



Tri-Valley
Conservancy

2023 Annual Report

Protecting the Legacy of the South Livermore Valley

Photo by Ashish Tibrewal

5,026 Acres Permanently Protected

3,883 Acres

Agricultural Easements

643 Acres

Open Space/Parks Easements

500 Acres

Habitat Easements

Dear Friend,

As spring paints Livermore in a kaleidoscope of vibrant colors, my mind drifts to the memory of last year's super bloom, a lovely reminder of our region's natural beauty.

The idea of fresh beginnings and all the possibilities for the coming year gives me optimism about what lies ahead.

As Tri-Valley Conservancy's Interim Executive Director, I've been privileged to witness the profound dedication and passion exhibited by the TVC staff and Board of Directors. Their commitment has been the bedrock of our collective successes.

Looking ahead to 2024, we are eager to be more involved in the community by hosting events and cultivating meaningful connections. We are also focusing on addressing economic challenges.

Our enduring commitment is preserving Livermore Valley's open spaces, wildlife habitats, and agricultural lands. Just as flowers unfurl each year, we meticulously carry out our annual ritual of stewardship, ensuring the vitality of our protected lands.

We continue to be actively engaged in projects aimed at acquiring additional properties—a testament to our mission to safeguard the natural and historical treasures of our region.

I extend my sincere gratitude to you for your ongoing support. I hope you enjoy learning about our achievements in 2023 in this report and I am thrilled to look ahead to 2024 with you!

Warm regards,

Jennifer Taggart
Interim Executive Director



Witnessing the Tri-Valley in Full Bloom

The winter storms of 2023 gave way to some stunning shows of flowers come spring! Our Conservation Program Associate, Tyler Gargiulo, shares what he witnessed during last year's visit to one of our protected properties that just happened to be a super bloom site:

"As I observed the super bloom of flowers on our protected property off of Highway 84 during my daily commute, the vibrant colors caught my eye. With the abundant rainfall and super blooms across the state, I decided that April would be the perfect time for our annual visit to the property.

Stepping onto the land, I was greeted by large patches of bright yellow, orange, purple, and pink flowers. While conducting our monitoring visit, our staff took extra care to avoid stepping on any of these beautiful blooms.

This property, under conservation since 1997, not only showcases a stunning array of native flowers like California Poppy, Common Fiddleneck, and Purple Owl's Clover but also provides crucial habitat for California tiger salamanders. The presence of grazing cattle further contributed to this breathtaking vista."



California Poppy

This iconic wildflower boasts vibrant orange or yellow blooms that sway in the breeze, adding a cheerful touch to hillsides and meadows. As the state flower, it holds a special place in Californian hearts. It also has a secret superpower - its sap can turn white wine pink!



Western Blue Eyed Grass

This petite wildflower boasts star-shaped blooms with vibrant blue petals and a cheery yellow center. Also, it isn't a grass! Despite its name, it belongs to the Iris family, sharing a distant kinship with its more showy cousins.



Checkerblooms

These flowers change color throughout the day, starting out as a rosy pink in the morning and gradually deepening to a rich purple by evening. You can find them in grasslands and vernal pools. Their seeds are also a tasty treat for hungry birds and burrowing rodents, making them valuable members of the ecosystem.

Discovery: Youth In Nature

The 2022-2023 school year was an exciting one for our Discovery: Youth in Nature program. **We served over 1000 students – our largest enrollment to date!**

Our educator consultant, Ann Brown, wanted to share a few words about what the program means to her, her students, and their families.



“My journey with TVC began when I spotted one of their signs on a local property. Livermore’s unique appeal lies in its accessible nature, drawing people to choose it over other places. I knew I wanted to be involved with an organization that helped keep it that way.

Being a naturalist and environmental educator, I’ve also witnessed the remarkable mental and physical health benefits of outdoor experiences. The Discovery: Youth in Nature program caters to a diverse spectrum of students, ranging from those taking their first steps into the wilderness to regular weekend hikers.

What truly excites me is the opportunity our program provides for young children to build confidence, embrace leadership roles, and fuel their curiosity. Nature becomes a transformative space where education meets exploration, fostering a lifelong love of the environment!”

We are dedicated to inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards through our Discovery: Youth in Nature program.

As we look ahead to the 2024-2025 school year, we are eager to continue offering this transformative experience to as many 4th-grade classes in the Tri-Valley as possible.

Your contribution plays a crucial role in providing students with the opportunity to connect with nature, fostering a deeper understanding of their environment, and instilling a sense of environmental stewardship.

With your help, we can continue to empower young minds, building a community of informed and passionate individuals dedicated to preserving our natural spaces!



Scan me

Donate now by scanning the QR code, or visiting bit.ly/3uz7ySS

What's New at Lund Ranch?

Nestled in the picturesque Diablo Mountain Range lies Lund Ranch, a hidden gem with a captivating history.

In 2020, in conjunction with the city of Pleasanton's approval of a nearby residential development project, this area transitioned from a cattle ranch to a protected area.

TVC took on the responsibility of managing the 75.6 acres. Through this, we established a permanent sanctuary for the endangered California tiger salamander.

Our efforts include reintroducing cattle to naturally manage potential fuel, reducing wildfire risk, and creating a safer environment for both wildlife and future visitors. Lund Ranch recently welcomed a herd of cattle from Koopmann Family Beef to maintain the grasslands as well!

As part of TVC's mission to enhance its positive impact, we are devoted to establishing an active greenbelt around urban centers - such as Lund Ranch, located between Livermore and Pleasanton. We eagerly anticipate opening this picturesque landscape to the public, providing opportunities for hiking and recreation, while preserving the site's rich traditions as a working landscape!





Photos by Michael White

Uncorked: Reminiscing on 2023 and Exciting Changes for 2024

TVC's 2023 Uncorked event was a remarkable evening filled with the clinking of glasses, exquisite cuisine, and the celebration of exceptional wines.

A record-breaking 175 wines from 33 wineries competed for top honors, making it a truly spirited competition.

The Best Red Wine and Best in Show awards were claimed by Garré Vineyard & Winery's 2019 Sangiovese, while Las Positas Vineyards triumphed with their 2022 Albariño and Garnacha Rosado, securing the titles for Best White Wine and Best Rosé.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to the winegrowers, passionate winemakers, judges, valued partners, and volunteers who collectively made this event a great success!

View the full list of 2023 winning wines and shop your favorites by visiting bit.ly/3OPhOo8



Save the Date - Uncorked 2024 is Coming up on May 16th!



Join us for an evening of exquisite wines, delectable cuisine, and live music from the renowned local rock trio Sugar Bear. Enjoy wine tasting with samples from award-winning Livermore Valley AVA wines, vote for the people's choice award, and enter the raffle for prizes!

One of the prizes will be a unique piece by local artist Swati Rastogi. In an homage to winemaking, the Dublin-based artist transforms barrels into captivating works of art.

Visit bit.ly/48rLVlh or scan the QR code on the right to reserve your ticket now!



Realizing the Heritage: UC Davis Study Insights

In 2019, TVC commissioned research by the University of California, Davis to determine the long-term economic viability of our wine region.

The report revealed eye-opening results, compelling us to take swift action if we wish to save our cherished heritage.

The majority of Livermore Valley's grapes, originally planted as part of mitigation efforts in the 1990s, will require replanting in the next few years. At the same time, our esteemed wine country grapples with challenges in the local and global markets.

Winegrowers now face a tough choice: to replant or not to replant?

Planting acres of vines and maintaining them to maturity is a significant investment without guaranteed returns.

Thankfully, the UC Davis study has provided us with valuable insights into the key factors that can drive prosperity. Even a slight increase in grape demand will raise prices and boost profitability.

Our current initiatives include:



Establishing the Wine Quality Alliance



Exploring the feasibility of an economic assistance program for replanting



Organizing the annual Livermore Valley Uncorked Event



"The Livermore wine region is unique because it truly feels like a community. Winemakers learn from each other, uplift each other, and know that their success isn't competition - when one regional winery succeeds, they all exceed. The region would be a lot smaller otherwise, excluding the smaller wineries. But here, it's a spirit of 'we're all facing the challenges together.' We can pick up the phone anytime if we need something."

- Brent Amos, local winemaker

2023 Financial Report

Income

Programs	\$52,612
Fundraising	\$72,156
Events	\$66,531
Investments	\$6,025,034
<hr/> Total Income	<hr/> \$6,216,333

Expenses

Programs	\$540,366
Fundraising	\$16,297
Events	\$63,547
Management & Support	\$494,815
<hr/> Total Expenses	<hr/> \$1,115,025

The figures above represent unaudited numbers. Please visit trivalleyconservancy.org to view our annual audit report once available.

Thank You to Our Generous Donors!

\$5,000+

Darcie Kent Vineyards
George & Read Phillips

\$1,001 - \$5,000

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Kerry Johnson
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Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association
Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center
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TPM Custom Inc.
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\$501 - \$1000

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\$251 - \$500

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J Robert & Kris Neely
NellaTerra Cellars
Posada Restaurant
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Valerie Pryor
Carolyn Siegfried
Lorelei Smith
Karl Wentz
Jennifer Yeamans
Kenneth Zahora

\$101 - \$250

Gema Beas
Raoul Bhavnani & Savitha Reddy
William & Constance Bish
Peter Caldwell & Kathryn Hayes
Jacquie Courtright
CyberGrants / LLNL Home Campaign
Pete Dainty
Mark & Joyce Eaton
Patricia Fuzesy & Jon Krueger
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James & Carol McFeely
Dennis Meister
Mary Meyer
Jack Mills
Brenda Pattee
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Margaret Poggio
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William Schloming
Michael & Diane Sills
The Household of Susan Wacek
Ken Wong



Photo by Subha Joshi

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TVC STAFF

Jennifer Taggart
Interim Executive Director

Diana Roberts
Conservation Manager

Victoria Tichy
Communications Manager

Tyler Gargiulo
Conservation Program Associate

Tri-Valley Conservancy extends deep thanks to Lori Souza for her outstanding tenure, especially as the Board Chair in 2022 and 2023. Lori's unwavering dedication has significantly shaped our organization and what we've been able to achieve.



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Tri-Valley Conservancy is an accredited land trust protecting and advocating for agricultural land and open space in the California Bay Area. TVC is a tax-exempt nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

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