

2023 Impact Report



Máyyan 'Ooyákma – Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve. Photo courtesy of Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority.

Transformative Progress in 2023

Three years ago, the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council mapped a Strategic Plan blueprint for the trail, community, and organization we want to build by 2025. The Plan has three primary goals:

- Complete the trail
- Help more people explore the trail, and
- Build and sustain the Council.

We made significant strides toward accomplishing those goals, marking an exciting year of transformative progress in 2023.

Completing the entire trail network has always been central to our mission. The Council's dedication to that mission, along with that of our partners and supporters, enabled us to connect over **13 miles** of new Ridge Trail last year. With these additions, the trail furthers its reach around the Bay Area, creating longer continuous stretches and linking parks and communities as it grows.

We connect and steward the Ridge Trail so people can get outside and enjoy it. To facilitate more

joyful experiences on the trail, we hosted **33 events** in 2023. Many were held with our growing circle of community partners and ranged from guided outdoor excursions to stewardship opportunities to community gatherings.

As the trail grows, so does the Council's need for dedicated staff and board members who reflect the Bay Area communities and share our love for the outdoors. We bolstered the Ridge Trail Council by welcoming new members to our team and expanding our capacity to do more of the work we love: building the trail and helping people explore it.

As we reflect on the progress made over the last year, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to you, our supporters. Your generosity and commitment to our shared vision propels this work forward. Together we are building towards a more connected, inclusive future on the Ridge Trail.



Janet McBride
Executive Director



2023 HIGHLIGHTS



CREDIT: ELLIE OTTER VIA ALLTRAILS

Growing North & South with the Power of Partnership

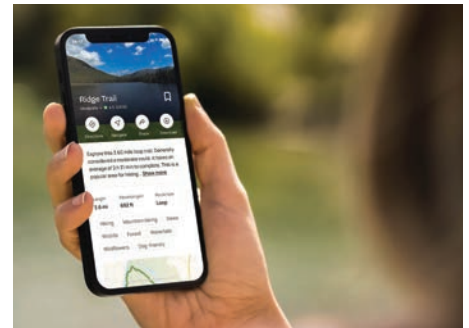
In the North and South Bay, where much of the planned Ridge Trail route crosses privately owned land, adding trail miles has proven difficult. But when a goal is challenging, success is that much more exciting. Last year the Council made great strides towards our goal to **complete the trail** in these areas.

In Napa County, we celebrated two long-awaited dedications: 5.8 miles from Robert Louis Stevenson State Park to Angwin and 3.9 miles from Pacific Union College to Moore Creek Park. These trails traverse conservation lands and private properties, so working closely with other land managers, nonprofits, and trail organizations was essential to connect these trails. These dedications speak to the power of partnership, and the experience will guide our work to connect the remaining miles in the North Bay.

In Santa Clara County, we celebrated 3.9 new miles at Máyyan ‘Ooyákma – Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve. This dedication echoes the benefits of strong partnership. Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (OSA) protected the property in 2015 with the support of various public and private collaborations. In 2023, the Ridge Trail Council worked hand in hand with OSA to dedicate the Ridge Trail through this gorgeous new preserve. And more progress is on the horizon, working with a newly-formed partner group to expedite trail development in the South Bay, where many miles of planned trail remain.

Explore the map on the next page to see where the Ridge Trail has grown and what progress lies ahead.

CREDIT: ALLTRAILS



Learning, Growing & Expanding Trail Access

Thanks to feedback from our community and our organization’s commitment to **improving trail access**, the Ridge Trail Council is working to better understand the needs of trail users with diverse abilities. Last year, our staff received training on how to provide better accessibility information and improve event experiences for all ages, backgrounds and abilities, including people with disabilities. Putting this training into action, we offered new outings and are improving the information we provide about trail accessibility. Our partners are increasingly incorporating accessible features into new parks and trails, such as Máyyan ‘Ooyákma – Coyote Ridge and Patwino Worrtla Kodoi Dihi Open Space. In August, OpenRoad with Doug McConnell featured these and other Ridge Trail segments that offer accessible features. By continuing these efforts, we hope more people will be able to find their next favorite adventure along the Ridge Trail. Learn more at RidgeTrail.org/Accessibility.

Unlocking Adventure with Maps & Apps

With more Ridge Trail—and more public desire to explore it than ever before—we are improving our digital tools to help you unlock adventure. Our website holds several tools and resources to do just that, including PDF maps, apps like AllTrails, and the Planning Navigator, a downloadable list of all Ridge Trail sections with information like trail surface, permit requirements, map links and more. Striving to help more people explore the Trail, Council staff are developing new and better ways to help you get outside and explore. Find them at Ridgetrail.org/Trip-Planning-Tools.

RIDGE TRAIL PROGRESS



— Dedicated Trail
 Planned Trail




KEY


- Advocacy
- Planning/Design
- Funding
- Construction

1. Calistoga Ridge & Vine Trail 
 4.9 miles – **COMING SOON!**
 Opening in late summer 2024.


2. Robert Louis Stevenson State Park to Angwin
 5.8 miles – **DEDICATED**
 Dedicated in 2023.

3. Pacific Union College to Moore Creek Park
 3.9 miles – **DEDICATED**
 Dedicated in 2023.


4. Carquinez Strait Scenic Loop Trail 
 30 miles – **ACTIVE PROJECT**
 Developed a wayfinding sign system in 2023.


5. Garin Regional Park to Niles Canyon 
 1.7 miles – **COMING SOON!**
 Expected opening in 2025.

6. Southern Skyline Ridge Trail Extension 
 6.7 miles – **COMING SOON!**
 Groundbreaking planned in 2024; opening in fall 2025.

7. Coyote Creek Trail: Phelan to Tully 
 0.5 miles – **COMING SOON!**
 Broke ground in 2023; expected dedication in spring 2025.

8. Máyyan 'Ooyákma – Coyote Ridge Open Space
 3.9 miles – **DEDICATED**
 Dedicated in 2023.

9. Coyote Canyon 
 3.1 miles – **COMING SOON!**
 Groundbreaking planned in 2024.

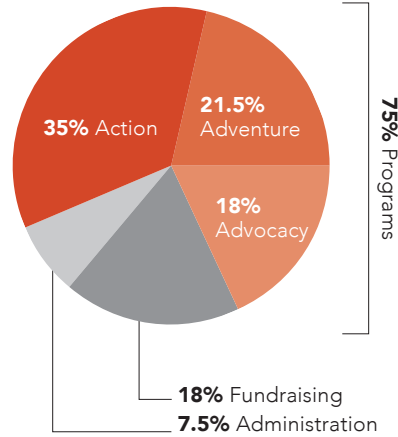
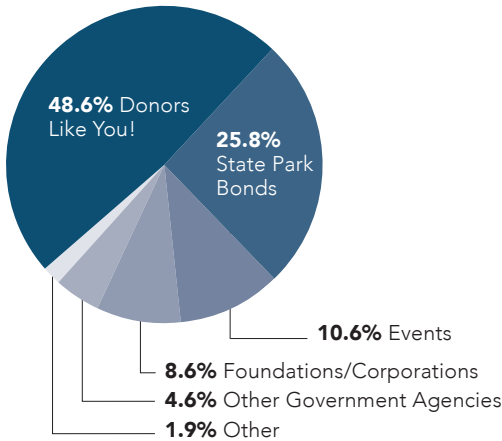
10. Sierra Azul to Gilroy 
 31 miles – **ACTIVE PROJECT**
 Launched Southern Loop Working Group to implement a significant re-route and close remaining gaps.

Rancho Cañada del Oro to Calero County Park dedication expected in 2024 (10 mi).





2023 FINANCIALS



Income

Individuals.....	\$663,527
State Park Bonds.....	\$352,777
Events	\$144,362
Foundations/Corporations	\$116,948
Other Government Agencies	\$62,812
Other.....	\$25,738
TOTAL	\$1,366,165

Expenses

PROGRAMS:	
Action: Trail Planning, Coordination & Construction	\$435,931
Advocacy: Outreach and Education	\$229,040
Adventure: Trail Outings & Events	\$272,751
TOTAL PROGRAMS	\$937,721
Fundraising	\$230,666
Administration	\$95,991
TOTAL	\$1,264,379

OUR SUPPORTERS MAKE PROGRESS POSSIBLE

Many thanks to you, our Ridge Trail members, along with the funders, advocates, volunteers and supporters who drive our mission forward to connect people to parks and open space, now and for future generations.

State Coastal Conservancy

The Coastal Conservancy works to protect and restore, and increase public access to California's coast, ocean, coastal watersheds, and the San Francisco Bay Area.

Berkshire Foundation WoodNext Foundation REI Cooperative Action Fund

Athletic Brewing Company
Bay Area Barns and Trails
City of San José
Clif Family Foundation

Columbia Sportswear / Mountain Hardwear
East Bay Regional Park District
Equator Coffee
Greater California Delta Trail
Greater Vallejo Recreation District
GU Energy Labs
JINS Eyewear US
John Muir Land Trust
Marin County Parks and Open Space
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Napa County Regional Parks & Open Space District
Pamakids Runners
Peninsula Open Space Trust

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
San Francisco Recreation & Park District
Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
Silicon Valley Mountain Bikers
Spottswoode Winery
Sports Basement
Solano Land Trust
Solano Open Space
Sonoma County Regional Parks
Sonoma County Ag + Open Space District
University of California San Francisco
Wells Fargo Foundation