

Community Forests: A path to prosperity and connection

AMY B.H. GREENWELL ETHNOBOTANICAL GARDEN

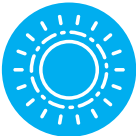
NOTABLE BENEFITS



RECREATION



EDUCATION



CULTURAL HERITAGE



FOREST-BASED PRODUCTS

ACRES: 11.8

YEAR ESTABLISHED: 2019

OWNERSHIP: Friends of Amy B. H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden

MANAGEMENT: Friends of Amy B. H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden

COMMUNITY SERVED: Town of Captain Cook, Hawai'i Island

POPULATION: 4,171

TOTAL ACQUISITION COST: \$1,347,700

FUNDING BREAKDOWN:



Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program

Cost Share

For a comprehensive review of the community and economic benefits provided by this forest and others, go to the full report at www.tpl.org/economic-benefits-community-forests

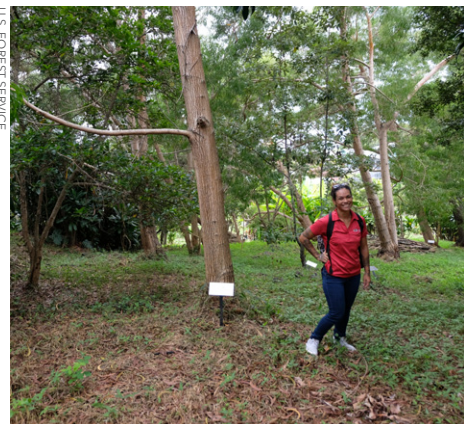
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When the Bishop Museum closed the **Amy B. H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden** and put the land up for sale in 2016, a group of residents, volunteers, and supporters was inspired to form the Friends of Amy B. H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden (Friends of AGEG), protect the property, steward its natural resources, and re-open it for public use. This project is a testament to the importance of the U.S. Forest Service Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (CFP) and its ability to enable communities to safeguard natural and cultural assets and provide access to significant lands, programming, education, and recreation.

Community forests are protected forest lands that contribute to healthy, flourishing communities. These lands are guided by local say to achieve local priorities. These unique assets are land-based economic development tools that deliver positive outcomes to the residents, visitors, and businesses located in their service areas.

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Safeguarding cultural heritage: The property is recognized as a living treasure by residents and visitors because of the botanical and cultural resources it hosts--over 250 tree and plant species, nearly all of which are rare, extinct in the wild, endemic, indigenous to Hawaii, or are Polynesian-introduced "canoe plants."

Enabling recreation: The property boasts a visitor center, an information counter, restroom facilities, and a small meeting room and office. The parking lot is used to host a weekly farmers market.

When AGEG re-opened in January 2020, it began with free admission during the Sunday farmers market. An average of 70 to 100 people visited on those Sundays in January through mid-March, prior to the pandemic-related shutdowns. The Grand Opening was held in February 2020, when the Friends hosted the Grow Hawaii Festival that drew over 800 people to this free event. Other events have included a lauhala (Pandanus leaf) weaving workshop and ti (Cordyline) leaf collection.

Just in its first quarter of operation, the Friends estimate at least 2,000 people benefitted from the AGEG's public events, tours, classes, and cultural gatherings. The Trust for Public Land estimates that this use resulted

in a conservative \$7,300 in value to local residents, acknowledging that this use represented only a small portion of the year and that this use would likely be much larger post-pandemic when normal activities are able to resume.

Enhancing education: Biology and Hawaiian history classes at Palamanui Junior College have occurred on the property, which has also been used by students from a Hawaiian immersion school and a teacher's workshop. Following the appropriate COVID-19 protocols, a kalo (taro or Colocasia) replanting event and huli (taro planting material) distribution was hosted along with limited-size guided tours being conducted twice a day on Thursdays and Fridays. As the community becomes vaccinated and COVID-19 cases continue to decline, the Friends anticipate that the Garden will continue to incrementally re-open to full capacity, as appropriate.

Creating opportunities for agroforestry: Future plans include distributing agroforestry materials, engaging adults and youth in education, training and workforce development, increasing revenues for local farmers and rural communities through the sale of locally grown forest products, and re-opening the nursery to distribute important tree and plant species.

This project was completed in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and would not have been possible without generous support from the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities and the U.S. Forest Service.

The Trust for Public Land creates parks and protects land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come.

www.tpl.org

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