

ANNUAL REPORT



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Executive Summary

ABOUT

Willow Bend Environmental Education Center was founded by the Board of Supervisors of the Coconino Natural Resource Conservation District (CNRCD) in 1978. Since then it has served as Coconino County's only **year-round full time environmental education center**.

PROGRAMS AND IMPACT

Willow Bend provides environmental, place based educational experiences for schools, community groups, residents, and visitors.

Summary of K-12 Programs: (includes class based programs, fields trips, and special guest presentations):

- ❖ Number of School Programs presented: 418

Total number of students reached through programs: 9,441

Summary of Community Programs: (Adult Workshops, Family Science, Summer Saturdays, Community Events and more):

- ❖ Number of Community Programs presented: 102

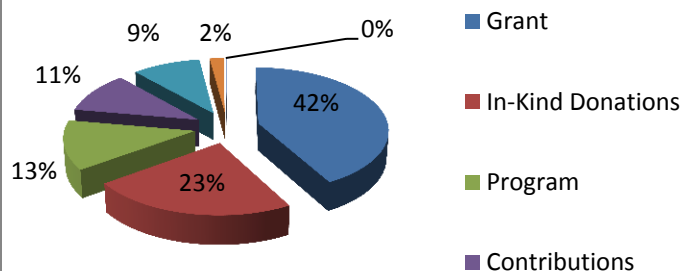
Number of community members reached by Willow Bend: 9,074

Summary of Total Willow Bend Reach:

K-12 Programs, Adult Education, Teacher Workshops, Center and Community Events, Center "walk-ins" and Recycling Center Tours: **18 515**

FINANCIAL

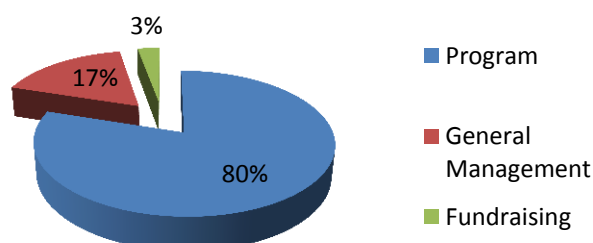
Income



Income:

Grant	\$51,273
In-Kind Donations	\$28,163
Program	\$15,496
Contributions	\$13,019
Contract	\$11,591
Rental Income	\$2,400
Events and Misc. Income	\$185
TOTAL:	\$122,128

Expense



Expense:

Program	\$116,004
General Management	\$24,905
Fundraising	\$4133
Total:	\$145,044

About Us

Willow Bend Environmental Education Center was founded by the Board of Supervisors of the Coconino Natural Resource Conservation District (CNRCD) in 1978. Since then it has served as Coconino County's only **year-round full time environmental education center**. Willow Bend provides education outreach services that build environmental awareness and an ethic of responsible stewardship of our natural and cultural resources.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Willow Bend has an active all volunteer board of directors and a governing CNRCD board. All board members that served during Fiscal Year 2015 are listed in this report. Italicized names are those serving as of June 30, 2015.

CNRCD Board of Supervisors

- *Mike Macauley, Board Chairman*
- *Jim Parks, Vice Chairman*
- *Reed Jenkins, Treasurer*
- *Steve Gatewood, Willow Bend Board Liaison*
- *Paul Babbitt, Supervisor*

Willow Bend Board of Directors

- *Holly Taylor, President*
- *Steve Gatewood, Vice President*
- *Bret Carpenter, Treasurer*
- *Amy Larson, Director and Secretary*
- *Jim Corning, Director*
- *Andy Gould, Director*
- *Tom Hanecak, Director*
- *Ken Myers, Director*
- *Shelly Shepherd, Director*

STAFF AND AMERICORPS MEMBERS

Willow Bend's day to day operations, program management, and event organization is conducted by paid staff and AmeriCorps Members. Willow Bend's staff are all highly qualified and dedicated to the organization and its success.

All staff members that worked during Fiscal Year 2015 are listed in this report. Italicized names are those serving as of June 30, 2015.

Willow Bend Staff

- Russell (Rusty) Tweed, Executive Director (Top left)
- *Cassandra Roberts, Program Manager (Bottom right)*
- *Valerie Grimmett, Educator (bottom left)*
- *Emma Hilliard, AmeriCorps Member (top right)*



CHANGING LEADERSHIP

In April, 2015, Rusty Tweed left the organization after serving as the Executive Director for three great years. During his time Rusty was able to secure numerous grants, develop new partnerships, and leave behind the A Drop of Water display and the 3D Terrain Model as his legacy. A Willow Bend search committee, comprised of both CNRCD and Willow Bend Board members, advertised the position and interviewed numerous highly qualified individuals. The Executive Director position was offered to Moran Henn, a Flagstaff local and experienced non-profit Executive Director, in late June. In between directors (April-August 2015), Cassandra Roberts, Program Manager, took on the role of acting Director and did a commendable job of running the organization during the transition time. Willow Bend would like to thank Rusty for his work as Executive Director, Cassandra for her dedication during the transition, and welcome Moran Henn into the new leadership role.



Top: Rusty and Cassandra recognized for their dedication to Willow Bend at a CNRCD meeting. Bottom: Moran Henn, new Executive Director.

VOLUNTEERS

Willow Bend depends on the substantial donation of volunteer time and skills. From programmatic assistance, day to day Center caretaking, and assisting with fundraising and events, Willow Bend's volunteers make our work possible. While we cannot name all of our volunteers in this report, we would like to especially thank and highlight Willow Bend's board members and individual volunteers, including Norm Lowe, Kathleen Satterfield, Charmain Lovely, and Mike Masek to name a few. And all the community groups that volunteer with us, including Boy and Girl Scouts, AmeriCorps members, NAU students and more!



From top to bottom: Boy Scout volunteers, NAU Volunteer Day. Mike Masek, The Foragers Path, volunteering for a Willow Bend fundraising event.

Program Summary

K-12 SCHOOL PROGRAMS



Willow Bend was first and foremost established to serve the

County's schools and its students. Willow Bend plays an important role in K-12 education: we provide out-of-the-ordinary experiences such as guest visits to classrooms, demonstrations, and field trips that expand effective learning opportunities. Our programs are tied to state standards and reflect STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) principles. We employ proven strategies that enhance learning including experiential, hands on, and place-based education. We work at over 25 public schools from three school districts, regional charter schools and schools on the Navajo and Hopi Nations. Our K-12 programs and field trips include topics in botany, astronomy, sustainable living, hydrology, wildlife, and geology.



Above: Wildlife Program delivery. Left: Students exploring the sustainable building and surrounding gardens at Willow Bend.

Right: Students learning about flowers during Willow Bend's "The Reason for a Flower" Program



Summary of K-12 Program Reach:

- ❖ Number of School Programs presented: 418
- ❖ Top programs for 2014-2015: Exploring Earthworms, Starry Skies, Rock Talk, Erupting Earth, Grand Canyon Geology, Recycling Center Tours, and Flagstaff Area National Monument programs and field trips.
- ❖ **Number of students reached through those programs: 9,441**

CENTER AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

In addition to school programs, Willow Bend also hosts adult and community education programs and events, teacher workshops, field trips to our sustainable building, and programs for college students. *Adult and Community Education* connect our visitors with experts from a variety of fields such as forestry, botany and sustainability through presentations and workshops. In addition, in Partnership with the City's Sustainability Program, Willow Bend facilitates monthly tours of the Recycling Center.

Family Science programs typically include family focused presentations from experts, live animal demonstrations, games, hands-on activities and more. Subjects included: Midnight Hunters, Eagles, and Arizona Animals. *Summer Saturday* (now termed Science Saturday) programs are free and open to the public and include themed hands on activities and games on a variety

of topics such as Bats, Invasive Plants, Birds and more. Willow Bend hosts *Center Visits* highlighting the building's sustainable features, the adjacent Watchable Wildlife Site, the surrounding gardens, and Flagstaff's Urban Trail System (FUTS). Willow Bend participates in many community events including Coconino County's Sustainable Building Tour, Colorado River Days, Festival of Science, Earth Day and more. Finally, Willow Bend organizes and facilitates Teacher Workshops and professional development opportunities for teachers, educators, and home schooling groups.



Top: Family Science Bald Eagle Program. Right: Adult Education "Raw, Wild, and Local" Honey Tasting. Below: Cassandra leading a Willow Bend Recycling Center Tours.



Summary of Community Program Reach:

- ❖ Number of Community and Adult Education Programs and Events: 102
- ❖ Top Programs: Bald Eagle Celebration, Wildlife Tracking, Honey Tasting, Sustainable Home Tour, Colorado River Days.
- ❖ **Number of community members reached by Willow Bend: 9,074**

Summary of Total Willow Bend Reach:

K-12 Programs, Adult Education, Teacher Workshops, Center and Community Events, Center "walk-ins" and Recycling Center Tours: **18,515**

A New Display

Each drop of water, falling from the sky combined with millions of other drops, brings essential moisture to the ground and all life forms that depend on them. The new *A Drop of Water* display (in the image below) at Willow Bend's Discovery Room



allows students, and general audiences, to follow the path of a single drop of water through the forests, rangelands and grasses that enable water to infiltrate into the ground. It then follows the drop to Flagstaff's municipal system that provides drinking water to our homes. The exhibit highlights the importance of and provides easy steps for water conservation. It complements our Terrain Model, which was introduced last

year, and provides a holistic and comprehensive view of watersheds and hydrological systems.



The exhibit includes six interpretive panels as well as engaging resources such as monitors and microscopes, a water pump model, and games.

Special thanks to the following for their contribution to the display: The Wildland Trekking Company, W.L Gore and Associates, Flagstaff Arts Council and the City of Flagstaff BBB Revenues, Arizona Forestry Division Community Challenge Grant program via USDA Forest Service, Andrew Gould, the Arizona Community Foundation of Flagstaff and GeoFund. And Special thanks to all the experts and volunteers for compiling information, assisting with installation, and discussing ideas including: Heather Aaron, Don Bills, Thomas Boylen, Steve Cassady, John Colombini, John Davidson, Brad Garner, Harry Hosler, Collis Lovely, Norm Lowe, Judy Prosser, Shai Schendel, Erin Young, and Zack Zdinak for panel design.



Top: each panel displays an iconic drop hiding somewhere in the design. Kids and adults alike enjoy searching for the drop in each panel.

Above: Visitors looking at the display

Project Highlight

With hundreds of programs offered and thousands of students and visitors served this year, it is hard to pick one moment to highlight. However, we feel that our Schoolyard Habitat Development project at Knoles Elementary perfectly demonstrates Willow Bend's role in our community.

"Are we going outside today?" a chorus of voices would sound when I arrived in their classroom each visit. The two classes of fourth-grade students were excited to be doing environmental science and even more excited to be doing it outdoors.



Above: John Taylor, from Terra BIRDS, assisting students prepare for planting.

From the date of my first visit in September 2014, the students and I spent much of our class time out in the plot of land just beyond the school building (but still within the boundary fence). We studied the area as habitat and discussed which animals would be most likely to live there. We dissected flowers indoors and then worked to identify the native species already present outdoors. Once we had a thorough understanding of the area, it was time to get planning. Students opted into several project teams, each focused on a specific portion of the project. We had the "Bug

Hotel Builders,” the “Trail Crew,” our “Bird House Builders,” and the “Head Planters and Landscapers,” among many others. Within their teams students researched and planned and then got to work. Some groups worked with community volunteers to build an access trail or start landscaping additional planting areas. Other groups worked with their teachers and Willow Bend staff to paint signs, put together bird houses and a bat box, and install and care for bird feeders and waterers.

A final part of the project invited students to nominate and then vote for a name for the area. “Knobs Nature Walk” was the moniker chosen to be featured on a professionally designed sign that will also feature student-designed wildlife art.



Above: ACE volunteers working with students on creating the new trail.

Special thanks to the following for their contribution to the project: Arizona Game and Fish Department Heritage Fund for their financial support of this project. Terra BIRDS, Matt Roberts, and American Conservation Experience for site design, trail construction, and habitat landscaping. And Zack Zdinak for signage design.

Written by Project Manager Cassandra Roberts.



Above: images from the completed Knobs Habitat Garden. The “Bug” hotel, a bird visiting the feeder, and the Wildlife Tracking Station.

Financial Report

Our financial information* is entered and tracked in Quickbooks with advice from a professional CPA and board oversight. The information presented below is on an accrual basis and is unaudited (pie chart representation rounded up to the nearest decimal).

Willow Bend Environmental Education Center

Profit & Loss

July 2014 through June 2015

	Jul '14 - Jun 15
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Contract	11,591.00
Contributions Income	13,019.78
Fundraising Event	171.00
Grant Income	51,273.00
In-Kind Donations	28,163.14
Misc Income	14.64
Program	15,496.00
Rental Income	2,400.00
Workshops/Teacher Training	0.00
Total Income	122,128.56
Gross Profit	122,128.56
Expense	
Advertising	452.82
Contract Labor	6,800.00
Cultivation	99.30
Depreciation	2,091.48
Dues, Subscriptions & Fees	555.08
Exhibits and Displays	5,730.26
Insurance	737.50
Misc Expense	202.45
Occupancy	26,736.00
Payments to Grant Partners	681.17
Payroll Expenses	92,049.31
Postage & Delivery	79.25
Printing & Reproduction	69.52
Professional Development	460.00
Professional Fees/Services	847.87
Repairs & Maintenance	906.33
Supplies	2,786.03
Travel	1,894.13
Utilities	2,065.90
Total Expense	145,044.40
Net Ordinary Income	(22,915.84)
Net Income	(22,915.84)

Willow Bend Environmental Education Center

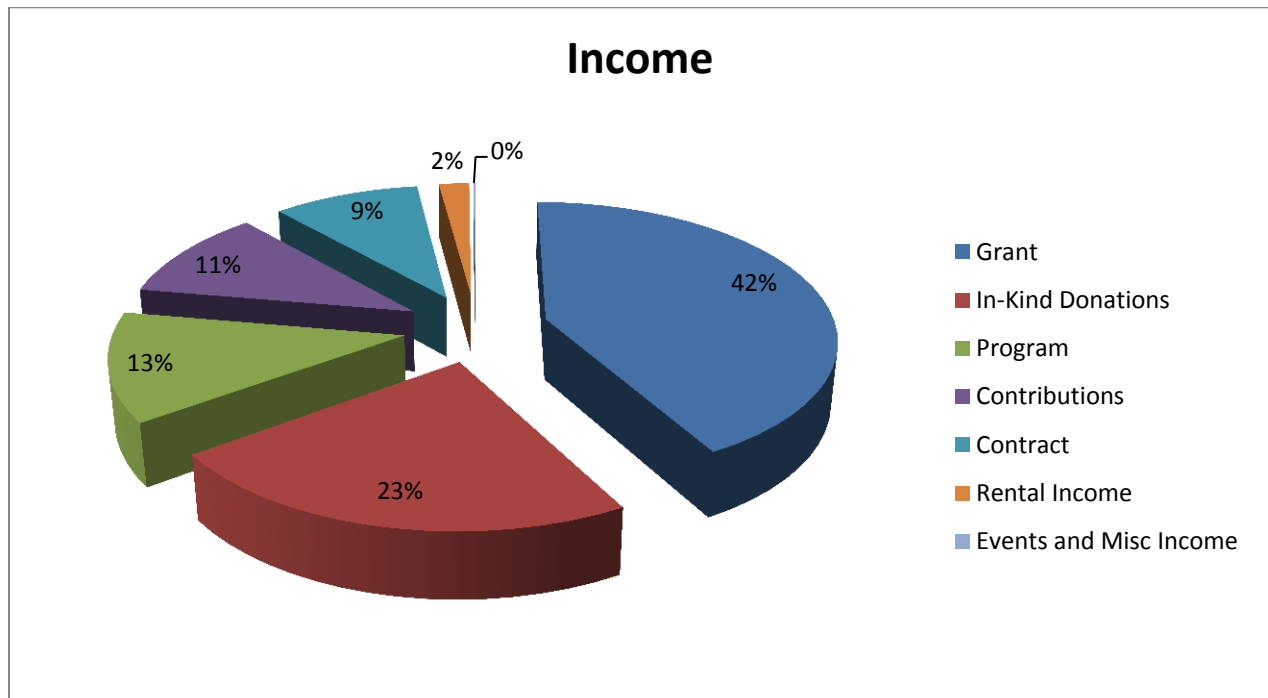
Balance Sheet

As of June 30, 2015

	Jun 30, 15
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	30,802.32
AZ State Credit Union Checking	5.00
AZ State Credit Union Savings	10,897.53
Checking--Chase	
Total Checking/Savings	41,704.85
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	2,351.60
Total Accounts Receivable	2,351.60
Other Current Assets	
Petty Cash	100.00
Total Other Current Assets	100.00
Total Current Assets	44,156.45
Fixed Assets	
Accumulated Depreciation	(29,672.77)
Equipment	
Building-Solar System	12,490.58
Landscaping/Gardens	2,015.41
Program Equipment	13,700.00
Total Equipment	28,205.99
Vehicles	13,307.00
Total Fixed Assets	11,840.22
TOTAL ASSETS	55,996.67
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	
Social Security	(0.02)
Payroll Liabilities - Other	217.02
Total Payroll Liabilities	217.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	217.00
Total Current Liabilities	217.00
Total Liabilities	217.00
Equity	
Retained Earnings	78,695.51
Net Income	(22,915.84)
Total Equity	55,779.67
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	55,996.67

(*Note: Willow Bend has an endowment fund at the Arizona Community Foundation not included in the above figures)

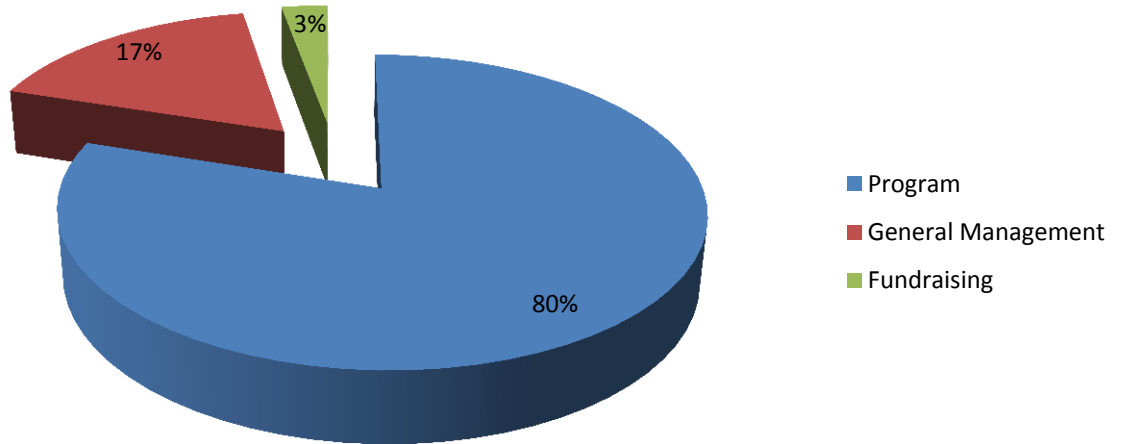
Income and Expense: July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015



Income:

Grant	\$51,273
In-Kind Donations	\$28,163
Program	\$15,496
Contributions	\$13,019
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Events and Misc. Income	\$185
TOTAL:	\$122,128

Expense



Expense:

Program	\$116,004
General Management	\$24,905
Fundraising	\$4133
Total:	\$145,044

Our Supporters

BUSINESS SUPPORT

Sustaining (\$1000 and Above, Includes In-Kind):



Collaborator (\$500-\$999):



MAJOR GRANT, CONTRACT, IN-KIND AND

OTHER PROGRAM SUPPORT



MAJOR INDIVIDUAL DONORS (\$250 AND ABOVE, BY LAST NAME)

- ❖ Fidelity Charitable Gift
- ❖ Gould
- ❖ Millis
- ❖ Roberts
- ❖ Satterfield
- ❖ Welch
- ❖ Zofrea

FULL LIST OF SUPPORTERS (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

- ❖ Arizona Community Foundation of Flagstaff
- ❖ Arizona Game and Fish Department Heritage Fund
- ❖ Arizona State Land Department
- ❖ Boys and Girls Club of Flagstaff
- ❖ City of Flagstaff Art and Science Fund/BBB Revenues
- ❖ City of Flagstaff Sustainability Program
- ❖ Coconino County Community Initiative Grant
- ❖ Coconino County Parks and Recreation
- ❖ Coconino County Superintendent of Schools
- ❖ Coconino Natural Resource Conservation District
- ❖ Environmental Fund for Arizona
- ❖ Fidelity Charitable Gift
- ❖ Flagstaff Arts Council
- ❖ Flagstaff Unified School District (and multiple schools)
- ❖ Flagstaff Charter and Private Schools (multiple including Flagstaff Junior Academy, Haven Montessori, Foresight Learning Center, Star School, Pine Forest Charter School)
- ❖ Forager's Path, School of Botanical Studies (Mike Masek)
- ❖ GeoFund
- ❖ Giles W. and Elise G. Mead Foundation
- ❖ Gould
- ❖ Hope Construction
- ❖ Millis
- ❖ Mountain Sports
- ❖ National Park Foundation (in partnership with Flagstaff Area National Monuments)
- ❖ Northern Arizona University (multiple departments)
- ❖ Novakinetics
- ❖ Prometheus Renewables
- ❖ Roberts
- ❖ Satterfield
- ❖ Urban and Community Forestry Financial Assistance Program (administered in cooperation with the Arizona State Forestry Division - Urban and Community Forestry, and the USDA Forest Service)
- ❖ Welch
- ❖ Wildland Trekking Company
- ❖ Williams Unified School District
- ❖ W.L. Gore and Associates, Inc.
- ❖ Zofrea

THANK YOU!



Willow Bend Environmental Education Center

703 East Sawmill Road, Flagstaff, AZ 86001.

(928) 779-1745 www.willowbendcenter.org

Willow Bend is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization