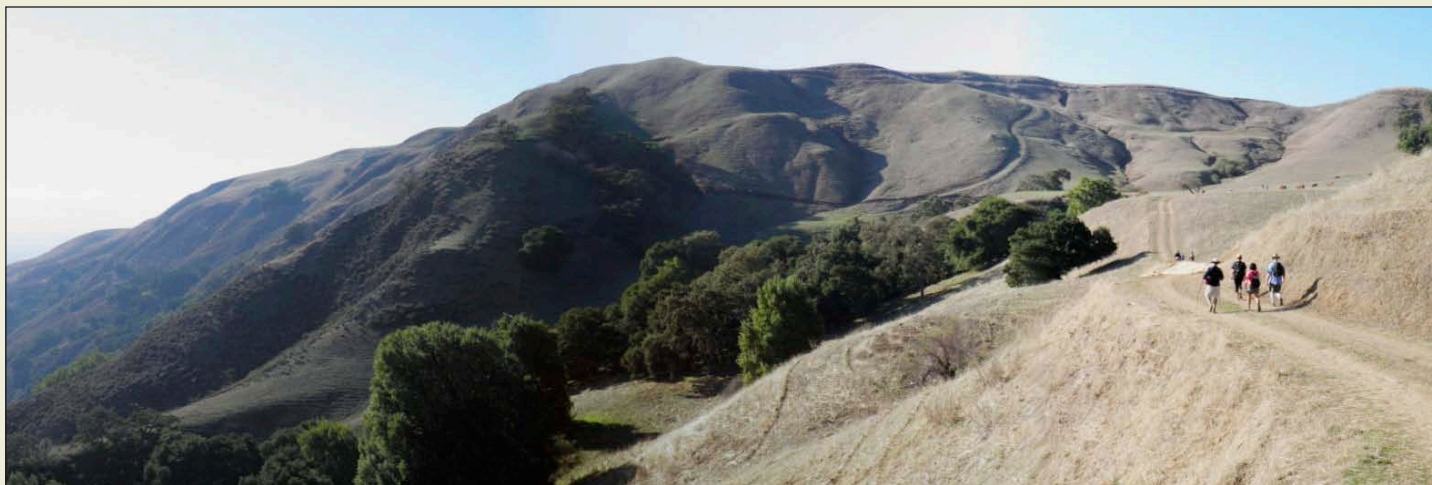


2011 Annual Report

OF THE BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL COUNCIL



Hikers in the Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve. Photo by Keung Hau.

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council closed 2011 with a total of 338 dedicated Ridge Trail miles! In addition to a major dedication in Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve, we worked on planning and constructing the Ridge Trail around the Bay Area. Our well-attended annual events connected more and more people with the Ridge Trail.

Trail Dedications

Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve Ridge Trail: The Santa Clara County Open Space Authority and the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council were thrilled to welcome more than 250 trail enthusiasts to the October 22 dedication of the Sierra Vista

Open Space Preserve Ridge Trail. Held on a hill overlooking the 1,676-acre eastern county preserve, the dedication site offered breathtaking panoramic views. At six miles, this is the longest new stretch added to the Ridge Trail in the last four years. The trail can be accessed from Alum Rock Park in San Jose.

Sandhurst Connector Trail: In late 2011, we dedicated a 0.2-mile neighborhood connector in Solano County, continuing the Solano County Ridge Trail Committee's decade-long record of hosting at least one annual dedication. The trail is on City of Vallejo open space at Sandhurst Drive and connects a residential neighborhood with the Vallejo/Benicia Buffer Ridge Trail.



A crowd gathers at the Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve trail dedication. Photo by Ron Horii.

Trail Construction

Conzelman Road: The Federal Highway Administration finished construction of a Class II bike lane on a 1.3-mile uphill section of Conzelman Road in the Marin Headlands. Cyclists use this road to connect from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Coastal/Julian Trail. The Ridge Trail Council is considering designation of this stretch as the Ridge Trail bicycle route, which would overcome a "gap" for cyclists.

North Slope Sonoma Mountain: From September through November, construction continued on the North Slope Sonoma Mountain Ridge Trail, and will be completed in 2012. Crews installed numerous rock fords, Sutter retaining walls, and drain lenses on a high vista trail section, and also worked

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on a section on Jacob's Ranch. Through 2011, two and a half miles were built; two more miles will be built in 2012. This project is a collaborative effort between the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Sonoma County Regional Parks, and the Conservation Corps North Bay.

Glen Cove Waterfront Park: Construction started in the fall of 2011 on the new 0.4-mile multiuse Ridge Trail segment in Solano County's 15-acre Glen Cove Waterfront Park. The trail hardened over the winter and will open on June 16, 2012. The off-road shoreline trail is part of the Carquinez Strait Scenic



Glen Cove Waterfront Park in construction. Photo by Dee Swanhuysen.

Loop Trail segment that connects Benicia State Recreation Area and Glen Cove Marina. The Ridge Trail Council endorsed a \$75,000 Coastal Conservancy trail construction grant to the Greater Vallejo Recreation District for the trail project.

Pinole Watershed: The East Bay Municipal Utility District worked on realigning three miles of Ridge Trail in the Pinole Watershed, moving the trail off the old ranch road and onto a new ridgeline single-track trail. The water district partnered with the Ridge Trail Council and REI to host multiple volunteer workdays. The new trail is expected to open in late 2012.



Signage for the newly opened Skyline Trail. Photo by Ross Finlayson.

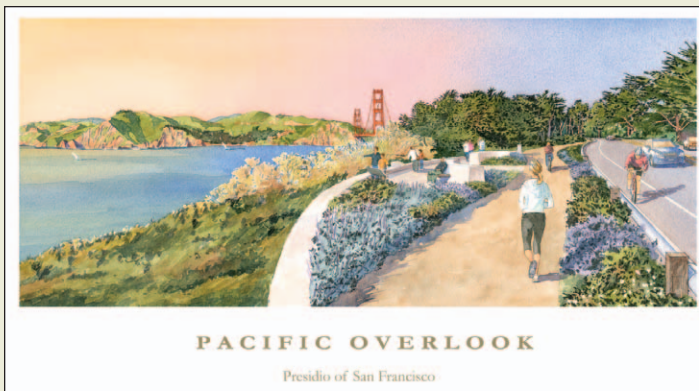
Castle Rock State Park: Trail crews finalized improvements to the Skyline Trail in Castle Rock State Park. In 2012, a 1.7-mile trail segment between Saratoga Gap Open Space Preserve and the southern boundary of Castle Rock opened to full multiuse access. This trail extends the Ridge Trail from Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve in the north through Castle Rock State Park in the south, totaling about 16 total miles of continuous Ridge Trail. Responsible Organized Mountain Pedalers, Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz, REI, and the Trail Center provided financial assistance for the trail upgrades.

Presidio Coastal Trail: Construction crews worked on a new 0.4-mile multiuse trail segment on Lincoln Boulevard between Washington Boulevard and Merchant Drive. A project of the Presidio Trust, National Park Service, and Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, the trail will be part of the new Ridge Trail alignment in the northern Presidio and will replace the current circuitous route through Fort Scott. The ocean-bluff path on the west side of Lincoln Boulevard extends almost to the Golden Gate Bridge (the last 0.2 mile segment is still in the design phase); the project also includes upgraded

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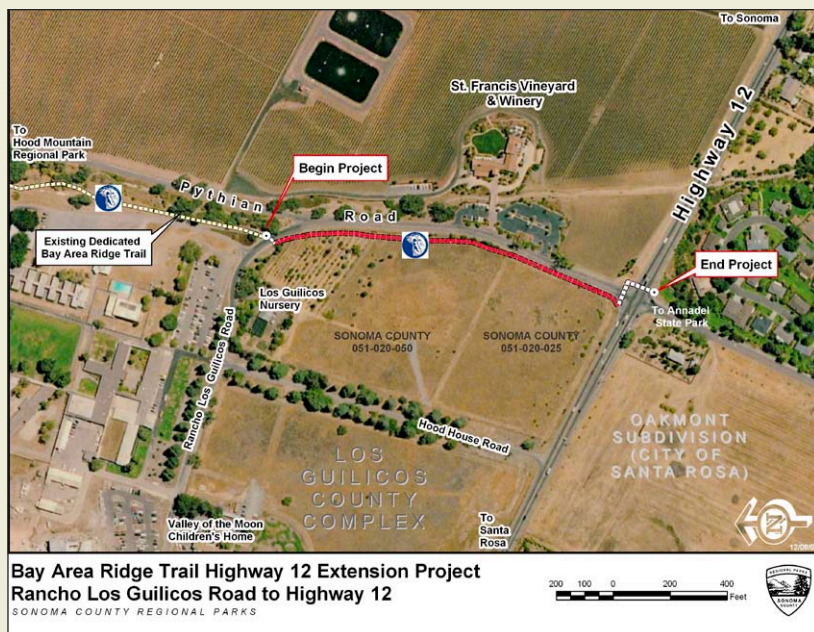
REI-Ridge Trail Service Day volunteer trail-builders in the Pinole Watershed. Photo by Mary Ann King.



bike lanes, two new overlooks (Pacific and Golden Gate), and habitat restoration (removing invasive trees and vegetation). A \$450,000 Ridge Trail/Coastal Conservancy grant, approved in September, provided an important contribution to the larger project. The trail will open in 2012.

Trail Planning

East Slope Sonoma Mountain: In 2011, the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council helped secure a \$55,000 Coastal Conservancy grant to the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District for planning and designing the 1.3-mile East Slope Sonoma Mountain Trail. Construction will be scheduled after planning is completed later this year. The trail will connect to the 3.5-mile Ridge Trail in Jack London State Historic Park and the 4.5-mile North Slope Sonoma Mountain Ridge Trail under construction.



Calabazas Creek Open Space Preserve: The Ridge Trail Council endorsed a \$125,000 Coastal Conservancy grant, approved in September, to the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District for creating a Calabazas Creek Open Space Preserve Trail Plan. Three miles of Ridge Trail will be routed over this new preserve. The two-year-long

planning project will also include creation of a staging area and a connector trail to Sugarloaf Ridge State Park.

Hood Mountain Regional Park: The Ridge Trail Council endorsed a \$151,000 Coastal Conservancy grant to Sonoma County Regional Parks for construction of a 0.3-mile multiuse extension to an existing five-mile Ridge Trail segment in Hood Mountain Regional Park. The project includes two new crosswalks and installation of a user-activated signal for crossing Highway 12.

Ridge Trail Events

Ridge to Bridge: Held in April, *Ridge to Bridge* was a huge success with 290 hikers and riders. Event participants walked



Cyclists and hikers at Ridge to Bridge. Photo by Pat Koren.

31, 20, 13, or 9 miles; pedaled 35, 28 or 12 miles; rode 9 miles on their horses; or took a family hike to the beach in Tennessee Valley. The event raised more than \$18,000 to help support the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council's work. The top fundraiser (for a second year) was Matt Zinn, who raised \$1,275 and won a stay at Cavallo Point Lodge.

National Trails Day: On June 4, National Trails Day, trail enthusiasts worked with REI and the East Bay Municipal Utility District to build a new three-mile Ridge Trail segment in the Pinole Watershed. In Sibley Volcanic

Regional Preserve, REI and the East Bay Regional Park District coordinated volunteers who made improvements to the Ridge Trail.



A young volunteer pitches in at Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve on National Trails Day. Photo by Karen Raney.

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East Bay Hills event participants hike in Tilden Regional Park. Photo by Charles Ladd.

East Bay Hills Thru-Hike & Equestrian Ride: In the fall, hikers and equestrians experienced one of the longest and most beautiful continuous stretches of Ridge Trail—from Crockett to Castro Valley—by participating in this multiday ride and hike. Sponsored by Tilden Wildcat and Metropolitan horsemen's associations, the annual event is also a benefit for the Ridge Trail and other local trail groups; this year it raised \$12,500. At this tenth annual hike and ride, 44 hikers traveled up to 60 miles over 5 days and 33 equestrians rode up to 100 miles in 6 days. Participants enjoyed the trail each day carrying only a daypack, with volunteers transporting camping gear and cooking delicious meals! After a full day on the trail, hikers and riders enjoyed evening entertainment.



Tour de Fat: Ridge Trail supporters came out in force for Tour de Fat, New Belgium's annual bike and beer celebration in Golden Gate Park.



Costumed cyclists at Tour de Fat. Photo by Janet McBride.

This fun event supports the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, and raised more than \$10,000 for each organization in 2011.

REI-Ridge Trail Service Day:

On November 5, 500 volunteers pitched in at a dozen work parties around the Bay Area. REI-Ridge Trail Service Day volunteers cut new trail; restored old trail; installed benches, fences, retaining walls and signs; built a boardwalk over wetlands, improved drainage to protect against winter rain; pruned overgrowth; and restored views. The Ridge Trail Council is grateful to all the volunteers, REI and its 11 participating stores, Chipotle Mexican Grill, Whole Foods, and our 10 park, agency and nonprofit partners for helping to host another successful Service Day!



An enthusiastic volunteer builds the Pinole Watershed Trail on REI-Ridge Trail Service Day. Photo by Janet McBride.



Volunteer workers at REI-Ridge Trail Service Day in Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve. Photo by Dana Litwin.

Outreach

Media Coverage: The new Ridge Trail in Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve received terrific publicity with a feature article in the *San Jose Mercury News* and affiliated Bay Area News Group papers, and a radio story on KQED Quest. On December 6, Doug McConnell's NBC Bay Area News feature about the Ridge Trail highlighted the Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve.

Social Media: We connected to thousands of people through electronic media. By the end



of 2011, we had 6,225 eNews subscribers, 900 Facebook fans, and 447 Twitter followers—a big increase from the previous year.

Newsletter: Mid year, we switched our Ridge Lines newsletter to full color, a change that was well received with our readers!



Photo by Janet McBride.

Trail Accessibility

Signage: We installed Ridge Trail signs in many places by working with our park partners: Golden Gate National Recreation Area, California State Parks, Marin Municipal Water District, Marin Open Space District, and six other agencies.



Young volunteers in the Pinole Watershed bundle up before working on the trail. Photo by Sue Jereczek.

Volunteers

Our organization depends on dedicated volunteers. In 2011, hundreds of volunteers planned and supported major trail events, participated in trail workdays and meetings, sat on committees, and led outings. We are extremely grateful for this incredible support!

Organizational Planning

Strategic Plan: The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council adopted a three-year strategic plan in April 2011. We are working on implementing the plan, which includes the following top priorities: promoting and advancing planning, design, construction, and opening multiuse trails; fine-tuning strategies for the long-term gaps ("last 100 miles"); raising awareness and getting people out on the trail; and building and sustaining organizational success.

Capacity Building: A generous grant from the Stephen D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation helped support organizational, leadership, and development capacity-building efforts. This support helped us develop a new strategic plan and implement a suite of hardware, software, and technology upgrades.



Volunteer trail workers in the Pinole Watershed. Photo by Sue Jereczek.

Financial Statement

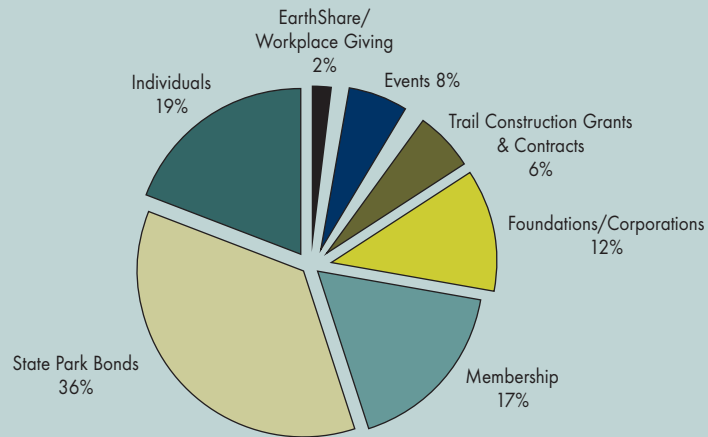
2011 INCOME

State Park Bonds	\$254,549
Individuals	134,157
Membership	124,036
Foundations/Corporations	84,786
Events	55,597
Trail Construction Grants & Contracts	46,133
Earthshare/Workplace Giving	16,068
Total	\$715,326

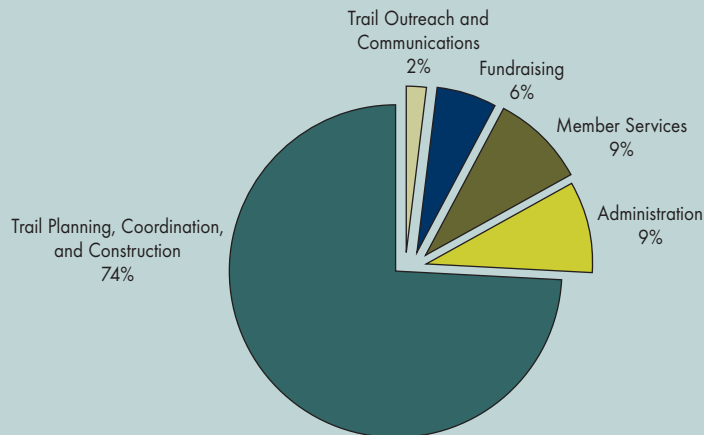
2011 EXPENSES

Trail Planning, Coordination, and Construction	\$523,650
Administration	66,342
Member Services	66,160
Fundraising	42,156
Trail Outreach and Communications	16,294
Total	\$714,602

2011 TOTAL INCOME: \$715,326



2011 TOTAL EXPENSES: \$714,602



Thanks to all our 2011 donors!

SUPPORTERS OF OUR WORK TO BUILD THE RIDGE TRAIL:

The State Coastal Conservancy and the voters of California who support park and open space bonds.

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