



Friends of Sausal Creek

PROMOTING WATERSHED AWARENESS

Annual Program Summary Report for Watershed Awareness Program July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

PUBLIC OUTREACH - EVENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Friends of Sausal Creek Member Meetings were held in September, November, January, March, and May at the Dimond Library. For July, we continued our new tradition of a Meet & Greet Potluck, this year at the Fern Ravine restoration area in Joaquin Miller Park. In January we held the second annual State of the Creek meeting, bringing together site leaders from throughout the watershed and featuring a presentation on our new water quality monitoring program. Topics for the other indoor bimonthly meetings covered native landscaping, bird song, native bees, and plant evolution. The trend of increased attendance at our meetings continued—we averaged 50 attendees per meeting this past fiscal year.

Enthusiastic volunteers continued to represent FOSC by **tabling at community events**. FOSC tabled at the annual Dimond Picnic, Dimond Oaktobfest, and Montclair Village Association Holiday Stroll; the Friends of Joaquin Miller Park and Piedmont Pines Neighborhood Association annual meetings; a Dimond Improvement Association meeting; Piedmont High School's Community Service Fair; and EarthEXPO in downtown Oakland. FOSC also had informational tables at our annual Dimond Park events that draw the largest numbers of volunteers: Creek-to-Bay Day (180 volunteers), Winter Solstice Planting Day (54 volunteers), and Earth Day (150 volunteers). Our 7th annual Native Plant Sale and Open House included a FOSC informational table as well as speakers on native bees, using native plants in home gardens, raptors of the watershed (with live birds present for the whole day), and propagating native plants, as well as live music and a large display of spiders. We also talked about FOSC at the East Bay Hills Hike and Oakland Urban Paths walk through the watershed, and presented at a Native Nursery Network meeting.

On May 31, 2013, the **Oakland Museum of California** opened the renovated Gallery of California Natural Sciences. The gallery includes an exhibit with a map of the Sausal Creek Watershed and ten videos on volunteerism at FOSC's restoration sites and nursery. The vignettes can be viewed at <http://www.sausalcreek.org/photos/videos.html>. Our board and staff led an interactive activity and distributed FOSC literature at a gallery preview event in November 2012. We also participated in the grand opening ceremony on May 31, 2013.

We had two month-long displays at the **Dimond Library**: September 2012 on native plants and May 2013 on aquatic insects.

We are finalizing signage for the native plants in **planters** on LaSalle Avenue in Montclair Village to create an educational native plant walk.

Other forms of public outreach included FOSC's **bi-monthly newsletter**, **listserv**, and **website**, www.sausalcreek.org. Circulation for our bimonthly email newsletter grew from 1,680 to 1,968 recipients over the course of the year. See attached for the newsletter from the final quarter of the fiscal year. Listserv membership increased from 388 to 439 members. We submit information on

member meetings and volunteer events to print and digital publications and neighborhood listservs.

FOSC distributed approximately 7,000 copies of the *Trails and Tributaries of the Sausal Creek Watershed* **map brochure** which includes information on keeping creeks healthy. Brochures were distributed via the tabling outreach events described above and were made available at watershed trail map boxes, local libraries, and recreation centers.

FOSC continued to implement the *Fern Ravine Restoration Plan* through community, corporate, and student restoration workdays and through leadership of the Friends of Joaquin Miller Park (FOJMP) Redwood Committee. FOSC coordinated closely with Oakland's Parkland Resources Supervisor to have Merritt College's Green Building class install the second phase of the **split rail fencing** in October 2012. Because of the fencing, we were able to begin revegetation of the redwood understory through planting days with Civicorps Learning Academy students.

FOSC's Restoration Committee continued their **hydrology hikes** to assess storm drains and other erosion sites detailed in the *Sausal Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan* so that funding can be sought for priority projects.

We assisted the Oakland Fire Department with the update of the **Goat Grazing Plan** so that grazing could be best timed with removal of invasive plants prior to seeding and so that native plants could be protected from grazing.

FOSC continues to maintain relationships with **community partners** including the Boy Scouts of America, buildOn, Chabot Space and Science Center, Civicorps, College of Alameda, EarthTeam, East Bay Academy for Young Scientists, Girl Scouts of the USA, KIDS for the BAY, Holy Names University, Holy Names University's Upward Bound program, Laney College, Lawrence Hall of Science TEAMS, Merritt College, Oakland High School's Green Academy, Oakland's Aim High program, Oakland Technical High School Key Club, Piedmont High School Key Club, Skyline High School's Excel, Eco, and Key Clubs, Student Conservation Association, and UC Berkeley. Partnerships with other local community groups include Diablo Firesafe Council, Dimond Business and Professional Association, Dimond Improvement Association, Friends of Joaquin Miller Park, Friends of Montclair Railroad Trail, Friends of Wood Park, Glenview Neighborhood Association, Jingletown Arts & Business Community, Montclair Village Association, Oakmore Homes Association, Peralta Creek neighbors, Piedmont Pines Neighborhood Association, and Shepherd Canyon Homeowners Association.

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT EVENTS

FOSC community volunteer events are held year-round at restoration sites throughout the watershed. Some of the workdays are led by FOSC staff and interns, others are led by neighborhood volunteers. Volunteer-led worksites receive support from FOSC staff in multiple ways: assistance with workday outreach and volunteer recruitment; tools; consultation on site restoration plans; and contribution of native plants grown at our native plant nursery.

Community and special group volunteer events included:

- Three (3) workdays at Barry Place
- Twelve (12) workdays at Beaconsfield Canyon
- Eighteen (18) workdays at Bridgeview Trailhead
- Twelve (12) workdays in Dimond Park and Dimond Canyon
- Twelve (12) workdays at Fern Ravine in Joaquin Miller Park
- Two (2) workdays at Fruitvale Bridge Park
- Two (2) workdays at Joaquin Miller Court
- Forty-eight (48) workdays at Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery
- Two (2) workdays at the pallid manzanita site along Big Trees Trail
- Fourteen (14) workdays in Marj Saunders Park
- Three (3) workdays at the Monterey Blvd. redwoods site
- Nine (9) workdays at Shepherd Canyon
- One (1) workday at Woodbine Corner
- Thirty-four (34) workdays at William D. Wood Park
- Eight (8) seed hikes and two (2) botany walks
- Two (2) in the creek clean-up walks
- Two (2) watershed walks for college students, one (1) tour for a visiting Danish group, and two (2) talks to Girl Scout troops
- One (1) tool maintenance workshop
- Three (3) crew leader training events (topics included managing volunteers; creating a restoration plan; techniques for removing ivy, blackberry, and invasive annuals; and installing erosion control materials)
- Twelve (12) aquatic insect monitoring events by the bioassessment team plus three (3) special aquatic insect monitoring events for student or adult groups
- Four (4) quarterly bird monitoring events
- Ten (10) water quality monitoring days

This past year FOSC board members initiated bimonthly in the **creek clean up walks**.

We restarted FOSC's **water quality monitoring program** in 2012. The team monitors one day a week for five consecutive weeks during the wet and the dry seasons.

Board of Directors: We were pleased to recruit one new member to our board of directors for 2013, Steven Ritchie, Assistant General Manager for Water of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN OUTREACH

Our activities with school-age children include leading environmental education field trips for school classes and restoration workdays for student community service groups. Youth activities include a discussion of the Sausal Creek Watershed, stormwater pollution prevention, stream restoration strategies, and native and nonnative plant identification. The programs also include a hands-on restoration component such as removal of invasive, nonnative plants; installation of erosion blanket and wattles; vegetation monitoring; and planting of native plants propagated at our nursery. We hosted 25 field trips groups this past school year. In addition, student service organizations volunteered for Saturday workdays year-round.

During summer of 2012, we partnered with City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation to again work with their *Touch the Earth* and *Shake, Rattle & Roll* day camp programs in the Joaquin Miller Park redwood area. Twenty groups of campers learned about the Sausal Creek Watershed, discussed stormwater pollution prevention, and participated in restoration activities including removal of invasive, nonnative plants. This partnership is continuing during the summer of 2013.

Our summer high school intern program grew to nine students in 2012. Interns worked 70 hours with our staff on a variety of restoration projects in Dimond Canyon and at our native plant nursery. Two interns from summer 2011 were hired to help lead the summer 2012 program. The summer 2013 summer intern program has ten students participating.

FUNDING

Additional funding in 2012-13 came from the Alameda County Fish and Game Commission, Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program, Bill Graham Memorial Foundation, California ReLeaf (fiscal sponsor for Friends of Wood Park), The Clorox Company Foundation, East Bay Municipal Utility District, JiJi Foundation, Save the Redwoods League, The Strong Foundation, and individual contributions. FOSC continues to work to identify other potential funding sources for our programs.

FOSC's Sausal Creek Erosion Control Restoration Project was awarded funding by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the **Prop. 84 Urban Streams Restoration Program** 2008 Cycle. FOSC is coordinating with the City of Oakland and DWR to enter into a project agreement.

SUMMARY

Total volunteers visits: 3,937

Total service hours: 10,867

Total students participating in field trips or summer service learning projects: 1,256

Native plants propagated and planted: 2,930