

A person wearing a blue hooded jacket and a backpack is hiking away from the camera on a dirt path through a dense forest. The forest is filled with tall, moss-covered trees and lush green ferns. The scene is captured from a low angle, looking up at the towering trees.

Trails for everyone, **forever**

Washington
trails
Association

2024 annual report

2024 by the numbers

5.5 million

people relied on WTA's online resources to get outside

\$4.7 million+

in trail work

23,000+

members made WTA's work possible with a donation

5,334

trip reporters shared information from trails

4,664

outdoor experiences supported by our gear lending libraries

3,492

advocates took action for public lands

3,433

volunteers helped build and maintain trails, including **624 youth**

300

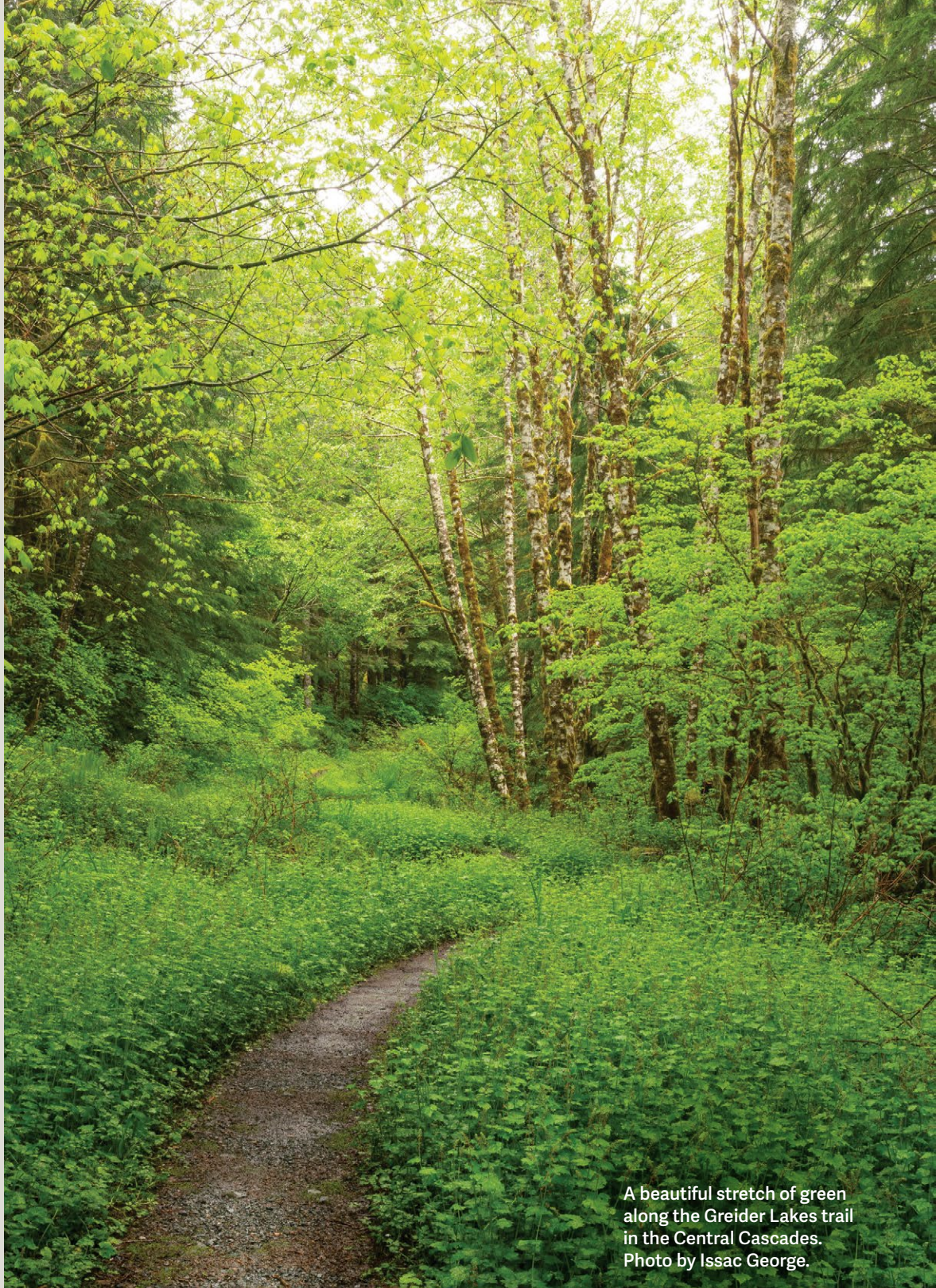
trails improved

192

volunteers awarded green hard hats for 5 days of trail work

41

community partners trained to lead outdoor experiences



A beautiful stretch of green along the Greider Lakes trail in the Central Cascades.
Photo by Issac George.

Board of Directors

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Cover photo by Jerome De Guzman

A letter from our CEO

Dear WTA supporters,

Thank you for making 2024 a successful year for WTA and for continuing to advance our vision of Trails for Everyone, Forever. Now in the fourth year of our strategic plan, we are seeing how much can be achieved when you bring people together around **a shared love of trails and the outdoors.**

One of WTA's greatest strengths continues to be our **dedicated community.** In 2024, we mobilized over 3,400 volunteers across the state, resulting in more than 150,000 hours of trail maintenance. This people power is the equivalent to more than \$4.7m in trail work, which is increasingly challenging for land managers like our local, state and federal partners to provide on their own. Our gear lending libraries achieved a milestone of 1,000 outings in 2024, saving community partners over \$250,000 from having to rent or purchase their own gear, allowing more youth and communities to experience the value of the outdoors. And our website and Hiking Guide remain the go-to resources for anyone looking to get outside in Washington, including our land manager partners. One of the things that makes our Hiking Guide especially valuable is the more than 250,000 total trip reports submitted by fellow hikers like you.

Each of these achievements is a testament to the **collective power of you and our community** — those who support, engage with and show up for WTA. Our dedicated volunteers, trip reporters, community partners and donating members all make this work possible. Together, we are having a **lasting positive impact on trails and people who love the outdoors,** because we know that exploring nature is good for people's hearts, minds and bodies.

In this report, you'll learn more about the ways our work grew and evolved in 2024 to meet the needs of Washington's trails and hiking community. From bringing partners together to create a new trail system in the Teanaway Community Forest to expanding our technical



A volunteer works on building a new trail in the Teanaway Community Forest. Photo by Caleb Pilcher.

skills in post-wildfire trail restoration, WTA continues to work to ensure that our trails can stand the test of time.

As funding and land manager capacity for this work continues to face challenges and may become even less certain in the years ahead, **your continued engagement and investment remains vital** to WTA's ability to deliver on our mission to mobilize hikers and everyone who loves the outdoors to explore, protect and champion trails and public lands.

Thank you for your support and continued commitment!

With gratitude,

Jaime Loucky, CEO

Trip leaders from ECOSS learn camping skills at an Outdoor Leadership Training program workshop at Dash Point.

Trails for Everyone

Building community and deepening connections to nature

Right: Youth volunteers work on a section of the Wonderland Trail at Mount Rainier National Park.

At WTA, we believe trails should be welcoming and accessible for all.

In 2024, our Trails for Everyone campaign expanded leadership opportunities, strengthened partnerships and removed barriers to outdoor access — demonstrating the power of trails to inspire, connect and empower communities.

Outdoor Leadership Training and gear libraries: Reducing barriers to outdoor experiences

Our Outdoor Leadership Training program reached an exciting milestone: its 1,000th supported outing since launching in 2013. New partnerships led to a surge in trips in 2024, with many groups taking advantage of our free gear libraries in Seattle and Pierce counties. Trained leaders led bike-packing adventures, camping trips, outdoor science classes and more. Among our most borrowed items are hiking boots — 3,645 pairs have been loaned out, saving partners more than \$517,000!

Emerging Leaders: Expanding representation in outdoor careers

WTA's Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) connects diverse individuals — including Black, Indigenous and people of color — with environmental professionals and equips them with key skills for outdoor careers. This year, in addition to regular programming, ELP hosted a community partner hike at Point Defiance Park in Tacoma, where eight partner organizations came together to hike and build connections with the members of the ELP cohort. The impact of ELP continues to expand: nearly 70% of alumni have gone on to take positions with WTA or our agency and community partners.

Youth volunteers: Empowering the next generation of trail stewards

In 2024, 624 youth volunteers — 35% of them returning from previous



seasons — dedicated an impressive 9,200 hours to maintaining trails statewide. For the first time, the youth program earned the Tom Petri Award, a national honor recognizing exceptional trail projects supported by the federal Recreational Trails Program.

“Watching students’ eyes light up as they looked at the tide pools, and hearing them talk about their accomplishments of going up and over the headland at Hole in the Wall was amazing.

— Stacey Anderson, Olympia Regional Learning Academy, who utilized WTA’s Pierce County gear library to take a group of students on their first backpacking trip.



Trails Rebooted

Supporting popular trails at every turn

Washington's trails are more popular than ever, and WTA is committed to ensuring they remain accessible, sustainable and enjoyable for all. This year, we expanded efforts to build new trails in key recreation hubs, restore well-loved routes and provide digital tools that enhance the hiking experience.

New visions for iconic landscapes

WTA is committed to shaping the future of key recreation areas. For example, in the Teanaway Community Forest, volunteers have been hard at work constructing new trails as part of phase 1 of the recreation vision plan. Trails are set to open in spring 2025. WTA is also helping to strengthen recreation opportunities in the Carbon River corridor, enhancing the experience for visitors while setting the stage for a broader vision for the future of Mount Rainier and the Highway 410 corridor.

Ambassadors in action: Engaging hikers across the state

Sixty-two volunteer ambassadors connected with over 8,000 people at community events and trailheads,

sharing their passion for hiking and answering hikers' questions. Their efforts fostered connection, raised awareness and educated the public on outdoor stewardship.

Digital resources: Tools to enhance your outdoor experience

WTA's digital tools made outdoor exploration easier and safer in 2024:

- We surpassed 250,000 total trip reports on wta.org, helping hikers share insights and discover new adventures.
- Trailblazer, our free trip-planning app, guided 120,000 hikers to their perfect trails.
- Our new snow layer feature on our Hike Finder Map provides up-to-date conditions, ensuring hikers are prepared for what lies ahead.

New trails built, old trails refreshed

WTA volunteers improved hiking experiences for hikers across the state. Key highlights include:

- In partnership with the Kalispel Tribe, WTA built two trails at Indian Creek Community Forest. Also in

Volunteers build box steps on a Backcountry Response Team work party along the North Fork Sauk River Trail in the North Cascades. **Below:** Ambassadors greet hikers at Snow Lake trailhead.



the Spokane area, after 10 years, Mount Spokane's new Trail 182 is finally complete.

- WTA crews opened an access trail at the new Stottlemeyer trailhead at Port Gamble, formalizing access to this popular area between the Olympic Peninsula and Puget Sound.
- Crews revived the St. Cloud trail in the Columbia River Gorge, making this trail once again ADA-compliant.

“ We love your website. It's one of our most used resources. We send visitors there all the time, especially if they're looking for somewhere to hike with their dogs.

— Mount Rainier National Park rangers



Volunteers celebrate the opening of a new trail at Behrens Woods in Vancouver, WA. **Below:** Volunteers building the Behrens Woods trail.

The Trail Next Door

Because nature should always be in reach

Close-to-home trails provide essential, convenient opportunities for people to connect with nature at every stage of life and are cornerstones of healthy, happy communities. WTA is committed to expanding these vital outdoor spaces, ensuring that nature remains within reach for everyone.

Building close-in trails

WTA volunteer crews have been hard at work maintaining urban trails and building new ones. In 2024, we held 157 work parties in 26 local parks. Highlights include:

- Volunteers dedicated 13 days to building a new wheelchair-accessible trail at Behrens Woods in Vancouver, transforming an area once limited to unofficial trails into an inclusive, welcoming greenspace.
- In Sammamish, WTA volunteers constructed a new trail at Big Rock Park South, enhancing access to lands recently converted from private to public space.

- WTA launched its first-ever collaboration with the City of Everett. We are working at Loganberry Lane to expand equitable trail access.

Advocating for Transit to Trails

WTA championed the Transit to Trails Act, aiming to establish a federal grant program to expand public transit options to trailheads. More than 1,640 people signed a WTA petition to express their support for this bill.

Supporting climate resilience through trails

As climate change continues to pose significant threats to health and safety, WTA's work on local trails helps build urban climate resilience. Trails and natural areas are essential for cooling urban environments and offering relief during extreme weather events. Earlier in 2024, King County launched its Extreme Heat Mitigation Strategy, which WTA and other partners will help implement over the next 5 years.



“ I really like being able to make the (outdoor) experience more accessible for people who can't necessarily just hop in their car and drive an hour and a half to get to a really beautiful mountain hike. Or people who can't physically do a longer hike but still want to be around beautiful trees.

—Rosemary Perkins, Behrens Woods volunteer

Local trip reports make a difference

In 2024, 62 trip reporters submitted urban trail trip reports as part of WTA's second annual **#LoveLocalTrails** contest. The next time you visit a local trail, submit a report to help fellow hikers.



The 2024 Lost Trails Found professional trails crew. **Inset:** A LTF crew member removes a downed tree from the Gothic Basin Trail in the North Cascades.

Lost Trails Found

Putting backcountry trails back on the map

Extreme weather and wildfires continue to threaten Washington's backcountry trails, making restoration efforts more crucial than ever. Reclaiming these remote routes requires collaboration and a shared commitment to sustainability, ensuring they remain accessible for generations to come.

Expanding professional support for backcountry trails

WTA's Lost Trails Found (LTF) program grew significantly in 2024 with the addition of a third professional crew. WTA's LTF crews worked at 15 locations statewide in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and Department of Natural Resources. In 2024, they maintained 81+ miles of lost trails and logged out over 2,522 blowdowns.

Restoring Lost Trails: On the ground efforts

- Over two seasons, LTF crews have worked to reopen 50 miles of backcountry trails in the Schneider Springs fire recovery zone. In summer 2024 alone, they cleared 17.5 miles and 569 logs, reconnecting areas rarely accessed since the 2021 fire.

- Volunteer crews cleared 6.5 miles of the rugged Slate Creek Trail in the Salmo-Priest Wilderness, which has been largely inaccessible for over two decades.
- The Angry Mountain trail, reopened in 2019, faces ongoing challenges from extreme weather and trail conditions, requiring continuous maintenance. This year, volunteers returned to ensure the trail remains accessible, supporting its long-term sustainability.

Strength in partnerships: Women and horses restore backcountry trails

WTA teamed up with Back Country Horsemen of Washington for our first-ever joint all-women trail work trip. Over 5 days, 12 women and four horses worked together to restore the Billy Goat Trail in the Pasayten Wilderness. This collaboration highlights the power of partnerships in maintaining backcountry trails and underscores the importance of creating shared identity spaces for a more inclusive outdoors.



Advocating for stronger public lands funding

In 2024, WTA traveled to Washington, D.C., to advocate for increased funding for the Forest Service and the reauthorization of the Great American Outdoors Act. During meetings with congressional offices, WTA emphasized the importance of providing robust and consistent funding to public land agencies. Through this advocacy, WTA continues to champion well-maintained and accessible public lands for all.

“WTA's professional trail program is beginning to be viewed as the stewards, technical experts and problem solvers for tough trail projects. We're even getting asked to train land manager crews.

— Joe Hall, professional services manager



Members make it happen

Hike-a-Thon participants enjoy a hike to Red Top Lookout. **Below:** Northwest Symphony performing at Crescendo to celebrate and raise money for trails.

This work would not be possible without our members. Annually, members make up over half of the revenue needed to support WTA's mission.

Hike-a-Thon: Miles, mountains and massive impact

In August, WTA's Hike-a-Thon raised an incredible \$189,411! A total of 486 participants hiked 11,606 miles and climbed 1,948,117 feet of elevation — equivalent to walking across Washington 32 times and summitting Mount Rainier 135 times.

Crescendo: Nature meets symphony in an unforgettable evening

In spring 2024, WTA debuted Crescendo: A Symphonic Celebration of Washington Landscapes in partnership with the Northwest Symphony Orchestra. The unique fundraising event paired breathtaking photos from WTA's annual Northwest Exposure contest with live orchestral music, creating an unforgettable experience and a chance for new and long-time members to connect with one another.

Photos by Mary Ann Villar, Adrian Wyard





Notes from our supporters

WTA's work is powered, in part, by the generosity of individual donors, members, corporate partners and foundations. We're excited to share examples of what investing in WTA has meant to a few of our supporters:

“

We are transplants to the Pacific Northwest and we have been enthralled by the beauty of nature here. We have done everything from backpacking to hiking with kids. We really appreciate the breadth of possibilities of reaching nature that WTA provides.

— **Aniruddha Bhargava**, Leadership Circle donor



“

WTA is truly dedicated to making trails for everyone, forever. I admire WTA's efforts to make the outdoors more inclusive through programs that help remove barriers to going outdoors, like gear libraries and shared identity work parties. And through WTA's tireless work on trail maintenance, I feel confident that the trails I love will be around for my daughter to enjoy for years to come.

— **Sully Moreno**, board member

◀ **Aniruddha and his son** on a hike on the Asahel Curtis trail. Photo courtesy of Aniruddha Bhargava.



“

When I think about what I want to support after I'm gone, WTA's mission is perfectly aligned. I'm not sure what the world will be like then, or what the needs will be, but I know the outdoors will still be there, will still be important and will still need our love.

— **Bruce Burger**, WTA Legacy Circle member and former board member



▲ **Bruce enjoying the views** on a hike at Maple Pass Loop. Photo courtesy Bruce Burger.

2024 Financial Information

WTA is grateful for the whole community who showed up for trails and everyone who uses them. Thanks to the generosity of our members and partners, WTA continues to build momentum to realize our vision of Trails for Everyone, Forever.

Financial Statement

Total assets	\$14,426,430
Total liabilities	\$2,378,107
Unrestricted net assets	\$6,838,603
Restricted net assets	\$5,209,720
Total net assets	\$12,048,323

Condensed Statement of Activities

Revenue*

Donations	\$4,406,555
Grants	\$788,500
Corporate support	\$568,590
Program revenue	\$2,275,561
Interest and other income	\$190,508
Change in value, long term assets (investments)	\$624,299
Total revenue*	\$8,854,013

**Consistent with generally accepted accounting principles, WTA recognizes the full value of multi-year pledges in the year they are confirmed.*

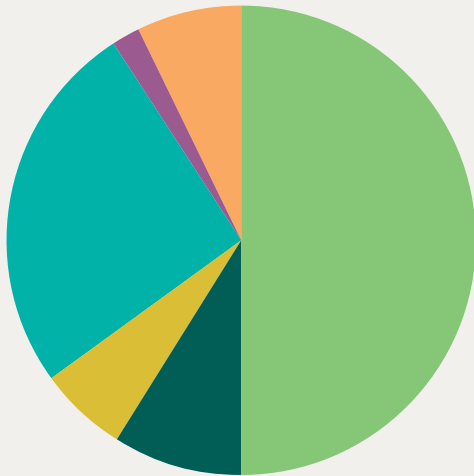
Expenses

Program services	\$7,109,928
General administration	\$818,445
Fundraising	\$657,281
Total expenses	\$8,585,654

Financial information has been derived from Washington Trails Association's financial statements. Visit wta.org/financials for the most recent audited financial statements.



WTA's gear libraries are stocked with outdoor essentials for our OLT participants to borrow. Photo by Scott Kranz.



Revenue

- Individual donations **50%**
- Grants **9%**
- Corporate support **6%**
- Contracts and program revenue **26%**
- Other income **2%**
- Investments **7%**

Ways members are investing in WTA's mission



\$189,411

donated by **1,457 hikers** and donors through Hike-a-Thon

\$439,500

given by **2,412 monthly donors**, with monthly gifts ranging from \$1 to \$500

2,755

Fireside donors (gifts of \$500-\$4,999)

201

Leadership donors (gifts of \$5,000 or more)

2,674

new donors **giving \$257,793** — welcome!

880

people donating a total of **\$244,687** through their workplace

9,827

donors have been giving to WTA for more than **5 years**

6,642

donors have been giving to WTA for more than **10 years**

460

donors have been giving to WTA for more than **25 years**



Hike-a-Thoners sharing "Miles" (WTA's marmot mascot) and smiles while out on trail.

Photos courtesy Hailey Knigge, Krithika Sankaranarayanan and Susan Saul



Thank you for your generous support and for your investment in trails, hikers and public lands!