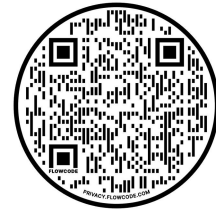




Nature in the City Insider

August 2022



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Organization & People

[Nature in the City](#) (NTC) is a San Francisco-based nonprofit with a mission to *connect everyone in San Francisco to nature by cultivating and conserving local habitats*. NTC aims to ignite broad public awareness, understanding, and action. We protect the natural world through community-based environmental restoration, education, and policy.

In 2005, Peter Brastow founded the organization to build, strengthen, and unify the movement to conserve San Francisco's natural areas and restore biological diversity. Brastow now serves as Senior Biodiversity Coordinator at the SF Department of the Environment (SFE), where he has galvanized a Biodiversity Resolution for public land managers. San Francisco's [Climate Action Plan](#), updated in 2021, provides the city with a pathway to reach net-zero emissions and zero waste by 2040 – all while advancing racial and social equity.

After an intense public advocacy campaign by NTC and coalition partners, in June 2022, the Board of Supervisors added back \$2.6 million into the Mayor's budget for the plan's implementation. NTC will partner with SFE to propel two components of the plan goals: restoring healthy natural ecosystems and fostering a Climate Careers Corps.

Since 2013, Executive Director Amber Hasselbring has led NTC's growth. Under her leadership, NTC has developed collaborative relationships with city agencies, universities, nonprofits, and community volunteers. The skilled staff and volunteer team pioneers innovative projects; staffing includes the Donor Relations Director, Gardening Manager, Crew Leader, Stewardship Manager, and interns. An engaged [Advisory Council](#) guides NTC strategy and sustainability, oversees financial forecasting, curates expert-led [Local Nature Walks](#), and co-leads projects.

Projects & Partners

Through [partnerships](#) with communities and government, NTC creates [projects](#) that bring ecosystems back to life on public and private lands and engages people and businesses in nature walks and habitat restoration. Funding sources include members and donors, foundation and government grants, fees-for-services, contracts, and merchandise sales.

NTC's approach effects broader conservation and environmentalism by "meeting people where they are" in our urban location. Our free programs provide volunteer opportunities, beautifully restored habitats, maps, nature guides, and teacher resources for exploring the outdoors. NTC provides environmental expertise in partnership with SF Recreation & Parks Department, SF Planning Department, SF Department of the Environment, SF Parks Alliance, SF Public Works, the California Academy of Sciences, the Exploratorium, and local environmental nonprofits.

Tigers on Market Street: BART Living Roofs - Pilot Launch Summer 2022

NTC is ready to reap the rewards of work we began in 2018 with our Tigers on Market Street project by adding living roofs to new BART canopies. The project sheds light on a population of Western Tiger Swallowtail butterflies living downtown in habitats provided by London plane trees and nearby parks and gardens. BART is building 21 canopies (designed to support living roofs) to protect station entrances along Market Street. Nature in the City is working with BART to design and install pilot living roofs at Montgomery and Powell Street Stations with native plants that will help support the Western Tiger Swallowtail population. BART is covering a portion of development and installation costs. Over time, NTC will establish and maintain the additional 19 living roofs. Each shelter will provide 1800 square feet of elevated habitat and align with the city's biodiversity, creative place-making, and climate goals as outlined in the Climate Action Plan. These focal points all along San Francisco's civic spine, rich with insect and birdlife, have the potential to transform Market Street into a model for other cities worldwide. We are launching a capital campaign to fund the entire project. We seek to realize this exciting opportunity's full potential for funding and growth.

Climate Career Corps - Pilot Launch June 2022

In June 2022, we launched the Climate Career Corps (CCC) in partnership with Enterprise for Youth (EFY). This partnership leverages EFY's long history of expert programming with Nature in the City's dynamic network of local environmental organizations. Our network partners work at the cutting edge of climate solutions and will host 200 young people in paid internships this summer. They will provide career ideas and direction for this next generation of climate stewards. The Climate Career Corps provides youth with career training and sparks their potential path, whether higher education or joining the workforce right out of high school. After completing the 6-week internship, in June and July 2022, we will host a two-day climate curriculum and a virtual climate summit featuring today's top environmental change thinkers and problem solvers. All this helps inspire the youth to claim their place in the movement. We seek to expand the CCC cohort in 2023 and subsequent years.

Ongoing Projects

Habitat Stewardship

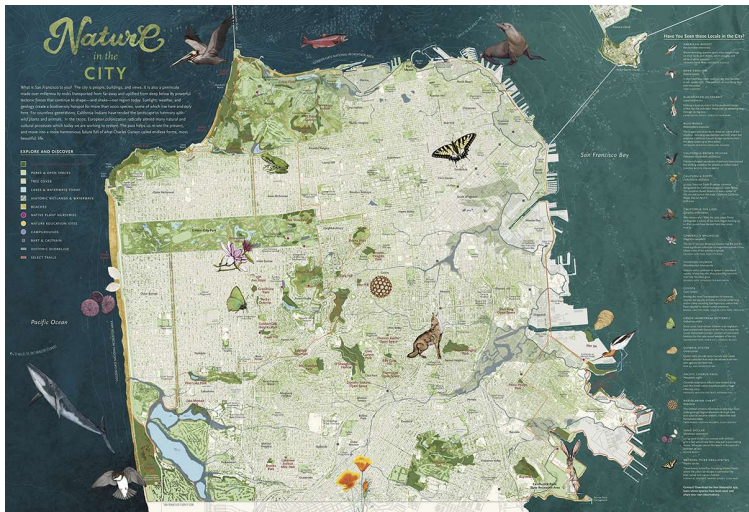
The Habitat Stewardship program is NTC's longest-standing (since 2005), and we have sustained and expanded its reach with funding from individuals, private foundations, and some corporations. We receive no direct funding from the city or state. The program restores public lands, conserves wildlife, and ensures survival for at-risk plants and pollinators. We are developing a new curriculum with the goal of empowering others (students, interns, and residents) to lead and facilitate habitat site workdays. This curriculum will equip the teams to learn together about the habitats; it will standardize the experience, provide iNaturalist orientation, and include a special focus on welcoming and including everyone.

Native wildlife & pollinator habitats are vital to maintaining San Francisco's biodiversity and healthy ecosystems. We empower the public to care for habitats in Golden Gate Heights, Bayview Hunters Point, Buena Vista, and Sunset Boulevard (in partnership with [Climate Action Now](#) (CAN!). In 2021,

we taught Urban high school students how to conduct scientific monitoring and grow plants from wild-collected seeds. We run a butterfly monitoring program each spring at the Green Hairstreak Butterfly Corridor, Golden Gates Heights. This work saves beautiful butterfly populations from local extinction in San Francisco, increasing their number and strengthening genetic diversity along the California coast.

[Nature in the City: San Francisco Map](#)

Fragmented open spaces in a city often leave people wondering if nature exists. Increasing access to open space and elevating the value of biodiversity are critical goals for NTC's map. The map's historical and present-day data tells the story of urban wildlife and native plant diversity – inspiring



more people to get outside and explore. Since 2005, NTC has produced three editions of the [Nature in the City Map](#) for San Francisco, illustrating nature from various viewpoints. The map celebrates the city's abundant unique ecosystems with scientific and environmental information, all told through beautiful original artwork and writing – the map comprises 40 distinct data layers! NTC published fifty thousand copies of our 3rd edition in 2018, with 25,000 distributed for free to schools and partners; the sale of the remaining maps supports NTC's mission.

[Native Plant Gardening Services](#)

This citywide fee-for-service program provides residential garden design and gardening featuring native and beneficial wildlife plants, provides biodiversity education for clients and interns, and helps manifest valuable habitats for butterflies, bees, birds, and insects. All proceeds support NTC's free public programs.

[Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion \(JEDI\)](#)

NTC is committed to ensuring that all community members – especially people of color, socioeconomically vulnerable ones, and people with a range of abilities – have access to positive experiences in local nature. NTC recognizes that people of color often feel unwelcome in parks and natural spaces. Neighborhoods where many people of color and the socioeconomically vulnerable live usually lack local nature access and open space. Similarly, people with disabilities frequently face substantial physical and cognitive barriers to nature and its benefits. Through community collaborations and partnerships, NTC is finding effective ways to address these disparities to ensure all people can connect with nature. We seek funding in cooperation with other nature-based nonprofits to expand upon what we've learned. We aim to provide JEDI training for all staff and volunteers. By so doing, we will gain the skills and resources needed to broaden our outreach with the ultimate goal of full inclusivity for all people.

Natureinthecity.org

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