

Program Application: 83145231

Linked Pre-Application Form - DO NOT DELETE

Cultural Competency Project: Open Space & Climate Change

Grant Amount Requested

\$75,000.00

Organization Name

Saved By Nature

Urban Grant Program Application Questions

Overview

Type of project (check all that apply)

Grant category (check all that apply)

Environmental Education

Project Location: Address / Neighborhood

What is the physical location of the project? If there is no physical location, please enter "N/A." If the project will be in multiple locations, please list all. Note: project location(s) must be within the Authority's jurisdiction.

This project will take place across multiple public lands and community sites located entirely within the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority's jurisdiction. Primary locations include:

Guided Nature Walks & Program Sites

- Máyyan 'Ooyákma – Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve – 9611 Malech Rd, Morgan Hill, CA 95037
- Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve – 550 Palm Ave, Morgan Hill, CA 95037
- Martial Cottle County Park – 5283 Snell Ave, San Jose, CA 95136
- Edith Morley Park – 635 Campbell Technology Pkwy, Campbell, CA 95008
- Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve – 4289 Casa Loma Rd, Morgan Hill, CA 95037
- Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve – 5341 Sierra Rd, San Jose, CA 95132
- Little Uvas Open Space Preserve – 16541–16905 Uvas Rd, Morgan Hill, CA 95037
- Alum Rock Park – 15350 Penitencia Creek Rd, San Jose, CA 95127
- Alviso Adobe Park – 2087 Alviso Adobe Ct, Milpitas, CA 95035
- Henry W. Coe State Park – 9000 E Dunne Ave, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley Clubhouses

- Alviso Clubhouse – 5040 N First St, San Jose, CA 95002
- Morgan Hill Clubhouse – 17666 Crest Ave, Morgan Hill, CA 95037
- Si Se Puede Clubhouse – 2249 Dobern Ave, San Jose, CA 95116
- Mateo Sheedy Clubhouse – 788 Locust St, San Jose, CA 95110
- Alum Rock Clubhouse – 137 N White Rd, San Jose, CA 95127
- Smythe Clubhouse – 2195 Cunningham Ave, San Jose, CA 95122
- Levin Clubhouse – 4955 Edenvue Dr, San Jose, CA 95111

Alive Outside Adventure Series

- Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve – 4289 Casa Loma Rd, Morgan Hill, CA 95037
- Uvas County Park – 8515 Croy Rd, Morgan Hill, CA 95037
- Henry W. Coe State Park – 9000 E Dunne Ave, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Hispanic Heritage Celebration

- Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve – 5341 Sierra Rd, San Jose, CA 95132

After-school Field Trips

- Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve – 4289 Casa Loma Rd, Morgan Hill, CA 95037
- Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve – 550 Palm Ave, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Project Location

Open Space Authority District of Project Location(s)(check all that apply)

Authority District 1, Authority District 2, Authority District 3, Authority District 4, Authority District 5, Authority District 6, Authority District 7

Who does the project serve? Please indicate which Open Space Authority Districts are served (where do the people served by the program live) (check all that apply)

Authority District 1, Authority District 2, Authority District 3, Authority District 4, Authority District 5, Authority District 6, Authority District 7

Project Abstract

Saved By Nature's Cultural Competency Project expands access to nature and interprets open space as a strategy for climate resilience, stewardship, and cultural pride. The Open Space and Climate Change initiative builds on this framework to deliver inclusive, equity-centered programming across Santa Clara Valley preserves. Over two years, we will implement five integrated program elements reaching 2,236 youth, families, and community members across Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority preserves, including Twenty Percent Lands. Programming centers equity, removes barriers, and builds lasting connections to land and climate action.

Guided Nature Walks (300 participants)

Ten guided hikes (10 × 30), held on second Saturdays for four hours each. Saved By Nature staff develop site-specific lesson plans that integrate natural history, cultural heritage, and climate education. Each hike begins with a welcome circle and grounding practice, follows a three- to five-mile route with hands-on activities and facilitated discussion, and ends with a reflection circle. Five hikes include climate-art activities such as nature journaling or collaborative murals. Lunch, snacks, and water are provided at no cost. Priority registration ensures access for low-income families. These walks build environmental literacy, cultural pride, and a sense of belonging.

Summer Science Project (1,750 youth)

A 14-week series across seven Boys & Girls Clubhouses in partnership with Valley Water, Wildlife Education & Rehabilitation Center, Garden to Table, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and SF Bay Wildlife Society. Each weekly session is led by a partner and includes creating watershed models, observing live-animal presentations, examining bay ecosystem specimens, building take-home compost bins, and completing a salmon-and-trout obstacle course. Youth receive materials that reinforce stewardship and extend learning beyond the session.

After-School Field Trips (50 youth)

Two trips (2 × 25) in partnership with local Boys & Girls Clubs. Saved By Nature designs custom lesson plans for each preserve to address common fears (e.g., bears) and teach wildlife identification, habitats, and climate impacts. Each trip includes charter bus transportation, lunch, snacks, and water at no cost. Guided hikes offer a welcoming first introduction to open space and stewardship.

Alive Outside Adventure Series (36 youth)

A four-part model serving 36 youth: Introduction is a bilingual parent meeting that builds trust and reviews safety protocols. Orientation is a five-hour hike where youth are fitted for gear, adjust pack weight, and learn plant ID. Preparation adds sleeping pads and tents to their packs and introduces career pathways in parks. Overnight Trip is a two-day, one-night backpacking experience where youth set up tents, handle food safely, cook with propane stoves, and practice campsite etiquette — applying all skills to build confidence, reduce imposter syndrome, and deepen environmental stewardship.

Hispanic Heritage Celebrations (100 participants)

Two community events (2 × 50), co-hosted with Latino Outdoors, featuring resource tabling, folklórico dancers, live music, and taco vendor. Each includes a four-hour sunset hike focused on preserve ecology, wildlife observation, and stories of César Chávez. Events connect Latino heritage to climate resilience and deepen community ties to open space. Free access and priority registration ensure participation from low-income families.

Project Planning

Describe the proposed project.

Saved By Nature's Cultural Competency Project (2026–2028) is a two-year, equity-centered environmental education initiative that expands access to nature and interprets open space as a strategy for climate resilience, stewardship, and cultural pride. The project will deliver five integrated program elements serving 2,236 youth, families, and community members across Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority preserves, including Twenty Percent Lands.

Programming centers equity, removes barriers, and builds lasting connection to land and climate action. Intended audiences include families from historically underserved communities, elementary-aged youth (grades 3–5), high school-aged at-promise youth, and Latino community members and cultural leaders.

Program locations include:

- Preserves & Parks: Máyyan 'Ooyákma – Coyote Ridge, Coyote Valley, Sierra Vista, Rancho Cañada del Oro, Little Uvas, Martial Cottle, Edith Morley, Alum Rock, Alviso Adobe, and Henry W. Coe State Park

- Clubhouses: Edenvale, Alum Rock, Morgan Hill, Levin, Stipe, Smythe, Alviso, Hayes, Gilroy, Christopher

All youth programming is designed to meet or complement Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), with hands-on activities that support environmental literacy, climate awareness, and age-appropriate learning goals. Sessions are co-designed with environmental education partners and include tactile learning, take-home materials, and culturally responsive curriculum.

What a Day Looks Like in Each Program

After-School Field Trips

Audience: Elementary and middle school youth from Boys & Girls Clubs

Locations: Coyote Valley and Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserves

Sample Day (4–5 Hours):

- 2:30 PM – Charter bus pickup
- 3:15 PM – Arrival, restroom break, welcome circle, snack and gear distribution
- 3:30 PM – Guided nature hike with custom interpretive lesson and scavenger hunt
- 5:00 PM – Food break: rest, refuel, reflect
- 6:00 PM – Optional wellness session: mindfulness, sound bowls, or Reiki
- 7:00 PM – Hike concludes, prepare for departure

Youth are grouped by age and activities are layered to meet developmental needs. These trips often mark a youth's first experience in open space—designed to be safe, inclusive, and joyful.

Summer Science Project

Audience: 3rd–5th grade youth at 7 Boys & Girls Clubhouses

Locations: Alviso, Morgan Hill, Si Se Puede, Mateo Sheedy, Alum Rock, Smythe, Levin (also hosting Hayes, Stipe, Christopher)

Sample Week (Daily One-Hour Sessions):

- Monday – Salmon Survival Obstacle Course
- Tuesday – Watershed modeling with Valley Water
- Wednesday – Bay wildlife exploration with SF Bay Wildlife Society
- Thursday – Compost bin building with Garden to Table
- Friday – Live animal presentation with WERC

Each session blends science, movement, and storytelling. Youth receive take-home materials and engage in tactile, NGSS-aligned learning. About 15 youth attend consistently per clubhouse, with others joining intermittently.

Alive Outside Adventure Series

Audience: High school-aged at-promise youth

Locations: Henry W. Coe State Park, Uvas County Park, Rancho Cañada del Oro

This four-part series builds trust, skills, and belonging through a progressive outdoor experience:

1. Meet the Partner – A bilingual parent meeting introduces Saved By Nature, reviews safety protocols, and builds trust for overnight camping
2. Orientation Hike – A five-hour field hike teaches backpacking basics, campsite etiquette, and plant identification (including poison oak)
3. Preparation Hike – A gear-fitting and skills session covering packing, stove and food safety, and boot fitting while staff distribute equipment
4. Overnight Backpacking Trip (2 Days) – Youth apply skills during a two-day, one-night outing that includes hiking, tent setup, outdoor cooking, recreation, and reflection

Sample Overnight Itinerary:

Day 1

- 10:00 AM – Staff meet in San Jose
- 11:15 AM – Arrive, restrooms, roll call
- 11:30 AM – Welcome and land acknowledgment
- 11:45 AM – Backpacking and safety talk
- 12:00 PM – Gear handout
- 1:00 PM – Hike to campsite
- 3:00 PM – Lunch
- 4:00 PM – Tent demo
- 4:30 PM – Set up camp
- 5:30 PM – Recreation time
- 7:00 PM – Dinner and cooking demo
- 8:00 PM – Night hike
- 9:00 PM – S'mores
- 10:00 PM – Quiet time

Day 2

- 7:00 AM – Breakfast and surveys
- 8:00 AM – Break camp
- 9:00 AM – Hike out
- 11:00 AM – Bus pickup
- 12:15 PM – Return to San Jose

Youth learn campfire safety, outdoor cooking, tent setup, Leave No Trace principles, and packing essentials—all taught through fun, interactive activities that build confidence and self-reliance.

Guided Nature Walks

Audience: Families from historically underserved communities

Locations: Máyyan 'Ooyákma – Coyote Ridge, Sierra Vista, Rancho Cañada del Oro, and others

Sample Day (Second Saturday, 10:00 AM–3:00 PM):

- 10:00 AM – Welcome circle and grounding practice
- 10:30 AM – Begin 3–5 mile interpretive hike
- 11:30 AM – Hands-on observation and discussion
- 12:30 PM – Lunch break (provided free)
- 1:00 PM – Climate-art activity (e.g., journaling, collaborative mural)
- 2:00 PM – Reflection circle
- 3:00 PM – Departure

Walks build environmental literacy, cultural pride, and a sense of belonging in nature. Priority registration ensures access for low-income families.

Hispanic Heritage Celebrations

Audience: Latino families and cultural leaders

Location: Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve

Sample Day (Afternoon–Evening):

- 3:00 PM – Families arrive for folklórico dancers and live music
- 3:30 PM – Partner tabling and food vendors open
- 4:30 PM – Community storytelling and cultural presentations
- 5:30 PM – Guided sunset hike to observe tarantulas and golden eagles
- 6:30 PM – Staff share stories of César Chávez and Latino land stewardship
- 7:00 PM – Closing circle and music

These events celebrate heritage while deepening connection to climate resilience and open space.

Alignment with Grant Criteria

- Mission and Vision: The project directly supports the Authority's mission by connecting diverse communities to nature and fostering stewardship of public lands
- Greenprint Goals: Programming advances Greenprint objectives by promoting environmental literacy, cultural connection, and equitable access to open space
- Measure Q and T Objectives: The project delivers on multiple goals—education, habitat awareness, climate resilience, and social equity
- Multiple Benefits: Activities benefit wildlife education, habitat awareness, water literacy, climate action, and cultural healing
- Deliverables and Budget Alignment: Each program element includes clear deliverables (e.g., number of hikes, sessions, participants) tied to a detailed budget
- Ongoing Stewardship: Saved By Nature has established partnerships, trained staff, and proven systems to ensure program continuity and land stewardship
- Project Readiness: All sites are secured, partners confirmed, and programming is ready to launch upon funding
- Sustainability Practices: Programs use reusable gear, native plant education, and Leave No Trace principles
- Public Access and Curriculum: All programs are free to participants and include take-home materials and curriculum aligned with NGSS and Common Core

Describe key project deliverables and estimated completion dates.

Spring 2026 (upon award notification):

Task 1, 2, and 3 planning commences. Site visits, curriculum development, hard scheduling of hike dates, science sessions, and adventure series. Purchase supplies and confirm partner roles.

Summer 2026 – Fall 2027:

Task 1, 2, and 3 program delivery begins. Guided hikes, summer science sessions, field trips, and adventure series roll out across Authority preserves and partner sites. Task 4 evaluation data collection begins.

Winter 2027 – Spring 2028:

Task 1, 2, and 3 program delivery continues. Final adventure series and Hispanic Heritage events completed. Task 4 evaluation work continues.

Spring 2028:

Task 4: Final evaluation data analysis and report writing. All deliverables compiled and submitted.

Ongoing:

Task 4: Expense receipt collection, tracking of expenditures to budget, and reimbursement requests.

Deliverables will consist of the following activities:

Task 1: Guided Nature Walks – General Family Audience

Saved By Nature will lead ten educational nature-themed hikes (10 × 30 participants). Each hike includes site-specific interpretive lesson plans, climate education, storytelling, and climate-art activities.

Subtask 1.1: Implement all aspects of ten hikes across Authority preserves.

Subtask 1.2: Develop programs tailored for disadvantaged, multi-generational communities of color and first-time park users.

Subtask 1.3: Promote the project on social media (one post per event).

Task Deliverables: Participant lists, example lesson plans, sample social media post screenshots, and photos from events.

Task 2: Summer Science Project – Children in 3rd–5th Grades

Saved By Nature will coordinate seventy environmental-themed sessions across seven Boys & Girls Clubhouses, reaching 1,750 youth. Each session includes hands-on activities such as watershed modeling, live-animal presentations, and compost bin building.

Subtask 2.1: Confirm dates and times with project partners and complete all events.

Subtask 2.2: Design and develop curriculum, educational props, and visuals.

Subtask 2.3: Promote the project on social media (one post per event).

Task Deliverables: List of events, digital copies of educational materials, sample social media post screenshots, and photos from events.

Task 3: Alive Outside Adventure Series – High School Youth

Saved By Nature will deliver a four-part adventure model for 36 high school-aged at-promise youth. Includes bilingual parent meeting, orientation hike, gear prep session, and overnight backpacking trip.

Subtask 3.1: Purchase hiking boots, water bottles, snacks, lunches, and camping gear.

Subtask 3.2: Distribute Leave No Trace educator materials and participant packets.

Subtask 3.3: Lead two educational 2-day, 1-night backpacking adventures.

Task Deliverables: Gear logs, participant lists, sample educational materials, photos from events.

Task 4: Project Management and Evaluation

Saved By Nature will coordinate with the Authority's Project Manager to report progress, manage budget, and submit reimbursement requests.

Evaluation includes pre/post surveys, attendance logs, and final reporting.

Task Deliverables: Progress reports, invoices, subcontractor documentation, final evaluation report.

Does this project require permission, permits, or other approvals? If so, please describe the status of these.

Yes, this project requires permits and permissions for use of the sites where programming will be delivered. Saved By Nature will submit all necessary applications and pay associated fees to the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, California State Parks, Santa Clara County Parks, and the City of San José Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS). All required approvals will be obtained in a timely manner, and the project will comply with all local, state, and federal environmental and permitting requirements.

What is the lifetime of this project? If applicable, describe plans for operating and maintaining the project in the future.

The intended lifetime of this project as it relates to the grant is two years, from Spring 2026 through Spring 2028. Saved By Nature is committed to sustaining and expanding this programming beyond the grant period through a diversified funding portfolio that includes corporate and foundation grants, individual donor cultivation, and strategic partnerships with youth-serving organizations and environmental education agencies. We will continue to build on past successes, refine program delivery, and seek new funding opportunities to maintain and grow access to nature-based programming for underserved communities across Santa Clara County.

Describe the project's readiness for implementation.

This project is ready for implementation pending final approval of site-specific permits. Tentative hike dates, locations, and themes have been identified across Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority preserves, including twenty percent lands. Partner roles are confirmed, and curriculum development will begin immediately upon award. Outreach and advertising plans are in place, including bilingual materials and priority registration for DAC-designated neighborhoods. Funds are allocated, staffing is secured, and logistics systems are ready to activate. Saved By Nature is fully prepared to launch programming as soon as the grant is approved.

Project Budget

Budget Summary - Grant Request & Budget Summary - Matching Funds

Grant request: Personnel

\$46,875.80

Grant request: Contracted Services

\$7,080.00

Grant request: Supplies / Materials

\$12,352.00

Grant request: Other Direct Costs

\$6,353.85

Grant request: Indirect Costs

\$2,338.35

Total Matching Funds

\$18,824.04

Total Budget

\$75,000.00

Please upload a detailed version of your budget by accessing the link below:

UGP_Project_Budget_Template 2025 SBN.xlsx

Materials and Budget Template (item #9) found here: <https://www.openspaceauthority.org/programs/grant.html#Materials>

Provide a brief budget narrative to explain the expenses listed in each of the budget categories (e.g. Personnel).

Personnel

Personnel costs cover direct program delivery, planning, and administration. The Executive Director leads all programming, partner coordination, and grant reporting. Two part-time staff support lesson plan development, youth engagement, and event logistics. Rates are fully loaded to include salary, payroll taxes, and fringe benefits. The \$2,400 originally allocated to a grant manager has been reassigned to the Executive Director to reflect actual reporting responsibilities.

Contracted Services

Funds support partner-led programming through Wildlife Education & Rehabilitation Center (WERC), Garden to Table, and SF Bay Wildlife Society (SFBWS). Each partner delivers specialized environmental education aligned with program goals.

Supplies and Materials

Covers educational materials, art supplies, nature journaling kits, compost bin components, and safety gear for youth participants. Includes food and reusable items for hikes, overnight trips, and Hispanic Heritage events. All supplies are distributed across hikes, science sessions, and adventure outings.

Other Direct Costs

Includes charter bus transportation for field trips and overnight outings, vehicle mileage, parking, and site permits. These costs ensure safe access to open space and compliance with site-specific requirements.

Indirect Costs

Reflects administrative overhead including insurance, accounting, and general operations. The rate is 2.1% of the grant request, well within allowable limits for 501(c)(3) nonprofits.

Matching Funds

In-kind contributions include volunteer hours from Saved By Nature and Latino Outdoors, and partner staffing from Valley Water. All matching funds are secured and documented.

Award Amount: The Board reserves the right to award partial funding on projects. If your project were to receive partial funding, what would this mean for your project?

If awarded partial funding, Saved By Nature would scale the project accordingly while maintaining core program integrity. We would prioritize high-impact activities, reduce the number of hikes or science sessions if necessary, and seek additional funding to support full implementation. All deliverables would be adjusted to match available resources while preserving equitable access and educational value.

Project Goals

Describe the specific problems, issues, or unserved needs the project will address.

Underserved communities in Santa Clara Valley continue to face barriers to accessing nature and public lands, including lack of transportation, limited outdoor social networks, language access gaps, and a lack of culturally relevant programming. These barriers prevent families and youth from experiencing the physical, emotional, and cognitive benefits of nature, and contribute to underrepresentation in outdoor spaces and careers.

This project directly addresses those barriers through four integrated program tracks:

- Task 1: Guided Nature Walks for families and seniors, including bilingual naturalists, transportation, meals, and culturally relevant programming. Five of these hikes will feature climate-themed art projects that connect local environmental changes to global warming through storytelling and creative expression.
- Task 2: Summer Science Project for 3rd–5th grade youth, offering 70 hands-on environmental education sessions across seven Boys & Girls Clubhouses.
- Task 3: Alive Outside Adventure Series for high school youth, including orientation hikes, gear prep, and overnight backpacking trips to build confidence, leadership, and connection to nature.
- Task 4: Project Management and Evaluation, including pre/post surveys, attendance tracking, and final reporting.

All programming is free, ADA accessible when possible, and designed for first-time park visitors. Deliverables include participant lists, lesson plans, photos, gear logs, and evaluation data.

Measurable Goals and Outcomes:

- Number of people served: 2,236
- Number of youth served (under 18 years): 1,836
- Number of programs provided (in person/hybrid/virtual): 94 in-person programs
- Other Grantee Goal #1: Deliver 5 climate-themed hikes with integrated art projects focused on local and global environmental change
- Other Grantee Goal #2: Provide 70 environmental science sessions reaching 1,750 youth with hands-on nature education

This project provides clear social and environmental benefits by increasing equitable access to nature, fostering environmental stewardship, building climate awareness, and inspiring future outdoor leaders.

How does this project serve the community?

Number of people served

2,236

Number of youth served

1,836

Number of programs provided

94

Other Grantee Goal #1 (optional)

Other Grantee Goal #2 (optional)

Impact

Describe the lasting impact of the project. Please include whether the program is open to the public and whether any materials developed will be available to the public.

Saved By Nature's Cultural Competency Project will have a lasting social and environmental impact by expanding access to nature and interpreting open space as a strategy for climate resilience, stewardship, and cultural pride. Over two years, five integrated program elements will reach 2,236 youth, families, and community members across Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority preserves, including twenty percent lands. Programming is designed to remove barriers, build environmental literacy, and foster emotional connection to land.

Participants will gain confidence, skills, and a sense of belonging through guided hikes, science sessions, field trips, and overnight adventures. Five hikes will include climate-themed art projects such as nature journaling and collaborative murals, helping participants connect local environmental changes to global climate issues through creative expression. These experiences deepen climate literacy and empower participants to see themselves as part of the solution.

Youth will retain hiking boots, water bottles, and camping gear as tangible reminders of their growth and connection to nature. Families and seniors will experience nature together, often for the first time, and youth will build leadership skills and environmental awareness that extend beyond the grant period. The program also supports mental health by offering nature-based experiences shown to reduce stress, improve mood, and increase empathy and cooperation.

The program is open to the public, with priority registration for low-income families and underserved communities. Materials developed—including lesson plans, interpretive content, and climate-art activities—will be made available to the public through Saved By Nature's website and partner channels.

By partnering with community-based organizations and delivering inclusive, hands-on programming, this project creates pathways to environmental careers, strengthens cultural connection to land, and inspires future stewards of open space. The emotional resonance and social connection fostered through these experiences will continue to impact participants, volunteers, and staff long after the grant period ends.

Climate Resilience

How does this project enhance and/or raise awareness about climate resilience? Please include any metrics that can be used to help quantify or understand the climate benefits of the project.

Saved By Nature's Open Space and Climate Change initiative enhances climate resilience by increasing access to nature, deepening climate literacy, and preparing communities to understand and respond to climate change. Through guided hikes, after-school science sessions, and overnight youth adventures, participants explore how open space preserves buffer extreme weather, protect biodiversity, and serve as carbon sinks. Five climate-themed art hikes led by Saved By Nature staff member Eva Goldsberry use acrylics, markers, colored pencils, and gelli plates to interpret local climate change and the role of Santa Clara Valley's open space in carbon sequestration. Art becomes a tool of environmental interpretation, helping participants reflect on climate impacts and solutions through nature journaling and collaborative murals.

To quantify climate benefits and awareness, the project will incorporate pre- and post-hike electronic surveys measuring participant understanding of carbon and its role in climate resilience. The Alive Outside Adventure Series will include a facilitated campfire discussion on the difference between local climate change and global warming, followed by a post-series survey capturing youth reflections and feelings about the future. After-school science sessions will deliver NGSS-aligned curriculum through hands-on activities and art, with embedded learning checks and a target of 75 percent success rate on climate-related questions. All evaluation tools will be designed for accessibility and cultural relevance, and data will be compiled into a final report to assess climate literacy gains and community preparedness.

Community Engagement / Stakeholder Support / Community Building

Describe the community support and/or community engagement process. Please upload any community support letters in the Documents Upload section below.

Saved By Nature's *Open Space and Climate Change* initiative was developed through widespread community participation and reflects strong public support across Santa Clara Valley. Rooted in our Cultural Competency Project framework, the initiative centers equity, removes barriers, and builds lasting connection to land and climate action. Over two years, we will deliver five integrated program elements reaching 2,236 youth, families, and community members across Open Space Authority preserves, including twenty percent lands. Each element—from guided nature walks and summer science sessions to overnight youth adventures and Hispanic Heritage celebrations—was shaped by feedback from families, educators, and partner organizations.

Community engagement is embedded throughout the program design. Guided hikes begin and end with reflection circles that surface participant values and lived experiences. The Alive Outside Adventure Series includes bilingual parent meetings and campfire discussions that build trust and invite youth to share their perspectives on climate change. After-school field trips and science sessions are co-developed with partners such as the Boys & Girls Club of Silicon Valley, Valley Water, and SF Bay Wildlife Society, ensuring cultural relevance and educational alignment. All programming is free, bilingual, and ADA accessible when possible, with priority registration for low-income families.

Letters of support and commitment from community-based organizations, educators, and stakeholders—including the Boys & Girls Club of Silicon Valley, Youth Alliance, and local government staff—are included in the Documents Upload section of the application. These letters reflect deep collaboration and shared commitment to environmental justice, climate resilience, and inclusive access to open space.

Underserved Communities

Describe how the project addresses open space needs for sensitive populations such as residents of park-poor neighborhoods, underserved, or disadvantaged communities, youth, seniors, persons with disabilities, or is located within an under-resourced community.

Saved By Nature's Open Space and Climate Change initiative directly addresses open space needs for sensitive populations—including youth, seniors, persons with disabilities, and residents of park-poor and disadvantaged communities—by delivering free, bilingual, and ADA-accessible programming across multiple public lands and community sites located entirely within the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority's jurisdiction.

Using the Authority's Understanding Our Community resource and Map 3B, we've aligned our programming with Deep Engagement Communities (DECs) and Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) based on median income data:

Guided Nature Walks & Program Sites

- Alum Rock Park (San Jose) and Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve serve residents of DEC #3 and #4 and are adjacent to deeply disadvantaged census tracts outlined in orange
- Alviso Adobe Park (Milpitas) serves DEC #1 and is surrounded by DAC-designated neighborhoods
- Martial Cottle County Park (San Jose) and Edith Morley Park (Campbell) are near DAC census tracts and serve low-income families from surrounding neighborhoods
- Coyote Valley, Rancho Cañada del Oro, Little Uvas, and Máyyan 'Ooyákma – Coyote Ridge serve youth and families from Morgan Hill and South County, including DEC #6 and DAC zones identified via Community FactFinder
- Henry W. Coe State Park supports deeper engagement for youth from DAC-designated areas through overnight programming

Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley Clubhouses

- Alviso, Smythe, Levin, Alum Rock, Si Se Puede, Mateo Sheedy, and Morgan Hill Clubhouses are located in or adjacent to DAC census tracts and serve youth eligible for Title 1 programs and free/reduced lunch under federal poverty guidelines
- These sites are central to our recruitment strategy and provide direct access to youth from under-resourced communities

Alive Outside Adventure Series

- Delivered at Rancho Cañada del Oro, Uvas County Park, and Henry W. Coe, this series provides outdoor skills training, mentorship, and gear—all free of charge—to 36 high school-aged youth from DAC and DEC zones

Hispanic Heritage Celebrations

- Hosted at Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve, these events connect Latino cultural identity to climate resilience through music, storytelling, and guided hikes—serving families from DEC #3 and DAC-designated neighborhoods

After-School Field Trips

- Held at Coyote Valley and Rancho Cañada del Oro, these trips provide transportation, meals, and custom lesson plans for youth from DAC census tracts in Morgan Hill and San Jose

All programming is designed to be welcoming, trauma-informed, and barrier-free. Participants are recruited through partnerships with the Boys & Girls Club of Silicon Valley, Youth Alliance, and Eden Housing, serving families earning 60 percent or less of the Area Median Income. According to U.S. Census Bureau data and CalEnviroScreen overlays, the majority of our catchment areas fall below 80 percent of California's median household income of \$78,672.

The initiative also provides skills development and job training pathways for youth and underserved populations. The Alive Outside Adventure Series teaches backpacking, Leave No Trace principles, and plant identification. Youth receive mentorship and exposure to professional roles in the outdoor sector—building confidence, competence, and interest in environmental careers.

By aligning with DECs, targeting DAC census tracts, and embedding skills development into every track, this initiative ensures that sensitive populations are not only served but empowered to connect with nature, build climate literacy, and explore professional opportunities in open space.

Organizational Capacity

Briefly describe the organization and its ability to successfully implement this project. This might include successful past projects, key staff qualifications, financial resources, etc.

Saved By Nature is a trusted, community-rooted nonprofit with the resources, capacity, and expertise to successfully implement the Open Space and Climate Change initiative. Since 2019, we have delivered high-impact programming across Santa Clara Valley, serving over 11,746 individuals through guided hikes, environmental education, and virtual nature experiences. As of September 2025, we have:

- Led 4,985 community members on outdoor adventures
- Guided 1,094 seniors on health-focused hikes
- Delivered environmental education to 5,667 youth

These outcomes reflect our ability to plan, execute, and scale inclusive programming that meets the needs of underserved communities while advancing the mission of equitable access to open space.

Our financial resources include support from individual donors, foundation partners, and public agencies. We have successfully secured and managed funding from the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, Valley Water, Santa Clara County Parks, and other government entities. Funds have been allocated for this project, and our team is prepared to meet all reporting and compliance requirements. Saved By Nature holds a Silver Seal of Transparency from Candid and has received a Certificate of Recognition from the California State Senate for our impact and leadership in environmental equity.

Founder and Executive Director Richard Tejada, brings over 16 years of experience in environmental education, outreach, and public agency collaboration. He holds degrees in Park Management (West Valley College) and Environmental Studies with a minor in Sustainable Water Resources (San Jose State University), and a Nonprofit Leadership Certificate from the Center for Nonprofit Excellence (CEN). Richard has led inclusive programming for California State Parks, Santa Clara County Parks, and Guadalupe River Park Conservancy. He is the first person in Santa Clara County recognized by the Superior Court for using nature to earn his Certificate of Rehabilitation, and his work has been honored with the 2020 Environmentalist of the Year Award and the 2022 Community Hero Award.

Interpretive Programs Assistant Eva Goldsberry supports educational programming, outreach, and creative initiatives with warmth and reliability. A 2025 graduate of UC Santa Barbara, Eva holds a degree in Art with a minor in History of Art and Architecture. She joined Saved By Nature through the County of Santa Clara's Intern and Earn program and now plays a key role in delivering climate-art programming and youth engagement.

To further strengthen our capacity, we are currently recruiting for a full-time Natural & Cultural Interpreter—a key staff position identified in our grant budget. This role will be filled by January 2026 and will support interpretive programming, community engagement, and curriculum development across all five program elements.

Together, our team combines lived experience, technical expertise, and deep community trust. We are fully prepared to implement this project with fidelity, transparency, and measurable outcomes. References from partner organizations—including the Boys & Girls Club of Silicon Valley, Youth Alliance, and Santa Clara County Parks—are available upon request.

Leadership & Innovation

Describe how this project employs innovative approaches or encourages collaboration and partnerships.

Saved By Nature's Open Space and Climate Change initiative builds on our Cultural Competency Project to deliver inclusive, equity-centered programming that advances climate resilience, environmental education, and community stewardship across Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority preserves. Over two years, we will engage 2,236 youth, families, and community members through five integrated program elements—each designed to remove barriers, center cultural relevance, and model innovation in open space access.

Innovative Approaches Advancing Climate Resilience and Environmental Education

- Efficiency & Access: All programs are free and include transportation, meals, and gear—removing cost, transit, and equipment barriers for low-income families.
- Climate-Art Integration: Five guided hikes include nature journaling and collaborative murals, blending science, storytelling, and creative expression to reinforce climate literacy.
- Rotating Education Model: The Summer Science Project uses a multi-agency rotation across seven Boys & Girls Clubhouses, reducing emissions and increasing efficiency by eliminating participant transport.
- Trauma-Informed Design: Programs begin with grounding circles and end with reflection, creating space for emotional connection and climate dialogue.
- Career Pathways: The Alive Outside Adventure Series teaches outdoor skills, Leave No Trace principles, and plant identification while introducing youth to careers in parks and conservation.

Confirmed Collaborations Driving Conservation Leadership

This initiative is powered by sustained partnerships with:

- Valley Water
- Garden to Table
- Wildlife Education & Rehabilitation Center
- Youth Alliance
- Boys & Girls Club of Silicon Valley
- San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Latino Outdoors
- Ensamble Folklórico
- Bay Area Ridge Trail

Each partner contributes curriculum, staffing, outreach, cultural programming, or ecological expertise. These collaborations ensure that programming is scientifically sound, culturally relevant, and community-driven. By integrating public agency expertise, nonprofit leadership, and grassroots engagement, Saved By Nature models best practices in conservation and environmental education.

Partner letters are included in the Documents Upload section.

Documents Section

Document Uploads (please combine into one file if possible)

Youth Alliance - Saved By Nature Letter of Support.pdf

Additional files (if needed)

Transportation – SBN Vehicle Use.pdf

Additional files (if needed)

Boys_&_Girls_Club_-_Saved_By_Nature_Letter_of_Support.pdf

Submitted Date - Internal

Summary Field:

Name: Average Score (no bonus)

Form: Staff Review

Summary Type: average

Field: Base Score Total

Decimal: 2

Currency: No

Description/Help Text: NONE

Short Name: NONE

Field Purpose: NONE

Filter:

- ALL:
 - isComplete | is | true

Summary Field:

Name: Total Count of Submitted Reviews

Form: Staff Review

Summary Type: count

Field: NONE

Decimal: NONE

Currency: No

Description/Help Text: NONE

Short Name: NONE

Field Purpose: NONE

Filter:

- ALL:
 - isComplete | is | true
 - Folder | is | Submitted

Program Application: File Attachments

Please upload a detailed version of your budget by accessing the link below:

UGP_Project_Budget_Template 2025 SBN.xlsx

Document Uploads (please combine into one file if possible)

Youth Alliance - Saved By Nature Letter of Support.pdf

Additional files (if needed)

Transportation – SBN Vehicle Use.pdf

Additional files (if needed)

Boys_&_Girls_Club_-_Saved_By_Nature_Letter_of_Support.pdf

Instructions

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority | 2025 Urban Grant Program

INSTRUCTIONS

Please provide a detailed project budget. More information, including a detailed list of direct and indirect costs, is available in the Urban Grant Program Guidelines (<http://www.openspaceauthority.org/urban>). A sample budget is included in a separate tab.

The Budget Form in a separate tab in this document. The budget categories are listed below with a description of each field.

PROJECT

Project Name: The name of the project

Organization: The name of the organization requesting funding

PERSONNEL

Estimate employee and volunteer time directly related to the project. Hourly rates for employees can include salary plus fringe benefits, payroll tax, etc, but can not include indirect costs. Note: please list position titles only.

Position title: Title of each employee working directly on this project. Note: please list position title only.

Description of Budget Item: The amount of time (e.g. hours) and the hourly rate for each employee. Hourly rates can include salary plus fringe benefits, payroll taxes, etc, but can NOT include indirect costs. Please provide adequate detail to show how totals were calculated.

Grant Request: The amount requested from this Grant (if applicable).

Matching Funds: The amount funded through matching funds (if applicable).

Total: This column will be automatically calculated.

CONTRACTED SERVICES

Labor, supplies, and materials to be provided by consultants/contractors for project implementation.

Item: The item listed

Description of Budget Item: Please provide a description of the item with adequate detail to show how totals were calculated.

Instructions

Grant Request:	The amount requested from this Grant (if applicable).
Matching Funds:	The amount funded through matching funds (if applicable).
Total:	This column will be automatically calculated.
SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	
Supplies and materials that are <u>directly related</u> to the project.	
Item:	The item listed
Description of Budget Item:	Please provide a description of the item with adequate detail to show how totals were calculated.
Grant Request:	The amount requested from this Grant (if applicable).
Matching Funds:	The amount funded through matching funds (if applicable).
Total:	This column will be automatically calculated.
OTHER DIRECT COSTS	
Other direct costs that are <u>directly related</u> to the project. This might include travel, service fees for fiscal sponsorship, or newly-acquired equipment.	
Item:	The item listed
Description of Budget Item:	Please provide a description of the item with adequate detail to show how totals were calculated.
Grant Request:	The amount requested from this Grant (if applicable).
Matching Funds:	The amount funded through matching funds (if applicable).
Total:	This column will be automatically calculated.
INDIRECT COSTS	
Indirect costs are eligible for grant funding only for 501(c)(3) Nonprofits and are <u>limited to 20%</u> of grant funding. Indirect costs cannot be counted as matching funds.	
Item:	20% Administrative overhead for Nonprofits
Description of Budget Item:	Any additional description
Grant Request:	The amount requested from this Grant (if applicable).
	The percent of grant funding
Total:	This column will be automatically calculated.

Instructions

GRAND TOTAL	
Grant Request:	This column will be automatically calculated.
Matching Funds:	This column will be automatically calculated.
Total:	This column will be automatically calculated.
COST SHARE	
A minimum of 25% of grant request in matching funds is required. A project budget with less than 25% of the grant request in matching funds does NOT meet the grant requirements and will not be considered for funding.	
Matching Funds:	This column will be automatically calculated.
MATCHING FUNDS	
Please describe the source of matching funds listed above. This might include cash match (e.g. grantee's own funds, donations, grants, etc) or in-kind match (non-cash contribution such as volunteer time).	
Source:	The source of funding (e.g. In-kind contributions, Organization's contributions, Donations, Grant, etc.).
Description:	Any additional description.
Type of Match (cash or in-kind)	Indicate whether the funding is cash or in-kind match.
Status of match (Secured or Pending)	Indicate whether the matching funds are secured or pending.
Matching Funds:	The amount funded through matching funds.

Budget Form

					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
	TOTAL OTHER DIRECT COSTS		\$ 6,353.85	\$ -	\$ 6,353.85
	INDIRECT COSTS				
Indirect costs are eligible for grant funding only for 501(c)(3) Nonprofits and are <u>limited to 20%</u> of grant funding. Indirect costs cannot be counted as matching funds.					
	Item	Description of Budget Item	Grant Request (\$)	Matching Funds (\$)	Total
	Insurance	General Liability	\$ 2,338.35	n/a	\$ 2,338.35
	TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS		\$ 2,338.35	n/a	\$ 2,338.35
	PERCENT OF GRANT REQUEST		3.1%	n/a	n/a
	GRAND TOTAL				
			Grant Request (\$)	Matching Funds (\$)	Total
	TOTALS		\$ 75,000.00	\$ -	\$ 75,000.00
	COST SHARE				
					Matching Funds (%)
	A minimum of 25% of grant request in matching funds may be required. This field is automatically calculated.				0.0%
	MATCHING FUNDS				
Please describe the source of matching funds listed above. The total matching funds listed here should match the total matching funds listed under Grand Total above. This might include cash match (e.g. grantee's own funds, donations, grants, etc) or in-kind match (non-cash contribution such as volunteer time).					
	Source	Description	Type of Match (cash or in-kind)	Status of match (Secured or Pending)	Matching Funds (\$)
	Saved By Nature	Volunteer Hours -Day Hikes: 2 hikes/year x 2 years x 2 volunteers x 4 hours/event = 32 hours -Overnight Trips: 1 overnight trip/year x 2 years x 2 volunteers x 30 hours/event = 120 hours Total In-Kind Volunteer Time: 152 hours x \$33.49	in-kind	Secured	\$ 5,090.48
	Valley Water	Summer Science Project – Partner In-Kind Staffing - 14 events x 4 Valley Water staff x 3 hours/event = 168 hours Total Partner-Contributed Time: 168 hours x \$33.49	in-kind	Secured	\$ 5,626.32
	Saved By Nature	Community Hikes – In-Kind Volunteer Hours - 10 hikes x 2 Saved By Nature volunteers x 6 hours/event = 120 hours Total In-Kind Volunteer Time: 120 hours x \$33.49	in-kind	Secured	\$ 4,018.80
	Latino Outdoors	Hispanic Heritage Celebration – In-Kind Volunteer & Staff Time - 2 Latino staff and volunteer x 14 hours/event x 2 years = 56 hours Total In-Kind Time Contributed: 56 hours x \$33.49	in-kind	Secured	\$ 1,875.44

Sample Budget

				\$ -
TOTAL PERSONNEL		\$ 15,000.00	\$ 5,692.00	\$ 20,692.00
CONTRACTED SERVICES				
Labor, supplies, and materials to be provided by consultants/contractors for project implementation.				
Item	Description of Budget Item	Grant Request (\$)	Matching Funds (\$)	Total
Evaluation Consultant	20 hours @ \$100/hr. Consultant will design an evaluation of XYZ project and train staff on implementing the evaluation.	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
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				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
TOTAL CONTRACTED SERVICES		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS				
Supplies and materials that are <u>directly related</u> to the project.				
Item	Description of Budget Item	Grant Request (\$)	Matching Funds (\$)	Total
Training materials	Training binder and name badges for 50 volunteers @ \$10 per person	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00

Sample Budget

				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
TOTAL OTHER DIRECT COSTS		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
INDIRECT COSTS				
Indirect costs are eligible for grant funding only for 501(c)(3) Nonprofits and are <u>limited to 20%</u> of grant funding. Indirect costs cannot be counted as matching funds.				
Item	Description of Budget Item	Grant Request (\$)	Matching Funds (\$)	Total
10% Administrative overhead for Nonprofits		\$ 880.00	n/a	\$ 880.00
TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS		\$ 880.00	n/a	\$ 880.00
PERCENT OF GRANT REQUEST		4.8%	n/a	n/a
GRAND TOTAL				
		Grant Request (\$)	Matching Funds (\$)	Total
TOTALS		\$ 18,480.00	\$ 6,692.00	\$ 25,172.00
COST SHARE				
				Matching Funds (cash or in-kind)
A minimum of 25% of grant request in matching funds may be required.				36.21%
MATCHING FUNDS				
Please describe the source of matching funds listed above. The total matching funds listed here should match the total matching funds listed under Grand Total above. This might include cash match (e.g. grantee's own funds, donations, grants, etc) or in-kind match (non-cash contribution such as volunteer time).				



Lillian Silva
South County Program Director
(831) 537.3566 | lillian@youthall.org | Youthall.org
310 4th St., Ste 101 Hollister, CA 95023

October 9, 2025

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
Attn: Grant Review Committee

Dear Review Committee,

I'm writing with heartfelt support for Saved By Nature's application to the Open Space and Climate Change grant. As Program Director at Youth Alliance Gilroy, I've had the honor of partnering with Saved By Nature to bring their Alive Outside Adventure Series to our youth—and I can tell you, it's more than a program. It's a life-changing experience.

Many of our youth have never camped, hiked, or felt safe in open space. Saved By Nature removes every barrier—transportation, gear, food, and fear—and replaces it with mentorship, cultural connection, and hands-on learning. Their bilingual parent meetings build trust. Their orientation hikes teach skills and confidence. And their overnight trips create memories that last a lifetime.

What stands out most is their commitment to equity and healing. Our youth return from these outings with a deeper sense of belonging, pride, and stewardship.

We fully support Saved By Nature's grant application and look forward to continuing this powerful partnership.

With gratitude,

Lillian Silva
South County Programs Director
Youth Alliance

Transportation – SBN Vehicle Use

Program Area	Destination / Site	# of Trips	Total Miles	Cost @ \$0.70/mi
Community Nature Hikes	Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve	1	30	\$21.00
	Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve	1	26	\$18.20
	Martial Cottle County Park (includes pre trip)	2	50	\$35.00
	Edith Morley Park (includes pre trip)	2	5	\$3.50
	Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve (includes pre trip)	2	68	\$47.60
	Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve	1	40	\$28.00
	Little Uvas Open Space Preserve	1	50	\$35.00
	Alum Rock Park	1	24	\$16.80
	Alviso Adobe	1	36	\$25.20
	Henry W. Coe State Park	1	80	\$56.00
	Subtotal		409	\$286.30
Summer Science Project Visits	Alviso Clubhouse	2	46	\$32.20
	Morgan Hill Clubhouse	2	84	\$58.80
	Si Se Puede Clubhouse	2	40	\$28.00
	Mateo Sheedy Clubhouse	2	36	\$25.20
	Alum Rock Clubhouse	2	48	\$33.60
	Smythe Clubhouse	2	52	\$36.40

	Levin Clubhouse	2	56	\$39.20
	Subtotal		362	\$253.40
After-School Field Trips	Rancho Cañada del Oro	1	42	\$29.40
	Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve	1	30	\$21.00
	Subtotal		72	\$50.40
Alive Outside Adventure Series	Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve	2	68	\$47.60
	Uvas Open Space Preserve	2	100	\$70.00
	Henry W. Coe State Park	2	160	\$112.00
	Subtotal		328	\$229.60
Hispanic Heritage Celebration	Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve	2	80	\$56.00
	Subtotal		80	\$56.00
TOTAL			1,251	\$875.70



Fred McCasland
Director of Program Services
Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley
408.957.9685 | fred.mccasland@bgclub.org
www.BGClub.org

October 9, 2025

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
Attn: Grant Review Committee

Dear Review Committee,

I'm writing in strong support of Saved By Nature's application to the Open Space and Climate Change grant. As Programs Director for the Boys & Girls Club of Silicon Valley, I've had the pleasure of partnering with Saved By Nature to deliver high-impact environmental education to youth across seven of our clubhouses.

Their Summer Science Project is a standout. Over 14 weeks, our youth engage in hands-on, NGSS-aligned activities—from building watershed models and compost bins to observing live-animal presentations and exploring bay ecosystems. These sessions are tactile, and joyful. They spark curiosity and connect our youth to nature in ways that are both educational and healing.

Saved By Nature also leads after-school field trips that introduce our youth to open space preserves—many for the first time. Their staff create custom lesson plans that address common fears, teach wildlife identification, and build confidence in the outdoors. Transportation, meals, and gear are provided at no cost, removing every barrier to participation.

We are proud to collaborate with Saved By Nature and fully support their grant application.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

F41C362C93CC4F8...

10/10/2025

Fred McCasland
Director of Program Services
Boys & Girls Club of Silicon Valley