



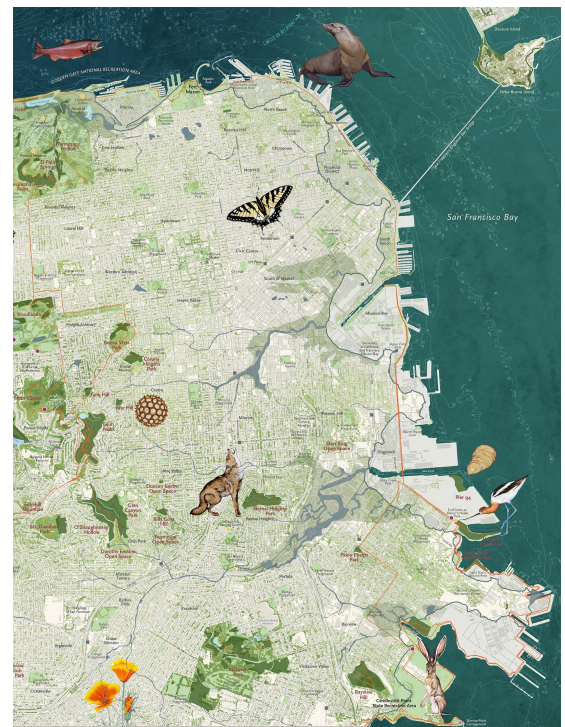
## Local Nature *Insider News*

### Community Habitat Restoration Projects

Neighborhood volunteer groups, developed by Nature in the City (NTC), participate in regular workdays at [projects](#) throughout San Francisco: Green Hairstreak Corridor (Golden Gate Heights), Palou Phelps Open Space (Bayview), Adah's Stairway (Buena Vista), Backyard Natives Nursery (Laguna Honda), Sunset Boulevard Reforestation & Biodiversity Project (Sunset), and more! Workdays occur six times a month with a mix of age groups, ethnicities, and professional backgrounds, and they're fun! During the shelter-in-place mandate, we adapted our workdays so that family and same-household groups could still safely participate. Corporate employee volunteering will resume soon when health safety permits (as before the pandemic). We provide education on native species, and some excellent volunteers step it up and become site stewards—leading workdays and inviting their friends and neighbors to join. The sites are great scientific resources too! Our [iNaturalist project](#) has thousands of observations recorded for each site. A science project led by a San Francisco State University professor and graduate students highlights the effects fog has on butterfly habitat and populations. This ongoing research helps inform best practices and protocols for our ecological work at the Green Hairstreak Corridor, and beyond. Ongoing stewardship is our most vital free public program—we have won public funding for project implementation, but ongoing maintenance funding for these beautiful and biodiverse public jewels is in short supply.

### Advocacy for Climate Action

Last year, NTC, with an energized coalition of San Francisco organizations, began advocating for the City and the Board of Supervisors to commit to their [Biodiversity Resolution](#) and to [California's 30x30](#) commitment, an international effort to maintain biodiversity and create resilience against climate change, recognized in an executive order signed by Governor Gavin Newsom in October 2020. The City and County of San Francisco is now updating its [Climate Action Plan](#). After several years of technical analysis and stakeholder engagement, the Plan will be released in Winter 2021. The Plan provides a pathway for San Francisco to reach its net zero emissions and zero waste goals while advancing racial and social equity, biodiversity goals, and economic recovery from the pandemic—all together, a just transition to a green economy. NTC, with the coalition, has been urging the Board of Supervisors and Mayor Breed to allocate



funding from the budget to implement the Plan and create a Climate Jobs Corps program. A Climate Jobs Corps will harness youth potential, provide training in environmental careers, and help implement climate change mitigation strategies—similar to NTC’s Internship program.

### **Nature Walks & Events**

The [expert-led walks and events](#) we curate all over the city increase child and adult connection to nature and highlight the City's beauty and diversity of life. The walks build community and deepen engagement with NTC’s goals and vision for our broader work. And, they facilitate friendships among participants! Walk events focus on what people can do to mitigate climate change and build resiliency into our ecosystems to help solve biodiversity loss and the warming earth. We present how, in combination, tidal marshes, the Bay and Ocean, grasslands, wetlands, dune scrub, and a healthy urban tree canopy, sequester carbon, slow and clean rainwater, collect fog, buffer rising seas, and protect us from storm surge. All this, and at the same time—providing healthy outdoor activity. By building community in these ways, we demonstrate the value of working in partnership, planting, and sustaining native biodiversity, and emphasizing the part individuals can play when protecting our local nature. See how much people like the walks [here!](#)

### **WildSF Gardening**

[Wild SF Gardening](#) is Nature in the City’s fees for service program—surplus revenue helps provide [free public nature programs](#). All fees directly support habitat restoration projects, environmental education for children and adults, and advocacy for climate change mitigation actions in San Francisco. WildSF, in alignment with NTC’s mission, helps create and maintain climate stabilizing, habitat supporting, water-wise gardens to help San Francisco meet its [biodiversity goals](#). The team delights in helping new gardeners learn about the benefits of native plants. Since 2018, we have increased our clients who receive monthly or quarterly services by 115%. Our goal this year is to gain 10 new residential and business clients. Please consider using WildSF for your garden and recommending us to your friends and neighbors.



### **Youth Internship Program**

NTC is committed to connecting all people in San Francisco with local natural habitats. We seek to ensure that BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color), those who are socioeconomically vulnerable, and people with a range of abilities, have access to positive experiences in local nature. In 2020, NTC developed a [Diversity, Equity & Inclusion \(DEI\) statement](#) and, since 2018, DEI has been the first topic discussed at our

monthly Advisory Council meetings. The BIPOC youth internship program was born of these initiatives. BIPOC have often felt unwelcome in parks and natural spaces. The program addresses racial injustice through biodiversity education and workforce development, while emphasizing climate action. Staff mentor youth interns; they receive competitive stipends. Goal: promote exemplary interns to staff positions thus creating careers in the environment/nonprofit fields that may have previously been unavailable.