

2024

Friends of Edgewood Project 467 Report



Project 467, Friends of Edgewood's overarching habitat restoration program,

was conceived in 2019. The goal of Project 467 is to conserve endangered species and restore our grasslands to their former floral beauty and biodiversity.

As we head into our seventh year, we wanted to give you an update on what has been accomplished so far.

Project 467 delivers on FoE's mission to protect Edgewood's extraordinary biodiversity and foster lasting connections with Edgewood and the larger natural world.



Here is a rundown of our work in 2024:

- More than 20 Weed Warriors led by Paul Heiple and Alf Fengler contributed over 1,500 volunteer hours hand-pulling weeds to help control invasive plants in Edgewood's grasslands and oak woodlands.
- We continue our work with [Creekside Science](#) to restore the federally listed San Mateo thornmint, white-rayed pentachaeta, and Bay checkerspot butterfly.
- San Mateo thornmint conservation has been amazingly successful. In 2008, there were only 249 known plants in the world, all found at Edgewood. By 2024, our population has increased to about 40,000 plants!
- FoE was awarded a highly-coveted Section 6 grant from USFWS to prevent the "extinction of white-rayed pentachaeta through propagation and seeding." The grant runs from 2025 through 2027 and will be executed by Creekside. Pentachaeta seeds have already been installed in a handful of locations within Edgewood.
- We continue to monitor the Bay checkerspot butterfly population at Edgewood. Sadly, no butterflies were sighted in 2024, but we remain optimistic.
- In 2024, we pivoted from continuing hydromechanical pulverization (HMP) treatments, a novel approach developed by Creekside to restore fertile grasslands. While the results were promising from this 4-year experiment, we deemed that the methodology was no longer feasible because of its cost and lack of scalability. Instead, we initiated a new experiment that we have dubbed Green Grass 2.0.

Our ambitious goal is to restore 50 acres of Edgewood's fertile grasslands to 75% native cover by 2050.

Green Grass 2.0

Our hypothesis is that native grasses and forbs outcompete non-native grasses and forbs in fertile grasslands that have been dethatched and treated with other methods such as native seeding, mowing, and/or graminicide within 3 years.

This approach combines hand raking, mechanical dethatching, and hand seeding. Friends of Edgewood volunteers contributed 788 hours of labor for this effort from 10/2023 through 12/2024. In 2024, program costs were \$10,600, which included equipment rental and commercial seed.

We have been at this since 2022 and currently have a little over 2.4 acres of fertile grasslands under management. So far, results look good, but this natural approach to restoration will take time. Success of Green Grass 2.0 will depend on ongoing support from our dedicated volunteers and member donations.



788 hours of
volunteer labor for
GG 2.0 2024



Equipment rental and
seed costs were
\$10,600 in 2024



211 pounds of native
plant seeds spread
in 2024



- Edgewood Farms continues to supply seeds for various FoE projects. We used yarrow and common madia seeds from the farm this year for Green Grass 2.0. Farm manager Perry McCarty produced a bumper crop of San Francisco collinsia seeds that our TERTELS team is using to expand the very isolated population of this rare plant.
- TERTELS aims to map and conserve The Edgewood Rare, Threatened, Endangered, and Locally-Significant plant species throughout the preserve. Program coordinator James Higbie and his team continue to locate and document previously unknown populations of various species. They have also begun a program to expand the population of the rare fragrant fritillary, and to plant valley oak acorns in an effort to recover the disturbance from the shaded fuel break that was done back in 2022.
- Other P467 programs include our camera trappers, coordinated by Laurie Alexander, who helped document wildlife activity in the Preserve, our bluebird monitors, led by Frances Morse, who reported another successful year of 85% fledglings, and our native garden, where Howie Smith continues to showcase Edgewood's native plants.





Thank you!

Edgewood has an incredible amount of biodiversity packed into 467 acres, but that biodiversity requires help from us Friends. Even though we rely heavily on our wonderful volunteers, we must hire commercial restorationists, rent equipment, and purchase supplemental seeds from commercial growers, all of which can be very expensive.

If you would like to support our habitat restoration work, please make a donation at [FriendsofEdgewood.org/donate](https://www.friendsofEdgewood.org/donate). You may even choose to direct your donation to Project 467.

Thank you for your support of Edgewood Park & Natural Preserve.

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