Sunrise is my favorite time of day. It marks new light, new life, new possibility and a new opportunity to meet the moment. It’s when the first sounds of day life begin, with birds atwitter in anticipation of the light. The sunrise marks a moment of hope, possibility and opportunity.

That is where Nature Sacred is today. In 2020, we experienced a new sunrise as we became an operating foundation. It marked a moment to invite new light — YOU — on the journey with us as we expand our reach and deepen our impact.

25 years ago, we began at Inspiration Point at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's headquarters in 1996 (see photo below), and in the ensuing decades brought nature to people who need it most from hospitals to prisons, from universities to communities.

This is our first Annual Report, and we are invigorated to share what we are doing together in communities across the country. 2021 was a big growth year with new spaces in new cities, new Firesouls, and lots of new mindful moments for so many. And as always, we invite ideas, thoughts and connections for helping expand and inspire more of the healing power of nearby nature.

ALDEN E. STONER
CEO, Nature Sacred
MISSION

To provide the opportunity for a deeper human experience by inspiring and supporting the creation of public green spaces that offer a temporary place of sanctuary, encourage reflection, provide solace, and engender peace and well-being.

VISION

We envision a time when every urban community in the U.S. will provide people with opportunities for intimate, intentional daily doses of nearby urban nature through the creation of a system of nature spaces.
SACRED PLACE

Sacred Places are green spaces designed using a process and model honed over 25 years; spaces created with a specific purpose: to provide mindful reflection and solace to intentionally improve health & wellbeing.

THE FIRESOUL

Firesouls are volunteer community leaders — catalysts for change who recognize the need and vital role a green space can offer within their community. They serve as community liaisons, ensuring that each Sacred Place is designed with the community’s needs at the forefront.

BENCH & JOURNAL

In each Sacred Place, you will find a Nature Sacred bench, inviting visitors to take a moment of respite and enjoy the nature around them. Tucked under each bench is a little yellow journal, a place for visitors to connect and reflect.
What is Nature Sacred?

SERVICE PROVIDER AND PARTNER
We help enable the creation of Sacred Places where they are needed most.

NETWORK BUILDER
Our Nature Sacred Network now comprises more than 100 Sacred Places and Firesouls.

RESEARCH AGGREGATOR
We bridge academia and the green space movement.

Through over 100 Sacred Places across 40+ municipalities in 12 states and Washington, DC, Nature Sacred brings the healing power of nature to over 60 million community residents and visitors annually.
Where are Sacred Places Sprouting?
Nature Sacred, Service Provider and Partner.

We support the design and creation of Sacred Places that can be found everywhere — from once-neglected urban lots to hospitals to school campuses. We help guide communities and organizations through the process of bringing their nature spaces to life.

New Sacred Places underway

128 Sacred Places in total.
Three Sacred Places have been designed for the Hospitality Hub, a first-of-its kind environment that provides services and resources to thousands of Memphians experiencing homelessness.

These spaces will include features like water filling stations, hammocks and outdoor eating areas adjacent to food trucks that will serve free meals and will meet essential needs while offering a welcoming place of respite.
In conjunction with numerous campus improvements and greening efforts, Greater Baltimore Medical Center (GBMC) is partnering with Nature Sacred to provide a Sacred Place design that incorporates quiet contemplative space with active programming needs. This site is planned to sit adjacent to the Labor and Delivery Unit, and will provide a much needed space of calm, healing and respite for patients, visitors, and the dedicated staff and medical providers at GBMC.
Nature Sacred, Network Builder.

We bring together community leaders to spearhead the unique design, programming and events of each space, tending to them physically and spiritually through the Nature Sacred Firesoul Network, our long-term site stewardship program.

Enhancement & Enrichment Grants

- **12** Enhancement & Enrichment Grants awarded
- Enrichment Grants aid Firesouls in providing activities for their communities while Enhancement Grants help defray upkeep and maintenance costs, as well as support the addition of enhancing features in Sacred Places.

- **17** New Firesouls

- **143** Firesouls - total - in our Network

- **22** Leadership Development Program offerings
What did the grant support?
Naval Cemetery Landscape (NCL) partners at City Growers installed a new honey bee colony in their hives; the result: frequent sightings of native bees throughout the site. The NCL also started its programming season with a family friendly bird program in early May and the popular sound bath meditation series, during which visitors had the unique opportunity to experience the NCL at dusk while being immersed in soothing and healing sounds.
What did the grant support?
Washington Parks & People was awarded a grant to support programming related to gardening, farming, and learning about our human connections to the earth.

The collaboration has yielded continuous healthy food production in a severe food desert while also providing a safe haven to learn and grow outdoors, to connect with the land, all year round.

“We are helping to restore nature as a vital force in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.”

Steve Coleman
The Nature Sacred Labyrinth Walk for Peace was conceived during a Firesoul Network Connection session for members whose Sacred Places feature labyrinths. Many major U.S. cities have seen spikes in violent crime during the past 18 months; these Firesouls wanted to respond. The idea was to draw attention to the availability of Sacred Places, which can encourage peace and community cohesion through the moving meditative practice of labyrinth walking. While the Covid-19 pandemic exacerbates existing high levels of stress and anxiety, labyrinth walking offers a means to evoke connection and inner peace.

Milestone Anniversaries

This year, we celebrated the anniversaries of a number of Sacred Places, including Georgetown Waterfront Park in Washington, D.C., and the Joseph Beuys Sculpture Garden at University of Maryland Baltimore Campus.

**10 years**
Georgetown Waterfront Park

Transformed from a parking lot to a space of healing and respite in 2011, this Sacred Place — set inside a National Park and featuring a labyrinth — has become a cornerstone of the community.

**20 years**
Joseph Beuys Sculpture Park

2021 marked the 20th anniversary of the Joseph Beuys Sculpture Park at University of Maryland Baltimore County, home of the first Sacred Place on a university campus, that continues to be a thriving connection spot for students, staff and visitors alike.
Nature Sacred,
Research Aggregator.

We distill and share thousands of sources of research, all of which builds compelling evidence for the creation of Sacred Places in communities across the country. In addition, we archive thousands of journal entries collected in the yellow journals placed in every Sacred Place.

A white paper written by landscape architects for landscape architects

Research + A Proven Methodology for Creating Healing Green Spaces

RELEASED NOV 2021

Nature Sacred
presents

Three short films share study findings of prominent scientists and physicians on nature and health.

Featuring research by Roger Ulrich, Ph.D., EDAC; Professor, Department of Architecture and Centre for Healthcare Architecture, Chalmers University of Technology; and Fred Foote, MD, Capt, MC, USN, (Ret) & Firesoul for The Green Road
Journal entry:
Sacred Place at Naval Cemetery Landscape, Brooklyn, NY

Photo: Sacred Place at the Brenton Arboretum, Dallas Center, Iowa
2021 Financials

All figures are based on unaudited financials.

Statement of Activities
January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021

SUPPORT & REVENUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
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<td>Fee for Service</td>
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<td>Co-Founders Capacity Grant</td>
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<td>Endowment [5% distribution]</td>
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<td>In-Kind Services</td>
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<td><strong>Total Support &amp; Revenue</strong></td>
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Expenses

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<th>Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programs &amp; Outreach</td>
<td>$856,053</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,291,481</strong></td>
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All figures are based on unaudited financials.
# 2021 Financials

*All figures are based on unaudited financials.*

## Statement of Financial Position

**December 31, 2021**

### ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
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### LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

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<td>Net Assets</td>
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<td>Board Restricted (Endowment)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$11,112,691</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In October 2021, Kirby Lane Park in Baltimore, MD hosted its first Fall Festival with face & pumpkin painting and games thanks to an Enrichment Grant.

In October 2021, Wangari Gardens in Washington, DC — a Sacred Place opening in 2022 — brought the community together for Build Day.

Planting, growing and thriving thanks to …

Agape Fund  
The Ariowitsch Family Foundation  
The Awake Fund  
William C. Baker Fund  
Baum Family Foundation  
Bernstein Family Foundation  
The Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation  
The Blackburn Foundation  
The Brenton Foundation  
The Brinton Family Fund  
Brown Advisory  
The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation  
Francis P. Chiaramonte, MD Family Foundation  
Chesapeake Bay Trust  
Clayton Baker Trust  
The Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines  
David and Marjorie Murtagh Cooke Foundation  
Suzy and Eddie Dunn Fund  
R. S. Evans Foundation  
Fresh Tonic  
Garden Club of Old Annapolis Towne  
Greenspring Associates  
Gustus Vitae  
Jonathan and Karry Hatch Family Fund  
Ho Foundation  
Korhonen Family Fund  
The Levitt Family Philanthropic Fund  
The Meadow Fund  
Performance Home Automation Inc.  
The Richman Foundation  
Katharine E and Thomas H Stoner Fund  
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3  
Peggy Taliaferro Fund  
VMware Foundation  
Bert and Debbie Winchester Fund  
Katharine E and Thomas H Stoner Fund  
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3  
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Bert and Debbie Winchester Fund  

... and the generosity of all individuals and contributors who make this work and impact possible.
2021 Leadership

Board of Directors

Tom Stoner, Chair
Kitty Stoner, Vice Chair
Dick Blackburn, Treasurer
Ami Aronson
Nichole Battle
Scott Brickman
Edward Dunn
Chuck Foster
Michael D. Hankin
Lauren Marshall
Pascal Mittermaier
Fred Smith
Jack Bloodgood, Founding Director, in memoriam
Chelle Stoner, Founding Director

In 2020, the TKF Foundation officially became Nature Sacred, an operating foundation.

The Todd Marcus Jazz Orchestra performed at Firesoul Fest, the first in-person Firesoul Network gathering since before the pandemic, in August 2021.
Contact

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