

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



GREENBELT ALLIANCE

greenbelt.org

A MESSAGE FROM THE GREENBELT ALLIANCE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Amanda Brown-Stevens
Executive Director



Over the past 65 years, Greenbelt Alliance has been at the forefront of the intersection of people and nature in the San Francisco Bay Area. We have consistently identified the need to highlight and honor the value of both our people and our magnificent natural areas. Our decades of local land use and conservation work have set the stage for a region that has the tools to build resilience in the face of our biggest challenge yet—the changing climate. By protecting natural habitats and ecosystems, such as wetlands and forests, we can improve resilience to the impacts of climate change. By building more homes within our cities and towns, we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions while increasing the affordability and economic vitality of our region. But business as usual will not get us there. We’re at an inflection point in history. Greenbelt Alliance has (along with our allies and supporters) an opportunity and an obligation to elevate the three cornerstone tools of our work—education, advocacy, and collaboration—to push the bold action necessary for both people and nature to thrive in the Bay Area and beyond.

Greenbelt Alliance’s Resilience Playbook was launched over a year ago to help the region do just that. The Playbook offers a set of strategies and recommendations for building resilience to a range of hazards, including sea level rise, extreme heat, wildfire, and drought, while shaping healthier and more affordable cities. By providing a clear and actionable set of guidelines, the [Resilience Playbook](#) has helped accelerate our region’s resilience planning efforts. As we look to the future, our goal is to accelerate this effort. In 2023, we’re jumpstarting this work by releasing original research that identifies the areas we should prioritize for investment in nature, called Resilience Hotspots. These are places where investments can amplify the benefits of nature we appreciate, from wildlife habitat to recreation,

while protecting vulnerable communities from climate-related hazards. In addition to this work, we’re also building on momentum from changes in housing legislation, planning, and zoning that have taken place over the last few years. These policy changes are critical to lay the groundwork for a more affordable region, but to see its impact and see more homes built, we must focus on moving past housing policy change.

Now is the moment! We cannot afford to wait. We hear consistently from partners and regional leaders that people care about climate change but don’t know what they can do at a local level to make a difference. You may feel that you are hearing from us a lot this year as we share answers to that question. We’ll share more about how:

- Protecting and stewarding farmland, parkland, and forests around cities can actually reduce wildfire risk to those communities.
- Building more apartments and townhouses within our cities gives people more affordable choices to

live while also reducing their carbon footprint by both reducing the need for car trips and using less energy than single-family homes. As an added bonus, multifamily housing uses less water, critical as we enter an era of increasingly unpredictable rain cycles and prolonged droughts.

- Investing in parks, trees, and other green corridors in urban areas experiencing extreme heat is not just a benefit to overall health and well-being, but can also be a matter of life and death in communities without effective cooling infrastructure that are at risk of rolling blackouts due to fire danger.
- Large-scale new housing developments can build in resilience infrastructure to keep people safer from hazards in new communities and provide benefits to existing residents as well.

Amanda Brown-Stevens
Greenbelt Alliance Executive Director

“GREENBELT’S RESILIENCE PLAYBOOK IS AN INCREDIBLY VALUABLE TOOL THAT CITY OF OAKLAND STAFF REVIEWED AS PART OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR EQUITABLE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN. IT WAS A BIG PART OF THE INSPIRATION FOR THE OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL CLIMATE RESILIENCE RESOLUTION.”

DAN KALB, OAKLAND CITY COUNCILMEMBER

HOW WE'RE CREATING A CLIMATE-RESILIENT BAY AREA

Greenbelt Alliance's mission is to educate, advocate, and collaborate to ensure that the Bay Area's lands and communities are resilient to a changing climate.

To understand the impact of our work each year, it helps to take our mission one step at a time, starting with "educate." With the Resilience Playbook in hand—a comprehensive guide to building climate resilience in Bay Area communities—we leveraged educational opportunities to empower diverse groups of people to become climate resilience champions. Through a partnership with the Bay Area Youth Climate Summit, we presented the Playbook and how to use it for local advocacy to more than 500 high school students throughout the region. And we were thrilled to work with companies like NASA, DocuSign, and Clif Bar to train their employees on how to make an impact on the climate crisis in their communities by speaking up at local planning commission and city council meetings.

"Advocate" is core to our work. After all, it's committed residents in local communities who ultimately inspire change! In 2022, we mobilized over 1,300 activists to get critical land-use and development initiatives passed. Jersey Island, in Contra Costa County, is one place our community rallied around. The island is facing a sprawl development proposal for 450 new single-family homes along its waterfront. Placing homes on an island that not only serves as critical habitat to many of the region's native avian and aquatic species,

but that also has minimal access to jobs without transit connectivity, thus increasing greenhouse gas emissions, is the kind of development we must work to prevent!

While we've achieved major milestones within the bounds of education and advocacy, the reality is that none of this is possible without the third action in our mission, "collaborate." It's through partnerships across sectors that we can address the region's rapidly worsening wildfires, heatwaves, and drought, especially when it comes to protecting those most vulnerable—our low-income communities and communities of color. In 2022 alone, our team collaborated with 224 partners across nine coalitions throughout the region. While much of this collaborative work is ongoing, we celebrate successes along the way in wins like San José's City Council passing a new Parking and Transportation Demand Management Standards Ordinance. The result of this new local law, on which Greenbelt Alliance, the City of San José, and other partners collaborated closely over the past three years, includes more sustainable mobility, affordable housing, and GHG emissions reduction in our region!

By educating, advocating, and collaborating, our team made major strides to realize a Bay Area made up of lands and people that are safe during climate disasters. A place where everyone is living with nature in new and powerful ways for generations to come. You can [learn more about our impact here](#).

A photograph of a person hiking away from the camera on a dirt trail. The person is wearing a blue cap, a green long-sleeved shirt, dark shorts, and a bright yellow backpack. The trail is surrounded by tall, dry, golden-brown grass. In the background, a large, brown, rocky hill rises under a clear blue sky.

“THANK YOU, GREENBELT ALLIANCE, FOR ALL YOUR GOOD WORK HELPING THE BAY AREA ASPIRE TO BEING A MORE LIVABLE, EQUITABLE, AND SUSTAINABLE PLACE.”

PETER ALBERT, GREENBELT DONOR



PHOTO BY DANIELA ADES

OUR IMPACT IN 2022

Educate



1,200

students, corporate employees, community members, city staff, and elected officials used our Resilience Playbook to address climate and housing issues.



1,130

people signed up to explore the Bay Area's natural lands and urban areas through Greenbelt Alliance's Outings Program.

Advocate



1,300+

advocates wrote letters, sent emails, signed petitions, and attended city council meetings to get critical land-use and development initiatives passed.



13

state bills passed, of the 20 endorsed by Greenbelt Alliance.



18

ballot measures passed, of the 20 endorsed by Greenbelt Alliance.

Collaborate



224

partners worked with Greenbelt Alliance across 9 coalitions throughout the region to ensure a climate- resilient Bay Area for all.



17

climate SMART—Sustainable, Mixed, Affordable, Resilient, Transit-Oriented—projects were endorsed by Greenbelt Alliance this year.



PHOTO BY JONNY HALE

CELEBRATING OUR WORK IN SONOMA

On June 11, Greenbelt Alliance supporters gathered at Dagmar Dolby's stunning home for our annual Sonoma Luncheon, where we raised over \$100,000 in support of our ongoing efforts to build wildfire resilience in Sonoma County. Guests enjoyed a selection of local wines and a delicious, sustainable farm-to-table lunch from the wonderful Stacy Scott Fine Catering Company.

Every year we host this event for our Sonoma Leadership Council, a group of supporters in the North Bay who donate more than \$1,000 annually towards the work we do in the region. Our work would not be possible without our donors, and this is a great opportunity both to thank them and to help raise funds for ongoing projects in Sonoma County and beyond.

If you would like to join our Sonoma Leadership Council, please contact Nora at ncullinen@greenbelt.org.

resilience for the Bay Area. Their stories were inspiring; their contributions will leave a legacy of positive impact. We're thrilled to have had such a fantastic group of heroes in 2022:

- **Christine Reed**, Battalion Chief/Fire Marshal, Central County Fire Department
- **Dr. Hoi-Fei Mok**, Sustainability Manager, City of San Leandro
- **Erin Morris**, Community Development Director, City of Vacaville.

Stay tuned for updates on Hidden Heroes 2023 to celebrate our 65th anniversary and more!

COCKTAILS & CLIMATE CHANGE

Throughout the year, Greenbelt Alliance hosted gatherings across the region to bring supporters and partners together who are passionate about climate action. We heard from guest speakers like Dr. Crystal Kolden, a pyrogeographer studying wildfires across the American West. We are grateful to our East Bay hosts Tali Levy and Lee Zimmerman and Peninsula/South Bay hosts Nanci Caldwell and Chip Adams for inviting our community into their homes for a chance to enjoy local hors d'oeuvres and drinks and have the opportunity to connect and inspire new friends to join the Greenbelt Alliance family!

If you are interested in attending one of these intimate happy hours to learn more about how to champion our work, please contact Nora at ncullinen@greenbelt.org.

HONORING HIDDEN HEROES OF THE GREENBELT

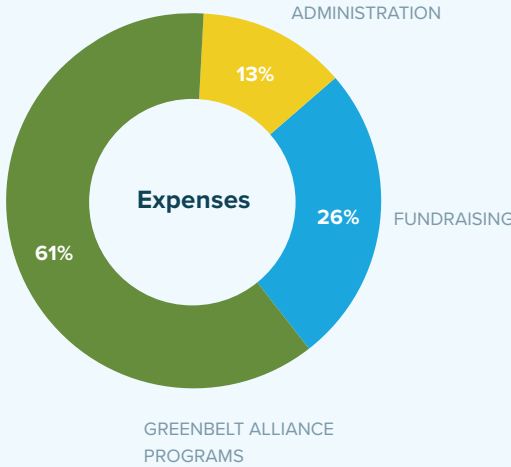
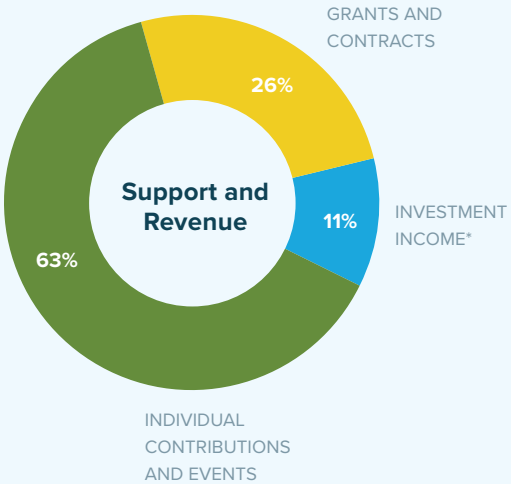
On September 29, Greenbelt Alliance hosted our annual benefit: Hidden Heroes of the Greenbelt. This year's benefit featured both a virtual premiere and an in-person celebration at the California Academy of Sciences. Thanks to our supporters, we raised crucial funds to further our work.

During both events, we honored bold leaders in local government working to ensure greater climate



PHOTO BY JACK SIMPSON

FINANCIAL SUMMARY



Statement of Activities

Fiscal Year: October 2021 to September 2022

| Support and Revenue | \$1,944,593 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Individual contributions and events | \$1,231,590 |
| Grants and contracts | \$501,397 |
| Investment income* | \$211,606 |
| *Excluding unrealized gain/loss | |

| Expenses | \$1,905,206 |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| PROGRAM SERVICES | |
| Greenbelt Alliance Programs | \$1,171,185 |
| SUPPORTING SERVICES | |
| Administration | \$242,064 |
| Fundraising | \$491,957 |

Statement of Financial Position

As of September 30, 2022

| Assets | \$4,136,438 |
|--------------|-------------|
| Current | \$1,384,037 |
| Endowment | \$2,741,496 |
| Other Assets | \$10,905 |
| Liabilities | \$129,730 |
| Net Assets | \$4,006,708 |

Note: As of February 1st, final numbers are still being audited. This chart does not include unrealized gains and losses. For a full report, please see Form 990.

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Hidden Heroes of the Greenbelt

Our annual benefit celebrates our
work and honors bold leaders
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