



Meetings

Public Meeting on the Sausal Creek Dimond Park Restoration Project
Tuesday, April 5, 7–9 p.m. at the Dimond Recreation Center, 3860 Hanly Rd.

Come learn about plans for the upcoming restoration of Sausal Creek in Dimond Park. The City of Oakland Watershed and Stormwater Management Program is sponsoring this community meeting. For more information visit oaklandcreeks.org, call (510) 238-6600, or email watersheds@oaklandnet.com.

Restoration and Fundraising Committee Meetings

Wednesday, May 11, 7–9 p.m. at the Park Blvd. Presbyterian Church

If you are interested in helping to turn the recommendations in our watershed plan into on-the-ground projects, join the FOSC Restoration Committee. If you have fundraising ideas or development experience, the Fundraising Committee needs you.

Strawberry Creek Restoration Program Presentation

Wednesday, May 18, 7–9 p.m. at the Dimond Library

The Strawberry Creek Restoration Program at UC Berkeley is a success story of habitat renewal in resource-constrained times. Led by students in partnership with the UCB Office of Environment, Health and Safety and the Grounds Management Department, the mostly volunteer program is rolling back nearly 30 years of neglect and invasion by non-native vegetation within the campus natural areas. Join Environmental Protection Specialist Tim Pine and Lead Student Restoration Coordinator Tyler Grinberg for a presentation on the challenges overcome to restore biodiversity and habitat health in UC Berkeley's part of Strawberry Creek.

Earth Day Workday: Saturday, April 16

From the Sausal Creek tributaries in the hills to the outlet of Sausal Creek at Fruitvale Bridge Park, FOSC has a place for you to volunteer on Earth Day 2011. For a more intimate experience, consider pulling invasives at Beaconsfield Canyon, Shepherd Canyon, or Wood Park, or help propagate native plants at the Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery; workday hours are 9 a.m. to noon for these locations. For early birds who want to help keep trash from entering the estuary, arrive at the creek mouth at 8 a.m. to take advantage of low tides. For those who enjoy a larger community experience, plan to arrive at Dimond Park at 8:30 a.m. to sign-in and have a bagel before the 9 a.m. start of work; stay afterwards for lunch at noon so you can visit with neighbors and the youth groups who will be helping. Please consider making a monetary donation to support FOSC's Earth Day workday leadership (coupon below). For details on each site, visit

www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/calendar.html or contact (510) 501-3672 or coordinator@sausalcreek.org. Note that minors need a signed waiver to participate at all locations. Dimond Park volunteers can print the waiver at tinyurl.com/EarthDay11 and bring the filled out waiver with them to speed up sign-in.

The Backyard Ecosystem: May 7 Workshop

Please join us in the Dimond Park Demonstration Garden (uphill from the tot lot near the Dimond Recreation Center) on Saturday, May 7, from 10 a.m.–noon. Jennifer Smith will talk about native bees and how to attract them to your garden, and Megan Hess will discuss the environmental advantages of gardening with native plants. Please RSVP to field@sausalcreek.org or (510) 325-9006.

GOING GREEN:

THIS IS THE LAST PAPER NEWSLETTER GOING OUT BY MAIL

Please contact us with your email address or with your special request to keep getting a mailed copy of the newsletter: (510) 501-3672 or coordinator@sausalcreek.org

NEW Botany Walks

Join FOSC this spring as we hike the beautiful trails of the watershed in search of native wildflowers to practice identification techniques. Walks will be led by Restoration and Nursery Manager Megan Hess and will take place on Fridays: March 25, April 22, and May 6, 10 a.m.–noon. Check the FOSC event calendar for location details. All are welcome!



The idea to lead botany walks grew out of the growing interest and participation in FOSC's seed hikes. These intrepid hikers scour the trail edges for native plants going to seed or ripe for taking cuttings. The plants used in our restoration projects are propagated from the harvests of this group. The new botany walks will help us to locate and map plants that

will be revisited to collect seeds and cuttings in the future. Contact Megan at nursery@sausalcreek.org or (510) 325-9006 to RSVP for the botany walks or to get on the seed hike listserv.

DONATION IN HONOR OF EARTH DAY 2011

Your donation supports the staff time needed to orchestrate this multi-site event and helps FOSC purchase new tools and other field supplies.

Mail this form with check made payable to:
Friends of Sausal Creek, P.O. Box 2737, Oakland, CA 94602.
FOSC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and your contribution is fully tax-deductible. A receipt will be sent for your records. With a minimum donation of \$25 to FOSC, you are eligible for a year's subscription to *Bay Nature* magazine at the discounted rate of \$17.95.

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\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other: _____

I have enclosed an additional \$17.95 for one year's subscription to *Bay Nature* magazine (not tax-deductible).

Friends of Sausal Creek

P.O. Box 2737
Oakland, CA 94602
(510) 501-FOSC
www.sausalcreek.org



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THIS NEWSLETTER IS GOING ELECTRONIC!

THIS IS THE LAST PAPER NEWSLETTER GOING OUT BY MAIL

Beginning in June 2011, the FOSC newsletter will be changing to an electronic format. **We need to hear from you so that you can continue to receive it.**

- If you have an email address but are not currently getting the newsletter electronically, please contact us so that you can be added to the electronic distribution list. Email coordinator@sausalcreek.org. Your email address will not be released to other organizations or individuals for any reason.
- If you do not have an email address, we can still print and mail the newsletter to you, but you must contact us to let us know that is your preference. Please call (510) 501-3672.
- If you already get the newsletter via email, you do not have to contact us.

Our board of directors has made this decision after several months of assessing our paper newsletter costs, both environmental and financial. We truly do not wish to lose contact with any Friends, so we ask that you please contact us today. We appreciate all of the responses we received following this request in our previous newsletter.

Sausal Creek Fish Kill Update

On August 5, 2010, while conducting a site visit for the upcoming Sausal Creek restoration project, Kristin Hathaway with the City of Oakland's Watershed and Stormwater Manager Program discovered a rainbow trout fish kill in a Sausal Creek pool in Dimond Park. At least 25 rainbow trout were killed. After investigating this fish kill incident, as well as a 23,400-gallon sediment-laden chlorinated potable water discharge into Reliez Valley Creek in Lafayette, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board issued a Complaint for Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) on February 18, 2011, proposing that East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) pay \$76,600 in fines for these two unpermitted discharges. For the Sausal Creek discharge, they found that EBMUD had used super-chlorinated water to disinfect a newly installed drinking water pipeline; the water was then stored in a truck for dechlorination but was not tested for residual chlorine prior to discharging it into the storm drain that leads to Sausal Creek.

EBMUD has waived their right to a hearing before the Regional Board within 90 days, electing to engage in settlement discussions.

FOSC ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Call (510) 501-FOSC or email coordinator@sausalcreek.org (unless otherwise noted) for information on all activities. For details about ongoing projects, check the Volunteer section of the Friends' website at www.sausalcreek.org.

Bi-Monthly Meeting

3rd Wednesday of every other month

- Wednesday 5/18, 7–9 p.m.
Dimond Library, 3565
Fruitvale Ave.

Board of Directors Meeting

- Wednesday 4/13, 7–9 p.m.
Park Boulevard Presbyterian
Church, 4101 Park Blvd.
All are welcome!

Saturday Workdays

For details on restoration and nursery workdays, go to sausalcreek.org/volunteer/calendar.html, or contact Megan Hess at (510) 325-9006 or field@sausalcreek.org.

Bird Walk

- Saturday 4/23, 8–10 a.m.
Meet at the tot lot next to
Dimond Recreation Center.
For more info contact Pat
Bacchetti, (510) 708-5724,
bacpab@comcast.net.

Bird Monitoring

Quarterly

- Sunday 4/24, 8:30 a.m.–
12:30 p.m. Sequoia Arena,
Joaquin Miller Park — Take
Skyline Drive to Sequoia
Arena, just south of Chabot
Space Center; meet in the first
parking lot. Call Mark Rauzon
to confirm, (510) 531-3887.

You can track the status of the case at www.waterboards.ca.gov by searching for Complaint No. R2-2011-0005. The Friends of Sausal Creek will post updates on our listserv. You can join our listserv by emailing coordinator@sausalcreek.org or by signing up at lists.sausalcreek.org/listinfo.cgi/fosc-sausalcreek.org. — *Kimra McAfee*

Capitalizing on Donated Time and Money

Thank you to CH2M HILL for donating \$1,500 to FOSC in honor of board member Paul Frank's volunteer service through their Dollars for Doers program. This corporate generosity is greatly appreciated! We hope this successful fundraising story will encourage other Friends to explore similar corporate programs or employer contribution matches.

April-May '11 newsletter contributors:

Megan Hess, Richard Kauffman, Kimra McAfee
Editor: Kimra McAfee. Designer: Danielle Foster.