



Our mission:
To educate people
about the natural
environment.

2024 - 2025 ANNUAL REPORT





EXPANDING HORIZONS

2025 was a year of fantastic growth and change at Woldumar Nature Center! It was a year that we set and achieved some very ambitious goals, engaged an unprecedented number of students in our programs, and set the organization on a path towards continued growth in the coming months and years. After months of planning and gathering input from the community, the Board approved a new strategic plan for the organization, with specific goals in the key areas of Education, Stewardship, and Community. As a staff, we felt this plan encouraged us to lean more fully into our mission, and we began to see immediate progress towards the goals.

Woldumar's progress in Education was most evident in the success of our camp program, as 2025 saw record camp enrollment. Our school field study and community programs were likewise well-attended. 2026 promises to be a year of continued program growth, with new partnership-based community programs, expanded school program offerings, and new opportunities for young learners.

Our emphasis on Stewardship resulted in the creation of two departments in 2025. With support from the Dart Foundation, we were able to hire our first Grounds and Facilities Steward, tasked with general maintenance and landscaping, volunteer management, and ecological stewardship of the property. Woldumar has always been known for its diversity of habitats, and with this heightened attention to land management, we will set the standard for native landscapes in Greater Lansing. We also took on the administrative role for the Mid-Michigan Cooperative Invasive

Species Management Area. This is a DNR-funded program that addresses invasive species threats throughout a four-county area, thereby advancing Woldumar's stewardship efforts beyond our 180+ acre property. We are excited about the opportunities these departments offer to impact Woldumar as a treasured *place* and *cause* in the greater Lansing community.

We made significant progress to improve infrastructure, replacing the roof on our historic Moon Cabin, and we have secured funding for more facility upgrades in early 2026.

Finally, we focused on building Community in 2025 - "Naturally Curious Day," engagement with the Chamber of Commerce, and other local organizations. We also hosted a record number of weddings and private events, and public events, including a Moon cabin fall celebration and the ever-popular Woldumar Trail Run. With a supportive community, staff, board and membership, I'm unbelievably excited to see our Educational programs, Stewardship and Community continue to grow in 2026!

Kevin - Executive Director







GROWING CURIOSITY

Reflecting on the past year I can see so much growth in our programming. We have dedicated over 950 hours connecting our community with our mission. We spent that time assisting students in learning about ecology through the myriad of beautiful habitats and organisms at Woldumar, an abundance of camp days spent outdoors, along with all the other engaging community events we had planned in between.

There are many highlights from our community outreach from this past year. Naturally Curious Day invited families to a day filled with educational stations, crafts, guided hikes, and tours of the Moon Cabin. Additionally, we took our Enviroscape - a 3D model of a watershed - on the road to Project RED, where we taught over 300 students the importance of protecting our watersheds and how we can help.

I'm also thrilled to share one of our most exciting achievements: we achieved record-breaking enrollment numbers for our camp!

We welcomed over 900 campers and filled three of our camp sessions to our license max capacity. Part of this success can be attributed to once again receiving the out-of-school time grant from Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential in partnership with the Michigan Department of Education. We are incredibly grateful for this support which has allowed us to expand the scope of our camp.

We are eager to keep this momentum and further strengthen our connections with the community. One of our newest opportunities involves taking on a larger roll in the Annie's BIG Nature Lesson program, which was created and founded by Margaret Holtshlag. We aspire to reach even more teachers and encourage them to participate in this special week-long program. There is much to look forward to in the coming year, and I genuinely hope to see you there!

Allie - Program Manager





What does Camp Discovery mean to our families?



"It means a safe opportunity for my child to explore the outdoors. We live in an apartment so our outside time is limited."



"Fun ways to explore the natural world."



"We are new to the area, and spending June and July at the nature center helped ground us to the community."



2024 - 2025 Program Snapshot

Field Study

On- and off-site environmental education with schools, other educational groups, and scouts

210.5 Hours of Programming
1,796 Students
81 Classes

Camp Discovery

Eleven weeks of summer day camp, plus spring and winter break day camp

931 Campers
633.5 Hours of Camp
Avg. of 78.2% Capacity Filled

Annie's Big Nature Lesson

Five days of nature programs with schools

10 Classes
245 Students

Eco - Green

Water quality testing program that includes a summer high school internship program

8 Unique Sampling Sites
50 Samples Collected
7 Interns
Over 260 Participants

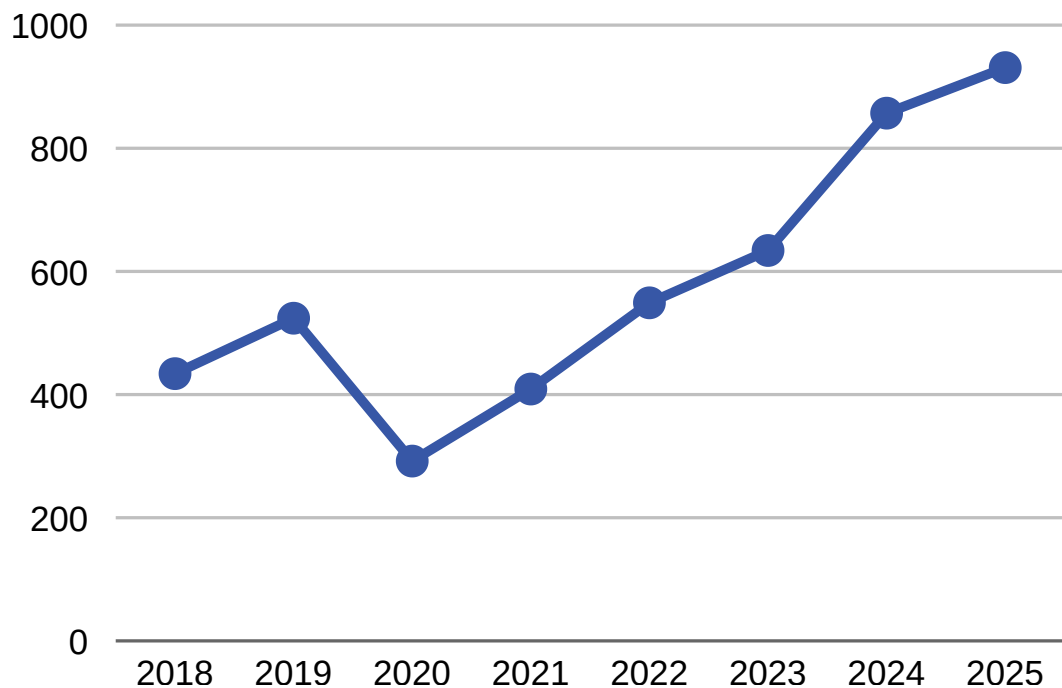
Team building, Retreats, & Activity Course

Businesses, teams, and classes work on communication and creative problem solving

76 Participants
4 Events



Camp Discovery Participants



LOVE AT WOLDUMAR

Welcome Charlotte!

My name is Charlotte Howald and I'm thrilled to have joined the Woldumar team in June as the new Event Host! This year has been full of big changes for me, as I graduated from Alma College in April with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Environmental Sciences. During my time in school, I longed for a job where my event coordination skills could flourish, but desired a constantly changing environment that allowed me to be immersed in the outdoor elements. I look forward to booking numerous events, weddings, and conferences to help financially support Woldumar's plethora of learning experiences for campers, students, and the naturally curious!



2024/25 Events At a Glance

27 Weddings Held

63 Non-Wedding Events

2025/26 To Date

21 Weddings Booked

26 Non-Wedding Events

Hear from our couples:

- We are so happy how everything turned out, Woldumar truly was the absolute best venue we could've chosen! - Maryann & Eric
- My husband and I are very outdoorsy, so it was fun to spend so much time outside on our big day. You can tell the Woldumar staff put a lot of love into their grounds. - Emma & Andrew



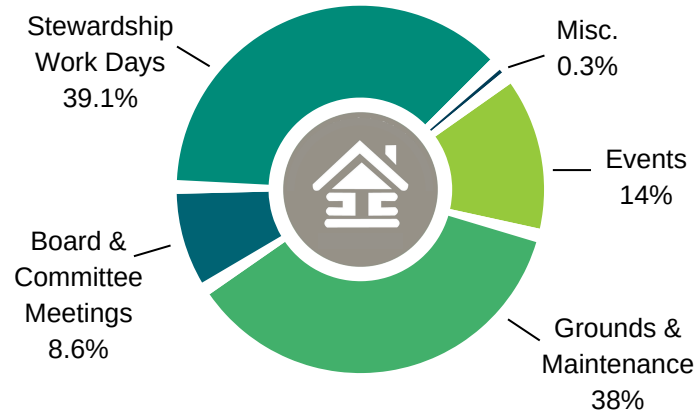


Community Support

250 Volunteers
7 Different Groups
Over 1,100 Hours!



Volunteer Hours



Community Engagement

50 On-Site Programs
7 Off-Site Events
3,399 Community Members Engaged



REDEFINING SUCCESS

The past year has been an absolute whirlwind here at Woldumar. We kicked off the fiscal year with our largest Trail Run to date. Then, followed up with an incredible year-end campaign that raised over \$18,000 including matching support from the MSUFCU Desk Drawer Foundation. A renewed grant from the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement and Potential in partnership with the Michigan Department of Education helped us grow Summer Camp Discovery to its largest attendance ever.



Yet through all the highs of this record-breaking year, what stands out to me the most is the way our community continually proves their love for Woldumar, not because we're struggling, but because they recognize the value of this special place and the benefit it provides to the region. That truly showed when we asked members, donors, and camp families to reach out to their state legislators in support of continued Out-of-School Time funding in the state budget.

What this year at Woldumar has shown me is that while it may be easy to ask for help when times are tough, the powerful feeling of kinship that comes along with that support when things are going well is so much more than just numbers on a spreadsheet... it feels like success!

Lauren - Director of Development



We also received an incredible investment from the Dart Foundation through a multi-year grant which enabled us to hire our first Grounds and Facilities Steward – shifting the work of property upkeep and volunteer coordination into a paid position. And, a grant from the Michigan Arts & Culture Council helped us restore the decaying Moon Cabin roof and expand cabin programs!

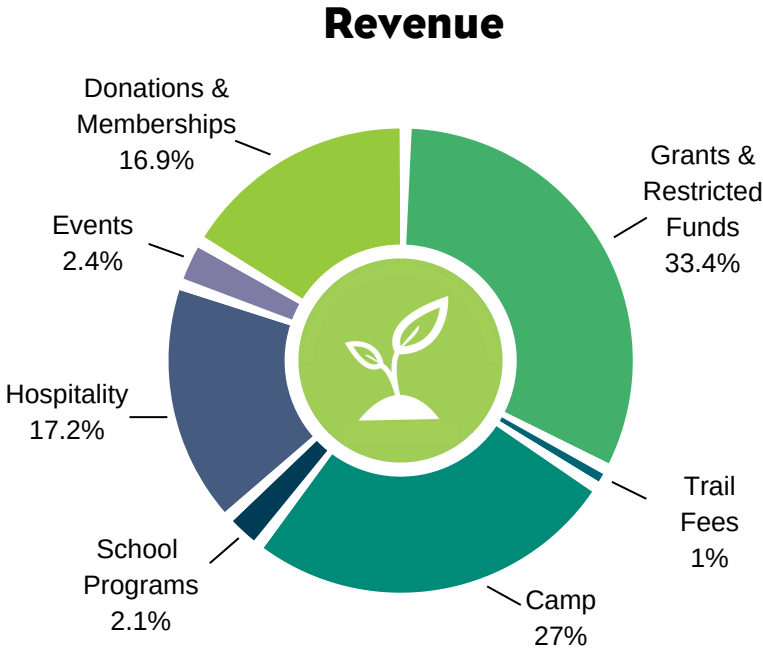


THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

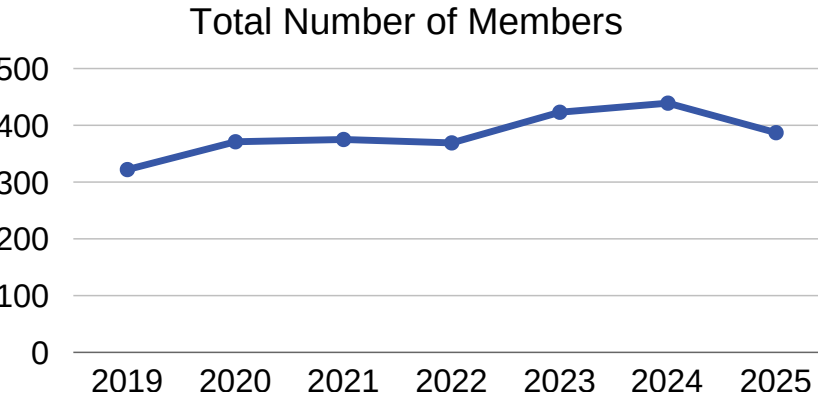
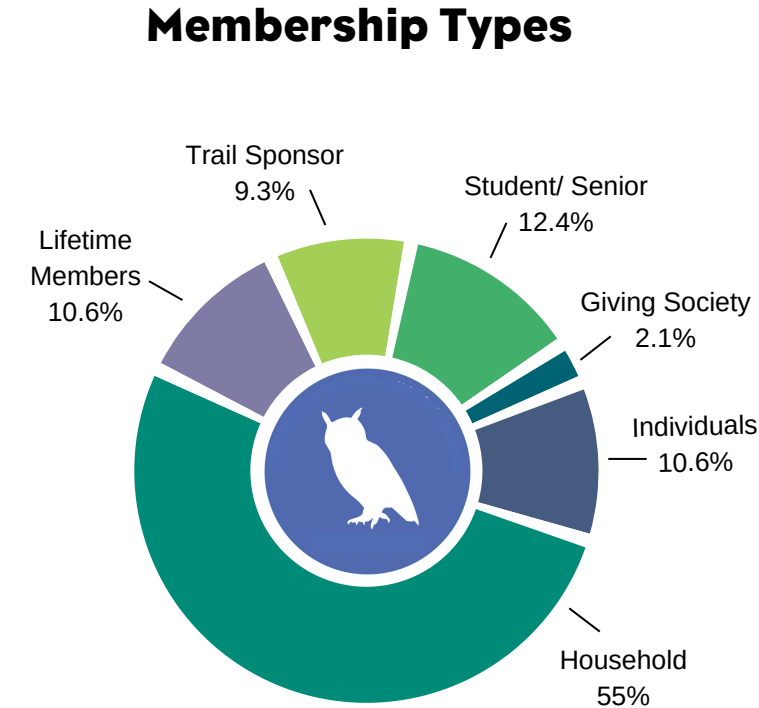
Treasurer's Report

Summary of 2024 / 25 financial activity. Detailed reports and audited financial statements will be made available upon request.

Revenue		
	FY 25	FY 24
Donations & Memberships	\$136,062.78	\$79,882.96
Grants & Restricted Funds	\$268,210.06	\$172,081.86
Trail Fees	\$5,118.81	\$4,248.30
Camp	\$216,888.50	\$180,701.52
School Programs	\$16,842.66	\$20,275.97
Hospitality	\$138,052.50	\$143,857.99
Events	\$20,114.05	\$20,595.32
	\$801,319.36	\$642,843.92



Expenses		
	FY 25	FY 24
Operations	\$116,363.23	\$81,700.94
Wages	\$442,665.02	\$405,006.81
Program Expenses	\$12,222.86	\$19,101.24
Events	\$7,171.80	\$5,757.84
Maintenance	\$24,462.51	\$14,046.71
Special Projects	\$17,739.12	\$48,656.21
	\$620,624.54	\$574,269.75



387 Total Members

Board of Directors

Chair

Kevin Goodwin

Executive Committee
Fund Development
Committee

Vice Chair

Chris Gillett

Executive Committee
Fund Development Chair

Treasurer

Ann Hasen

Executive Committee
Finance Committee

Secretary

Stephaney Keroson

Executive Committee
Finance Committee

Members at Large:

Board Member

Randy Flick

Executive Committee
Grounds & Facilities Committee
PR Committee Chair

Board Member

Judy Gigante

Volunteer Coordinator
Grounds & Facilities
Committee Chair

Board Member

Mary Louks

Board Member

Maureen Miller

Finance Committee

Board Member

Alaina Nelson

Grounds & Facilities
Committee
PR Committee

Board Member

Melissa Phipps

Finance Committee

Board Member

Jason Wilkinson

Finance Committee

Endowment Trustees:

David Baker, Melissa Hatfield, JB McCombs



Woldumar Staff

Kevin Wernet

Executive Director

Sally Austin

Bookkeeper &
Office Manager

Allie Shigley

Program Manager &
Camp Director

Lauren Smith

Director of
Development

Charlotte Howald

Event Host

Merrick Palasty

Grounds and Facilities
Steward

Katelyn Starr

Hospitality Assistant

Sandy Tran

Hospitality Assistant

Woldumar is made possible by a generous community of supporters who believe in our mission "to educate people about the natural environment" and who understand the value of protecting and restoring local green space.

There are many ways to get involved at Woldumar! In the coming year, please consider elevating your membership level, becoming a monthly supporter, joining our stewardship corps or a planning committee.

Become a Member

Enjoy discounts to our programs, invitations to special activities, and free access to our trails.

Volunteer Your Time

Share your time and talent in a way that matches your interests, skills and availability.

Donate to Woldumar

Your gift ensures that we can continue to provide powerful experiences and opportunities for all.



Thank you!

Woldumar Nature Association is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that is supported and governed by our members. We continue to exist because of the support of our faithful members, energetic volunteers, and treasured donors.

Sitting on the Grand River with more than a mile of shoreline, Woldumar maintains over 5 miles of trails on over 180 acres of Maple and Beech woodland, tall grass prairie, and a pine plantation. Trails are open 365 days each year - we invite you to hike or ski on them anytime between dawn and dusk!

Each year, Woldumar operates a summer program, Camp Discovery, which serves approximately 600 children, ages 4-16. In addition, our break camps, school programs, and community outreach serve over 25,000 children and adults every year.



woldumar.org



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