

1000 Friends of Wisconsin

2016 Annual Report

Since 1996, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin has been advancing healthy communities, positive economic outcomes and environmental benefits. Achieving these outcomes for our natural resources, communities and our economy has required a connected approach. 1000 Friends was established with the mission to slow sprawl and help write the Smart Growth Comprehensive Planning law. We made the connection that promoting smarter ways to grow would slow sprawl while protecting our treasured natural resources.

Supporting compact development is connected to saving farmland, trout streams and wetlands, and leads to healthier, more economically viable communities.

An important piece of continuing our work to save open spaces and build these healthy communities requires looking at the connection to transportation. Major, unnecessary highways often encourage sprawl, cut up our neighborhoods and disrupt our natural environment. Access to clean transportation is connected to reduced CO2 emissions and offers a cost-effective means to get around. We offer resources to help people overcome their transportation challenges and are working to secure improved mobility for seniors, youth and the disabled.

The Green Tier Legacy Communities program focuses on the implementation of sustainable practices in communities of all sizes. By connecting and collaborating, these communities are able to move further and faster to meet their environmental, economic and health goals.

Through our Great Neighborhoods program we connect communities, provide resources and help promote healthier neighborhoods with more accessible, safe streets and open spaces. We'll soon be starting a project with a neighborhood school to install green infrastructure to prevent stormwater run-off and create a welcoming community gathering space.

It's all connected.



Program Highlights

Green Tier Legacy Communities (GTLC)

The Green Tier Legacy Community Charter has grown to 14 communities and three counties. 1000 Friends sits on the Executive Committee and the Communications Committee. We encourage communities in the development of sustainability measures including energy use, land use, transportation, waste, water use and healthy communities. Looking ahead to 2016 we are partnering with COWS at UW-Madison to create the Legacy Communities Health Alliance enable local governments to work on improving health and equity in their communities.

SE Wis. Municipal Stormwater Code Review

We finished our work with communities in southeast Wisconsin to identify gaps in local codes and ordinances that do not allow for the use of green infrastructure. We met with leaders of each of the 27 communities to audit their existing codes and suggest changes that would allow for better stormwater management. To showcase this work we created a story map highlighting the program on our website giving recognition to each participating community, showing which suggested code changes have the greatest impact on stormwater management, and explaining the benefits of green infrastructure. The project serves as a model for other communities to learn about the process of implementing the use of green infrastructure.

Transportation

2015 was a big year for 1000 Friends fight against highway expansion. We continued the

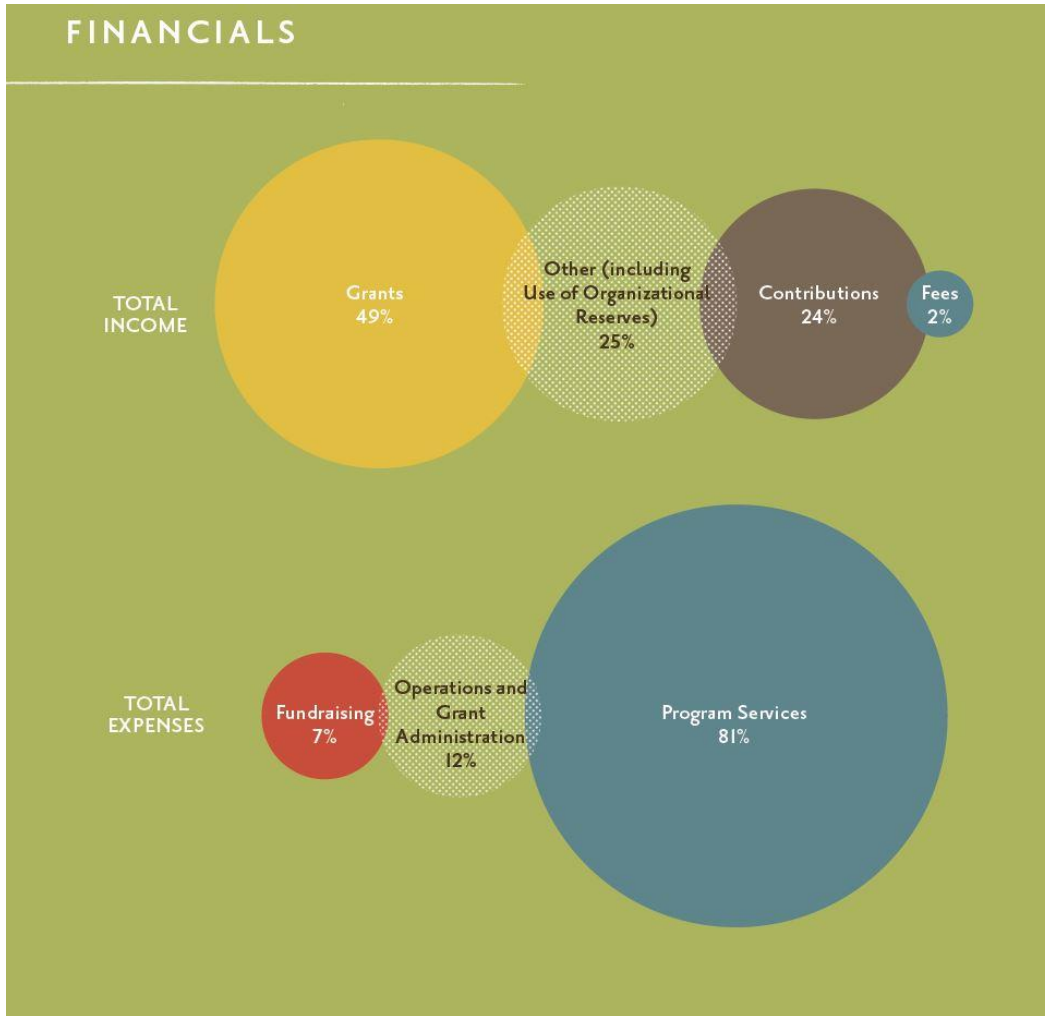
fight against the expansion of Hwy 23 and in 2016, we won! A huge part of the win can be attributed to the research we did exposing WisDOT's faulty traffic projections used to justify this and other expansions. The court ruled that WisDOT failed to justify the amount of traffic it projected as likely to use the road in the future. Our work was featured in national publications, including Streetsblog and The Atlantic's CityLab. This work led to the call for an audit of the State Highway Program confirming our research.

With our partners we held 15 community forums across the state to hear the concerns of transit users and on December 3rd, transit users, community advocates and allies from around Wisconsin gathered in Milwaukee for a conference - **Arrive Together** - to explore the impact of transportation on people in our state and how we can advocate for change.

Great Neighborhoods

Our great neighborhoods program provides support to neighborhood leaders interested in doing community-building projects. In 2016 we supported great neighborhood programs including helping one community in their work towards creating a neighborhood owned and operated grocery store and another to help meet transportation and nutritional needs for youth. We also helped support community conversations that bring neighbors together in discussing common values, as neighborhoods takes ownership of their futures.

2016 Income and Expenses



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