

25 YEARS of HOPE in action

IMPACT REPORT
2020-2021





MISSION

*To foster a love of the
land in Sonoma County.*

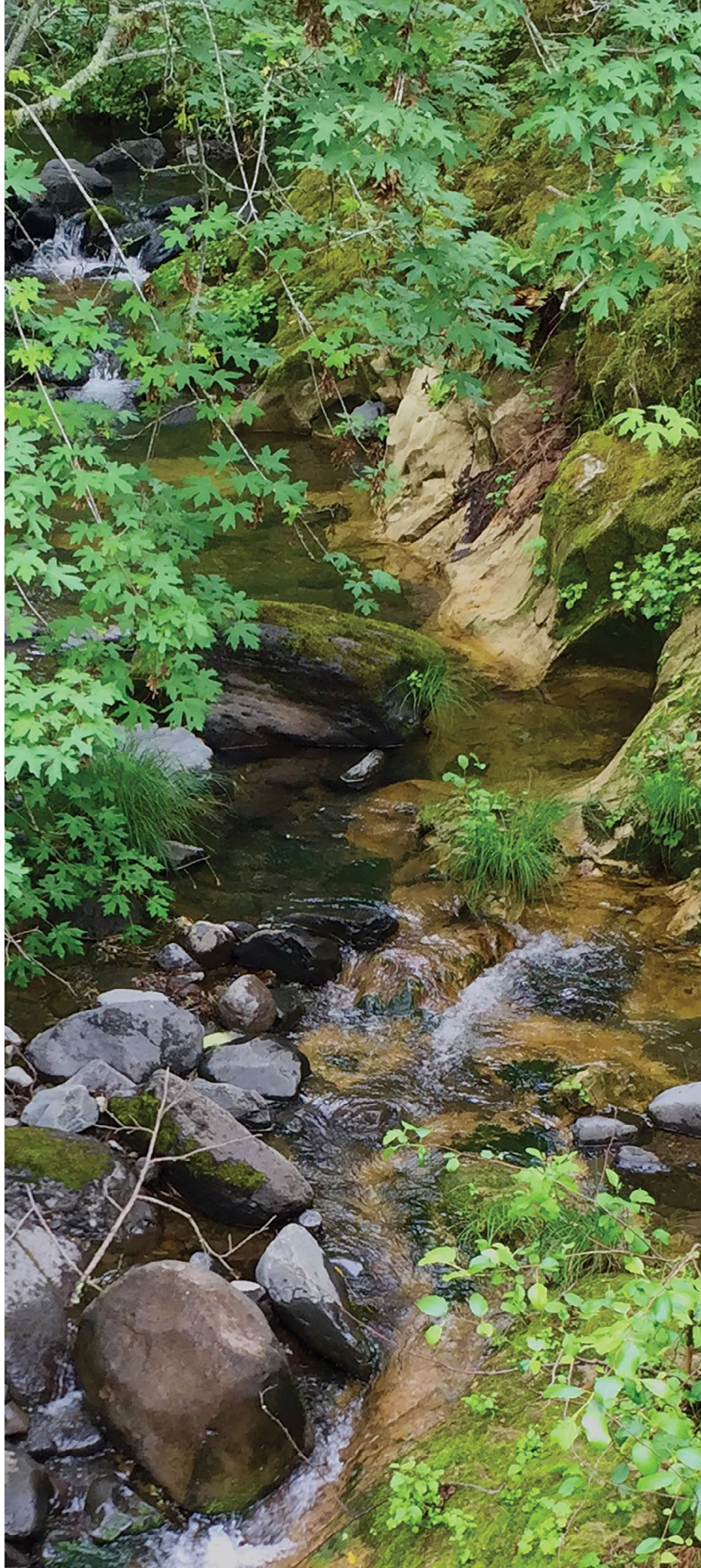
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The preserves, community gardens, and main office stewarded by LandPaths are located on the ancestral territories of the Southern Pomo people, the Coast Miwok people, the Wappo people, and the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians, past, present, and future. We recognize them as the first people and the first stewards of these lands. We are on occupied territory and acknowledge the ongoing devastation of colonization.

This land acknowledgment is the first step in LandPaths' journey to repair our relationship with the original people of this land, and to respect, make space for, and honor the deep connection of Indigenous people to the natural world.

Join us in this process by connecting with and uplifting Native-led organizations and resources, which is a way for us all to start on a course of reparative study and action.

To read our entire land acknowledgment, go to:
landpaths.org/mission-statement-and-values.





Dear Friends,

LandPaths started twenty-five years ago. We were young, founded by action-oriented women. With a *we-can-do-this* attitude, we shared our love of nature and a responsibility for local landscapes.

More than two decades later, thousands, including you, have experienced outdoor firsts and invested time and muscle into caring for the land. We have staunchly (even stubbornly) pursued diversity and inclusivity. LandPaths has grown into a trailblazer for Sonoma County.

We remain compelled by belonging and joy, courage and responsibility, and by our belief in nature as a curative agent for ecological, mental, and physical health.

Our full name is LAND PARTners THrough Stewardship; it's about acting with you as stewards and fellow adventurers. Climate change and the imperative to establish equitable access to health and happiness depend on us going all in on care for the land and each other.

Real change is a long-term commitment. With you beside us, we're looking ahead to the next quarter century, determined to pursue three essential priorities:

Increase land stewardship and the relevance of LandPaths' gardens and preserves

- Grow stewardship capacity and community participation to meet the pressing needs of the land.
- Stay current on climate solution-based research, including applications of traditional ecological knowledge and fire resilience practices.
- Focus on gardens and preserves as places for learning and refuge —

especially for the people and the land most impacted by climate change and other crises.

Advance LandPaths' work to become an antiracist organization

- Re-imagine our board culture and policies, aided by training and by six new board members in 2021, who bring a wealth of expertise and lived experience.
- Implement a new, multi-year Equity Strategic Plan created by our entire staff over 18 months.

Nurture the next generation of environmental stewards

- Invest in environmental education partnerships to reach children and teens who face the greatest barriers to the proven benefits of time in nature.
- Increase camp scholarships to 50% of campers, instilling a sense of belonging in nature together for all youth.
- Build pathways to careers in conservation for young people from diverse backgrounds, while fostering their love of the land.

We can do nothing better with our lives than to love more and love deeply. At LandPaths that means investing in each other and the land, creating the community that we know in our hearts is possible. This is the time. Let's co-create together.

For the love of the land,

Craig Anderson, Executive Director

Beth Wyatt, Board President



lifting up the next generation of earth stewards



RAMBLING WITH FRIENDS ALONG TRAILS, SPLASHING AND GIGGLING IN A COUNTRY CREEK, DISCOVERING INSECTS IN THE BARK of a log, getting a taste of farm life — Owl Campers new to LandPaths experienced all of these magical summer camp moments for the first time thanks to an ambitious expanded partnership with Santa Rosa City Schools.

In 2021, we added four sessions of Owl Camp to our existing summer roster for students from the largest district in the region. As a result, 144 youth who would not otherwise have had access to this nature-rich camp experience, headed out to Bohemia Ecological Preserve in West Sonoma County, and Preston Farm in Healdsburg. Transportation, lunch, and camp sessions were provided at no cost to students from low socio-economic communities.

After 15 months of distance learning and social isolation, our nature camps created a safe and nurturing container to connect with the natural world and each other. This major achievement was the result of months of planning and collaboration with the school

district, and stands on the shoulders of 25 years of delivering profoundly impactful environmental education.

LandPaths has always responded with bold creativity to the changing needs of people and the land, from Inspired Forward's focus on leadership, stewardship, self-development, and ecological literacy for teens, to our trailblazing, multiple field trip approach to environmental education through two decades of In Our Own Backyard (IOOBY); the deepened partnership with Santa Rosa City Schools is no exception. Rather, it's a continuation of our decades-long mission to foster a love of the land.

In the midst of intersecting crises of climate, pandemic, mental health, and economic injustice, connecting the next generation of earth stewards to the land, with love, is crucial. Our dozens of weeks of camps and school-based programs for children and teens are essential to fostering a love of the land within the next generations, and especially for youth that don't necessarily have access to the healing available in nature.



our year by the **NUMBERS**

1st

QUEER YOUTH AND
ALLIES SUMMER CAMP
HELD AT BOHEMIA
ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE

1,004

HOURS OF TEEN
VOLUNTEERS
MENTORING KIDS AT
CAMP AND GAINING
WORK EXPERIENCE

51

FIELD DAYS BROUGHT
STUDENTS INTO
NATURE DURING (AND
AFTER) DISTANCE
LEARNING THROUGH
PROGRAMS THAT
MET THE MOMENT

“In my heart, I feel warm because
I had fun with nature.”

— Brook, Third Grader, In Our Own BackYard environmental education program

places & people that feel like **home**



"Seeing the love and energy LandPaths has for the local community has motivated our club to give and do more."

— **Emma Zavala,**
Teacher, Latinos
Unidos Club

IF YOU'VE BEEN TO BAYER FARM OR CAMPED OUT WITH VAMOS AFUERA, YOU'VE PROBABLY MET MARIA AND CORNELIA HUERTA. THEY talked with us for our 25th anniversary interview series, and by the end of the conversation we knew we couldn't have expressed the impact and vision of *Branching Out Conservation for Everyone* better ourselves. Below, please enjoy an excerpt from that conversation, translated from Spanish.

Maria: We went to Bayer Farm for the first time about 13 years ago. Daniel was a baby and Leslie was three. They did storytelling for young kids, and we sat next to the tree at the farm; we stayed there the rest of the day.

Cornelio: All of us helped to make the garden in 2007. It's changed very much since then! Our garden plot at Bayer Farm gives me an opportunity to show my kids the way I grew up and where I came from. I was raised in a very rural area. When I was a boy, my father taught

me, and I can now show them how to grow vegetables without pesticides.

What I also like are LandPaths' trips, visiting new places and people. The fauna and flora are also essential to me and I love this.

Maria: Because we, as Latinos, invest so much time into our jobs, we do not give much time to rest and enjoy nature and all of the beauty here. We've lived here 20 years and I never knew about the different nature areas until I began going out with LandPaths. With *Vamos Afuera*, families have the opportunity to get outside and get to know our lands, and now we can say "I know Sonoma County." Thanks to all of you, our children also have the love for nature. Leslie wants to study science with a focus on the environment and Daniel wants to have a ranch to grow crops.

To read the full interview, conducted by Guadalupe Casco, Senior Bilingual Field Specialist, visit landpaths.org/25-years.



our year by the NUMBERS

7,950

HOURS OF PEOPLE-POWER CARING FOR THE GARDENS AND DISTRIBUTING FOOD AT BAYER FARM AND JEFF'S GARDEN AT ANDY'S UNITY PARK

6

HEAL IN NATURE DAYS GAVE SPECIAL PRESERVE ACCESS TO FRONTLINE MEDICAL WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

76%

OF OUTINGS DESIGNED TO REACH NEW AUDIENCES, THOSE TOO OFTEN NOT INCLUDED IN THE CONSERVATION MOVEMENT.



stewards take bold **action** for the future



SELENE, A JUNIOR AT PINER HIGH SCHOOL, WAS IMMEDIATELY INTERESTED WHEN HER SCIENCE TEACHER TOLD HER ABOUT LandPaths' Young Stewards last January. She'd stopped exercising during the pandemic and Selene says she really needed motivation to get outside.

After applying and interviewing to be a Young Steward, her first time through such a process, Selene was hired. Over the next three months, she joined 11 other young adults to train and gain hands-on experience conducting vital land stewardship work alongside LandPaths' year-round stewardship staff. Together, they accomplished 1,344 hours of fire fuel reduction, grassland and post-fire restoration, trail building, invasive species removal, rare plant monitoring, mapping, and native seed collection. They also learned about the natural history of Sonoma County and gained practice and confidence in facilitating stewardship days for the general public.

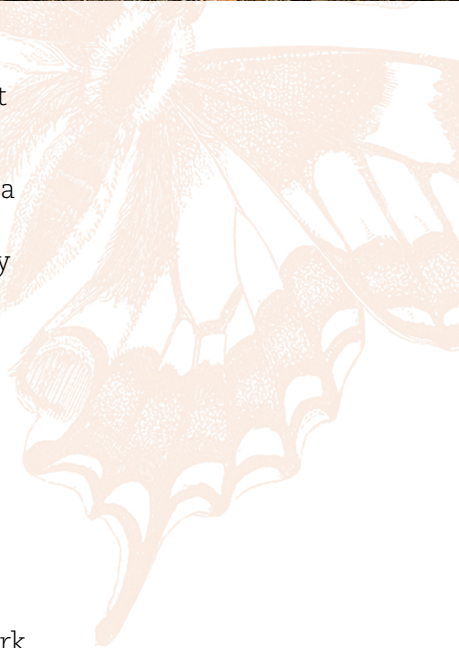
Selene got more than just the motivation she needed to get outside.

She felt a sense of belonging and affinity with the land that she hadn't anticipated from the outset.

"I think of getting out into nature as a battery," she says, "Instead of getting super tired and worn out, I get totally recharged after I come out here." In fact, the experience had enough of an impact that she applied to be a peer mentor in the fall cohort

The Young Stewards launched in 2021, arising from our commitment to build climate and wildfire resilience locally, advance equity in the conservation field through intentional recruitment and paid work experience, and respond to the need for green workforce training for young adults, who've been left to contend with the climate crisis. In 2021, the program reached 23 young people.

It's the latest evolution in our commitment to growing community with nature through low-carbon, people-powered stewardship that benefits both people and the land.





“LandPaths is getting more people out to do what we can to combat climate change. I feel like I’m being part of a solution when I’m out here on the land.”

— Sophia



our year by the NUMBERS

3x

INCREASE IN
PEOPLE POWER TO
ACCOMPLISH WILDFIRE
FUELS REDUCTION AND
FIRE RECOVERY WORK

190

VOLUNTEER STEWARDS
RETURNED TO
TENDING THE LAND
AFTER PANDEMIC
DISRUPTIONS

\$3M

IN GRANTS SECURED
TO PURCHASE THE
MYERS RANCH,
CREATING AN 800
ACRE PRESERVE IN
WEST COUNTY





I will always remember the day that we came up with the name, LandPaths. It has really stood the test of time, the idea of **Land Partners Through Stewardship** — the name embraces the remarkable path and achievements of the organization.

I feel a great sense of gratitude for being able to have played a role in the creation and development of LandPaths. It really makes a person feel good to know that they have played a part in creating positive change on the planet. That's what it's all about, to leave the Earth in a better place than you found it.

— Caryl Hart,
Cofounder,
LandPaths



25 years ago, the engagement by environmental organizations with the Latino community, to me, was nonexistent. LandPaths has demonstrated the steps to engagement and worked hard by those that are bi-cultural and bilingual, that look like me. LandPaths is very strong at creating relationships and building trust, so people can say, "I feel comfortable and I feel safe."

— Herman J. Hernandez, Sr., Founder, Los Cien Sonoma County



reflections

on 25 years

For many years, people would say "look on our website, we have an equity statement." LandPaths was courageous in looking inward and spending the time to embed equity values into the organization first, and then to bring them into their programming. There were no models for that, and at the time, it was really bold. LandPaths is visionary, with a leadership that has always been willing to take those risks.

— **Karin Demarest, Vice President for Community Engagement, Community Foundation Sonoma County**



LandPaths has really shown me that anything is possible and that we really do have the potential to make positive, life-changing impacts for youth.

— **Seed Minkin, Queer/Trans Youth and Allies Mentor, Outdoor Educator**

More reflections at landpaths.org/25-years





Kimi Barbosa,
Director



Belén Lopez-Grady,
Director



Tim Choate,
Board Treasurer



Gina Lopez Solorzano,
Director



Catie Clune,
Director



Richard Power,
Director



Eloisa Colín,
Director



Hilda Shum,
Director



Dr. Brenda
Flyswithawks,
Director



Beth Wyatt,
Board President



Craig Hazel,
Director

board of directors



STAFF

Craig Anderson, Executive Director

Benjamin Bravo, Stewardship Specialist

Jonathan Bravo, Bilingual Garden Specialist

Guadalupe Casco, Senior
Bilingual Field Specialist

Leilani Clark, Communications Lead

Omar Gallardo, New Audiences Manager

Lesly Caballero Garcia, Senior
Bilingual Education Field Specialist

Mineaux Gray, Education Field Specialist

Lee Hackeling, Programs Director

Jessica Holloway, Senior
Education Field Specialist

Jessica Jones, IT and Database Lead

Elias Lopez, Bilingual Stewardship Specialist

Claire McMurtry, Development Manager

Erin Mulligan, Ocean Song Steward

Jamie Nakama, Youth
Education Programs Manager

Cory O' Gorman, Stewardship Specialist

Luis Orozco, Seasonal Bilingual
Education Field Specialist

Sheridan Rapolla, Finance and
Administration Director

Laura Revilla, Volunteer and
Community Hub Lead

Carlos Rivas Diaz, Bilingual
Education Field Specialist

Miles Sarvis-Wilburn, Facilities/
Stewardship Specialist

Eric Schoohs, Stewardship Lead

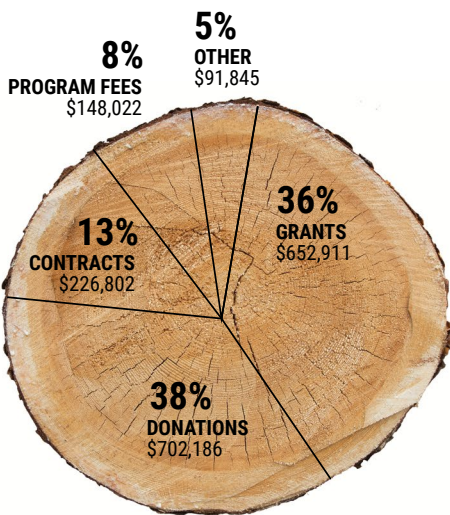
Angelica Steinman, Bilingual
Executive Administrative Specialist

Many thanks to:

Allison Warth, Sarah Pack, Lara
O'Herlihy, and Jesica Rodriguez

"I am
LandPaths
and I play
with joy. I
am happy
to wear the
LandPaths'
t-shirt. I am
proud of our
whole team."

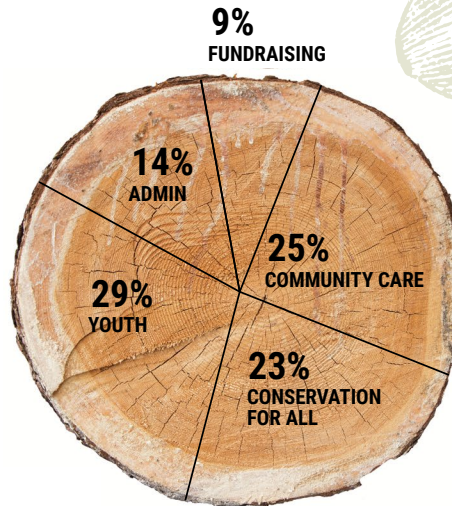
— **Jonathan Bravo,**
Bilingual Garden
Specialist



REVENUE

LANDPATHS RECEIVED AN ADDITIONAL \$3,020,231 IN GRANTS AND DONATIONS FOR THE OCEAN SONG-MYERS ACQUISITION.

LANDPATHS RECOGNIZED AN ADDITIONAL \$432,060 IN UNREALIZED GAINS.



EXPENSES

financials

FY2020/21

IN MEMORY OF DARLENE LAMONT,
SHE DEDICATED MANY HOURS
OF HER LIFE TO CARING FOR
NATURE AND COMMUNITY IN
WEST SONOMA COUNTY.



"I'm still volunteering with LandPaths, because it's a good community and the mission is something I share. Nature is medicine for every aspect of your humanity."

— "Duck" Dave Barry



25 years of
participation

Thank you!

GET OUTSIDE

Root your child in nature through a camp, teen trek, or a school program.

Steward the land with LandPaths.

Sign up for one of our many outings in English and/or Spanish.

Become a gardener at Bayer Farm or Jeff's Community Garden.

Connect other people with the land as a docent.

Partner with us through your school district, business, or community organization.

Explore more about all of the above at landpaths.org.

GIVE

Our work depends on your support. Thank you to everyone who generously donated to LandPaths over the past 25 years. All of this is only possible with you. Learn more about how to give at landpaths.org/ways-to-give.

Donate today at landpaths.org.

CONNECT

Like us [@landpaths](https://www.instagram.com/landpaths) on Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok.

Subscribe to our YouTube channel.

Stay up on the latest through our bimonthly email blast.

Sign up at landpaths.org.

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