



Friends of Sausal Creek

www.sausalcreek.org
(510) 501-FOSC (3672)

August-September '10

Bi-Monthly Meetings

What's the Future of Our Watershed? Feedback Wanted!

Please join us for a review and community discussion of the Sausal Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan at our **September 15** member meeting. This document, over three years in the making, will inform decisions on future restoration projects in the watershed. The board of directors invites volunteers and community members to help us prioritize the plan's recommendations and suggest areas needing further study. The full plan is available for review and comment at <http://www.sausalcreek.org/watershedplan.html>.

Wednesday, Sept. 15, 7:00 p.m. at the Dimond Library

Creek-to-Bay Day—Saturday, September 25

Please join us for this year's Creek-to-Bay Day, one of the largest annual events in the watershed. We will meet in Dimond Park at the Scout Hut at 8:30 a.m. to sign in, grab a light breakfast, and round up tools for a morning of cleaning up and restoring valuable creek habitat. A picnic-style lunch will follow the event at noon to celebrate our efforts. Events will also take place throughout the watershed at restoration sites including Barry Place, Beaconsfield Canyon, Fruitvale Bridge Park (the mouth of Sausal Creek), Shepherd Canyon, and Wood Park. Meeting locations and other details will be posted on the FOSC events calendar at www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/calendar.html. We hope you can make it! —Megan Hew

Interested in Crew Leading?

Each year, dedicated crew leaders lend their leadership skills at restoration events such as Creek-to-Bay Day, Earth Day, Solstice Planting Day, and monthly workdays in the watershed. FOSC's ongoing accomplishments wouldn't be possible without them. If you would like to join the team of crew leaders this year, please contact Megan at field@sausalcreek.org or (510) 325-9006 to set up a training day in the field. We are always in need of additional leaders, and it is a great way to learn more about current restoration projects. Creek-to-Bay Day on September 25 is a perfect opportunity to give it a try.

Thank You, Funders and Volunteers!

As we close out our fiscal year, we would like to recognize the corporate and private foundations that have supported our environmental education and restoration programs over the

past year: Clif Bar Family Foundation, The Clorox Company Foundation, Naches fun Gabyn Fund administered by East Bay Community Foundation, and the San Francisco Patagonia store. Coupled with private donations and county and state grants, this generosity made possible the past fiscal year's accomplishments:

- 29 student field trips
- 2,309 volunteer visits
- 6,140 volunteer hours
- 1,344 native plants planted

SAVE THE DATE:

Native Plant Sale and Open House

Sunday, October 24—Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery

Our fall native plant sale will be held at the native plant nursery in Joaquin Miller Park on Sunday, October 24, from 10:00 to 3:00. Come by to purchase native plants just in time to plant for the winter rains. This will be a particularly festive sale as we celebrate completion of three years of construction at the nursery. Look for a ribbon cutting event, live music, workshops on plant propagation and gardening with native plants, and more! We currently need extra volunteers to help complete the construction project, help prepare for the sale, and clean up afterwards. This is an important annual event that contributes a significant sum to our budget, so please consider helping out. For more information or to volunteer, visit www.sausalcreek.org, email coordinator@sausalcreek.org, or call (510) 501-3672.

Rainbow Trout on the Rise

Lower summertime flows in the creek present a great opportunity to check in on our local rainbow trout. This year we are seeing an unusual amount of fish throughout the watershed, from young fry to fingerlings to more mature fish in the larger, deeper pools. The continued health—and the very existence—of these fish depends on all of us, which is why it is so important to keep paints, detergents, pesticides, oils, and other chemicals out of the storm drains (which flow into the creek). State law now offers additional protection: It is illegal to fish in Sausal Creek or any of its tributaries. Hopefully, over time and with a little effort from all of us, the trout population will continue to grow and we will continue to marvel at the clusters of fry that scatter when we approach and the swish of strong tails rising and falling in the deep, clear pools on summer nights. —Sean Welch

SUPPORT THE WORK OF FOSC

Please help us maintain and expand our efforts in the Sausal Creek watershed by making a donation today!

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.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

\$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



NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
OAKLAND, CA
PERMIT NO. 2486

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Don't miss our member meeting on September 15, 7-9 p.m. Newsletter printed on recycled paper.

Save a Tree, Save FOSC Funds

Are you recycling this newsletter without reading it? Are you not the addressee? Please call (510) 501-3672 or email coordinator@sausalcreek.org to be removed from the mailing list or to change your method of delivery to email.

More of Sausal Creek to be Restored in Dimond Park

The City of Oakland's Watershed and Stormwater Management Program presented their newest restoration project proposal at the Friends of Sausal Creek member meeting on July 21. The project will remove 180 feet of buried culvert, stabilize stream banks, install a wide variety of native plants, and create an improved



pathway along a 745-foot stretch of Sausal Creek below Wellington Street in Dimond Park. The goals of the project are to improve fish habitat, improve water quality, reduce erosion, protect adjacent properties, and improve visibility and awareness of the creek.

This stretch of creek is home to a population of native rainbow trout that are currently cut off from upstream habitat by a stretch of arch culvert and a broken culvert apron that hangs above the creek bed. The fish are further impacted by erosion caused by the constricted channel and the current position of the culvert. The water exiting the culvert hits the natural creek bed with significant force, taking with it soil from the creek banks and beneath the culvert. This destabilizes the creek banks and creates murky, sediment-laden water that can harm the fish. The most severe erosion occurs immediately downstream of the culvert where it is destabilizing some private property and a public roadway.

To fix the erosion problem, a portion of the culvert will be removed and the creek banks will be graded to a more stable angle. While this will also improve visibility of the creek from the park, some of the existing trees will have to be removed. The project is being designed to protect and retain the maximum number of existing trees and will include replanting with new native trees, such as willow and dogwood cuttings, that create bank stability and important creek habitat.

Finally, an improved, ADA-accessible walking path will be created adjacent to the creek, in addition to a creek overlook and

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 9/15, 7-9 p.m.

Dimond Library,
3565 Fruitvale Ave.

Board of Directors Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the month

(No board meeting in August.)

- Wednesday 9/8, 7-9 p.m.

Park Boulevard
Presbyterian Church,
4101 Park Blvd.

Saturday Workdays

For details on restoration and nursery workdays, go to www.sausalcreek.org/volunteer/calendar.html, or contact

Megan Hess at (510) 325-9006 or field@sausalcreek.org.

Aquatic Insect Sampling

- Saturday 8/21 & 9/18,
9 a.m.–noon

Contact Eddie Dunbar at insectnet@aol.com or (510) 506-2837 to get involved.

Bird Monitoring

Quarterly

- Saturday 10/16, 8 a.m.–noon
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.

interpretive elements to raise awareness of creek function and the restoration process.

The project is funded by a \$1.8 million, Proposition 50—River Parkways grant from the State of California, the Measure DD Bond for Clean Water and Safe Parks (approved by Oakland voters in 2002), and the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, which is a partner in the project design. The Friends of Sausal Creek, also a critical partner in the project, will be providing the plants through the Joaquin Miller Park Native Plant Nursery and will be stewards of the project for years to come.

Construction is targeted for late summer of 2012. For more information on this project, please contact Kristin Hathaway with the City of Oakland at (510) 238-7571 or khathaway@oaklandnet.com.

August–September '10 newsletter contributors:

Kristin Hathaway, Megan Hess, Richard Kauffman, Sean Welch
Editor: Kimra McAfee. Designer: Danielle Foster.