2019 marked the 37th year of Friends of the Dunes serving northern California's diverse communities and coastal environments. Since our founding in 1982, many aspects of our organization have remained consistent, including our dedication to providing quality community and school education programs and engaging the community in stewardship of coastal dune environments.

**SCHOOL EDUCATION**

In 2019, Friends of the Dunes offered 6 field-based education programs: Bay to Dunes, Cows & Cattails, Coastal Stewards, Adopt a Dune, Intertidal Exploration, and Kids Ocean Day. In total, these programs served 2,098 students from 31 different schools. Funding from grants, individual donors, business partners, and fundraisers allowed Friend of the Dunes to waive $4,220 in field trip fees, and award $11,701 in bus scholarships. A total of 59 volunteers contributed over 1,010 hours to our school education programs in 2019.

“**The Bay to Dunes education program supports classroom lessons in both science and social studies. It supports students in learning about local ecosystems, including plants, habitats, and watersheds. It also helps students to learn about historical aspects of land use; how planting invasive species impacts ecosystems and the environment. Thank you so much!”**

– Alissa Stone, 4th Grade Teacher, Ambrosini Elementary School

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

We love connecting our community to the wonders of coastal environments, and we do so in multiple, creative ways. In 2019 we:

- Coordinated 21 free guided walks, with 180 people in attendance
- Organized a Coastal Naturalist Training for the community that trained 12 new California Naturalists
- Provided family focused programs that brought 88 participants to 10 monthly Nature Story Time Programs
- Hosted 8 public events at the Nature Center and in the community, ranging from celebrations of public art to scientific forums focusing on dune ecosystem management
- Over 20 volunteers contributed 340 hours while leading and assisting with our community education programs. In total we provided 45 events for the community with 689 participants
LAND STEWARDSHIP

Funding from private donors and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), as well as C&K Johnson Industries and Green Diamond Resource Company, supported our volunteer coastal dune habitat restoration programs in 2019. Stewardship activities in 2019 expanded beyond our own property through a partnership with the BLM to bring community-supported habitat restoration to Ma-le'l Dunes South. In total, we trained, mobilized, and empowered 378 individual participants to contribute 1,030 hours of service accomplishing coastal dune habitat restoration.

For our core group of volunteers, we held 14 Dune Ecosystem Restoration Team (DERT) workdays that contributed 462 volunteer hours. Our Special Events including the Lupine Bash and hosting traveling service and educational groups, contributed an additional 378 hours. The Drop-in and Native Landscaping programs contributed at least 190 volunteer hours.

In 2019, Friends of the Dunes continued a 3-year mitigation contract with PG&E to restore 2 acres of backdune habitat. This project is focused on increasing populations of the listed dark-eyed gilia (Gilia millefoliata) by removing annual grass and spreading gilia seed. Two seasonal interns help with this project, which also includes monitoring and surveying.

"I think the only way anything really changes is by community members joining together and doing shared work. That idea of people rolling up their sleeves and working toward a common goal is the starting point for how Friends of the Dunes' stewardship programs engage our community."
– Dante Ryman, Restoration Coordinator

SPONSORED PROGRAMS

Friends of the Dunes continues to support a variety of ambitious allied projects on the North Coast, serving as a fiscal sponsor for these projects. One of these sponsored programs is the Humboldt Coastal Resilience Project, a multi-year dune habitat and geomorphology study that is looking at the potential impacts of sea level rise and climate change to coastal dune habitats and examining the role of restoration in creating resilience for dune ecosystems. In 2019, project partners completed the fourth year of data collection to monitor foredune height and movement along the entire 32-mile littoral cell, established a second adaptation site within the Lanphere Dunes to monitor sand movement based on vegetation type, began modeling responses to sea-level rise and extreme weather events, and continued ongoing outreach efforts to share preliminary findings.

Another prominent sponsored program is the Tolowa Dunes Stewards, who work on coastal education and stewardship programs in Del Norte County. Tolowa Dunes Stewards were very active in 2019, continuing their amazing work restoring habitat in the Tolowa Dunes near Lake Earl and engaging diverse northern California communities in environmental education and stewardship programs. We are proud to continue to support their work as a fiscal sponsor!
HUMBOLDT COASTAL NATURE CENTER

The Humboldt Coastal Nature Center continues to be a welcoming place with over 3,700 visitors coming to see, experience and learn about coastal environments while exploring the dunes and the Nature Center. Visitors came from all over North America representing 40 different states and several Canadian provinces, as well as outside of the country, from New Zealand to Hungary.

2019 PROGRAMS & OPERATIONS

INCOME: $473,769 TOTAL

- GRANTS & CONTRACTS - 15.6%
- PROGRAM INCOME - 4.8%
- DONATIONS AND EVENTS - 19.8%
- FISCAL SPONSORSHIPS* - 59.9%

EXPENSES: $462,095 TOTAL

- PROGRAMS - 27.7%
- ADMINISTRATION - 8.2%
- FISCAL SPONSORSHIPS* - 55.6%
- FUNDRAISING - 8.6%

*INCLUDES HUMBOLDT COASTAL RESILIENCE PROJECT & TOLOWA DUNES STEWARDS
THANK YOU 2019 BUSINESS PARTNERS!
Support us by supporting our Business Partners

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