

NATURE *in the* CITY

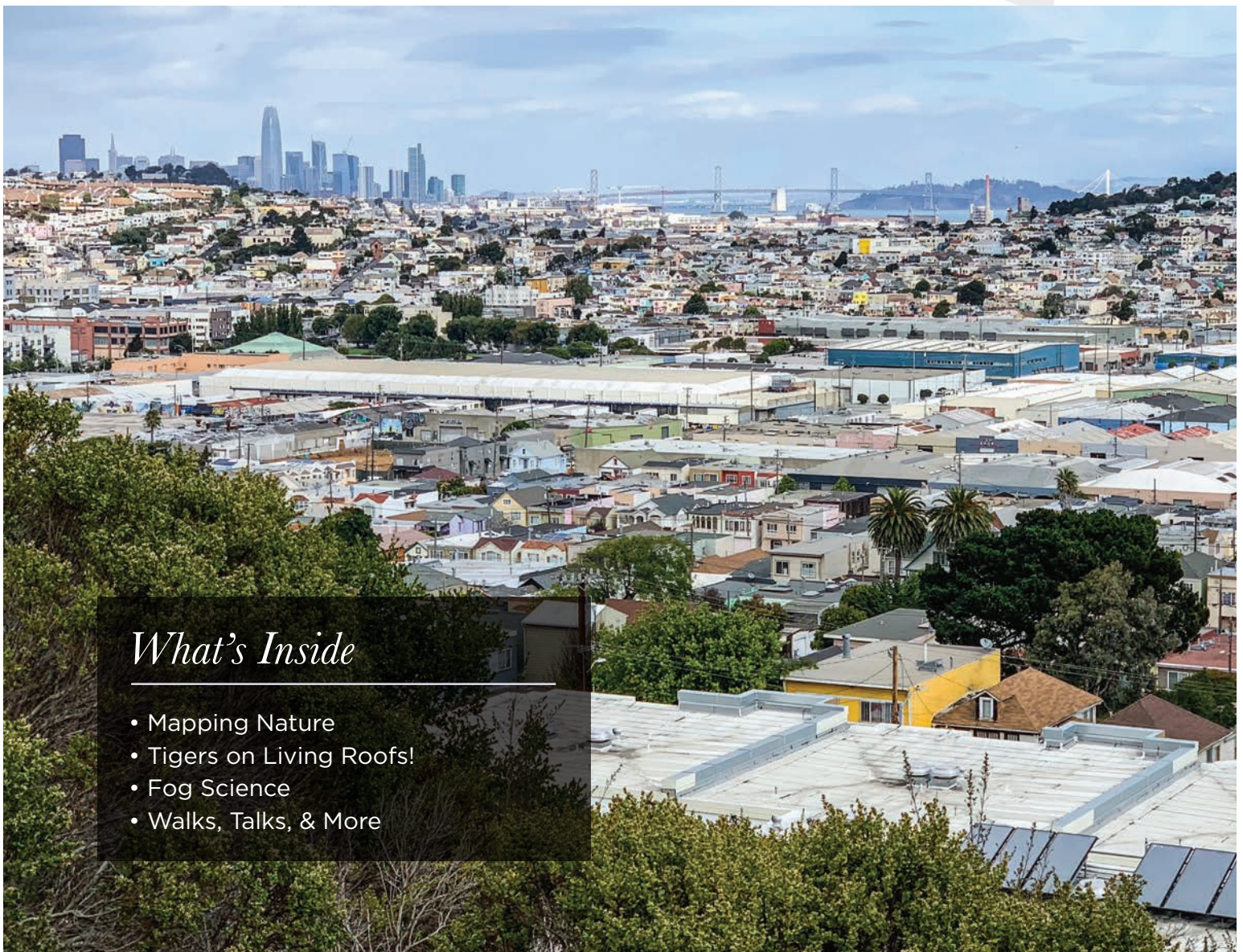
IMPACT REPORT *2018*

nature

San Francisco

in the

city



What's Inside

- Mapping Nature
- Tigers on Living Roofs!
- Fog Science
- Walks, Talks, & More

Nature in the City's mission is to inspire San Francisco to discover local nature.

Thank you to our donors and supporters for all you have helped us achieve!

This year, we:

- **Published the third edition of the Nature in the City Map.** This scientific and artistic map received rave reviews from educators and kids (young and old) alike and brought more residents out to explore the beauty right here in the City.
- **Began strategic planning to examine how our work can better serve local nature and the community.** Building on our mission, NTC aspires to deepen the community's connection with local nature, and instill an appreciation for how nature sustains us in our everyday lives.

We have created opportunities for everyone to participate in free nature walks (maps in hand) and in neighborhood habitat restoration projects. With your help, we will continue to support and advocate for a lifestyle that is community-minded, civically engaged, and sustainable.

We hope you enjoy reading about our successes—the successes you, our dedicated members and donors, helped us achieve with your contributions, grant funding, nature stewardship, and partnerships. We salute and thank you!

Amber Hasselbring, *Executive Director*
Laura Castellini, *Chair, Advisory Council*



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NATURE IN THE CITY MAP



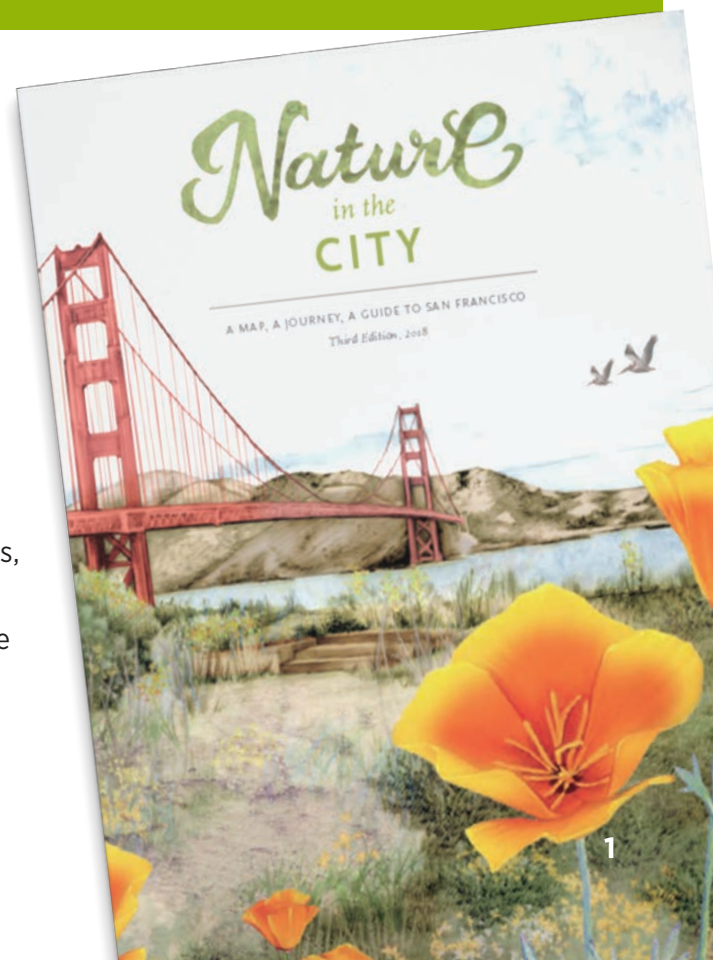
“Nature in the City’s new map takes residents beneath the surface and helps them see the ways in which the city and our lives here have been shaped by the natural world that persists all around us today.”

David Loeb

Founder
Bay Nature Magazine

This scientific and artistic depiction of the San Francisco Peninsula continues to enthrall. Showing and telling the richness of our urban ecosystems today and the nature stories of yesterday, the map is a gift to give yourself and another! Since the 50,000 copies were published, the maps have been used by teachers and students within the SF Unified School District (5,000 free copies), included in the Bay Nature Magazine Spring issue (8,000 copies), and presented at numerous public presentations throughout the Peninsula. This third edition of the map was published in partnership with City agencies, data scientists, naturalists, cartographers, writers, and artists. The map is available for purchase on NTC’s web site and in retail stores around the Bay.

Special thanks to EJP Philanthropies for its FY2017 grant, making possible the creation of the map.



TIGERS ON MARKET STREET

DOWNTOWN, SAN FRANCISCO

Challenge

Lack of visible nature in urban areas increases people's feeling of separation from nature. When people perceive themselves as separate from nature, degradation of the natural world can ensue. People in highly urbanized environments run a higher risk of anxiety and mood disorders than those with regular access to nature.

Solution

Picture this: you're walking in loud, bustling downtown San Francisco surrounded by traffic and concrete, feeling stressed. Then your eye is caught by wide expanses of beautiful, lush, living roofs ablaze with nectar-rich shrubs and flowers. Next, you catch a glimpse of the yellow and black Tiger Swallowtail butterfly flying above you! You gaze up at the living roof canopies over the BART entrances...and you pause to take in the wonder of these wild creatures taking nectar right in front of you. Multiple studies show that seeing nature elevates mood, reduces anxiety, and slows the heart rate. In other words, it makes you happy!

Nature in the City (NTC) is working with BART and City agencies to bring this vision to life. Functional canopies are slated to be installed at several BART stations over the next few years, with the first two at Powell and Civic Center stations to be completed this winter. NTC is spearheading the initiative to install living roofs atop these canopies and will offer corporate sponsorship opportunities to local businesses.

GREEN HAIRSTREAK CORRIDOR

INNER SUNSET

Challenge

Plants and insects form the basis of the web of life, and insects the world over are in crisis: long-term studies conclusively demonstrate dramatic declines in populations. Because insects such as bees, moths, and butterflies serve as pollinators, this decline will have a dramatic effect on entire ecosystems.

Solution

The welfare of a tiny butterfly might seem insignificant, but it is not. Butterflies are indicator species that reflect the health of the environment. An ecosystem radiant with butterflies indicates a healthy habitat, rich in other life forms as well. The Green Hairstreak Corridor is home to over 200 species of plants and animals. This is healthy biodiversity!

New research: Fog is a key factor influencing our coastal climate. Dr. Sara Baguskas, fog specialist, plant eco-physiologist, and professor at SF State University along with NTC intern and SFSU student Sarah Gomes designed a research project for use in the Green Hairstreak Corridor. The research will yield data on how fog impacts microclimate conditions at the small scale of the butterfly and how conditions vary between sites. Research methods will include vegetation monitoring and the installation of fog collectors and environmental sensors. This work will result in a better understanding of fog-water usage in future restoration sites, how fog affects habitats, and how NTC can make better-informed habitat restoration decisions.

NATURE WALKS

SAN FRANCISCO

Challenge

The constant hustle and bustle of cities leaves little time for strengthening social ties. Online community can distract from rich, fun, in-person connections with others and healthy time in nature.

Solution

NTC gets people out into nature and strengthens the community of nature lovers. When people understand and appreciate nature, they become stewards and advocates for the areas they love (as with our local projects). And, doing it with other nature lovers doubles the benefits - nurtured nature and social life! To bring people together to enjoy nature this year, we hosted seven tours of natural areas. From the peaks of Mount Davidson and Buena Vista Park to the shoreline at Heron's Head Park, over 150 people joined our expert naturalist leaders and took away a deepened understanding of the diversity of life within the City. Of the 230 parks in San Francisco, natural areas comprise more than 1,100 acres. These are specially managed by the Rec & Park Dept. to provide habitat for native plants and animals. What's more, there are walkable, bikeable corridors between them where adventure--with others--awaits!

ADAH'S STAIRWAY

BUENA VISTA

Challenge

San Francisco neighborhoods are dotted with unmaintained public parcels of land, often becoming magnets for trash, camping, and drug use.

Solution

Adah's Stairway was once one of these forgotten places. Soon after its dedication to local walking legend Adah Bakalinsky (aged 94), author of Stairway Walks in San Francisco, NTC began work with Buena Vista neighbors to completely transform it. Now, just blocks from the 1967 Summer of Love happening in Haight Ashbury, you'll find an oasis of peace—a bird sanctuary filled with coast live oaks, berry-producing shrubs, and flowering perennial plants complete with stacked stone retaining walls, a sculpted balustrade, and a dog fountain. Adah's Stairway enjoys financial support from neighbors and friends of Adah's, Community Challenge Grants, and the City. Come visit! Take a bag lunch, meditate amidst the greenery, then climb the steps to nearby Buena Vista Park to see spectacular views of San Francisco. Adah will be so pleased.

PALOU PHELPS PARK

BAYVIEW

Challenge

Access to nature is a challenge in City neighborhoods such as Bayview Hunters Point. The increasing pace of building construction in the City makes the need for urban green space, especially in historically disadvantaged areas, essential.

Solution

Palou Phelps Park and open space, at 2.6 acres, is a rare native wildflower grassland under threat of development. Since 2015, Friends of Palou Phelps Park and NTC, in partnership with SF Recreation & Parks Department, have been advocating for and restoring habitat to facilitate better and safer access for local residents, benefitting both long-time residents and newer arrivals. Our advocacy, together with City agency collaboration and Community Challenge Grant funding, means the park's wildflower grassland is enjoying more stewardship, becoming a venue for community solidarity through hands-on-the-land workdays, and providing a much-needed, beautiful, and safe recreational area for all ages.

ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

Areas with residents that are low-income and/or people of color are usually the first to see their parks and green spaces suffer from building development and trash. It is imperative that, as San Francisco grows, our nature play areas, opportunities for citizen science, and our ability to share best habitat management practices with the whole city grow also. The bottom line: we need green spaces - for people and for wildlife.

Even as San Franciscans become increasingly aware of serious global environmental problems, they may overlook the need to address these same problems right here in the community. Our urban ecology reflects many of these broader environmental issues, making local actions essential to halting biodiversity loss, improving public health, and illuminating environmental injustice. Cities can provide just the right refuges for wildlife, and by understanding the value of nature preservation in cities, residents are empowered to advocate for local nature.

NTC successfully lobbied SF City government, participated in public panel discussions on Nature in the City's signature map, created a new website, expanded its media outreach, and strengthened its educational content throughout. As a result, our unique approaches to the issues have ignited new and more culturally diverse audiences.



Nature in the City, founded by Peter Brastow in 2005, achieved its FY2018 goals with expertise from its Advisory Council Members.



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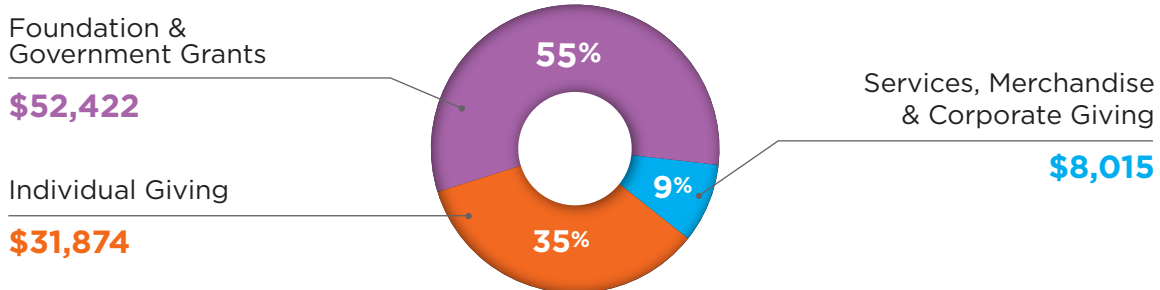
Kirstin Weeks, Sr. Building Ecology
Specialist, ARUP

NTC seeks new council members to broaden its representation of the City's geographic and cultural diversity; if you would like to advance NTC's mission to connect people with nature, contact Amber Hasselbring, Executive Director at amber@natureinthecity.org to find out more.

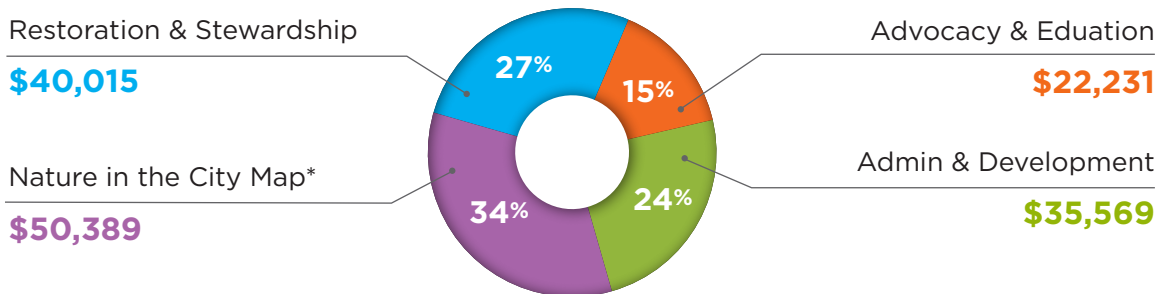
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

Total Revenue: **\$92,311**



Total Expense: **\$148,204**



*Map expenses funded with a \$50,000 grant received in FY2017

DONATIONS & IN-KIND SUPPORT

“The work of Nature in the City is inspiring. As a volunteer, I know our community is more organized, energized, and committed to protecting these fragile habitats because NTC provides a backbone of support and understanding. I believe in putting money where my heart is, so NTC gets my donation every year!”

Claudia Stillwell

Supporter and Volunteer Habitat Steward
www.claudiasstillwell.com

Individuals, corporate employee groups, Advisory Council and staff donated 2,796 volunteer hours to Nature in the City this year—a **\$69,033** value!

Thank you, volunteers!!

WAYS TO DONATE



VOLUNTEER, SHARE, AND HOST!

Be a habitat restoration steward: weed and plant natives with other nature lovers

Grow native plants in your backyard: nurture plants for future habitat site planting

Post on social media: repost content on Facebook, Instagram, MeetUp, and Twitter

Translate flyers: Translate materials from English to Chinese and Spanish

Host a house party: invite your friends, we'll do the rest!

If you have other skills and interests you'd like to share, please contact info@natureinthecity.org



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Nature in the City is a fiscally-sponsored project of Earth Island Institute, a 501(c)(3) charitable, tax-deductible organization. Tax ID: 94-2889684.

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Cover: Young Tran
P. 2-3: Amber Hasselbring
P. 4-5: Laura Castellini

P. 6: Sarah Gomes
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