

### Wild Possibilities

A Path of Resilience for Greenbelt

Resilience is not a destination; it is a way of being.

Every day I find myself asking difficult questions. How do we move forward? How can we support those most impacted in our community? How do we identify what is essential work for Greenbelt Land Trust in these times?

Collectively we are facing an uncertain future. As we grapple with the unknown, what I know about our work has only been reinforced:

Resilience is our Way of Being Resilience is embedded in our DNA. As a land trust, our long-term perspective



prepares us to weather inevitable upheavals. Through floods, economic depressions, biodiversity loss, and shifting political climates, Greenbelt has consistently recovered, adapted, and evolved. Our landscape and people are resilient. While we know that the worst may be yet to come with COVID-19, nature endures and so will we.

Conservation is Long-Lasting

The vision of those who came before us sustains us every day. As I hike to the top of Fitton Green, I benefit from the hard work of those who preceded me. Today we work for future generations. We must continue the important work of conservation. It is in this time of community crisis that we turn to the places that bring us hope and solace. For many of us, we find that peace in nature, and on trails where we can escape, even momentarily, the uncertainty that surrounds us.

#### Collaboration is Key

The pandemic has revealed opportunities for emerging partnerships and new ways of thinking. From local sewing brigades volunteering to create masks for front-line workers, to conservation organizations uniting to leverage our resources –

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when we act together, we can have unprecedented impact. Greenbelt has a role in addressing urgent challenges at the magnitude and complexity at which they exist. We do this by exploring partnerships across the spectrum of conservation, health, education, and Resilience is recreation sectors.

being rooted in place, The future of our community depends pivoting to adapt to a new on the strength of future, embracing new our partnerships. partnerships, and staying We can use the true to our vision of healthy, disruption of this crisis to open the door to bold ideas and build a stronger, more resilient network of service organizations that work for the people and the land.

Nature is not taking a break during this pandemic, and neither will we. The work of a land trust is fundamentally about making the world a better place. Now more than ever, strengthened with your support, we are stepping forward to walk on a path

of resiliency and collaboration and emerge into a future of

wild possibility.

Every day I say a blessing of appreciation for you, friend. Thank you for your tender care of nature and our collective future. We are here for each other and Greenbelt Land Trust is here for you.









# **Healthy Trails, Healthy Communities**

**Greenbelt Land Trust** 

lands for all.

**Double Your Donation for Trails!** 

Every year hundreds of runners line-up at the Benton County Fairgrounds, bolting forward as the horn blasts, signalling the start of Run for the Hills. The long distance runners take off for the vistas of Fitton Green Natural Area on the 30k route, while the intrepid trail runners speed off for a fast round on the 8k course, and families launch the 2 mile course.

Over 13 years Run for the Hills has raised critical funds to enhance the trails that we all love and enjoy. This year we have cancelled the run scheduled for June 7th, but now, more than ever, our trails need us.

Access to nature has been a release, a source of joy, and mental health during this time of physical distancing. Consider giving back to the trails that have given us so much.

In partnership with Heart of the Valley Runners, Run for the Hills is going virtual! Through the month of June, you can enjoy the 30k, 8k, and 2 mile courses on your own schedule by:

- 1. Run the Race (30k, 8k, 2 mile)
- Record vour results
- Make a donation to Greenbelt's Trails Fund

Donations to Greenbelt's Trails Fund (whether you run the race or not) will be matched\*, 1:1, by our business sponsors of Run for the Hills!

Information: greenbeltlandtrust.org

\*Matching donations up to \$2,500

**GRAVEL** 

Barnhisel, Barlow, & Stephens, PC

\$2,000

1 MILE OF











**Our Trails Thank You!** 





Harvesting Kincaid's lupine seeds

# A Tale of Two Prairies Restoring Engangered Habitat

A colorful array of grasses and flowers once covered nearly one million acres in the Willamette Valley, from the soggy bottomlands to the dry foothills. With less than one percent of that historic range remaining, prairies are now some of the rarest habitats in Oregon.

Upland prairie is found on well drained soils and provides a home for the endangered Fender's blue butterfly. Wet prairie is characterized by seasonally inundated heavy clay soils, and is a refuge for a suite of endangered plants including Nelson's checkermallow, Willamette daisy, and Bradshaw's lomatium.

Through the protection of priceless remnant prairies, and through active restoration efforts at places like Bald Hill Farm, Greenbelt is working to ensure a dynamic future for Willamette Valley prairies and the species that depend on them to flourish.



Conservation Coordinator, Claire Fox, planting native bulbs at Bald Hill Farm

#### **Taking Root**

We have been working steadily at Bald Hill Farm to restore upland prairie, creating healthy habitat for dozens of native plants and animals, including two on the endangered species list: Fender's blue butterfly and its host plant, Kincaid's lupine.

In 2019, after several years of site preparation, Greenbelt staff planted 1000 Kincaid's lupine seedlings at the farm. Kincaid's lupine is a fascinating perennial flower that grows a tap root several meters deep into the soil. A mature plant will send out rhizomes that spread new growth far from the original seedling, resulting in plants more than ten meters apart connected beneath the surface in a clonal colony that can live well over one hundred years.

As the lupine stretches into the soil and across the prairie, it serves as a reminder of the deep and far-reaching connections between healthy lands, healthy plants, and healthy people.

# A Lasting Legacy for future generations

Jessica McDonald info (541) 752.9609 jessica@greenbeltlandtrust.org

Heritage Circle members are visionary supporters who have stepped forward to commit to stewarding Greenbelt Land Trust forward into the future by naming Greenbelt in their estate plans. Members enjoy invitations to appreciation and social events, and are recognized (if choose) in GLT materials for their support.

You are establishing a legacy.

You are ensuring that our community thrives for generations to come.

We would like to express our gratitude for naming Greenbelt Land Trust in your estate plans. Please share your decision with us so we can welcome you as a member of the Heritage Circle!



#### **Charles Ross Award**

#### Honoring conservation leadership

In 1989 Tom attended the first meeting of people invited by Charlie Ross to talk about starting a land trust in the Corvallis area.

Tom remembers Charlie describing

his vision of connected open spaces and protected properties as an "emerald necklace." It was Tom and the other members of the newly formed Geographic Committee who were sent out on a quest to identify the places that could make it a reality.

In addition to being a founding member, an early Board member, and a Trustee for Greenbelt over the years, Tom also brought us a great volunteer, Marcia. Marcia has been a Volunteer Naturalist at Bald Hill Farm since the beginning of the program, often setting up to sketch on the trails, which makes for an easy introduction with trail users. "I just like talking to people. I set up to sketch and then I engage people about what we're looking at. I love the people," is how she describes her work as a Greenbelt ambassador.

There's been a Pfleeger in the mix for 31 years at Greenbelt and it is our honor to recognize them with the 2019 Charles Ross Award for Outstanding Service.

What do Tom and Marcia hope to see in the next 31 years for Greenbelt? Marcia says, "To see our grandchildren out on the trails." Tom adds, "I'm so impressed by how far this organization has grown and I don't see what kind of limits we need to put on it." No limits with people like Tom and Marcia on board.

Thank you, Tom and Marcia!

#### Volunteer Award

#### In recognition of extraordinary service

Our 2019 Volunteer of the Year is Jonny Armstrong. He is an amazing photographer who specializes in "camera trapping" – using remote cameras and motion sensors to capture images of wildlife as they go about their lives.

Q: What's your favorite place to camera trap for GLT?

A: I love Bald Hill Farm because it brings joy to so many folks in our community while also supporting a wide variety of wildlife. Elusive species such as bobcat thrive at Bald Hill despite all the human traffic. On a trail camera there we captured a bobcat waiting for folks to jog by on the paved path, crossing the path, and then returning a short while later with a rabbit in its mouth.

Q: Is there an image you've captured at Bald Hill that you are particularly proud of?

A: I found a broad shallow spot in a stream there, with a game trail leaving on both sides. I knew this would be a good spot and sure enough I captured video of a plump bobcat with a trail camera. It took me a while to find time to set up my fancy camera trap, but when I did, the cat came through with a litter of kittens. This shot looks natural but it's accomplished by adding artificial light to the scene. That sun is actually a flash that I hid in the background and it's what makes the glare on the water, so that you can tell this is a creek. I still can't believe how perfectly this shot worked out, and it really captures everything I love about camera trapping: studying animal behavior, experimenting with light, and having nature surprise you.

Q: Why do you volunteer for Greenbelt Land Trust?

A: The Willamette Valley is a significantly better place to live because of the work of Greenbelt and its partners. Greenbelt makes it easy for folks to get lost in nature in their own community. I feel incredibly privileged to be able to drive less than ten minutes to a place where I can track bobcats with my kids.

We feel incredibly privileged and grateful to have Jonny as a volunteer and we are very happy to recognize his contributions with the 2019 Volunteer of the Year award. Thank you, Jonny!



Jonny makes checking the webcam a family-affair!





**EARS** 

We have been building a legacy of healthy lands, healthy waters, and healthy communities in the mid-Willamette Valley since 1989.

#### In 2019, you enabled us to:

acres conserved for future generations

acres gueued for future protection



native trees planted by crews, volunteers and staff

road removed to restore floodplain hydrology

public events and tours held to engage with the land

healthy outdoors initiative launched at Owens Farm

years of conservation leaders celebrated!

Together, we have protected 4,000 acres of critical habitat. Planted hundreds of thousands of trees. Built a resilient organization.

Today we are at a new chapter for Greenbelt Land Trust. What will our next 30 years bring?

HOW **HELP** 

#### **JOIN US**

Have fun with us! Get outdoors with Greenbelt and learn about conservation in your community.



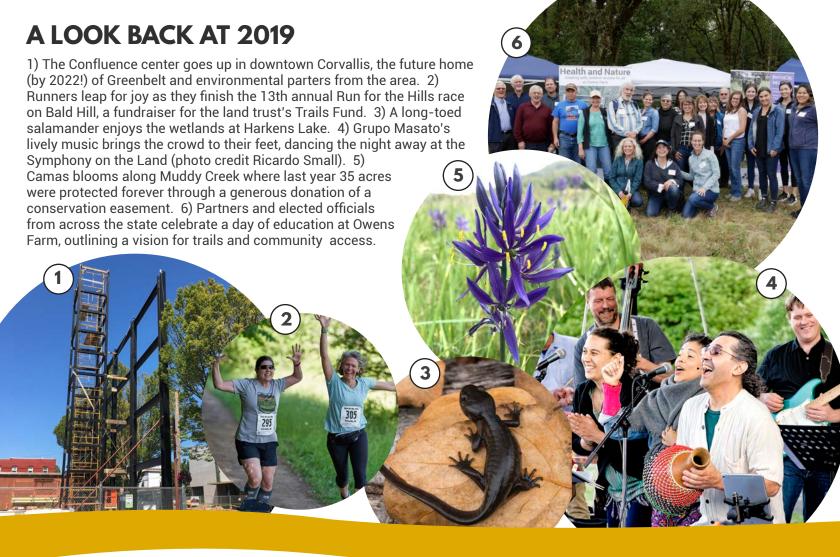
#### **VOLUNTEER**

Get involved, get dirty and help raise awareness about our lands and waters by volunteering.



#### **GIVE**

We need you. Your donation sustains Greenbelt and the future of our lands.

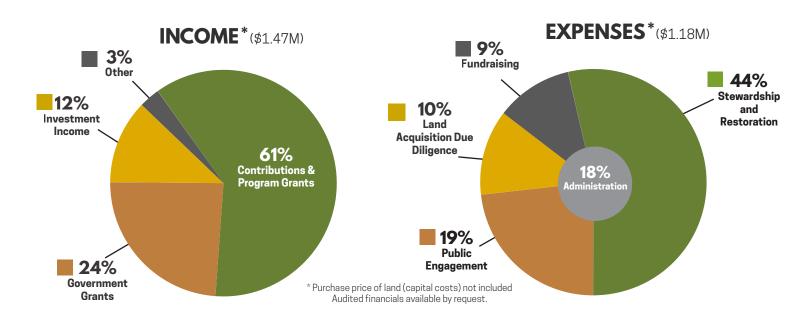


#### A SOLID BASE FINANCIAL SUMMARY (10/1/18-9/30/19)

Conservation success depends on organizational effectiveness. At Greenbelt Land Trust we have set high standards for financial sustainability and accountability as the foundation for our great conservation work.

#### **LONG-TERM AND ENDOWMENT FUNDS (\$5.5M)**







the Willamette Valley

# **Business of the Year**

#### R. Franco Restoration

Rosario Franco has been at the forefront of habitat restoration in the Willamette Valley for over a decade. He has dozens of full-time employees planting up to 1,000,000 native plants a year, and his skillful leadership of R. Franco Restoration is a driving force in the local restoration economy.

For Greenbelt Stewardship Director Matt Blakeley-Smith, Franco's crews are more than contractors hired to plant trees and shrubs, "They're really

restoration professionals, trained in habitat work specifically. They are experts on our stewardship projects."

Having that level of expertise on Greenbelt projects like the floodplain forest restoration at Harkens Lake, where Franco crews have installed and maintained 500,000 trees and shrubs over seven years. is truly invaluable.

Greenbelt isn't the only group benefitting

from this expert knowledge. Rosario works with just about every agency and organization doing habitat restoration in the Willamette Valley, and estimates that his crews have planted over 14 million trees and shrubs.

"To be able to orchestrate a large number of people on multiple projects with

different land managers, and to pull it off at a high level year Orchestrating a restoration after year is exceptional, movement and economy in and the level of leadership is extraordinary," Blakeley-Smith said, "Rosario's crews

> aren't just sticking stems in the ground, this is a profession, taken seriously."

Greenbelt is proud to be part of a restoration movement and economy in the Willamette Valley, and we would not have met our goals without Rosario Franco.

We are grateful for Rosario's partnership and we are thrilled to recognize R. Franco Restoration with the 2019 Business Partner of the Year award.

#### **Restoration Economy**

Habitat restoration is directly tied to economic prosperity, just as the well being of our communities is inextricably tied to the welfare of our natural resources.

> Ecological restoration industry

employing ~126,0<u>00</u> people directly in the US





\$.80 of every \$1.00 stays w/in the County where it was spent.

\$.90 of every \$1.00 spent stays w/in Oregon

\$411.4 Million invested in restoration over 1 decade generated: Economy: \$977.5 M Jobs: 6,500

For every

spent on habitat restoration

15-24 jobs created in local economies







# One Vision, Your Leadership

Your commitment to Greenbelt Land Trust has helped us to protect nearly 4,000 acres and preserve natural resources for future generations. The following generous supporters gave a donation between January 1, 2019-December 31, 2019.

#### IMPACT CIRCLE (\$1,000+)

Impact Circle members sustain Greenbelt Land Trust.

Visionary leaders, empowering the protection and stewardship of our natural areas.

Thank you for propelling Greenbelt Land Trust forward, to preserve our quality of live, clean waters, and access to nature.

Alcyon Lord and Wendy Byrne
Alesia and Rich Duncombe
Amy Rossman and Christian Feuillet
Anne and Timothy Allen
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♦= 30 year member
♦ = 20 year member





#### **GRANTS**

Benton County Cultural Coalition, Center for Natural Lands Management, Ducks Unlimited, Farm Services Agency, Intel, Land Trust Alliance, Meyer Memorial Trust, Natural Resources Conservation Service, One Tree Planted, Oregon Community Foundation, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Willamette Habitat Restoration

#### \$500

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Our members are the backbone of Greenbelt Land Trust. Every acre we protect, every tree planted and child who gets to explore a new trail ... that is made possible because of the investments of our contributors. Your membership is a voice and vehicle for good.

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# get into nature Calendar of Events

#### Saturday, June 20th, 10am Eco Printing Workshop - Online

Join talented instructor Chris Bentley to learn the art of eco printing, in which plant materials leave indelible marks on fabric or paper. Gather some easy to find plants and materials to make it a hands-on activity, or just watch and learn about this fun craft!

#### Thursday, June 24th, 7pm Soils! - Online

Oregon State University Senior Soil Science Instructor James Cassidy will lead a presentation and discussion about the amazing world of soils and the hidden world of life beneath your feet. Find out what you're standing on!

# **June Music Series Symphony on the Land - Online**

We'll miss seeing you at Symphony on the Land this year, and we're already planning for 2021! In the meantime, join us for a series of special live performances by some of our region's most accomplished musicians as they take to our natural areas to play. Dates and times will be announced on Greenbelt's website, eNewsletter, and social media.

# June Trails Series Run for the Hills

Run for the Hills is taking place as a virtual run! Enjoy either the 8k or the 30k trail route throughout the month of June, and post your results. This event is a fundraiser for Greenbelt's Trails Fund, which puts money directly back into the trail systems that we all enjoy. Run the 'race' and make a donation in support of our trails! More information: www.gltrunforthehills.com

#### Wednesday, July 8th, 3pm Meet the Builder

Join Greenbelt and builder Alan Ayres to tour the in-progress construction of The Confluence building. Learn about the use of sustainable, local materials and energy efficient design in construction of this future home for Greenbelt and local conservation partners. \*Note that this event will be postponed if unable to meet state guidelines at the time for physical distancing.

# On the Land Events Facebook Live!

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to keep up to date on our live streaming content, field visits, Q&A's and educational sessions!