

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



LAYING A FOUNDATION

Rehabiliting a historic space and allowing the Alliance to grow.

If you walked past the Maurice Stephens House on a hike in the Grand Parade this past year, you didn't see a foundation being laid. You probably didn't see any construction activity. Even so, I have worked on laying the "foundation" for this project, the Alliance's new home, every single day of the year.

Transforming a vacant historic structure in the heart of the park into an appropriately vibrant and welcoming place, all by working hand-in-hand with the National Park Service (NPS), requires that level of commitment. The intense work shared by park staff and a cast of skilled Alliance volunteers and professionals has brought us to the point where you will see construction and completion of the project in 2023.

Early in 2022, with guidance from Red Bridge Group (an organization that has led some of the biggest and best projects in national parks around the country), our Park and Alliance team built a strong framework that would make it possible to overcome any obstacle that might arise. By the end of the year, the Alliance met all of the NPS requirements set out at the beginning of the project.

We negotiated and signed a 40-year lease with the NPS and another lease with ANEU Kitchen, our wonderful café operator. Together, we designed a café that can successfully function in an incredibly smalland historic space.

Lastly, we raised \$515,000 to demonstrate to the NPS that we have construction funds in hand to build an addition that will provide accessible restrooms, ramps, and deck seating.

All of this behind-the-scenes work consumed an inordinate amount of time and energy. The NPS had faith in us, and everyone on the team went above and beyond to get us to where we are now.

So, finally, in 2023, the construction fencing is up and you will see progress. Later this year, the Alliance will welcome YOU to our new home, a place where all will be welcome to rest, rejuvenate, enjoy refreshments, and revel in the wonder of OUR park.

Even though you cannot see it, the foundation has been laid – a strong foundation that will enable the Alliance to fulfill its mission of inspiring appreciation for and citizen stewardship of Valley Forge Park in a new and powerful way for years to come.

In partnership,

Molly Duffy Executive Director

Wolly Duffy



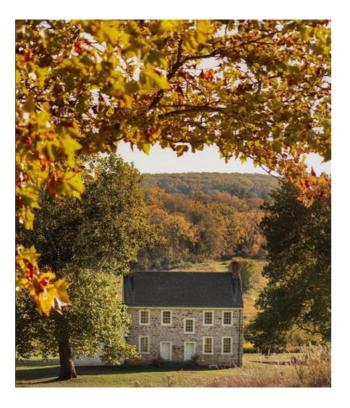


STILL REVOLUTIONARY

An extraordinary place, helped by extraordinary citizen stewards.

My husband and I raised our family on the edge of Valley Forge National Historical Park, on Mount Misery. Every day, hikers, dog walkers, and trail runners go by my backyard. When I am gardening, I can hear muted conversations and laughter. My dogs announce the presence of hikers with boisterous enthusiasm. I love it when the horses come through, transporting my mind to the winter of 1777–78: did the Continental Army bring horses up on Mount Misery?

Valley Forge National Historical Park is still a strategic piece of land in 2023. We are a huge economic driver to southeastern Pennsylvania and the Commonwealth as a whole, attracting roughly two million people in 2021. The park has the largest meadow system in southeastern Pennsylvania, the carefully maintained Grand Parade Meadow, which is host to an abundance of wildlife and will soon be the backdrop to our new home at the Maurice Stephens House.



As this goes to print, the circa 1816 Maurice Stephens farmhouse will go under construction. In a few short months, it will be our new headquarters. Meredith Coyle and her team from ANEU Kitchen will operate our café. We will have outdoor seating, meeting spaces, and rentable space for small parties. We will increase our programming. Our reach as citizen stewards of this great park will extend even further.

Getting to this point has not been easy. The VFPA Board of Directors and our Executive Director have been working with the National Park Service and VFNHP behind the scenes for years on this project. Once we went public, you embraced us and supported us through financial donations, Capital Campaign Fund donations, membership, and volunteering.

We don't have a large, paid staff at the VFPA – most of our work happens through our faithful volunteers. Whether it is fixing wreaths on a cold December morning, hosting home school days, wading in Valley Creek looking for crayfish, searching the Muster Roll, guiding bird walks, managing our website, planning the Speaker Series, or helping with newsletters and appeal letters, our volunteers are always there when we ask, and for that we are truly grateful.

I welcome you to read our annual report. I am very proud of what the citizen stewards of the Valley Forge Park Alliance have accomplished this year, and I look forward to welcoming you to our new home in Valley Forge National Historical Park next fall.

We are still revolutionary,

aug 7. John

Amy F. Johnson Board Chair



2023-26 STRATEGIC PLAN

A map for the Alliance's exciting future, with a focus on citizen stewardship.

The Valley Forge Park Alliance has many ingredients for a bright future. Alliance leaders are thinking big, seeing the organization as growing and vibrant, and willing to take risks. Many organizations that struggle do so because they don't take chances and they don't look to a greater future. This is a time for optimism and for being willing to make changes in the current operational style. The three-legged stool of success for Friends groups consists of a strong board, capable professional leadership, and a strong relationship with National Park Service leaders. The Alliance has all of this and is ready to take a big step forward, creating the next phase of an organization that protects and promotes one of America's great historical stories and a beautiful, natural site for recreation.

Our Mission

To inspire appreciation for and citizen stewardship of Valley Forge National Historical Park.

Our Work

An independent, nonprofit organization, Valley Forge Park Alliance supports Valley Forge National Historical Park by creating programs that facilitate education, volunteering, and exploring the park. The Alliance serves as the Friends group for the park and relies on fundraising for its operation and for the funding it contributes to the park. The Alliance is committed to marshaling the many ways that citizen stewards support Valley Forge to ensure the park is a beautiful gathering place of inspiration, refuge, and commemoration for generations to come.

Special thanks to longtime Alliance board member Mimi Gleason for leading us through the strategic planning process. Interested in reading the whole plan? Email us at info@vfparkalliance.org.



2023-26 STRATEGIC PLAN

A map for the Alliance's exciting future, with a focus on citizen stewardship.

Our Park

Valley Forge National Historical Park is one of the gems of the national park system. Its inspirational story makes the park a national treasure, set in a serene oasis of meadows and forests that is a valued recreational spot for local residents and out of town visitors alike.

As noted in the park's 2019 Foundation Document, Valley Forge truly is a citizen's park — created by citizens to preserve a significant and meaningful place that had inspired the Continental Army. Since the park's initial founding over a century ago, and continuing since its establishment as a national park in 1976, citizens have come together many times to advocate for it and to protect its important resources. The tradition of citizen stewardship continues today through the Valley Forge Park Alliance.

Our Goals

Complete the renovation of the Maurice Stephens House and maximize its potential for expanding the Alliance's visibility to the community, ability to support the park, and opportunities for earned income.

Enhance the Alliance's ability to raise money for the park and the Alliance.

Focus program efforts on communication and education that builds the Valley Forge community.

Build the infrastructure of the Alliance in the areas of finance, office support, fund development, project/program management, and board leadership.



ABOUT THE STEPHENS HOUSE PROJECT

The Maurice Stephens House is located on the edge of the Grand Parade, the training grounds for the Continental Army in 1777 and 1778 and a significant landscape associated with the encampment at Valley Forge.

Though built after the encampment, the Maurice Stephens house is a beautiful historic stone building located at a key access point to the Grand Parade trail system. The Grand Parade is a destination for park visitors, offering a newly designed trail system that allows visitors to immerse themselves in the history and beauty of the region's largest meadow complex.

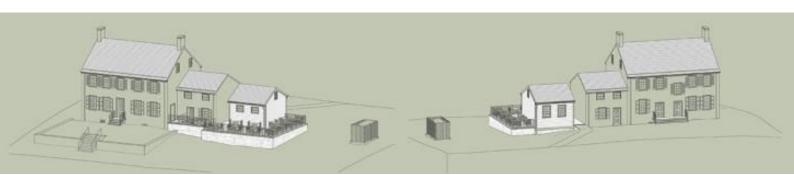
The Maurice Stephens house has been vacant for many years and the National Park Service (NPS) is excited to partner with the Valley Forge Park Alliance to provide key services to the public through the adaptive re-use of the building and grounds at this gateway destination. Services will include:

- Accessible restrooms
- Accessible access to the first floor of the building
- Café operated by ANEU Kitchen of Paoli, PA offering food and drinks
- New space for public programs and small private events
- Improved parking and wayfinding for the Grand Parade trail system
- Headquarters for VFPA operations

FEBRUARY 2023 FALL 2023 WINTER 2023

The National Park Service begins work on the rehabilitation of the Maurice Stephens House. VFPA construction begins.

The rehabilitated Maurice Stephens House is scheduled to open.



THE FUTURE OF

MEMBERSHIP

The Valley Forge Park Alliance unveiled a new, streamlined membership program in 2022 with four household membership levels based on financial commitment starting at \$60: Patron, Grand Patron, Benefactor, and Friend's Circle. This new platform was accompanied by a new membership branding campaign targeting residents in our surrounding community by appealing for their support if they use the park in any way.

In accordance with the National Park Service's efforts to reduce its environmental impact through its operations, the Alliance also adopted a new digital membership card as part of its effort to rely on electronic communications for all membership correspondence. Also new to the membership program at the end of 2022 was the Perks of Membership. This program will serve to strengthen not only the Alliance's relationships with our business partners in the surrounding community, but also provides valuable monthly discounts and benefits for members in appreciation for their support of the Valley Forge Park Alliance. Members will simply present their digital VFPA card stored in their Apple Wallet or on their phone to redeem the Perks benefits. Additional membership benefits include invitations to the newly renovated Visitor Center, courtesy bird and trail walks, Bark Ranger inductions of canine friends, free or discounted admission to Alliance events, reciprocal free access to over 1,100 other cultural organizations, and more.



The new membership branding campaign, appealing to all kinds of park users.



An example of a new digital membership card.

THE MUSTER ROLL

About the Muster Roll

The Valley Forge Muster Roll Committee is dedicated to preserving the history of those who wintered with General Washington at Valley Forge from December 19, 1777, to June 19, 1778. The numerous authenticated additions since the launch of the Muster Roll in 2011 have helped translate into VFPA memberships and an overall positive image for both the Muster Roll and the VFPA.

2022 in Review

We're pleased to report an increase in both donations and income over last year, with certificates and mugs making up the bulk of Muster Roll sales. We also launched a revamped website, which took a long time, much effort, and additional funds to get us there. We appreciate all your support!





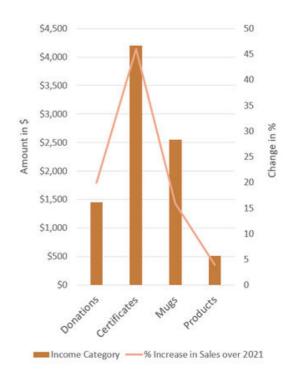
An ancestor's distinguished heritage can be commemorated by purchasing a personalized Muster Roll Certificate or Mug.

Looking Forward

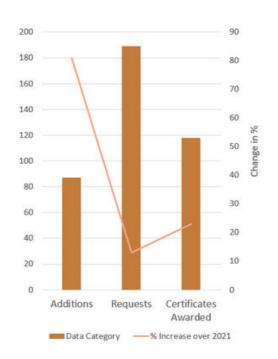
The Muster Roll has big plans for 2023. We'll work with our key partners, the Society of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge and chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and continue to research and add new names ourselves. We'll explore more ways to promote the Muster Roll, including events and improved marketing. We'll continue to improve our website to further remember and honor those brave individuals who encamped at Valley Forge.

Muster Roll Income 2022

\$8,721 28% overall increase



Muster Roll Data 2022 28,916 entries to date

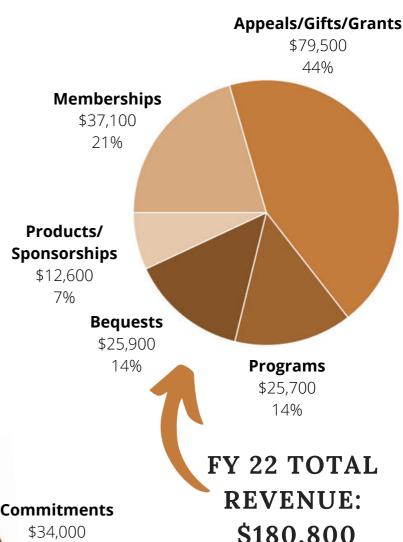


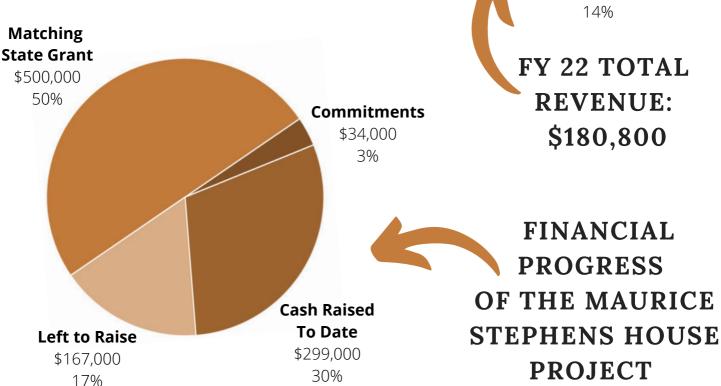
OUR CURRENT STATE

A financial update for FY 2022 and the Maurice Stephens House project.

Fiscal Year 2022 saw the Valley Forge Park Alliance in excellent financial shape. With \$180,800 in total revenue and \$166,000 in total expenses, we had a \$14,800 operating surplus.

We've been working extremely hard to raise money for our new home, the Maurice Stephens House. We have over 80% of the money in-hand or committed, with only \$167,000 left to raise. If you'd like to help us cross that finish line, visit vfparkalliance.org/donate-today.





OUR DONORS

Thank you to our donors, who help us fulfill our mission every day.

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The VFPA outgrew its current website, and with funding from a National Park Foundation Capacity Building grant, we moved to a new website that can grow with us when we move into the Maurice Stephens House.

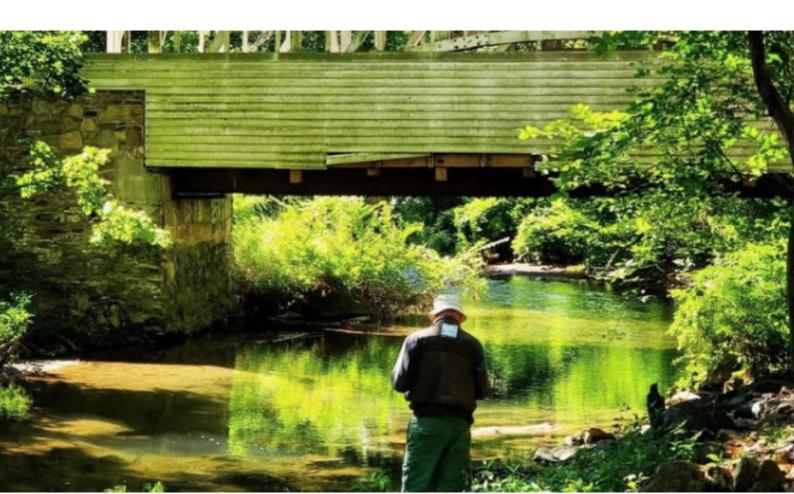
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Special thanks to Judith A. Grubb, James J. Kelly, Washington Memorial Chapel, the Office of Rep. Madeleine Dean, Park Ranger Beth Dhunjisha, Richard J. Tickner, Robert Siravo, Karen Hood DelRaso, and Jacki Steel for the beautiful images you've seen in this report.



LEADERSHIP PAGE 19

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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