We also held our first Teen Scene Science Cafe programs in the spring. These monthly programs offer a way for teens to get together in a fun, social atmosphere while meeting and engaging with top scientists and STEM-related professionals.

In September, we held our 5th Annual Golf & Gala at the Scarsdale Golf Club, where we honored Bennett Fradkin and the law firm of O'Melveny & Myers. We raised over $60,000 to support our mission to ignite passion, curiosity and respect for our natural world.

Our Holiday Train Show was a huge hit this year! Families gathered over the weekends around the December holidays to enjoy zooming freight cars, flashing bells, tooting whistles, and more thanks to the Yonkers Model Railroad Club model train experts.
We continued to expand our sustainability education programming in 2017 and launched some exciting new green initiatives both on our property and offsite.

Ten free, public environmental programs were hosted in partnership with the Sierra Club Lower Hudson Group, including “Climate Change: Impacts on our Region” (a part of our ‘Climate Science, Climate Action’ program series), “Materials Management: Wasteful Consumption and Smart Decomposition,” “How to Talk Turkey About Climate Change,” and “Community Solar.”

This year’s Earth Day Celebration was a huge success! We held multiple volunteer projects including gardening, removing invasives, and clearing our trails. Attendees participated in workshops on backyard composting, hydroponics, and learned how to plant and care for a tree. In celebration of Earth Week, we also visited Regeneron to teach programs on living more sustainably at home, making seed balls, composting, and recycling.

We installed a WaterSense irrigation system in our Organic Garden, which preserves the amount of water that is used by applying water only where our plants need it. By implementing this system, we are reducing our water waste. With generous support from Con Edison, we were able to develop and launch a pilot of our renewable energy program, “Flipping the Switch.” We worked with our partners at the Children’s Environmental Literacy Foundation (CELF) to develop curriculum and held approximately 30 school programs in the Westchester area.

Local Eagle Scout Jonathan Montague led a project to construct a brand-new cedar compost bin at our Barnyard. This system transforms our compostable waste from our Live Animal Museum waste into nutrient-rich compost so we can provide healthy soil for our Organic Garden. We also use this as a teaching tool for our Composting program.

We continued our work with our Zero Waste Schools, Edgemont School District and Springhurst Elementary by supporting their efforts to reduce waste and recycling in their schools. Our efforts with our Zero Waste schools are not only diverting waste from the incinerator, but they are training up the next generation of sustainability leaders in our community.
We finished construction on our patio and path to our Native Plant Meadow. This project was completed to beautify our property, give more ease of access to our visitors to our Manor House, and to connect different outdoor exhibits on our grounds.

As part of our Manor House restoration project, we started from the top by renovating our roof! The two-month project, with generous support from the Town of Greenburgh, resulted in a beautiful new roof for our historic Manor House.

Local Boy Scouts also helped to improve our capital projects. Jake Mancuso worked on setting up our wigwam classroom by building two drying racks, six benches, and cleared invasive species around the new trail to the site.

Matthew Jachemczyk built a 14-hook portable coat rack and ramp with storage that provides a space for our camp kids to store their coats and lunchboxes.

Nathaniel Moyer refreshed our Rock Garden area by trimming bushes and trees, installing two bird houses, and clearing the path on our grounds.

William Kandalaft created two pieces of ant art and set up our Ant Habitat Exhibit in our small exhibit room, which could hold live ants!
On May 12th, we enjoyed a volunteer day with members of Regeneron’s building facilities staff, Greenburgh’s departments of parks of recreation plus public works.

We worked all around the outdoor grounds and outer structures refurbishing, renewing, planting, and improving the landscape and facilities.

Over 500 perennials were planted as well as close to 300 woody shrubs and over 25 trees (all native) plus over 200 vegetables for the garden. The efforts were not just planting but also included, re-decking the stage, new doors for outbuildings, signage and paw prints in the parking lot and an animal exercise and display yard by the playground.

In 2017, we engaged members by offering free monthly events and discounts for weekend and special programming. We had 700 families enjoy the many benefits of our membership! 31% of our members reside in Greenburgh and the remainder in other parts of Westchester County.

Volunteers are a vital source of staffing and visitor outreach. In 2017, we had a total of 75 active volunteers ages 14 and up who accumulated 3,006 volunteer hours altogether! Our Live Animal Museum accounted for 80% of volunteer time and 20% volunteer contributions were in other fields such as sustainability, groundswork, and accounting. 90% of our total volunteers were ages 14-18 and 10% were ages 20 and up.

“Volunteering at the Greenburgh Nature Center is a fulfilling and gratifying experience. It has allowed me to embrace my lifelong passion and has given me an idea of what I want to study in college and what I want to pursue as a career. One day, I hope to become a successful veterinarian and inspire others about the importance of wildlife as the staff and volunteers at the Greenburgh Nature Center have inspired me.”

- Ryn Baker (2-year volunteer and Team Leader)
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## Our Financials

### Audited Financial Report - Fiscal Year 2017

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*Contributions (includes in-kind of $237,065 in 2017)
Thank you for a wonderful year!