2020 ANNUAL REPORT: RESILIENCE AND HEALING
Relatives,

2020 was an extraordinary year. From the Covid-19 pandemic which touched every country on the planet, to the murder of one of our own, George Floyd, at the hands of the police, right here in the Twin Cities that sent shock waves and uprisings across the globe; we are truly living in extraordinary times. At Lower Phalen Creek Project, we have been doing the brave and necessary work at home to address our climate crisis, organize around local environmental justice issues, and promote justice and healing. 2020 gave us an opportunity to slow down our project-based work and community engagement and reflect on how and why we do our work, and who we are engaging and serving. 2020 pushed our leadership into many areas we had only talked about stepping into. We were blessed to have been able to secure PPP funds and Ramsey County Resiliency funds to keep our work moving forward. We are evolving in necessary ways while holding steadfast to our core mission, to engage people to honor and care for our natural places and the sacred sites and cultural value within them. Thank you for your unwavering support, love, encouragement, money (yes, I said it!); and hanging in with us as we shift and grow and take on the big issues facing our Uŋči Maká (mother earth) and east side communities.

We really hope you enjoy this community report and look forward to all we can accomplish together in the months and years ahead.

Maggie Lorenz
Executive Director
Lower Phalen Creek Project
Lower Phalen Creek Project (LPCP) is a 501(c)(3) Native-led environmental nonprofit serving the East Side River District area of Saint Paul. Over the past 20 years, our major projects have included the establishment and restoration of Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, creating local trail connections, and rain garden installations. One of our longest-standing efforts is the restoration – or “daylighting” – of Phalen Creek, which runs from Lake Phalen to the Mississippi, and was buried underground in a storm pipe nearly a century ago. Alongside these conservation projects, LPCP recognizes that the East Side also has deep cultural roots, in particular, as the homelands of the Dakota People. Our latest project honors these roots and the Dakota site in Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, Wakâŋ Tipi (Dwelling Place of the Sacred) with the development of Wakâŋ Tipi Center; a 9,500 sq ft cultural and environmental interpretive center to be scheduled for completion by 2023.

OUR MISSION

“Engaging people to honor and care for our natural places and the sacred sites and cultural value within them.”

Lower Phalen Creek Project offers monthly public programming in the areas of Urban Conservation and Restoration, Environmental Education, and Cultural Connections and Healing.

OUR PROGRAMS

URBAN CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

For generations, Dakota people have cared for and been cared for by this land. That relationship and knowledge is the foundation for our conservation and restoration projects. In 2020, we partnered with the City of Saint Paul, local school and youth groups, and neighborhood residents, to slow the spread of invasive species and prepare the Wakâŋ Tipi / Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary for comprehensive restoration via native plantings in coming years.

- Seeds & Snowshoes in the Sanctuary with Urban Roots
- Daylighting Phalen Creek: Community Conversation w/ Payne Phalen Community Council
- Flower Power at Phalen Creek
- Volunteer Days at Wakan Tipi with Friends of the Mississippi River
- Restore! Seed Squad Events
- Great River School Field Experience

Sarah Garton, Upper Adolescent Social Studies Guide, Great River School
Knowledge is a critical component to the protection and support of recovering ecosystems. We rely on a growing network of Native and non-Native knowledge-keepers with a passion for sharing their expertise. We work with artists, ecologists, Tribal Nations, and many other loving community members who share their cultural and traditional ecological knowledge to help us share these teachings with our community. Programs included a wonderful community event on the shores of Lake Phalen, seasonal activities like winter wildlife tracking, and regular visits from school groups of all ages.

All of our work—at Wakáŋ Tipi / Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, and throughout the East Side—takes place on Dakota land. It is our duty to honor and care for this land with the perspectives, language, and culture of Dakota people at the forefront of our work. To this end, we host a variety of programs that reinforce the relationships Indigenous people have with these spaces, including Dakota Storytelling, Plant Medicine Workshops, and Medicine Bundle making.
2020 was a difficult year to say the least. While we only had a few opportunities to gather with our friends and relatives in-person, we ended up cherishing our many virtual events just as much!

5620 people engaged in 2020

1276 people engaged during online and in-person events
3667 people engaged in event recordings
677 people engaged with our educational story strolls throughout Saint Paul parks

702 people engaged during in-person programming
574 people engaged during online and live stream events

From in-person events, online webinars, Facebook live streaming events, to video creation – we are proud to say our program engagement increased significantly and we’ve expanded our reach in ways we couldn’t have envisioned!

130 volunteers

748 hours donated

Though we had fewer opportunities to gather in-person than we would have liked, we made the most of our chances to work with the many community members who chose to volunteer their time with us! From the skilled sewing crew that hand-made beautifully decorated bags to hold our traditional medicine bundles in the spring, to those who braved the mid-summer heat to address the spread of burdock at the sanctuary, we had a lot of great helpers in 2020. Even less visible were our virtual volunteers, assisting with a variety of tasks to help LPCP develop public brochures about our programming, design plant guides, and even complete our annual report! To all our volunteers: wópida tanjka! We couldn’t have accomplished our work without you.
In the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd, we saw many people in our communities struggling to make their voices heard while confronting the dual crises of COVID-19 and state violence. In an effort to take care of both our spiritual and physical well-being, LPCP raised over $5,000 to create medicine bundles full of sage, cedar, sweetgrass, tobacco, herbal lotion, and immunity support lozenges for our frontline community protectors, volunteers, medics, and food distributors!

We distributed over 500 of these bags through our partner distribution sites at Powwow Grounds, Minneapolis American Indian Center, Nexus Community Partners, Little Earth, People’s Protection Coalition, MIGIZI, North Star Health Collective, Bdote Learning Center, and community led efforts to support Black leaders, mothers, and youth.

This project was a huge labor of love from LPCP, local organizations, and the many community members who donated medicine and volunteered their time. We want to say - phidámayayapi - thank you all so much! With your help, 500 of our community members had the ability to rely on our traditional medicines during a time of crisis.

The medicine bags brought healing to our youth and provided us a way to reconnect from our lack of connection due to COVID but most importantly that MIGIZI is still here after our destruction of our sacred space by the fire caused during the riots. Our medicine heals and will help us in bringing peace and love during this time of uncertainty.

Kelly Drummer, President, MIGIZI

MEDICINE BUNDLE PROJECT

GIFTS OF MEDICINE
- Robert Pilot
- Dream of Wild Health
- Prairie Island Indian Community
- Hannah Smith
- Black Horse Camp
- Hand Tiwahe
- Jerry and Lori Dearly

VOLUNTEERS
- Valerie Reece
- Rhiana Yazzie
- Julie Hutcheson-Downwind
- Cary Waubanasoum
- Savannah Carlson
- Laura Blue
- Vera Kanayurak Dressen
- Charissa Blue
- Juanita Espinosa
- Vivian Guerra
- Veronica Peterson-Briggs
- Leta Killer
- Stephanie Autumn
- Gabriela Spears
- Michele Fairbanks
- Jamie Ripplinger
- Mindy Heinkel
- Breanne
- Summer Dumace
- Sonyia Castillo
- Mariela Rodriguez-Gutiérrez
- Raul Aguilar Jr.
- Chester Spears
- Madison Hand
- Lucia Hernandez
For countless generations, the waterways of Imnížaska (Saint Paul) have cared for and been cared for by Minnesota’s Dakota people. Historically, Phalen Creek flowed out of Lake Phalen, meandering for about four miles through what is now the East Side of St. Paul, emptying into the Wákpa Tánŋka (Mississippi River). The creek served as a cultural and spiritual corridor for Dakota people, who made their way up the chain of lakes by canoe to White Bear Lake to gather traditional foods like psíŋ (wild rice). This waterway also nurtured newly immigrated Swedish, Italian, Polish, and Mexican communities who made their homes in Swede Hollow. When most Dakota people were exiled in the late 1800’s from their homelands and settlers expanded their presence, Phalen Creek became less and less recognizable. By the 1930’s, the creek was driven underground and piped to promote housing and development on the East Side. In 2019 LPCP completed a water feasibility study to determine the best areas to daylight the creek. Two stretches of the creek came out as most immediately possible: (1) Johnson Parkway between Maryland Avenue and Phalen Boulevard, and (2) along the Bruce Vento Regional Trail between Frank Avenue and Swede Hollow Park. Now, LPCP is working with Capitol Region Watershed District, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District and the City of Saint Paul to daylight Phalen Creek at Reach 7 and 8.

Though the Phalen Creek corridor runs through the Payne-Phalen and Dayton’s Bluff neighborhoods, few residents are aware that they live so close to this historic waterway. We are working with neighborhood district councils to engage residents living near the creek path and to ensure that these communities have access to and input on the daylighting project. In the fall of 2020, we hosted an event called Flower Power where we brought community artists and residents together at the southern outlet of Lake Phalen, where Phalen Creek begins, to envision and celebrate the value of daylighting Phalen Creek.
This project is supported by Indian Mounds Regional Park.

Our goal is to reclaim and restore this place is far underestimated. We know that the significance of engagement, and site studies, through research, community engagement, and site studies, we know that the significance of this place is far underestimated. Our goal is to reclaim and restore Dakota cultural perspective. Through research, community engagement, and site studies, we know that the significance of this place is far underestimated.

LPCP began working towards this project in 2015 by signing a development agreement with the City of St. Paul. In 2018, we were awarded $3 million in state bonding, and another $1 million in bonding was awarded in 2020. Together with a $520,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and many other gifts from private foundations and individuals, LPCP has raised $7.9 million of its $9.3 million goal. Over $60,000 of that was raised from the community during our 2020 Wakáŋ Tipi Center Virtual Launch, an event that drew more than 200 people from around the country to learn more about the project from our elders, architects, and partners. It was an incredible evening. Wópidathaŋkaečhíciyeto all of our supporters.

**Thank you!**

**Wakáŋ Tipi Center Project Team**
- Mark Kahn, Project Manager
- Chip Lindke, LPCP Board Member
- Cynthia Whitleford, LPCP Board Member
- Maggie Lorenz, LPCP Executive Director
- Sam Olbekson, Architect
- Aaron Regel Breton, Architect
- Mary Kay Palmer, Project Manager
- Chris Stark, City of St. Paul

**Community Advisory Committee**
- Franky Jackson, Co-Chair (Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota)
- Dr. Kate Beane, Co-Chair (Flandreau Santee Sioux)
- Michelle Bowman (Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota)
- Keeli Siyaka (Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota)
- Cheyenne St. John (Lower Sioux Indian Community)
- Sam Ogden (Upper Sioux Indian Community)
- Crystal Robinson (Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota)
- Nicole Buck (Prairie Island Indian Community)
- Gracie Home (Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota)
- Jeremy Red Eagle (Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota)

**Thank you, Wakáŋ Tipi Center Donors**

- ASLA Minnesota
- Barry Hand and Maggie Lorenz
- Better Way Foundation
- Burr Oak Group, Inc.
- Campbell Lindke Family Fund of the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation
- Charlie Zelle, City of Saint Paul
- Cynthia Whitleford and David Nelson
- Dan and Nan McGuiness — in honor of our grandchildren
- Dr. Katherine Beane
- Dacso Foundation
- Edward G. Curtis Foundation — Christopher G. Cardozo
- F.R. Bigelow Foundation
- Franky Jackson
- Glenn Johnson
- Hardenbergh Foundation
- Jennifer Holbrook Giving Fund of Fidelity Charitable Fund
- John Shepard and Suzanne Brust
- Maggie Arzdorf-Schubbe
- Manifold Fund
- Marbrook Foundation
- Margaret A. Cargill Foundation Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation
- McKnight Foundation
- McNeely Foundation
- Meg Anderson
- Melissa Rice
- Metropolitan Council
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- National Endowment for the Humanities
- Otto Bremer Trust
- Patrice H. Kunesh
- Piyta Webster
- Prairie Island Indian Community
- Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
- State of Minnesota
- The Joan and Oliver Washburn Family Fund
- The McNeely Foundation Fund of the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation by Shannon McNeely Whalker and Steve Whalker
- The Paul and Margaret Pratt Fund & Charlotte Pratt Nordström
- The Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation
- Thomas Draksovic

---

**Phidamayaye! Thank You!**

Wakáŋ Tipi Center Capital Campaign

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$4,039,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$4,899,255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$7,900,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total campaign goal $9,300,000
2020 was the fifteenth (!) anniversary of Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary’s opening as a public park! And what better time to time to update our Natural Resource Management Plan. With the help of ecologists Karen Schik and Alex Roth of Friends of the Mississippi River, and with funding from the Charles & Mary Belgarde Foundation, we developed a four-year work plan to remediate degraded ecosystem units throughout the sanctuary, foster the growth of more native plant species with cultural connections to Dakota people, and build on the great successes that made the sanctuary possible in the first place. We’re eager to bring community members into the sanctuary again to help us implement these plans, and we can’t wait to share our progress!

In the last few years Prairie Island and Lower Phalen Creek Project have been working together in connecting our people with the land through establishing relationships with our plant relatives. Creating space and support for all of our relatives in the Twin Cities area, while strengthening our relationships with other living things sets the foundation for healing beyond Indigenous people, it heals the nation and all who reside next to us.

Nicky Buck, Prairie Island Indian Community, Land & Environment/Tribal Gardens.
OUR NUMBERS

REVENUE*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>$18,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>$300,781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>$19,724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>$24,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program fees, other</td>
<td>$26,063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Campaign</td>
<td>$114,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$563,953</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EXPENSES*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>$254,735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; General</td>
<td>$81,931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$50,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$386,679</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ASSETS & LIABILITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$2,153,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
<td>$34,396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets</td>
<td>$2,118,881</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Calendar year 2020 total of restricted and unrestricted amounts (audited)

The Lower Phalen Creek Project 2020 Audited Financial Statement and Form 990 are available at lowerphalencreek.org

STAFF

- Maggie Lorenz: Executive Director & Wakáŋ Tipi Center Director
- Mishaila Bowman: Communications & Events Coordinator
- Sam Wegner: Environmental Stewardship Program Manager
- Bonita Jenné: Accounting Coordinator

AND BOARD

- Cynthia Whiteford, JD: Board Chair
- Thomas Draskovic: Secretary
- Chip Lindeke: Treasurer
- Dr. Katherine Beane

- Franky Jackson
- Glenn Johnson
- Patrice Kunesh, JD
- Dan McGuinness

NEW 2020 STAFF MEMBER

- Franky Jackson

NEW 2020 BOARD MEMBER

- Glenn Johnson
Thank you! Lower Phalen Creek Project gratefully acknowledges the individuals and organizations that supported our work in 2020. Your contributions make our programs possible. Together, we are engaging people to honor and care for our natural places and the sacred sites and cultural value within them.

My wife, Meg, and I have been regular donors to both the general fund of LPCP, and specifically, to the Wakan Tipi Center project. It is very important to us that LPCP is a Native-Led organization. We live in Lowertown, St. Paul, so we are regular, weekly visitors to the Bruce Vento Sanctuary and we increasingly appreciate the beauty of this amazing place under the stewardship of LPCP. We are really excited about the prospects of the Wakan Tipi Center project as a long needed place for all Minnesotans to learn about the Dakota peoples’ history in Minnesota and especially at this sacred site.

“David Washburn
WHAT'S NEXT?

2021 GOALS AND FUTURE ASPIRATIONS

Through all that 2020 brought, we were able to make headway on our two major projects and in 2021 we will continue that work by breaking ground on Wakáŋ Tipi Center and continuing our work with our consultants at 106 Group to help us define and develop the stories, exhibits, and programming that will bring the Center to life. We will also deepen our community engagement for Phalen Creek and, now, after wrapping up a technical feasibility study with Capitol Region Watershed District for a specific stretch of the creek along Johnson Parkway, we will dive into design development for the stretch of Phalen Creek directly south of Lake Phalen from Wheelock Parkway to Johnson Parkway. With our new full-time Environmental Stewardship Program Manager in place as of 2020, we will continue to grow that program by bringing in a full-time Environmental Justice Educator and Organizer who will specifically focus on educating and organizing residents around projects that are budding on the numerous development projects that are budding on the east side. We have so much to be thankful for, and so much work to do together!

SOCIAL MEDIA NUMBERS 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Platform</th>
<th>Followers</th>
<th>Facebook Likes</th>
<th>Youtube Subscribers</th>
<th>Newsletter Recipients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instagram</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>1,288</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,599</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youtube</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2020 has been a year of great success for Lower Phalen Creek Project and none of it would have been possible without support from our volunteers, partners, donors, and engaged community members like you! Help us keep this momentum going as we venture into the years to come.

DONATE TO SUPPORT
our work in Urban Restoration, Environmental Education, and Cultural Connections and Healing.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
lowerphalencreek.org to sign up for our newsletter

FOLLOW US
on Instagram and Facebook @lowerphalencreek