

Greenbelt Alliance Successes

It All Started in 1958...

That was the year a group of concerned Bay Area residents prevented 6,500 acres of watershed lands in Contra Costa County from becoming a massive sprawl development. This first victory led to the formation of People for Open Space, which later became Greenbelt Alliance. Since 1958, we have achieved many notable successes in protecting open space and promoting livable communities.

Protecting Open Space

Greenbelt Alliance has helped protect more than 1.1 million acres of Bay Area open space by working with local communities and partner organizations to ensure threatened places are purchased for parkland or designated off limits to development. Among the

noteworthy places we led the effort to protect are Cowell Ranch in Contra Costa County (2002), Bear Creek Redwoods in Santa Clara County (2000), Pleasanton Ridge in Alameda County (1993), and Fort Funston in San Francisco (1961).

One highly effective way to protect open space is to create urban growth boundaries (UGBs) that allow for future growth within clearly defined city limits while preserving the surrounding greenbelt. Since 1995, Greenbelt Alliance has helped establish UGBs around 22 Bay Area cities and five counties.

Promoting Livable Communities

Since 1990, Greenbelt Alliance has endorsed 95 development projects and 17 neighborhood plans to create more than 48,000 housing units within existing city limits, thereby relieving pressure to build in the greenbelt. We have also worked with cities throughout the Bay Area to create policies that promote retail, office, and housing development in downtown areas and near public transit.

“Across America, no environmental organization equals Greenbelt Alliance in vigorously defending, decade by decade, a great metropolitan region’s greenbelt.”

Neil Peirce,
Syndicated Columnist

Greenbelt Alliance has also produced many influential reports that have helped shape the debate over growth and development in the Bay Area. In 2004 we received a national Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects for *Getting it Right* (2003), our vision for preventing sprawl and creating a vibrant community in San Jose’s Coyote Valley. Our other award-winning studies include *Smart Infill* (2002), *Room Enough* (1983), *Endangered Harvest* (1980), and *The Case for Open Space* (1968).

For more information, or to become a member of Greenbelt Alliance, visit our Web site at www.greenbelt.org, or call us at (415) 543-6771.



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Our first success—protecting open space around San Pablo Reservoir.