

# Annual Report 2022



Great Peninsula  
Conservancy



# A Note from our Executive Director

GPC's record-breaking conservation, stewardship, and public engagement achievements of 2022 make me proud to be a part of this amazing organization. Of course, those successes are made possible by our members, so I thank the hundreds of people who continue to so generously support the environmental work that we do.

Each project, whether it be protecting a wetland, replanting a shoreline, or connecting students to nature through a Land Labs program, is unique and challenging, but it's all so worth it! The energy we collectively invest today is making a lasting difference.

In this time of unprecedented regional development, every acre we protect now helps to secure the health and well-being of our community long into the future. Together, GPC's staff, board, and members form a potent team, helping to ensure the natural characteristics of this special place we call home will exist in perpetuity.

Thank you for making a difference.

Nathan Daniel,  
Executive Director



Executive Director Nathan Daniel working with students during a GPC Land Labs program.

## STAFF

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Community Engagement  
Manager

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Development &  
Communications Associate

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Stewardship Manager

Micaela Petrini  
Stewardship Coordinator

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Land Labs Community  
Stewardship Coordinator

Ali Querin  
Conservation Project Manager

Erik Steffens  
Conservation Director

Beatrice Lincke  
Land Labs Community  
Stewardship Coordinator

Julie Steigerwaldt  
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Land Labs Education  
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Development &  
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Cover: Stewardship Coordinator Micaela Petrini appreciating a Douglas fir at Newberry Woods Community Forest. Photo Credit Ben Wymer



Conserve



Steward



Engage

# In Review

## 2022 by the Numbers



**896** GPC Members



**500** new acres protected forever

**\$10,204,500** land value protected



**735** students served by Land Labs Program



**2,744** acres monitored

**5,000** trees planted

**500** ecological forestry practices implemented

**1,097** volunteer hours



### 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.



# Stewardship

## Working Forests for Biodiversity

In 2022, GPC's stewardship team continued to implement a series of conservation practices to improve habitat diversity across six preserves. The techniques used to achieve these objectives included increasing the number of snags and logs, as well as opening canopy gaps to allow light to reach the forest floor and the plants that grow in the understory.

GPC staff girdled a total of 424 trees across the six sites, representing nine species. Most of these trees were in small and medium size class. In addition, GPC's volunteers assisted with creating 85 coarse woody debris features including 58 habitat piles and 27 constructed logs.

To better understand whether this work is improving wildlife habitat, GPC implemented a research project that uses birds as an indicator of desired forest habitat conditions. GPC received a grant from Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Land Trust Bird Conservation Initiative to fund a collaboration with Dr. Alison Strying and graduate student, Kayleigh Kueffner, at Evergreen State College, Northwest Natural Resource Group, and Dan Froehlich, local ornithologist. The research project uses state of the art, remote acoustic monitoring devices to



Stewardship team members Aaron Gaul, Micaela Petrini, and Beatrice Lincke out in the field. (Header: A Pacific wren in Groves Creek. Credit: Ben Wymer.)



GPC volunteers help build habitat piles to provide greater habitat diversity.

capture changes in the avian community pre- and post-treatment. To date, over 90,000 digital recordings are being analyzed for the presence of 20 target species. The presence or absence of these species will help GPC understand and assess this project and future work.

Cornell was impressed by GPC's 2022 effort, and they awarded GPC another round of funding for 2023. This future work includes habitat conservation practices at another two GPC preserves and advising Jefferson Land Trust to initiate a similar acoustic monitoring study on their conservation lands.

**-Adrian Wolf, Stewardship Manager**



# GREAT PENINSULA CONSERVANCY'S LAND LABS



Dawn (right) and her daughter enjoying low tide along the Salish Sea.

**D**awn Dockter and her husband lived in Champaign, Illinois for over 20 years, where they were entomologists at the University of Illinois. When they decided to relocate to Kitsap County in 2021 to enjoy their retirement, Dawn and David began searching for people who shared their love of the outdoors, science, and learning. Since then, Dawn has become one of GPC's most avid Volunteer Educators, supporting GPC's outdoor education program, Land Labs.

With the goal of providing underserved students the opportunity to participate in real-world community science and stewardship opportunities on GPC preserves, Land Labs has steadily grown with the support of AmeriCorps VISTA members, local foundations, private donors, and volunteers like Dawn. Whether she's knee-deep in a creek helping students catch stoneflies, or wrangling students for a quick game of salmon tag, Dawn's sense of fun and enthusiasm for science is infectious! GPC is delighted to honor Dawn's dedication to Land Labs by awarding her Volunteer of the Year.



Students from Mountain View Middle School during a Land Labs Climate Resilient Forests Lesson in Fall 2022.

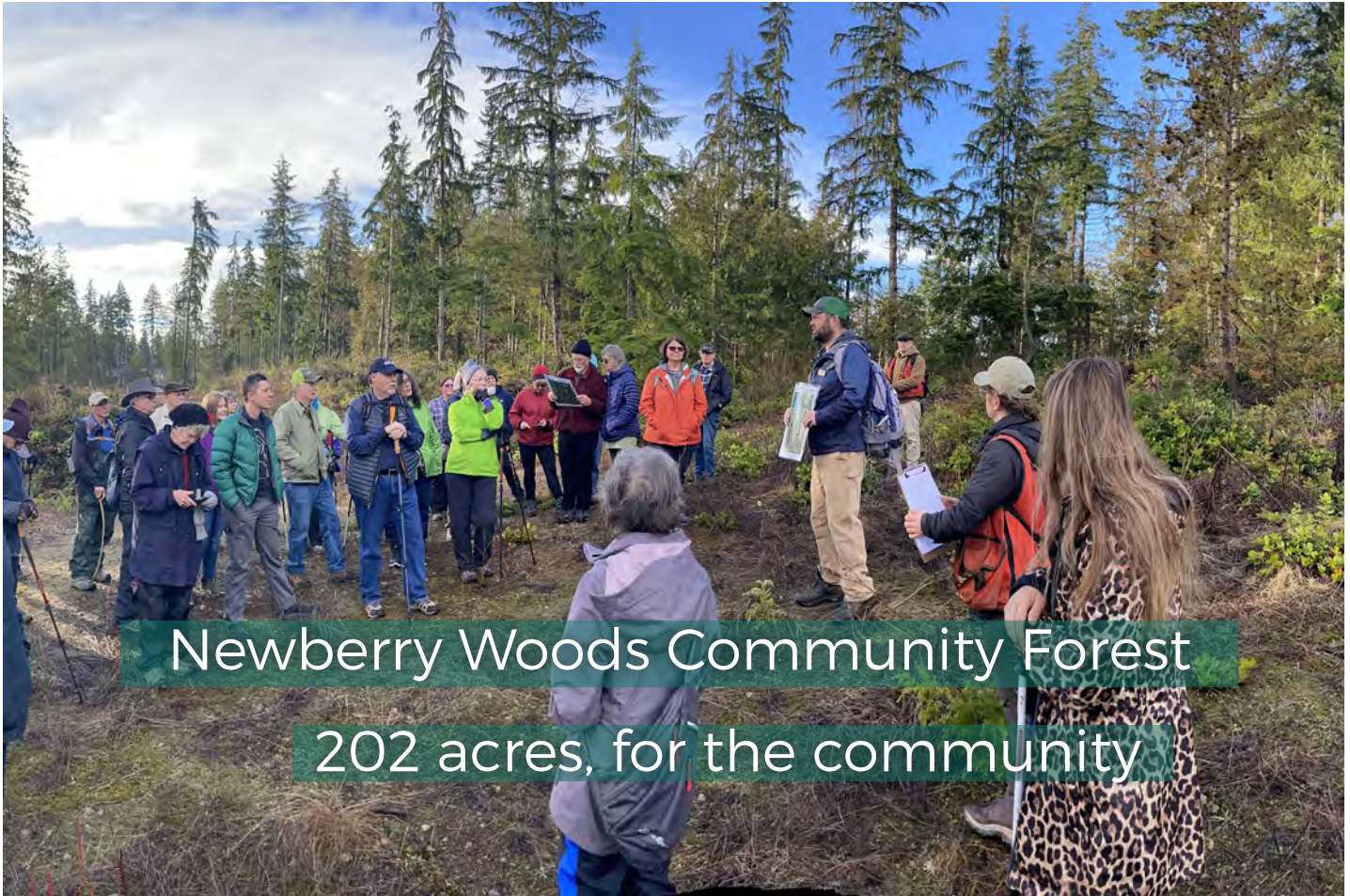
**I**n Fall 2022 Land Labs brought Mountain View Middle School students out to GPC properties to deliver lessons on Climate Resilient Forests. The lesson was designed with the support of several key grant partners, Keta Legacy Foundation, Land Trust Alliance, and the Russell Family Foundation, and was delivered through a partnership with Kitsap County Parks. The lesson produced a new cohort of Land Labs Volunteer Educators and provided students with the first field trip they'd had in three years due to the pandemic.

This project provided GPC with more ways to connect with the community about the growing repertoire of ecological forest management tools the stewardship team is using, including thinning, patch cuts, girdling, and habitat pile building, which promote biodiversity in former working forests. By providing outdoor education, we actively engage students in real-world conservation and restoration and welcome them to the actual landscapes to practice those action and decision-making roles as stewards. Lessons about ecological land management can help students grow up understanding how to be stewards of their homeplaces and support the future of forests across GPC's working region and the rest of Washington.

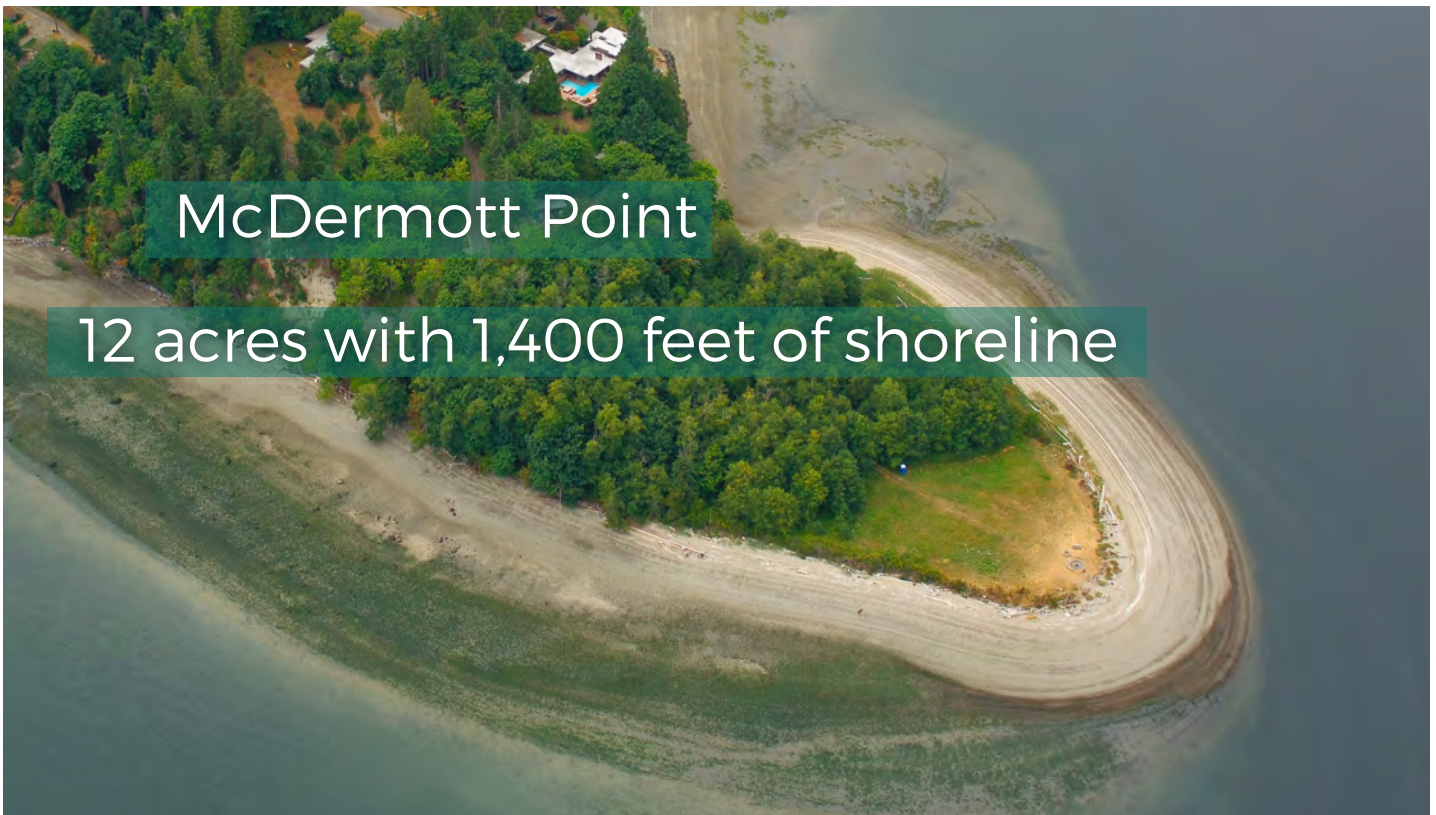




# 2022 Conservation Highlights



Newberry Woods Community Forest  
202 acres, for the community

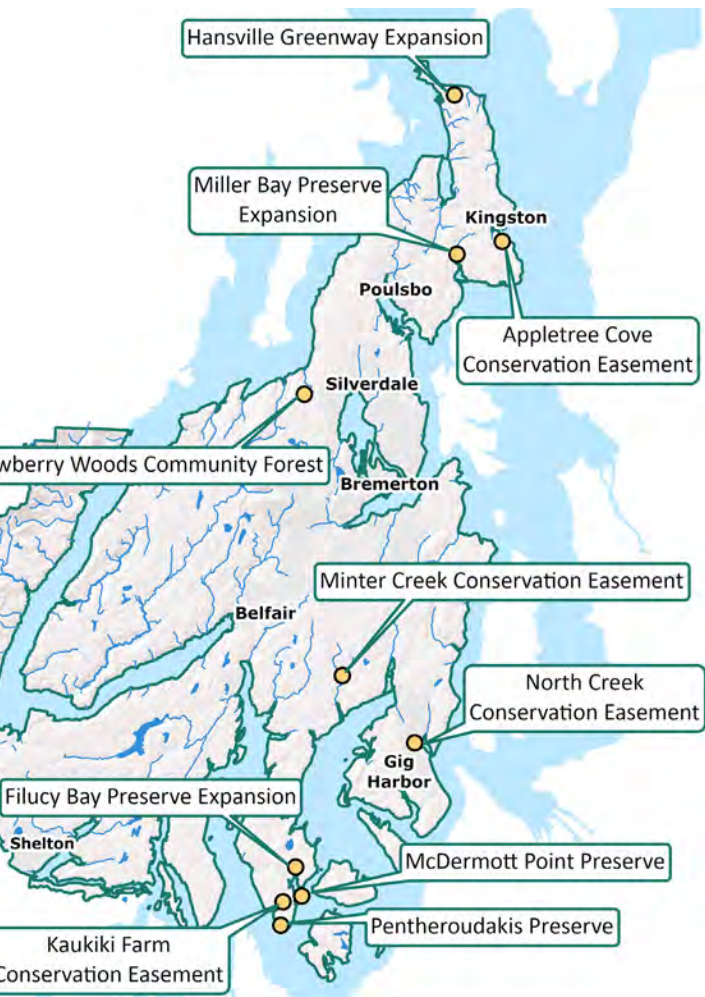


McDermott Point  
12 acres with 1,400 feet of shoreline



# Conserving 500 Acres

**Erik Steffens, Conservation Director**



2022 was a record-setting year for GPC on the land conservation side. Thanks to generous support from the Murdock Foundation and other donors, we hired a second project manager to our conservation program staff early in the year. With this added

capacity, we completed **twelve projects in 2022, protecting over 500 acres of land worth over \$10 million.**

Looking back, I'm inspired by the 300 people who donated to purchase the Hansville Highlands. I'm excited to replicate the 202-acre Newberry Woods Community Forest in other places as it is a powerful model to balance forest health and recreation needed throughout our growing region. I feel blessed to have partnered with caring stewards of the land, such as the Bryants on the 115-acre Kaukiki Farm easement. And, as always, I'm glad we protected and improved salmon habitat, working in eight watersheds throughout our region. Stay tuned-there are some exciting projects in the works in 2023!

Left: The 10 projects and 500-acres that GPC protected in 2022.

## Kaukiki Farm

115-acre agricultural conservation easement, working family farm



# 2022 Contributors

Thanks to the generous individuals, foundations, and businesses who supported Great Peninsula Conservancy in 2022.<sup>1</sup>

## LEGACY SOCIETY

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Betty Willcomb  
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## PUBLIC AGENCIES FUNDING LAND ACQUISITION

Kitsap County Conservation Futures  
NOAA Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund  
Pierce County Conservation Futures  
The Suquamish Tribe  
US Forest Service Community Forest Program  
US Navy Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration  
Washington Recreation and Conservation Office:  
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program  
Farmland Preservation Program  
Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program  
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund

## \$200,000+

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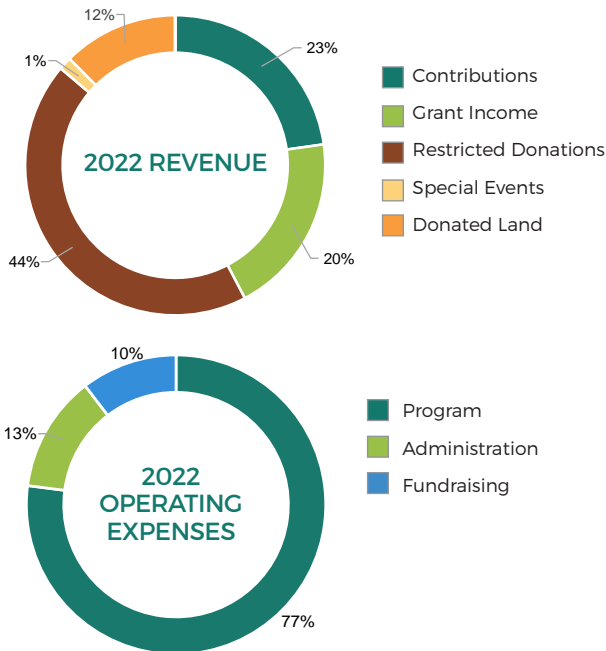


# Thank you for supporting local conservation!



# 2022 Finances at a Glance<sup>1</sup>

Every Acre, Every Member, Every Dollar Counts



## REVENUE

Contributions.....	\$1,685,140
Restricted Donations.....	\$1,446,419
Grant Income.....	\$3,245,683
Special Events.....	\$103,372
Investment & Interest.....	\$-374,177
Donated Land.....	\$919,000
Other Income.....	\$390
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$7,025,827</b>

## OPERATING EXPENSES

Program.....	\$867,953
Administration.....	\$141,724
Fundraising.....	\$117,084
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$1,126,761</b>

## ASSETS

Cash & Investments....	\$4,776,096
Property .....	\$19,609,797
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$24,385,893</b>

**CHANGE IN  
NET ASSETS .....** **\$4,770,066**

**NET ASSETS AT  
BEGINNING OF YEAR ...** **\$20,302,361**

**NET ASSETS AT  
END OF YEAR .....** **\$24,385,893**

<sup>1</sup> These abbreviated financial statements are derived from fully annotated financial statements audited by Aiken & Sanders, Inc., for 2022.

## Conservation Celebration Lead Sponsors



LYNN & BRUCE GIBSON  
FAMILY FOUNDATION



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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! Learn more about the Legacy Challenge to activate a \$1000 match on our website.

## 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](http://greatpeninsula.org)  
or call 360-373-3500





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Free, monthly  
excursions to see  
GPC properties and  
learn from local  
experts. All are  
welcome to attend!

Scan to learn more!

