

MANZANITA

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This issue of the *Manzanita* features East Bay restoration projects. Two articles are written by people who participate directly in these efforts—with the Friends of Sausal Creek and in Oakland’s Beaconsfield Canyon. A third is written by one of the owners of The Watershed Nursery, which supplies local native plants for restoration projects.

Tom Coroneos



Volunteers remove invasive grasses along the trail through Dimond Canyon at the Earth Day 2009 workday. Over 150 people came to Dimond Park and Canyon to volunteer for the 2009 Earth Day event, and over 250 people turned out at this same location for the annual Creek-to-Bay Day workday in September 2009.

Aquatic Outreach Institute, with an opportunity to begin restoring an overgrown corner of a large urban forest located in Dimond Park. In March 1996, a 15,000-square-foot area was cleared of invasive ivy and acacia trees, and a California native plant demonstration garden was established. We began by hacking English and Algerian ivy vines that had crowded the streamside white alders (*Alnus rhombifolia*), then moved onto the slope where black acacias were removed and ivy ripped out and dug up. The visible results of the efforts of mobilized city park main-

Friends of Sausal Creek

by *Mark Rauzon*

The Friends of Sausal Creek (FOSC) is a community partnership dedicated to environmental stewardship of the Sausal Creek watershed located in Oakland. Formed in January 1996, FOSC has developed from a neighborhood group into a nonprofit organization carrying out restoration, education, and nursery propagation programs. The Friends are a group of residents, teachers, students, merchants, and elected officials working together with two part-time staff to improve the Sausal Creek watershed, with an ultimate vision of a riparian corridor linking the hills and the bay.

FOSC officially formed with support from the City of Oakland, the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and the nonprofit

tenance workers, neighbors, and local school children quickly established the presence of the group in the urban setting. As a result, the safety and access of the park improved. This coincided with a period of increasing real estate values, and the organization was touted on real estate flyers.

The demonstration garden was expanded by following the riparian corridor up the creek. In 2000, a city-funded sewer replacement was scheduled. Using heavy equipment, contractors removed the broken cement sewer line and replaced it with plastic, then secured the banks with imported boulders, willow, and dogwood stakes. Before it was restored, the creek would drain into the sewer line and dry up in the summer. After restoration, the stream flowed year-round, and native rainbow trout soon reestablished themselves from populations previously isolated in small pools in Palo Seco Creek, one of the headwaters of Sausal Creek.

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