

# Rush RPA Annual Report 2023



Rush Recreation and Park Association  
January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

# 2023 Directors and Advisors

## Board of Directors

Marianne Rizzo, President  
Janet Chaize, Vice-President and Treasurer  
Carol Barnett, Secretary  
Beth Hoak  
Jack Mould  
Paula Smith

## Advisors

Bruce Howlett, Howlett Farms  
David Kunsch, Prof. St. J. Fisher & Forester  
Steve Leupold, Lifelong Tree Planter

## Message from the President

In the Rush Recreation and Park Association, we take the long view. We begin by planting seedlings, trees and grasses in this generation, knowing that we will never see full fruition in our lifetimes. We plan for our community through stewardship.

We are mindful of walking into the next generation with our young people. It is our hope that we can sustain and inspire them to contribute to our town, our region, and our world. This mission has been passed to us and now we hope to inspire others to care and act.

The Rush RPA would like to thank its volunteers and supporters for their contributions, their inspiration, and their belief in our organization and in our collective efforts.

# Treasurer's Report

## Statement of Activities For 12 Months Ending December 31, 2023

### Revenue

Memberships and Donations	<u>\$8,394.00</u>
Total Revenue	\$8,394.00

### Expenses

General & Administrative	\$227.29
Insurance	400.00
Trees/bushes/fencing/stakes/mulch	<u>5,098.58</u>
Total Expenses	\$5,725.87

Net Assets At Beginning of Year	\$ 10,920.30
Net Assets At End of Year	\$ 13,588.43

### **Thank You to our Members, Volunteers, and Donors**

At the heart of our non-profit association are the many people of all ages who have contributed funds, knowledge, labor and materials to develop and implement our many projects and activities.

In 2023 we also had the support of many groups and organizations, and sponsored many activities that will be continued or expanded in 2024.

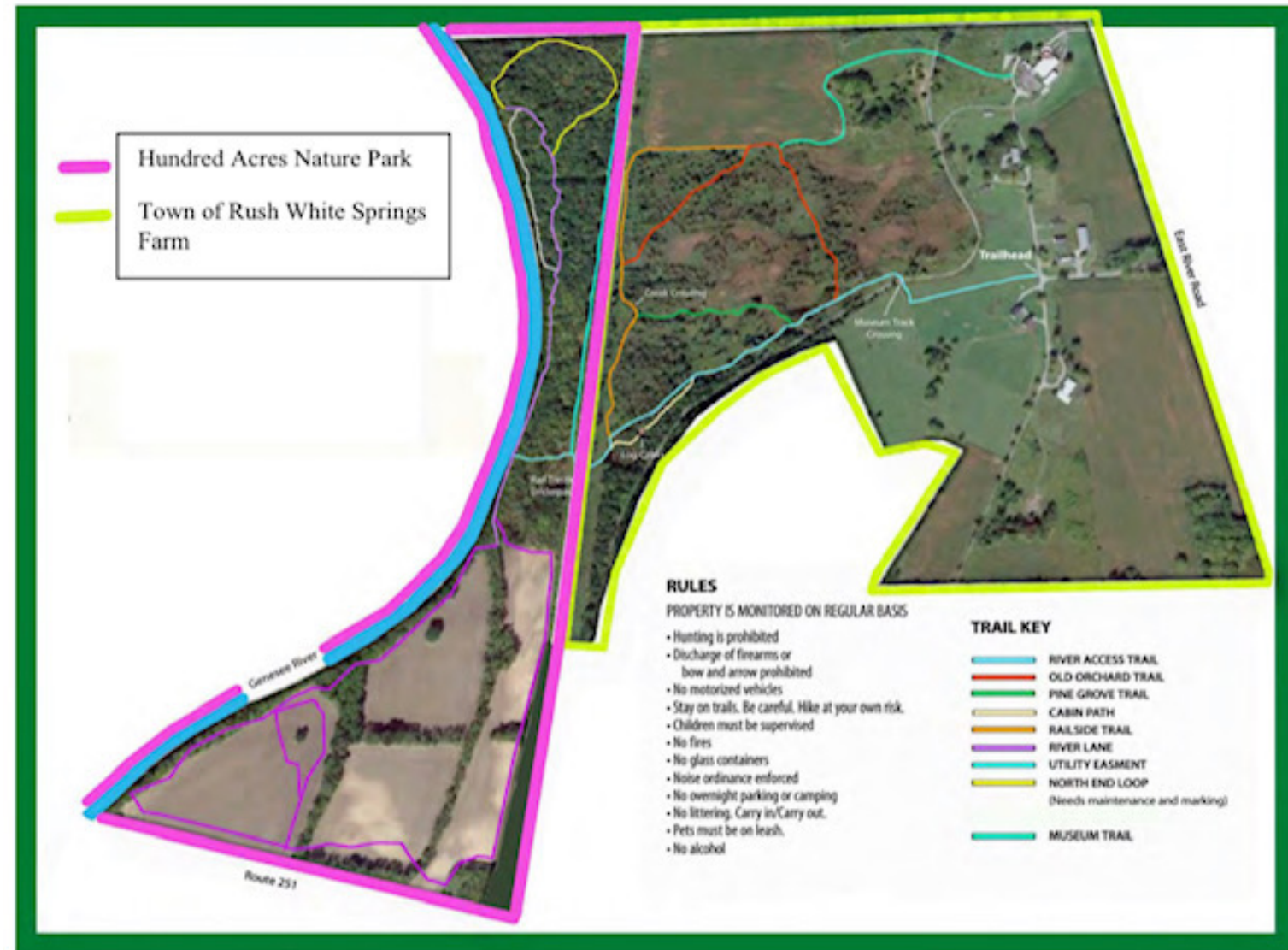
# Hundred Acres Nature Park on the Genesee River

One mile of riverfront on the Genesee River

West of Rochester and Genesee Valley Railroad Museum

Floodplain and riparian buffer

Diverse habitat for wildlife





# HUNDRED ACRES NATURE PARK

Much progress has been made to implement the development plan approved in 2019.

Highlights:

- ❖ Planting projects: 100 trees and bushes planted in 2023; total of 200 trees planted
- ❖ Bird watching and walks at the park
- ❖ Benches at river views
- ❖ Parking lots at two spots
- ❖ Kiosk





## TREE PLANTING IN FIELD #2

In April and May 2023, the Rush RPA planted more than 100 trees and bushes in Field #2.

### USDA FOREST SERVICE GRANT

In April 2023, Rush RPA, with the help of Monroe County Soil and Water and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, received a USDA Forest Service grant for 480 trees to be delivered over 5 planting seasons.







## BENCHES AND PARKING

Local Scout Liam Gudonis installed benches at river overlook points for his Eagle Scout project.

Local farmer, businessman, and Rush RPA advisor Bruce Howlett installed a parking lot in Field #1.





## DEDICATION OF PARK

On July 12, 2023, the Rush Town Board passed a resolution to dedicate the Hundred Acres Nature Park as a park.

## CEREMONY AND CELEBRATION

On September 30, 2023, a dedication ceremony was held at Hundred Acres Nature Park. New York State and Monroe County officials were present to give speeches, as were the Rush Town Supervisor and Town Board members.





# Special Projects and Townwide Initiatives

- ❖ Community-wide Clean-Up and Earth Day Observance
- ❖ Arbor Day Proclamation and Celebration
- ❖ Fall Festival Community Education
- ❖ Plant and tending Rush Town gardens
- ❖ Trees planted and maintained in town campus, including tulip tree in memory of Joan Starkweather, longtime Rush librarian
- ❖ Tree Ordinance passed
- ❖ Liaison to Local Waterfront Revitalization Program
- ❖ Rush Town Candidates Night, October 2023



Town Hall Garden



Girl Scouts (above right) and Boy Scouts helped with Clean-Up.

# Community Partners

- ❖ NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- ❖ Monroe County Soil and Water
- ❖ Sierra Club
- ❖ Finger Lakes Institute
- ❖ Rochester and Genesee Valley Railroad Museum
- ❖ Rush Historical Society
- ❖ Rush Public Library
- ❖ Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts



Hundred  
Acres  
Nature  
Park





***“Nearly 40 years of research evidence confirms that nearby nature, including parks, gardens, the urban forest and green spaces, support human health and wellness.”***

**[www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2017](http://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2017)**



Oak tree planted at Rush town campus, near Rush Town Hall and Rush Public Library, in 2021.

# Rush RPA Board Members Planting Trees



Marianne Rizzo, President



Paula Smith



Carol Barnett, Secretary

Janet Chaize, VP and Treasurer





River Overlook at Hundred Acres Nature Park

# Thank you!



View of Town of Rush "Campus" from vantage point of oak tree planted by Rush RPA