



Indian River Land Trust

Annual Report – July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Connecting Our Community with Nature



Nature always wears the colors of the spirit.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

The Indian River Land Trust remains dedicated to protecting the natural beauty of our beloved Indian River County environment.

Our mission is to protect, improve, provide access to, and promote the preservation of waterways, open spaces, and green places in Indian River County for the benefit of all today and tomorrow.



We envision Indian River County as a place where

- Drinking water sources are protected and waterways are healthy and clean
- Aquatic life and wildlife have room to thrive
- Preserved waterfront and scenic areas provide a backdrop of beauty and tranquility
- All people can access and experience the splendors of nature and expand their knowledge and appreciation of the natural world

The Land Trust inspires and engages the community to protect and restore the health of the Indian River Lagoon, recognizing how critical the estuary is to the area's economic vitality and quality of life.

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* Denotes deceased board member



Year after year, your support makes a difference.

*Thanks to you, we have protected 1,200 acres, encompassing 30 acquisitions, including 12 miles of Indian River Lagoon shoreline.
Thank you for another year of helping us connect our community to nature!*

Dear Friends,

What does conservation mean to you? To many, it means protecting important natural lands forever. That is certainly the core of conservation. However, the Indian River Land Trust believes that engaging the community in our mission is as equally important as saving the land and improving the health of our waterways. Simply said, without the commitment of this supportive community, we couldn't achieve our mission, nor connect people to what we have protected.

Thanks to our hard-working staff, dedicated Board, dozens of volunteers, and most of all, YOU, our supporters, we continued to make a positive and meaningful impact this past year. With your generous support and a myriad of partners that work to make this community the best it can be, we:

- Opened our third public conservation area, Oyster Bar Marsh
- Expanded our outreach and volunteer efforts across multiple Land Trust properties
- Led a county-wide effort for the passage of a \$50 million environmental land bond referendum
- Expanded our land and water restoration efforts to improve our wildlife habitat
- Established the first private-public partnership for a septic-to-sewer conversion program to improve the water quality of the Indian River Lagoon

We have accomplished a lot, but we have much work ahead. We are excited to expand our land conservation work beyond the edge of the Lagoon in the face of rapidly expanding development throughout our county. While doing so, we will continue to strengthen our partnerships with world renowned research institutions, resource management agencies and local non-profits to further demonstrate and amplify our conservation efforts in this one-of-a-kind community.

As you peruse the pages within, please know that none of this could have been done without your tremendous support. Together, we will continue to make a difference!

Yours truly,

Gregg Casalino
Board Chairman

Ken Grudens
Executive Director



YOUR SUPPORT HELPS

Ensure Access To Nature For All With Three Public Trails

In February 2023, the Land Trust and Indian River County opened Oyster Bar Marsh Trail, the second conservation area jointly created and managed as a public-private partnership. The concept of the Oyster Bar Marsh Trail was born more than twenty years ago when the County acquired much of the beautiful peninsula in 2001 with funds from a 1992 bond referendum. Fourteen years later, the Land Trust was able to acquire four key remaining parcels with private donations to complete the puzzle. IRLT subsequently raised \$100,000 to fund the design of the trail, boardwalks, observation decks and trailhead parking area. This funding also provided for the installation of the native plantings in and around the parking area on Highway A1A. It has proven to be a desirable outdoor recreation destination.

The Land Trust also partners with the County in managing the ever-popular Lagoon Greenway, jointly created and opened to the public in 2012. The conservation area boasts more than three miles of hiking and biking trails through oak-palm hammock and mangrove forests featuring boardwalks, benches and an observation deck on the Lagoon. The Toni Robinson Waterfront Trail in Wabasso is owned and managed solely by the Land Trust. Unique among the Land Trust's properties open to the public, the mile-long trail traverses some sand-scrub habitat and remnants of a high salt marsh.



YOUR SUPPORT CREATES

Opportunities For Education And Outreach In The Great Outdoors

At the Land Trust, we believe that our life experiences are enhanced by our surroundings. This year brought many wonderful opportunities for the Land Trust to get people outdoors. We returned to the field with guided property tours, and provided occasions for residents and guests alike to enjoy our public trails, learn about our local environment, and enjoy time together in our beautiful natural surroundings. Junior Scientist Fellows celebrated their 9th season, conducting research on Land Trust properties alongside scientists from FAU's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute.

"We have supported IRLT over the years because we know it is so effective in conserving land for future generations. Developmental pressures are increasing and it is so important that we set some land aside for open space and for the health of our environment. IRLT is also well managed and widely respected in our community.

We enjoy volunteering as guides for tours of properties- and even find the "clean-up day" projects rewarding and a great way to spend time with fellow supporters!"

- JIM AND TERRY BYRNES



YOUR SUPPORT FOSTERS

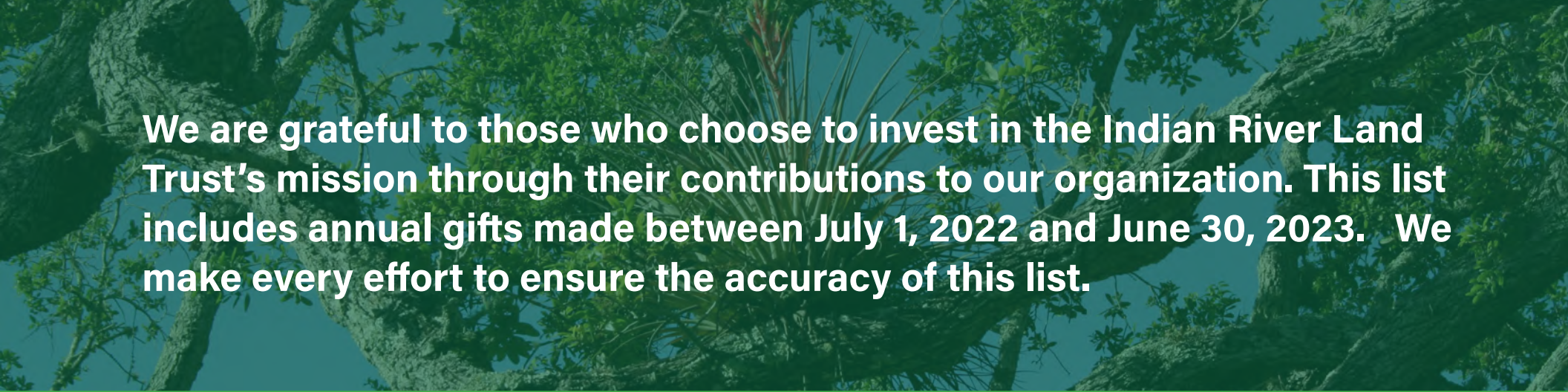
Effective Land Stewardship Practices On Land Trust Properties

Each year, unusually high tides and storm surges deposit floatable trash and debris from the Lagoon onto the shorelines of Land Trust conservation properties.

In addition, there is a constant battle on conserved lands to beat back invasive plants that threaten habitat for our native plants and animals. Land Trust staff rely on a cadre of dedicated volunteers to collect trash and remove invasive plants and their seeds.

During the 2022-2023 season, staff coordinated twelve volunteer events for trash cleanup and invasive plant removal on Land Trust conservation areas. A total of 80 volunteers gathered more than 20 bags of invasive plants and their seeds and over 35 bags of trash plus a variety of bulky debris and truckloads of treated lumber. The results of their hard work are easy to see and enjoy, with unpolluted trails and thriving native plants and wildlife.





We are grateful to those who choose to invest in the Indian River Land Trust’s mission through their contributions to our organization. This list includes annual gifts made between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023. We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list.

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Seagrape Circle





LADIES OF THE LAGOON

* Denotes deceased supporter

Better land management means better water quality.

Membership funds raised through the Ladies of the Lagoon support scientific studies to support healthy, interconnected habitats, applied research on Land Trust properties, and strategic land stewardship and restoration efforts of the Indian River Land Trust. Thank you to this group of empowered women who remain committed to conservation.

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We would like to thank our many volunteers and in-kind donors for supporting our work.

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No Kill Bees
Rock City Gardens
Schacht Groves
Total Golf Cart, LLC
Complete Cleaning of IRC



Financial Highlights

From Audited Financial Statements*



Statement of Financial Position (6-30-2023)

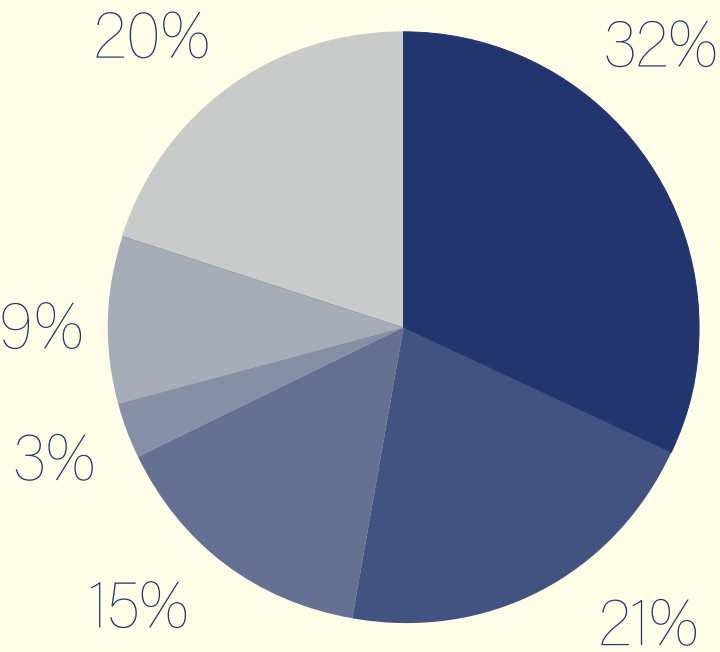
ASSETS	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,718,353
Cash & Cash Equivalents - Campaign	\$ 5,817,696
Employee Retention Credit	\$ 43,687
Investments: New Otter Marsh Endowment	\$ 278,504
Investments: Land Stewardship Endowment	\$ 4,177,163
Unconditional Promises to Give	\$ 1,698,065
Conservation Land & Improvements	\$ 17,412,698
Other Property, Equipment and Other Assets	\$ 41,229
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 31,187,395
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,926
Other Liabilities	\$ 23,048
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 24,974
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 31,162,421

* For a complete copy of the IRLT's Financial Statements please contact our office.

Statement of Activities

REVENUE	
General Gifts, Appeals & Contributions	\$ 1,116,355
Bequest	\$ 750,000
Gifts for Conservation: Purchase, Protection & Restoration	\$ 547,850
Grants & Other Support	\$ 102,290
Fundraising Events (net)	\$ 315,125
Interest and Other Gains	\$ 696,408
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 3,528,028
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	
Programs: Land Protection & Management	\$ 754,577
General & Administrative	\$ 225,660
Fundraising: Marketing & Development	\$ 209,962
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,190,199

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL REVENUE \$3,528,028



- GENERAL GIFTS / 32%
APPEALS & CONTRIBUTIONS
- BEQUEST / 21%
- GIFTS FOR CONSERVATION / 15%
PURCHASE, PROTECTION & RESTORATION
- GRANTS & OTHER SUPPORT / 3%
- FUNDRAISING EVENTS / 9%
- INTEREST & OTHER GAINS / 20%

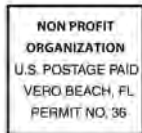
PERCENTAGE OF OPERATIONAL EXPENSES \$1,190,199



- PROGRAMS / 63%
LAND PROTECTION & MANAGEMENT
- CORE MISSION SUPPORT / 37%
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION / 19%
FUNDRAISING: MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT / 18%



Indian River Land Trust
3150 Cardinal Drive, Suite 201
Vero Beach FL 32963



Indian River Land Trust

☎ 772-794-0701

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🌐 www.irilt.org