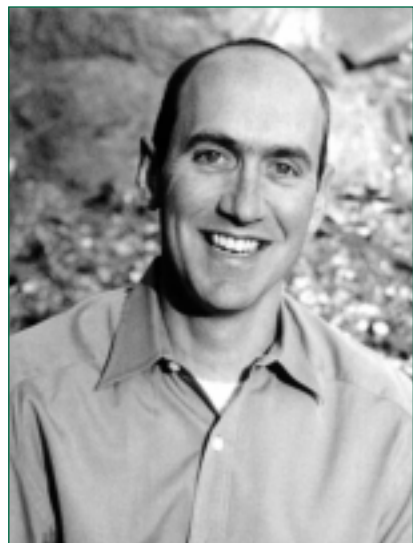


Greenbelt Alliance 2003 Annual Report

Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

You've done it again. Your support, encouragement, and hard work have made this year a great one for the Bay Area's greenbelt and for Greenbelt Alliance. Thanks to you, we've protected 74,000 additional acres of threatened farmland and open space and moved ahead with smart growth plans around the region.

We've managed to do all this at a cost of less than \$11 per acre—making Greenbelt Alliance an extremely good investment.

Greenbelt Alliance is proud to have helped pass new urban growth boundaries this year in Fairfield and Benicia. This step is a critical one to stem the tide of sprawl in our region and promote reinvestment in our existing cities and towns. In all, 22 Bay Area cities and five counties now have urban growth boundaries or similar protections in place, making our region a national leader in environmental stewardship and smart growth.

In addition to protecting our beautiful rolling hills and productive farmlands, Greenbelt Alliance has been hard at work providing sound solutions to the growth and development challenges confronting our cities. By working with local leaders and citizens in our fastest growing communities, we have helped move cities away from public policies that support sprawl toward plans that foster livable, walkable, transit-oriented neighborhoods. During the last year, the American Planning Association and American Institute of Architects each recognized our efforts in this arena by selecting two Greenbelt Alliance publications—*Smart Infill* and *Getting it Right*—for awards.

These successes are the result of your continued support. Without your generous donations, countless hours of volunteer time, and commitment to the region's greenbelt and Greenbelt Alliance, we could not achieve such great strides forward. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tom Steinbach

Executive Director, Greenbelt Alliance

2003 Highlights

74,000 GREENBELT ACRES PROTECTED

In November, voters in Fairfield and Benicia approved urban growth boundaries that protect 74,000 acres of open space and agricultural land from sprawl development. Greenbelt Alliance worked closely with diverse coalitions of organizations and individuals in both cities to ensure that local residents have the final say on development outside the urban growth boundaries.



Photo: Richard Rollins



TWO REPORTS WON AWARDS

Two of our reports won prestigious awards for recommending strategies to accommodate future growth in the Bay Area while keeping the greenbelt intact. Our June 2003 report about the future of San Jose's Coyote Valley, *Getting it Right: Preventing Sprawl in Coyote Valley*, won a national Honor Award for outstanding regional and urban design from the American Institute of Architects. In addition, our report *Smart Infill: Creating More Livable Communities in the Bay Area*, won two honors. The California Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) awarded *Smart Infill* its 2003 Award of Merit in Education Planning, and the APA's Northern California Section selected the report for its 2003 Education Project Award.



Continued on page 2

More 2003 Highlights



Photo: Richard Rollins

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM EXPANDED

We partnered together with the East Bay Community Foundation to expand our efforts to create livable communities in the Bay Area. Evelyn Stivers became the Livable Communities Program's Associate Director, after many years of successful work as our East Bay Field Representative. We are now able to expand our work to promote affordable housing and transit-oriented development within existing cities and towns.

Evelyn Stivers, the new Livable Communities Associate Director, is promoting transit oriented development and affordable housing in the East Bay.

1,700 HOUSING UNITS ENDORSED

Our Compact Development Endorsement Team endorsed development projects will create up to 1,700 new homes in downtowns and existing neighborhoods. The projects we endorsed are close to shopping, jobs, and transit, and include affordable housing units. Our endorsements not only help create livable communities, but also help protect open space by relieving pressure to build in the greenbelt.

The housing units we endorsed last year have not yet been built, but our 1996 endorsement aided the approval process for the recently-completed Ohlone-Chynoweth transit-oriented development in San Jose..



Photo: Tom Jones



Photo: Mike Kahn

ANOTHER GREAT GO GREENBELT!

Some late April showers did not dampen the enthusiasm of the 50 bicyclists who participated in our 14th Annual *Go Greenbelt!* tour. The seven-day, 480-mile bike ride raised tens of thousands of dollars for Greenbelt Alliance, and increased awareness of the threats to Bay Area open space and the importance of smart growth development.

The 2003 ride started in sunshine and clear skies, but the riders later encountered rain. The 2004 ride is our biggest yet—check out our Web site at www.greenbelt.org for more information and a look at the photo gallery.

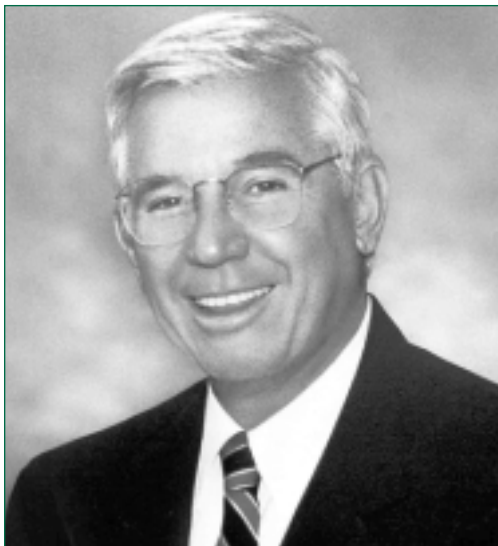
SUCCESSFUL SMART GROWTH EVENT

In September, we hosted former Maryland Governor Parris Glendening, a national leader on smart growth, for a speech at San Francisco's Commonwealth Club about the roles of political leadership and grassroots activism in achieving smart growth development. Approximately 200 people attended the event, which Greenbelt Alliance co-sponsored with the East Bay Community Foundation and Association of Bay Area Governments.

Governor Glendening discussed the importance of community participation in decisions about growth and development during his speech at the Commonwealth Club.



Photo: Autumn Bernstein



GREENBELT OUTINGS PROGRAM

Our Outings Program provided educational tours for 1,500 children and adults. Not only did we introduce people to wonders of the greenbelt, but we we also led tours of Bay Area cities to highlight successful infill projects and promote smart growth.

Our Youth Outings program took these teens from an after school program in Oakland on their first trip to Angel Island.

MISSION

To make the nine county San Francisco Bay Area a better place to live by protecting the region's greenbelt and improving the livability of its cities and towns. We work through public policy development, advocacy and education, in partnership with diverse coalitions.

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Founder:

Dorothy Erskine (1896-1982)