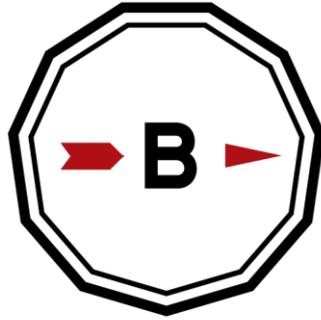


YEAR END REPORT 2017



BROWNSBORO ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 516

Crestwood, KY 40014

www.brownsboroalliance.org

Brownsboro Alliance's (BA) mission is to renew and reconnect the economy, environment, and people of Brownsboro into a sustainable innovative rural region offering surrounding communities the opportunity to experience the beauty of the woodlands and rolling hills that Brownsboro has to offer. BA, through its establishment of the Brownsboro Alliance Trail Association (BATA), also works to connect and maintain a hiking and horseback riding trail for membership on new and existing trails and roadbeds through the scenic farms of Brownsboro and Oldham County.

Brownsboro Alliance (BA) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit community organization. In 2014, BA through the establishment of the Brownsboro Alliance Trail Association (BATA) started connecting farms and joining old trails and forging new trails for walkers and horseback riders. Presently there are 15 miles of scenic trails and recreational spaces where members can enjoy and restore with expansion on the cusp of the new year. It is a hidden gem just outside Louisville, Kentucky. Please see **BACKGROUND** for additional history.



YEAR END REPORT 2017

BROWNSBORO ALLIANCE LITTLE LIBRARY

Brownsboro Alliance's Little Free Library continues serving 24 hours a day, 7 days a week Brownsboro, Crestwood, and surrounding areas in one convenient location at the Apple Patch Community. Spearheaded by BA Board Member, Debbie Bergman, the BA Little Library was built with donated wood, constructed and installed by BA volunteers and BATA members.



EXPANDING TRAILS & ON-GOING MAINTENANCE

Through a partnership with the University of Louisville, BATA doubled the length of the Brownsboro Alliance Trails in 2015. At that time, BATA was given permission to expand the trail onto University property in Oldham County. This sizable extension opened many possible routes of expansion, as the trail now borders eager landowners that have been waiting for us to connect to and through their property. In 2017 we made great progress towards trail expansion, one landowner at a time. We plan to make many of these connections come to fruition in 2018 with Landowner License Agreements.



Looking forward to securing additional sections of trail in 2018, BA will be able to present more mileage of beautiful outdoor trail for our members and guests to enjoy. As with any project of this kind, there will be some very special demands which will require funds to continue to grow. New trail expansion needs machinery, volunteers, signs, and expenses to branch into the many directions where agreeable landowners are waiting for us to connect to their properties. There are fence rows to clear, drainage issues to address, fallen trees to cut, rock supplied to help with erosion, trail design issues, and more – all of which requires continuous fundraising efforts for a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit.

YEAR END REPORT 2017

GROWING SUPPORT

BA has worked tirelessly this year to promote the trails existence spreading the awareness of one of Greater Louisville's hidden gems.

Through word of mouth, educational opportunities on the trails, neighborhood informational meetings, one-on-one with local government officials, grant proposals and

more, the Brownsboro Alliance Trails are being recognized as a viable recreational and healthy amenity in Oldham County.



During our first fundraising event of 2017, BATA Members and guests enjoyed each other's company and good food at **Citizen 7** in Norton Commons. A portion of the evening's sales were donated to BA on the evening of January 25, 2017. BA is always appreciative of restaurants who allow nonprofits to fundraise at minimal costs to do so.

BA's Second Annual Fundraiser, **A Taste Around the World**, was held in September 2017. The evening of food and celebration honored the life of Julie Willard who passed away in 2016. A Taste Around the World was catered by



Common Table, who provided tastes from cultures around the world and in most instances, food grown and prepared by refugees from around the world. It was a privilege and a natural partnering for BA to help support, grow and preserve the cultures of these refugees who are now settled in the Louisville metro area. BA's

support coincides with its own efforts to grow, preserve, and expand the present 15 miles of natural hiking and horseback riding trails in Oldham County, many of which are original farm trails and roadbeds.

YEAR END REPORT 2017

Additionally, Brownsboro Alliance was genuinely humbled to again be chosen by the **Oldham County Community Foundation** to receive \$2,500 in 2017 grant monies. Those grant monies will be used for much needed equipment for trail expansion. A total of 13 nonprofit organizations serving the residents of Oldham County were selected this year.

FUN, EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND ON THE TRAILS

BATA members and guests are encouraged to hike and ride year-round on the BATA trails. Throughout 2017, BATA offered educational events and other opportunities to enjoy the trails with friends, neighbors, and knowledgeable guides.

Spring Wildflower Walk

BATA was honored and privileged again to have Tavia Cathcart Brown, Executive Director of the Creasey McMahan Center, lead its annual Spring Wildflower Walk on April 1, 2017. Tavia is co-author of *Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley and the Southern Appalachians* (2nd Edition) and shares her wealth of knowledge of Kentucky native plants and others growing naturally on the trail. She adds historical facts, along with her passion for with every plant she identifies. She is on the calendar again for March 31, 2018.



Winter and Fall Tree Walks

Chris O'Bryan, certified arborist and co-owner of Limbwalkers Tree Service, returned to the trails for two tree walks this year. He led members and guests on the BATA Trails February and November, sharing his unique knowledge of trees (with and without leaves), the trail's ecosystem, and more. Both the Wildflower Walk and the Tree

YEAR END REPORT 2017

Walks are offered at least once a year and are geared toward members and guests of all ages.



Guided Hikes and Rides

BA Board Member Debbie Stevens led monthly guided hikes and rides for members and guests from April through September. These events, which alternated hiking or riding each month, gave members the opportunity to enjoy the trails with others from the BATA community, and allowed guests and member prospects to experience the trails while considering membership.

Wiking on the BATA Trails

On October 29, 2017, BATA hosted its first wine and hiking event: a leisurely hike of approximately 2 miles with members and guests enjoying each other's company, stopping along the trails at peaceful locations to enjoy some wine, community and light hors d'oeuvres. This event is sure to be a member and guest favorite, and will be back in 2018!

BROWNSBORO YOUTH EXPERIENCE (BYE)

BA successfully hosted the third annual Brownsboro Youth Experience (BYE). BA's objective was to get teenagers involved in outdoor activities, emphasizing education, new skills, leadership and teamwork that boost their confidence and self-esteem. Established in 2015, BYE is a week-long experience for area youth ages 12-17 years of age, set in the Trail's natural "outdoor classroom," and led by a Youth Board (17+ year-olds comprised high school and college students).



YEAR END REPORT 2017



Outdoor educators, each a specialist in their respective fields, led a day with the campers, introducing about 20 young people to hands-on, nature-based learning. BYE was extremely excited to be hosting siblings of previous campers. From horses, hiking, archery, leather making, plant identification and more, campers were exposed to the outdoors through the BATA trails. BYE 2018 dates will be announced soon.

Brownsboro Alliance is extremely honored to have the Brownsboro Youth Experience program chosen again to be graciously supported by the **Arbonne Charitable Foundation**, whose mission is to provide support for programs and opportunities that promote the development of confidence and self-esteem in teenage girls and boys.

BROWNSBORO ALLIANCE STAFF

As BATA membership continues to grow and trails expand, responsibilities of our part-time BA staff increase. BA's Executive Director and Webmaster are responsible for our day-to-day operations including communication with our new BATA members and prospective members, liaisons with BA interest groups, membership processing, organization of activities and events, and more.

BA's Webmaster continues to maintain our website and social media outlets including Facebook pages for BA and BATA, keeping information current and timely not only for BA and BATA but also for the Brownsboro Community as a whole. Additionally, blog posts are posted to the website weekly, and the BA Weekly Update is emailed to BATA members, friends, neighbors and others interested in BA news and events.

BA's Executive Director helps administer and keep order the work of both BA and BATA complimenting the direction of the BA Board of Directors and BATA Fundraising Committee. Two new BA Board Members were welcomed to the Board of Directors in 2017.

YEAR END REPORT 2017

There are no other administrative or staff expenses, allowing the majority of funds to go to community projects and/or trail expansion and maintenance.

FUNDING FOR THE FUTURE

BATA membership dues only cover *minor* maintenance expenses. Funding is always critical for nonprofits and BA is no different, as we seek to add more scenic miles to the Brownsboro Trail System. ***Your help is now needed to keep the trail going and expand miles and community projects.*** BA would



welcome you as a member or sponsorship partner. Whether you give of your time, talent, or treasure, your contribution will insure the trail continues to grow for us, and also for generations to come. Donations are tax deductible and can also count toward your BATA membership. The BA Board of Directors, a BATA Fundraising Committee, and BA's Staff will continue to work diligently toward raising awareness of this unique Oldham County hidden gem, its preservation of the land for the future, grant opportunities, trail expansion, and increased membership.

We have ambitious goals for 2018 as we continue to receive land access and easements from property owners that significantly expand the reach of the BATA Trails. A key 2018 objective is to expand trail miles, broaden the reach and impact of our community and educational events as we build on our success and connect more people from all walks of life to the sustainable and unique hiking and horseback riding trails that are less than 20 miles from downtown Louisville. Additionally, we will continue to add trail markers and other low-impact infrastructure that significantly enhance the usability, look, and feel of the trail while preserving its rustic nature.

Please consider donating, renewing your membership, and/or becoming a member and enjoying this unique and remarkable trail, only a few miles outside of Louisville.

YEAR END REPORT 2017

Keep informed about trail happenings by accessing the BA website often and like us on Facebook for photos and other updates. Donations can be made online at <http://brownsboroalliance.org/> or mailed to P.O. Box 516, Crestwood, KY 40014.

THE COMMUNITY OF BROWNSBORO ALLIANCE

The Community Foundation of Louisville recently posted an article about **community** by Erica Rucker, entitled "What Makes A Community?" Ms. Rucker poses the question, "When you hear the word 'community,' do you immediately



think of an area defined by geography?" BA is dedicated to Brownsboro and Oldham County, but we know that geography is only one facet of our community. Ms. Rucker continues, "By definition, a community is any group of people within a larger society united through a common location, interest or characteristic...Community can be

many things. It can be a neighborhood. A support group. A club. Even a home." Through BATA, BA is proud to offer one such unique community for hiking and horseback riding, creating common ground for outdoor and equine enthusiasts on the BATA Trails. As Ms. Rucker goes on, "We are all connected by many different communities. How we choose to participate, to grow and thrive in those communities is up to us...These communities, the ones that we make, can give us our greatest sense of belonging...What really creates a community are the people who choose to engage in it, and it is those connections that help make a community where people and place thrive."

Come join in the Brownsboro Alliance Community!
Hike or Horseback Ride the Brownsboro Alliance Trails.
It is a community and it is thriving.

Brownsboro Alliance Board of Directors

YEAR END REPORT 2017

BACKGROUND

In 1999, a small group of Brownsboro neighbors began meeting to discuss proposed and potential land development, land use changes, water, sewer and traffic issues, increased taxation, and other matters pertaining to Brownsboro growth.

Fifteen years later, this group is known as Brownsboro Alliance (BA) with a formal mission to serve, to renew and reconnect the economy, environment and people of Brownsboro into a sustainable, innovative, rural community.

One of BA's objectives was the establishment of the Brownsboro Alliance Trail Association (BATA). It had long been a dream of many BA Board Members to establish a trail system throughout Brownsboro. This trail project began in earnest two years ago. In 2014, BA, along with Land Founders Edward and Cornelia Bonnie, Henry and Missy Camp, William and Katherine Camp, Foxhollow Farm and sponsor Fifth Third Bank, opened Phase I of the Brownsboro Alliance Trails under the auspices of BATA. A 7-mile loop opened to members for hiking and horseback riding. A trailhead with a coded gate entry was constructed for both cars and horse trailers. A membership developed to utilize the beauty of this connection of the natural trail beds along Brownsboro's farmland; thus, realizing BA's mission of connecting county to county, farm to farm, family to family.

WHY TRAILS?

In 2009, many of BA's current Board Members responded to the call sent out by Oldham County Planning and Zoning to assist the agency in fulfilling KRS:100 which calls for a community master planning process every 5 years. Neighbors in the Brownsboro area attended months of meeting and helped write the Brownsboro Master Plan. This Master Plan was in turn adopted by county officials.

The Brownsboro Master Plan recommended steps for Brownsboro to develop trails for the community as old trails and roadbeds have been used for generations by landowners and their guests. A few years ago, BA determined to carry out this part of the Master Plan by connecting this natural trail system through the scenic farms for responsible membership who wished to use the trail for hiking and/or horseback

YEAR END REPORT 2017

riding. BA asked landowners to consider taking advantage of Kentucky legislation that makes it possible for landowners to have minimal exposure when they allow us of their land, if they receive no benefit from those who use the trails.