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Will Conklin *Executive Director* 

Elia Del Molino Conservation Director, Deputy Director

Bob Dileo April Hill Farm Livestock Manager

Karen Faveau Business Director

Georgie Godfrey *Trails Coordinator* 

Cynthia Gray Education Director

Sarah Monteiro *April Hill Farm Director* 

Samantha Halley Suters Development Director, Deputy Director

Leslie Svilokos Property Manager

Yuri Whitehead Pathways to the Trades Director

Maeve Wilber Farm Crew Coordinator

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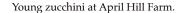


Farm Crew setting up Front Lawn Food demonstration gardens at April Hill.



Farm Crew harvesting greens.







Fresh radishes at April Hill.



A job done well requires preparation and planning.

Though not always the most enjoyable part of a project, it's an ethic and skill that we try to improve in our organization and for the young people we serve. Our recent strategic planning felt like a bit of a slog at times, not unlike scraping away layers of old paint or weeding and prepping garden beds in the spring—you know something beautiful is right around the corner but the work at hand feels, well, ponderous.

As a staff and board, one of the primary intentions that came out of this process was to bring even more youth and community to the treasure that is April Hill Conservation and Education Center. Owners and stewards since 2019, Greenagers already brings over 500 folks here annually but that feels like we're just scratching the surface. We want more kids, more school groups from near and far, more community programming—to share all that comprises April Hill.

We would not be here but for Mary Margaret Kellogg's vision of April Hill as an education space. More specifically, she called it a "healing place," a term that our Property Manager, Leslie, has taken to using and is fast becoming part of our vernacular here. My mind perched in a more clinical space with this word, healing, until I looked up the etymology of "heal": to make whole. It seems to me that there is a great deal of need for wholeness these days.

We certainly don't aim or claim to make everyone whole that comes to April Hill or participates in Greenagers programming, but I reckon that everyone leaves a little more whole than when they arrived. Maybe they received a garden to grow vegetables, maybe they got a job and now have skills to bolster their self-worth, perhaps they split some firewood that will go to a deserving family. The opportunities for healing are myriad and they start with you, our donors, continue to our staff and community youth, and on to the community at large with beautiful trails, healthy food, and skillful and inspired youth. It's the whole circle. Thank you for adding your piece.

Will Conklin Executive Director

# 2022 by the numbers

- 63 youth employed on trail & farm crews
- 2 new trail miles built
- 10 trail miles rehabilitated or cleared
- 16 days clearing invasive plants
- 4 footbridges
- 75 stone staircase steps
- 200 culverts surveyed
- 197 days of trail crew work
- 14 helping hands crew days
- 6 youth participants in Pathways to the Trades
- 106 youth volunteers
- 92 April Hill workshop attendees
- 50 student attendees at 1st annual Women in Conservation & Agriculture conference
- 38 new Front Lawn Food gardens installed
- 13 Front Lawn Food gardens donated to families in need
- 47 middle school students engaged in Climate Action environmental education program
- 10 pre-K and K students engaged in nature exploration and environmental education
- 7949.75 pounds of food harvested and distributed
- 1 Strategic Plan for sustainable growth and development for Greenagers

#### A Plan for the Future

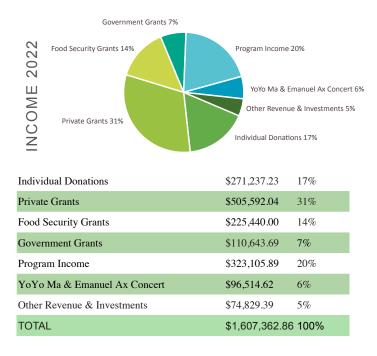
2023 marks the tenth anniversary for Greenagers as an independent organization. Executive Director Will Conklin's vision for a place where young people can work together outdoors on behalf of the community and learn important life skills along the way has been realized thanks to the generous support of our partners and donors.

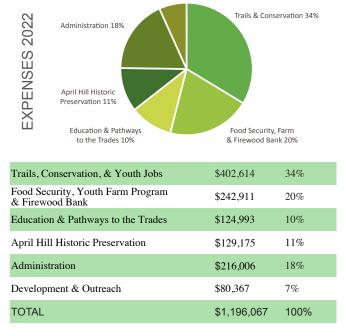
With growth and success comes the responsibility to ensure that the organization continues to thrive and adapt to the changing needs of the community. To this end, the board of directors engaged Empower Success Corps, a consulting firm in Boston, to help us develop a 5-year strategic plan. With an eye toward managed growth and determining the best way to serve the most area teens, we embarked on a 6-month effort that involved an assessment of Greenagers' strengths and weaknesses as well as opportunities for growth and improvement. With input from the teens we serve, their parents, our partners, and the community at large, we identified three areas of strategic focus moving forward:

- 1. Maximize the impact of our programming for teens and young adults given our organization's size and scale.
- 2. Ensure long term fiscal health.
- 3. Establish sound operating practices and an organizational structure that ensures the growth and longevity of the organization and its ability to scale in the delivery of its mission.

Tied to each of these goals are a series of strategies and tactics that will guide our work for the next five years. Thanks to this effort, and to you, our donors, we look forward to serving even more area teens and their families and continuing our important work in the community.

David Sheehan President and Chairman of the Board





Development & Outreach 7%









GIFTS IN TRIBUTE

# we honor them we remember them

Lorna & Daniel Edmundson in honor of Cheryl Sleboda Mark Benerofe in memory of David Epstein Shari Clemens in memory of David Epstein Rhonda Davidson & Kevin Sossin in memory of David Epstein Herbert & Carol Diamond in memory of David Epstein Martin & Nancy Engels in memory of David Epstein Veronica Fisher in memory of David Epstein Paul & Joan Gluck in memory of David Epstein Alyssa Goldstein in memory of David Epstein Sanford Horowitz in memory of David Epstein Michael & Margie Kopiec in memory of David Epstein Esther Levine in memory of David Epstein Barbara & Ken Mahler in memory of David Epstein Joan & Ed Mahler in memory of David Epstein Steve & Michele Mestman in memory of David Epstein Ellen & Allen Rosenblatt in memory of David Epstein Lawrence & Bette Sue Rosenthal in memory of David Epstein Heidi Schwartz in memory of David Epstein Stephen & Phyllis Schwartz in memory of David Epstein Kathy & Joel Segall in memory of David Epstein Joanne & Marty Suskin in memory of David Epstein

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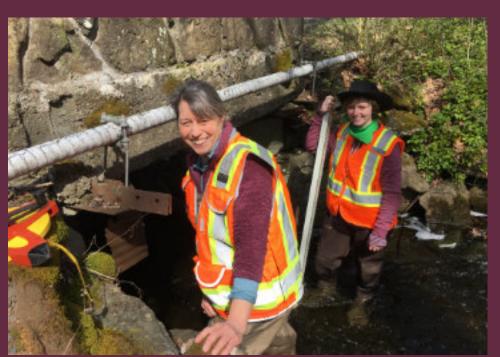
Carissa Mann & Scott Race Mort & Suzanne Marvin

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George Milukas & Lila Pope



Georgie Godfrey and Alison Dixon (HVA) in a stream.

### Youth Make Municipalities More Resilient

Over the course of nine months, nine youth from Berkshire County were recruited, trained, and paid to survey waterways and road-crossing infrastructure for structural integrity, flood risk, and habitat connectivity. Working with project partners including the Housatonic Valley Association, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, and the Towns of Stockbridge and Lenox, and City of Pittsfield, youth were trained and certified to measure and evaluate over 250 culverts and bridges -- all of the road-stream crossings in the towns of Stockbridge, Lenox, and Pittsfield. The product of this crew's work provides towns a better sense of what road-stream crossing infrastructure is most likely to wash out in extreme weather events and where there may be an opportunity to reconnect critical wildlife habitat. You can read about the successes of the culvert crew (aka the conservation crew, aka culvert ops, aka the bridge troll crew) and the rest of the project here <a href="https://www.iberkshires.com/story/69156/MVP-Grant-Funds-Flood-Resiliency-in-Berkshire-County.html">https://www.iberkshires.com/story/69156/MVP-Grant-Funds-Flood-Resiliency-in-Berkshire-County.html</a>.

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Lydia Woodward
Nathan Yaple

Barbara Zheutlin & Jonathan Hankin

Jon Zucker





Participants at the first annual Women in Agriculture and Conservation conference, hosted at April Hill.

"I learned about different tools - what they do and how they are used. I learned about invasives and their impact and why they are harmful. I learned fun new riddles to tell other people while hiking. I learned that work isn't easy, but it's very fulfilling once you finish a project. I learned that teamwork goes a long way."

- 2022 Crew Member

### Longtime Greenager Promoted to Trails Coordinator

After six years working with seasonal trail crews Georgie Godfrey was promoted to the full-time year round position of Trails Coordinator at Greenagers. Georgie and Greenagers first ran into each other six years ago when, while volunteering on the River Walk in Great Barrington, she talked at length about her algae studies at Simon's Rock and expressed an interest in maintaining the trail on a more regular basis. Since then she's run crews constructing rock staircases on the Appalachian Trail, built new tread for land trusts, and collected environmental data for municipalities.



# thank you to the Monday Mountain Boys

Michael P. Albert
Mark Almansky & Susan Erdos
Bob Baum & Brenda Curtis
Alan & Judy Benjamin
Stanley Brown
Daniel & Carole Burack
Laurence Cohen
Malcolm Douglas Jr.

Burton L Edelstein
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David Whitehead
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Dr. Charles Wohl & Alba Passerini







Trail Crew Leaders getting ready for the season during Training Week.

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Alford-Egremont Cultural Council

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Pathways to the Trades participants building our greenhouse and chicken tractors.

## thank you to our community partners

Alford Garden Club
Alford Land Trust

Appalachian Mountain Club
Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Arrowhead

Arthur's Point Farm
Bard College Simon's Rock
Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA
Berkshire Agricultural Ventures

Berkshire Bounty

Berkshire Community Action Council Berkshire Correctional Facilities Berkshire Environmental Action Team

Berkshire Health Systems

Berkshire Hills Regional School District

Berkshire Music School

Berkshire Natural Resources Council Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Berkshire School

Berkshire South Regional Community Center

Berkshire Waldorf School Berkshire Waldorf High School Bidwell House Museum

City of Pittsfield

Community Health Programs (CHP)
Columbia Land Conservancy

Construct, Inc.

Corner Food Pantry Lakeville, CT

**Egremont Land Trust** 

Farmington River Elementary Festival Latino of the Berkshires

Flying Cloud Institute Flying Deer Nature Center

French Park

Girls, Inc of the Berkshires

Gould Farm

Great Barrington Land Conservancy Great Barrington Rotary Club Hancock Shaker Museum Hancock Shaker Village Hevreh of Southern Berkshire High Spirit Community Farm

Hoffmann Bird Club

Housatonic River Walk (GBLC)

Housatonic Heritage

**Housatonic Valley Association** 

Housatonic Valley Regional High School

Husky Meadows Farm Indian Line Farm Jacob's Pillow Kiwanis Club of Otis

Lake Mansfield Alliance (GBLC)

Laurel Hill Association

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Network for Good

New Marlborough Land Trust Norman Rockwell Museum

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People's Pantry of Great Barrington Pittsfield Community Gardens

Pittsfield High School

Railroad Street Youth Project Richmond Consolidated School Roeliff Jansen Community Library

Sheffield Boy Scouts Sheffield Farmers Market Sheffield Land Trust Sky View Farm

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Town of West Stockbridge

**Trout Unlimited** 

Unitarian Meeting of Southern Berkshires Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area

Volunteers in Medicine Berkshires

Wahconah High School Woven Roots Farm

"My daughter gained an appreciation for work ethic. She got up 2 hours before work to get ready and make her own lunch. She liked learning new skills with each different job. She also got to experience what it is like working with different personalities and how you have to put differences aside and get the job done." 2022 Crew Member Parent



#### **OUR MISSION**

Greenagers works to inspire teens and young adults to develop deep connections to land, work, and community. We prepare youth for success in work and life by offering paid jobs and education in the areas of conservation, sustainable farming, and related trades.

62 Undermountain Rd. PO Box 157 | S. Egremont, MA 01258 (413) 644-9090 | greenagers.org





**OUR VISION** 

Climate Action participants building bird houses from scratch.

Greenagers envisions a culture of community where young people work together to restore forests and fields, grow food, and build spaces that support natural systems and sustainability.

To realize this vision, we work to get young people outside; working with their hands; talking to each other and their elders; listening, leading, and learning. We believe that this work is foundational and the heart of a culture that values education, stewardship, and community.