

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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Tri-Valley Conservancy

Preserve Land. Connect Communities. Enrich Life.



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ANNUAL REPORT

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THE ROAD AHEAD



Dear Friends,

It is with gratitude that we share our annual review of the projects and accomplishments of 2021. Last year, you helped us preserve critical habitat in the North Livermore Springtown Wetlands, joined us for our 12th annual Uncorked Competition recognizing the excellence of local wine, and contributed to raising more than \$90,000 for the protection of land that supports wildlife, agriculture, and Tri-Valley residents.

This region has a rich history of attracting residents looking to farm, work and raise their families surrounded by agriculture and open space. Livermore was monumental in shaping California's wine industry. A legacy of grape growing started by Spanish Missionaries is continued to this day by more than 40 local wineries. However, a lot has changed since the original vineyards were planted.

As California's population has grown to 39 million people, urbanization and public policy changes make it even more important to protect and promote agriculture in the Tri-Valley. We are continually identifying new ways to preserve, protect, and grow what we have for the sustainability of agriculture and habitat land.

This past year, the Realizing the Heritage Study by the UC Davis Agricultural Issues Center pointed to key challenges facing the South Livermore Valley community. Winemaking and grape growing in our region protects the open space greenbelt around our cities and is a part of what makes the Tri-Valley a great place to live, but the viability of that practice is fragile.

To address these concerns, we are advocating for the extension of city sewer services in Alameda County to reach rural farmers and preserve our ground water quality. We also provided grants to study the success of the South Livermore Valley Area Plan and towards making our wine region more recognizable nationwide. In addition, we are partnering with the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association in the pursuit of strengthening the reputation of the Livermore Valley as a world class wine growing region by establishing a Wine Quality Alliance, an educational organization that provides resources to new and existing wineries.

In 2022, we have restarted in-person Youth in Nature classes in local schools and are excited to invite volunteers back to attend important land stewardship visits. We look forward to preserving more land in the region for years to come.

I invite you to keep reading to learn more about the projects that you helped make possible last year!

Gratefully,

Lori Souza, Interim Director of TVC

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

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\$2,500 - \$9,999

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HONORING LAURA'S LEGACY

Last June, we saw the departure of our Executive Director, Laura Mercier, who dedicated 18 years to serving the Tri-Valley. The legacy of what she accomplished while working with TVC and the community will remain for generations to come!

Born in Colorado, Mercier moved to Livermore with her family in 1978 and spent much of her life enjoying the beautiful outdoor spaces. In 2002, she joined the TVC as stewardship director, and became the executive director in 2011.

Laura Mercier led TVC to some incredible accomplishments. Under her guidance, the organization oversaw the preservation of 3,500

acres of agricultural parks and habitat land under conservation easements.

Under Laura, TVC began the tradition of Annual Uncorked competitions, oversaw the Burrowing Owl Condo project, and the preservation of over 600 acres for habitat land.

She also brought the Edward R. Campbell Pedestrian Bridge project to life. Completed in 2019, the bridge completes the Valley Trails Connection project connecting 44-mile trails of over 25,000 acres of parkland from Sycamore Grove to Mission Peak!



YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

4,736 Acres

Preserved from Development by TVC

127 Stewardship Visits

To 110 Protected Properties in the Tri-Valley

Habitat Mitigation	\$ 845,730.35
Donations	\$ 92,185.35
Grants	\$ 21,650.00
Events	\$ 48,525.00
Investment Revenue	\$ 2,470,206.09
Total Income	\$ 3,478,296.79

Stewardship & Program	\$ 231,108.02
Special Projects	\$ 312,089.24
Management and Support	\$ 278,131.22
Youth in Nature	\$ 10,188.05
Events	\$ 51,540.86
Fundraising*	\$ 59,278.29
Total Expenses	\$ 942,335.68

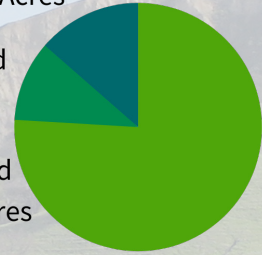
Unaudited numbers. Please visit trivalleyconservancy.org for the full audit values once available.

*Fundraising values reflect investments made for future fundraising, event and grant efforts

Habitat Mitigation
643 Acres

Park Land
479 Acres

Ag Land
3,596 Acres



SPRINGTOWN WETLANDS PRESERVE

Last year, you helped us permanently protect 40 acres of the Zeiss Springtown Wetlands! We're thrilled that this land is now permanently protected, as it is home to some of the very last remaining wetlands in California!

The modern extent of this alkali ecosystem is actually just 1/4 of what it used to be -that is part of the reason why it is critically important that we continue to protect it in the future. Many threatened species also call this area home, such as the Livermore Tarplant, Western Burrowing Owl, and the California Tiger Salamander.

Are you looking to see some magnificent blooms this spring? You'll want to keep the Springtown wetlands in mind - after the rains, the vernal pools will dry out and become filled with spectacular flowers! In the past, popcorn flower, California goldfields, Ferris' goldfields, chick lupine, California poppies, tomcat clover, cow sack clover, and even downingia have been spotted growing here!

RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF OUR WINE REGION

REALIZING THE HERITAGE STUDY

In 2021, TVC commissioned a study from the UC Agricultural Issues Center on grape growing and winemaking in the Livermore Valley from professors, James T. Lapsley, PhD. and Daniel A. Sumner, PhD., from UC Davis.

The purpose of the study is to identify measurable and achievable goals for leaders and growers to ensure the future of the Livermore Wine region.

Our region is unique as it has the right combination of soil, climate, water and expertise to grow world class wine grapes. We have almost 7,000 acres that are suitable for growing. Yet, half of all Livermore vineyards are under ten acres in size and 80 percent are 20 acres or smaller. In order for Livermore Valley to be regarded as a premiere wine growing region, the region will need to achieve a critical mass of 5,000 vineyard acres, a key goal of the South Livermore Valley Area Plan.

It's clear that we need further investment in the region, that is why TVC is working on several initiatives including supporting the WQA, changing the AVA, and extending sewer into Alameda county.

WINE QUALITY ALLIANCE

The Tri-Valley Conservancy has recognized the critical need to provide support to agriculture in our valley. That is why we are working with the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association in strengthening the reputation of the Livermore Valley as a world class wine Region.

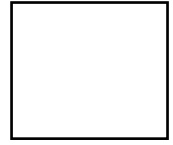
As called out in the South Livermore Valley Area Plan, there is a set goal of 5,000 total acres under vine - and we are currently far below that number. With the WQA's dedication to improving the quality of wines and fruit from the Livermore appellations, we hope to increase the recognition and reputation of wine from Livermore Valley.

In 2021, the WQA began working with Julie Schreiber, a Winemaking Consultant with 20+ years of experience, to provide education, expert consultation and technical analysis to help meet these goals.

CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE

Another way we want to invest in the Livermore Wine Country is by providing sewer service to current and future wineries in the heart of the Livermore Winegrowing Region. This way, wineries can expand sustainably to meet growing demand. That is why we petitioned the Livermore City Council to support growing agritourism in the region by placing an initiative on the June 2022 ballot to extend sewer services to rural Alameda County. We need your help to ensure we can make this investment in the future of farming in the Tri-Valley.

Mailing Address Here



PROTECTING LAND, SAVING WILDLIFE

We ALL need open space so that we have food to eat, parks to visit, fresh air and clean water.

Thanks to supporters like you, we have protected more than 4,500 acres of land since 1994.

Together, we can continue to protect lands in Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, San Ramon and Sunol that make the Tri-Valley such an amazing place to live right here in the Bay Area.

As our communities grow, it's even more critical that we protect the lands that we all need before it's too late.

We are so lucky to be able to have our donors, staff, and board work together in harmony to save the areas we love most.

This year, we said goodbye to a wonderful member of our board, David Doyle, who we thank for their 7 years of service in our land conservation and finance committee. David ended his tenure as the board governance committee chair and he was instrumental in getting the Edward R Campbell bridge installed!

In 2022, we are actively working to preserve even more land and protect the threatened species that call the Tri-Valley home.

We also look forward to bringing back our highly successful Youth In Nature program to help children understand the value of land to their health, wildlife habitat, and watershed, so they will act to protect it and become future stewards of the land.

Help us continue this important work by donating today at trivalleyconservancy.org/donate.



Scan this code with your phone camera to donate today!

**PROTECTING OPEN SPACE FOR YOU, WILDLIFE
AND FUTURE GENERATIONS TO ENJOY!**

Call: 925.449.8706

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Visit: trivalleyconservancy.org

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Tri-Valley Conservancy protects open space for parks, farms, trails, ranches and wildlife habitat in the Tri-Valley so that you, wildlife and future generations can enjoy it. As our communities grow, it becomes even more important that we protect land to produce local wine and food, enjoy the outdoors, and keep our water cleaner and air fresher before its too late.