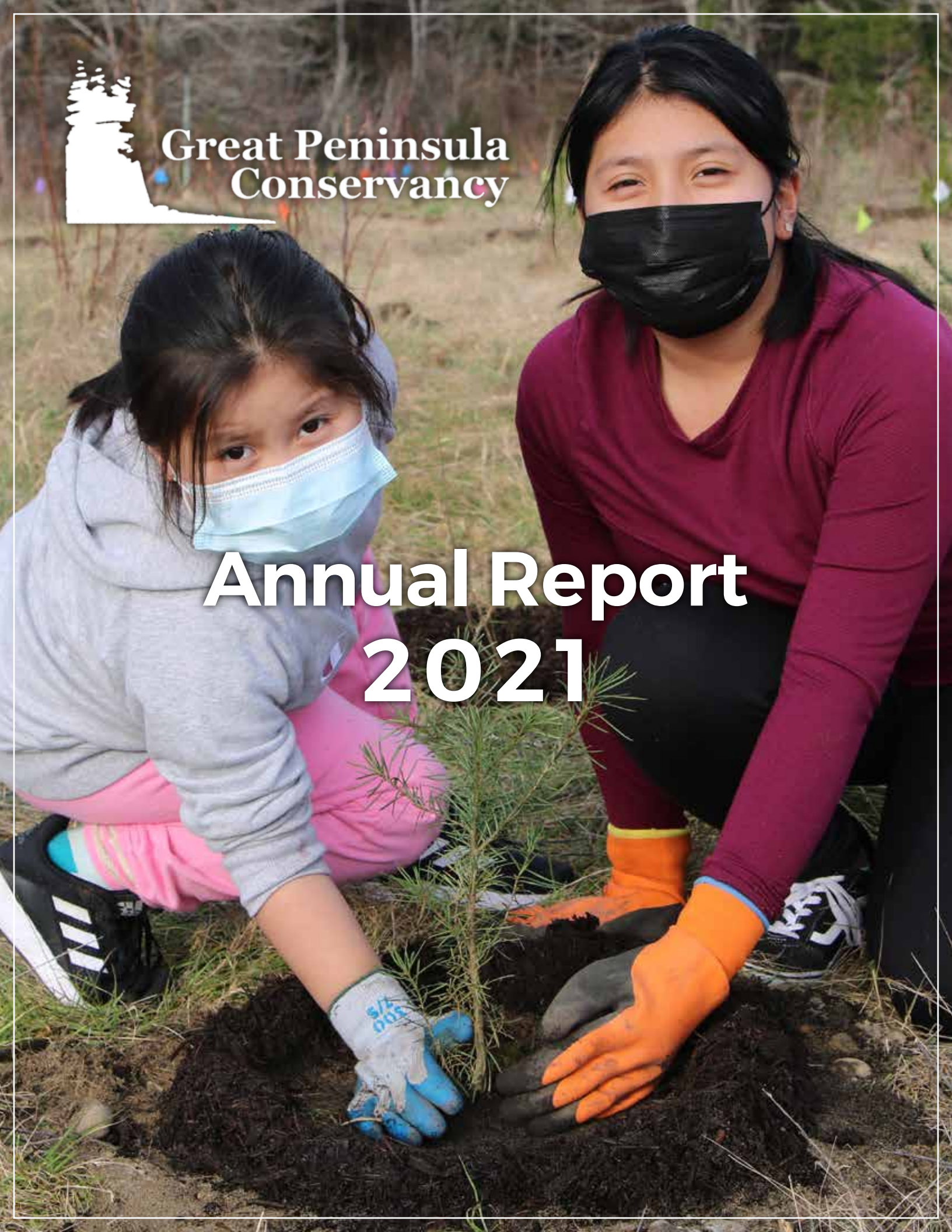




Great Peninsula
Conservancy

Annual Report 2021



Note from our Executive Director



Nate holds the "ribbon" for the official opening of the 100-acre Hansville Greenway expansion, a success driven by a community partnership. (From left: Nate Daniel, Darcy Herrett, BryAnn Bingham, Michael Szerlog)

Here in west Puget Sound, much of our identity is linked with the natural beauty and thriving wildlife found around us. Unfortunately, each year that sense of wonder and connection with the land grows increasingly tenuous. That is why, as your regional land trust, GPC is working harder than ever to protect as much ecologically valuable land as possible.

Once these tidelands, salmon streams, upland forests, and farms are conserved, we then have a responsibility to manage those lands. To us, this isn't just an obligation, it's an opportunity to reconnect people with nature. We are dedicated to engaging hundreds of diverse community members in the stewardship and restoration of preserve lands. Caring for these special places, not only improves habitat, it also heals our human community.

Each GPC member is an essential part of the team that makes this work possible. Each of you help ensure the natural character of our region remains strong for generations to come. Thank you.


Nathan Daniel
Executive Director



Conserve



Steward



Engage



greatpeninsula.org/our-work/where-we-work/

Saving the Places You Love

Great Peninsula Conservancy is a nonprofit land trust dedicated to protecting the natural habitats, rural landscapes, and open spaces of the Great Peninsula region of West Puget Sound, Washington.

We **conserve** vibrant forests, streams, shorelines, and community greenspaces. We commit to **caring for the lands** we protect to ensure wildlife and people enjoy the many benefits of nature well into the future. And we **enrich lives** by offering opportunities for people to experience nature close up.

Cover: The Rafael sisters plant a tree at GPC's Beard's Cove, a community greenspace that they have grown up visiting. Photo by Hannah McDonough.

Meet the Team

Board of Directors



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Executive Director



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Stewardship Associate



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Development & Communications Manager



Dylan Tenney
Finance & Operations Manager



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Community Engagement Manager



Adrian Wolf
Stewardship Manager



Ben Wymer
Stewardship Associate



Peter Alexander
Development Coordinator



Thea Hanner
Development Coordinator



Sierra Kross
Education Coordinator



Hannah McDonough
Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator



Jaime Webb
Education Coordinator

2,669
acres monitored

\$123,400
awarded in grants

419
volunteer hours

1,500 hours
student engagement



675
students served

Stewardship + Restoration

Thank you grantors, volunteers, and community partners!



5,000
native trees
and shrubs

planted on
7.3
acres

by
317
volunteers

contributing
708
hours

Studying
**Assisted
Migration**

and building
**Climate
Resilience**

AND...

Hahobas Restoration
Removed creosote pilings, structures, and
invasive species; native species planting.

Lay Wildrose Planting
Erosion control and habitat restoration.

**NRCS Conservation
Stewardship Program**
Created new habitat across the

**Filucy Bay Access and Forest
Management Plan**

led by James Vincent, **Youthbuild Kitsap** is a program that offers an alternative to high school for students who want to get experience with trade skills. Together, James and Youthbuild Kitsap **volunteered over 87 hours across 8 events!** One graduate of Youthbuild has even been inspired by their volunteering experience to pursue a career in conservation. They made a huge difference for GPC's Habitat Pile Project, Klingel Stewardship Series, and for Land Labs. Thank you, Youthbuild!

- 2021 projects made possible by:
- KGI Council's Lu Winsor Memorial Environmental Grant
 - Mason Conservation District
 - NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program
 - Nisqually Tribe Charitable Giving
 - One Tree Planted
 - Olympic College
 - Puget Soundkeeper
 - RCO Salmon Recovery Funding Board
 - The Rose Family Foundation
 - Western Washington University
 - Washington Native Plant Society
 - Support from GPC members and funders

- Grants awarded for future projects:
- Gig Harbor Rotary Club Foundation
 - Key and Gig Harbor Islands Watershed Council's Lu Winsor Memorial Environmental Grant

Connecting Bremerton students with GPC preserves



Land Labs Launches Lessons

The first Land Labs events were held this year, and students explored GPC preserves all across the peninsula.

Children everywhere deserve to have a chance to experience the world-renowned natural beauty of our region. Land Labs creates opportunities for students in our working region to connect with nature at a young age.

These hands-on, standards-meeting science lessons are specially designed to help students create a relationship with the natural world. Improving access to the outdoors for underserved students helps them to learn the value of conservation and stewardship. Passing on these values is a critical part of GPC's community-oriented mission.

Land Labs is growing rapidly. 2021 was the first year of official programming. Students visited **Curley Creek Tyner Preserve**, where they learned about the balanced systems which make an ecosystem healthy and which make this 28-acre preserve such an important place to protect. Every fall, chum salmon return to this creek!

At the fascinating saltmarsh ecosystem protected in the **Klingel-Bryan-Beard Wildlife Refuge**, students explored the unique ecosystems of the intertidal zones. They assessed the 95-acre preserve to see if it



Students have a unique opportunity to connect with GPC's protected lands. Photo by Claire Voris.

could support restoration of native Olympia oysters, which have been generally extirpated from Puget Sound.

Among the trees of **Grovers Creek Preserve**, students learned about forestry and biodiversity. On this 279-acre preserve, students were able to make observations of forest conditions – from a recent clearcut, to regrown stands of alder trees, to a mature forest deep within the preserve.

Protecting our lands forever means educating young people on the value of conservation and stewardship. Land Lab experiences equip our future leaders and decision makers

with a deep understanding of science that will allow them to rise to the challenges of the future.

- 2021 programs made possible by:
- AmeriCorps VISTA
 - The Russell Family Foundation
 - Puget Sound Restoration Fund
 - The Land Trust Alliance
 - Support from GPC members

- Grants awarded for future programs:
- AmeriCorps VISTA
 - The Russell Family Foundation
 - Keta Legacy Foundation
 - The Land Trust Alliance
 - The Women's Giving Circle of the Kitsap Peninsula

\$127,124
2021 grant funding

\$208,674
for future projects

2021 Conservation Highlights

The Hansville Greenway Expansion



Community-driven conservation campaign.

\$2,150,000 donated by community members.¹

Volunteer restoration starting immediately.

100 acres protected

¹ See acknowledgements online at greatpeninsula.org/property/hansville-greenway-west-campaign/



13 acres protected

connecting and protecting:
197 acres of vital wilderness,
350 feet of Rocky Creek, and
200 feet of East Fork Rocky Creek.

Rocky Creek Connection



48 acres protected

including:
1,985 feet of shoreline habitat.

Filucy Bay Expansion

The Conservation Plan



Conservation is about planning for the long term. The lands GPC preserves will be protected forever, but with development pressure increasing and only limited funding available, GPC must prioritize lands with the highest conservation value.

In 2021, GPC released our new five-year conservation plan. The three initiatives in this plan will guide GPC as we work to preserve the natural landscapes of our working region.

Conservation Initiative I is to protect habitat. There are more than 578 miles of *shorelines, deltas, and estuaries* on this peninsula, which support wildlife diversity and connectivity. *Streams and freshwater wetlands* must be protected for the sake of salmon, orca, and other wildlife. Protecting large tracts of our region's *forests* will support connectivity, sequester carbon, and

improve watershed function.

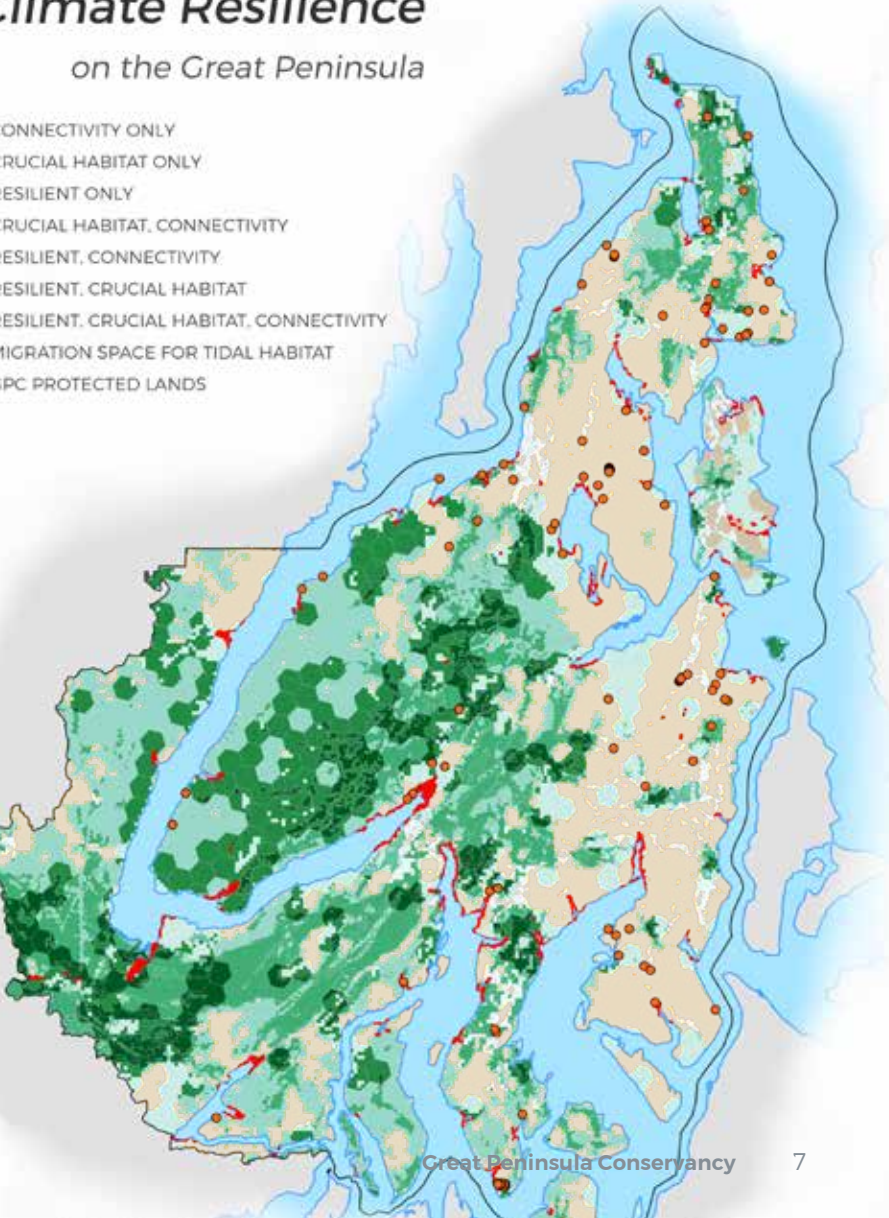
Conservation Initiative II is to protect the *farms, ranches, and working forests* of our peninsula. These open spaces are an important part of our heritage, and contribute to our land's scenic character. Conservation easements will support landowners in passing their working lands to the next generation.

Conservation Initiative III is to protect *community greenspaces and trails*. These open spaces are an important part of our heritage, and contribute to the land's scenic character. Open spaces are critical to community

and individual well-being, and GPC will work to expand access to greenspaces for underserved and urban communities.

Through conservation, GPC is committed to enhancing our region's *climate resilience*. In 2021, thanks to funding from the Land Trust Alliance and with help from CORE GIS, we completed a spatial analysis of our working region. The map below is the result: another tool to ensure that the most resilient and ecologically valuable lands are protected into the future.

Climate Resilience on the Great Peninsula



\$1,213,269
2021 grant funding

\$1,018,000
awarded for future projects

2021 projects made possible by:

- Pierce County Conservation Futures
- Kitsap County Conservation Futures
- Recreation and Conservation Office's Salmon Recovery and Funding Board
- Recreation and Conservation Office's Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program
- The Land Trust Alliance Technical Assistance Grant
- Contributions from GPC supporters

2021 Contributors

Thanks to the generous individuals, foundations, and businesses who supported Great Peninsula Conservancy in 2021.¹

PUBLIC AGENCIES FUNDING LAND ACQUISITION

Pierce County Conservation Futures
WA Recreation and Conservation
Office

\$200,000+

Anonymous
Carl Haefling
Max & Janet Laudeman

\$50,000+

Anonymous

\$20,000+

Anonymous
Akridge-Peterson Foundation
Bob & Debora Dalton
Virginia Davison
Kit Ellis
Michael & Becky Hall
Keta Legacy Foundation
Rose Foundation for Communities
and the Environment
Dion & Greg Rurik
Jeannette Theriault & Gary
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\$10,000+

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Dave Straus

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\$2,500+

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Lu Winsor Memorial Environmental
Grant Program at the Greater Gig
Harbor Foundation
Kitsap Bank
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Paul & Anne Kundtz
Christine Larsen & Glen Cooper
Thomas Leurquin
Puget Sound Energy

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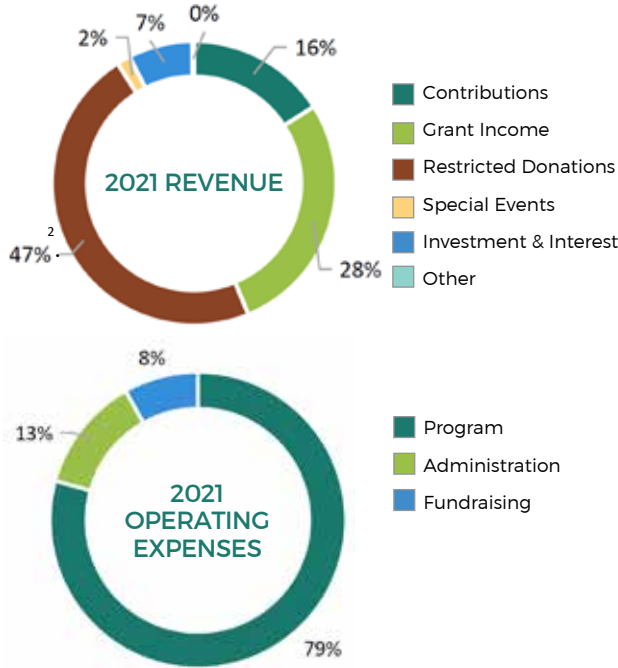
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BJ Wilhite
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Joel & Lucinda Wingard
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Michael & Jackie Wolf
Anne Wood & Terrence Mace

2021 Finances at a Glance¹

Every Acre, Every Member, Every Dollar Counts



REVENUE

Contributions.....	\$784,636
Restricted Donations ²	\$2,325,132
Grant Income.....	\$1,370,410
Special Events.....	\$76,136
Investment & Interest.....	\$359,378
Other Income.....	\$9,492

TOTAL REVENUE..... \$4,925,184

OPERATING EXPENSES

Program.....	\$765,085
Administration.....	\$121,499
Fundraising.....	\$78,467

TOTAL OPERATING.....\$965,051

ASSETS

Cash & Investments....	\$5,370,973
Property	\$14,931,388

TOTAL ASSETS..... \$20,302,361

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS \$3,889,421

NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR \$16,412,940

NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR \$20,302,361

¹ These abbreviated financial statements are derived from fully annotated financial statements audited by Aiken & Sanders, Inc., PS in whose opinion they “present fairly,” in all material respects, the financial position of Great Peninsula Conservancy for the year ended December 31, 2021.

² Contributions for land acquisition and stewardship, including the Hansville Greenway West Campaign.



Thank you for your support!

Thank you, 2021 Lead Sponsors!



Become a member today with the enclosed remit envelope, or consider other ways to support GPC:

Legacy Society: Wills & Trusts

Leave a bequest to Great Peninsula Conservancy that speaks to your love of nature!

IRA Charitable Donation

At age 72 you will be required to make minimum distributions from your IRA each year. Charitable IRA rollovers to GPC are exempt from income tax.

Stock Transfer

Protect the lands you love and avoid paying capital gains when you transfer stock to GPC. Please call our broker for details: Bruce Bennett (360) 613-1974.

Save Your Land

A gift of land is one of the most significant contributions you can make to GPC.

Learn more at [greatpeninsula.org](https://www.greatpeninsula.org)



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PAGE 4

Land Labs:
connecting
students to
GPC preserves
with hands-on
science lessons!