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A special thank you

to everyone who

hosted and supported

our various Facebook

Giving campaigns.



Friends of Washington Crossing Park

2020 Annual Report

A Mission to Preserve, Promote and Educate

The Friends of Washington Crossing Park shares the powerful story of General George Washington's daring crossing of the Delaware River on Christmas night 1776 and interprets its ongoing impact on world history for both today's citizens and future generations.

Through fundraising, the generous support of our donors and members, and our partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, we are able to maintain and sustain this significant historic site and welcome thousands of schoolchildren, families, individuals, and groups every year.



New Program Development

- In the early Spring, park attendance increased by 60 percent.
- In lieu of in-person programs, we innovatively adapted our current school programs offerings for virtual and at-home education. These programs included free downloadable content, video presentation of colonial craft & trade demonstrations, interactive lesson plans, and traveling chests.
- Inspired by our Colonial Days Summer Camp, our new "Camp in a Box" program was launched in the fall. Designed to bring the park's history home for students, the box contains supplies and instructions for over 20 history themed activities easily done at home.
- Our lecture series and book club became virtual allowing us to expand our audience to history lovers from across the US. In 2020 the lecture series attracted a record high of 515 virtual attendees with an additional 800 views of the recordings on YouTube.
- The Hibbs House Kitchen Garden thrived during its first full year of seasonal planting as an outdoor classroom and recreational space.
- The Thompson-Neely Grist Mill ground 8,000 pounds of wheat and corn into flour and corn meal to be sold as a fundraiser for the park.
- We offered a video presentation of the 68th Annual Crossing Reenactment that debuted on YouTube and Facebook on Christmas Day. The video has generated over 23,000 views.

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Our People



Friends of Washington Crossing Park Board

The all-volunteer Friends Board of Directors is made up of a diverse cross section of community members.

John Godzieba, President
William Haas, Vice President
Frank Lyons, Treasurer
Dave Kruszczyński, Secretary
Thomas K. Fischer
Patricia Fisher-Olsen

Matthew McElroy
Peter Tucci
Charles Tweedy, MD
Robert West
Jennifer Martin, ex-officio
Marisa Sprowles, ex-officio

Friends of Washington Crossing Park Staff

Under the direction of the Board of Directors, Friends staff members run the day-to-day operations of the organization.

Jennifer Martin, Executive Director*
Danielle Gress, Development Coordinator*
Katherine Becnel, Volunteer Coordinator*
Gaetano Sava, Visitor Services Coordinator*
Anna Davis-Agostini, Historical Horticulturalist*
Ross Heutmaker, Farmstead Manager*
Connie Unangst, Museum Shop Coordinator

**full-time staff member*



Historical Interpreters

Guided tours led by trained historical interpreters are offered at the Historic Village and the Thompson-Neely House and Grist Mill. Visitors can trace General Washington's footsteps in McConkey's Ferry Inn, traverse the three floors of a 19th-century grist mill, and peek into the park's replica Durham boats used in the annual Crossing reenactments.

Madison Buckley
Bruce Cobb
Sean Corcoran
Josh Kasper
Corinne Kauermann
Bunkie Maddock

Thomas Maddock
Nancy O'Leary
David Price
Patricia Seabright
Colin Zimmerman
Kevin Zimmerman



Volunteers

In 2020, 250 volunteers contributed more than 3,800 hours in support of Washington Crossing Park. Volunteers served the park as historical interpreters, in visitor services, special events, gardening, animal care, school programs, as musicians in our fife and drum corps and in the Thompson-Neely Mill restoration project. A special thank you to all the volunteers for their service this year.



Our Activities

2020 Visitation

Park attendance in 2020 was 892,597.

In addition to day-to-day attendance, many visitors enjoyed our varied signature events. In 2020, these events included:

1,050 – Washington's Birthday Celebration
515 – Virtual Annual Lecture Series
23,000 – Christmas Day Crossing Video Presentation



Our Supporters



2020 Foundations/Grants

Many of the programs offered by the Friends are supported by grants given by foundations, companies and organizations.

The County of Bucks
The Bucks County Conference and Visitors Bureau
Church & Dwight Employee Giving Fund
Philadelphia Arts Council
Janssen Pharmaceuticals

The Macquarie Foundation
The Albert W. Bader Foundation
Washington Crossing-Yardley Kiwanis Club
Bucks Beautiful

2020 Corporate Sponsors/Major Gifts/Board Contributions

Financial support is also provided by a variety of local and regional companies and individuals.

The Estate of William Farkas
Christopher & Mary Jane Beck
John & Joanne Godzieba
Historic Interpreters, Volunteers and Educators
Charles & Kate Tweedy, M.D.



New Program Development, continued from page 1

- We launched a successful giving campaign in support of our resident flock at the Thompson-Neely Farmstead. Our "Sponsor A Sheep" campaign raised over \$15,000 to support their daily needs, such as food and veterinarian costs.
- Through a new partnership with Delaware Valley University, we offered interactive and educational Zoom programming for students. As part of the new partnership, we will be hosting our "Colonial Days Summer Camp" program at Delaware Valley University in Summer 2021.
- Contracts were awarded for the \$8.7-million capital project which includes the rehabilitation of 11 historic buildings and structures on site. The project will not only help preserve our historic buildings, but prepare the park for the Semiquincentennial celebrations in 2026.