



2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT

**FOSTERING VIBRANT LANDS
AND COMMUNITIES**



OUR MISSION

To engage and educate the public to restore local ecosystems.

OUR VISION

Vibrant, healthy lands and human communities that sustain one another and are resilient in a changing world.

Dear Friend,

The daily barrage of bad news confirms that climate change has become a climate crisis.

One million species threatened with extinction, an impending insect apocalypse, communities made vulnerable by flooding, fire, and other natural disasters... The list goes on.

But as the stories and numbers in this annual report attest, we can do something about it right here, right now. This year we brought thousands of people together—school children, college students, corporate groups, families, government agencies, and concerned community members—to confront the climate crisis and create a more resilient local environment.

At Grassroots Ecology, we are leveraging science, strategic partnerships, and volunteer power to:

- Rebuild biodiversity from the ground up, starting with native plants that feed wildlife and support robust ecosystems
- Expand green infrastructure—rain barrels, cisterns, berms, swales—to clean our water and alleviate localized flooding
- Create urban habitat, from planting oaks to installing rain gardens, to make our cities more welcoming to people and to wildlife
- Educate youth about their interdependence with the environment and all living things, and how they can collectively create a better future
- Arm people with information and experience so they can help lead the grassroots movement to heal our region and our planet

To get where we need to go, we need each and every one of you. Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

David Smernoff
Board President

Alex Von Feldt
Executive Director



OUR IMPACT, 2018-19



HEALTHY, ENGAGED COMMUNITIES

12,500 participants
9 partnering cities
75 collaborative partnerships
540 volunteer opportunities
270 educational events

HEALTHY, RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS

2,400 acres stewarded
7 creeks monitored
6 miles of creeks cleared of trash
20,000 plants grown
450,000 gallons of water captured

GROWING A COMMUNITY OF

Last year our programs enabled people of all ages to step up as stewards and champions of our local lands.

Stulsaft Park, Redwood City



◀ “Stulsaft Stewards has been an opportunity for me to spend more time outside and to give back to my community.”
—Tommy, Grade 12



McClellan Ranch, Cupertino

260 youth acted as caretakers of **4 preserves** through our Youth Stewards Programs



Arastradero Preserve, Palo Alto



Redwood Grove, Los Altos

▲ “For me, Grove Guardians is a safe space to connect with others and the world around me... and a way to make a difference.” —Emma, Grade 11

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS



We certified **22**
California
Naturalists

^ “Thank you for the wonderful journey: welcoming us warmly, setting the stage for us to bond, and making it fun and interactive. Together through shared discovery and informed stewardship, we make a difference!” —Katharina Stromeyer, 2019 California Naturalist Graduate



< “My internship with Grassroots Ecology was one of the best experiences I have had to this day. It’s made me so much more excited to get back to college and start my pathway down environmental studies.”

—Ashley Baillie,
2018 College Intern

Our nursery volunteers dedicated **660**
volunteer hours



^ “Volunteering at the nursery gives me a hands-on opportunity to help in rebuilding nature. It’s a special place, and I continue to learn something new every time I go there.”
—Peter Neal, Nursery Supporter since 2002

We trained **8** college
interns in habitat
restoration

HARNESSING THE RAIN FOR HEALTHIER HABITAT

We installed new rain catchment systems and rain gardens at three sites in 2018–19 as part of our Greening Urban Watersheds Program—made possible by a partnership with the City of Palo Alto and funding from Valley Water. Volunteers assisted with each installation, gaining the skills to carry out similar projects in their own yards. The rain barrels and cisterns capture rainwater that can be used for irrigation, while the native rain gardens slow and filter stormwater runoff and enhance urban habitat for pollinators and other wildlife.



The Learning Center



◀ At this preschool we installed a 55-gallon barrel and 50-gallon raindrop box. Preschoolers and their parents helped with the installation, and will use the captured rainwater to grow plants for their school garden.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto



◀ We installed two rain catchment tanks that can collectively hold up to 315 gallons per storm event. The water captured will be used to irrigate the church's landscaping and vegetable garden.

Bol Park

▲ We expanded Bol Park's native garden by transforming a weedy section of lawn by the bike path into a vibrant rain garden. The new area includes a streambed and native plants that together increase rainwater infiltration and provide habitat for bees, butterflies, and other wildlife.

BRINGING **SCHOOLS** INTO NATURE, AND **NATURE** INTO SCHOOLS

We collaborated with 50 schools to infuse hands-on nature education into their students' school day learning.



180 classroom sessions delivered on watershed science

◀ “The staff was amazing! They were positive, supportive, flexible, knowledgeable, and patient. They made adjustments as needed, and showed real enthusiasm for the content and teaching.”

—Alex Quezada, Ravenswood City School District STEM Coordinator

“This has become ▶ an integral part of our curriculum and I am so grateful to Grassroots Ecology for running the program.”

—Debolina Dutta, Sequoia High School Biology teacher



55 field trips provided

^ “Your passion for what you

do comes through, and you inspire these students. You encourage them to think about the environment and their role in it. And you help them appreciate it and cherish it.”

—Elizabeth McPartlan, De Anza College Biology professor

270 high schoolers received our Creek Scientists program

NEW THIS YEAR

At this urban creek site in > downtown Redwood City, we are improving habitat and water quality by planting native trees and riparian plants, removing trash and invasive species including palm trees, and expanding the urban native tree canopy.

Hiking Series

We piloted a monthly series of interpretive hikes at our open space sites covering a variety of topics, from birds to traditional uses of native plants. >



We crossed over!

This was our first full year as an > independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Thanks to all of our partners, volunteers, and supporters for transitioning with us. Onward!

Redwood Creek Restoration



Westwind Berm Project

We are using berms and native plants to sink and filter stormwater runoff along a tributary to Adobe Creek at Westwind Community Barn in Los Altos Hills. >



FINANCIALS

REVENUE AND EXPENSES, JULY 1, 2018 — JUNE 30, 2019 PRELIMINARY AND UNAUDITED

REVENUE SOURCES

Government Agencies.....	\$538,641
City Contracts.....	\$524,394
Foundation Grants.....	\$291,000
Individual Donations.....	\$153,855
Corporate Contributions.....	\$113,458
Nursery Sales and Service.....	\$106,752
Event Income.....	\$46,469
Program Fees, Other.....	\$11,036
Total Revenue.....	\$1,785,604

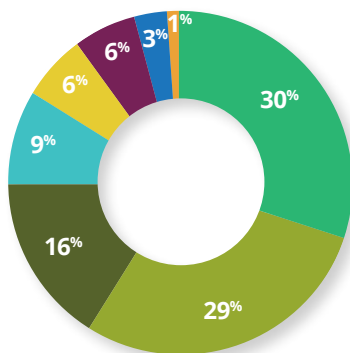
EXPENSES

Programs.....	\$1,322,299
Fundraising.....	\$129,993
Administration.....	\$50,882
Total Expenses.....	\$1,503,174
Change in net assets.....	\$282,429

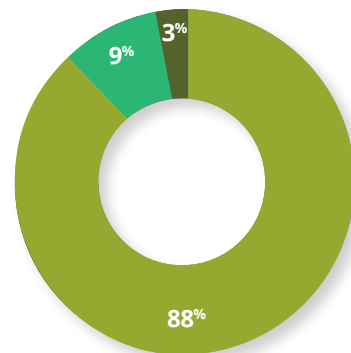
BALANCE SHEET

Assets.....	\$714,050
Liabilities.....	\$82,266
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets.....	\$185,166
Unrestricted Net Assets.....	\$446,618

- Government Agencies
- City Contracts
- Foundation Grants
- Individual Donations
- Corporate Contributions
- Nursery Sales and Service
- Event Income
- Program Fees, Other



- Programs
- Fundraising
- Administration



East Palo Alto Girl Scouts water new bioswale plantings in our Cooley Landing restoration area.



SUPPORTERS

JULY 1, 2018 – JUNE 30, 2019

Thanks to our individual, foundation, government, and corporate funders. This broad-based support enables us to foster healthy, resilient lands and waters on a regional scale.

\$100,000+

City of Palo Alto
J. Vance Huckins Fund of the Tides Foundation
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
The David & Lucile Packard Foundation
State Coastal Conservancy
Valley Water

\$50,000 – \$99,999

City of Cupertino
City of Los Altos
Town of Los Altos Hills

\$25,000 – \$49,999

Franklin and Catherine Johnson Foundation
Morgan Family Foundation
StarLink Logistics Inc. and Sanofi

\$10,000 – \$24,999

Adobe Foundation
Steve and Shelley Brown
City of East Palo Alto
City of Menlo Park
Google
Kit Gordon and Tony Alvarez
Jerry Hearn
Tabitha Jordan and Adam Weissman
The Laurel STEM Fund
Redwood Serenity Fund
San Francisco Estuary Project
San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Bart and Nancy Westcott

\$5,000 – \$9,999

City of Mountain View
City of Redwood City
Lucille Glassman and Phillip Harter
Noble and Lorraine Hancock
Los Altos Community Foundation
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Patagonia
Stanford Real Estate Office
Town of Portola Valley
Joan Ferguson and Craig Uhrich
Sarah and Dan Wernikoff

\$2,000 – \$4,999

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Kathleen Bennett and Thomas Malloy
Patrick Chen
Tammy and Bill Crown
Friends of Stevens Creek Trail
Roger Hine
Charlie Krenz
E3 Youth Philanthropy, a program of Los Altos Community Foundation
Maryann Moise
Kylar Murlas
One Tree Planted
Palo Alto Stanford Aquatics
Jimmy Schmidt and Kristen Williams
Elizabeth Schwerer and Kingston Duffie
David Smernoff and Cindy Russell

Stanford Conservation Program
Woodside Atherton Garden Club
Youth Outside

\$1,000 – \$1,999

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\$500 – \$999

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Woodside High School
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Barbara Oshman
Sacred Heart Schools
Ventana School
Linda and Harvey Ziff



“Grassroots Ecology’s education services combined with their habitat restoration work is literally helping future generations of many species right here on the Peninsula.”

— Julie Weiss, City of Palo Alto
Public Works Watershed Protection

Photo taken by Ryan Phillips at our
Permanente Creek restoration site in Mountain View.

\$100 - \$249

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Patagonia Palo Alto
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Stanford Jasper Ridge
Biological Preserve

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Doug Kent
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Peter Neal
Penny Pollock
David Smernoff and
Cindy Russell
Madeleine Stovel
Jennifer Tsai
Laurie and Jay Witt

We have made every effort to ensure that our donor list is complete and accurate. Please notify us of any errors or omissions at emily@grassrootsecology.org.



photo: Bernd Zeugswetter

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“Each Grassroots Ecology workday is about more than just managing volunteers to complete a task; it’s about connecting people to their natural spaces and laying the foundation of a life spent taking care of our beautiful planet.”

—Casey Mullins, 2018 College Intern