



# Friends of Temescal Creek

NEWS :: April 2002

Info: (510) 655-0341  
FoTemescal@aol.com  
www.ainstitute.org/temescal

## the flow

### FoTC Quarterly Meeting

Join us Thursday, May 2, 7pm at the Temescal Branch Library's Community Room, 5205 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, downstairs (the door is in the back). The next meeting will be in late July, date TBD.

### Volunteer Opportunities and Info

Did you know you can get affordable college credit for volunteering for FoTC? For only \$13/unit, your work can earn you credit in the Merritt College Environmental Studies Program. For info about courses offered this Spring, see reverse.

We need volunteers to focus on a wide variety of tasks including: Grant Writing, Administration, Publicity, Cleanups and Planting, and Mapping. Your ideas are welcome! Call (510) 655-0341 or email FoTemescal@aol.com for more info about volunteering.

Thanks to our volunteers. Special recognition goes to:

Laura Baker, *articles*

Margaret Bowman, *Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator, articles*

Allysyn Kiplinger, *mailing list*

Paul McGee, *articles*

Jennifer Stanley, *new newsletter coordinator, website*

### FoTC Steering Committee

Bruce Douglas, *Acting president, cofounder*

Paul McGee, *Shelterbelt employee*

Kristin Hathaway, *Creeks Specialist, City of Oakland*

Robin Freeman, *cofounder*

Pat Nagle, *Earthome Coordinator*

Bill McClung, *Vicente Canyon resident*

A. M. Fonda, *Watergate resident, intertidal creek neighbor*

Margaret Bowman, *St. John's Episcopal Church, Thornhill Branch neighbor*

### Donations welcome (and needed).

If you can, please donate. Even \$2 helps. Clip and return this portion so we can confirm/update your contact information. Mail to the address on the reverse; make checks payable to FoTC.

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

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

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

*Optional*

Phone/Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you!**

### Oakland's Creek Protection Ordinance Improves

On February 26, 2002, due to the strong showing by Oakland's creeks community, the Oakland City Council voted to uphold the city's Creek Protection Ordinance. Almost 40 residents turned out to demonstrate support for the Ordinance. The vote kept the City's Environmental Services Division (ESD), who initiated and drafted creek protection elements added to the Ordinance in 1997, in the creek permit approval loop instead of ceding administration to the Planning Department. To improve the identification of creekside properties, \$75,000 was earmarked for creating a new Oakland creek map.

The creeks community strongly backed this vote, but not without concerns. Speakers felt it imperative that a database of creekside properties with parcel numbers be created to provide developers clear delineation of their responsibilities. Another concern was moving Ordinance administration from Building Services to the Planning Department. Planning does not have technical staff to make informed decisions on the environmental impacts of creekside development. Currently, ESD, a department within the Public Works Agency, is only advisory to the process, and many felt the need to mandate and fund their participation. Fortunately, as passed, the motion leaves room for improvements to enforcement.

There are many valuable protections for property owners and the community in the Ordinance. It will reduce the loss of property due to increased erosion from unwise development. It will also reduce maintenance and repair costs of culverts and banks downstream, protect water quality (urban runoff containing silt greatly harms our Bay), and encourage riparian habitat protection. Many of our small creek tributaries are the only remaining habitat in the watersheds. Thanks to the City Council for acting to protect our creeks and Bay. ♣

### Possible Oakland Bond Measure Would Benefit Our Waterfront and Creeks

Oakland's creeks have an opportunity for revitalization through a Bond Measure under consideration that would provide funds for creek restoration and acquisition. The creek funds would be a component of a larger Waterfront Parks Initiative Bond that includes funding for Lake Merritt and the Estuary. Though the wording and amount of the measure are not quite finalized, the bond would fund projects like bank stabilization, trails, planting, acquiring creekside parcels, and establishing conservation easements. Additionally, the bond money would help Oakland qualify for matching funds from state and federal grants. To qualify for the ballot, the measure will require the signatures of 35,000 Oakland residents. FoTC will help gather signatures when the bond is finalized in about a month. ♣

### Temescal Creek is One of Oakland's Earth Day Sites: Volunteer!

Saturday, April 20, Temescal Creek will benefit from the energy of cleaning and greening volunteers as part of the City of Oakland's annual Earth Day Celebration and citywide cleanup. Earth Day is always a good opportunity for FoTC to reach out to the community and to new members. Meet from 9am-noon in long pants and sturdy shoes at the Claremont DMV for cleanup and site work along the Temescal Creek Greenbelt. Participants receive a gift and snacks. Hope to see you there, and tell a friend or neighbor. (For additional Oakland Earth Day sites, log on to [www.oaklandshines.com](http://www.oaklandshines.com).) ♣

### Party at Lake Temescal with Superintendent Heath

Frances Heath, East Bay Regional Park District Superintendent (whose jurisdiction includes Lake Temescal) invites the Friends of Temescal Creek to come to Lake Temescal Park on Sunday, June 30 around 3pm at the Streamside Picnic area at the south end of the Lake (entrance off Broadway Terrace near Highway 13). Families and creek freak friends are welcome. Bring your own food. Barbecue facilities are available. The immensity of our watershed deserves to be honored by residents from the crest of the hills to the shore of the San Francisco Bay in Emeryville. Let's come together to share stories and celebrate our watershed community. Mark your calendar now! ♣

—Margaret Bowman

The Friends of Temescal Creek are residents, concerned citizens, businesses and supporting organizations. Our goal is to create awareness and stewardship linking the diverse stakeholders of our watershed to inspire a hills-to-Bay greenway corridor.

## Upper Reaches Happenings

Creek water quality testing continues monthly on the third Saturday, from 10:30am-noon. All are welcome, including student-age children old enough to avoid injury. Dress warmly. Meet at St. John's Episcopal Church parking lot at 1707 Gouldin Road (off Thornhill Dr. and Hwy. 13 in Montclair). Help is needed on a regular basis to study macroinvertebrate presence. The settings are beautiful. Treat yourself!

Pat Twomey (patt@itsa.ucsf.edu) is mapping the tributary headwaters of the Thornhill Reach with the goal of finding public access for water sampling, bird counts, and native plant study.

For more information, call Margaret Bowman at (510) 654-1823. —Margaret Bowman

*"We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time."*

—T.S. Eliot, "Little Gidding"

The Claremont Canyon Conservancy has applied for three Bureau of Land Management grants to manage vegetation to reduce the likelihood of fires. As proposed, funding would cover a portion of the costs of labor and equipment to carry out the projects for the Stonewall Road area, the mid-canyon area, and the upper Gwin Canyon area. (Gwin Canyon is a side canyon within the Claremont watershed.)

—Paul McGee

**Attention Bird Monitors from all East Bay creeks:** Are you interested in sharing your bird monitoring data and methods (or initiating a monitoring program), and occasionally meeting to discuss the bird monitoring results? Please email Laura Baker at Lbake66@aol.com.

—Laura Baker



## Rockridge to Temescal Neighborhood Reach Happenings

The neighborhood commemoration at the new Temescal Post Office aka "PostMark Temescal" is still in progress. The outdoor installation will commemorate various aspects of the neighborhood, and will remind all that Temescal Creek flows underneath. Info: (510) 655-0341 or norman@california.com.

Make sure to use the new play structures in Redondo Park (next to Global Video) and Hardy Park (at Claremont & Hudson). Or just come and enjoy the renewed park areas. For more info, go to the Friends of the Greenbelt website, www.frogpark.org.

## Emeryville Reach Happenings

The creek restoration pre-design directory for the East Central San Francisco Bay Area Intertidal Zone is complete. It outlines the process of planning a creek restoration, and gives a cross section of the stakeholders who need to be contacted to create a plan. The directory is funded by the San Francisco Foundation's San Francisco Bay Fund and is being prepared by the East Bay Watershed Center Partnership at Merritt College with the Environmental Science Institute and FoTC.

The Temescal Creek Greenway Plan is still available. The plan describes how to turn the Emeryville section of Temescal Creek into a vibrant, urban, green corridor. Available for \$5 in black & white, or \$22 in color. Call (510) 655-0341 to order a copy.

## Merritt College Environmental Program, Spring Semester, 2002

The following courses may be of interest to the FoTC community. The courses start late, so there's still time to register, and in most cases, you can register at the class. There are no prerequisites; all classes listed are open to the community.

### Residential Solar-Electric Class

3 units, \$35

PV system planning and installation, the energy crisis, energy use in the home, and solar hot water system installation. Meets on campus at the Merritt College Environmental Center.

New meeting times: Saturday & Sunday April 13 & 14, 9am-5:30pm, Saturday & Sunday, April 27

& 28, 9am-5:30pm. (It's all interesting; attend as much as you can.) Info: (510) 434-3841.

### Environmentalism in Action

1/2-2 units (varies), \$7.50-\$24

Meets Tuesday evenings, 6:30pm starting April 30.

Also Saturday field sessions.

Info: (510) 548-2220, Ext. 233.

### Ecological Design, Installation, and Maintenance

1-3 units (varies), \$13-\$35

Many topics in environmental technology. Meets in the East Bay and at the Berkeley Tuolumne Camp in the Sierras. Starts in June. Info: (510) 434-3841.

Merritt College Environmental Program, 12500 Campus Drive, Oakland, CA, 94619, (510) 434-3841

*The activities of the Friends of Temescal Creek are possible in part due to generous support from the Strong Foundation, the San Francisco Foundation's Bay Fund, the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program, and the City of Oakland.*



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