

2021 Impact Report



YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

Ridge Trail by the Numbers

2021 was a momentous year! Together we reached a key milestone, despite the ongoing challenges presented by a global pandemic. Your membership and gifts do more than build new miles of trail—they support outings, advocacy, partnership building, and volunteer opportunities. Here's a look at what your support made possible last year:



BUILDING THE TRAIL

400 miles of Ridge Trail are now dedicated and ready to explore

CARING FOR THE TRAIL

332 volunteers pitched in and got dirty on Ridge Trail Service Day

16 miles of Ridge Trail were spruced up on Ridge Trail Service Day



ADVOCATING FOR THE TRAIL



10 presentations to community, outdoor and advocacy groups

1,500 advocates spoke up, signed a petition or took action for the Ridge Trail

HITTING THE TRAIL



350 people joined our Circumnavigator Circle

\$42,900 raised by Ridge to Bridges participants

1,258 people took on the Ridge Trail Challenge

12,380 trail miles explored during the Ridge Trail Challenge



Photo: Jerry Ting





2021 HIGHLIGHTS



The Path Ahead: Strategic Plan 2022–2025

The Ridge Trail Council has traveled quite a distance since the last Strategic Plan was adopted in 2015. Leaning heavily on the Gap Analysis and Action Plan (2020), the new Strategic Plan outlines three overarching, mission-critical goals: to **open more trail miles**, enable more people to **enjoy the trail**, and **build and sustain the Council**. The Plan points the way forward through the next four years to keep up momentum and realize our vision of a fully-connected 550-mile trail.



Trail Opportunity Fund

Building new trail and closing gaps requires hard work, patience and reacting quickly when opportunities arise. Sometimes a relatively small dollar amount can “unstick” a stalled project. That’s why we created the **Trail Opportunity Fund (TOF)** and seeded it with over \$450,000. The TOF enables us to accelerate trail progress in a more proactive way. In 2021, the first allocations went to solving route challenges and funding a bridge crossing. Going forward, growing and effectively targeting this fund will be key to mission success.



Circumnavigation

The idea of exploring every mile of the Ridge Trail may not be new, but now that 400 miles are connected, the challenge of traversing completed trail sections is bigger and more exciting than ever! Curiosity about these Ridge Trail enthusiasts prompted a survey of 600 members and circumnavigators with the help of a Stanford Business Alumni Consulting Team. The result is more events, tools and resources for a more robust circumnavigation program. Learn more at RidgeTrail.org/Circumnavigation.

400 Miles(toner)!

2021 kicked off the final ascent to reach 400 miles of dedicated Ridge Trail. In early December, we officially reached this exciting milestone! We crossed the finish line with several key trail openings and, of course, the dedicated support of partners, countless volunteers, advocates, members and donors. With 150 miles left to fully connect the Ridge Trail, join us in pausing to celebrate this moment! RidgeTrail.org/400-Miles



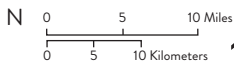
Going Virtual

To offer events and outings safely in 2021, we got creative. Our annual hike, bike, and ride event went virtual and became **Ridge to Bridges**. The self-guided approach offered route options around the Bay Area over a six-week period. Our supporters rose to the occasion and fundraised more than ever during this fan-favorite event. The annual, virtual **Ridge Trail Challenge** also broke records, with 2.5 times more trail enthusiasts joining in the fun than the year prior! We’re looking forward to more time on the trail together in 2022.



Key Trail Openings

Early in 2021, the Ridge Trail grew by 2.6 miles in **Ed Levin County Park** outside of Milpitas. This trail leads to the popular Mission Peak, with 360 degree views of rolling hills and marshlands. Two more dedications pushed us across the 400 mile mark: 1.7 new miles of Ridge Trail along **Coyote Creek** in San José, and 3.5 miles of trail winding through **El Sereno Open Space Preserve**, northwest of Los Gatos. It was exciting to “take in the view” from 400 miles, and we look forward to celebrating more dedications in 2022 and beyond.



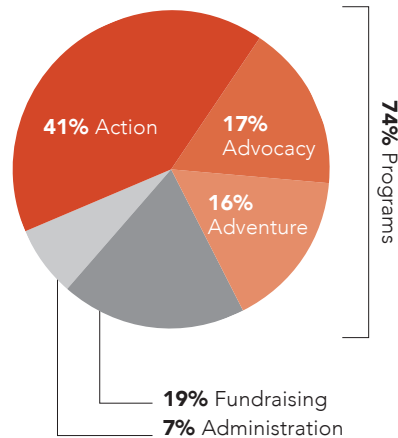
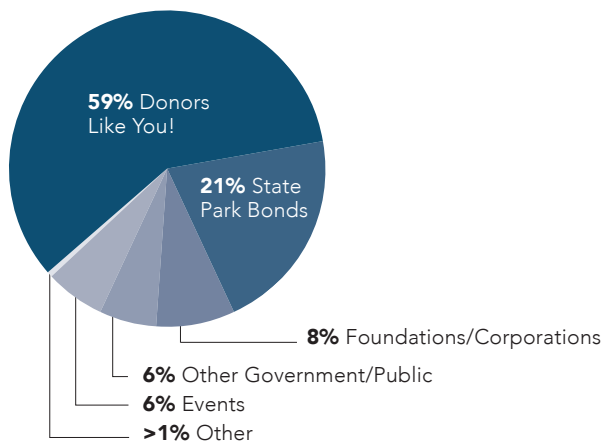
— Dedicated Trail
 - - - Planned Alignment
 ■ Parks and Open Space
 ■ Other Protected Lands

2021 TRAIL PROJECTS

- 1 Mount Saint Helena **COMPLETED 2021!** 10 miles
- 2 Ridge Trail/Vine Trail **COMING SOON!** 4.9 miles
- 3 PUC to Moore Creek **COMING SOON!** 3.9 miles
- 4 Sugar Hood Loop/McCormick Ranch **ACTIVE PROJECT** 2 miles
- 5 Patwino Worrtla Kodoi Dihi Open Space **COMING SOON!** 3 miles
- 6 Suscol Headwaters Trail Extension **COMPLETED 2021!** 0.7 miles
- 7 Suscol Headwaters Phase 2 **COMING SOON!** 2 miles
- 8 Helen Putnam Extension **COMING SOON!** 0.5 mile
- 9 Carquinez Strait Scenic Loop Trail **ACTIVE PROJECT** 30 miles
- 10 Kennedy Ridge to Sobrante Grove **ACTIVE PROJECT** 0.7 miles
- 11 Mt. Sutro Clarendon Trailhead Kiosk **COMPLETED 2021!**
- 12 Garin Regional Park to Gelderman Property **COMING SOON!** 1.7 miles
- 13 Southern Skyline Ridge Trail Extension **COMING SOON!** 6.7 miles
- 14 Ed Levin County Park **COMPLETED 2021!** 2.6 miles
- 15 Coyote Creek - Maybury to Roosevelt - **COMING SOON!** 0.5 miles
- 16 Coyote Creek - Selma Olinder to Phelan Ave **COMPLETED 2021!** 1.7 miles
- 17 El Sereno Open Space Preserve **COMPLETED 2021!** 3.5 miles
- 18 Coyote Ridge Open Space **COMING SOON!** 3.3 miles
- 19 Highway 17 Crossing, **ACTIVE PROJECT** 4 miles
- 20 Bailey Ave Overcrossing, **ACTIVE PROJECT** 2 miles
- 21 Los Alamitos Creek to Almaden Quicksilver **COMING SOON!** 0.7 miles
- 22 Coyote Canyon **COMING SOON!** 3.1 miles
- 23 Mt. Umunhum to Gilroy **NEW PROJECT!** 31 miles



2021 FINANCIALS



Income

Individuals.....	\$653,884
State Park Bonds.....	\$228,223
Foundations/Corporations	\$86,728
Other Government Agencies	\$69,980
Events	\$68,767
Other.....	\$878
TOTAL	\$1,108,459

Expenses

PROGRAMS:

Action: Trail Planning, Coordination & Construction	\$442,359
Advocacy: Outreach and Education	\$179,951
Adventure: Trail Outings & Events	\$171,539

TOTAL PROGRAMS	\$793,849
Fundraising	\$202,217
Administration	\$79,482
TOTAL	\$1,075,549

THANK YOU TO THESE FUNDERS, AGENCY MEMBERS AND SPONSORS:

State Coastal Conservancy Wood Next Fund REI

AllTrails
Bay Area Barns and Trails
City of Benicia
City of San José
Clif Bar Family Foundation
Columbia Sportswear

East Bay Regional Park District
Greater California Delta Trail
Greater Vallejo Recreation District
John Muir Land Trust
Marin County Parks and Open Space
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Napa County Regional Parks & Open Space District
Peninsula Open Space Trust
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
San Francisco Recreation & Park District
Santa Clara County Parks
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
Santa Clara Valley Water District
Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Stewardship
Silicon Valley Mountain Bikers
Solano Land Trust
Sonoma County Ag + Open Space District
Whole Foods