











Executive Director Janet McBride

THE VIEW FROM HERE

To those of you who are supporters of the Ridge Trail Council, I thank you. Your support matters in ways big and small. It makes a significant difference in the work we do to create and steward the Ridge Trail. We couldn't do it without you.

Even if you've never set foot on the Ridge Trail, you are part of the Ridge Trail community. You may have never dug out a stump on Service Day, but your support provides the resources to plan and support the crews and volunteers who are out there.

To those of you who are not yet supporters, I encourage you to consider joining the team that will complete the 550-mile Ridge Trail loop. We are getting closer every day and hope to break 400 miles by 2018. We want you with us when we reach that milestone.

Individuals historically provide almost half of our funding. That's a big deal. Ultimately, the trail will knit together over 75 treasured parks and open space preserves. We kicked off 2016 with 365 miles (and counting!) of completed Ridge Trail linking core wildlife habitats and enhancing the life of every person in the Bay Area by bringing each one a little closer to nearby nature. Your support is critical to completing the last 185 challenging miles. I am honored to be on this journey with you.

2015 TRAIL DEDICATIONS

In 2015, the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council dedicated 12.6 new miles of Ridge Trail in four counties. To bring trails to completion, the Council collaborates with more than 75 land agencies, secures millions in funding, provides sustainable world-class trail design with our renowned Trail Steward John Aranson, and rallies hundreds of volunteers for construction. Most of all, bringing a trail to completion takes perseverance and patience. The highlighted dedications show that the Ridge Trail Council has plenty of both.



Sonoma Mountain: Two superlative trail dedications on either side of Jack London State Historic Park opened for public access across Sonoma Mountain, treating visitors to ferns and redwoods, forests of oaks and bay laurels, and stunning views of the peaks surrounding Santa Rosa and Sonoma Valley.

Decades in the making, the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council opened the North Sonoma Mountain and East Slope sections

in close partnership with the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Sonoma County Regional Parks, Valley of the Moon Natural History Association, and many others. Terrific press coverage helped spread the word about these new preserves and trails, and the Sonoma Mountain Ridge Trail now extends almost 9 miles, including 5.7 new miles.



Sanborn County Park: After five years of planning and construction, the Ridge Trail and Santa Clara County Parks Department dedicated a key link in the hottest new bike route in the South Bay. The 3.5-mile single-track, multi-use John Nicholas Trail provides the first bicycle trail access to Sanborn County Park. It has numerous switchbacks and retaining walls as well as three new bridges. Hundreds of Ridge Trail volunteers gathered to build this smile-inducing trail. The new section knits together 22 continuous Ridge Trail miles from Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve to Sanborn County Park.

Presidio: The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy jointly dedicated a new quarter-mile trail in December. Previous to this new opening, trail users had to navigate a hectic maze around the toll plaza

to travel between the Golden Gate Bridge and the Presidio.
Hikers, bikers, and runners can now wrap around the toll plaza via the new Battery Marcus Miller Bridge and enjoy a smoother, safer, and more pleasant journey.







Garin Regional Park: After more than 35 years of planning, the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), Stonebrae Limited Partnership, and the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council dedicated 3.6 miles at Stonebrae (a private residential community and country club) and Garin Regional Park in the hills above Hayward. With this new section, the Ridge Trail runs for 43 contiguous miles in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. And by 2018, EBRPD plans to open another seven miles of Ridge Trail south of Garin Regional Park, connecting to Niles Canyon.



2015 SPECIAL PROJECTS

Silicon Valley Trail Loop: One aim of the Ridge Trail is to create healthy communities. In downtown San José, the Ridge Trail is collaborating with many partners to improve access between trails and public transit, including future BART stations. When complete, the Silicon Valley Trail Loop will extend more than 50 miles and connect the Ridge Trail, Bay Trail, and Coyote Creek, Guadalupe River, and Penitencia Creek trails with new BART and light-rail extensions. Scientists are finding that a shift from car-based transportation to a trail and transit combo can provide climate-change benefits as well as other environmental, community, and health benefits. A web-based "trip planner" tool was also developed to inspire more people to use the trail and transit network for commuting and recreation.

Google Trekking: Google Maps expanded its street-view feature to include trails, including more than 100 miles of the Ridge Trail. Bay Area Ridge Trail staff and volunteers hiked and photographed the Ridge Trail from Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Reserve to Mission Peak Regional Preserve to include the route on Google Maps. Check these fantastic views on your Google Maps app or in the news section of our website.



The new Ridge
Trail spur that
leads to Mount
Umunhum's
famous cube
will open to the
public on
October 22,
2016. Mark
your calendars!

2016 TRAIL PLANS

We carefully track all unfinished sections of the Ridge Trail, especially the ones in our near-term "trail pipeline." Sections are grouped in different phases, ranging from property acquisition, to design, to "shovel-ready." Every day the Council is creating solutions to bring each section to its next phase. The planned 2016 dedications represent a labor of love many years in the making.

Mt. Umunhum: South Bay residents, and those who know the iconic "cube" on the Santa Cruz Mountains ridge line, are abuzz about the long-awaited opening of Mount Umunhum, which has been closed to the public for 50 years. Thanks to our esteemed partner, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, the Ridge Trail Council will dedicate a 4.8-mile spur extending to the summit on October 22, 2016. The summit will be the Ridge Trail's highest point and offer a true bird's-eye view.

Mt. St. Helena: From the highest point in the South Bay, we bring you to the highest point in the North Bay. In 2016 we also plan to add a spur trail to the peak of Mt. St. Helena in all her craggy wonder. Located in Robert Louis Stevenson State Park, the 11-mile route will connect to the existing Ridge Trail on Lower Oat Hill Mine Trail in Calistoga.

San Francisco: Several key sections of the San Francisco Ridge Trail run along its busiest streets. A new route, which will be opening in phases, will take the trail off these traffic-clogged areas to pass through the green, historic areas of Golden Gate Park, Mount Sutro Reserve, and Twin Peaks.

Vargas Plateau: The Vargas Plateau Regional Park provides visitors with rolling hills and panoramic views of the Bay, Peninsula, South Bay, and the Diablo Range. In 2016, the Ridge Trail and East Bay Regional Park District will open a trail that will provide the first public access to Fremont's "extended backyard." The opening will include a trail connecting the Ridge Trail to nearby neighborhoods and future plans for overnight camping.



2015-16 TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Mt. St. Helena Spur Trail 🕕
 - Garin-Stonebrae Trail 2
 - Vargas Plateau Trail 🔞
- Silicon Valley Trail Loop 4
- Mt. Umunhum Spur Trail 🌀
 - John Nicholas Trail 6
- San Francisco Re-route Twin Peaks 🕖
- Presidio Battery Marcus Miller Bridge 8
 - Sonoma Mountain Trails 🧐
 - (East and North Slopes)
 - 2015 2016

SUPPORTED TRAIL TREKS

Every year the Ridge Trail holds supported events that provide opportunities for people to extend their Ridge Trail explorations.

Ridge to Bridge: This yearly event in April gets people out AND raises money for the trail. Starting in San Francisco or Marin (via a luxury shuttle), hikers, cyclists, runners, and equestrians choose moderate to strenuous trail options from 10 to 41 miles between Marin and the Presidio. Participants enjoy windswept ocean vistas, tasty refreshments at staffed rest stops, a catered trailside lunch, and a good time spent with friends.

East Bay Hills Benefit Hike and Ride: Every Labor Day is an opportunity to participate in the most convenient multiday hike and ride ever! On this five-day hike and ride between Tilden Park and Castro Valley you pick the number of days, while we shuttle your gear, cook your meals, provide nightly entertainment, and even offer professional massages.

Ridge Trail Cruz: In October 2015, the Ridge Trail Council and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District hosted a fully-supported adventure in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Hikers, runners, and cyclists had multiple choices for one-way shuttled routes starting from Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve. The route included cyclists' favorite—the John Nicholas Trail.

RIDGE TO BRIDGE

\$39,000

IN PROCEEDS

390 PARTICIPANTS



311 HIKED 10–26 MILES **49** BIKED 25–41 MILES

30 RODE 9 MILES



EAST BAY HILLS BENEFIT HIKE AND RIDE

\$10,500 IN PROCEEDS





HIKED AND RODE 55 PACK-FREE MILES OVER 5 DAYS AND ENJOYED 15 DELICIOUS PREPARED MEALS

RIDGE TRAIL CRUZ

110

PARTICIPANTS HIKED, RAN, CYCLED OR RODE HORSES FROM 8 TO 34 MILES



TOUR DE FAT

90+ VOLUNTEERS

8,000 ATTENDED

\$17,000 IN PROCEEDS



REI-RIDGE TRAIL SERVICE DAY

800 VOLUNTEERS
Record number!

23 LOCAL PARTNERS

18 WORK SITES



42 NEWRidge Trail Counci memberships

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY



FESTIVAL

Tour de Fat: New Belgium Brewing's traveling celebration of bikes and brews—*Tour de Fat*—comes every September. Featuring a costumed bike parade through Golden Gate Park as well as quirky contests, great music, and one-of-a-kind comedy acts, its beer sales benefit the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and San Francisco Bicycle Coalition.

TRAIL CARE

REI-Ridge Trail Service Day: Every November we use this day to show our trail some extra love! At work sites all around the Bay Area hundreds and hundreds of volunteers pitch in to break ground on new trail, plant native species, build fences, and install drainage dips.

National Trails Day: On the first Saturday in June every year, more than a hundred volunteers work on the Ridge Trail around the Bay Area.



OUTINGS

Winter Solstice Ramble: Every December one hundred of our loyal members gather for a members-only Ridge Trail ramble in the Presidio followed by a social gathering. The 2015 Ramble hike included a tour of artist Andy Goldsworthy's installations.

Healthy Parks, Healthy People: The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council started a "Walk with a Nutritionist" program, guided Ridge Trail walks co-led by registered dieticians or medical professionals who share tips and answer questions. Programming is under the umbrella of the worldwide Healthy Parks, Healthy People initiative. The Council partners with Sonoma County Regional Parks and the Solano Land Trust and is planning to host walks on a monthly basis.

Ongoing Volunteer-led Outings: A couple times a month, volunteers share their local expertise and enthusiasm by leading trail outings, including special trips that require a docent for access. Be sure to keep an eye on our monthly eNews and our website calendar for listings.



PARTNERS

One hallmark of the Ridge Trail Council is that we partner with everybody! The trail will ultimately run through 75 parks and preserves managed by scores of land agency partners. Our success in 2015 was due in no small part to the steadfast support and leadership of these partners.

Coastal

One partner deserves a special shout-out for another milestone in its outstanding support: the California Coastal Conservancy. For well over a decade, Conservancy Conservancy support has been instrumental in advancing the Bay Area Ridge

Trail. In December 2015, the Coastal Conservancy authorized a new multi-year planning grant from its San Francisco Bay Program to support the Council's work to plan, design, build, and sustain a continuous Bay Area Ridge Trail.

HAPPY 40TH ANNIVERSARY CALIFORNIA COASTAL CONSERVANCY!



VOLUNTEERS

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council is a small organization of only seven regular staff, but we make a big impact. This is in large part due to the tireless efforts of our volunteers and partners. We would especially like to draw attention to these volunteers:

Volunteer Board: Many of our board members have served for more than 15 years. They spend countless hours leading outings, fundraising, and hammering out strategies to realize our vision.

Trail Advocacy Groups (TAG): These teams of volunteers focus on a specific area and engage locally on trail development, stewardship, and plan trail outings and events. Each TAG focuses on different issues, such as developing strategies for multi-use gaps and advocating for open-space and trail funding.

Event Volunteers: Tirelessly this group of volunteers guide and sweep our outings, set up, tear down, provide first aid, and staff our rest stops on our fully-supported events.

Trail Care Volunteers: These trail warriors work hard and pick up the pulaskis to create and maintain the trail.

THE RIDGE TRAIL IN 2015: BY THE NUMBERS

VOLUNTEER HOURS

4,373



1,206 TOTAL VOLUNTEERS PROVIDED TRAIL CARE, | SUPPORTED TRAIL EVENTS, AND LED OUTINGS

42 VOLUNTEERS LED **23** OUTINGS FOR **386** HIKERS, BIKERS, RIDERS, AND RUNNERS

RIDGE TRAIL MILES DEDICATED

12.6

365 RIDGE TRAIL MILES DEDICATED (AND COUNTING!)

ADOPTED 3-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN TO REACH 400 MILES BY 2018

MARQUIS RIDGE TRAIL EVENTS

EVENTS PARTICIPANTS

1,585



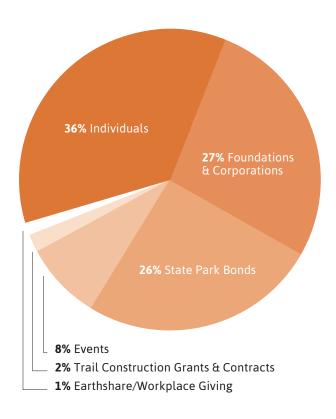
REI-RIDGE TRAIL SERVICE DAY VOLUNTEERS SINCE 2007

4,200

REI-RIDGE TRAIL SERVICE DAY VOLUNTEER HOURS SINCE 2007

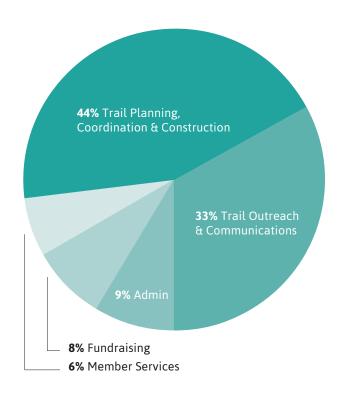
16,000

FINANCIAL STATEMENT



2015 INCOME

Total	\$864.173
Earthshare/Workplace Giving	11,084
Trail Construction Grants & Contracts	17,689
Events	70,996
State Park Bonds	217,687
Foundations/Corporations	236,270
Individuals	\$310,447



2015 EXPENSES

Total	\$759,910
Member Services	46,903
Fundraising	62,591
Administration	64,235
Trail Outreach and Communications	251,849
Trail Planning, Coordination, and Construction	\$334,333

DONORS

FOUNDATION/BUSINESS SUPPORT

REI Co-Op S.D. Bechtel Jr. Foundation New Belgium Brewing Company Tarbell Family Foundation Clif Bar Family Foundation Morgan Family Foundation William A. Kerr Foundation Katz Family Foundation Trillium Asset Management, LLC

GOVERNMENT & AGENCY

Association of Bay Area
Governments
California State Coastal
Conservancy
County of Marin
East Bay Regional Parks
District
Golden Gate National Parks
Conservancy
Midpeninsula Regional Open
Space District
Pacific Gas & Electric Company

San Francisco Recreation & Parks
San Francisco Public Utilites
Commission

Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation

Solano Open Space Sonoma County Ag. Preservation & Open Space District

INDIVIDUALS

\$5,000+

Annikka Berridge Susan Speicher Dorine Real & Lee Tepper

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Anonymous (2)
Mary Hufty & Daniel Alegria
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Kent & Mary Taylor

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Luke Evnin & Deann Wright Matt Zinn

\$500 - \$999

Anonymous Patricia V. Angell Kulwinder Atwal Jay W. Bailinson Fritz Bathelt Steve Beck & Jane Baxter Martha Benioff Bob Berman

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Cathy Moyer Cavallo Point

Don Herzog New Belgium Brewing Company Point Reyes Country Inn

Recreational Equipment, Inc. Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP

Sports Basement

Stephen Joseph Photography
The Presidio Trust

Whole Foods



















Special thanks to the State Coastal Conservancy and the voters of California who support park and open space bonds.

MISSION

To plan, promote, and sustain a connected hiking, cycling, and equestrian trail on the ridge lines around San Francisco Bay, linking people, parks, and open space for today and future generations.

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council works in close partnership with agencies and local government, parks, land trusts, and other stakeholders and volunteers to plan, acquire, design, build, care for, and promote the Ridge Trail.

STAFF

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South & East Bay Trail Director

Moira McEnespy

North Bay Trail Director

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