



CURRENTS

WATERSHED PLANNING

Inspiring Community Interest in Planning for the Rodeo Creek Watershed

The Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) and the Restoration Design Group (RDG) have had great success in creating the Rodeo Creek Watershed Vision Planning Group. By galvanizing both community and local agency support, the group of voluntary members are working on a well planned future for the Rodeo Creek Watershed. What began as a few public meetings, designed to spark interest in the Rodeo Creek Watershed, has blossomed into a dynamic working group. Monthly meetings are held as an open forum where people can gather information, express their concerns, and begin exploring ways to improve the Rodeo Creek Watershed areas. Through these brainstorming meetings, Creek Clean-Ups and Watershed Tours, many ideas have formed on ways to improve the Rodeo Creek Watershed.

This is a collaborative project led by the CCRCD, and RDG. Project sponsors include the Contra Costa County Redevelopment Agency, Contra Costa County Flood Control and Watershed Conservation District, Contra Costa County Public Works and the Muir Heritage Land Trust. All these organizations have been working closely with the community to create a Watershed Vision Plan that will be based entirely on elements that arise from these community meetings. The meetings have included presentations from the various County

agencies, Laurel Collins of Watershed Sciences, the Muir Heritage Land Trust, the City of Hercules, and the East Bay Regional Park District. Now that the community is turning its attention to its watershed, the effects of their collaborative efforts have been amazing. The meetings have enabled the community to voice its opinion and directly shape the end result... a working Vision Plan for the watershed.

The members of the team have participated in two on-site tours within the watershed, both Upper and Lower Rodeo Creek Watershed areas. By walking the creek with county officials, the group was able to ask questions directly of the agencies involved in the oversight of the maintenance, restoration and planning process. The Vision Planning Group was able to weigh possibilities by asking questions and receiving instant feedback on the feasibility of projects, and other aspects of the restoration process for both the lower and upper watershed areas.

We had a huge success with our first Lower Creek Clean-Up Day in April. Volunteers removed everything from old tires and candy wrappers to baby carriages, filing cabinets, and bicycles. One young volunteer was instantly able to see the fruits of his labors, when, in a stagnant section of the creek, he helped pull out an old tire and suddenly the creek began to flow again! With a bit of care, and several hours of back breaking work, the group was able to restore a section of the Rodeo Creek to near pristine condition.



The Rodeo Creek Clean-up kids with a pile of trash and treasures they removed from the lower watershed in April 08.



Rodeo Vision Planning Team on the Rodeo Creek Pedestrian Bridge.

Continued on next page

CONTRA COSTA RCD MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District is to provide an organized means for land managers and local community members to play a prominent role in carrying out voluntary, cooperative conservation programs that promote the sustainable and productive use of natural resources in Contra Costa County.