



# Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes

2022 Annual Newsletter

Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes  
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**NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION**  
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# FRIENDS OF SLEEPING BEAR DUNES YEAR IN REVIEW

This year has been fantastic for the Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes. Our organization is committed to assisting the National Park Service team with enhancing visitor experiences and preserving the Lakeshore for many years to come. Thank you to our tremendous volunteers and supporters for your contributions and dedication to our mission. Here is a look at some of the projects that the Friends conducted and supported this year:



**PSAR** The Preventative Search and Rescue team had a banner year in 2022! The group, who shares safety messaging and educates visitors on potential safety hazards in the park, increased visitor contacts by 8,000 (a 31% increase over last year), added three new volunteers to the team and saw the lowest number of search and rescue operations and 911 calls since the program's inception!

## Track Chair Program

The Friends expanded the track chair program providing even greater accessibility to the Lakeshore for all. A third chair was added to the program at the Platte River Campground for use on the new Railroad Grade Trail. This year, volunteers helped 40 visitors from around the world, including from as far away as New Zealand, use the chairs to further their enjoyment on the trails!



**Adopt-A-River** Each year, a group of dedicated volunteers come together to kayak the Crystal and Lower Platte Rivers, removing trash and any tree branches that impede the kayaking routes as a part of our Adopt-A-River program. Many volunteers also go kayaking throughout the season individually to remove trash they find. We're happy to report that with these efforts, the rivers are much cleaner!





# 8

## ANISHINAABE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Friends provided funding for the NPS and tribal consultants to develop and offer educational and interpretive programming about the history of the Anishinaabe and their connection to the park.

## 1 SUMMER INTERN

This year, the Friend's hired our first social media and communications summer intern! Kristy Tompkins was a HUGE help in building our photo database as well as managing our social media pages, writing blogs for our website and so much more. We are so grateful for Kristy's professionalism and beautiful work and look forward to welcoming another intern in the summer of 2023.



## 575 STARGAZERS

Star Parties are back! The Friends provided funding for the park to welcome the Grand Traverse Astronomical Society and host Mary Stewart Adams for the in-person return of this stellar program.



## Be on the lookout for **BEAR FORCE ONE!**

This mobile visitor center has more interactive equipment including skulls, pelts and models thanks to the Friends' partnership with the park interpretive team.



## 13 BIKE RACKS

After seeing a need for cyclists to park at the historic blacksmith shop in Glen Haven, a small group of talented volunteers decided to make bike racks using the tools and materials found in the shop. In 2022, the team expanded its efforts by creating 3 more racks, bringing the total to 13 within the National Lakeshore.



The Friends and the NPS are welcoming back the snowshoe program after a few seasons of hibernation! Over the course of the 2022/2023 school year, we hope to reach over

## 100 CLASSROOMS.

The 2023 program is funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative's (GLRI) Project 90 as well as the Friends to specifically help schools offset transportation costs. This GLRI project is focused on providing hands-on experiences related to Great Lakes ecosystem health for K-12th grades.



## \$20,000 GRANT

The Friends received a \$20k grant from the National Park Foundation as part of a larger grant given to the Lakeshore for Night Sky Navigators - From the Dunes to Beyond. The program teaches astronomy and emphasizes the value of dark skies for observing the stars.





# VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION!





## FRIENDS 2022 STATS

**287**

INDIVIDUALS VOLUNTEERED

**12,697**

HOURS WITH THE FRIENDS

**40**

TRACK CHAIR USERS HOSTED

**33,069**

PSAR VISITOR CONTACTS

**1,023**

POUNDS OF TRASH  
COLLECTED BY ADOPT-A-BEACH  
VOLUNTEERS THIS SUMMER

**2,068**

BARK RANGER  
VISITOR CONTACTS

Bark Ranger volunteers, both two and four-legged, served as ambassadors on the Lakeshore beaches to provide information about the park, highlight pet policies and successfully help protect our endangered piping plover population.



**Ready to  
TAKE THE LEAP  
and become a  
VOLUNTEER?**



One of the greatest contributions to the National Lakeshore is the time and support offered by our generous volunteers. We wouldn't exist without you! Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is well loved by our team and it shows!

Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes is an all volunteer organization. We have a wide range of volunteer opportunities. Whether you want to paddle while clearing debris, help with trail maintenance, connect with visitors or share stories about the park, we have an opportunity for you. Whatever your interests or skills, we can help you find a role that you would enjoy!

To view our various volunteer program descriptions, visit our website and look under the 'Volunteer' tab.

<https://friendsofsleepingbear.org/volunteer-job-descriptions/>

We look forward to hearing from you, answering any questions you may have and connecting you with the perfect role within our organization!



## Chairman's Message

As I reflect on the past year, I can't help but be thankful for the tireless efforts of our volunteers and for the support of people like you. Because of you, we have been able to help more than one million visitors experience this amazing Lakeshore and protect this place that we all love so much. Our objective is to recruit volunteers and raise money to support the park, and in that, 2022 was a success.

Additionally, I would like to personally thank our past chairman, Jerry Peterson, for his leadership and dedication to our cause.

We have so much to look forward to as we head into 2023 but we need your support. Your donations will help us to continue our ongoing programs in partnership with the NPS and support them in their educational programs, work on projects such as a new version of our popular hiking trails booklet, Dark Sky Certification and possible development of new trails. It will also help with construction of the garage at the Dune Climb and maintain and operate the Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail.

Thank you for your support and I hope you will consider helping us again to make 2023 even better! -Kerry Kelly



## Superintendent's Message

If I were to give 2022 a descriptive name, I would say 2022 was a 'reset' year for Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Coming out of over two years of uncertainty, your National Lakeshore continued to serve as an escape from everyday stress and as a place for rejuvenation for many. The Lakeshore was able to breathe a little easier this past summer with fewer people on the beaches and on the trails. We had a 'reset' down to near pre-pandemic visitation numbers, yet volunteers returned in larger numbers than the past few years.

As the world tries to return to normal, your resilient park has weathered the storm and is in a better place because of you, our volunteers, who have remained connected to this special place. Your selfless service has enabled the Lakeshore to continue its role in sound science, public health, family vacations and maybe even a holiday card photo.

Please remember, every action you take for the Lakeshore makes a positive difference for the landscape and our visitors for generations to come. Thank you from the entire staff of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. -Scott Tucker



**The Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is protecting resources and heightening visitor experiences in partnership with Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.**



## Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes Mission Statement:

Protecting resources and heightening visitor experiences  
in partnership with Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

### SUPPORT YOUR FRIENDS

The Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes supports the National Lakeshore by providing both volunteers and financial grants to support projects that would otherwise not be funded.

There are many individual programs you can donate to in which your funds directly support the program of your choice. More details about these programs can be found on our website under the 'Donate/How to Donate' tab.

<https://friendsofsleepingbear.org/support-the-friends/>

### DONATE TODAY

Ways to give:

- Go to our website under the 'Donate/Donate Now' tab:

<https://friendsofsleepingbear.org/donate-now/>

- Return the enclosed remittance envelope
- Scan this QR code to give:



### SPECIAL FUNDRAISER



We've broken ground on our new garage and we need your help to complete the project! A new, 1600 square foot storage facility is under construction at the Dune Climb. This garage will store:

- Heritage Trail maintenance tools and equipment
- The Park's Mobile Visitor Center van
- The Friends' track chairs and trailer
- The Friends' publications and supplies
- Summer staging of the Park's rescue UTV

You can help with a generous donation to this crucial project. Select 'Dune Center Garage' when you donate at: <https://friendsofsleepingbear.org/donate-now/> or on the enclosed remittance envelope.



## Statement of Support

### Project

### FY2022

#### Income Projects

Book and Merchandise Sales	\$9,172
Educational Publications	\$20,193
Other Income Totals	\$2,565
Total	\$31,930

#### Expenditure Projects

SB Heritage Trail Operations	\$9,539
Mountain Bike Trail	\$1,000
PSAR	\$1,959
Snowshoe Field Trip Program	\$959
Accessibility Initiatives	\$6,093
Garage Construction	\$78,868
Other Programs	\$132
Total	\$98,550

#### Park Priority Projects

SAR Equipment and Supplies	\$3,300
Interactive Items for Bear Force One	\$661
GTAS Star Parties	\$859
Beach Water Quality Monitoring	\$4,700
Anishinaabe Programming	\$4,490
Plover Spotting Scopes	\$1,300
Bark Ranger and IPM Interns	\$5,360
Invasive Plant Treatment Interns	\$5,360
New Patrol Vehicle Enhancements	\$6,500
Algal Testing Program	\$4,200
Maintenance, Supplies & Tools	\$7,824
Tech Kit for Open Outdoors	\$2,009
Total	\$46,563

**Total Support** \$177,043

## Thank you to our 2021-2022 Business Supporters

Anderson's Market  
Art's Tavern  
Cherry Republic  
Cottage Books  
Crystal River Outfitters  
Empire Outdoors  
Glen Arbor Bed & Breakfast  
Grocer's Daughter  
Homestead Resort  
LVR Rentals  
Mission Point Press  
Northwoods Hardware  
Serbin Realty  
Sleeping Bear Gallery  
Sleeping Bear Surf & Kayak  
The Secret Garden

## Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes Board Members

Kerry Kelly, Chair  
Tracy Barrilleaux, Vice Chair  
Bill Stott, Secretary  
Steven Klein, Treasurer  
Gerald Peterson, Past Chair (ex-officio)

Lynn Aleksov  
Joan Antle  
Bonnie Bastian  
Kayle DiCicco  
Rosemary Hagan  
Steve Horne  
William Ichord  
Laura Ann Johnson  
Fred Luthardt  
Laurie Pope  
Natalia Szymczak

## Contact Us

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