

Concrete to Community

2026 Year-End Report





Dear Friends,

Every neighborhood has a place that could be something more: a forgotten stretch of pavement, an overlooked stairway, a corner that needs shade, or a gathering space waiting to be brought back to life. The people who live nearby usually know what is possible. What they need is a partner to help make it happen.

That is why Greening Projects exists. We work alongside neighbors to turn ideas for greener, more welcoming public spaces into projects that can be planned, funded, permitted, built, and cared for over time.

This year, we saw what happens when community vision meets practical support. In Bernal Heights, the Recreation Center Plaza began to feel more like a neighborhood town square. Across the city, volunteer stewards continued caring for gardens and shared spaces. In Bayview-Hunters Point, neighbors and volunteers are coming together to create a welcoming green gathering space for an underserved community. In addition, major public investments are helping move a vision for shade, stormwater management, and an increase to the scarce tree canopy.

Our work now spans more than 30 projects underway or completed across San Francisco and the Bay Area. Each project has its own story, but they share something essential: the belief that public spaces should reflect the care, creativity, and persistence of the communities around them, as well as create gathering spaces, improve residents' health, and provide a transformative green experience.

Thank you to the residents, volunteers, donors, civic partners, and local businesses who make this work possible. We hope the stories in these pages inspire you to visit a project, join a workday, introduce a neighbor, or help bring the next community vision to life.

With gratitude,
Jorge Romero-Lozano
Executive Director, Greening Projects

WHO WE ARE

At Greening Projects, we believe everyone, regardless of income, race, ability, or zip code, deserves public spaces that reflect the care, creativity, and persistence of the communities around them. These spaces should be shaped with residents, not just for them, and should serve as places to gather, support health and well-being, and offer a transformative green experience that is accessible to all.



Greening Projects with Jennifer Ferrigno, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Jackie Fielder, Kieran Far, Community Advocate with Sierra Club, and Mahdi Rahimi, a member of Safe Streets Bernal

VISION

To create as much green space as possible within our urban environments.

MISSION

Greening Projects empowers communities to transform underutilized urban landscapes into vibrant, sustainable environments where people and nature thrive together.

We partner with community groups and individuals who envision greener neighborhoods and cities, providing expert consulting in planning, design, development, and project management. In this way, we can ensure that a "dream" project is grounded in fiscal viability, constructability and sustainability.

HOW WE WORK AS AN ACCELERATOR FOR IMPACT

1. Greening Projects + Community Partnership Established	2. Matching Funds Provided	3. Construction & Project Completion
GP funds research, design & feasibility before any grant exists	GP provides the upfront community match and applies for grants to unlock funding	GP manages and leads construction to completion
$1 invested here... →	**...unlocks 2x – 3x the funding here** =	**Lasting public asset delivered**

OUR COMMITMENT

- **Community-Centered:** We listen to and amplify the voices of those who know their neighborhoods best
- **Sustainable Impact:** We design projects that benefit both present and future generations
- **Professional Excellence:** We bring expertise and dedication to every phase of the greening process
- **Urban Transformation:** We believe cities can be both vibrant and green, where nature and community flourish side by side. Grounded in environmental justice, we work to ensure all neighborhoods have equitable access to healthy, welcoming green spaces.

2026 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Much of the work that makes neighborhood greening possible happens before construction begins: organizing residents, developing designs, raising funds, securing approvals, and building partnerships. In 2026, Greening Projects and its community partners continued advancing projects through these essential stages.

BERNAL HEIGHTS REC CENTER

We made significant progress toward transforming the Bernal Heights Recreation Center Plaza, securing a $578,000 Green Infrastructure Grant and finalizing the project's conceptual design. With approval from the San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission, we're one step closer to bringing this revitalized community space to life.



Bernal Heights Rec Center Plaza



Halloween festivities on Cortland Ave.

HALLOWEEN ON CORTLAND

This year, we organized the third annual Halloween on Cortland, transforming Cortland Avenue into a safe, car-free celebration for Bernal Heights families. With support from the Civic Joy Fund, Bernal Business Alliance, local merchants, and neighborhood volunteers, the event brought the community together for an evening of trick-or-treating, music, and festivities.

CORTLAND COMMUNITY GARDEN

We worked alongside neighbors, San Francisco Public Works, and the District 9 Supervisor's Office to secure street-park designation for Cortland Community Garden. Two grants totaling $300,000 were awarded to support the project. We also finalized the landscape design and selected a contractor, setting the stage for construction to begin in February 2027.



Volunteers help landscape Cortland Community Garden.

2026 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

HOWARD LANGTON COMMUNITY GARDEN

A $500,000 Community Opportunity Fund grant was awarded for the Howard Langton Community Garden which serves as a green oasis in SOMA, providing residents with a welcoming space to connect with nature.



Howard Langton Community Garden



Gate to the McLaren Community Garden.

VISITACION VALLEY

A $1.5 million Community Opportunity Fund grant was awarded which will help bring to life a long-standing vision of community advocate Fran Martin. The project will transform a lot adjacent to a local middle school into a green space where students can connect with nature and participate in the ongoing care and stewardship of the site.

MARINERS VILLAGE

The Mariners Village basketball court effort is moving toward revitalizing an important neighborhood gathering place. A $150,000 grant was awarded by the City of San Francisco for the project, while site preparations are helping lay the groundwork for construction to begin in February 2027.



Rebuilding Together volunteers clean the Mariners Village site.



Community volunteers helping landscape the Kimbell Community Garden.

KIMBELL COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Kimbell community garden initiative advanced through design and community outreach, supported by an $80,000 grant awarded by the City of San Francisco. CMG Landscape Architects completed the landscape architecture design, helping translate the community's vision into a plan for a new green gathering place.

IMPACT STORIES



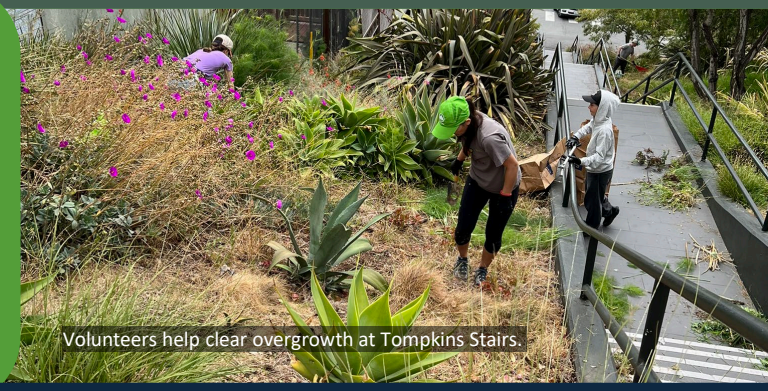
Cathryn Blum at Carolina Green Space

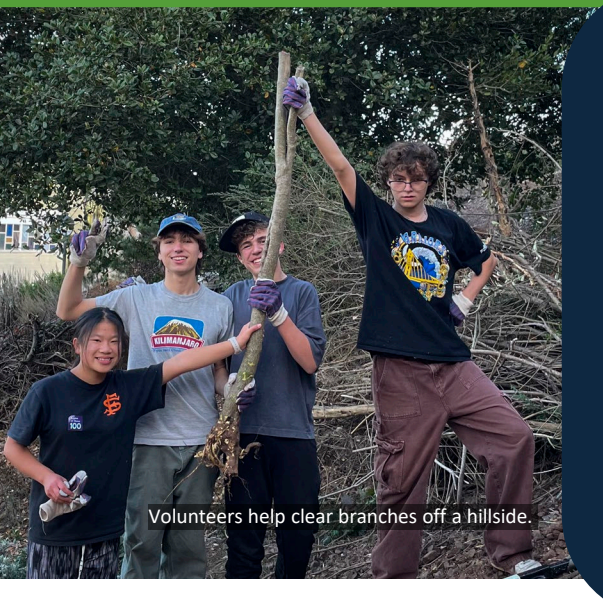
"The Carolina Green Space has been working with Greening Projects as our fiscal sponsor since late 2022. It is a wonderful partnership! Both Jorge and Mike have always been responsive and responsible when it comes to helping pull together grant proposals or funding options, sorting out the key practical aspects that come into play when planning improvements and maintenance, and handling our project's finances. They are trustworthy allies in all ways!"

Cathryn Blum
Carolina Green Space

"Greening Projects helped us plan and execute the first fundraising campaign for the Tompkins Stairs, and it was a huge success. They generated a lot of community support and involvement!"

Vicky Rideout
Tompkins Stairway Garden


Volunteers help clear overgrowth at Tompkins Stairs.


Volunteers help clear branches off a hillside.

"We have so much gratitude towards Mike and Jorge of Greening Projects. What began as a simple project to clear some Scotch Broom off a hillside on DPW land in Bernal Heights has become so much more, thanks to the guidance and support of Mike and Jorge... Without their help, we would never have been able to concentrate solely on the rewarding work of habitat restoration. We've gotten so much positive feedback from neighbors and the community, and we are so thankful for their help."

Lori Eanes
Bernal Wild

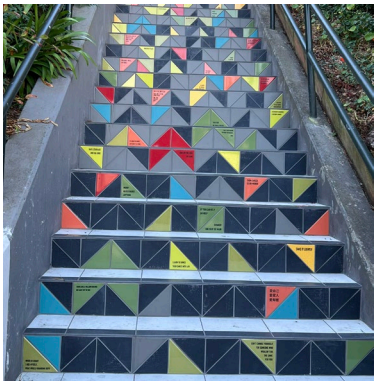
LOOKING AHEAD

OUR GOALS FOR 2027

As Greening Projects approaches its fifth anniversary in 2027, we celebrate the neighbors, partners, and supporters who have helped transform public spaces across San Francisco. This milestone year marks an exciting new chapter as we work to bring more community visions to life, expand our impact, and build the resources needed to sustain these spaces for years to come.

- **Break Ground on Key Projects:** Begin construction on five existing projects across the Bayview, Bernal Heights, and Potrero Hill neighborhoods.
    - **Cortland Community Garden:** Build a new community garden in Bernal Heights to expand access to gardening opportunities, with 25% of plots reserved for underserved Mission residents.
    - **Lower DeHaro Rain Garden:** Create a rain garden in Potrero Hill to capture and treat stormwater runoff, prevent hillside erosion, and introduce much-needed greenery.
    - **Ogden Avenue Gardens:** Transform an unused street in Bernal Heights into a neighborhood park and playground, providing new recreational space for residents and a nearby daycare.
    - **Mariners Village Basketball Court and Park:** Revitalize an aging recreational space in the Bayview with a refurbished basketball and pickleball court, picnic areas, and improved community amenities.
    - **Mariners Village Bioretention and Tree Canopy Project:** Install green infrastructure to address neighborhood flooding, expand landscaping, and double the existing tree canopy.
- **Continue Advancing New Projects:** Advance new community greening projects that secured grants or financing in 2026.
- **Grow Our Funding and Capacity:** Strengthen our financial sustainability and organizational capacity to support community-led projects, provide seed funding for new initiatives, and expand our team and resources to help more neighborhoods bring their greening visions to life.
- **Invest in Long-Term Stewardship:** Work towards establishing a new Green Benefit District to support the ongoing care and maintenance of existing and future green spaces.











JOIN US

Every greener block begins with someone who cares about it. You can be part of the next transformation. Together, we can turn more overlooked spaces into places where San Franciscans can gather, grow, and belong.

Give
A gift to Greening Projects helps communities plan, fund, and advance public-space improvements. Contributions of every size help build the support that projects need; larger project and multiyear commitments can be discussed directly with our team.

Volunteer
Join a neighborhood workday, help care for a garden or bring colleagues and friends to a community stewardship activity. These effortsfoster community engagement, efforts enhance team building, and provide a sense of accomplishment.

Connect
Introduce Greening Projects to a neighborhood group, local business, foundation, or person who believes in greener, more welcoming public spaces.

Visit
See the projects firsthand and meet the neighbors bringing them to life. One of our team members, staff or volunteer, will gladly provide a guided tour.

Learn more: greeningprojects.org | **Support the work:** greeningprojects.org/donate



THANK YOU

As the year comes to a close, we want to pause and say something simple but deeply felt: ***thank you.***

To our donors, your generosity turned good intentions into real results. Every gift, whether large or small, one-time or recurring, helped us reach more people, strengthen our programs, and meet needs as they arose. You trusted us with your support, and we do not take that lightly.

To our volunteers, you gave what cannot be purchased: your time, energy, and heart. You showed up early, stayed late, and brought warmth to everything you touched. Our work simply would not happen without you.

To our partners, thank you for working alongside us. Your collaboration expanded our reach, sharpened our ideas, and reminded us that we are stronger together than we could ever be alone.

The progress in this report belongs to all of you. Behind every number is a person, a family, or a community whose life is better because you chose to care.

As we look ahead, we do so with hope and with confidence, knowing we have a community like you behind us. Thank you for being part of this work, for believing in what is possible, and for helping us make it real.

Special thanks to:

Our Board Members

- Emma Dolan, Advisor
- Michael P. Doherty, President
- Jackie Hodgdon, Advisor
- Tyler Mincey, Advisor
- Em Rhodenbaugh, Secretary
- Dawn Saboe, Treasurer
- Andrew Wasserman, Advisor

The City of San Francisco

- San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency
- San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
- San Francisco Public Works
- San Francisco Recreation & Park Department

Our Partners

- Bernal Heights Branch Library
- Friends of Bernal Heights Rec Center
- Friends of Kimbell Community Garden
- Friends of Ogden Avenue Garden
- Rebuilding Together San Francisco
- Reimagine San Francisco
- RHAA Landscape Architecture + Planning
- Scott Slaney Landscape Architect
- The Civic Joy Fund