



# greenfootnotes

## Nature Close to Home: The Importance of Urban Green Space

BY ALICE KAUFMAN POLICY AND ADVOCACY DIRECTOR

Tree-lined streets in a city neighborhood. Urban nature preserves and community farms. Creeks winding through developed areas, their riparian corridors providing habitat and connectivity for wildlife large and small. These are just a few examples of urban green space – a critically important tool for climate resilience, biodiversity, and the physical and mental health of our communities. And yet, urban green space is rapidly disappearing from our cities, a loss felt most severely in low-income communities and communities of color, but affecting everyone. In partnership with community leaders, Green Foothills is working hard to expand urban green space in all its forms, so that everyone can experience nature close to home.

### WHY URBAN GREEN SPACE IS CRITICAL

In an era of warming temperatures, green space close to where people live and work provides an irreplaceable benefit in reducing the urban heat island effect caused by pavement, buildings, and other surfaces that absorb and retain heat. Studies show that temperatures can be noticeably hotter where there are fewer trees and other greenery – an effect that is strongest in low-income

communities of color, which generally have fewer street trees, smaller front and backyards, and fewer neighborhood parks.

Parks build community, provide recreational opportunities,

*Continued on Page 6*



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# Joe Cotchett Donation Pushes Advocacy Fund Past \$1M

BY MEGAN FLUKE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Green Foothills has always had its eyes on the future. In that spirit, our Board of Directors created the Lennie Roberts Advocacy Fund in 2017 to ensure future funding for our advocacy staff salaries.

The fund honors Lennie Roberts, who has served as a Green Foothills advocate since 1978. It acts much like an endowment, and board policy calls for raising \$2 million before spending investment revenue. In October 2021, we formed the Advocacy Fund Campaign Steering Committee and set March 31, 2023 as our aggressive target for reaching that \$2 million.

The fund launched in 2017 with a generous \$250,000 gift from Steve Blank and Alison Elliot. In the following years, 69 wonderful people made just over \$1 million in contributions and pledges to this fund including a generous anonymous donor who put forth a \$100,000 match challenge in 2021.

Just this summer, Joe Cotchett (our 2019 Nature's Inspiration honoree) announced that he will make a personal gift of \$250,000 to the fund, in honor of former Congressman Pete McCloskey. Pete was one of our first Board members and provided legal representation to Green Foothills before he was elected to Congress in 1968. He has forever remained a dear friend to our organization.

Joe Cotchett, founder and senior partner of Cotchett, Pitre, & McCarthy LLP, has built his legal career representing the underdog against powerful interests and providing generous pro bono work for social justice and the environment during his 50+ year legal career. He has taken on major cases involving pollution and destruction of public lands for drilling and commercial use. Recently, Cotchett and his firm successfully represented Green Foothills and our co-plaintiffs Baykeeper and Save the Bay in our



*Joe Cotchett (right) with Representatives Pete McCloskey (left) and Jackie Speier (center).*

successful lawsuit against the Trump administration, which had declared that the Cargill salt ponds in Redwood City were not subject to the Clean Water Act. Joe, thank you so much for your generosity and tribute to a great patriot, Pete McCloskey!

It takes a village to keep Green Foothills running, and the donors who generously contribute to our advocacy program are part of that village. Please consider a gift to the Lennie Roberts Advocacy Fund and join our appreciation event for Advocacy Fund donors on October 23, 2022. It'd be wonderful to see you there.

And, in the spirit of looking towards the future, we published Green Future: Envisioning 2062 as part of our 60th anniversary celebration. We are grateful that so many of you have signed onto this vision. If you haven't signed on yet and would like to, you can do so at [greenfoothills.org/vision](https://greenfoothills.org/vision).

We are a grassroots 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working to protect open space, farmland, and natural resources in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties for the benefit of all through advocacy, education, and grassroots action.

We envision a resilient region where wildlife thrives, everyone has natural beauty to enjoy, and communities live in balance with nature.

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**Photo credits:** Pg. 2 courtesy of Joe Cotchett; Pg. 4 burrowing owl by Mark LeClair; Pg. 5 Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District; Pg. 6 child in park by Anushka Drescher; Pg. 8 Chip Curry; Pg. 11 Amah Mutsun Tribal Band; Pg. 12 David Baron, flickr, Skyline Ridge Preserve.



# nature's inspiration

## You're invited!

Sunday, September 25 | 10:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m.  
Mountain Terrace, Woodside



It's Green Foothills' 60th Anniversary, and this milestone calls for an in-person celebration like no other. Join the festivities at our 19th annual Nature's Inspiration on September 25th at Mountain Terrace.

Incredible views of the San Francisco Bay will greet you as you join us for brunch and a celebration of art, including spoken word poetry by Joseph Jason Santiago LaCour, a musical performance by Raul Pachecho of Grammy Award winning Ozomatli, and Aztec dance by Calpulli Tonalehqueh, all in support of Green Foothills.

This year's honorees have dedicated their lives to art focused on landscape, wildlife, and the environment: Jane Kim and Linda

Gass. Both artists bring the beauty of nature to life through a wide variety of mediums including large murals, stitched quilts and public art displays. Their artistic creations are a vibrant call to action for positive change.

Nature's Inspiration underwrites 30% of Green Foothills' annual expenses. Please join us and help us toast our 60th year by sponsoring or purchasing your ticket at [greenfoothills.org/natures-inspiration](https://greenfoothills.org/natures-inspiration).

## Healing in Nature

As we work together to preserve and heal local nature, nature also contributes to healing us — in body, mind, and spirit.

In further celebration of our 60th anniversary, you're invited to get outside with other Green Foothills supporters. Local healers and docents will lead us in meditative, healing experiences as we explore local ecology.

We have already visited Ravenswood, Laguna Seca, Coyote Ridge and Long Ridge Preserves, but you still have the chance for a healing experience in nature at the last two events in our series: Windy Hill Preserve on November 13 and Picchetti Ranch Preserve on December 11. Sign up at [greenfoothills.org/calendar](https://greenfoothills.org/calendar).



# Ballot Measure Seeks to Preserve Open Space in San Benito County

BY BRIAN SCHMIDT POLICY AND ADVOCACY DIRECTOR

Green Foothills is pleased to support the “Let the Voters Decide” initiative that will be on San Benito County’s November ballot. This initiative takes an urgently needed step to limit sprawl and protect open space.

San Benito County, located just south of Santa Clara County, is predominantly rural. Its ranches and farms are important sources of food security. Its rural lands serve as a carbon sink, provide wildlife habitat, and are a counterweight to Silicon Valley’s urban sprawl. The “Let the Voters Decide” initiative would give voters more control over the county’s future, ensuring that a few development interests can’t overrule local voters. It protects ranchland, farmland, and certain rural zones from development unless a majority of voters agree.

One catalyst for the initiative is a recent proposal by County Supervisors to destroy ranchlands for a massive expansion of the county’s landfill, in order to profit by taking in other counties’ trash. They are also considering allowing sprawl development on open space and fertile farmland along the Pajaro River in the Juristac area, which comprises areas sacred to the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band.



While the primary focus of Green Foothills’ work is San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, we are pleased to support Protect San Benito County, the initiative sponsor. Thanks to the support of the Wildlife Conservation Network, our staff is partnering with San Benito County organizations and residents in their efforts to protect the rural lands from sprawl. We’ve been talking with voters and gathering signatures for the initiative and look forward to the initiative’s success.



*Brian Schmidt, Policy and Advocacy Director, has worked with Green Foothills in various capacities since 2003. He leads selected campaigns in Santa Clara County, new work in San Benito County, and other projects.*

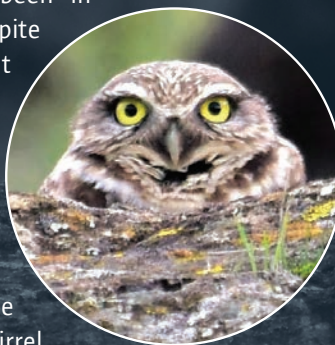
## Will New Effort Bring Hope for the Western Burrowing Owl?

BY JUAN ESTRADA ADVOCACY ASSOCIATE AND ORGANIZER

Western Burrowing Owls have been in steep decline for several years despite valiant conservation efforts, but they are about to receive help from a new overwintering and breeding facility in Coyote Valley.

These small brown birds used to be a common sight in local grasslands, standing at the entrances to the ground squirrel tunnels where they make their homes.

They existed in the hundreds in Santa Clara County just decades ago, but are currently listed by the State of California as a Species of Special Concern. Their decline is due to many factors, including competition for prey, increased predation, and urban encroachment on owl habitat. Despite heroic measures including caring for juveniles over the winter and supplemental



feeding during the breeding season, some former breeding sites have no owls left and inbreeding is occurring at others.

### Coyote Valley May Offer Some Hope

That’s why this new effort led by the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency in Coyote Valley is critical. Conservation organizations, agencies, scientists, and nonprofits are working together to increase the population and release them in appropriately managed habitat far from human activity. The need to provide safe areas for species to recover is a major goal of Green Foothills’ advocacy efforts in Coyote Valley. We also played a significant part in ensuring adoption of the Habitat Conservation Plan, which guides the Habitat Agency’s work to protect local endangered species, including the owls. The protection of sensitive habitats is critical to the survival of the ecosystems on which we all depend.

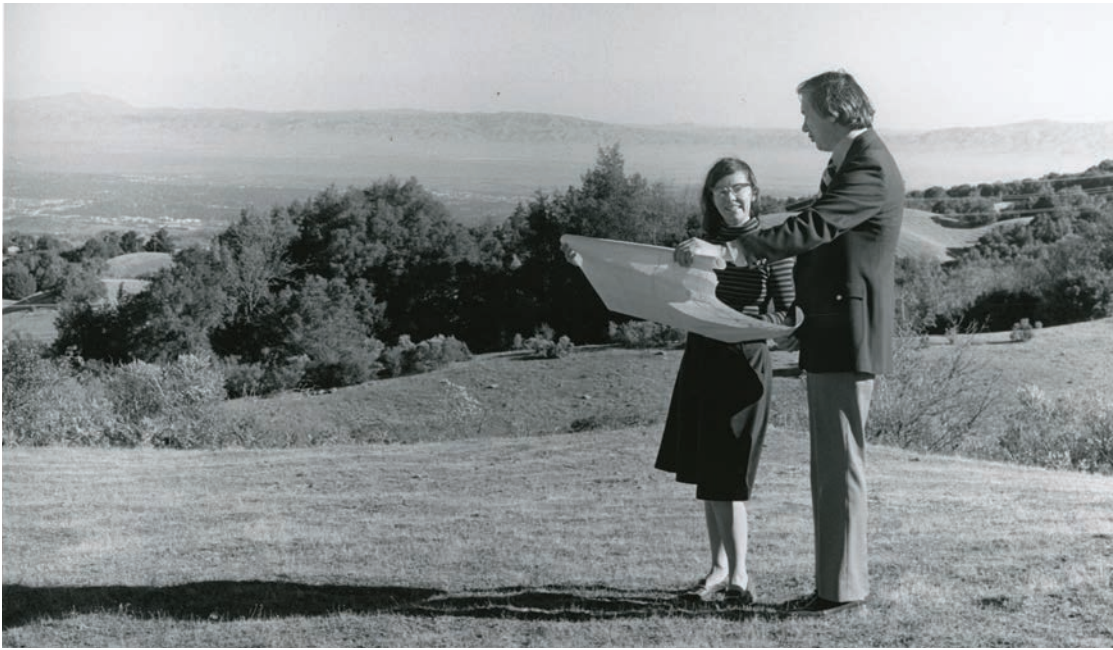


*Juan Estrada is our Advocacy Associate and Organizer, and has been on staff since 2021. In addition to his involvement with burrowing owl rewilding, he is supporting efforts to protect and expand access to open space in San Jose and East Palo Alto.*



# Happy 50th to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

BY LENNIE ROBERTS LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE AND JULIE HUTCHESON DIRECTOR OF IMPACT



*Nonette Hanko and Herb Grench holding plans at Midpen's first purchase, Foothills Open Space Preserve, 1974.*

As Green Foothills celebrates our 60th year, we're also happily marking the 50th anniversary of one of our most important victories, the founding of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen). While Green Foothills works tirelessly to ensure that local nature has an advocate, Midpen's purpose is to acquire and manage open space, ensuring its long-term protection. Thanks to Midpen, more than 65,000 acres are now permanently preserved.

## WITH HELP FROM GREEN FOOTHILLS, AN OPEN SPACE DISTRICT IS BORN

60 years ago, with persistent development pressures threatening to sprawl into almost every corner of the countryside, conservationists were continuously on defense. Green Foothills board members initiated an ambitious campaign to win public support for the creation of a special district dedicated to the protection of open space in northern Santa Clara and southern San Mateo Counties. In 1971, Green Foothills board members Nonette Hanko and Mary Davey, with help from fellow board members including Lennie Roberts, Tom Brown, and Bill Spangle, led the drive to collect 5,000 signatures to qualify Measure R — the “Room to Breathe Initiative” — for the ballot. In November

1972, Measure R passed with 67.71% of the vote, and Midpen was born. Herb Grench, a Green Foothills board member from 1969-1973, became Midpen's first general manager.

Green Foothills went on to work on campaigns to expand Midpen into southern San Mateo County in 1976, the San Mateo County coast in 2004, and to increase Midpen's funding in 2014. A number of our advocacy efforts to stop sprawling development proposals on open space land became Midpen open space preserves, including Russian Ridge, Purisima Creek Redwoods, and Bear Creek Redwoods.

## FAST FORWARD TO 2022: MIDPEN AT 50

Today, Midpen not only protects local landscapes but also has introduced innovative land management practices such as restoring damaged habitats, installing wildlife crossings on busy roadways, and implementing conservation measures to address climate change. Midpen has safeguarded thousands of acres from urban sprawl, enabling environmental advocacy organizations like Green Foothills to create enduring victories instead of merely holding off threats for another year or another decade.



*Lennie Roberts has been with Green Foothills for over 50 years. In that time, she has championed the protection of the San Mateo coast and other key landscapes, leading a number of critically successful and historic open space campaigns and ballot initiatives.*



*Julie Hutcheson has been with Green Foothills since 2010, originally as a Legislative Advocate. She now leads evaluation of programs and systems and provides guidance and leadership to marketing and fundraising staff.*



### Clean Air and Water

*Trees clean the air by filtering out fine particles and absorbing harmful pollutants. Soil filters groundwater and removes pollutants that would otherwise drain to the Bay.*



and improve physical and mental health. A neighborhood park is often the social center of a community – the place where family gatherings happen, where birthdays and special events are celebrated, and where friendships among neighbors are formed and strengthened.

Urban green space reduces air pollution – a significant problem for asthma sufferers everywhere, but especially in many low-income urban communities, where asthma rates are disproportionately high. Additionally, research has shown that just being in nature is good for your health. People need to experience nature in order to be mentally and physically healthy, and for that, we need green space.

### Sense of Community

*Green spaces provide a place for communities to come together at a time when concerns are being raised about increasing social division.*



Another benefit is that green space filters pollutants from rainwater, prevents erosion, and replenishes groundwater. When we decrease the area that is covered with impervious surfaces like pavement, more rain is absorbed into the ground, preventing flooding.

Urban green space is also important as wildlife habitat. There is sometimes a tacit assumption that wildlife cannot thrive in urban

corridors as well as live-in habitat, providing lifelines of survival for many species. We are in the midst of not just a climate crisis, but a biodiversity crisis, with between one-third and one-half of all species at risk of extinction by the end of the century. We must create wildlife habitat wherever we can, including in urban areas.

### GREEN SPACE MUST ACCOMPANY INCREASED URBAN DENSITY

Despite knowing all the benefits of urban green space, cities in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties are rapidly losing trees and greenery due to increased development density. When we densify, even through redevelopment of already-developed parcels, it nearly always involves removal of trees and greenery. And as we add more residents and workers, we are not ensuring a corresponding increase in the amount of parkland that's available for people to enjoy. To be clear, we need dense infill development in order to provide

housing for all income levels close to transit corridors and job centers. We need more housing, and our infill areas are the right location for it. But this new infill development must be accompanied by new urban green space, or the result will be increased inequity, loss of biodiversity, and worsened health and quality of life for everyone.

### HOW TO MAKE URBAN AREAS GREENER

Fortunately, there are a variety of ways in which we can increase urban green space:

- **Create more nature in urban areas.** While all types of parks provide important recreational and community benefits, we should prioritize urban nature preserves, and natural landscapes within urban parks. Preserves such as Ulistac Natural Area in the City of Santa Clara (a 40-acre former golf course along the Guadalupe River, now restored to native habitat) provide an oasis of green in the midst of developed areas, allowing residents a chance for peaceful, restorative experiences near their homes and jobs. Even parks that are primarily playgrounds and soccer fields can incorporate native plantings, such as pollinator gardens to support local populations of birds and insects.
- **Protect the urban tree canopy.** Trees are one of the most important types of urban vegetation. They filter air and water pollution, absorb carbon, and reduce the urban heat island effect by shading buildings and streets. We should encourage

### Mental and Physical Health

*Parks and open space encourage recreation, relaxation, play, and exercise. Community gardens and urban farms provide fresh, healthy food. Spending time in nature improves mental and physical health outcomes.*



areas, but landscaping parks and home gardens with native plants leads to vastly increased diversity of insects and birds, which in turn leads to greater diversity throughout the food chain. Creeks through urban areas with healthy riparian forests along their banks are especially important for wildlife, because they serve as migration



## Climate Resilience

*Green spaces cool and protect our cities. They reduce the urban heat island effect caused by pavement, buildings, and other surfaces that absorb and retain heat. And soil absorbs rainwater, reducing the chance of flooding.*



native species of trees wherever possible. They provide the best habitat for native wildlife as well as conserving water, since native trees typically have lower water requirements than non-native species. Robust public tree-planting and maintenance programs help support the canopy of street trees. Tree protection ordinances prevent unnecessary tree loss on private property, especially larger heritage trees.

- **Establish riparian corridor setbacks.**

In some urban areas, creeks are the only remaining native landscape for local species, the majority of which rely on riparian habitat for foraging, breeding, nesting, and migration. Riparian corridor setbacks protect both people and wildlife. By preventing development from encroaching on the creek corridor, we prevent erosion that results in bank collapse as well as giving riparian vegetation space to grow.

- **Support community farms and gardens.** Urban farms and community gardens are not just a way to grow vegetables; they also bring people together. Residential gardens can help a community become more food resilient and connect people to the soil and to the act of nurturing plants and watching them grow.

- **Fill the unnoticed edges with green.** With land values soaring, finding significant acreage for new city parks is both challenging and expensive. But we don't need every green space to be big. Green roofs, bioswales, and rain gardens in public rights-of-way take little space. Encouraging native plant palettes in development guidelines and in designs for public spaces takes none. Great examples of this include Google's plans for its new campuses in Mountain View and the Diridon neighborhood of San Jose. Their site designs include removing pavement to create new natural areas, pulling development back from creek corridors to restore the riparian habitat, and planting butterfly gardens and creating thriving wetlands instead of landscaping with the standard non-native species. Other developers should follow this model, and cities should include similar ideas in their design guidelines.

## WHAT GREEN FOOTHILLS IS DOING

Green Foothills has advocated for urban green space throughout the years. In 2016, we worked with the City of Santa Clara to address the city's parkland shortage by enacting a parks impact fee ordinance, by requiring the massive CityPlace development to include a 35-acre park, and by passing a ballot measure mandating that any sale or development of a city park must be approved by the voters. In 2018, we partnered with the SPHERE Institute on a successful year-long campaign to persuade the State of California to turn an undeveloped parcel on the Bay in Burlingame into a shoreline nature park that will include a newly created tidal marsh. And in June 2022, we joined with multiple partners to urge the City of Palo Alto to strengthen its tree-protection ordinance for the first time in 20 years.

In East Palo Alto, we are partnering with community members to ensure that a massive office development planned for the Ravenswood neighborhood includes significant new urban green space, preserves meaningful access for residents to the existing Bayfront open space, and protects wetland habitat and species.

## Biodiversity

*Parks and open spaces often serve as critical habitat, providing a place for foraging, breeding, nesting, and migration. Landscaping with native plants is especially helpful to local wildlife.*



In East San Jose, we are part of a coalition working on a visioning process for Reid-Hillview Airport. Santa Clara County is working toward closing the airport, and we believe that this site in the midst of a low-income community of color must include significant new green space.

## EVERYONE DESERVES NATURE CLOSE TO HOME

It's easy to think of open space and nature as something that only exists outside of cities. But the reality is that we need to incorporate nature into our urban areas, not only to combat climate change and promote biodiversity, but also because access to green space is an equity issue. Green Foothills will continue advocating for increased urban green space in all our communities so that everyone can have access to nature close to home.



*Alice Kaufman, Policy and Advocacy Director, has been on staff since 2012. She leads Green Foothills campaigns in both San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, including the Cargill Salt Ponds, Coyote Valley, and Juristac.*





# Green Foothills Leadership Program

A Training Program for Community Leaders | January-August 2023

**Now Accepting Applications**

Whether you're a beginner who wants to learn how to protect the landscapes around you, or a seasoned environmental justice advocate, Green Foothills wants to help you take your advocacy to the next level!

- Lay out the steps you will take in your leadership journey with fellow advocates.
- Write a campaign plan addressing a local conservation or environmental justice issue.
- Sharpen your equity lens and learn to address unjust power imbalances.
- Cultivate and nurture relationships with your fellow participants and Leadership Program alumni while championing an issue you care about.

Participants meet one Saturday per month for 3 to 4 hours. Sessions are mostly virtual, but some are in person.

Early applications accepted until October 1, 2022. Apply at [greenfoothills.org/lead](https://greenfoothills.org/lead)

*We encourage all interested candidates to apply regardless of financial means. Nearly full and partial scholarships are available.*

*The Leadership Program is supported by Green Foothills donors, the Knight Foundation, the County of Santa Clara, San Mateo County Health, and Silicon Valley Community Foundation.*



# Inspiring Stories from Community Changemakers

Since 2013, the Green Foothills Leadership Program has helped more than 240 changemakers to clarify their leadership goals and sharpen their advocacy skills. This amazing community from across San Mateo, Santa Clara, and San Benito Counties has helped make their communities greener and more equitable.

We love hearing back from our Leadership Program alumni about how they're exercising leadership and making our region a more sustainable place for all. Here are three recent success stories. Read more alumni impact stories at [greenfoothills.org/leadership-program/impact](https://greenfoothills.org/leadership-program/impact).



## ILIANA NICHOLAS

(EAST PALO ALTO), CLASS OF 2020

*Iliana has earned a Masters' degree from San Jose State University's Urban and Regional Planning Program and joined East Palo Alto's Planning Commission as an alternate.*



## ADRIANA FERNANDEZ-ARRIAGA

(REDWOOD CITY), CLASS OF 2020

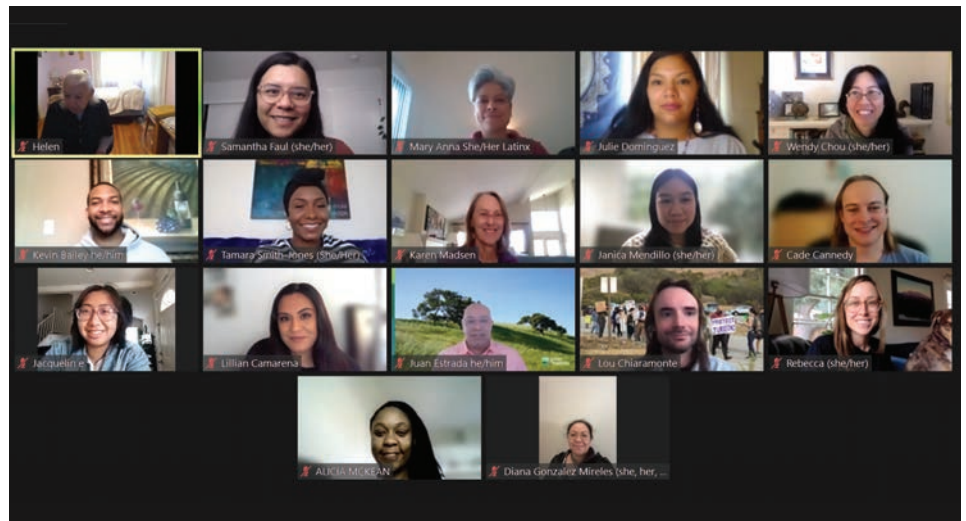
*Adriana is now the first-ever Program Coordinator for the San Mateo County Parks Foundation, helping make county parks more welcoming, accessible and inclusive.*



**KIAN NIKZAD** (LOS ALTOS), **MANJEET SINGH BHAMRA** (SAN JOSE), **RHODA FRY** (CUPERTINO), CLASS OF 2021  
*Kian, Manjeet, and Rhoda worked together during their time in the Leadership Program. Thanks to their campaign, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors is considering an ordinance to protect groundwater from mining activities.*

## Meet Our Alumni

Join us on August 31, 2022 via Zoom at 6:00 p.m. for "Inspiring Voices, Powerful Landscapes: Green Foothills Leadership Stories" to learn about the meaningful work of Green Foothills Leadership Program alumni. Alumni and community members are invited to connect with each other as we learn about the inspiring work of local changemakers. Sign up at [greenfoothills.org/events](https://greenfoothills.org/events).



## Congratulations To Our 2022 Leadership Program Cohort!

This year's 21-person cohort graduated on Saturday, August 6, after developing a variety of impressive campaign plans! One of this year's graduates, Mary-Anna Cazarez, worked on a campaign supporting Sacred Heart Community Service's food waste, compost, and sustainability programs. Her work included developing and distributing a resource guide to implement

a community-led composting project; and promoting a Composting Distribution Day to raise awareness regarding food waste. "I'm a mathematician. I never thought of myself as a community leader, but being in the Leadership Program showed me that I was not alone and helped me put these ideas into realistic and strategic action," she says.



# Welcome New Donors!

July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

Green Foothills depends on your donations to protect nature and wildlife, save farmland, and secure more equitable access to open space close to home. Thanks to our generous supporters for making our work possible. For a complete list of donors, please visit [greenfoothills.org/OurDonorCommunity](https://greenfoothills.org/OurDonorCommunity).

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## Ways to Give

Nature always needs protecting. Add your voice to the hundreds of Green Foothills donors committed to defending wildlife habitat and nature close to home when you make your

gift today. If you need any assistance, please contact Justyne Schnupp, Associate Development Director, at [justyne@greenfoothills.org](mailto:justyne@greenfoothills.org).



To learn more about ways to support our mission, scan this QR code or visit [greenfoothills.org/ways-to-give](https://greenfoothills.org/ways-to-give).

## New Energy on the Green Foothills Board



This spring Green Foothills welcomed seven new board members, significantly increasing the size of our formerly 11-member board. The caliber of these new individuals made it an easy decision.

As we launch our seventh decade of work, we will need the additional ideas and resources our new board members bring. A heartfelt welcome to Jon Adams, Manjeet Singh Bhamra, Greg

Boro, Marsha Cohen, Anand Madhavan, Ann Monroe, and Arpana Tiwari! Visit [greenfoothills.org/team](https://greenfoothills.org/team) to see their bios.



# Green Foothills is Watching...

## San Mateo County

**CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO** – which is conducting environmental review of the potential impacts of locating up to 3.3 million square feet of office development directly adjacent to Bay tidal marshlands. We are partnering with East Palo Alto residents and other environmental organizations to ensure that concerns regarding impacts to wetland habitat and species are addressed, there is equitable access to the Bay Trail and other open space, and residents' voices are heard in the planning process.

**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO** – which is developing a Climate and Habitat Resiliency Plan for Pescadero Creek County Park, parts of which burned in the 2020 CZU Fire. We are participating in the County's Technical Advisory Committee to ensure that the process achieves the Plan objectives, including promoting old-growth characteristics in the forest and protecting resources such as Pescadero Creek.

*Developers are seeking to build an open-pit sand and gravel mine on the environmentally sensitive lands of Juristac, an area sacred to the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band.*



## Santa Clara County

**CITY OF SAN JOSE** – which is undertaking a study of expanded commercial and recreational uses along the Monterey Road corridor through Coyote Valley. We are monitoring the process to ensure that Coyote Valley's farmland and wildlife connectivity are not impacted by the changes, particularly with regard to wildlife mortality on Monterey Road, a well-known roadkill hot spot.

**CALIFORNIA HIGH SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY** – which has approved the final rail alignment from Merced to San Francisco. We successfully advocated for design specifications and mitigation measures to provide land bridges and undercrossings for wildlife in the Pacheco Pass and Coyote Valley. We will now monitor the Authority's design of the project to ensure these are prioritized.

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA** which –

- is developing zoning amendments that would discourage outsized development and preserve farmland in rural unincorporated areas;
- plans to release a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Sargent Ranch Quarry, an open-pit sand and gravel mine, proposed on the sensitive wildlife habitat and sacred landscape of Juristac. We are partnering with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band and dozens of community organizations to oppose the mine;
- is considering allowing an environmentally sensitive, streamside parcel along Uvas Creek to be developed for RV sites.

# Green Foothills Applauds...

## San Mateo County

**SAN MATEO COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT** – for revising an off-leash dog pilot program so that dogs are allowed off-leash only where there are no sensitive habitats or species that could be harmed.

## Santa Clara County

**SUNNYVALE CITY COUNCIL** – for approving a resolution opposing the Sargent Ranch Quarry and calling for the permanent protection of Juristac as open space.

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** –

- for supporting farmland preservation and regenerative agriculture through funding measures and development standards in Coyote Valley;
- for pursuing early closure of Reid-Hillview Airport and banning the sale of leaded aviation fuel at both Reid-Hillview and San Martin airports;
- and for investigating potential closure of the Lehigh Quarry and cement plant due to Lehigh's long history of legal violations.





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## Leave a Legacy



### **Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Donald Aitken**

Donald Aitken, a passionate friend of nature and Green Foothills' second board president; passed away earlier this year. An internationally recognized champion for nature and renewable energy, Don had a long and distinguished career of service to the environment as a founder of Green Foothills and Friends of the Earth, in academia, and with the Union of Concerned Scientists for Renewable Energy. To read more about Don and his enduring legacy, visit [greenfoothills.org/aitken](http://greenfoothills.org/aitken)

### **Make-a-Will Month**

August is Make-a-Will Month. Green Foothills has partnered with FreeWill to help you complete one simple act of care, both for your loved ones and for our local open spaces, farmlands, and natural resources: creating your legal will or trust, for free.

To get started, visit  
[FreeWill.com/GreenFoothills](http://FreeWill.com/GreenFoothills)