



greenfootnotes

SPECIAL 60TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

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60th anniversary
1962—2022

Celebrating 60 Years

Dear Green Foothills community,

You are holding a piece of history in your hands. On the occasion of our 60-year milestone, this special edition of *greenfootnotes* looks back at some of what we’ve accomplished and looks ahead to what we seek to accomplish by our centennial.

A deeper look at our impact since our founding in 1962 starts on page 4. We didn’t do this alone, of course, and this entire newsletter could be filled with just the names of people who helped achieve this impact. If you are reading this, your name more than likely belongs on that list—thank you!

Starting on page 6, you’ll find our updated 2062 vision. It outlines how, together with our partners, we can create a resilient region where wildlife thrives, everyone has natural beauty to enjoy, and communities live in balance with nature.

We are facing overwhelming challenges, true, but we have achieved the seemingly impossible before, and we can do it again. Sixty years ago, the plans for sprawl across the landscape from hilltop to shoreline seemed unstoppable. Our community organized, and together we protected nearly 200,000 acres of natural land and wildlife habitat. Our goals for the next 40 years are no less ambitious.

Bringing This Vision to Life

Green Foothills will work with partners to achieve this centennial vision. We are inviting agencies, decision makers, and community leaders to add their names to the list of supporters of this vision and keep it top of mind in their strategic planning and decision making. We also want the support of people who live and work in our region. Please sign up as a supporter today (greenfoothills.org/vision).

Each of us has a role in championing nature-based solutions that support open space, biodiversity, climate resilience, and equity. With your support, Green Foothills will engage in local land use issues, educate decision makers and leaders, and partner with and mobilize community members. This movement needs everyone and we will prioritize growing an inclusive conservation movement.

Together we will give the next generation a new, modern story of what it means to restore our balance with nature. Together we can lay a foundation to make this vision a reality.

In service,



Megan Fluke, Executive Director

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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Upcoming Events and Activities

Join us in celebrating this year through some of the special activities we are planning, including healing nature walks and an unforgettable Nature’s Inspiration.



Healing in Nature Series

In celebration of our 60th anniversary, we invite the Green Foothills community to come together and spend time outdoors. We will be led by local healers and docents who have curated meditative,

February 20

Ravenswood Open Space Preserve

March 20

Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve

April 3

Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve

May 15

Long Ridge Open Space Preserve

November 13

Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

December 11

Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve

2022

We are now offering Company Outings

Want to get outside with your work colleagues? Green Foothills is offering special docent-led walks in local open space preserves to company groups of 10 or more. We’ll have fun and learn something new together. Go to greenfoothills.org/outings to express your interest and get on the waitlist for a company outing.

Summer 2022

Stegner Giving Circle and Mary Davey Legacy Society Appreciation Event

Green Foothills appreciates the support, dedication, and foresight of our Stegner Giving Circle (\$500+ supporters) and Mary Davey Legacy Society members by choosing to make such special and generous commitments to Green Foothills. We invite them to celebrate with us at the Los Altos History Museum on June 11, 2022! RSVP at greenfoothills.org/calendar.

Fall 2022

Nature’s Inspiration

We’re celebrating our 60th Anniversary and you are invited to join us for an unforgettable 19th annual celebration, Nature’s Inspiration. This milestone calls for an in-person celebration like no other. The power of our community and the local natural landscapes, farmlands, and parks we protect together are reasons to celebrate. Our 2022 Nature’s Inspiration honorees are Linda Gass and Jane Kim, two local artists who combine art and science to educate our communities about the natural world. Sponsorship opportunities at greenfoothills.org/natures-inspiration.

Deep Roots: Our Impact Since 1962

When Green Foothills was founded 60 years ago, post-World War II developers, speculators, and decision makers planned to transform the entire Bay Area into a mega metropolis that would have filled in much of the Bay and paved over most of our mountain ranges, hillsides, and coastal areas. Many people accepted this as inevitable. Green Foothills and its supporters did not.

This timeline highlights some of the victories of the 900+ campaigns we fought together to help realize a different vision for our region. Highlights include a robust regional park and open space system, hillsides and skylines unmarred by urban development, farms and ranches on the coast and in the valley, and restored wetlands and marshes along the Bay. And we know that together, we have the power to accomplish so much more in the decades to come.

1964 State Bonds for Recreational Lands passed

Campaigned for the passage of Proposition 1, providing \$150 million to acquire open space and invest in these areas for recreational purposes.



1968 Skyline Blvd designated Scenic Highway

Coordinated an intensive 4-year effort for state scenic designation along Skyline Blvd to help regulate growth.

1969 Scenic easement protected Crystal Springs Watershed

Kept I-280 from being built along the Crystal Springs Lake shoreline in the San Francisco Watershed, resulting in 23,000 acres of protected open space that serves as respite for wildlife.



1972 Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District founded

Led creation of the District that now has preserved a connected greenbelt of more than 65,000 acres throughout the greater Santa Cruz Mountains region.



1972 Public funding measures for parks passed

Won critical park fund ballot measures in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties following multi-year effort.

1973 Strict logging ordinances adopted in San Mateo County

Secured strict protections which stopped the threat of massive logging operations along the Skyline area.

1973 Achieved long-term protection of Coyote Hill

Protected 90 acres in Palo Alto, that included Coyote Hill not far from the Stanford Dish, from an industrial subdivision proposal after 5-year effort.

1979 Protected 1,300 acres of Gilroy's Agricultural Preserve from development

Defeated a proposed subdivision for estate homes that would have resulted in significant development of Gilroy's Agricultural Preserve.



1982

Saved Bair Island from massive development proposal

Successfully campaigned for Measure O in Redwood City which defeated the Mobil Oil Estates South Shores Plan, protecting baylands and Bair Island from 1,100 acres of commercial, office, and residential development.

1986

San Mateo County Coastal Protection Initiative passed

Helped draft and then successfully campaigned for first-ever countywide initiative protecting San Mateo County coast from pro-development interests.



1993

Defeated proposal for a new city at Sargent Ranch (Juristac)

Advocated for the Board of Supervisors to make a precedent setting decision to deny environmental review of a proposal that would have created a new "South Gilroy" city of 12,000 residents.

1994

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority founded and funded

After lobbying for the creation of the Authority in 1992, campaigned for the passage of a ballot measure that provided it funding.

1996

Mandated Caltrans to build the Devil's Slide Tunnel

Helped draft and pass Measure T mandating a tunnel at Devil's Slide, saving Montara Mountain and creating the Devil's Slide Trail.



1996

Saved Bear Creek Redwoods from development

Defeated golf and country club proposal on future site of the ~1,500 acre Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve.



2000

Achieved long-term protection for 2,200 acres of Stanford Foothills

Secured first ever 25-year academic growth boundary to keep development out of the Stanford Foothills after a 40-year campaign.



2004

Expanded Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to coast

After a 7+ year effort, achieved the expansion of the District to include some 140,000 acres west of Skyline to help protect fragile coastal resources and farmland in San Mateo County.

2012

Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan adopted

Following a 10-year effort to help develop a 50-year plan protecting ~47,000 acres of local endangered species habitat, successfully advocated for its adoption by six agencies.

2016

Saved over 1,000 acres of farmland in the Santa Clara Valley

Stopped threats to develop over 1,000 acres of farmland by helping to pass a voter-approved urban growth boundary in Gilroy and defeating the City of Morgan Hill's annexation of County rural land.

2018

Victory on 3 ballot measures provided funding for open space preservation in San Jose

Campaigned to defeat a developer-driven ballot measure and to support two city measures to protect hillsides and open space in San Jose including \$50 million in funds for preserving land in Coyote Valley.

2021

Achieved protections for Coyote Valley

Succeeded in garnering unanimous historic votes by the San Jose City Council and the County Board of Supervisors to protect Coyote Valley after nearly 5 decades of advocacy on many campaigns.



Green Future: Envisioning 2062

Green Foothills envisions a resilient region where wildlife thrives, everyone has natural beauty to enjoy, and communities live in balance with nature. Green Foothills will work with our partners and nurture an inclusive movement to achieve these four outcomes by our centennial. We invite you to support this vision. **Over the next 40 years, we envision:**



Communities become climate-resilient.

Growth is focused within existing developed areas, protecting open space and limiting development in areas at greater risk of natural hazards. Communities benefit from green infrastructure, tidal marsh and natural shoreline protection, urban green space, and restoration forestry. The region has achieved an equitable jobs-housing balance with sufficient affordable housing.



Everyone has access to nature close to home.

Parks, trails, urban tree canopies, and native habitat are abundant. All communities have meaningful opportunities to connect with nature and be active stewards of the natural environment. Access in protected open lands is balanced with the needs of wildlife and agriculture.



Native wildlife and plant habitats are being restored.

Open space is wisely managed and stewarded including Bay and coastal wetlands, serpentine grasslands, oak woodlands, redwood forests, and riparian corridors. Local Indigenous tribes and peoples are partners in restoring these landscapes using traditional and contemporary stewardship practices. Endangered and threatened species are recovering.



Farms, ranches, and agricultural lands strengthen communities.

Regenerative urban and rural farms and community gardens produce a wide variety of healthy food and restore open spaces. This agricultural network provides ecological, economic, recreational, and educational benefits for all. Historically marginalized farmers have a pathway to farmland ownership.

Sign On to *Green Future: Envisioning 2062*

We invite community leaders, elected and appointed officials, and the Green Foothills community to support this vision. Supporters commit to keeping this vision in mind in their actions and decisions. This vision is possible if we work together. To see and join our growing list of Green Future: Envisioning 2062 supporters, visit our website.

greenfoothills.org/vision

Support Ongoing Advocacy

The Lennie Roberts Advocacy Fund was launched in honor of Lennie's 50+ year legacy of local open space preservation as a Green Foothills Legislative Advocate. Ensure nature always has a champion with a one-time gift, a multi-year pledge, a stock gift, or a restricted bequest. To learn more, visit our website.

greenfoothills.org/LRAF

Leave a Legacy

A gift from your estate is the ultimate way you can support our mission and vision. To learn more, visit our website.

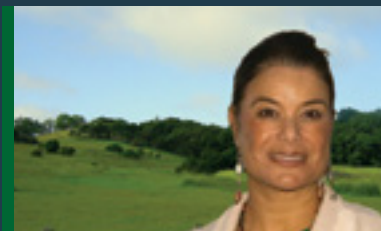
greenfoothills.org/legacy



"In the face of the climate crisis, we need a vision like this to paint a picture of what is possible if we work together."

Ana Ruiz

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District



"This vision is aligned with our commitment to healing mak Muwékma - our people - by connecting with and caring for our ancestral lands."

Charlene Nijmeh

Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area



"Green Foothills has again provided a clear path for all of us to be good stewards of the land. I'm proud to support that vision."

Joe Simitian

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors



We want to recognize and thank the hundreds of people and agencies who support us including grants, sponsorships, and monthly donations. To see a full list of our donor community, visit greenfoothills.org/ourdonorcommunity.