

OUR VISION TAKES FLIGHT



2022-23 | ANNUAL REPORT



GROUNDWORK
JACKSONVILLE

SPREAD YOUR WINGS

Just as a caterpillar transforms into a colorful butterfly, Jacksonville's urban core is on the threshold of a remarkable metamorphosis.

The Emerald Trail will help transform once-neglected spaces into vibrant and lively hubs of healthy activity, culture, commerce, and entertainment.

Downtown will emerge from its sleepy cocoon as an improved version of itself, with new and repurposed buildings, redeveloped parks, new attractions, festivals and events, and burgeoning small businesses that attract visitors and residents alike.

Join us as our Emerald Trail vision takes flight.







MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

KAY EHAS

The past year has been one of growth and progress as Groundwork Jacksonville evolves to increase our capacity and impact. We accomplished so much, and I am especially proud of these significant achievements:

- Added new staff in development, community engagement, operations and trail maintenance;
- Trained and hired our first Emerald Trail Stewards;
- Helped North Riverside CDC establish a successful home repair program;
- Began work with residents of 10 Emerald Trail neighborhoods on a watershed plan;
- Received all the funding needed to complete the Hogans Creek restoration design with grant awards from NOAA and NFWF;
- Secured \$10.3M to fund the construction of the McCoys Creek Branches (the headwaters);
- Executed MOU with the City of Jacksonville and JTA for Emerald Trail segments 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8;
- Expanded the CREST program to include Hogans Creek neighborhoods; and,
- Joined the High Line Network of signature parks and trails throughout the country.

In just four years since the trail master plan was adopted by the Jacksonville City Council, 40% of the Emerald Trail is complete, under construction or in design. It is thanks to our devoted employees, dedicated Board of Directors, collaborative partners and especially, our generous donors that we can accomplish this ambitious work.

I am incredibly grateful for our partner, the City of Jacksonville, and Mayor Donna Deegan's shared vision of a vibrant, connected urban core that welcomes and benefits all people. Our partnership with the City and now also with JTA, exemplifies what can be accomplished when the public and private sectors work collaboratively to achieve a common, community-focused goal.

This year promises to be equally exciting as we celebrate the opening of the Emerald Trail LaVilla Link, begin construction of the Hogan Street segment, design segment three in Riverside, and continue our work with the City to restore McCoys and Hogans creeks.

I'm proud to share our Annual Report for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023, and invite you to join us on this exciting journey to transform our urban core.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

KERRI STEWART



As Board Chair of Groundwork Jacksonville, I have a front-row seat to the fantastic efforts being put forth every day by the Groundwork team. I am continually impressed by their commitment, resourcefulness, and sheer determination to create a world-class trail experience while honoring our historic urban neighborhoods and prioritizing the needs and goals of long-time residents.

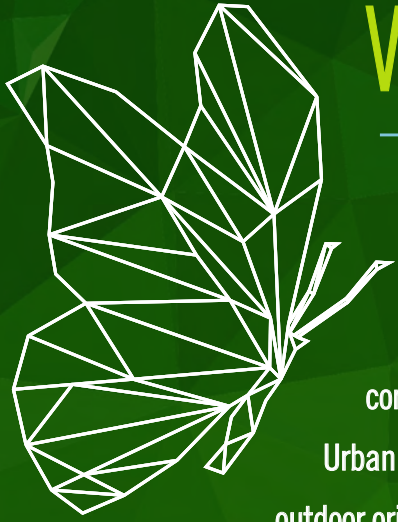
That has certainly been evident in Groundwork's partnership with the North Riverside community. Years-long efforts in helping the North Riverside CDC develop its 10-year vision resulted in the establishment of the home repair program that is already making a huge impact for those families.

It is also evident in the strides that have been taken to progress plans for cleaning up McCoys and Hogans creeks. These two creeks have been left polluted and flood-prone for decades because the path to cure these issues seemed too daunting and expensive. Thanks to Groundwork and our partners, these creeks will be restored in my lifetime.

I hope you get the sense that Groundwork Jacksonville is all about impact, not creating plans that sit on a shelf collecting dust. That is what motivates me as a volunteer and donor, and what motivates so many others who generously support Groundwork.

What motivates you? Neighborhood revitalization? Environmental stewardship? Creating beautiful green spaces? Economic vitality? Safety and transportation? Health and wellness? Recreation? Public art? If your passion lies within any of these areas, then I encourage you to support Groundwork Jacksonville as the Emerald Trail promises to have a profound impact in all these areas.

This is an exhilarating time for Jacksonville and as the City's nonprofit partner, Groundwork Jacksonville is leading the transformation. Be part of the metamorphosis.



VISION

The Emerald Trail is a nationally recognized centerpiece attracting people to Jacksonville. It connects urban core neighborhoods that are valued as vital and desirable places to live, work, and visit. Jacksonville's urban core neighborhoods are economically diverse and economically healthy.

Urban core neighborhoods have a community ethic of active living and an outdoor orientation. Working together, neighbors are engaged in creating and sustaining their clean environment.

EMERALD TRAIL

The Emerald Trail is a 34-mile trail and linear park system connecting 14 urban neighborhoods to downtown, Hogans Creek, McCoys Creek and the St. Johns River.

The trail will become Jacksonville's signature destination and a catalyst for social and economic development, transforming downtown into a vibrant, resilient, walkable community by directly linking 16 schools, two colleges, three hospitals, 21 parks, and the regional Transportation Center to destinations like restaurants, shops, businesses and other points of interest.

Expected benefits include community connections, encouraging healthy outdoor activities, safe transportation to school and work, and spurring economic growth and neighborhood revitalization. In addition, we conservatively estimate a carbon reduction of 338,304 pounds per year with the addition of more than 7,000 trees.





FLORIDA C. DWIGHT PARK | *Rendering*



LEE STREET CROSSWALK | *Rendering*



EMERALD TRAIL

Rising Up With Rotary

The Partnership of
Northeast Florida Clubs
of Rotary International,
representing 1,400
members locally, committed
\$250,000 to be the
presenting sponsor for the
Riverside Link section from
RAM to Memorial Park.

The Emerald Trail's goals align
with each Rotary focus area: Peace and
Conflict Prevention/Resolution; Disease Prevention and Treatment; Water and Sanitation; Maternal and Child
Health; Basic Education and Literacy; Economic and Community Development; and Protecting the Environment.

During a tour of the Emerald Trail and McCoys Creek, leaders from several clubs presented Groundwork
Jacksonville with the first \$50,000 toward the commitment.



LAVILLA POND OVERLOOK | *In Progress*

With secure railings to come, native plants floating in and a lush living shoreline
in the sun – LaVilla Pond is just one of the many jewels of the Emerald Trail.



Making Tracks With Swisher

Swisher, a family-owned company headquartered in Jacksonville, committed \$500,000 to be the presenting sponsor of the S-Line Rail Trail. The donation was part of Swisher's commitment to invest at least \$1 million in community causes and philanthropic initiatives in 2023 focused on supporting our nation's heroes and families; community health and wellbeing; community revitalization; and higher education.

The 4.8-mile S-Line was an abandoned length of CSX railroad Right-of-Way that the City of Jacksonville gained possession of in 2008. The S-Line begins at State Street where it connects to the northern end of the LaVilla Link, and continues northeast through Durkeeville and Springfield ending in Brentwood behind Norwood Plaza. Approximately 1.3 miles of the S-Line—from 12th Street and Boulevard, near Andrew Robinson Elementary School to E. 21st Street—remain unfinished and will be completed as part of the Emerald Trail project.



Emerald Trail Stewards Program Launches

With our partners at the Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association (FNGLA), University of North Florida (UNF) Botanical Gardens, Liberty Landscape Supply and Career Source of NE Florida, Groundwork Jacksonville trained and hired our first Emerald Trail Stewards.



Graduates earned Florida Soft Skills Credentials, Work Ready Level 2 Certificate of Completion, and the FNGLA Horticulture Professional and Landscape Maintenance Technician Certifications.

Special thanks to Rhonda Gracie, horticulturist and landscape designer at UNF, Doreen Lund from Career Source, Michael Zaffaroni of Liberty Landscape Supply and Gary Weitermann from FNGLA for their time, expertise and support!



Photo Credit: Jenn Leonard / RunsWithPugs

“THE SUP” Shared Use Path | *Complete*

Designed and constructed by the Florida Department of Transportation, the new Shared Use Path (SUP) connects the Northbank Riverwalk, the San Marco Link and the 2.3-mile Riverside Link which is currently in the design phase.

Cyclists, walkers, runners and rollerbladers now enjoy stunning river views along a 12-foot wide dedicated path across the Fuller Warren Bridge.

CREEK RESTORATION

As part of the ongoing effort to develop the Emerald Trail project in Jacksonville's urban core, Groundwork Jacksonville has partnered with the City of Jacksonville on the McCoys Creek and Hogans Creek restoration projects. These two urban creeks are listed as the #1 and #2 priority in the COJ's Local Mitigation Strategy, respectively.

Both creeks suffer from years of pollution, failing infrastructure and development that has encroached on their natural flood plains. Both pose severe flooding hazards for nearby roads, homes and businesses even during moderate rainfall.

The ecological restoration of the creeks aims to repair damage and degradation in order to reduce flooding, improve water quality, increase habitat for fish and wildlife, create creek access for active and passive recreation and build resilience through nature-based solutions and green infrastructure.



HOGANS CREEK | *In Design*

Design is underway with goal of beginning construction in 2026.





MCCOYS CREEK | *In Progress*

Phase 1 of the McCoy's Creek restoration, between I-95 and King Street, is expected to be complete in fall 2024. Construction has already begun on the outfall at the St. Johns River. Construction is expected to begin on the branches in fall 2024.



Groundwork Jacksonville Secures Grants to Fully Fund Creek Design & Branches Construction

Groundwork Jacksonville has had a successful year securing and facilitating major grants for the ecological restoration of Hogans and McCoy's creeks. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) awarded Groundwork a \$5.85 million grant from the National Coastal Resilience Fund to complete the design and permitting for Hogans Creek. The project will help reduce current and projected climate threats, improve fish and wildlife habitats, benefit underserved communities, and directly engage community members in the project design and implementation. Projects that NFWF believes can be scaled for broader impact through integration into other government plans, programs, or policies were given preference.

Groundwork also received \$2.95 million from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the restoration design of Hogans Creek. The NOAA funds are intended to protect coastal communities and ecosystems from the impacts of climate change and make significant strides in the recovery of threatened and endangered species.

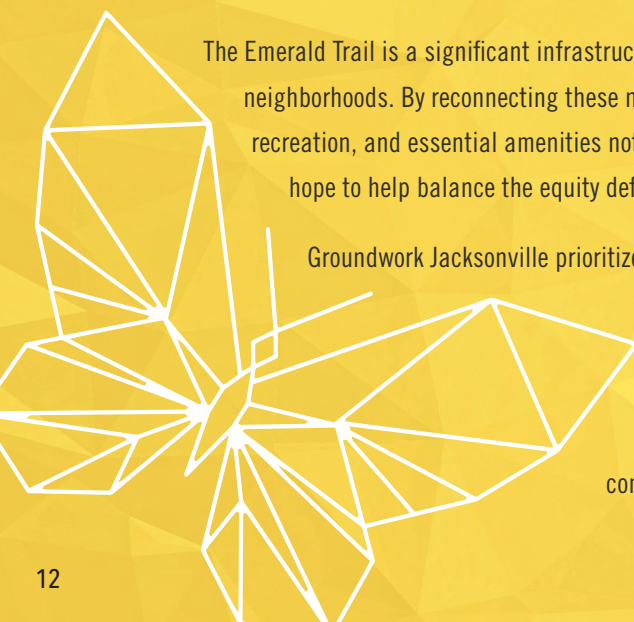
Furthermore, NOAA awarded Groundwork \$2.8 million for the McCoy's Creek branches restoration project, covering approximately 25% of the construction cost and funding engagement efforts with residents and stakeholders.

Groundwork also assisted the City of Jacksonville (COJ) in securing a \$5.18 million construction grant through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Florida Resilient Coastlines Program. The grant will fund nearly 50% of the McCoy's Creek branches construction, while COJ will pay the remaining, approximately 25% of the branches construction costs.

EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT

Redlining denied people access to credit based on where they lived, even if they were qualified for loans. The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) encouraged redlining from the 1930s until the 1960s. The practice disproportionately discriminated against people of color living within the urban core, the impact of which is still felt today.

Then, in the 1960s, many of these same minority communities fell victim to highway construction. In Jacksonville, I-95 and I-10 bisected urban neighborhoods, forcing many long-time residents from their homes, causing businesses to fail, and limiting safe transportation options for nearly one-third of residents who can't afford a car. Neighborhoods like the once-prosperous Sugar Hill were completely decimated.



The Emerald Trail is a significant infrastructure investment in historically underserved neighborhoods. By reconnecting these neighborhoods to education, healthcare, jobs, recreation, and essential amenities not currently within safe walking distance, we hope to help balance the equity deficit.

Groundwork Jacksonville prioritizes the needs and desires of current residents in our work. Our goal is always to ensure that long-time residents and small businesses can remain in their neighborhoods and prosper from, not be displaced because of, community revitalization.



UNF Students Learn About Environmental Justice Issues

University of North Florida global environmental justice students, led by Dr. Charles Closmann, Associate Professor in UNF's History Department, and Dr. Joshua Geller, Associate Professor in UNF's Political Science Department, toured North Riverside to learn about environmental justice issues.

Groundwork's Manager of Community Engagement & Equity, Gloria McNair, shared the history of the area and the impacts that redlining, environmental contaminants, flooding, and disinvestment have had on the community.

North Riverside Home Repair Program Helps Preserve Home Ownership

Residents who are already financially stretched have few resources to pay for repairs, leaving them vulnerable to both climate impacts and potential displacement.

Groundwork Jacksonville is working with the North Riverside CDC on a home repair program that will benefit residents in 46 owner-occupied homes. An average of \$20,000 is being invested into each home for repairs including new, cool roofs, structural and/or accessibility upgrades, electrical, plumbing, HVAC systems, mold remediation and exterior beautification.

The home repair program is being funded by a grant from Groundwork USA through the Climate Preparedness and Land Restoration Initiative, made possible with funding from the Bezos Earth Fund, in addition a grant from the Edna Sproull Williams Foundation.

It is being matched by a \$600,000 grant from United Way of Northeast Florida as part of a historic \$20 million gift from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott.



STEWARDSHIP

Groundwork Jacksonville encourages people of all ages to learn about, care for, and improve their environment through education, training, philanthropy and service.

We support community-driven revitalization projects that protect natural and cultural resources and encourage outdoor recreation. And, we collaborate with partners to advance health, equity, and resilience.

MISSION

Our mission is to bring about the sustained regeneration, improvement and management of the physical environment by developing community-based partnerships which empower people, businesses and organizations to promote environmental, economic and social well-being.



Crest FDEP Water Testing Training



Green Team having fun and working hard



Hogan Creek Cleanups





Daily Manna Community Garden



S-Line Cleanup



Humana Day of Service



CREST Evolves To Serve More

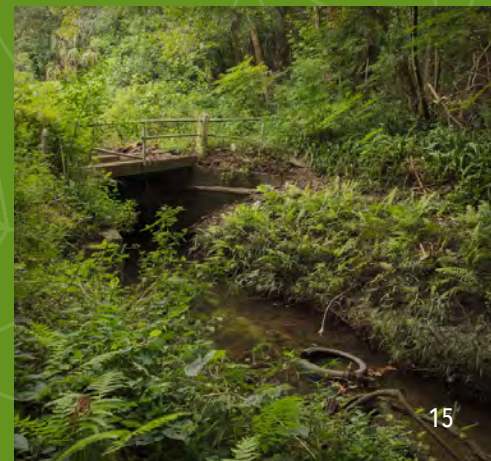
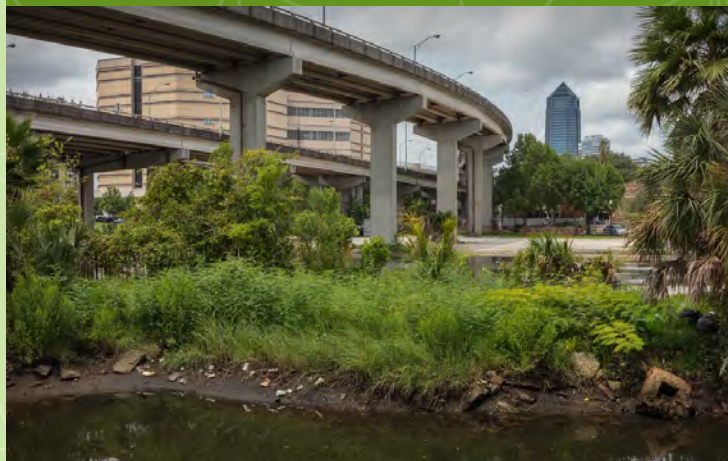
The CREST program was created as a result of Groundwork's community engagement efforts around the restoration of McCoys Creek. This year, Groundwork expanded the program to also include Hogans Creek neighborhoods.

CREST stands for Community Restoration Environmental Stewardship Training. This unique intergenerational program trains residents of all ages to be environmental stewards with workshops, creek cleanups and field trips. CREST is funded by a grant from Wells Fargo.

Creeks Rising Exhibit Showcased the Peril and Potential of our Urban Creeks

The story of McCoys and Hogans creeks follows the growth and decline of downtown Jacksonville and the attitudes and priorities of its leaders. What we see today is the outcome of many decades of public policy, commercial interests, and the resilience of nature to return to an unaltered state.

Patrons were able to see the peril - and the promise - of our urban creeks, through the lens of local artist Doug Eng at the Creeks Rising Exhibit at The Jessie. The exhibit was generously underwritten by JoAnn Tredennick and Jack Meeks.



SUPPORT

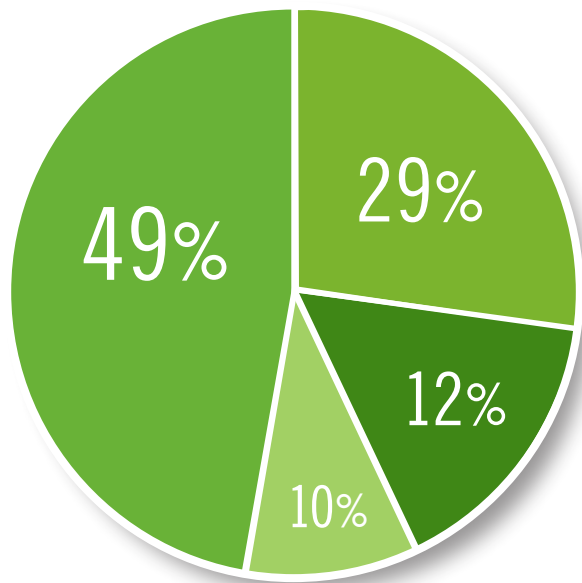
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FINANCIALS AUDITED

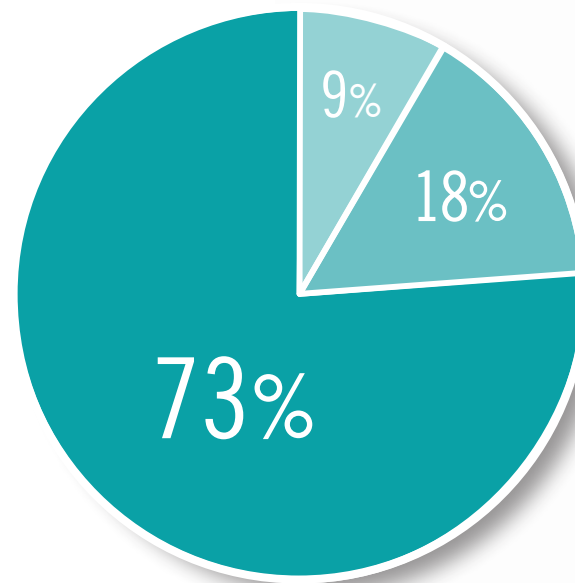
The following is for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Revenue



SOURCE	\$ RAISED	%
Foundations	\$1,089,903	49%
Corporations	\$ 650,920	29%
Individuals	\$ 227,916	10%
Government	\$ 273,602	12%
TOTAL	\$2,242,341	100%

Expenses



TYPE	\$ ACTUAL	%
Programs/Projects	\$ 1,144,075	73%
Operations	\$ 273,122	18%
Fundraising	\$ 140,924	9%
TOTAL	\$1,558,121	100%

PARTNERS

Astra Group, LLC
Avant Construction
Ally Bank Green Team
Beaver Street Enterprise Center
Better Living Community Association
Blue Zones Project Jacksonville
Boys and Girls Club Northeast Florida
Brooklyn Neighborhood Association
Career Source Northeast Florida
City of Jacksonville
 Environmental Quality Division
 Office of the Mayor
 Parks, Recreation and Community Services
 Planning Dept. Transportation Section
 Public Works Department
 Urban Forestry
Community Foundation for Northeast Florida
Creative Sign Designs
Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens
Downtown Investment Authority
Downtown Vision
Douglas J. Eng
Durkeeville Historical Society
Duval Audubon Society
Duval County Extension Office
EZ Event Ride
1st Place Sports
First United Methodist Church
Florida Brownfields Association
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Florida Department of Transportation
Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association
Florida State College at Jacksonville
Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network

Greater Bethany Baptist Church
Groundwork USA
Halff
HDR
New Town Success Zone
Highline Network
Historic Eastside Community Development Corporation
Hofs Printing
Humana
Jacksonville Arts and Music School
Jacksonville Center for Children's Rights
Jacksonville City Council
Jacksonville Community Land Trust
Jacksonville Electric Authority
Jacksonville Historical Society
Jacksonville International Airport
Jacksonville Jaguars
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
Jacksonville Transportation Authority
Jacksonville University
Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens
JTC Running
Keep Jacksonville Beautiful
Kids Hope Alliance
Liberty Landscape Supply
LIFT JAX
LISC Jacksonville
Melanin Market
Museum of Science & History
National Park Foundation
National Park Service
National Parks Conservation Association
Native Fresh
New Town Success Zone

North Riverside Community Development Corporation
Outeast JAXI
Panama Park Association
Phoenix Arts & Innovation District
Rail Yard District Business Council
Ritz Theatre & Museum
River Network
Robinson's Addition Neighborhood Association
Sanctuary on 8th Street
SCAPE
2nd Mile Ministries
Sierra Club Northeast Florida Chapter
Springfield Preservation & Revitalization
St. Johns Riverkeeper & Rising Tides
St. Johns Water Management District
The Bearded Villains Jacksonville Chapter
The HoneyPot Bike Collective
The Jessie
Timucuan Ecological and Historical Preserve
Timucuan Parks Foundation
TRU-Way Church
UF Fiber
UF Health Jacksonville
United Way of Northeast Florida
University of Florida IFAS
University of North Florida Botanical Gardens
US Environmental Protection Agency
Visit Jacksonville
VyStar Credit Union
Wells Fargo
WSP
Zen Cog

DONORS

\$250,000+

Groundwork USA, Inc.
United Way of Northeast Florida

\$100,000 - \$249,999

Swisher International
JoAnn Tredennick and Jack Meeks

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Bryan and Kim Clontz
City of Jacksonville
Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation, Inc.
Kids Hope Alliance
The Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic
McGuireWoods LLP (*In-kind*)
Michael Ward and Jennifer Glock Foundation
Rotary Charity Foundation

\$25,000 - \$49,999

NOAA
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
Friend of Springfield
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
JTC Running (*Cash & In-kind*)

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Arthur Vining Davis Foundations
John Baker
The Cummer Family Foundation
Edna Sproull Williams Foundation
The Fig Tree Fund
Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
Florida State College Jacksonville (*In-kind*)

TD Charitable Foundation
Tom Bush Family of Dealerships
James Van Vleck
Wells Fargo Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Humana
Jessie Ball Dupont Fund
Christopher Burns
MaryEllen Willis Foundation
Balch & Bingham LLP
Miller Electric Company
National Philanthropic Trust
The Thomas M. and Irene B. Kirbo Charitable Foundation
Weaver Philanthropic Initiative Class of 2022

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Steve and Betsy Crosby
Dennis + Ives (*In-kind*)
EZ Event Ride (*In-kind*)
1st Place Sports (*In-kind*)
Jeffrey Foster
Halff Associates
Patricia Houlihan and Richard Skinner
Jacksonville Transportation Authority
Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A.
Dana and Londra Karzan
UF Health
VyStar Credit Union

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Ally Bank Green Team
Bank of America
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Ann Todd
Tom and Stephanie Welchans
Winston Family Foundation

\$500 - \$999

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 Lisa and David Williams
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 Ryan and Shai Witmer
 Gilbert and Nancy Wright



Third Annual VyStar Emerald Trail 5K/10K Raises Nearly \$28K

Bright blue skies and cool fall breezes graced the Third Annual VyStar Emerald Trail 5K/10K on October 22, 2022. More than 450 runners, walkers, cyclists and supporters gathered downtown at the Duval County Courthouse for the event that took participants along the LaVilla Link and the S-Line segments of the Emerald Trail.

Thanks to our sponsors VyStar Credit Union, JTC Running, 1st Place Sports, Miller Electric, Halff, Tom Bush BMW, UF Health, Forcura and HDR, the event raised nearly \$28,000.

MEMBERS

Reggie Agulto
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Bill Armstrong
Tracey Arpen
Erjona Asllani
Christopher Bailey
Carol Bailey-White
John Baker
Tamara Baker
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Joni Turner

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Julia Ramer

Development & Communications Coordinator

George Cornwell

Emerald Trail Steward

Hunter Yeager

Emerald Trail Steward

DONATE

Our work would not be possible without the generosity of individuals and companies throughout the community. Your tax-deductible gift is an investment in the health of our environment and our citizens, the equitable development and revitalization of our historic urban neighborhoods and the creation of a world-class urban bicycle-pedestrian trail that will provide unparalleled recreational, social, economic and cultural opportunities for generations to come.

BECOME A MEMBER

Join us as we work to build the Emerald Trail, restore McCoys and Hogans creeks, connect our urban neighborhoods and create the next generation of environmental stewards. Visit our website to join today.

VOLUNTEER

We have many ways for individuals, youth, groups and corporate teams to volunteer. Please contact us at Groundworkjacksonville@gmail.com about these and other volunteer opportunities.

CONNECT

Consider hosting a house party, inviting Groundwork to speak at your business or civic group or connecting us to companies that can provide in-kind professional services.

PO Box 13295 | Jacksonville, FL 32206 | 904.598.5664 | GroundworkJax.org | [@GroundworkJax](https://www.instagram.com/groundworkjax)
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Groundwork Jacksonville Inc., is a nonprofit organization pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the United States IRS code.

Groundwork Jacksonville, Inc., was formed in 2014 by the City of Jacksonville in partnership with Groundwork USA, along with support from the US National Park Service and US Environmental Protection Agency.

Jacksonville is one of 21 Groundwork Trusts across the country focused on environmental equity, resilience, and stewardship, and transforming the natural and built environment in low-resource and climate-vulnerable communities.