



# FRIENDS OF MUELLER STATE PARK

## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



[FofMSP.ORG](http://FofMSP.ORG)

The mission of the Friends of Mueller State Park is to raise funds to support Park projects, especially those related to education and enhancing visitor experience, and to promote preservation of the Park's resources, history and culture.

2019 was a successful year for the Friends of Mueller, in terms of both accomplishments and fundraising.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2019, the Friends were able to contribute almost \$15,000 directly to the park. Our major accomplishments included:

## EDUCATION

Mueller State Park conducts highly regarded field trips for elementary school students. Unfortunately, neither the park nor school districts can afford the cost of bus transportation to and from the park. The Friends have been proud to pay for buses for field trips for four years. In 2019, the Friends provided transportation for approximately 500 students. Over the years, we have now provided transportation for at least 2800 students to experience and enjoy field trips.



The Friends, with appreciated financial help from Newmont Mining, continued to support the popular Outdoor Skills Day, and, new in 2019, Western Heritage Day.



The Friends contributed the costs of printing education-related materials, such as the Junior Ranger, Guide to Historic Sites and Edible Plant booklets.

## VISITOR EXPERIENCE

At the beginning of 2019, there was an area of ground at the entrance to the Visitor Center that was not very attractive, with old concrete foundation pillars, and overgrown with weeds. The Friends, with much appreciated help from park staff, cleared the area, and added hardscaping, including a path to a newly placed elk statue. We will install plants in 2020, to complete the landscaping.

Before



After



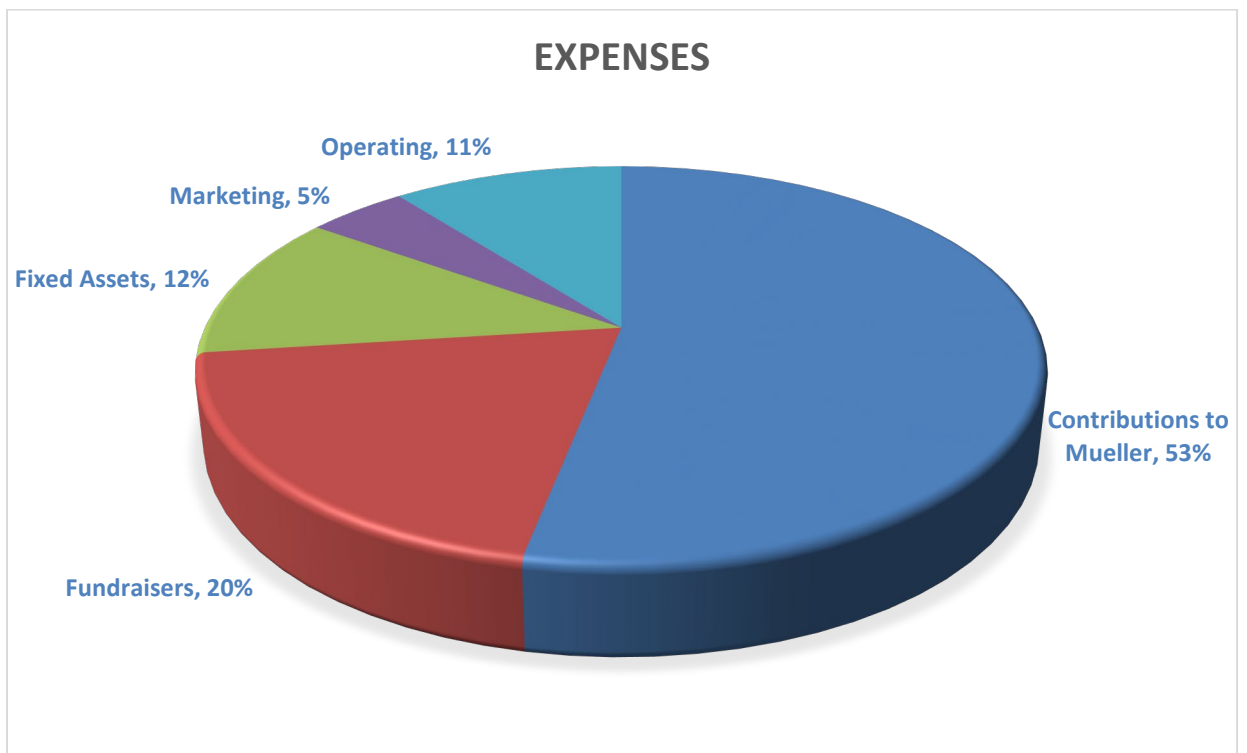
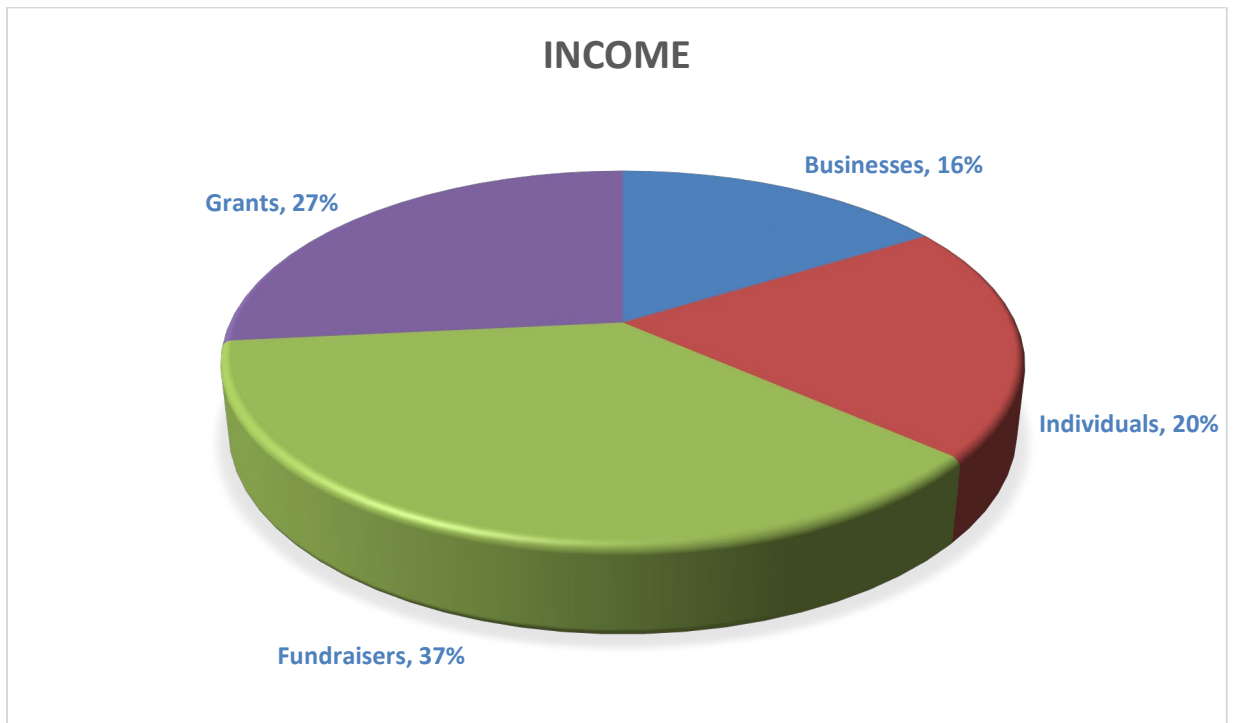
Thanks to a matching grant from the Colorado Parks Foundation, the Friends paid for the purchase and installation of water bottle filling stations in the campground Comfort Station and Camper Services building, improving convenience for campers, and hopefully reducing the use of plastic bottles.



The Friends contributed new and upgraded interpretive signs on the park's trails.



# FINANCIALS



## SPECIAL EVENTS

A number of special events contributed to our 2019 fundraising efforts:

Spring Art Show - Our first annual mixed media show was held on the Memorial Day weekend, attracting crowds enjoying the spring weather.

Fine Art Show – The third annual show included both local and nationally known artists.

Fall Photography Show – Leaf peepers were also able to view and purchase beautiful outdoor photography.



Firewood Sale – A program was started to thin trees in the Cheesman Ranch area of the park, and the Friends were given the opportunity to raise funds by selling the resulting firewood, with the added benefit of helping to improve forest health.

## THE FRIENDS OF MUELLER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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