# FRIENDS OF NACHUSA GRASSLANDS

#### AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

#### Friends of Nachusa Grasslands

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Independent Auditor's Report



To the Board of Directors Friends of Nachusa Grasslands Franklin Grove, Illinois

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Friends of Nachusa Grasslands (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position – modified cash basis as of June 30, 2022, and the related statement of activities – modified cash basis, cash flows – modified cash basis, and functional expenses – modified cash basis for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position — modified cash basis of Friends of Nachusa Grasslands as of June 30, 2022, and the changes in net assets and its cash flows — modified cash basis for the year then ended in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting as described in Note 1.

#### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Friends of Nachusa Grasslands and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### **Basis of Accounting**

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

#### Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting described in Note 1, and for determining that the modified cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The

risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

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- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Friends of Nachusa Grasslands' internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Friends of Nachusa Grasslands' ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Certified Public Accountants Springfield, Illinois

February 13, 2023

#### Friends of Nachusa Grasslands

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION MODIFIED CASH BASIS

June 30, 2022

#### **Assets**

CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ <u>172,320</u>
INVESTMENTS	
Beneficial interest in assets held by Community Foundation of Northern Illinois	2,619,521
Beneficial interest in assets held by The Nature Conservancy	<u>783,119</u>
Total Investments	3,402,640
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ <u>3,574,960</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
LIABILITIES	\$
NET ASSETS	
Without donor restrictions:	
Undesignated	172,320
Board designated-endowment at The Nature Conservancy	_230,658
Total net assets without donor restrictions	402,978
With donor restrictions	3,171,982
Total Net Assets	3,574,960
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ <u>3,574,960</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# Friends of Nachusa Grasslands STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES MODIFIED CASH BASIS

For the Year Ended June 30, 2022

	Do	hout onor ictions	With Donor	
	Undesignated	Board <u>Designated</u>	<u>Restrictions</u>	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE:				
Contributions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 370,605	\$ 370,605
Grants	-	-	261,810	261,810
Change in beneficial interests	-	( 86,027)	(252,673)	( 338,700)
Program income	1,508	-	-	1,508
Other income	50,000	-	-	50,000
Net assets released from restrictions	324,337		( <u>324,337</u> )	
Total Revenue	375,845	(86,027)	55,405	345,223
EXPENSES:				
Program services:				
Program expenses	242,374	-	-	242,374
Supporting services:				
Management and general	15,908			15,908
Total Expenses	258,282			258,282
NET CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	117,563	( 86,027)	55,405	86,941
NET ASSETS – BEGINNING OF YEAR	54,757	316,685	3,116,577	3,488,019
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ <u>172,320</u>	\$ <u>230,658</u>	\$ <u>3,171,982</u>	\$ <u>3,574,960</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

#### Friends of Nachusa Grasslands

# STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES MODIFIED CASH BASIS

For the Year Ended June 30, 2022

	Program	Management and General	Total
Science Grants and Symposium	\$ 66,394	\$ -	\$ 66,394
Stewardship	67,592	-	67,592
Nachusa Operations via TNC	89,248	_	89,248
TNC Management Fee	-	3,035	3,035
Professional Expenses	-	6,655	6,655
Other Expenses	-	3,802	3,802
Development Expenses	15,140	-	15,140
Grants to Other Organizations	4,000	-	4,000
Insurance	-	2,357	2,357
Bank Fees and other fees		59	59
TOTAL FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES	\$ <u>242,374</u>	\$ <u>15,908</u>	\$ <u>258,282</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

For the Year Ended June 30, 2022

#### NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### **Nature of the Operations**

Friends of Nachusa Grasslands (the "Organization") is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization founded in 2008 by volunteers dedicated to providing for the long-term care and management of Nachusa Grasslands. The Nature Conservancy (TNC), a nonprofit conservation organization, owns and operates Nachusa Grasslands. The mission of the Friends of Nachusa Grasslands is to build endowments that will help defray the cost of natural areas management, staff and operating expenses; conduct and encourage stewardship; and support education and scientific activity at the preserve. These endowed funds will support the conservation and preservation of native plants, animals, and natural communities by providing for long-term stewardship at Nachusa Grasslands.

#### **Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements of the Organization are prepared on the modified basis of cash receipts and disbursements, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (GAAP). This basis of presentation differs from GAAP in that certain revenues are recognized when received rather than earned and certain expenses are recognized when paid rather than when the obligation is incurred. Specifically, the variances from GAAP include omission of receivables, accounts payable, and accruals. Such variances are presumed to be material. However, similar to financial statements prepared in accordance with GAAP, these financial statements reflect the fair market value of the beneficial interest in assets, which is a modification from cash basis. The accompanying financial statements are not intended to present the financial position and results of operations in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

#### **Net Assets**

Net assets and revenue, expense, gains, and losses are classified based on the existence or absence of donor or grantor imposed restrictions. Accordingly, net assets of the organization and changes there in are classified and reported as follows:

Net assets without donor restrictions: net assets available for use in general operations and not subject to donor (or certain grantor) restrictions. The governing board has designated, from net assets without donor restrictions, a board designated quasi-endowment.

Net assets with donor restrictions: net assets subject to donor or certain grantor imposed restrictions. Some donor imposed restrictions are temporary in nature, such as those that will be met by the passage of time, long-lived assets placed in service, or other events specified by the donor. Other explicit donor imposed restrictions are perpetual in nature, where the donor stipulates that resources be maintained in perpetuity. Donor imposed restrictions are released with a restriction expires, that is, when the stipulated time has elapsed, when the stipulated purpose for which the resource was restricted has been fulfilled, or both.

#### **Use of Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. The most sensitive estimates are those related to the valuation of investments in assets held in trust at CFNIL and TNC.

For the Year Ended June 30, 2022

#### NOTE 1 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, Continued

#### **Property and Equipment**

Property and equipment are recorded at acquisition cost or fair market value at the date of the gift or donated assets. Equipment, furniture and fixtures, land improvements, improvements and buildings are depreciated on the straight line method over its estimated useful life. Equipment, furniture and fixtures not exceeding \$2,500 in value are charged to expense in the year of purchase and not recorded as an asset. Maintenance and repairs are charged to expense and not recorded as an asset. Major renewals and betterments which extend the useful lives of assets are capitalized. At year end, the Organization owned no property and equipment.

#### **Contributions**

Contributions received are recorded as net assets without donor restrictions or net assets with donor restrictions, depending on the existence and/or nature of any donor-imposed restrictions. When a restriction expires (that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished), net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the statements of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Contributions with donor-imposed stipulations regarding how long the contributed assets must be used are recorded as net assets with donor restrictions; otherwise, the contributions are recorded as net assets without donor restrictions.

Donated services are recognized as contributions if the services (a) create or enhance nonfinancial assets or (b) require specialized skills, are performed by people with those skills and would otherwise be purchased by the Organization.

#### **Expanse Allocation**

The costs of providing the various programs and activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the schedule of functional expenses. The expenses could be directly attributed to the program or supporting functions.

#### **Investments**

The Organization carries beneficial interest in assets held by The Nature Conservancy and the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois with readily determinable fair values in the statement of financial position. Quoted market prices in active markets are used as the basis of measurement. Net investment income (loss) is reported in the statement of activities and consists of interest and dividend income, realized and unrealized capital gains losses, less external and direct internal investment expenses.

Investment are generally recorded at fair value based upon quoted market prices, when available, or estimates of fair value. Donated assets are recorded at fair value at the date of donation. Or if sold immediately after receipt, at the amount of sales proceeds received (which are considered a fair measure of the value of the date of donation). Those investments for which fair value is not readily determinable are carried at cost or, if donated, at fair value at the date of donation, or if no value can be estimated, at a nominal value. Investment income or loss and unrealized gains or losses are included in the statement of activities as increases or decreases in unrestricted net assets unless the income or loss is restricted buy donor or law.

For the Year Ended June 30, 2022

#### NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, Continued

#### Statement of Cash Flows

Cash and cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid instruments that are readily convertible to cash with a maturity of three months or less.

#### **Income Taxes**

The Organization is a nonprofit organization exempt from taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Accordingly, no provisions for income taxes is included in the financial statements. The Organization, however, if it should receive any unrelated business income, would not be exempt from income taxes on such income.

#### NOTE 2 – CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

The Organization maintains cash balances at financial institutions where the accounts are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) for up to \$250,000. At certain times during the year, cash balances may be in excess of FDIC coverage. The Organization has not experienced any losses in such accounts, and believes it is not exposed to any significant credit risk on cash.

#### NOTE 3 – LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Financial assets available for general expenditure, that is, without donor or other restrictions limiting their use, within one year of the statement of financial position date, comprise the following:

#### Year Ended June 30, 2022

Cash and cash equivalents Investments in Beneficial Interests Held	\$ 172,320 <u>3,402,640</u>
Subtotals financial resources Less - donor restricted and board designated endowment fund	3,574,960 ( <u>3,402,640</u> )
Total financial resources available for general expenditures within 12 months	\$ <u>172,320</u>

Endowment funds consist of donor-restricted endowments and funds designated by the board as endowments. Income from donor-restricted endowments is restricted for specific purposes, with the exception of the amounts available for general use. Donor-restricted endowment funds are not available for general expenditure.

Although not expected to be needed for paying for general expenditures, the expendable yet designated portion of the Organization's financial assets could be used to meet cash needs, if necessary.

For the Year Ended June 30, 2022

#### **NOTE 4 – FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS**

Current accounting standards established a framework for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable input (level 3 measurements). The three levels of fair value hierarchy under current accounting standards are described as follows:

Level 1: Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access.

Level 2: Inputs to the valuation methodology include: quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets; inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability; or inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation of other means. If the asset of liability has a specified (contractual) term, the level 2 input must be observable market data by correlation of other means.

Level 3: Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The asset of liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for asset measured at fair value.

Money market, bond and equity mutual funds: Valued at the net asset value (NAV) of shares held by the Plan at year end.

Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trust: Valued at the beneficial interest in assets held at the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (Foundation) and TNC at the fair value of the Organization's share of the investment pool as of the measurement date. The Foundation's investments are composed approximately of 34% domestic equities, 24% foreign stocks, 16% U.S. fixed income, 9% real estate, 9% defensive equity, and 8% alternative investments including cash equivalents and private equity funds. The beneficial interest in assets held at TNC are managed by independent investment managers. To maintain prudent diversification and to manage risk, TNC portfolio is divided among 70 to 75 separate managers. To mitigate concentrations of credit risk, TNC's excess cash invested in high quality institutions, the largest concentrations of which are invested in commercial paper (29%), repurchase agreements (22%), certificates of deposit (21%), U.S. Treasuries (16%) and corporate bond and notes (10%).

The following table presents the balances of assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis (Level 2) within the fair value hierarchy at June 30, 2022:

Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trust – CFNIL	\$2,619,521
Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trust – TNC	<u>783,119</u>

Total \$3,402,640

For the Year Ended June 30, 2022

#### NOTE 5 – MAJOR FUNDING SOURCE

The Organization receives the majority of its revenues from donor contributions, grants, and distributions from two endowments. If these funding sources were to be reduced, they would significantly impact the operations of the Organization.

#### NOTE 6 - BENEFICIAL INTEREST IN ASSETS HELD

In May 2014, the Organization transferred \$100,000 from its investment portfolio to the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL) to establish an endowment fund. Donors and the Organization continue to transfer funds into their endowment fund and it is perpetual in nature. Under the terms of the trust agreement, the Organization receives a quarterly distribution equal to the investment return generated by the assets. The Organization granted variance power to the CFNIL, which allows the CFNIL to modify any condition or donor restriction on its distributions for any specified charitable purpose or to any specified organization if, in the sole judgement of the CFNIL's Board of Directors, such donor restriction or condition becomes unnecessary, incapable of fulfillment, or inconsistent with the charitable needs of the community. The fund is held and invested by the CFNIL for the Organization's benefit and is reported at fair value in the statement of financial position, with distributions and changes in fair value recognized in the statement of activities. At June 30, 2022 the endowment has a fair value of \$2,392,855, which is reported in the statement of financial position as beneficial interest in assets held by others with distributions and changes in fair value recognized in the statement of activities.

In November 2020, the Organization transferred \$100,000 from its investment portfolio to the Community Foundation of Northern Illinoi (CFNIL) to establish a second endowment fund. Donors and the Organization continue to transfer funds into this endowment fund and is perpetual in nature. Under the terms of the trust agreement, the Organization receives a quarterly distribution equal to the invest return generated by the assets. The Organization granted variance power to the CFNIL, which allows the CFNIL to modify any condition or donor restriction on its distributions for any specified charitable purpose or to any specified organization if, in the sole judgement of the CFNIL's Board of Directors, such donor restriction or condition becomes unnecessary, incapable of fulfillment, or inconsistent with the charitable needs of the community. The fund is held and invested by the CFNIL for the Organization's benefit and is reported at fair value in the statement of financial position, with distributions and changes in fair value recognized in the statement of activities. At June 30 2022, the endowment fund has a fair value of \$226,666, which is reported in the statement of financial position as beneficial interest in assets held by others with distributions and changes in fair value recognized in the statement of activities.

The Organization established a quasi-endowment and a donor restricted endowment that is perpetual in nature with The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The amount of endowment income provided each year for operations is established by TNC through its adoption of an annual endowment spending rate and spending rate base. The spending rate for the year ended June 30, 2022 was 5% of the average fair market value for the 60 months of calendar years 2016 through 2020. At June 30, 2022, the endowment fund has a fair value of \$783,119, which is reported in the statement of financial position as beneficial interest in assets held by others.

For the Year Ended June 30, 2022

#### NOTE 7 – ENDOWMENT FUNDS AND QUASI-ENDOWMENT FUNDS

As of June 30, 2022, the Board of Directors had designated \$230,658 of net assets without donor restrictions as a general endowment fund in TNC to support the mission of the Organization. Since that amount resulted from an internal designation and is not donor-restricted, it is classified and reported as net assets without donor restrictions.

The Organization's management has interpreted the Illinois Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (IL UPMIFA) as requiring the preservation of the fair value of the original gift as of the gift date of the donor-restricted endowment funds absent explicit donor stipulations to the contrary. As a result of this interpretation, the Organization classifies as net assets with donor restrictions (a) the original value of gifts donated to the permanent endowment, (b) the original value of subsequent gifts to the permanent endowment, and (c) accumulations to the permanent endowment fund made in accordance with the direction of the applicable donor gift instrument at the time the accumulations is added to the fund. The remaining portion of the donor-restricted endowment fund is also classified as net assets with donor restrictions until those amounts are appropriated for expenditure by the Organization in a manner consistent with the standard of prudence prescribed by IL UPMIFA.

In accordance with IL UPMIFA, the Organization considers the following factors in making a determination to appropriate or accumulate donor-restricted endowment funds: (1) the duration and preservation of the various funds, (2) the purposes of the donor-restricted endowment funds, (3) general economic conditions, (4) the possible effect of inflation and deflation, (5) the expected total return from income and the appreciation of investments, (6) other resources of the Organization, and (7) the Organization's investment policies.

- The duration and preservation of the fund
- The purposes of the organization and the donor-restricted endowment fund
- General economic conditions
- The possible effect of inflation and deflation
- The expected total return from income and the appreciation of investments
- Other resources of the organization
- The investment policies of the organization

The primary long-term financial objective for the Organization's endowments is to preserve the real purchasing power of endowment assets and income after accounting for endowment spending and costs of portfolio management. Performance of the overall endowment against this objective is measured over rolling periods of one, three, and five years.

The endowment funds are managed to optimize the long run total rate of return on invested assets, assuming a prudent level of risk. The goal for this rate of return is one that provides funding for the Organization's existing spending policy. Over the short term, the return for each element of the endowment portfolio should match or exceed each of the returns for the broader capital markets in which assets are invested.

The endowment assets are governed by a spending policy that seeks to distribute a specific payout rate of the endowment base to support the Organization's programs. Spending in a given year will reduce the unit value of each endowment element by the payout percentage. In the case of short-term declines in the market value of the endowment pool of funds, the overall spending rate may be calculated below the designated payout percentage in order to maintain the original unit value of certain elements of the true endowment. Growth of the unit values over time should allow for spending of principal, without drawing from the original corpus of a particular gift.

For the Year Ended June 30, 2022

#### NOTE 7 - ENDOWMENT FUNDS AND QUASI-ENDOWMENT FUNDS, Continued

Composition of endowment net assets for the year ended June 30, 2022, were as follow:

June 30, 2022	Without Donor Restriction	With Donor Restriction	Total
Donor-restricted endowment funds – CFNIL	\$ <u>-</u> 230,658	\$2,619,520 	\$2,619,520 
Total	\$ <u>230,658</u>	\$ <u>3,171,981</u>	\$ <u>3,402,639</u>
Changes in endowment net assets for the year ended June 30, 2022, are a	as follows:		
	Without Donor Restriction	With Donor Restriction	Total
Balance, June 30, 2021			Total \$3,433,262 ( 338,700) 632,415 ( 324,337)

#### NOTE 8 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Organization's management has evaluated events and transactions for potential financial statement recognition or disclosure through February 13, 2023, which is the date that the financial statements were available to be issued.