



## Annual Program Summary Report for Watershed Awareness Program July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

### PUBLIC OUTREACH - EVENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

**Friends of Sausal Creek Member Meetings** were held in September, November, January, March, and May at the Dimond Library. In lieu of an indoor meeting, we launched this fiscal year with a Meet & Greet at our native plant nursery in Joaquin Miller Park; this potluck event followed an afternoon nursery workday and brought together FOSC board, staff, volunteers, and leaders from other community groups for a wonderful evening of information exchange. Topics for the other bimonthly meetings included a native plant show and tell, the Oakland Rain Barrel Program, Sudden Oak Death (SOD, with a follow-up field meeting on treatment techniques), "State of the Creek" (including presentations by all site leaders from watershed worksites), peregrine falcon recovery efforts, and aquatic insect monitoring. The trend of increased attendance at our meetings continues—we averaged 47 attendees per meeting this past fiscal year.

Enthusiastic volunteers continue to represent FOSC by **tabling at community events**. FOSC tabled at the annual Dimond Picnic and Dimond Oktoberfest; the Friends of Joaquin Miller Park and Piedmont Pines Neighborhood Association annual meetings; a Dimond Improvement Association and Oakmore Homes Association meeting; the Oakland/Berkeley Hills Firestorm Preparedness Fair; and the Volunteer for Oakland event at City Hall. FOSC also had informational tables at our annual Dimond Park events that draw the largest numbers of volunteers: Creek-to-Bay Day (215 volunteers), Winter Solstice Planting Day (61 volunteers), and Earth Day (130 volunteers). Our 6<sup>th</sup> annual Native Plant Sale and Open House included a FOSC informational table as well as speakers on native bees, urban beekeeping, using native plants in home gardens, and birds of the watershed. We presented at an Alameda County Watershed Forum meeting and at the Contra Costa County Creek and Watershed Symposium.

Ten videos on volunteerism at FOSC's restoration sites and nursery were completed in collaboration with the **Oakland Museum of California** for the museum's renovated Gallery of California Natural Sciences (opening in spring 2013). The vignettes can be viewed at <http://www.sausalcreek.org/photos/videos.html>.

Coordinating closely with city staff, FOSC oversaw the design and production of **two interpretive signs** and **51 botanic plant signs** in the Dimond Park Native Plant Demonstration Garden (funded by the Coastal Conservancy). "We All Live in a Watershed" is installed overlooking the creek adjacent to the tot lot and includes a map of the Sausal Creek Watershed, information on the Friends of Sausal Creek's volunteer efforts, and tips on protecting the creek. "Welcome to the Native Plant Garden" is installed at the Hanly Street entrance to the demonstration garden and presents the advantages of gardening with native plants, featuring color photographs and descriptions of a variety of native plants, birds, and insects found in the watershed.

We installed native plants in **planters** on LaSalle Avenue in Montclair Village, and will be adding signage to the planters to create an educational native plant walk.

We partnered with buildOn students on a **door-to-door stormwater pollution prevention campaign** that included distribution of a Clean Water Program storm drain brochure, a California poppy seed packet with information on stormwater pollution prevention, and a new FOSC upcoming events flyer with information on the City of Oakland Maintain-A-Drain and Rain Barrel Programs. See attachments.

We partnered with the City of Oakland Rain Barrel Program to help coordinate a **rain barrel installation workshop** at a home in the Oakmore neighborhood.

Our winning slogan for the **Keep Dimond Clean** 2012 banners, "Stash the Trash: Keep Dimond Clean," resulted in the slogan and FOSC's logo being displayed on banners in the Dimond District throughout 2012.

Other forms of public outreach included FOSC's **bi-monthly newsletter, listserv, and website, [www.sausalcreek.org](http://www.sausalcreek.org)**. In August 2011 we launched the new email version of our bimonthly newsletter; over the course of the year, the circulation grew from 1,365 to 1,680 recipients. We are now only mailing out a dozen paper copies to those who specifically request this service. See attached for newsletters from the final quarter of the fiscal year. Listserv membership increased from 287 to 388 members this past year. FOSC continues to write bimonthly articles for the *MacArthur Metro* and contributed to an *Oakland Tribune* article on Sudden Oak Death (SOD) that helped promote our SOD community and field meetings. We also submit information on member meetings and volunteer events to print and digital publications, neighborhood listservs, and via the East Bay Hills Restoration Volunteers Meetup group ([www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com)).

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 and student group restoration workdays and through leadership of the Friends of Joaquin Miller Park (FOJMP) Redwood Committee. In partnership with FOJMP, the City of Oakland Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission approved the installation of **split rail fencing** in the restoration area. FOSC coordinated closely with Oakland's Parkland Resources Supervisor to have Volunteers for Outdoor California (V-O-Cal) install the first phase of this fencing in June 2012.

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, East Bay Conservation Corps, 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 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, Jingtowntown Arts & Business Community, Oakmore Homes Association, Oakland Urban Paths, 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:

- Four (4) workdays at Barry Place
- Eleven (11) workdays at Beaconsfield Canyon
- Thirteen (13) workdays at Bridgeview Trailhead
- Ten (10) workdays in Dimond Park and Dimond Canyon
- Twelve (12) workdays at Fern Ravine in Joaquin Miller Park
- Three (3) workdays at Fruitvale Bridge Park
- Forty-five (45) workdays at Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery
- One (1) workday at Joaquin Miller Court
- One (1) workday at the pallid manzanita site along Big Trees Trail
- Twenty-one (21) workdays in Marj Saunders Park
- Six (6) workdays in Montclair Park
- Three (3) workdays at the Monterey Blvd. redwoods site
- Twelve (12) workdays at Shepherd Canyon
- Twelve (12) workdays at William D. Wood Park
- Thirteen (13) seed hikes
- One (1) watershed walk for college students

- Two (2) watershed walks for adult groups
- Four (4) quarterly bird monitoring events
- Eight (8) aquatic insect monitoring events by the bioassessment team plus eight (8) special aquatic insect monitoring events for student or adult groups

This past year FOSC staff helped support the initiation of monthly workdays at **Bridgeview Trailhead** (second Sunday of each month) and **Montclair Park** (first Sunday of each month), and is supporting a new site leader working near **Joaquin Miller Court** in Joaquin Miller Park.

FOSC also helped to promote a series of hiking tours led by a **Dimond Improvement Association** (DIA) board member (200 total participants), and has provided project guidance and support for several trail workdays initiated by DIA and the local **Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council** (NCPC).

With volunteer help, we expanded the sunny growing grounds at the **Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery**.

The bioassessment team restarted FOSC's **aquatic insect monitoring program** in 2011. The team monitors on the first Sunday of each month.

The FOSC board of directors approved the parameters of the proposed **water quality monitoring program** restart. Implementation will begin in July 2012.

**Interns:** The summer high school intern program grew to eight students in 2011. Interns worked 70 hours with our restoration and nursery manager on a variety of restoration projects in Dimond Canyon and at our native plant nursery. Two of these summer 2011 interns returned as staff (a field assistant and a paid college intern) to lead the summer 2012 program.

**Board of Directors:** We were pleased to recruit two new members to our board of directors for 2011, an ecologist and a retired banker, bringing our board of directors to 14 members. We are drawing upon the new board members' professional and volunteer expertise for our water quality and fish monitoring programs, our restoration work at Fern Ravine, and in our partnerships with the Oakland Wildfire Prevention District, the Diablo Firesafe Council, the Hillside Gardeners of Montclair, and the Friends of Joaquin Miller Park.

## 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 non-native plant identification. The programs also include a hands-on restoration component such as removal of invasive, non-native plants; installation of erosion blanket and wattles; vegetation monitoring; and planting of native plants propagated at our nursery. We hosted 31 field trips groups this past school year and worked with 11 groups of young people during the summertime on service learning projects in addition to our five week summer high school intern program. In addition, student service organizations volunteered for Saturday workdays year-round.

In summer 2011 FOSC staff began working with youth enrolled in the City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation's *Touch the Earth* and *Shake, Rattle & Roll* day camp programs in the Joaquin Miller Park redwood area. Students learned about the Sausal Creek Watershed, discussed stormwater pollution prevention, and participated in restoration activities including removal of invasive, non-native plants. This partnership expanded in summer 2012 to include FOSC staff working with each camp program two times a week for each of the eight weeklong sessions.

## FUNDING

Additional funding in 2011-12 came from the Alameda County Fish and Game Commission, Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program, Bill Graham Memorial Foundation, Clif Bar Foundation, The Clorox Company Foundation, Coastal Conservancy, East Bay Municipal Utility District, JiJi Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (partnership with EarthTeam), Oakland Museum of California, Ocean Guardians (grantee Joaquin Miller Elementary School), Rose Foundation, 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: 3,587

Total service hours: 9,884

Total students participating in field trips or summer service learning projects: 1,268

Native plants propagated and planted: 2,862