

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

2019 ANNUAL REPORT





Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share the highlights of our work in 2019 and celebrate the relationships between the Conservancy, the cities on the Peninsula, and the members of the community who contribute to preserving natural areas.

Throughout the Conservancy's 31-year history, formal working agreements were proudly developed with four Peninsula cities -- Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills Estates, Rolling Hills and San Pedro (City of Los Angeles) -- in order to protect and restore 1600 acres of natural land. We celebrate these cities for balancing civic and community needs with investment in environmental conservation, restoration and preservation for the public good to benefit future generations. Trust and a commitment to collaboration is essential in order to ensure the Peninsula natural environment is protected for generations to enjoy.

We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support of the community that enables the Conservancy to fulfill the vision of preserved open space land. Thank you for investing volunteer time and financial resources to restore wildlife habitat and provide education to nature lovers of all ages. Together, we continue to uphold the integrity of the stunning coastline and rolling hills of the Palos Verdes Peninsula that we all enjoy.

Warm regards,



Adrienne Mohan

Adrienne Mohan
Executive Director



Allen Franz

Allen Franz
President, Board of Directors

*Preserve land
and restore habitat
for the education
and enjoyment
of all.*





In collaborating with cities, engaging residents and working with willing property sellers, the Conservancy has won the endorsement of both public and private sector advocates. This successful approach to land protection serves as a model for land trust organizations across the nation.

Conservation and Restoration: *A Cooperative Mission*

Rancho Palos Verdes

Between 2005 and 2019, the Conservancy's largest city partner, Rancho Palos Verdes (RPV), received over \$40 million from the Conservancy from various state and county grants as well as individual gifts to purchase and protect 1,400 acres of coastal land from future development. RPV not only supported the Conservancy by co-lobbying for funds, it also generously contributes \$150,000 annually toward land restoration work. After three decades galvanizing the community to help purchase land for permanent protection, the Conservancy continues to raise funding for land acquisitions and restoration. In 2019, RPV adopted a milestone Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) in partnership with the Conservancy that sets aside these lands in perpetuity to protect rare local species, restore habitat and provide for passive recreational use on these natural landscapes.

As the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve habitat manager and conservation easement holder, the Conservancy oversees land restoration, invasive plant removal and species monitoring programs. These responsibilities include protecting multiple at-risk species, including the threatened coastal California gnatcatcher and cactus wren; endangered Palos Verdes and El Segundo blue butterflies; and coastal sage scrub, cactus scrub and grassland vegetation communities. Under the NCCP, RPV is responsible for managing public use, maintenance and public safety. The Conservancy and RPV work in close coordination to protect the Preserve's natural resources while maintaining its accessibility for public enjoyment.

In 2019, the RPV City Council also approved a generous and visionary grant of \$500,000 for a fuel load reduction project to remove invasive and highly hazardous acacia shrubs. To accomplish this project, the Conservancy contracted with a company specializing in large-scale acacia removal. It also used goat grazing to clear dry mustard. This effort resulted in the removal of 38 acres of targeted brush in the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve.

In addition to reducing potential losses of life and property in wildfires, the brush reduction work helps meet the Conservancy's restoration

The Conservancy works cooperatively with the four cities in which the preserved lands are located: Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates and San Pedro (City of Los Angeles). In collaboration with these cities, the Conservancy conducts various conservation initiatives, including voluntary conservation easements, habitat stewardship and environmental education.

goals. When invasive plants are removed, native species have room to take root and create healthy habitats for wildlife, including threatened and endangered species.

"We are grateful to the city of RPV for making the natural lands on the Peninsula a priority," says Adrienne Mohan. "If a species is lost, it's lost forever."

Indigenous animal species rely on the last remaining native habitats in the canyons and hills around the Peninsula. Healthy plant communities provide natural benefits, from filtering water to building soil, stabilizing landscapes, absorbing carbon dioxide and providing wind and weather breaks. Natural lands also contribute to physical and mental health.

Under the terms of the NCCP agreement, RPV and private landowners will benefit from a streamlined permitting process for approved development and maintenance activities. The Conservancy is charged with monitoring the properties to ensure they comply with conservation easements for the benefit of covered species, natural communities, biological diversity and ecosystems.

"I am so pleased that my four kids and their children will enjoy the benefits of land we are preserving by adopting this plan," said RPV City Council Member Eric Alegria.

More than 30 years of City Council members also agree! The Conservancy applauds the City of RPV for taking an environmental leadership role.

"By adopting a visionary approach for open space conservation together with the Conservancy, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes has helped to forge a partnership that upholds the conservation values of the property through a strong system of checks and balances. Together, we are working to restore the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve and to nurture healthy ecosystems for generations to come," said Mohan.

Stewardship highlights

Planted over **4,500** native plants throughout **5** key habitat restoration projects

Grew over **37,000** plants in the native plant nursery to support restoration efforts and continued to support the captive rearing program by growing **2,000** host plants for the Palos Verdes blue butterfly

Restored and maintained over **64** acres throughout Alta Vicente, Portuguese Bend, White Point, Chandler, Lunada Canyon, Vicente Bluffs and Abalone Cove as well as the Navy's Defense Fuel Support Point in San Pedro

Hosted **55** college interns to gain valuable experience in the fields of environmental education, restoration program management, nursery best management practices, nonprofit communications, volunteer programming and as native plant demonstration garden apprentices

Held **24** plant sales for the community

In Palos Verdes Estates, the Conservancy supports the Beautify Lunada Bay Project. Following planning meetings with community members from the Lunada Bay Homeowners Association, the Conservancy has provided assistance with native plants, volunteers and expertise to beautify weedy parcels of land. The first phase of the project near Lunada Bay Elementary School was completed this year.



White Point Nature Preserve

Rolling Hills Estates

The formal partnership with the City of Rolling Hills Estates (RHE) began in 1993 when the first major land donation of 28.5 acres was gifted to the Conservancy and combined with Measure A funds that created the Linden H. Chandler Nature Preserve. In the years since, RHE has backed the Conservancy's restoration of land on the Preserve, which include sites for the reintroduction of the endangered PV blue butterfly, hiking and equestrian trails.

In 1995, the City contracted the Conservancy to provide naturalist services for the George F Canyon Nature Center. Ever since, Conservancy education programs have introduced visitors of all ages to the abundant wildlife on the now 55-acre Preserve. Each year, over 2,000 students in 24 participating schools from around the Palos Verdes Peninsula enjoy classroom lessons, along with fieldtrip opportunities hosted by the Conservancy at the George F Canyon Nature Center in RHE or at the White Point Nature Center and Preserve in San Pedro.

In 2018, the Conservancy acquired an additional 15-acre upstream parcel, which boasts a rich canyon habitat. In 2019, RHE began the redesign process for a new nature center at George F Canyon. In addition to providing input for the layout of the new facility and its exhibits, the Conservancy works with RHE to develop interpretive signage and manage the Preserve's lush streamside habitat.

The City of RHE actively promotes and engages the community in the Conservancy's educational offerings with residents through publications and online resources. The Conservancy is grateful for RHE's deep commitment.

Rolling Hills

Inspired by the efforts of the Fuel Load Reduction Project launched in 2019 with the City of RPV, the Conservancy was pleased to formalize a first contract with the City of Rolling Hills. The city provided funding for the Conservancy to conduct fuel load reduction on land near its borders inside the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve. Elimination of acacia and other invasive plants allows native species to take their place while reducing fire danger to the community.

San Pedro

Next May will mark the tenth anniversary of the White Point Nature Education Center opening in San Pedro. With a formal management agreement in place since 2000, the Conservancy has worked to create and restore the 102-acre nature preserve established on a former U.S. Air Force property. More than \$4 million was raised to transform a Nike missile assembly building on the property into a nature education center and native plant demonstration garden. Today, the White Point Nature Education Center hosts activities for students in the Conservancy's Third Grade Naturalist Program as well as nature walks and volunteer activities for the public. City of Los Angeles rangers lead guided hikes, and the City's operations staff provides all safety and custodial responsibilities for the Preserve. A White Point Community Group with 14 members has been formed by San Pedro residents to help support the Conservancy's ongoing management responsibility and public educational activities at the nature preserve.

Also in San Pedro, within the Navy's Defense Fuel Support Point, the Conservancy's thriving native plant nursery propagates over 60,000 plants representing over 140 native species. The Conservancy uses plants grown in the nursery for land restoration projects and offers them for public sale to support its programs.

Education highlights

Welcomed **2,057** LA County school children, **536** parent volunteers from **36** schools through the Third Grade Naturalist Program, Wilderness Discovery Program and Sierra Club Inner City Outings partnership

Received **11,182** visitors to the George F Canyon and White Point nature centers for naturalist-led nature walks, science and story time, family outdoor volunteer activities, native plant sales and student field trips

3,646 participants enjoyed weekend activities including Guided Nature Walks, Native Plant Sales, Workshops, Science and Storytime, Bird Walks, and Docent Trainings

Guided **293** Scouts to earn **139** badges and to complete **13** Eagle and Silver Scout projects at the native plant nursery for habitat restoration and trail improvement projects

Hosted more than **1,600** patrons at the Beauty of Nature film series and Wild & Scenic Film Festival

Celebrating Volunteers

Aurelia and Andrew Hill and mom

"I can't tell you how impressed I am with the kindness and patience of the Naturalists and Docents. They always have time to answer questions or explore their ideas with them."

Andrew and Aurelia Hill, Junior Docents

"Volunteering is so important for me not only because I get out in nature but also because I am able to give back to the environment while helping other volunteers understand the importance of their work. I am grateful to have been able to volunteer with the Land Conservancy and hope to see you on one of the reserves soon!"

Cooper Powers, Community Science Volunteer



Cooper Powers



"I am happy being with other club members and part of a community who all have the same intention to help the environment."

Kayla Yang, YES! Club President - PV Blue Butterfly Restoration

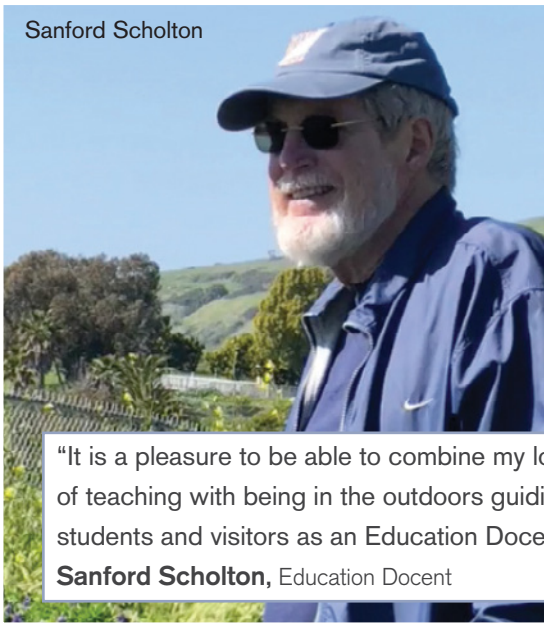
Tania Morris



"As a nature lover and a California Naturalist, it is so important to me that we preserve our natural spaces. As a wildlife and as a Community Science Program monitor, I'm so grateful to be able to contribute to the mission of this wonderful organization."

Tania Morris, Community Science Volunteer

Sanford Scholton



"It is a pleasure to be able to combine my love of teaching with being in the outdoors guiding students and visitors as an Education Docent!"
Sanford Scholton, Education Docent

Team Leaders



Volunteer highlights

Volunteers contributed **27,105** hours of service, a **8.7%** increase over last year

Volunteer support generated **\$811,784.90** worth of in-kind services

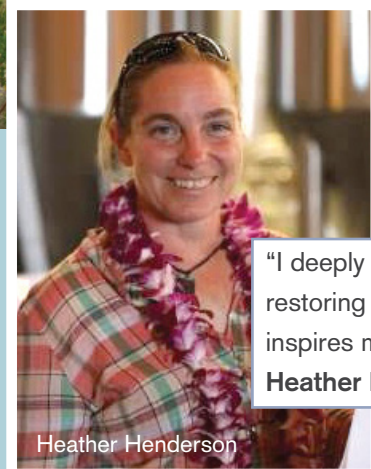
Volunteers planted **1,653** plants to assist with critical habitat restoration projects such as installing Palos Verdes blue butterfly host plants and removing **71,000** invasive species

Trained **10** new Volunteer Trail Watch members, **24** new Trail Crew members, **13** new Nature Center and Education Docents and **63** new Team Leaders for Outdoor Volunteer Days

Supervised **38** Citizen Science volunteers in conducting wildlife tracking and monitoring in the preserves

Held **70** Outdoor Volunteer Days with **2,439** volunteers

Kaori Nomoto



"I deeply value the mission of preserving land and restoring habitat. The staff is exceptional and continually inspires me to enjoy and protect these special places."
Heather Henderson, White Point Community Group

Heather Henderson

Los Hermanos Volunteers



Earth Day Volunteers



Celebrating Volunteers



Dolores Keeling and Cynthia Page

“My favorite things about volunteering are the people I get to work with, getting my hands dirty and seeing the plants grow from seeds.”

Dolores Keeling, Nursery Volunteer



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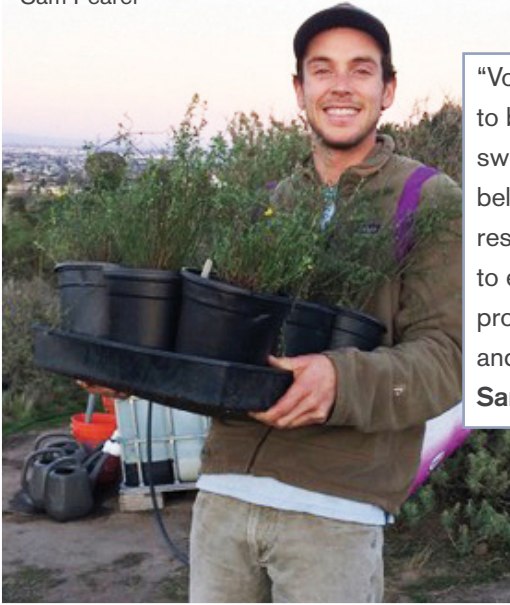
Kapil Dheeriya

“It is amazing to see the amount of progress we make in restoring or maintaining habitat at the end of a volunteer day and how much of a difference volunteers can make in a couple of hours with tools and determination.”

Kapil Dheeriya, Team Leader



Sam Fearer



"Volunteering gives me an opportunity to breathe fresh air, break into a healthy sweat, and invest myself in a cause I believe in. In setting the stage for habitat restoration to take place, I've been able to engage in an incredibly rewarding process marked by gradual, cathartic, and deeply gratifying work."

Sam Fearer, Adopt-A-Plot Volunteer

Tomayah Mayo



Volunteer awards

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

John Horne

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

- Joanna Choi
- John Dickinson
- Deanne Edridge
- Sam Fearer
- Dan Nguyen
- Sharon Polack
- Rochelle Port
- June Treherne

Geeta Gupta



Working with the Conservancy makes it possible for me to enjoy the natural habitat while living in the city.

Geeta Gupta, Outreach Volunteer

Phillip Yamaguchi



"To me, nature is composed of everything that I love. It's like a piñata filled with never ending surprises just waiting to be enjoyed."

Phillip Yamaguchi, Team Leader

Tammy Nguyen



"Volunteering has helped me learn so much about native plants and animals! All I now know inspires me to do better for the planet."

Tammy Nguyen, GIS Vegetation Intern



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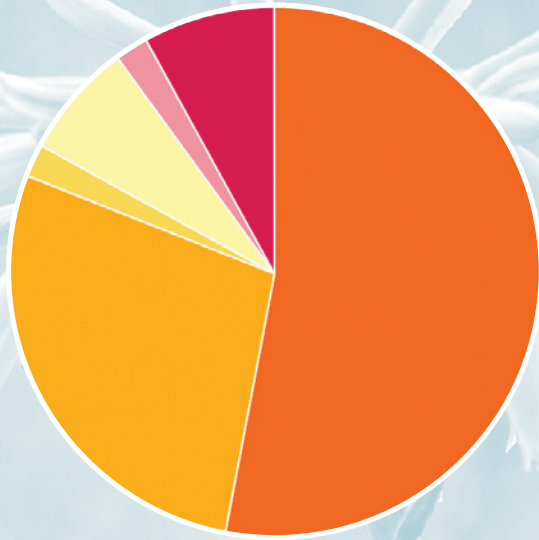


2019 President's Advisory Council

Financials

2019 Summary of Revenue and Expenses

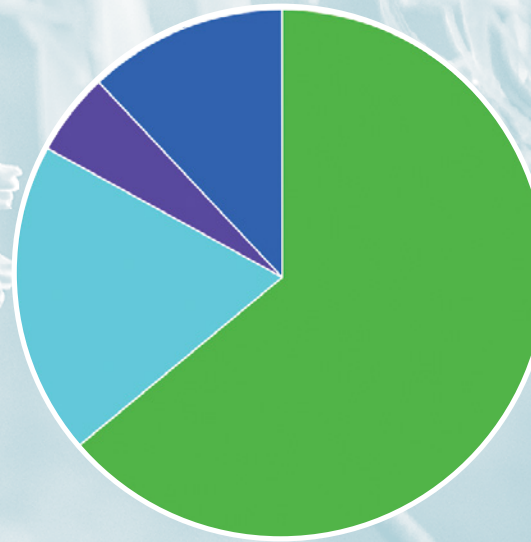
REVENUE AND PUBLIC SUPPORT



53%	Contributions	\$1,276,166
28%	Government Contracts and Grants	\$672,694
2%	Program Service Fees and Inventory Sales	\$58,027
7%	Interest Income and Dividends	\$159,649
2%	In-Kind Revenue	\$57,080
8%	Special Events, Net of Expenses	\$160,600

TOTAL REVENUE AND PUBLIC SUPPORT **\$2,384,216**

EXPENSES



64%	Land Stewardship	\$1,255,990
19%	Education	\$380,820
5%	Management and General	\$105,989
12%	Fundraising	\$232,032

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$1,974,831**



The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy receives multi-year grant funding from various sources, which in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, are recorded in the period received or pledged. However, expenditures related to these grants can occur over several years. As a result, timing differences are created which can have an effect on the changes in net assets.

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Patagonia, Santa Monica
Port of Los Angeles High School
Riviera Garden Club
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The Conservancy's vision is the creation and management of large blocks of natural open space where visitors may enjoy peaceful solitude, where children and adults can learn about the natural environment, and where locally native plants and animals will exist in a secure environment.



(L to R): Dave Pilon, Bill Ailor, Randy Harwood, Amy Friend, Bill Glantz, Rob Kautz, Allen Franz, Rick Wallace, Carolynn Petru, Cassie Jones and Bob Ford.

Missing from photo: Diana Bailey and David Snow

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