



Friends of Temescal Creek

448 48th Street
Oakland, CA 94609
510-655-0341
FoTemescal@aol.com
www.aoinstitute.org/temescal

January, February, March 2002 **Check out our Website!**

FoTC Quarterly Meeting

The next quarterly meeting, TBA will be in the end of April, **7pm. Temescal Library**

Come to the Temescal Library community room, downstairs, door in back, 5205 Telegraph Ave., Oakland

A Special Thanks to Our Volunteers

Jennifer Stanley: Web Site

Please volunteer to focus on one of the many types of tasks: **Coordination & Grantsmanship, Administration, Publicity, Clean-ups and Planting, and Mapping.** Your ideas are welcome!

Call 655-0341 or email FoTemescal@aol.com

You may also volunteer within the context of a Merritt College Environmental Studies course in order to get affordable college credit.

FoTC Steering Committee

Bruce Douglas, Current Acting President
Paul McGee, Resident of Vicente Canyon
Kristin Hathaway, Creeks Specialist, City of Oakland, Environmental Services Division
Robin Freeman, Co-founder of FoTC
Pat Nagle, Coordinator of Earthome
Bill McClung, Shelterbelt Builders & Vicente Canyon Resident
A. M. Fonda, Resident of Watergate intertidal creek neighbor
Margaret Bowman, St. John's Episcopal Church, on the Thornhill Branch

Prop. 13 Grants Available to Local Groups' Creek Projects

Request for proposals are out. Concept (short) proposals are due February 1, 2002.

FoTC can help inform your group how to apply for \$50,000 to \$5 million to implement on-the-ground creek projects.

Eligible projects reduce Non-Point-Source pollution (urban runoff) and /or restore beneficial uses of the State's waters. Municipalities, neighborhood associations, schools, and non-profits such as church groups can apply. Request for Proposals is on the Web. **www.swrcb.ca.gov/~rwqcb2**

Contact Bruce Douglas, 655-0341, or Carrie Austin, Watershed Coordinator, 622-1015, or cma@rb2.swrcb.ca.gov.

UPPER REACHES HAPPENINGS

Chabot Canyon Vegetation Management

By Laura Baker

A group of neighbors in the Chabot Canyon area is investigating the feasibility of creating a preserve on 10 acres of open space land just below the intersection of Highways 24 and 13. This strip of hillside burned in the 1991 firestorm. After the fire, members of the Chabot Canyon Association planned with Caltrans the planting of native trees and bunch grass in a revegetation project. The plantings thrived, and today this area has become a haven for wildlife, including nesting hawks, gray fox, deer, and many songbirds.

Although the native plants are currently healthy, they're threatened by the invasion of exotic plants such as broom, sucker eucalyptus, thistle and other weeds. These non-natives constitute a fire hazard for the homes directly below the open space. Despite the pleas of residents and the Oakland Fire Department, Caltrans has not maintained the land. In addition, trash dumped from the road above litters the hillside. Some neighbors—David Gowen, Ellen Peterson, and Laura Baker—believe that with proper planning and management, this area could offer a significant greenbelt for Chabot Canyon.

In addition to its importance for wildlife and fire control, the open space is valuable for its contribution to "green" views. The intersection of Highways 24 and 13 creates one of the noisiest corridors in Oakland, and scenic views are essential to restore some serenity. The view of the green hillside from the northern end of Temescal Park helps mitigate the eyesore of the freeway and the PG&E substation making it an important amenity to the park itself.

There is a small seasonal creek that crosses the property, but a much larger creek, composed of some of the Temescal headwaters draining Hiller Highlands, crosses the northern end of the property in a culvert just below Bentley School. This creek opens briefly along Roble Road. The neighbors are investigating the distant possibility of daylighting the portion that crosses the open space to improve the habitat.

Among the planning issues facing the project are the questions of what type of ownership might best serve the longterm purposes of the preserve, whether public or private, and how best to secure funding for each phase of the project, including the initial feasibility study. For more information, contact David Gowen (davidgowen@earthlink.net) or Laura Baker (lbake66@aol.com).

Citizen Water Quality Monitoring Starts on Thornhill Reach

FoTC has purchased a Water Quality Monitoring kit for use by interested FoTC members throughout the watershed.

St John's Episcopal hosts monitoring involving Thornhill Elementary science students. Starting Jan. 19, kids and adults are learning to use test kits to measure dissolved oxygen, phosphates, temperature, turbidity, coliform bacteria, etc. *Call 654-1823, for information, email: bomani@mymailstation.com.*

An in-depth, indoor monitoring workshop will be held on Thursday, February 14, 10am to 3pm, at the Friends of the Estuary office, 1515 Clay St., Suite 1400, Oakland, CA 94612. (510) 622-2337. (Steve Cochrane) email: sc@rb2.swrcb.ca.gov

ROCKRIDGE to TEMESCAL NEIGHBORHOOD REACH HAPPENINGS

Neighborhood Commemoration at New Temescal Post Office

PostMark Temescal is in progress! We are making a fun, interactive announcement that Temescal Creek is still flowing underneath.

Join in the creation of a community art project for the new Temescal Post Office, 4900 Shattuck Ave. The outdoor installation will commemorate various aspects of the neighborhood, including Temescal creek, local history and contemporary culture. We need all kinds of help, from hammering to digging dirt.

Watch the banner on Shattuck Ave. for upcoming volunteer workdays.

To find out more about *PostMark Temescal*, call: (510)655-0341, email: jnorman@california.com.

Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt Go Play on the New Play Structures in the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt

Thanks to the 1,200 volunteers for the BIG BUILD! The play structures are in Redondo Park (next to Global Video) and Hardy Park (at Claremont & Hudson). For more info. see Rockridge News, and the Greenbelt website, www.frogpark.org.

Greenbelt Phase I nears completion!

Construction crews are landscaping the Greenbelt, the new walk ways connecting Hardy Park to the DMV area and in the

Redondo/Clarke Street park are in. Planning and installing of the, art work and interpretive information will soon start. Keep posted about volunteer opportunities: **Bruce Douglas, 655-0341.**

EMERYVILLE REACH HAPPENINGS

Intertidal Study & Feasibility Study for an Intertidal Creek Restoration

FoTC is a partner with **Environmental Science Institute**, dedicated to environmental justice, and **Merritt College Environmental Studies Program** to produce a guide on how to restore the creek as it enters the bay. Staff is compiling a reference guide to be used by a group or land owner who wants to plan a restoration project. Call (510) 434-3841 or email: FoTemescal@aol.com.

East Bay Hills Fire & Watershed Convention

FoTC is collaborating with **Merritt College Environmental Studies Program** to create the **East Bay Hills Fire and Watershed Convention**.

The Convention will be held mid-March at the Merritt College Environmental Center. There will be a special Botanical plant monitoring workshop as part of the Convention. Call (510) 434-3841 or email: FoTemescal@aol.com.

Part-Time Administrative Assistant Work Is Available

Creek-related work is available on both the **Intertidal Study** and the **East Bay Hills Fire and Watershed Convention** projects. Call (510) 434-3841 or email: FoTemescal@aol.com.

Merritt College Environmental Program SPRING Semester courses.

Call (510) 436-2409 or (510) 434-3841, or visit website: <http://ecology@atmerritt.net> Register at www.peralta.cc.ca.us, click 'course schedule' tab. The Merritt College course, **ECOLOGICAL DESIGN INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE** the East Bay Fire and Watershed Convention Conference March 15 – 17 at Merritt's **Environmental Center (SRH)**. Call Robin Freeman at 434-3841 for information and to register for any of the workshops \$7.50 to \$35.

ENERGY TECHNOLOGY – ETECH * **ENERGY OPTIONS** Residential Solar-Electric, Energy Conservation, and Fire Safe Remodeling;

Code M0721 \$35. Starts March 30.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES – ENVST * **URBAN ECOLOGY** Code: M0722 \$24 * **WETLANDS RESTORATION** Code: M0347 \$35

* **ENVIRONMENTALISM IN ACTION** * **INTRO- AND ADVANCED TOPICS IN GIS/GPS** Code: M0348+m0349 \$35

* **ENVIRONMENTAL GEOLOGY** Code: M0593+M0519+M0253 \$35

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