



ANNUAL IMPACT SNAPSHOT 2017

Nature in the City is San Francisco's first organization wholly dedicated to ecological literacy, restoration, and stewardship of the city's wild places. We achieve our mission to inspire San Francisco to discover local nature by initiating habitat stewardship projects in neighborhoods, hosting nature walks and talks, supporting nature advocacy citywide, and by providing resources for communities wishing to start their own citizen science projects.

Learn about our projects, the wildlife we serve, successes & challenges, and much more inside!



Green Hairstreak Corridor

INNER SUNSET NEIGHBORHOOD

A life-saver for the Green Hairstreak Butterfly (*Callophrys viridis*)! Our corridor of 11 habitat sites provides larval food and nectar for this local, nearly-extirpated iridescent green butterfly. As females can only fly a few hundred feet from their original habitat, these sites are stepping stones to connect populations.

Our 10 years of habitat restoration means that every spring, the butterflies can safely mate and disperse to expand their population—assured of habitat as they traverse the corridor. In the coming year, we will leverage and deepen partnerships with San Francisco State University, California Academy of Sciences, and University of San Francisco to develop habitat monitoring protocols for students and the general public.

Volunteers working with our **Backyard Natives Nursery Network** hand-collected seeds and grew 500 Green Hairstreak Butterfly-attracting plants in their own backyards.

Successes!

We won a San Francisco District 7 Participatory Budgeting grant to hold the fifth annual, larger-than-ever Green Hairstreak Butterfly Festival in April 2017. Hundreds of adults and students celebrated the butterfly over two days of education, habitat restoration, and events.

SF State University students completed their 4th year of habitat monitoring in the Corridor, and the data is in! The butterflies have increased throughout the neighborhood with a few hot spots, where they fly in higher numbers.



Green Hairstreak Butterfly Festival
Photo by Cat Ganson

Palou Phelps Project

BAYVIEW HUNTERS POINT NEIGHBORHOOD

Palou Phelps Park and open space, at 2.6 acres, is a rare native wildflower grassland habitat—one of the most endangered ecosystems in the country. One third of this park is under threat of being lost to private development. In response, NTC and a neighborhood advocacy group, **Friends of Palou Phelps**, is working with City agencies to improve public access, revive a pollinator-focused community garden (which includes growing fruits and vegetables), and save the park from development.

The goal of our advocacy is to assure the park remains an open space for years to come. Stewardship work conserves and restores soil, increases carbon sequestration through plant photosynthesis, provides habitat for wildlife to flourish, and affords opportunities for recreation and education.

Successes!

Building on neighborhood advocacy and hands-on restoration with SF Recreation & Parks Dept. and **Friends of Palou Phelps**, NTC won two grants: this means habitat restoration, a new stairway to improve neighborhood access, and reactivation of the community garden—all leading to improved health for both residents and the grassland!



Palou Phelps Park & Community Garden
Photo by Zahra Kelly

Tigers on Market Street

DOWNTOWN SAN FRANCISCO

In the heart of San Francisco's downtown, Western Tiger Swallowtail butterflies have lived somewhat precariously among the bustle of Market Street since the 1980s, laying their eggs on the London Plane trees that line both sides of the street and breeding in the parks nearby.

The habitat component missing for this butterfly is a diversity of nectar flowers; NTC is working with public agencies and private institutions to increase quality habitat for this and other wildlife species living downtown. Partners include SF Public Works, SF Planning Dept., Building Owners and Managers Association of SF, SF Dept. of the Environment, Yerba Buena Community Benefit District, and SFRPD.

Successes!

Advocacy work on behalf of these butterflies assures they are part of the public dialog as the City envisions a new design for this major thoroughfare. With support from ARUP, an independent global design firm with offices in San Francisco, we are engaging in broader outreach amongst Market Street businesses so they have an opportunity to be part of this ecological innovation.

Adah's Stairway

BUENA VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD



Adah Bakalinsky
Photo by Amber Hasselbring

This is a great civic space in honor of Adah Bakalinsky, author of *Stairway Walks in San Francisco*. Leveraging City agency, community, individual financial, and in-kind support, NTC transformed this derelict and dangerous space. Once an overgrown, rubble-strewn and hazardous public place, it is now safe, lush with plants and wildlife, and beautifully designed—a source of neighborhood pride.

Successes!

Adah's Stairway is now filled with songbird-attracting plant life, dry-stacked Napa Basalt retaining walls, and a dog fountain making this peaceful space a rich and inviting haven for wildlife and a beautiful respite for people. Since 2013, NTC has partnered with the City and local residents to bring all of this to fruition.

Nature in the City Map

More than a nature map, this depiction of the San Francisco Peninsula is an artistic and scientific rendering of local, regional, continental, and global scales across time. It's an invitation to learn, to tend, and to advocate for the magnificent species that are part of the essential beauty of the region's ecosystem. The map (3rd edition) documents the ever-changing urban landscape and measures 24" x 36" (6" x 9" folded). Featuring the artwork of Jane Kim, design by Leah Elamin, and narrative by Mary Ellen Hannibal, it conveys riveting facts, depicting the abundance of nature at our doorstep. The map is largely made possible by a generous grant from **EJF Philanthropies**. Beginning January, 2018, fifty-thousand copies will become available—free to select nonprofits, for sale throughout the City, and via www.natureinthecity.org.

Our map team includes experts from California Academy of Sciences, Exploratorium, Lichen Projects, Presidio Trust, SF Dept. of the Environment, SF Planning Dept., SF Public Library, and more.



Working on the Nature in the City Map
Photo by Lindsay Irving

Nature Advocacy

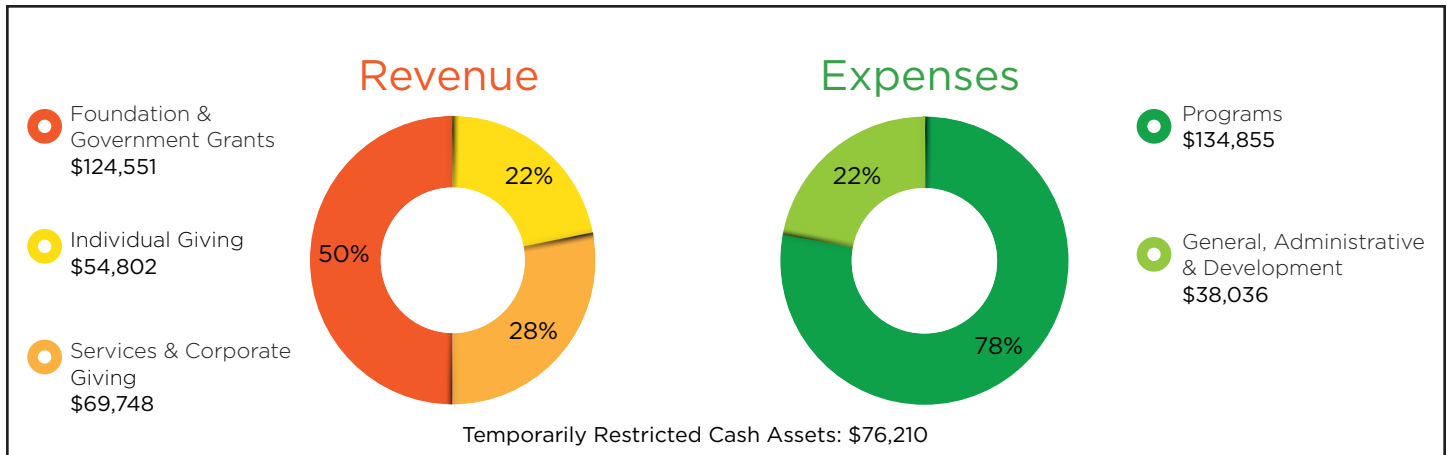
Working closely with partners, NTC helped usher in the SF Recreation & Parks Dept. **Natural Resources Management Plan**. The adoption of the Plan is a huge win for wildlife and means that 33 of our natural areas will continue to be managed to prioritize habitat, native flora, and biological diversity.

Our early 2017 compilation of wildlife sightings and survey of how residents use San Francisco's Southeastern waterfront provides valuable data for SF Dept. of the Environment and the Environmental Protection Agency. Our data informs discussions with constituents to enhance preservation and public access—despite ongoing illegal dumping and hazardous waste.

Over the past year our volunteers (in all activities) logged an impressive 1,712 hours! In 2018, we continue to need volunteers to help us stay abreast of new legislation and policies at both the City & State levels, and liaison with local and regional organizations and stakeholders.

Financial Statement

July 2016 - June 2017



Honors

- Chicago Public Television, WTTW, produced an *Urban Nature* program: *A Wild Plan for San Francisco*, featuring Nature in the City and the Green Connections Plan.
- Nature in the City received Livable City's 2017 Livability Award.
- Amber Hasselbring, Executive Director, was selected for *The People's Power List: A celebration of individuals who have made the Sierra Club's achievements possible*.

Advisory Council

Nature in the City is a profoundly strengthened organization due to the expertise and dedication of our Advisory Council:

Bill Brick, Senior Business Development Executive

Laura Castellini, Sustainability Coordinator, NPS, Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Marcus Griswold, Associate, Skeo Solutions

Fritha Knudsen, Executive Producer and Creative Director

Paisley Schade, Creative Director

Kirstin Weeks, Senior Building Ecology Specialist, ARUP

Green Hairstreak Butterfly
Photo by Marcus Griswold

Wish List

Leadership Volunteers

Advisory Council Members: To build on our success and strengthen our infrastructure, we seek new Council members to help us advance to the next level. If you have a strong commitment to nature conservation and can help with fundraising (individual or institutional) and advocacy, please be in touch.

Task Force Members: If you'd like to use your leadership, project management, fundraising or other special skills for one-time or ongoing projects without committing to a Council term (two years), please let us know.

New Office

We are outgrowing our office and need very low-cost or donated space that is centrally located in San Francisco with three or four workstations and possibly space for an outdoor wildlife habitat garden.

Calls to Action

- Ask your company to become a corporate sponsor
- Become a long-term community ambassador or habitat site steward
- Deliver Nature in the City maps to retailers and nonprofits
- Donate free storage space for maps
- Fund ongoing habitat stewardship projects
- Grow native plants from seed in your own backyard, and deliver mature plants to habitat sites
- Join scheduled workdays at one of our sites to restore habitat, weed and plant
- Promote our projects to neighbors, the media, and stakeholders
- Reach out: distribute fliers, help coordinate special events and tabling
- Repost NTC news on your Facebook, Instagram, Meetup, and Twitter to keep our work upfront and center
- Share your thoughts at environmental hearings in your neighborhood and citywide
- Translate materials into Chinese and Spanish languages

Contact

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Amber Hasselbring, amber@natureinthecity.org about leadership volunteers, fundraising, and office space

Bette Mc Donnell, bette@natureinthecity.org about grant funding and marketing

Carlos Minaya, carlos@natureinthecity.org about general volunteers



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Thank you for sustaining San Francisco nature!