

2025 Impact Report



**re:wild
your campus**

rewildyourcampus.org



Re:wild Your Campus is transforming the land care paradigm and cultivating next-generation leaders to create climate-resilient, biodiverse campus landscapes, for all wildkind.

We envision a regenerative world with restored relations between people and planet.



Join us for the wildkind.
rewildyourcampus.org



Table of Contents

Co-Directors’ Letter	4
Letter of Support	6
Impact Summary	8
Where You Can Find Us	10
Green Grounds Certification	12
Green Grounds Feature: UC Berkeley	13
Organic Pilot Program	14
Organic Pilot Feature: Stanford University	15
Rewilding	16
Campus Spotlight: UTRGV	18
Ground Up Advocacy Bootcamp	20
Conferences, Events & Speaking Engagements	22
Lollapalooza	24
Amber Waves Fundraiser	25
Leadership Retreat	26
Press	28
Media Spotlight: Forbes 30 Under 30	29
Our Team	30
Partners	32
With Gratitude to our Donors	34

Co-Directors' Letter

When we assess the state of the world, from the poisoned soils beneath our feet to the catastrophic floods and hurricanes, it's natural to feel overwhelmed, especially when political will is not matching the urgency of the crisis. When we hear our community voice concerns about their powerlessness, we like to remind folks to go back to asking the simple question: **What can I do right here, where I stand?**

That's the question that started Re:wild Your Campus, and it's the one that continues to guide our work today. While people in power may stop caring, it doesn't mean that the poisoning and the pollution stops. The spraying doesn't stop, the harm doesn't stop. But here's the good news: neither do we. We don't wait for permission or a more responsive EPA. We don't wait for a deeply entrenched system to radically change. We create the change from the ground up.

This year, we've seen students and groundskeepers across the country

come together to transform their campuses into living examples of what's possible: thriving ecosystems that nourish biodiversity, protect health, and restore connection between people and the land. That's what this movement is really about: transformation that starts small, but ripples up, out, and around in every direction. The real key lies here: **Once you realize that you possess the power to shift the landscape beneath your feet, you begin to realize that you might just be able to change anything.**

Our work has always been rooted in relationships between students, staff, and the often-overlooked grounds crews who care for our campuses every day. Together, we're proving that care for the land is care for one another.

This year also marked the first full year during which we led RYC together, as co-directors — a model that reflects the very values we champion: collaboration, resilience, and shared stewardship. Leading side by side has strengthened not only our



Mackenzie and Sheina at the Re:wild Your Campus summer fundraiser in August. The fundraiser took place at Amber Waves Farm in Amagansett New York.

organization, but the movement as a whole.

We know the challenges ahead remain daunting — climate extremes, regulatory setbacks, and ongoing environmental harm. But our movement is persistent, creative, and deeply rooted. We're building something lasting: a network of changemakers who believe in a different way of caring

for the Earth and for each other.

Thank you for believing in this work, for standing with us, and for helping rewild the future — one campus, one community, one act of courage at a time!

With gratitude,
**Sheina Crystal and
Mackenzie Feldman**
Co-Directors, Re:wild Your Campus

Letter of Support

To the Re:wild Your Campus Community,

As we approach the close of 2025, I'd like to share some reflections, good news, and an invitation to continue growing a movement that's changing how we care for both people and the planet.

Many of you already know the extraordinary story of Re:wild Your Campus, a movement that began in 2017 as a student-led effort at UC Berkeley. What started as a handful of determined students advocating for change has blossomed into a powerful, national force for ecological health, youth leadership, and environmental justice.

I've had the pleasure of knowing Mackenzie since RYC's inception, and can speak personally to her tenacity, creativity, and devotion to building an organization rooted in integrity and goodness. Over the last eight years, I've had the privilege of watching her vision—and this movement—grow into a thriving network that empowers young leaders, eliminates toxic pesticides, fosters environmental and human health, and champions climate-resilient, organic land care

on campuses and beyond.

At the Stupski Foundation, we are deeply proud to have stood beside Re:wild Your Campus as partners on this journey. Since 2022, through our Food Justice Program, we've provided unrestricted support to help fuel this work as part of our foundation's strategic spenddown and sunset. In 2025, we are honored to make our final gift—a contribution that reflects not only our belief in Re:wild Your Campus, but also our trust in the movement's continued growth and momentum.

We believe deeply in the power of youth organizing and in the promise of an intergenerational movement where students and groundskeepers stand shoulder to shoulder, driving real and lasting change.

This work reaches far beyond transforming landscapes—it's about transforming people. It's about shifting power, cultivating leadership, and equipping a new generation of organizers with the skills, confidence, and imagination to re-envision environmental systems nationwide.

While this report highlights the impact made in 2025, its story is part of a much longer legacy, one that continues to shape the field in profound and lasting ways.

As the Stupski Foundation completes its final chapter, we hope others will join us in sustaining this visionary work. Your support, whether it be through partnership, funding, or amplifying the message, ensures that Re:wild Your Campus can continue empowering young leaders and transforming campuses into living models of ecological stewardship. The pendulum is swinging toward justice, and RYC is one of those special organizations leading the way.

We are proud to have been part of this journey, and even prouder to know that it will continue—stronger, broader, and more deeply rooted than ever before.



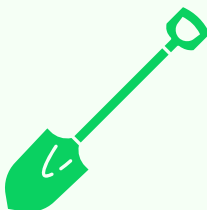
Aileen Suzara
Director of Food Justice
Stupski Foundation

Impact Summary



17

Institutions certified with Green Grounds Certification



5

Organic pilot programs



300

Students reached with our Ground Up Advocacy Bootcamps



70+

Campus staff reached with our Summer Webinar Series

“Re:wild Your Campus’ work is **game-changing** for individuals and institutions alike. They are setting up the path for future transformation for all college campuses and beyond. I am a huge **believer of their work and leadership.**”

Zainab Salbi, co-founder of Daughters for Earth

Where You Can Find Us



We are also working with students and/or supporting staff at: Austin Community College, Berry College, California Polytechnic State Institute, California State University Los Angeles, Florida Gulf Coast University, Kennesaw State University, Loyola New Orleans, New Mexico State University, Pomona College, Punahou School, San Jose State University, Santa Clara University, Texas Christian University, University of Arizona, University of California Irvine, University of Delaware, University of Hawaii Maui College, University of Hawaii at Manoa, University of Kansas, University of Oklahoma, University of Pittsburgh Bradford, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Virginia Commonwealth University, Xavier University

Green Grounds Certification

In 2023 we introduced our Green Grounds Certification, a groundbreaking certification that established a new standard for sustainable collegiate land care. With four levels (Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum), our Certification recognizes schools that are proactively reducing their synthetic pesticide use, increasing native plantings, and moving toward climate-resilient land care practices.

Since we launched the Certification two years ago we have certified 17 institutions: 13 schools, and 4 non school institutions.



Our Certification Advisory Board:

- Barry Draycott
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- Fred Newcombe
- Vanessa Handy
- Eric O'Brien

Certified Campuses

Platinum Level

- Cascadia College
- UW Bothell
- Seattle University
- UT Austin Dell Medical School
- Amber Waves Farm
- Hungerford Nature Center
- Prescott College

Gold Level:


- St Edward's University
- UC Berkeley
- Hillfield Strathallan College
- LA Natural History Museum
- UMass Amherst
- UCLA


Silver Level:

- Drexel University
- Grant Park, Chicago

Bronze Level

- University of Northern Iowa
- University of Maryland Baltimore County

 Campuses certified in 2025

 Campuses re-certified in 2025

Certification Feature:

University of California, Berkeley

UC Berkeley is where this movement began in 2017, after Mackenzie Feldman and Bridget Gustafson discovered their beach volleyball courts were sprayed with a glyphosate-based herbicide. They partnered with campus grounds staff and launched a student movement for organic land care at Berkeley.

In 2018, the university began working with Osborne Organics to transition the two largest green spaces to organic, eventually expanding across campus. Today, UC Berkeley is 95% organic, with 1,171 acres managed without synthetic pesticides.

Student leaders of Re:wild Berkeley continue to drive the effort forward to upkeep organic management and engage peers. The current Co-President of Re:wild Berkeley now serves on the UC Systemwide Pesticide Oversight Committee, pushing for reduced pesticide-use across all UC campuses.

After many years of working in partnership, we were thrilled to certify UC Berkeley at the Gold Level with our Green Grounds Certification this Fall. With this, we recognized not only the implementation and expansion of organic management but also impactful initiatives like the native garden planting with the Native American Student Council and the Pollinator Garden project with the Haas School of Business.

UC Berkeley serves as a model for campuses everywhere: nurturing soil life and biodiversity, valuing student voices, and demonstrating that land-care transformation is possible.



Organic Pilot Program

Our Organic Pilot Program is a key initiative designed to teach groundskeepers how to manage grounds without synthetic inputs. In order to transition school grounds across the United States to organic practices by 2030, we must equip grounds keeping teams with the knowledge and skills to manage landscapes organically.

5
Organic Pilot Programs
7,500+
acres potentially impacted
200,000
students impacted



- New projects:
- Stanford University
 - University of Iowa
- Continuing projects:
- Oberlin College
 - Grinnell College
 - University Wisconsin–Madison

Organic Pilot Feature: Stanford University

This year we launched an organic pilot project at Stanford University. Four sites across Stanford's sprawling campus will undergo an organic transition, with half of each site serving as a control for the organic practices.



Rewilding

What is rewilding? Rewilding is a conservation approach aimed at restoring and protecting natural ecosystems by reintroducing native species, promoting biodiversity, and allowing ecological processes to regain balance with minimal human intervention. Rewilding goes beyond organic land care by reimagining the very landscapes that define our campuses.

Rewilding Feature: University of Northern Iowa

University of Northern Iowa has 372 acres of naturalized areas. By having over **63% of their grounds in a naturalized state**, they have dramatically reduced three major recurring costs:

- Mowing
- Irrigation
- Inputs

Their estimates show replacing turf with prairie can reduce management costs by **over 95% per acre annually**.

Most recently, UNI converted an underutilized parking lot to prairie, engaging students in the planting (pictured right).



Rewilding Feature: California State University, Long Beach

Students at Cal State Long Beach proved the power of rewilding, by replacing a 1,000 sq/ft patch of invasive English ivy with 40 native plants. Through this garden, **they cut water use by over 95%, from up to 240 gallons a week to nearly none.**

The pilot project, led by Re:wild CSULB in partnership with SustainU, shows how native, organically managed gardens can save water, support pollinators, and strengthen campus sustainability.



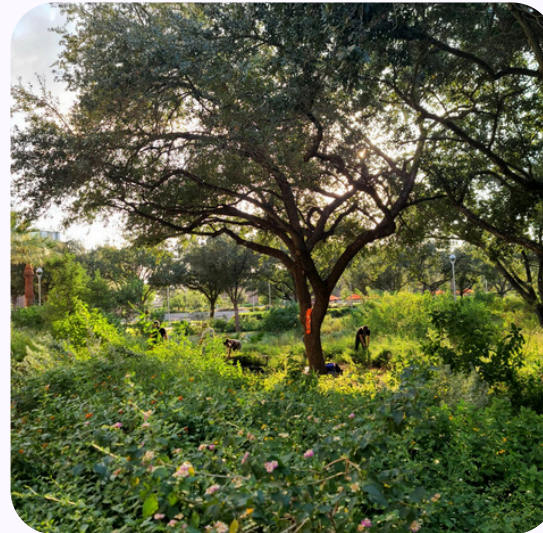
Campus Spotlight:

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

This year, the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) transitioned to fully organic land management, a major victory achieved through more than a year of dedicated student advocacy. Members of the Environmental Awareness Club led the effort, collecting hundreds of petition signatures and working closely with supportive faculty and the university's grounds team. To show their support, students organize biweekly weeding days alongside the groundskeepers, building a sense of shared purpose and respect for the work that goes into caring for the land.

The students' efforts culminated in a powerful Earth Day celebration marking the official shift to organic land care. During the event, students honored the grounds crew whose leadership and commitment made the change possible. One by one, the staff shared words of gratitude, and one groundskeeper reflected, "Now I don't have to worry about the long-term health effects of these chemicals 10 or 20 years from now."

Today, UTRGV's landscapes are safer for students, workers, and pollinators, and they're flourishing with native plants. This commitment to ecological stewardship captures the heart of the Re:wild Your Campus movement: community-driven action that protects health, restores ecosystems, and redefines what campus sustainability can look like.



Speaking about the transition to organic management:

“We appreciate y’all because we don’t have to work with chemicals anymore. So we don’t have to worry about the side effects 20 or 30 years from now.”

- Jonathan Fernandez, UTRGV groundskeeper



Students and groundskeepers at a celebration of UTRGV's commitment to organic land care

Ground Up Advocacy Bootcamp

Our Ground Up Advocacy Bootcamp is a cutting-edge training intentionally built for emerging leaders looking to learn more about the issue of pesticides. This year we condensed our two day Bootcamp into one three and a half hour training to great success. During the first half of the session, participants gain critical insights into the history of pesticide use, the ways pesticide use contributes to our climate and biodiversity crises, and ways to understand the pesticide issue through an environmental justice lens. The second half focuses on turning knowledge into action, providing advocacy and organizing skills that can be applied across all social and environmental issues such as coalition building, power mapping, and campaign strategy.

Participants walk away with a deeper understanding of toxic pesticides, what it means to rewild spaces, the intersections of human and environmental health, and how these issues tie back to social justice and climate change. With an emphasis on actionable education,

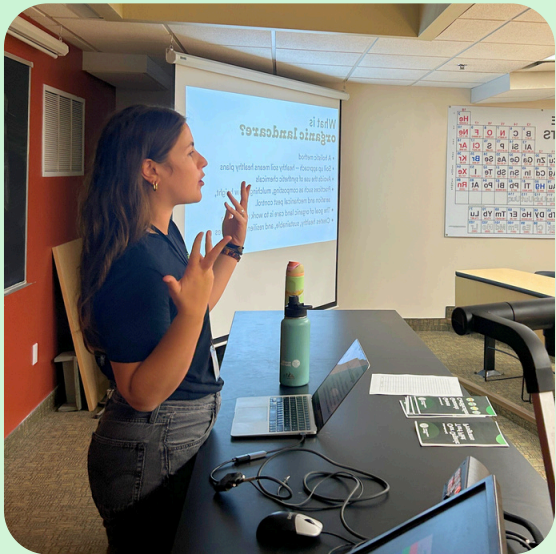
the bootcamp turns interested participants into budding activists, and supports them in taking the first steps to begin an on-campus movement. After completion of the Bootcamp, students are added to our Student Network where they are able to interface with our team and our growing community of student change-makers.

Our next Bootcamp will take place in January 2026.

By the Numbers:

- 2 virtual bootcamps
- 2 in-person bootcamps
- 300+ people reached
- 200+ youth in our Student Network
- 50+ schools reached this year

“As someone who has started a project in the agriculture field, I know how challenging it is to grow an idea into an organization, so hearing the story of how this campaign began and expanded was very inspiring.”



“The sessions were engaging and empowering, and I feel more confident about starting change on my own campus.”

Conferences, Events & Speaking Engagements

This year, we had the privilege of attending three climate weeks, two higher education sustainability conferences, and countless events where we shared our mission to revolutionize campus landscapes with sustainability staff, students, faculty and community members. Presenting and tabling at many of these events was a highlight, allowing us to showcase our work and spark meaningful conversations.

We participated in NY Climate Week, where Co-Director Mackenzie Feldman spoke on a panel at Columbia University on the intersection of sports and sustainability. She shared her story of starting this movement as a student athlete at UC Berkeley

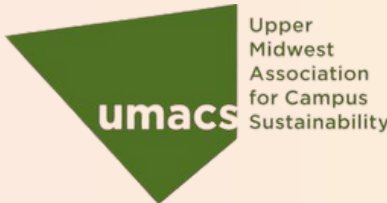
and inspired a packed house including many students to take action.

We also gathered with hundreds of campus staff in Minneapolis for the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Conference, the largest higher education sustainability conference. We hosted a packed session with our colleagues at UW Madison, Grinnell College and University of Maryland Baltimore County on campus rewilding and organic land care.

800+ People Reached
20+ Events



Jane Goodall Institute



Event Feature:

Lollapalooza & Certifying Grant Park

This summer, more than 400,000 music lovers rocked out at Lollapalooza, standing on top of a sustainability milestone! Chicago’s Grant Park, the festival’s iconic home, became the first park in the nation to earn the Green Grounds Certification, recognizing the Chicago Park District’s commitment to pesticide-free lawns, pollinator protection, and safe green spaces for all.

This milestone shows what’s possible when cities prioritize people and the planet. Chicago is leading the way with nearly 2,000 acres of the city’s parkland managed as natural areas.

We were proud to celebrate this achievement with our partners at Re:wild and to connect with so many passionate young people at our Lollapalooza booth, sharing what Green Grounds Certification means for the future of healthier, more resilient public spaces.



Event Feature:

Rewilding Feast Amber Waves Fundraiser + Team Retreat

This summer, we had the honor of hosting our fundraiser, Seeding Change: A Rewilding Feast, at Amber Waves Farm in Amagansett, NY. Guests enjoyed a nourishing, farm-to-table meal prepared by our friend and chef Will Brinkerhoff, featuring locally sourced ingredients and heartfelt conversations about creating a future rooted in organic, regenerative land care.

We also celebrated a major milestone with our partners at Amber Waves, who earned Platinum Green Grounds Certification for their chemical-free landscaping.

Following the fundraiser, our team gathered on Shelter Island for our annual retreat, a time to reconnect, reflect, and envision the year ahead. The days were filled with inspiring discussions about expanding our certification and organic pilot program, uplifting student leadership, and creating rewilding models that campuses of all sizes can adopt. We left feeling recharged and deeply inspired, ready to keep growing this movement together.



Event Feature:

West Shokan Leadership Retreat

This summer, Co-Directors Mackenzie and Sheina were accepted into The Strange Foundation's Regenerative Retreat Residency Program. They spent a week in West Shokan, New York strategizing, planning, and slowing down. The week enabled them to think big and vision new programs and ways to engage with students and schools. It was on this retreat that they came up with the summer webinar series idea, which drew over 70 grounds staff from schools all across the country.

We are so immensely grateful to The Strange Foundation for giving us the opportunity to disconnect, slow down and regenerate.



"At Patagonia Provisions, we're committed to restoring soil health and rebuilding ecosystems, and Re:wild Your Campus is doing that work on the very grounds where the next generation learns and grows. Their pesticide-free approach aligns deeply with our mission, which is why I'm proud to support them. I hope you'll join us in backing their critical work."

Paul Lightfoot, General Manager of Patagonia Provisions

2025 Press Highlights

- February 7, 2025 – **UCLA Newsroom**: UCLA becomes first California campus awarded a Green Grounds Certification
- February 9, 2025 – **The Daily Cal**: Rewilding on Berkeley's Campus
- February 13, 2025 – **Culver City Observer**: UCLA becomes first California campus awarded a Green Grounds Certification
- March 14, 2025 – **The Student Life**: Pomona College’s Merritt Field transformation contradicts environmental commitments
- April 1, 2025 – **Voice of OC**: Adopting Organic Land Care to Regenerate California Communities
- April 22, 2025 – **Pro Landscaper USA**: Let’s hear it from Re:wild Your Campus
- April 30, 2025 – **St. Edward's University News**: St. Edward’s University Awarded Green Grounds Gold Level Certification for Environmental Efforts
- August 26, 2025 – **Food Print**: This fall, get involved in one of these campus sustainability initiatives
- September 16, 2025 – **Sustainable Stanford**: Stanford Launches Cross-Campus Pilot for Organic Landscape Management
- September 24, 2025 – **WSUI, SO ILL Podcast**: Re:wild Your Campus
- September 26, 2025 – **Newsweek**: Athletes Can Lead the ‘Climate Comeback’ On and Off the Field
- October 23, 2025 – **Earth Island Journal**: Restoring Biodiversity at Centers of Learning
- December 2, 2025 – **Forbes 30 Under 30**: Mackenzie Feldman
- December 4, 2025 – **Exel: Drexel University Research Magazine**: Home Turf



Media Spotlight: Forbes 30 Under 30

In a monumental win for our movement, Mackenzie Feldman, Founder and Co-Director of Re:wild Your Campus, was named in the 2025 Forbes 30 Under 30 List for Social Impact out of over 10,000 nominations.

This moment honors not just Mackenzie, but our entire community of student organizers, partners, and supporters. Thank you for being part of a movement powerful enough to earn this highly esteemed national recognition.



“I’m grateful that the work of eliminating toxic pesticides, and the simple, powerful act of taking action right where your feet are, is being recognized in this way. This is a win for our whole community who has believed in this vision and carried pieces of it forward.”

Mackenzie Feldman, Founder and Co-Director of Re:wild Your Campus

Our Team



Mackenzie Feldman
Co-Director



Sheina Crystal
Co-Director



Asha Culhane-Husain
Director of Finance &
Development



Anjali Bose
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Networks / Partners

1% for the Planet
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
Beyond Pesticides
Cancer-Free Economy
Climate Ready Schools Coalition
NOFA Organic Land Care Project
Planetary Health Alliance
Upper Midwest Association for Campus Sustainability (UMACS)



With Gratitude to Our Donors:

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