



**No Monthly Meeting!**

**Join us for our Solstice Celebration on SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22 at 12:30  
at the EL CENTRO TRAILHEAD in DIMOND PARK instead !**

Instead of having a monthly meeting we will be celebrating the winter solstice and the reopening of Dimond Canyon with lunch and awards for volunteers immediately following the Saturday workday. We need volunteers to bring sandwiches or other finger food (remember some of us are vegetarians) and warm beverages. Please contact Anne Hayes at (510) 237-0663 if you can bring something.

***Native Border for Nichol Park***

Students involved in Fruitvale School's Environment Explorer's Club will begin planting a border of native plants at Nichol Park in January. The club is led by Friends of the San Francisco Estuary naturalist Halima O'Neil and Fruitvale School teacher Raynell Hernandez and is sponsored by Fruitvale School's 21st Century Learning Center and the Trust for Public Land. Materials for the planting program are being funded through a \$2,000 EBMUD Teacher Action Grant.

-Stuart Richardson

***We Need Your Support!***

As the end of the year approaches, please consider making a tax deductible donation to the Friends of Sausal Creek. In the last year, we created a plant propagation center at Joaquin Miller Park (which is providing more than 10,000 plants to go into the Dimond Canyon restoration area), championed the dam removal project, provided trail maintenance and monitored the health of Sausal Creek from the hills to the estuary. This work was done with the 3,000+ hours of volunteer labor that have been donated this year.

Funding is needed so we can produce and mail the newsletter, hire part time staff so that we do not burn out leaders who are currently volunteering more than 10 hours each week (Stu Richardson and many others), and buying supplies. -Sam Cohen

To make a donation please use the coupon below.

***Good Bye to a Friend***

This month one very active member of the Friends passed away, Ed Wilkinson. Here is what I remember of Ed.

When I first moved to Oakland and was looking for an organization to volunteer for, the Friends of Sausal Creek came up. So, I went to a workday in Dimond Park and an older, cantakerous man greeted me and my fiance. He told me his name was Ed and that Stu wouldn't be here to lead the workday this week, but Michael would and that we'd be in good hands anyway. As a new member, I didn't understand why Stu being away was so disconcerting. After all, Michael ran the workday flawlessly. I later learned why. Ed and Stu ate lunch together after every Saturday workday.



I got to know Ed through the Saturday workdays and at the insect monitoring. He was a dedicated insect monitor and even kept the monitoring equipment. Eventually I too started eating lunch with Ed and Stu. Ed was always a mystery, but behind all of the critiques was a guy who cared deeply about the members of the Friends of Sausal Creek and the creek itself. Ed always let us know what projects we were leaving unattended, especially when it came to weeding. You could always find him weeding; even when everyone had been instructed to do something else. A couple of weeks ago I decided to weed too, but I was called away to help some other volunteers with plant propagation. A little later in the day he gave me this piece of advice. "You know I always do my own thing. When someone tells me to do something I turn and walk towards it (the project) and as soon as they turn away I turn right around and go back to what I was doing." That was Ed, he really wanted to attend to the plants that we had been ignoring. He was a great friend. And he always made me laugh when he referred to God. So, I hope SHE takes good care of him. Bye Ed. We'll miss you a lot. -Charlotte Bell

**Contributors Coupon**

o Yes! I want to make a tax-deductible donation. I will receive a receipt for my contribution.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation—Friends of Sausal Creek (FOPR—FOSC).

Mail your coupon to *Friends of Sausal Creek, c/o City of Oakland, PWA-ESD,*

*Attn: Kristin Hathaway, 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 5301, Oakland, CA 94612-2034*

## Sausal Creek's New Look

At long last, Sausal Creek has a new look and feel. The creek has been upgraded, the derelict steel trash racks and tons of concrete have been removed, and the great experiment of re-creating a natural creek has begun. While the landscape around the creek is looking a bit sparse at the moment, soon the indigenous landscape will assert itself. Riffles and pools suggested by creek designers are now getting a workout, and we'll see and learn where the creek really wants to be.

About a quarter mile of invasive plants like ivy, blackberry, acacia and elms bordering the creek have been removed and sunlight now pours in. Looking like a patient fresh out of surgery, the gauzed hillsides are starting to heal. Sterile grasses sprayed onto the hillside before being covered in jute are emerging with the rains. A lived-in look will develop as the many propagated plants are transplanted from the nursery to the hillsides.

Yes, it looks very different, and some may think it looks too raw. But the willow and dogwood stakes are sprouting and in a few short months will green the watercourse. In a few short years the habitat of a riparian corridor will be complete. We are fortunate to have this opportunity in our backyards to manage a restoration of Sausal Creek that will benefit native plants, birds and animals. The great experiment will allow East Bay land managers a chance to learn about how the processes might work. Kids will have a cleaner creek to play in and hopefully gain a greater appreciation of Oakland's potential for change and restoration. A better metaphor is hard to find.

-Mark Rauzon



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### Monthly Meetings

- Wednesday, January 16
- Wednesday, February 20
- Wednesday, March 20  
7 - 9p, Dimond Library-  
3565 Fruitvale Avenue

### Restoration Work

- Every Saturday  
9a - 12p at the El Centro  
Trailhead in Dimond Park.  
To help lead volunteers or  
for info call Stuart  
Richardson at 912-7792.

### Bird Monitoring

- Saturday, January 12
- Saturday, February 9
- Saturday, March 9  
7:30a - 9:30a. Call Martha  
Lowe at 530-7923 for  
location.

### Water Monitoring

- Saturday, January 5
- Saturday, February 2
- Saturday, March 2  
Call Mark Lane at 219-  
8036 for location and  
time.

### Oyster Monitoring

- Saturday, January 5
- Saturday, February 2
- Saturday, March 2  
9a - 12p at the Fruitvale  
Bridge. For more info,  
contact Charlotte Bell at 339-  
8168.

### Lower Watershed Water Monitoring

- Saturday, January 12
- Saturday, February 9
- Saturday, March 9  
10:00a - 1:00p, meet at the  
Unity Council. For more  
info, call Halima O'Neil at  
633-1826.

### Book Club

- Friday, January 11. Call Anne  
Hayes for more info, 237-  
0663.

### Aquatic Insect Sampling

- Sunday, January 20
- Sunday, February 17
- Sunday, March 17  
9:30a - 12:00p. Call Emma  
Brown at 527-2507 or send  
e-mail to lightbrown  
@onemail .com for more  
info.

### Sausal Creek on the Web

- For up to date information about events go to [volunteermatch.org](http://volunteermatch.org), click on the search page, enter your zip code and Sausal Creek as the keyword.
- If you want the newsletter sent as an attachment (.pdf) instead of in the mail, call Charlotte Bell at 339-8168 or e-mail [bell\\_charlotte@hotmail.com](mailto:bell_charlotte@hotmail.com).
- Add yourself to the FoSC listserv: Send a message to [listproc@envirolink.org](mailto:listproc@envirolink.org) with SUBSCRIBE FOOSC <your name> as the only thing in the body.

*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](mailto:sausalcreekprojects@att.net). Newsletter edited by Charlotte Bell. Printing and postage of this newsletter provided by the City of Oakland.*



Friends of Sausal Creek

P.O. Box 2737

Oakland, CA 94602

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

### 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.

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