



The Watershed Project



Annual Report

July 2015 - June 2016





Board of Directors

Jane Gire, Chair
Scott Kocino, Treasurer
Sigrid Mueller, Secretary
Eric Hyman, Member
Annelise Moore, Member
Briggs Nisbet, Member

Staff

Juliana Gonzalez
Executive Director
Martha Berthelsen
Public Programs Manager
Helen Dickson
Program Manager
Liza Dadiomov
Program Manager
Jennies Tran
Climate Corps Fellow
Luis Martinez
Green Collar Corps
Emanuel Peterson
Green Collar Corps
Brian Severino
Green Collar Corps

Contractors

Alto Ayhan
Technology
Joseph Clerici
Communications
Carol DiBenedetto
Development
Michelle Ochoa
Bookkeeper
Lisa Owens-Viani
Watershed Council
Coordinator
Paula White
Program Coordinator

Interns

Alexis Ballman
Juliette Bobrow
Jacqueline Garrett
Sharon Gibbons
Miles King
Elizabeth Rodriguez
Nidina Sapkota
Thao Tran
Lauren Woodfill

Dear Watershed Supporters,

The Watershed Project is getting ready to celebrate its 20th year anniversary, and with that milestone comes the need to reflect both on the past and the future of the organization. We are looking forward to continuing to educate future environmental stewards and restoring our watersheds. Fostering grassroots movements and groups has been core to our strategy, because the energy and passion of volunteer groups is a pillar of any social movement.

The Watershed Project believes in educating for the future, and education has been another core element of our strategy from the beginning. We understand that it will take technology and innovation to build the cities of the future; cities and communities where green streets, green campuses, living shorelines, and healthy watersheds are managed to optimize sustainability, stewardship and ecosystem services. We believe that every elementary and high school student, including those from the most disadvantaged communities, should have a chance to learn about the environment of their local region. We hope that their experience with us will mark the beginning of a journey to become stewards of their local watersheds. Our elementary school programs are designed to work in partnership with classroom teachers. Our staff help train teachers and facilitate watershed education, service learning projects, and most importantly, watershed exploration, through field trips to local parks and restoration projects.

We take pride in offering some of the best structured service learning opportunities for high school and college students. All of our restoration projects are living outdoor classrooms, where scientific and natural exploration is encouraged. Our high school and college partner teachers integrate our environmental education units into their curriculum, allow us to co-teach with Next Generation Science Standards Curriculum, and bring us their students on journeys to the subtidal habitat, the creeks, the shoreline, or the local bioswales. We collaborate with local municipalities, parks and other stakeholders to design community-based watershed and greening projects. While we have three distinct service learning topics, all three are part of our holistic approach to creating a more sustainable community and watershed.

In our Greening Urban Watersheds Program, we have built 7 bioswales and rain gardens, planted over 100 street trees, built 5 habitat gardens, and restored 5 reaches of creeks in West Contra Costa County, engaging close to 180 students and over 450 volunteers this year.

The Healthy Watersheds Program works to free our watershed of litter and pesticides. We have worked with 2 schools to bring them closer to zero waste. We work closely with many municipalities in their trash and litter reduction programs, and promote citizen monitoring activities to support zero waste initiatives to promote healthy oceans. This program engages close to 2,500 volunteers and nearly 1,000 students a year.

And finally, in our Living Shorelines Program, we have built a wetland restoration project and an artificial oyster reef where we bring over 300 students and 20 volunteers a year, and provide critical habitat for native oysters.

In the future, we want to ensure that every teacher has access to our watershed education curriculum, service learning opportunities will be available for all students, and environmental and outdoor exploration will continue to be a source of inspiration for the future generation of environmental stewards. Today, more than ever, we need to educate innovators, scientists, engineers, educators, and community leaders who can help us dream, and build the cities and watersheds of the future.

Join in me in celebrating our accomplishments during 2015-16. Stay tuned for the celebration of our 20th year anniversary serving the San Francisco Bay in 2017.

Yours truly,

Juliana Gonzalez
Executive Director
The Watershed Project



Greening Urban Watersheds

Restoring natural functions into the urban landscape by building green infrastructure with volunteers of all ages



461 volunteers planted rain gardens, bioswales, and trees (273 adults and 188 youth)



1,318 volunteer hours over 24 workdays

Planted 1,275 native plants on the Greenway and 109 trees along Richmond's streets



1,815,000 gallons of storm water treated annually by green infrastructure projects

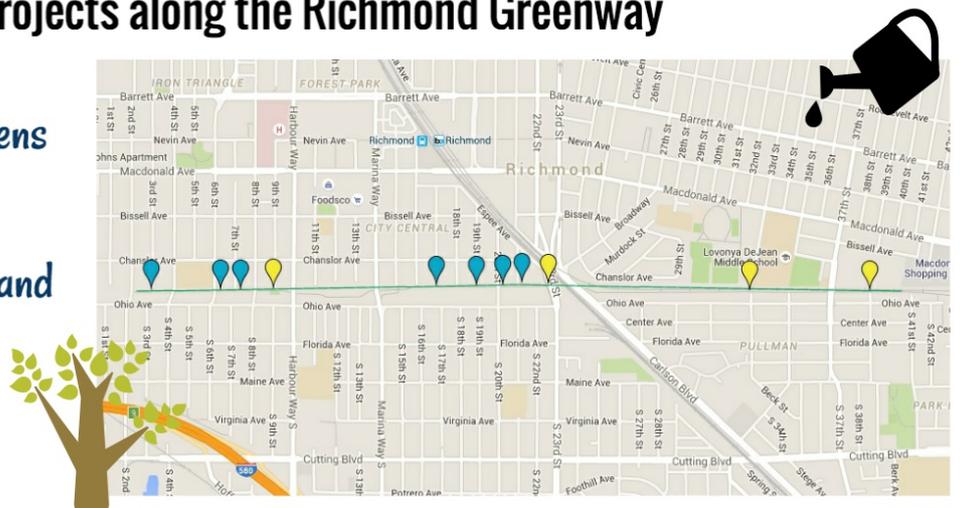
Our green infrastructure projects along the Richmond Greenway



7 completed rain gardens and bioswales



4 planned rain gardens and bioswales



Wild Shorelines

Engaging the community in restoration of lost habitat in the San Francisco Bay and along its shoreline



2009

Small population of native oysters found at Point Pinole during shoreline study

First community-built oyster reef, built by 40 volunteers, installed at Point Pinole, creating habitat for the declining oyster populations

2013

2015-16

315 middle and high school students participate in Wild Oysters program, visiting Point Pinole

Volunteers find an impressive rebound of 300 native oysters per square meter of reef at Point Pinole

2016



"The Wild Oysters program helped my students connect what they had been learning in our classroom to their local environment. The hands-on, participatory science activities let them really 'do' science and see how scientific research can be used to benefit and improve our world."

-Jason Scott, Bentley School Science Teacher

75 hours of oyster monitoring by 20 dedicated volunteers this year



Healthy Watersheds

Preventing pollution from entering the watershed through marine debris education, trash clean-ups, and inspiring behavioral change



Over the past year, The Watershed Project coordinated and facilitated:



26 Coastal Clean-up Day sites around the East Bay

5 Creek trash assessments around Contra Costa County

4 Earth Day community events and clean-ups

4 Community clean-ups at Meeker Slough along the Richmond Shoreline



2499 volunteers cleaned our local shorelines and creeks



7588 pounds of trash removed from our local watersheds

Top 3 trash items we found on Coastal Cleanup Day:

1



30,571 pieces of microplastics (smaller than 2.5 cm)

2



8,125 Food Wrappers

3



7,278 Cigarette Butts

Environmental Education

Increasing youth access to nature through hands-on STEM education programs

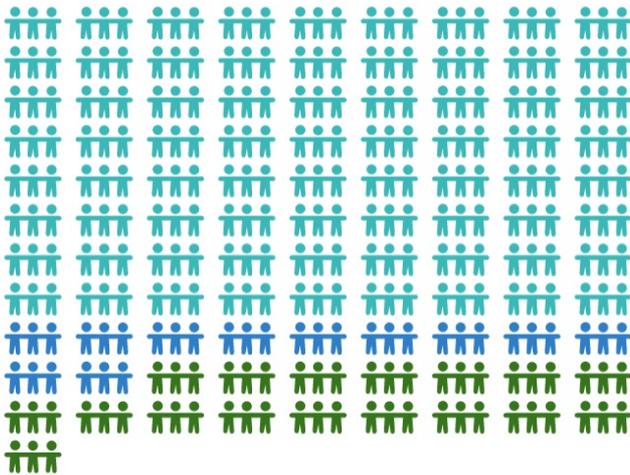


"The students at this school have been much more vocal about preserving our planet. They often reference back to lessons or assemblies we have had with Waste Matters, and everyone is on board with making a zero-waste environment."

- Karen Duncan, Fairmont Elementary 5th Grade Teacher



This year, we served 1,380 students in grades K-12 around the Bay Area



57 classes

51 teachers

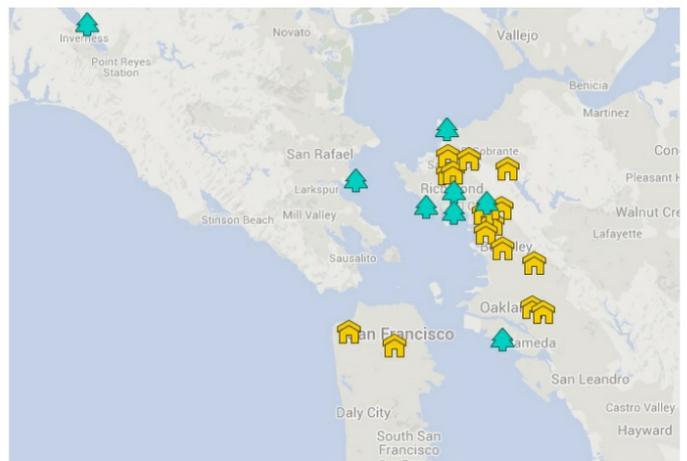
17 schools



8 field trip locations

585 students went on field trips

Schools & Field Trip Locations



991 Elementary School Students

146 Middle School Students

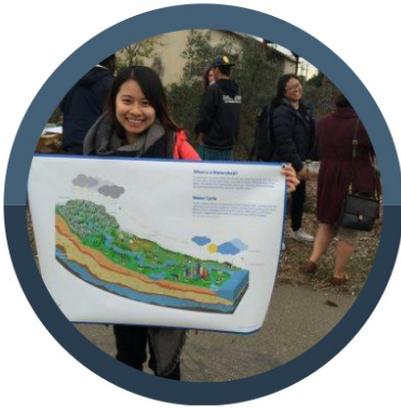
243 High School Students



720 students enrolled in free and reduced lunch program

Green Careers

Building the next generation of watershed stewards by providing local youth with experience and professional development in the environmental field



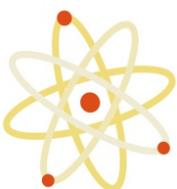
"The highlight for me was probably getting to meet and talk with people who share a love for the outdoors and have environmental careers, similar to what I might want to do when I'm older. Not everyone in my school program got to have very many hands-on experiences, and I felt like I was definitely given this opportunity at The Watershed Project! It's encouraged me to pursue an environmental career."

– Alexis Ballman, Junior at Albany High School



12 high school and college students completed a total of 765 internship hours last year

Introducing young artists and engineers to environmental careers



A class of California College of the Arts students and UC Berkeley engineering students spent a semester volunteering and learning about our work greening the urban landscape. For their final projects, the students created mosaics, banners, student journals, hand painted signs, high school curriculum, rain garden models, and other beautiful pieces for The Watershed Project to use and display.



Examples of some of the art students' creations for our Richmond Greenway rain gardens and bioswales

Rainmakers

Linda Abe
Michelle Edwards
Eric Hyman
Janet Johnson
Briggs Nisbet
Lori O'Brien
Timothy O'Shea
Greg Wentworth
Aaron Willems
Michal Crawford-Zimring

Individual Donors

Sheila Adams-Sapper
Richard Armstrong
Alto Ayhan
Amanda Aymar
Ed Ballman
Sarah Bardeen
Mary Barnsdale
Gloria Barney
Andrew Beahrs
Holger Berthelsen
Martha Berthelsen
Susan Bolender
Elizabeth Brusati
Sean Callagy
Melissa Capria
Emily Castelli
Darlene Ceremello
Mary Chan
Andrew Charnatz
Pheobus W. Chen
Lance Cidre
Courtney Clarkson
Karen Cleek
Ann Clemenza
Pamela Conrad
Christian Crumlish
Margot Cunningham
Dimitri Dadiomov
Liza Dadiomov
Carol DiBenedetto
Helen Dickson
Frances Dupont
Rebecca Ellery
Tim Ereneta
Christopher Erickson
Kelsi Faizi
John Farnsworth
Beverly Farr
Barbara Fishman
Tara Fitzgerald
Brett Foreman
Matthew Freiberg
Calder Gillam
Bonnie Glover
Kathleen Geritz
Jane Gire
Azriel Goldschmidt
Juliana Gonzalez
Christopher Grillon
Paul Grünland
Jeffery Hall
Rob Hanusa
Derek Hitchcock

Marianne Hook
Diane Ichiyasu
Margie Jacobs
Mary Beth James-Thibodeaux
Robert Joyce
Sharon King
Steven Kirby
Scott Kocino
Dawn Ann Kooyumjian
Jennifer Krill
Maureen Lahiff
John Lewis
Yury Lifshits
Marsha Lowry
Edward Lyke
Ellen Manzo-III
Bertha McKinley
June Melchior
Annelise Moore
Sigrid Mueller
William Nicholson
Bobbi Nikles
Michelle Ochoa
James Orton
Peter Palmer
Margarita Parra Cobaleda
Louise Pellerin
Antonio Piccagli
Christopher Randle
Holly Reed
Dave Savidge
John Schaaf
Susan Schwartz
Gary Scott
Christobal Sebastian Gonzalez
Dixon
Andy Seplow
Leslie Siegel
Birute Skurdenis
Elizabeth Sojourner
Karen Sorensen
Sarah Story
Martin Strain
Marc Sugiyama
Alva Tamura
Evelyn Taylor
Jennies Tran
Ann Vansteenbergh, MFT
Rachel Walther
Ralph Warner
Richard Wayman
Patricia Wegner
Samara Wenten
Sara Witt
Lloyd White
Paula White
Sail White
Bruce Wolfe
Joe Wyman
Franklin E. Zimring

Foundations and Government Support

Alco Clean Water
Baykeeper
Cal Fire
CCC North Richmond Green
City of Albany
City of Richmond
Clif Bar Family Foundation
Coastal Conservancy
Contra Costa County
CCC Public Works
Dean & Margaret Leshar
Foundation
East Bay Community
Foundation
EBMUD
International Community
Foundation
Jiji Foundation
Manzanillo-San Pablo Sister
City Committee
Raymond Family Foundation
Razoo
San Francisco Foundation
SF Public Utilities Commission
Thendara Foundation
Tides Foundation / J. Vance
Huckins Fund
Trust for Public Land
San Pablo Community
Foundation
SFEP/ABAG
State of California
Strategic Growth Council

Corporate and Business Support

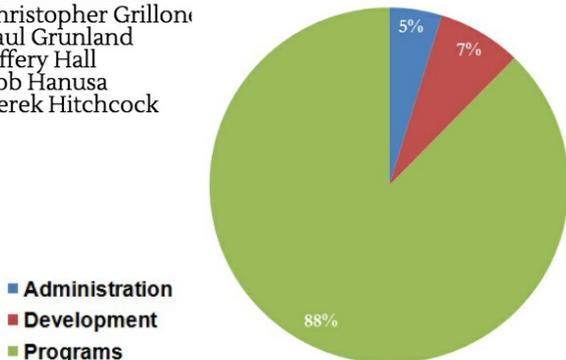
Tradewinds Sailing
Kaiser Permanente
Restoration Design Group
Wareham Development
Jack's Oyster Bar
Waterbar
Hog Island Oyster Company
Safari West
El Cerrito Garden Club
PG&E
United Way

Schools and Universities

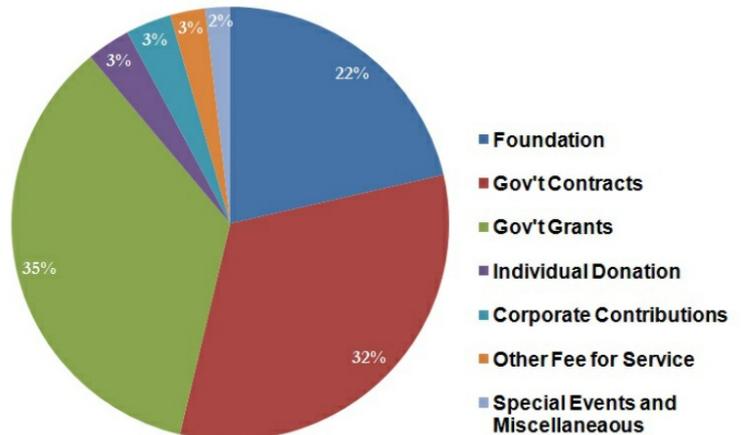
Albany High
Bentley School
California College of the
Arts
Casa Hogar Los Angelitos
Downer Elementary
Escuela Primaria Emiliano
Zapata
Fairmont Elementary
George Washington High
Kensington Elementary
Lake Elementary
Mission High
Oakland High
Ocean View Elementary
Olinda elementary
Richmond High
Redwood Day School
Shu Ren International
School
Vista High School
UC Berkeley
Universidad de Colima

Community Partners

Building Blocks for Kids
Collaborative
California Coastal Commission
California Urban Streams
Partnership
CCC Watershed Program
Contra Costa Resource
Conservation District
Contra Costa Watershed Forum
City of San Pablo
City of Richmond
EarthTeam
East Bay Regional Park District
Education Outside
Friends of Pinole Creek
Friends of San Pablo Creek
Groundwork Richmond
Hog Island Oyster Company
Oakland Unified School District
Office of Supervisor John Gioia
Pogo Park
San Pablo-Wildcat Watershed
Council
San Francisco Unified School
District
SPAWNERS
Trust for Public Land
Urban Tilth
West Contra Costa Unified
School District



Expenses 2015-16: \$544,708



Revenue 2015-16: \$661,288