



FOSC LEADS CLEAN-UP EFFORTS IN LOWER SAUSAL CREEK WATERSHED

When people think of Sausal Creek the image that pops into their minds is of the creek flowing through Dimond Canyon and Park. The reason why people don't know about the rest of it is because it is simply not accessible to the general public.

Trash and refuse accumulation in the diversely developed areas of the lower portions of the watershed is a more serious problem than in the exclusively residential areas of the upper watershed. Even though it is largely hidden from sight, this trash causes adverse impacts to the birds, fish, insects, and other invertebrates that inhabit the creek.

For these reasons, FOSC has led clean-up projects semi-annually, on Earth Day in the spring and on Creek to Bay Day in the fall, for the past 3 years. We gain access to the creek at a vacant, chain-link fence enclosed, City of Oakland owned parcel at the corner of E. 27th St. and Barry Place, across the street from the Gladman Memorial Hospital.

On September 15, I led an eight member clean-up crew, including two students from Head-Royce School down to E. 27th St. to do a clean-up of the creek as part of this year's Creek to Bay Day. In previous years we collected trash from the approximately 200 yard section of the creek from E. 27th St. downstream to Peroly Ct. This year we decided to include the section of the creek upstream from E. 27th beginning from where the creek emerges from a storm drain culvert beneath William Wood Park. Since this section of the creek can be accessed only by crossing private property, we enlisted the assistance of FOSC member Janet Broughton, who graciously permitted us to access the creek where it flows behind her home.

The trash we have collected over the years runs the gamut from the mundane (Styrofoam cups and plastic snack food bags) to the dangerous (used syringes) to the exotic (a telephone pole climbing tool).

Recently the City acknowledged the FOSC's work along this section of Sausal Creek by erecting an official "Adopt-a-Creek" sign at the E. 27th St. site.

Members of the FOSC who have visited this site come away impressed with its potential as a future public park. Much work would need to be done in the form of assessing the level of support for such a project in the neighborhoods in the immediate vicinity of the site, replacing non-native with native vegetation, and constructing stairways down the steep banks. In the meantime, the FOSC will continue to exercise stewardship over one of the few locations in the lower Sausal Creek watershed where the creek has been allowed to survive in a relatively natural condition. - *John Bowers*



Who to Call for Dumping and Spills in the Creek

- For a dumping in progress, call 911.
- For sewer backups and spills and storm drain flooding, call 615-5566.
- For other spills and dumping in Oakland creeks, storm drains, and waterways, call 238-6600.

BENEVIDES NEIGHBORS BUILD A TRAIL, AND A SENSE OF COMMUNITY, ON CREEK-TO-BAY DAY



Residents of Benevides Avenue created a new access trail into Dimond Canyon on Creek-to-Bay Day. The trail connects the end of Benevides to the main trail system. Benevides is the short street which intersects El Centro Avenue about 100 yards up from Sausal Creek. The new trail follows the path of a previously existing fire road. Remnants of asphalt paving were found while clearing the Scotch Broom and Himalayan Blackberry which had overtaken the route.

Elliott Smith, Benevides resident and frequent volunteer with Friends of Sausal Creek, stated "We're developing a real sense of community working together along the creek". Other Benevides residents out that day were Kelly Matthews, Karen Sharkey, Chris Burmester, Kristen Foulds, Paige Witte and Will Forney.

The spur trail is not the only project the Benevides neighbors are involved with. Chris Burmester has taken on the task of maintaining trails through Dimond Canyon. Kelly participates regularly in FoSC planting events in Dimond Park. Elliott has participated in acacia clearing in Dimond Canyon. Paige contacted the Friends of Sausal Creek even before moving to the neighborhood in June.

The Oakland Fire Department also contributed to the community spirit and effort. Four firemen arrived in their fire engine to pitch in clearing the trail. - *Elliott Smith and Stuart Richardson*

NEW!! WEDNESDAYS AT THE JOAQUIN MILLER PARK NURSERY

On October 3rd at the Joaquin Miller Park Nursery we met with a great group of 2nd graders from Fruitvale School. Liz Codiga and about 7 parents joined them for a fun filled morning of gardening and fresh air doing the 'kid friendly' chores Michael Thilgen had given me.

We transplanted all the 4" *Rubus ursinus* (California Blackberry) into 1 gal pots (the adults did this, but the kids filled those pots so fast we were on a race with soil), and got lots of mulch moved to new (and old) places... not with wheel barrows but with the 5-10 gal pots... they loved it. They also emptied all of the 2" pots that had dead plants in them so we could salvage the pots and the soil and they did have fun getting the dirt out. Clean up and lunch followed in the Redwood Forest - my kids have called it that for years... all of them, parents, teacher and kids tired, happy and wanting to come back for more. I had the able assistance of Carol Kuelper, Robbie Neely, Pat Whittingslow and Ron Gartland and look forward to our next Wednesday at the nursery.

Classes are already scheduled for 10/17, 10/24, and 11/14. I will be working on the other dates, so if you know a teacher who might want to come, have her/him give me a call at 531-6293. Also contact me if you have are free on a Wednesday, 9 am -12 noon and want to come; 4-6 adults make the morning run very smoothly. -*Sue Morgan*

FRIEND OF THE MONTH- MARK RAUZON

Mark is truly devoted to our group and has always come through on the big projects. During the 1998 Bridgeview Meadow project, Mark came out nearly every week during that 3 month project, including the difficult ones. He's faithful to weekly work events -except that is when he is off on one of his many study expeditions to Guam, Samoa, Hawaii, New Zealand, working on restoration projects there. When he gets back, he keeps volunteers entertained with his descriptions of the projects he's seen, placing our work in a broader context. He's been on our Steering Committee, now Board of Directors, since the beginning. A beloved devil's advocate, he often raises issues that we would otherwise not consider, and we become wiser for the experience. Now that the nursery is up and running, Mark has stepped forward again to take a leading role in recruiting volunteers to run it. Thanks also to Suzanne, his wife, who commits a great amount of time herself. It's always enjoyable to have them both! - *Stuart Richardson and Michael Thilgen*

CANYON UPDATE AND HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED!!

Work continues on the Sausal Creek restoration project in Dimond Canyon. The contractor has removed the three massive concrete and steel dams and a large portion of the old concrete walls. Grading work is proceeding in the channel itself to sculpt a naturalistic streambed.

Work is scheduled for completion by early November, at which point the canyon will reopen to the public. Due to the major clearing, it will be more open (almost 2 acres, without plants) than before the construction began, but there will be only minor increases in views to adjacent houses. The creek will be reconfigured - straight edged rock and concrete walls will have given way to a meandering channel with irregular edges. There will be creek side boulders and small pools for improved trout habitat. The cleared slopes will be covered with wood chip mulch for erosion and weed control. The steeper slopes will be hydroseeded with grasses. When the contractor leaves, we will celebrate our return to an improved canyon, and we'll immediately begin replanting the slopes with the local native plants we have been growing over the past year.

How can you help? Because I know you've been dying to, but just didn't know how.

Propagation at the new nursery in Joaquin Miller Park: We are now well over half way to our goal of 20,000 seedlings for planting this fall and winter, but we only have a month left to reach our goal. So, FoSC is still holding propagation work parties from 9 to Noon every Saturday and Wednesday in October. New volunteers are always welcome. *To get to the nursery:* Take Highway 13 to Joaquin Miller Road exit. Uphill on Joaquin Miller Road for 0.8 miles and left onto Sanborn Drive (look for the Woodminister Theater sign). Beyond the ranger station is a fork in the road - the right fork is gated. Our site is down the gated road, so park in the lot off to the left and walk down the right, gated fork. After 1/4 mile you'll see a chain link fence and our green parachute. That's us, so come on in.

Revegetating the slopes of Sausal Creek in Dimond Canyon: Volunteer planting events are scheduled to begin Saturday, November 3 (pending the reopening of the canyon). Planting will occur in the canyon every Saturday until late April. With thousands of shrubs and trees to plant, FoSC is seeking groups to assist. Groups may select any Saturday; however, for planning purposes we'd like to request that you call ahead. Groups willing to commit to ongoing care of an area may also "Adopt a Spot". To register your group, contact Stuart Richardson at (510) 912-7792. *Lead groups of planters in the canyon:* The large groups of planters signing up to revegetate the canyon shouldn't plant unguided. We particularly need people who are willing to lead small groups of planters in the canyon. Please contact Mark Rauzon at 531-3887 to volunteer.



FOSC RECEIVES 2001 KODAK AMERICAN GREENWAY AWARD

The Friends of Sausal Creek recently received a grant from the Kodak American Greenway Awards Program, administered by the Conservation Fund, in Arlington, VA. The grant will be used for the printing of print color brochures/maps promoting a greenway along Sausal Creek. In addition to the grant award, FoSC will be showcased by The Conservation Fund as a national model for its work.

The Kodak Awards Program provides grants of up to \$2,500.00 to non-profit and government agencies to help develop new action oriented greenway projects. FoSC is one of only 31 groups chosen this year, out of almost 200 applicants nationwide. The Kodak Awards Program is described on line at <http://www.conservationfund.org/conservation/amgreen/index.html>.

The development of a greenway along Sausal Creek is a major goal of FoSC. Our Vision Statement opens, "It is the year 2025 - a trail meanders along the edge of Sausal Creek extending from the creek's headwaters to the Oakland Estuary. Sausal Creek unites diverse communities on its journey to the estuary..." "Sausal Creek Watershed Action Plan", prepared by Stott Planning Associates, January 28, 2000.

A special thanks to Tim and Stephanie Reed, as representatives of the Friends of William D. Wood Park, and Nicolo De Luca, of Councilmember Dick Spees' Office, for writing letters of support for the FoSC application.

The Friends of Sausal Creek are sponsored by the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the City of Oakland. Additional support is provided by the San Francisco Foundation. For more information, call Stuart Richardson at (510) 912-7792 (day) or (510) 864-7175 (eve) or email at sausalcreekprojects@att.net. Newsletter edited by Govind Acharya and Charlotte Bell, call (510) 339-8168 for comments or changes to address. Printing and postage of this newsletter provided for by the City of Oakland.



Friends of Sausal Creek

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Monthly Meetings

- Wednesday, October 17
- Wednesday, November 21
- Wednesday, December 19
7:00p - 9:00p, Dimond Library- 3565 Fruitvale Avenue

Bird Monitoring

- Saturday, October 13
- Saturday, November 10
- Saturday, December 8
7:30a - 9:30a. Call Martha Lowe at (510) 530-7923 for location.

Aquatic Insect Sampling

- Sunday, October 21
- Sunday, November 18
- Sunday, December 16
9:30a - 12:00p. Those interested should call Emma at (510) 527-2507 or send e-mail to lightbrown@onemail.com for more information.

Oyster Monitoring

- Saturday, October 6
- Saturday, October 20
- Saturday, November 3
9:00a - 12:00p. at the foot of the Fruitvale Bridge connecting Oakland with Alameda. For more information, contact Charlotte Bell at (510) 339-8168.

Water Monitoring

- Saturday, October 6
- Saturday, November 3
- Saturday, December 1
Call Mark Lane at (510) 684-3247 for location and time.

Book Club

- Friday, November 2, 7:30p-
Discussion of part 5 and 6 of *Nature's Economy* by Donald Worster. For location, call Charlotte Bell at (510) 339-8168.

**Please attend the next monthly meeting—
Wednesday, October 17, 7:00 p.m., at the Dimond Library.**