“We’ve expanded tremendously in the last five years. QuickBooks Solutions has come right along with us.”

Sthephan Friedt,
Office Administrator,
Greenbelt Land Trust

Enterprise Solutions Supports New Growth for Greenbelt Land Trust.

Spotlight on the Greenbelt Land Trust.
Protected—and connected. Greenbelt Land Trust started over 20 years ago with that guiding principle, as they work to preserve over 1,800 acres of green space in the Mid-Willamette Valley in Northwest Oregon.
The organization has been using QuickBooks applications to manage their finances for over ten years. They used to rely on QuickBooks Premier for Nonprofits, but as their organization continued to grow, they started looking for a new financial management system.

**Growing faster than a weed.** “We are planning to have more and more people using the system,” says Stephan Friedt, Office Administrator at Greenbelt Land Trust. “QuickBooks Premier was becoming limited for what we wanted to do.”

Stephan has extensive experience working with accounting applications, and brought that knowledge to bear for the selection of their next system.

“I’ve worked with almost all the major accounting applications, including Microsoft Money, SAGE, QuickBooks, even homegrown,” he says. “Over the many years I’ve worked with QuickBooks applications, I’ve found them to be very user-friendly and easy to learn.”

**Smooth transition to a new system.** Greenbelt Land Trust decided to move up to QuickBooks Enterprise Solutions for Nonprofit. They had no trouble converting to the new system, switching over to the new system in one day.

“The transition from QuickBooks Premier to QuickBooks Enterprise Solutions was very smooth,” says Stephan. “It brought over all the information such as class, customer, and job classifications automatically.”

**Well-pruned reporting.** Greenbelt Land Trust is an accredited land trust. As such, they maintain best practices such as outsourced payroll and extensive reporting.
“I have yet to find a report that I can’t do in Enterprise Solutions. And I’ve tried,” Stephan says. “There’s much more flexibility in Enterprise Solutions for reporting than there is in QuickBooks Premier.”

Stephan especially likes the Budget Overview report.

“Our budget sheet would be 80 ledger-size pages if we printed the whole thing out. With Enterprise Solutions, we can budget for one particular property or grant, and all the information gets funneled nicely into a budget overview. For example, our Board can see total stewardship costs for that year, without having to go through budgets for all 12 properties. If we need to get specific information, we can easily drill down to any particular property to see its stewardship costs.”

**Maintaining accredited status.** The organization generates a lot of reports, such as expense reports, match reports, programmatic reports, and donation reports for their daily billing. Enterprise Solutions’ strength is the way it allows organizations to create categories that make it easy to create the detailed reports required for not-for-profits.

“We set up departments as classes, such as Stewardship, Land Acquisition, and Public Relations. Individual projects are created as jobs, while granting organizations, including federal, state, and private foundations, are grouped as customers,” he says.

With these categories, Stephan can track and report on almost anything, in the date ranges he needs.

“A lot of our grants are reimbursable grants. Every year, we have to file for reimbursement that shows our expenses in detail. I just pull up a report under Customer for that particular grant, and I have all the expenses listed.”

For year-end reporting to the IRS, he pulls reports such as the Statement of Functional Expenses – 990.
“Enterprise Solutions tracks expenses very well,” he says. “When somebody logs an eight-hour day, they might have spent that time in three different places: on a field project, at outreach programs, or on a fundraiser, for example. I can pull up a report by employee and know exactly where they were working and how many hours they spent that month on a project. I can also pull up those projects and see how many different employees worked on it. I use those reports for both grant reporting and our IRS Form 990.”

**Branching out in new directions.** As the organization continues to grow, Stephan is looking for ways to be more efficient in the office. Enterprise Solutions’ access permissions are one way he can ensure tight controls while allowing more people to get information in and out.

“We’re planning to add more users so I can get more clerical assistance on data entry,” says Stephan. “We’re also setting up remote access for our CPA to do journal entries from her home office, and direct access for our Executive Director so he can pull up his own reports.” Other interesting features come from the Intuit App Center. “We are looking at a timesheet application, which will allow staff to log hours themselves from wherever they are. A lot of our people work different jobs out in the field, so this will make us much more efficient.”

**Enterprise Solutions helps them stay connected.** With comprehensive, easy-to-use reporting, Enterprise Solutions is supporting Greenbelt Land Trust in its philosophy of staying connected.

“Enterprise Solutions helps connect all the different pieces of our organization together, from the board members, to volunteers, to staff members. When I can show key information quickly, it helps everyone understand what we’re doing at every level of our organization. I think that’s critical to our maintaining connectivity, within our organization and also with the external community that supports us.”