Great Parks Forever

Great Parks Forever | WILD IDEAS WELL FUNDED

Financial Statements

December 31, 2023

PLATTENBURG
Certified Public Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Directors
Great Parks Forever

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Great Parks Forever (a nonprofit organization), a component unit of Great Parks of Hamilton County, which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2023, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization as of December 31, 2023, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Organization and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

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In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.

- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 10, 2024, on our consideration of the Organization's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Great Parks Forever's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Plattenburg & Associates, Inc.

Plattenburg & Associates, Inc.
Cincinnati, Ohio
May 10, 2024

GREAT PARKS FOREVER
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
December 31, 2023

	2023
ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	$1,557,624
Pledges receivable	4,595,791
Investments	11,088,055
Beneficial interest in perpetual trust	1,454,778
TOTAL ASSETS	$18,696,248
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	$6,816
TOTAL LIABILITIES	$6,816
NET ASSETS	
Without donor restrictions	10,968,190
With donor restrictions	7,721,242
TOTAL NET ASSETS	18,689,432
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	$18,696,248

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

GREAT PARKS FOREVER
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
REVENUES, GAINS, & OTHER SUPPORT			
Grants, contributions and sponsorships	$1,300,989	$1,717,842	$3,018,831
Nonfinancial contributions	119,738	0	119,738
Investment income (loss), net	1,184,842	80,594	1,265,436
Other income	278	0	278
Net assets released from restrictions:			
Satisfaction of program restrictions	699,357	(699,357)	0
TOTAL REVENUES, GAINS, & OTHER SUPPORT	3,305,204	1,099,079	4,404,283
EXPENSES			
Great Parks of Hamilton County support	695,211	0	695,211
Nonfinancial expenses	119,738	0	119,738
Services and professional fees	250,681	0	250,681
Advertising fees	4,765	0	4,765
Supplies, printing, and postage	4,333	0	4,333
Insurance	1,498	0	1,498
Software licenses and support	4,874	0	4,874
Miscellaneous	52,999	0	52,999
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,134,099	0	1,134,099
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS	2,171,105	1,099,079	3,270,184
NON-OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)			
Change in value of perpetual trust	0	134,137	134,137
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	2,171,105	1,233,216	3,404,321
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR, RESTATED	8,797,085	6,488,026	15,285,111
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	$10,968,190	$7,721,242	$18,689,432

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

GREAT PARKS FOREVER

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	2023
Cash Flows From Operating Activities:	
Change in Net Assets	$3,404,321
Adjustments To Reconcile Changes in Net Assets	
To Net Cash Provided (Used) By Operating Activities:	
Unrealized (gains) / losses on investments	(1,112,964)
Change in value of perpetual trust	(134,137)
(Increase) decrease in pledges receivable	(729,419)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	6,816
Total Adjustments	(1,969,704)
Net Cash Provided (Used) By Operating Activities	1,434,617
Cash Flows From Investing Activities:	
Sale of investments	2,444,440
Purchase of investments	(2,691,652)
Net Cash Provided (Used) By Investing Activities	(247,212)
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,187,405
Cash and Equivalents at Beginning of Year	370,219
Cash and Equivalents at End of Year	$1,557,624
Schedule of noncash activities:	
Nonfinancial contributions	$119,738

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

Note 1 - Description of the Organization

Great Parks Forever's (the Organization) financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The Organization is a not-for-profit organization established in accordance with Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Organization operates under a Board of Directors with twelve members. The Organization was formed with the sole purpose of assisting Great Parks of Hamilton County in protecting and enhancing regional park land and providing outstanding outdoor recreation and nature education services.

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Financial Statement Presentation
The Organization has adopted the provisions of FASB Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) No. 958 *Not-for-Profit Entities*. Under ASC No. 958 the Organization is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to two classes of net assets as follows:

> **Without Donor Restrictions**
> Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions (donors include other types of contributors, including makers of certain grants).
>
> **With Donor Restrictions**
> Net assets that are subject to donor-imposed restrictions (donors include other types of contributors, including makers of certain grants).

When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction expires or purpose restriction is accomplished, net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the Statement of Activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Organization considers all highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Investments

The Organization reports investments in accordance with ASC No. 958-320, *Accounting for Certain Investments Held by Not-for-Profit Organizations*. Investments in marketable securities with readily determined fair values and all investments in debt securities are reported at their fair values in the Statement of Net Assets. Unrealized gains and losses are included in the change in net assets. Investments of the net assets without donor restrictions and net assets with donor restrictions are pooled for making investment transactions and are carried at fair value. Interest and dividend income, as well as realized and unrealized gains and losses, are allocated to each net asset class.

Pledges Receivable

Pledges received, including unconditional promises to give, are recognized as revenue by net asset class when the donor's commitment is received. Unconditional promises are recognized at the estimated present value of the future cash flows, net of allowances. Unconditional promises designated for future periods or restricted by the donor for specific purposes are reported as restricted support. However, if a restriction is fulfilled in the same time period in which the contribution is received, the Organization reports the support as without donor restrictions. Conditional promises are recognized when the donor conditions are substantially met.

For unconditional promises to give noncash assets, the Organization records the fair value of the underlying asset at the date of initial recognition as pledges receivable. Subsequent changes in fair value of such noncash assets after the date of initial recognition are recorded as adjustments to pledges receivable and as contibutions revenue by either increasing or decreasing the net asset class in which the original contribution was recorded. This could result in negative contribution revenue being reported.

Deferred Revenue

Deferred revenue results from various fundraising activities. It represents amounts received from sponsors, vendors, and sales of admission tickets in advance. Deferred revenue is recognized as revenue in the period that the fundraising activity actually occurs.

Deferred revenue results when cash or other assets are received before donor conditions are substantially met.

Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and related notes. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

Note 3 – Investments

The various investments in fixed income securities, mutual funds and other investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market fluctuations, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in values of investment securities could occur in the near term and those changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the financial statements.

The Organization determines the fair market values of its financial instruments based on the fair value hierarchy established ASC No. 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, which requires an entity to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. Observable inputs are inputs that reflect the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on market data obtained from sources independent of the reporting entity. Unobservable inputs are inputs that reflect the Organization's own assumptions based on market data and on assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on the best information available in the circumstances. The Standard describes three levels within its hierarchy that may be used to measure fair value:

Level 1 Inputs: Quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the entity has the ability to access as of the measurement date.

Level 2 Inputs: Significant other observable inputs other than Level 1 quoted prices such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data.

Level 3 Inputs: Significant unobservable inputs that reflect a reporting entity's own assumptions about the assumptions that market participants would rise in pricing an asset or liability.

The fair value of investments held by the Organization at December 31, 2023 is summarized as follows:

Investment Type	Quoted Prices In Active Markets For Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Common Stock	$2,973,545	$0	$0
US Treasuries/Agency Securities	1,350,179	0	0
Corporate Bonds	0	1,399,917	0
Municipal Bonds	64,305	0	0
Exchange Traded Funds	98,096	0	0
Mutual Funds - Equity Securities	3,785,330	0	0
Mutual Funds - Fixed Income	1,075,392	0	0
Certificate of Deposits	0	0	0
Other Investments	328,074	13,217	0
Total	$9,674,921	$1,413,134	$0

Note 4 - Pledges Receivable

Unconditional promises to give are included in the financial statements as pledges receivable and contributions of the appropriate net asset category. Unconditional promises to give that are expected to be collected within one year are recorded at net realizable value. Unconditional promises to give that are expected to be collected in future years are recorded at the present value of their estimated future cash flows. The discount rate on those amounts is computed using a risk free interest rate applicable to the years in which the promises are to be received. The amortization of the discount is included in contributions revenue. For the year ended December 31, 2023 there were unconditional promises that required amortization.

Unconditional promises to give noncash assets are reported as pledges receivable at fair value of the underlying asset at year end, if applicable.

Conditional promises to give are not included as support until conditions of those promises have been met. For the year ended December 31, 2023 there were no conditional promises.

Unconditional promises to give consist of the following at December 31:

	2023
Receivable in less than one year	790,000
Receivable in one to eight years	4,385,000
Total unconditional pledge receivables	5,175,000
Less discounts to net present value	(579,209)
	4,595,791

Note 5 – Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trust at Fair Value

The Organization is the beneficiary under a perpetual trust administered by an outside party. Under the terms of this trust, the Organization has the irrevocable right to receive income earned on the trust assets in perpetuity, but never receives the assets held in trust.

Due to the nature of the valuation inputs, the interest in perpetual trust is classified within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy. The estimated value of the expected future cash flows is $1,454,778, which represents the fair value of the trust at December 31, 2023. Distributed earnings from the trust for 2023 was $65,904.

The following table is a reconciliation of all assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis using quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets in active markets as fair value (Level 3) at December 31:

Balance, December 31, 2022	$1,320,641
Change in value of trust	134,137
Balance, December 31, 2023	$1,454,778

Note 6 - Net Assets with Donor Restrictions

Net assets with donor restrictions are available for the following purposes or periods:

Dog Park	$	20,296	
Land Acquisition & Preservation		1,474,488	*
Legacy Tree		500	
Legacy Beach		325	
Park & Program Support		6,059,564	
Recreation		403	
Volunteer Management		2,000	
Donor restricted endowment supporting dog parks - Mablotz		163,666	
Total	$	7,721,242	

* Includes Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trust – see Note 5

Donor-Restricted Endowment Fund

The Organization's Mablotz endowment fund was established to support Great Parks of Hamilton County's dog parks. The original pledge to the endowment fund is a donor restriction that stipulates the original principal is to be held and invested by the Organization indefinitely, and income from the fund and future pledge are to be expended for dog parks. As required by generally accepted accounting principles, net assets associated with the endowment fund are classified and reported based on the existence of donor imposed restrictions.

At December 31, 2023, the endowment fund is composed of the following:

Endowment fund balance	$163,666
Amount required to be invested in perpetuity	(100,000)
Amount available for appropriation for dog park	$63,666

Interpretation of UPMIFA: The Organization has interpreted the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act ("UPMIFA") as requiring the preservation of the fair value of the original gift as of the gift date of the donor-restricted endowment funds absent explicit donor stipulations to the contrary.

As a result of this interpretation, the Organization classifies as perpetual in nature (a) the original value of gifts donated to the permanent endowment, (b) the original value of subsequent gifts to the permanent endowment, and (c) accumulations to the permanent endowment made in accordance with the direction of the applicable donor gift instrument at the time the accumulation is added to the fund. The remaining portion of the donor-restricted endowment fund that is not classified as perpetual in nature is classified as purpose or time restricted until those amounts are appropriated for expenditure by the Organization in a manner consistent with the standard of prudence prescribed by UPMIFA.

In accordance with UPMIFA, the Organization considers the following factors in making a determination to appropriate or accumulate donor-restricted endowment funds:

a. The duration and preservation of the fund
b. The purposes of the organization and the donor-restricted endowment fund
c. General economic conditions
d. The possible effect of inflation and deflation
e. The expected total return from income and the appreciation of investments
f. Other resources of the organization
g. The investment policies of the organization

Funds with Deficiencies: From time to time, the fair value of assets associated with individual donor restricted endowment funds may fall below the level that the donor or UPMIFA requires the Organization to retain as a fund of perpetual duration. The Organization had no such deficiencies as of December 31, 2023.

The changes in endowment net assets for the year ending December 31, 2023 are as follows:

Endowment net assets, January 1, 2023	$149,059
Contributions	4,147
Investment return net	10,778
Amounts appropriated for expenditure	(318)
Endowment net assets, December 31, 2023	$163,666

Note 7 – Expense Disclosures

	Program Activities	Supporting Activities			
	Parks Support	Management and General	Fund-Raising	Supporting Total	Total Expenses
Great Parks of Hamilton County Support	$695,211	$0	$0	$0	$695,211
Nonfinancial Expenses	0	71,843	47,895	119,738	119,738
Services and Professional Fees	0	131,869	118,812	250,681	250,681
Advertising Fees	0	0	4,765	4,765	4,765
Supplies, Printing, and Postage	0	0	4,333	4,333	4,333
Insurance	0	1,498	0	1,498	1,498
Software Licenses and Support	0	2,437	2,437	4,874	4,874
Misc Expense	0	13,250	39,749	52,999	52,999
Total Expenses	$695,211	$220,897	$217,991	$438,888	$1,134,099

Some categories of expense are attributable to more than one activity and require allocation, applied on a consistent basis.

Other expenses are assigned directly to specific activities as expenditures are made.

Fundraising expenses that are related to special events have been reported net on the statement of activities, if applicable.

Note 8 - Income Taxes

The Organization is a not-for-profit corporation as described in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and the organization is exempt from federal and state income taxes.

GAAP requires the evaluation of tax positions taken or expected to be taken in the course of preparing the Organization’s tax returns to determine whether the tax positions are more likely than not of being sustained by the applicable tax authority. Tax positions not deemed to meet the more likely than not threshold would be recorded as a tax benefit or expenses in the current year. A reconciliation is not provided herein, as the beginning and ending amounts of unrecognized benefits are zero, with no interim additions, reductions, or settlements. The Organization is relying on its tax-exempt status and its adherence to all applicable laws and regulations to preserve that status. However, the conclusions regarding the uncertainty in income taxes will be subjective to review and may be adjusted at a later date based on factors including, but not limited to, ongoing analysis of tax laws, regulations, and interpretations thereof.

The Organization's informational returns filed in the U.S. federal jurisdiction are generally subject to examination for three years after the later of the due date or date of filing. As a result, the Organization is no longer subject to income tax examinations by tax authorities for years prior to 2020.

Note 9 - Subsequent Events

The Organization has evaluated events occurring between the end of its most recent fiscal year and May 10, 2024, the date the financial statements were issued.

Note 10 - Related-Party Transactions

The Organization has no employees and minimal property (other than cash and investments). Clerical and management duties are provided by Great Parks of Hamilton County (GPHC) employees, including the utilization of equipment and facilities of Great Parks of Hamilton County. The Organization and GPHC executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that outlines roles and responsibilities of both entities. This agreement requires the Organization to pay $100,000 for the use of employees, equipment and facilities, if requested by GPHC. It was not requested in 2023.

For accounting purposes ASC No. 958 requires the value of facilities and services be recognized in the Statement of Activities. For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Organization recorded $119,738 for services and facilities provided (In Kind) by GPHC.

Note 11 – Liquidity and Availability of Financial Assets

The following reflect the Organization's financial assets as of the date of the Statement of Financial Position, reduced by amounts not available for general use because of contractual or donor-imposed restrictions within one year of the financial statement date.

	2023
Cash and Cash Equivalents	$1,557,624
Pledges Receivable	4,595,791
Investments	11,088,055
	17,241,470
Less amounts unavailable for general expenditures within one year, due to:	
Donor-restricted purpose	6,166,464
Donor-restricted to maintain as an endowment	100,000
Financial assets available to meet cash needs for general expenditures within one year	$10,975,006

As part of the Organization's liquidity management, the Organization invests cash in excess of requirements in various types of investments.

Note 12 – Nonfinancial Contributions

Nonfinancial Contributions: The Foundation has no employees. Substantially all clerical, management, and fund-raising duties are presently performed by employees of GPHC. Contributions of professional services are recognized at fair value if these contributions create or enhance nonfinancial assets, and would typically need to be purchased if not provided through contributions. Contributed services are valued and are reported at the estimated fair value based on current rates for similar services.

For the year ended December 31, 2023, contributed nonfinancial assets recognized within the statement of activities included:

	2023
Fundraising	
Office Space	$ 1,680
Wages	46,216
Total Fundraising	$ 47,896
Management and General	
Office Space	$ 2,520
Wages	69,322
Total Mangement and General	$ 71,842
Total Nonfinancial Contributions	$ 119,738

Note 13 – Contingency

During 2023, the Organization received further information related to the Beneficial Interest in a Perpetual Trust (see note 5). The related estate is not settled and a claim is pending against the estate. Management believes the claim will likely reduce the Trust and the future income distributions. The trust has continued to make distributions under the terms of the trust. Based on available information, management is unable to determine an estimate of the impact of this claim.

Note 15 – New Accounting Principle and Restatement

In June 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-13, *Financial Instruments – Credit Losses (Topic 326): Measure of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments*. This guidance will replace the incurred loss impairment methodology under current GAAP with a methodology that reflects expected credit losses and requires consideration of a broader range of reasonable and supportable information to inform credit loss estimates. The Organization will be required to use a forward-looking expected credit loss model for accounts receivable, loans, and other financial instruments. Credit losses relating to available-for-sale debt securities will also be recorded through an allowance for credit losses rather than a reduction in the amortized cost basis of the securities. The implementation of ASU 2016-13 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the Organization.

Net assets as of January 1, 2023 were restated to correct pledges receivable.

	With Donor Restrictions
Net Assets Previously Reported:	$ 2,621,654
Pledges Receivable	3,866,372
Net assets restated:	$ 6,488,026