



# Through the Portal

GRATITUDE REPORT 2025  
+ FIVE-YEAR LOOKBACK

Sacred Place in Mount Street Gardens, London, UK

Over the past five years, Nature Sacred has helped translate the growing science on nature and health into real-world practice. Through original reports, research-based tools — including innovations for healthcare settings — and national platforms, we help turn **evidence into action**.

**Public awareness continues to grow about nature's positive impact on health and well-being. Informed by research Nature Sacred has helped advance and amplify, we now know:**

- Just 20 minutes in a place where you feel connected to nature is enough to measurably lower your stress hormones.
- People who live near green space report feeling less depressed, less anxious, and more connected to their neighbors — even after accounting for income and education level.
- Greening vacant lots in distressed urban neighborhoods has been shown to reduce violent crime up to 29%.



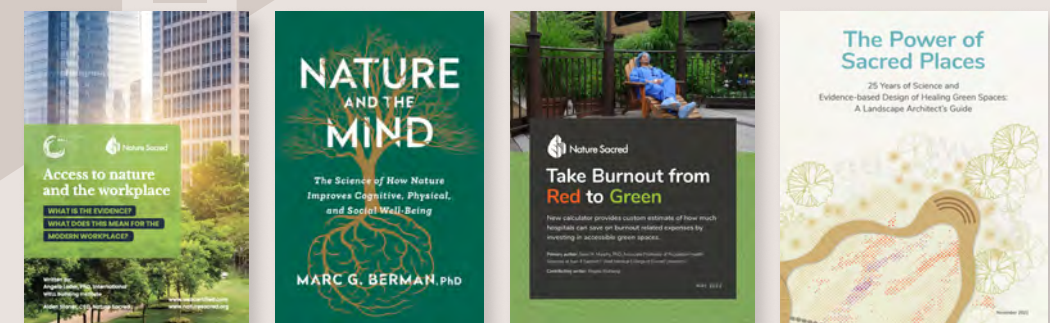
Your work is about hope. And without hope, we don't have the endurance.”

JULIE PARISH, DONOR & CHAMPION,  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

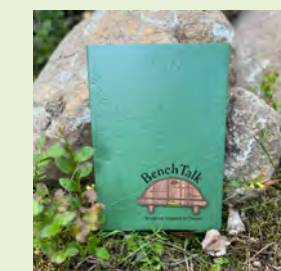
# SCIENCE SOUL

Where the Science Meets the Soul

## PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS 2020 – 2025



Science helps us understand how nature affects the body and mind. The little yellow journals capture **how it touches the soul** — what people see, feel, remember. They capture the impact of Sacred Places: real experiences, in people's own words.



Curated selections of Journal Entries



CEO Alden Stoner's TEDx talk "The Connection You are Missing in a Hyper-connected Age"

*I imagine the presence of every person who has opened these pages next to me. I feel less alone. I was never alone. You were never alone.*

Journal Entry from Naval Cemetery Landscape, Brooklyn, NY

## Catalysts & Champions

This intergenerational work does not happen without the generosity of champions near and far.

Scan here for our Donor Honor Roll and much more:

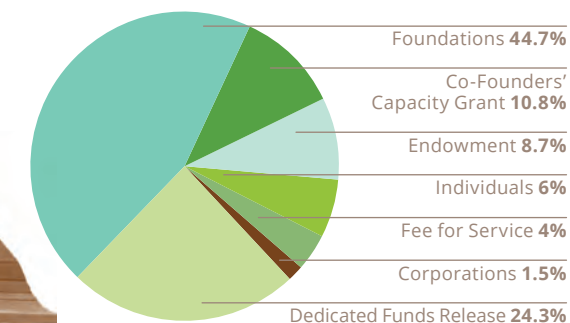


Nature Sacred offers a values-driven way to invest in social change.

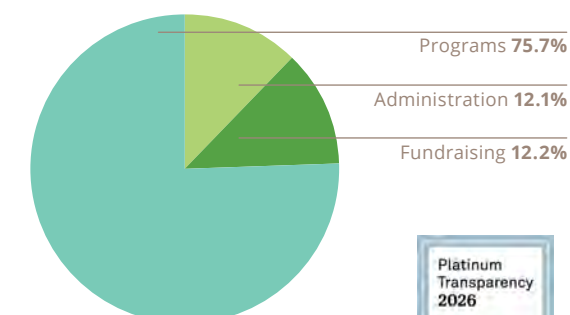
We return on investment and on joy!



Paul Willey, Nature Sacred Bench Technician with Buz Brenton, Donor & Champion, Des Moines, IA



EXPENSES	
Programs & Outreach	\$2,379,754
Administration	\$380,811
Fundraising	\$384,578
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$3,145,143</b>



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Annapolis, MD 21401

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## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES JANUARY 1, 2025 – DECEMBER 31, 2025

All figures are based on pre-audited financials.

SUPPORT & REVENUE	
Individuals	\$188,373
Foundations	\$1,403,500
Corporations	\$48,333
Fee for Service	\$125,000
Book Sales	\$3,771
Co-Founders' Capacity Grant	\$340,000
Endowment [5% distribution]	\$272,906
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We've had so many ideas, but this is the first time it feels like anyone has actually listened to our ideas."

BRI HORNE, FIRESOUL, PIGTOWN CLIMBS, BALTIMORE, MD, PICTURED BELOW UPON THE FINAL DESIGN REVEAL.



# The People

Through the **Firesoul™ Network**, comprising **260+ community leaders**, Nature Sacred nurtures active relationships with and between Sacred Places. In addition to capacity-building opportunities for the Firesouls, Sacred Places are eligible for **Enrichment & Enhancement grant funding** to support their care and activation **over time**.

Learn more about our enduring, trust-based outreach through the Firesoul Network here:



Firesoul Network Gathering at the Warden's Garden at U Penn, Philadelphia, PA

# The Places

In 2025, we successfully completed Nature Sacred's first five-year strategic plan, **putting 100 new Sacred Places** in the pipeline since 2020. Powered by trust-based community engagement and the generous support of donors near and far, here is a closer look at our impact footprint.

# 142

## Sacred Places opened since 1996

- # States with Existing Sacred Places
- # States with Sacred Places in Development



- IN 2025**
- 38 PLANNING**
- 25 COMPLETED DESIGN**
- 1 UNDER CONSTRUCTION**
- 7 SACRED PLACES OPENED**

# Sacred Places as Multi-Solvers

Donors from 8 to 98, from Alaska to Alabama believe in Nature Sacred and **our ability to solve problems that are both systemic and urgent**. Our mission bridges perspectives and communities, fills critical gaps, and offers stability in uncertain times.

We believe everyone deserves access to nature, reflection, and healing — right where they are.



Geckle Memorial Garden at Marian House, Baltimore, MD

# Finding a Better Way

Nature Sacred is a multi-solver. Through collaborative, community-led, evidence-based design, each Sacred Place reconnects people with nature, invites reflection, restores mental health, and strengthens community.

With *Finding a Better Way*, our new five-year strategy, we propel our mission with joy, by accelerating **belonging through nature** through thoughtful, well-paced expansion that deepens healing in communities across the United States and beyond. We are making a bold multi-year investment in **People, Place, and Preparation** by supporting those who cultivate and sustain Sacred Places, ensuring each space thrives and new ones are completed, and aligning our resources to create lasting impact.

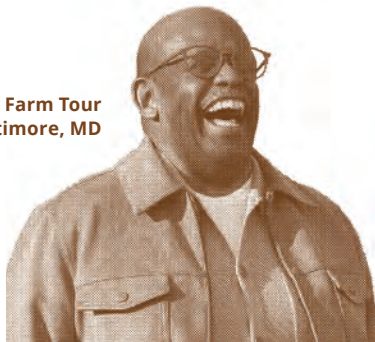
**AN INVITATION:** With your support through donations, participation in our Firesoul Network, and community engagement, we can expand with intention, nurture healing and belonging, and **create a collective living legacy** of connection and care that will be felt for generations. Together, we are **finding a better way**, bringing joy, purpose, and the restorative power of nature to communities that need it most.

# Life Cycle of a Sacred Place



A Space for Grace Serenity Garden at Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, AL

A moment of Joy during the Firesoul Network Community Farm Tour Pastor Michael Martin, Firesoul, Stillmeadow PeacePark, Baltimore, MD





Nature Sacred



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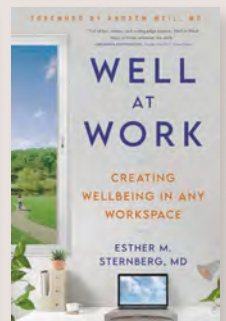
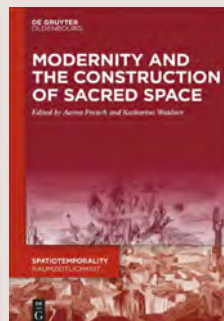
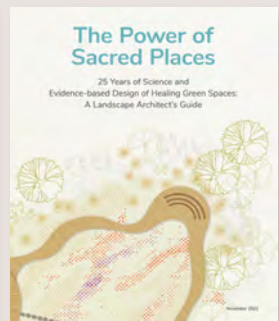
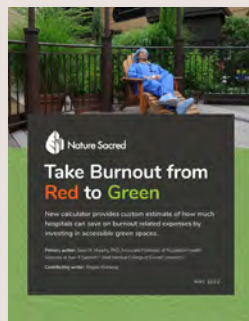
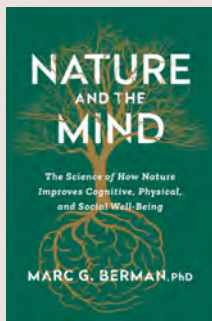
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THE SPARK



COMMUNITY ENGAGED-DESIGN



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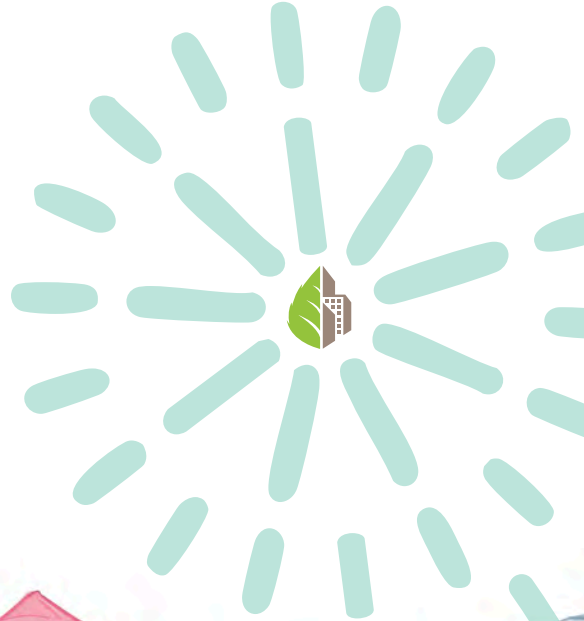


### THE BENCH ARRIVES

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THE GRAND  
OPENING



ENDURING  
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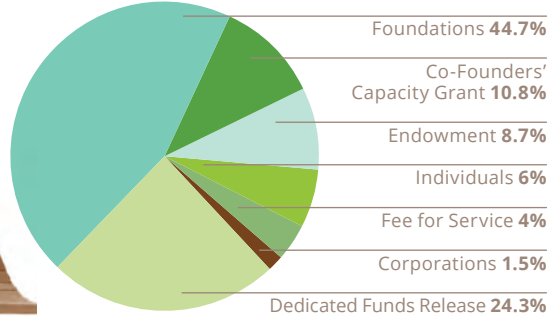
Urban Farm in partnership with Bon Secours Community Works, Baltimore, MD

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