



NISQUALLY REACH NATURE CENTER

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# ANNUAL REPORT

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2024





Our mission is to promote the understanding, appreciation, and conservation of the Nisqually Estuary through education, interpretation, and community science.

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# Education Highlights

Weeks of Summer  
Camp:

**5**

Field Trips at the  
Estuary:

**48**

Students Reached:

**1,611**



“The kids loved being so hands-on at the beach! What a cool opportunity. [NRNC Staff] were knowledgeable, approachable, kind, and excited about the beach!”

- Elizabeth Wilson, OSD first grade teacher

Our education programs had an exciting year in 2024! In spring we introduced a new plankton-focused program utilizing brand-new microscopes. Over the summer, we welcomed more military scholarship students to our summer camps than ever before, in partnership with A Hero's Promise and North Thurston Public Schools. As the fall leaves changed color, a new partnership with Olympia School District brought almost 250 first-graders to Luhr's Landing for exploratory beach walks. As we look forward to 2025, we look forward to growing our programs even further!





# Community Science Highlights

Ongoing Research  
Projects

**3**

Volunteers who  
made an impact:

**66**



Hours of Research  
Conducted:

**1,337**



In 2024 our community science program connected the public with opportunities to contribute data to three long-term projects monitoring the health of the Nisqually Estuary and the larger Puget Sound region.

**Pigeon Guillemot Breeding Survey:** Since 2013, we have monitored 15 pigeon guillemot breeding colonies as a member of the Salish Sea Guillemot Network. This project fills a knowledge gap for one of the few year-round inhabitants that breed in Puget Sound.

**Larval Crab Survey:** Volunteers from the Center partnered with staff from the Nisqually Indian Tribe, Washington Department of Natural Resources, and the Pacific Shellfish Institute to monitor a light trap at Zittel's Marina to track changes in Dungeness crab populations.

**Acidification Nearshore Monitoring Network (ANeMoNe):** Since 2019, the Center has assisted the Washington Department of Natural Resources with long-term water quality monitoring of the Nisqually Delta. This important study tracks conditions symptomatic of ocean acidification through physical, chemical, and biological indicators.



## What's New at the Center?

This year, the NRNC Team worked hard to make our Visitor Center a welcoming and vibrant community space!

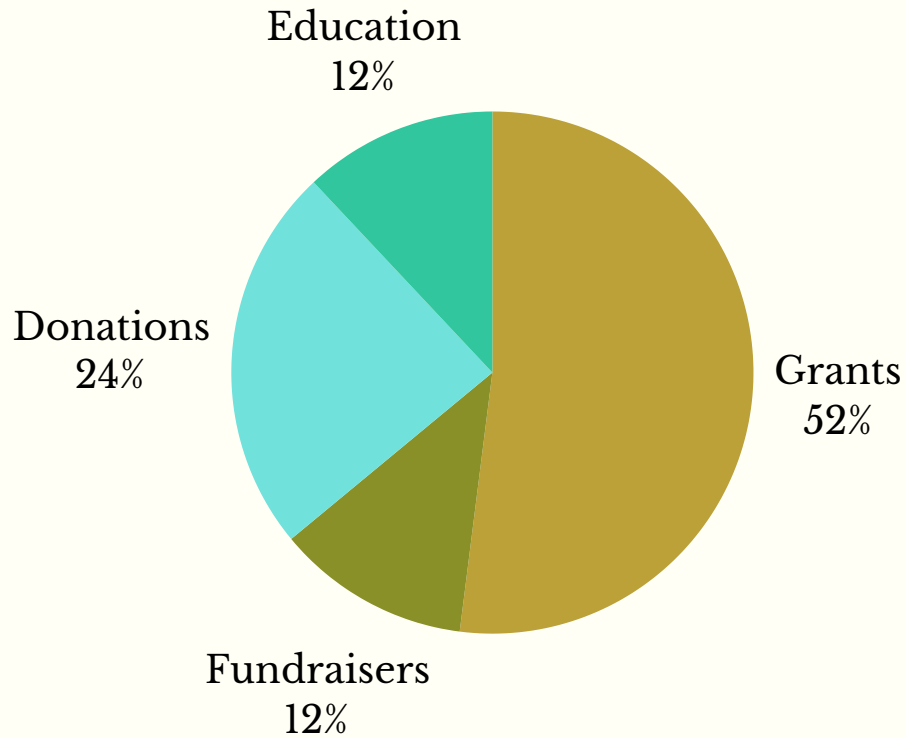
We introduced a new large-scale art project: a series of murals on our retaining wall.

We also piloted two new community-oriented event series: Board Game Nights and Estuary Flow Yoga!

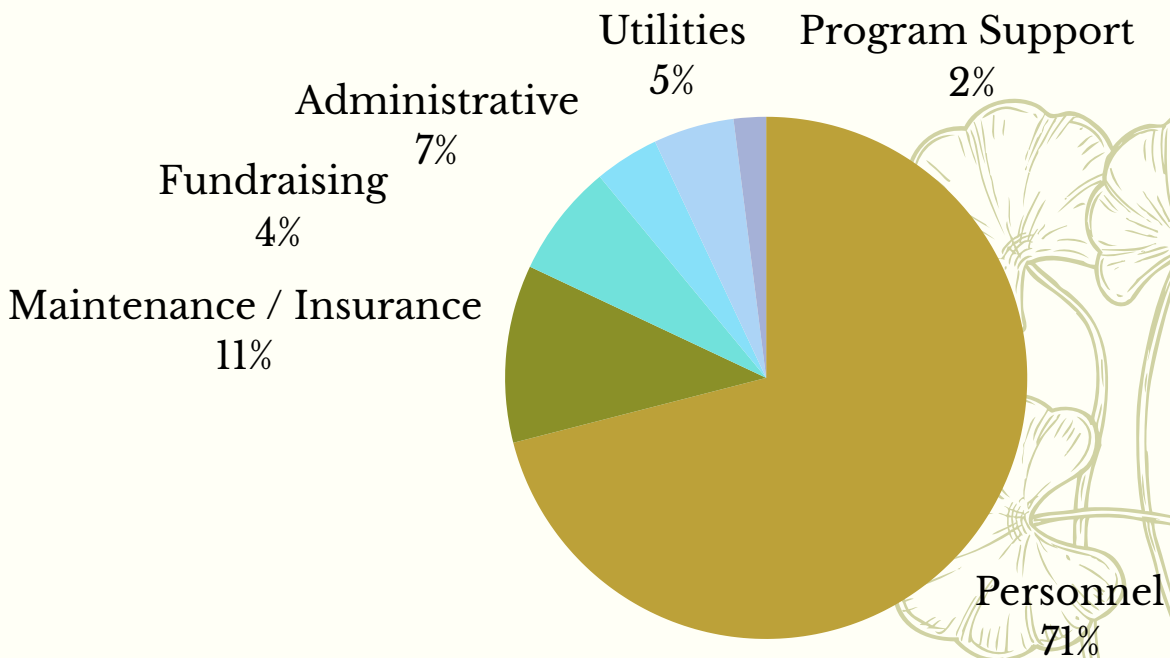


# Finances

**2024 Income: \$175,216.75**



**2024 Expenses: \$179,290.31**



# Volunteer Appreciation

Volunteers are the backbone of our nonprofit organization. Whether it was volunteering for our education programs, community monitoring programs, fundraising efforts, serving as board or committee members, or taking care of our facility, we could not have accomplished it without our volunteers.

In 2024, our volunteers completed a total of 2,039 hours, which is valued at \$82,131 by Independent Sector.

We are ever so grateful for all our volunteers! Thank you for being a part of our mission.



# Sponsor & Partner Appreciation

## 2024 Sponsors

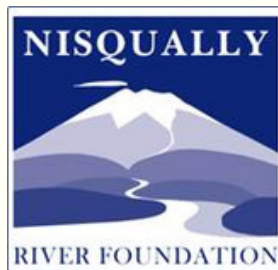


Dawkins Charitable Trust

## 2024 Parnters



Washington Department of  
**FISH & WILDLIFE**



**South Sound GREEN**

- Global Rivers Environmental Education Network -



Salish Sea Guillemot  
Network

Pigeon Guillemot Breeding Survey

