



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



A Message from Our Executive Director

It feels so nice to reach out, reconnect, and share a glimpse of the amazingness you made happen last year - the gardens planted, the hope, ideas, and practical models shared, and the bold civic programs and policy innovations dreamed up.

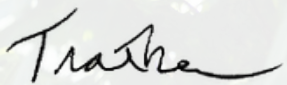
So much happens in a year, the changes, pivots and set backs, all of which makes our shared successes so much richer. **You literally make all of this happen.** Your generous donations, your thoughtful partnership, your hands in the dirt, your relentlessly positive problem solving through all manner of kerfuffles. For this, I'm left with a bone-deep gratitude for you that is hard to put to words. **What endlessly renews my hope, despite all that is disheartening and divisive, is that time and time again, you show up and step up.** Through small acts of care and connection, together we remake our lives, communities and world.

And for Daily Acts, these small acts start in the garden, **because a garden is more than a garden.** It's drought and flood mitigation, habitat restoration and carbon sequestration. It's food, medicine, beauty, policy change and a rekindling of the human spirit. In the following pages you'll see beautiful garden transformations being spread across our region and state and shared at national and international conferences. All of this while we continue to deepen local innovation that will ripple out across the region and beyond.

One memorable moment was representing Petaluma at the All-America City Awards alongside an extraordinary group of community leaders. **It was a powerful reminder that meaningful transformation is happening everywhere, in communities large and small, rural and urban, across every background and perspective.**

As we prepare to celebrate 25 years of community-powered transformation, and look to the future, I feel heartened and hopeful. **We are inspired as ever to get Daily Acts' vital message, models and approach in more hearts, hands and communities.** We are deepening our work to help neighborhoods get more resilient to flooding, drought, and heat, empowering more people to lead climate solutions where they live, and sharing practical models that communities across California and beyond can make their own. **While the challenges are significant, so is our collective capacity to meet them, with creativity, compassion, and collaboration.**

Thank you for always being by our side, taking heart and taking action. You are the wind in our sails.



Trathen Heckman
Daily Acts' Executive Director & Founder



Trathen with his wife Mary and his daughter Ella.
Photo by Jessica Fix Photography

Creating Spaces to Learn, Connect and Grow



Earth Day Planting at Petaluma City Hall



Sheet Mulching at Petaluma City Hall with RTP Works



Community Planting Day at Tahola Lane Pocket Park



Garden Care through the Seasons Workshop



“Seeing how people with different backgrounds, strengths, and experiences came together to transform the space was really sweet. We figured it out together, uplifted each other, and by the end of the day, it was incredible to see what we had accomplished collectively.”

- Ken Roberts, Volunteer & Donor, at Tahola Lane Pocket Park

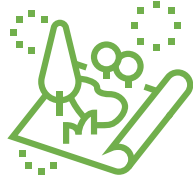
What if gardening isn't just about what grows in your yard, but about growing community? This year, we hosted **forty-six tours, presentations, workshops and volunteer workdays** in partnership with the City of Petaluma, bringing neighbors together to learn about creating urban habitat, building healthy soils, growing food and medicine, and conserving water. Beyond the learning, we laughed, connected, and reflected on how a day in the garden reminds us that **caring for the Earth also means caring for one another.**

Two of our favorite landscape transformations in 2025 took place at Petaluma City Hall and Tahola Lane Pocket Park. At the City Hall entrance, a colorful array of pollinator plants were installed by City staff and volunteers on Earth Day! Shades of purple penstemon and anise hyssop pop against the bright oranges of California poppies and sticky monkeyflower.

At Tahola Lane Pocket Park, a community listening session informed a major refresh, with the installation of a decomposed granite ADA pathway to provide better access, 280+ native and water-wise plants, five fruit trees, a rain tank, and a rain garden! **As these gardens continue to flourish, so will the knowledge and relationships they helped cultivate.**

It's a Wrap on the Land Resilience Partnership Pilot!

**125 SITE ASSESSMENTS
& CONCEPT DESIGNS
COMPLETED**



62 PROJECT INSTALLATIONS AT:



3

SCHOOLS



3

PARKS



56

HOMES

INCLUDING:



29

**GREYWATER
SYSTEMS**



25

**LAWN
CONVERSIONS**



10

**RAIN
TANKS**



8

**RAIN
GARDENS**

RESULTING IN:

1.9

**MILLION
GALLONS OF
WATER SAVED**



1.7

**ACRES OF
NEW HABITAT
CREATED**

State-wide Program Successfully Piloted in Petaluma

The Land Resilience Partnership (LRP) is a state-wide collaborative effort that makes it easier for Californians to become more drought, fire, flood, and climate resilient.

Daily Acts launched our LRP Pilot in the Petaluma River Watershed in 2023, and completed it in 2025 with **sixty-two water and climate resilience projects** installed at schools, parks, and homes! **Forty-eight percent of installed projects** were either within or adjacent to neighborhoods most at-risk of climate impacts. The projects now

conserve nearly **two million gallons of water** every year, while reducing flood risk, creating pollinator corridors and urban habitat, increasing shade, building soil health, and creating resilient neighborhoods for people and nature.

This exciting collaboration between federal agencies, local government, natural resource groups, and nonprofits demonstrates that **lasting climate solutions are possible** when partners work together to align funding sources, technical expertise, and commitment to making these solutions accessible to all.

Community-Informed Equitable Access to LRP

Many of our communities most vulnerable to climate-related impacts - who stand to benefit the most from landscape transformation programs - face financial, practical and systemic barriers that limit their ability to participate.

To help reduce these barriers, our equitable access strategies include:

- Partnering with trusted community-based social service organizations
- Hosting accessible listening sessions, providing Spanish interpretation, food, and child-friendly activities at familiar gathering spaces
- Offering free design and labor for installation recipients through green workforce training partnerships

Centered on People, Powered by Partnerships



Colin (Sonoma RCD), Rudy (homeowner), Chris (Alt Water), and Liz (Daily Acts) stand in front of a new rain garden that captures overflow from a rain tank



Community Listening Session at Sunrise Park



Conservation Corps North Bay corpsmembers completed sheet mulching for an upcoming garden

Real change takes root when we build it **together**. Our Land Resilience Partnership Pilot Program was a team effort, convening partners whose expertise strengthened every stage of the work. From technical assistance and engineering oversight on laundry-to-landscape and rainwater harvesting systems, to green workforce development groups providing project installation services, **our unique community-powered landscape transformation model would not be possible without our incredible partners.**

That same spirit of collaboration extended beyond our partnerships and into the neighborhoods where school and park projects were installed. By engaging our community through listening sessions and volunteer planting days, **we created opportunities for people to shape projects, learn new skills, and connect with their neighbors.**

Our LRP Pilot Program Partners & Sponsors



This pilot program was a success because it was built on collaboration, **combining the power of small groups, small gardens, and the collective action of many people** to create solutions that are stronger, more equitable, and built to last.

Daily Acts and partners will continue expanding the LRP model through new programs, bringing this collaborative approach to more neighborhoods and communities across the region and state.

LRP Project Spotlight: A Residential Lawn Reimagined



“I love my landscape, coming home and seeing all this color and life makes me really happy. This honestly is so much easier to take care of than the lawn was. Any time you can create beauty and do something great for our planet, you should do it.”

- Tegan, Residential Lawn Conversion Recipient



Garden Design with Groundwater In Mind



Launching the Well-Designed Landscape Program

By using less water and capturing more rain where it falls, **well-water users can become an important part of the solution to groundwater depletion.** Daily Acts launched the Well-Designed Landscape Program, a new branch of our **Land Resilience Partnership** Program designed specifically for well-water users living in the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Basin.

This free program provided twenty-two participants with a **customized Catalog of Projects (CoP).** This concept-level design lists projects and priorities that can be

implemented to reduce strain on private wells, mitigate flooding, and lower long-term maintenance costs. Suggested projects included lawn conversion, irrigation upgrades, rain gardens, swales, rain tanks, and laundry-to-landscape greywater systems.

Equipped with the recommendations, DIY how-to resources, and a contractor referral list, **participants now have a plan in hand to transform their properties into water-wise, climate-resilient landscapes** that benefit both their households and the broader community.

"The Well-Designed Landscape Program gave us an amazing roadmap for transforming our landscape. We've turned the recommendations into a project binder and are excited to implement the ideas together as a family."

- *Catalog of Projects Recipient*

Why Groundwater Matters



Daily Acts led the design of **three educational signs** at Community Soil Foundations' flagship site at Maddux Ranch Regional Park! Designed for the elementary-school aged children who are educated in the garden, these signs introduce groundwater, explain why groundwater matters, and describe actions to take at home to protect our groundwater. We are so grateful to the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Community Soil, and Sonoma County Regional Parks for collaborating on these signs to bring them to life! [Click here](#) to see the sign designs.

Act Locally, Think Globally



Photo by Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership

We are showing national and international communities what is possible when we come together to reimagine and regenerate our landscapes!

Broadcasting Our Message: Daily Acts presented at the [Danish-California Water Dialogues](#) and the [Permaculture Institute of North America's](#) national convergence, sharing how community-led action and climate-smart landscapes can drive meaningful change from the ground up.

Driving Local Change with National Impacts: For more than six years, Daily Acts has partnered with the City of Petaluma to [advance bold climate leadership](#). This collaborative approach helped earn the City recognition as a finalist in the [All-America City Awards](#)! Daily Acts was honored to support the application and attend the national presentation in Colorado.

A Climate Grant Win: Daily Acts was awarded \$250,000 as runner up in the [HCLTech Climate Action in Americas](#) grant program, finishing among the [top three finalists and the only U.S. nonprofit in the top ten!](#) With this investment, we plan to launch an innovative flood resilience pilot in 2026 with potential to scale across Sonoma County and beyond.

From Community Listening to Presenting Nationally



Ri practicing for the All-America City Awards, Colorado, Summer 2025



Ri's family participated in our LRP Pilot Program for a beautiful lawn conversion



Ri (front row, middle) and the PECAC 1.0 Cohort, Spring 2022

Ri's journey with Daily Acts began when a friend encouraged her to apply for the first cohort of the **Petaluma Equitable Climate Action Coalition (PECAC)**.

In collaboration with Equity First Consulting, Daily Acts launched PECAC in 2021 to elevate the voices of those most impacted by climate change and historically excluded from decision-making, **empowering participants to help shape a more equitable and climate-resilient future.**

During her six months with the first PECAC cohort, **Ri helped facilitate community listening sessions, and had the opportunity to present findings and recommendations to Petaluma's Climate Action Framework to City leaders.** Inspired by participating in PECAC, Ri applied for Daily Acts' Leadership Institute for Just and Resilient

Communities, which supported emerging leaders to advance transformative social and environmental solutions, and graduated with the 2022 Fellows. Ri then joined the Daily Acts team in 2022 as PECAC Program Coordinator, helping lead the second cohort!

This summer, we reconnected with Ri when **she represented Daily Acts and the City of Petaluma at the All-America City Awards**, where she shared how participating in PECAC helped grow her knowledge of local climate impacts, and turned her hopelessness and frustration into direct people-powered action.

We also had the joy of visiting Ri in her family's front garden, which was transformed through the LRP Pilot Program! As she reflected on the project, she emphasized that **seeing the recommendations from PECAC become tangible improvements in her neighborhood**, including the public art installations at bus stops, has been deeply meaningful.

"Going from a participant to a coordinator, and seeing real recommendations being implemented into our city such as the Land Resilience Partnership Program to make the east side more beautiful with native plants, and taking on climate change was one of the most powerful experiences of my life."

- Ri Bussey, during the All-America City Awards in Colorado

2025 Impact



586,032

NEW gallons of water
saved each year



945

People educated &
engaged in our work



442

Yards of compost &
mulch applied



46

Educational talks, tours,
workshops & workdays



34

Landscapes transformed at
homes, parks & public spaces

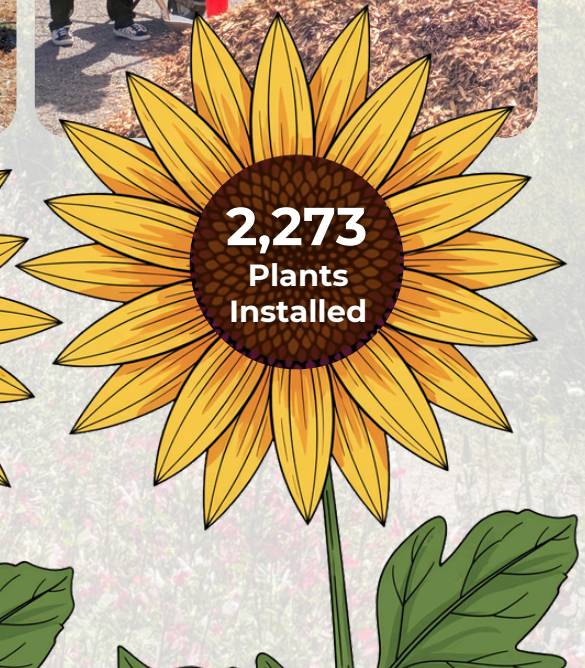


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New public
demonstration gardens

Our Small but Mighty Community of Volunteers

At Daily Acts, our incredible community of volunteers are at the heart of everything we do. From maintaining our demonstration gardens to attending community planting days, we are deeply grateful for the time they spend outside with us!



2025 Financial Snapshot

2025 Revenue \$3,221,181

Grants 77.3%

Giving 9.6%

City Contracts 8.5%

Other 4.5%



2025 Expenditures \$2,396,777

Programs 73.8%

Land Resilience Partnership Program 76.8%

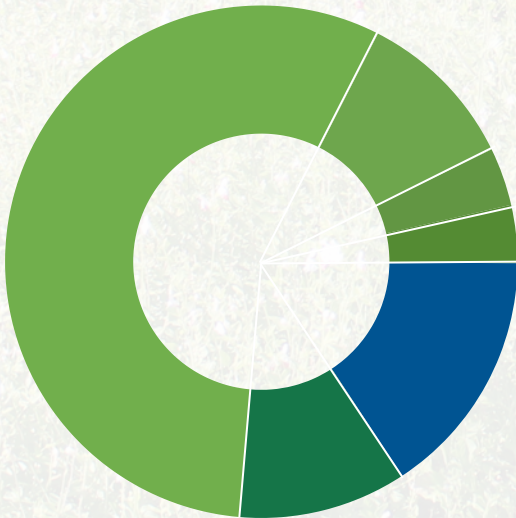
Climate Resilience Programs 13.5%

Water Use Efficiency Program 4.8%

Other Programs 4.8%

General & Administrative 15.6%

Development 10.6%



Sponsors & Foundations

We are honored to partner with our generous sponsors and foundations, who not only make our work possible, but share our vision of creating healthy, just and sustainable communities built upon the daily actions of many people.

Our Business & Community Partners:



Our Foundations & Grantmakers:

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35 Organizations Supported Us:

7 Family Foundations

3 Grant-Giving Foundations

10 Total Foundations

4 Business Sponsors

13 In-Kind Donors

8 Other Organizational Donors



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*We apologize if we have missed noting your contribution in this list. Please let us know.