

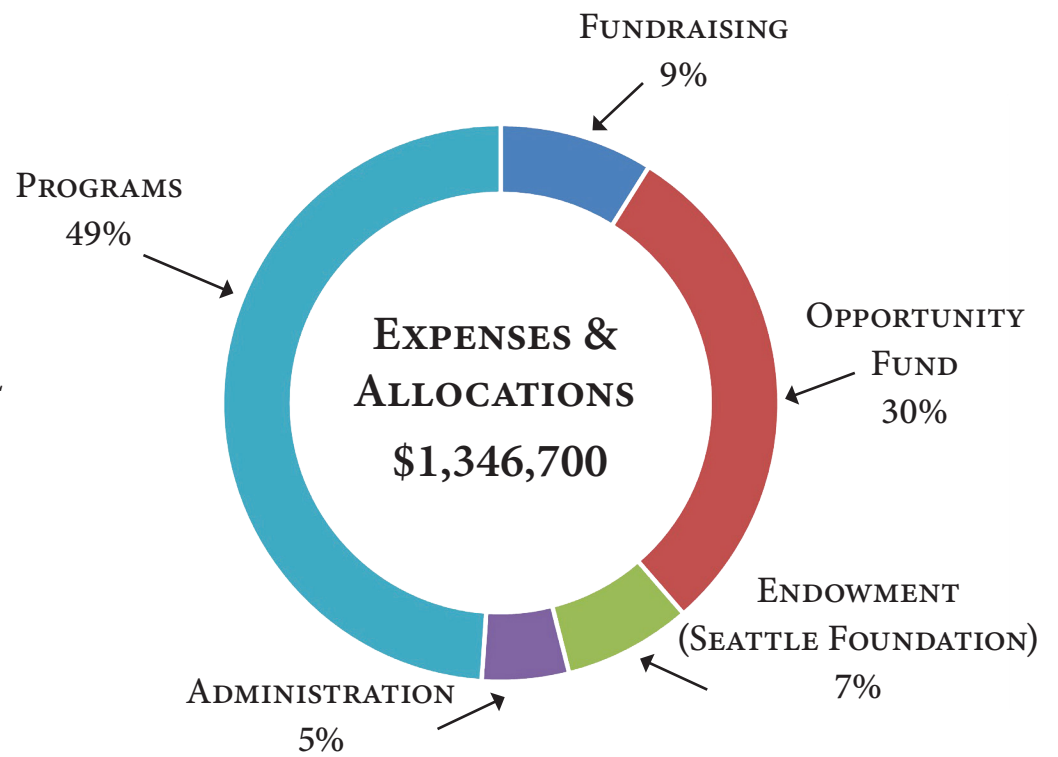
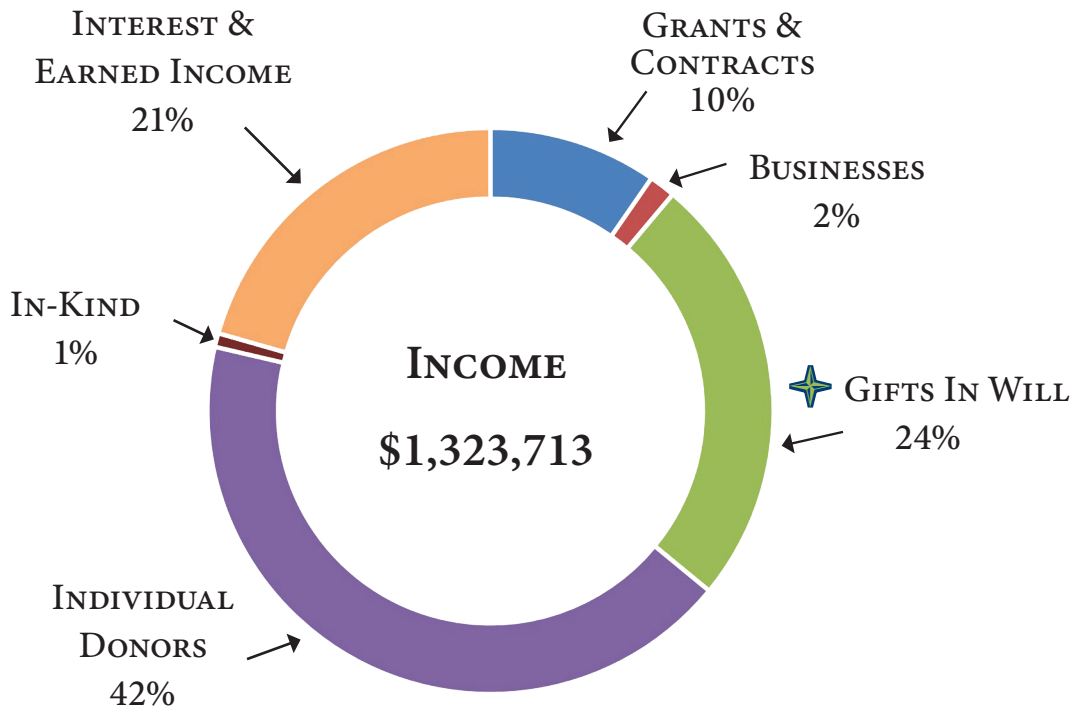


2019 Annual Report

VASHON MAURY ISLAND LAND TRUST

Jim Diers photographs: Trails through the seasons.

2019 BY THE NUMBERS



✦ ANNE LARSON'S LEGACY

Anne Larson was an accomplished cellist, a world-renowned bow-maker, and an avid trail walker. Anne died in the fall of 2019 and left her estate to the Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust in her will. The Board of Directors has allocated \$100,000 of that gift to the Land Trust endowment, a true endowment held by the Seattle Foundation for conservation work on Vashon.



The Board allocated the remainder of Anne's gift to the Opportunity Fund – an internal revolving loan fund that allows us to respond quickly when a critical piece of land comes on the market. For an example of how we use the Opportunity Fund, see Conservation Highlights below.

2019 CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

We prefer to run our conservation program proactively – reaching out to landowners and letting our interests be known. But even when we do, stuff happens. On December 26 of 2018, two parcels at Frog Holler Forest popped onto the market. Yes, the owners knew we were interested. Sometimes people like to test the market, and that's OK. That's why we have the Opportunity Fund.

The Opportunity Fund is an internal, unrestricted fund that we use as a revolving loan fund. On December 28 we made our offer – full asking price, cash, and on February 15 the deal closed. In the spring of 2019, we partnered with King County on a funding request to the Conservation Futures Program. On December 10, 2019, we sold the property to King County to join Frog Holler Forest and replenished the Opportunity Fund.

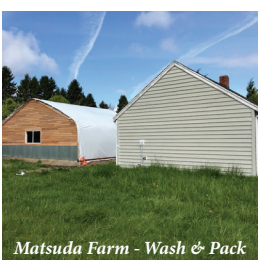
That was not the only addition to Frog Holler in 2019. In total, we were able to add 44 acres, bringing Frog Holler Forest up to a total of 156 acres in just four years.

MATSUDA FARM HIGHLIGHTS

2019 was the year that Matsuda Farm blossomed and bore fruit—or rather, vegetables. Our initial experimental row crops went mostly to feed students at the school district—which has been feeding kids by cooking from scratch for ten years now.

It was a year of building at the Farm—a wash-and-pack shelter and a walk-in cooler. A special thanks to volunteer Michael Sperazza for building our beautiful cooler.

There was a lot of talk about carbon at Matsuda Farm last year. And a lot of action. Farm Manager Caitlin Ames went



Matsuda Farm - Wash & Pack

on a field trip to Singing Frog Farm in California last fall and came back determined to transform Matsuda Farm to a no-till operation. Thanks to generous grants from Puget Sound Energy and one of our generous donors, we now have a solar array that powers our water system and our cooler. With these carbon-positive actions, Matsuda Farm is demonstrating regenerative farming on Vashon Island.



2019 STEWARDSHIP REPORT

TRAILS

- Finished building the Kneeshaw Trail
- Constructed the trailhead parking for the Kneeshaw Trail and new Judd Creek Trail
- Built the All Ages Trail
- Maintained and did minor repairs on existing trails
- Built kiosks for Shinglemill and Christensen Trails



HABITAT RESTORATION

Cleaned up Judd Creek property purchased in 2017:

- Disassembled two sheds and rebuilt them on other properties
- Removed hundreds of feet of chain link fence along the perimeter of the property
- Removed 8 dump truck loads of creosote timbers and other trash from the property
- Demolished the derelict house



PLANTING

- Planted 1500 trees and shrubs along the All Ages Trail
- Planted 1600 trees and shrubs on the new Judd Creek property
- Underplanted 500 fir and cedar in Paradise Valley
- Underplanted 600 fir and cedar in Ellisport Canyon
- Planted 600 trees and shrubs on other Land Trust properties
- Maintained 25 acres of meadow
- Maintained 20 acres of existing plantings



OTHER PROJECTS

- Helped the Vashon Nature Center with forage fish surveys, beach surveys, and macro-invertebrate surveys
- Removed invasive species throughout the Judd and Shinglemill Creek watershed
- Helped the Elwah Tribe for a week on the Elwah dam removal project

With our thanks and gratitude...

2019 VASHON MAURY ISLAND LAND TRUST SUPPORTERS

Vashon Wildlife Habitat Team's Pollinator Garden at Matsuda Farm Photo by Jim Diers

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