

TO: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission  
FROM: Kathren Murrell Stevenson, Restoration Director, Friends of Sausal Creek  
DATE: 11/19/2008

RE: Dimond Park Native Plant Demonstration Garden Project

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## **SUMMARY**

The Friends of Sausal Creek (FOSC) would like to create a demonstration garden in Dimond Park using California native plants. As part of this project, FOSC will expand the footprint of the original demonstration garden and facilitate the conversion of a Kikuyu grass lawn to a low-growing native plant meadow. The demonstration garden will provide an outstanding educational resource for the City and will increase habitat quality and complexity, drawing native birds, butterflies, and other pollinators into this section of Dimond Park.

In this time of severe drought, a project of this nature could not be more appropriate. It supports the water conservation goals of the City of Oakland, FOSC, East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), and others. The plants needed for this project will be grown at FOSC's Native Plant Nursery in Joaquin Miller Park. A grant recently awarded to FOSC by EBMUD will enable us to implement irrigation improvements and water-saving methods previously approved by PRAC for the nursery, making this a sustainable project both in terms of plant propagation and the creation of the demonstration garden itself.

This project has been funded by a grant from the Coastal Conservancy. The City of Oakland is supportive of this project. During the design phase, FOSC consulted with staff from various City of Oakland Departments, including Parks and Recreation, Dimond Park Recreation Center, Public Works, and Environmental Services. We vetted various ideas, and collected comments on the proposed alternatives. The attached document provides a description this vetting process with staff from the City of Oakland and the larger community, from which the proposed design alternative was selected from four possibilities. The considered project alternatives are included as an appendix to the attached plan, along with concept drawings based upon the selected alternative, prepared by Four Dimensions Landscape Company.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The total cost for this project is \$42,000 and has been funded by a \$32,000 grant from the Coastal Conservancy and matching funds from Councilmembers Jean Quan and Ignacio de la Fuente. FOSC is not seeking additional funding from Oakland Parks and Recreation.

## **BACKGROUND**

The demonstration garden was originally designed and installed in 1996 to demonstrate that California native plants can be used for landscaping. FOSC are now prepared to transform this area with three new goals in mind: 1) education, 2) ecological sustainability, and 3) ecological integrity. By planting a native plant meadow, FOSC will demonstrate what natives homeowners can plant as an alternative to the more water-intensive lawn. In the oak woodland area, FOSC will show what natives homeowners can plant as an alternative to Algerian ivy and other invasive ground covers in shadier habitats. On the sunny slopes, FOSC will demonstrate what natives work well on dry hillsides. Overall, FOSC will emphasize the following benefits of planting with natives: 1) attracts birds and wildlife; 2) reduces water use; 3) requires lower

“inputs” (herbicide and/ or fertilizer use) over the long term; 4) provides connectivity to natural landscape; 5) provides ecosystems with higher ecological integrity and sustainability.

This project restores a section of Dimond Park near Sausal Creek with California native plants to improve public access, maintain recreational opportunities, create sight lines to El Centro, increase public safety, and promote education along the creek.

## **KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS**

FOSC surveyed the community about this project and contacted several neighborhood listserves. FOSC provided several project alternatives. Moreover, the alternative we present today to PRAC was the favored one. FOSC sent a notification of the selected alternative to DIA and to Dimond, Glenview, and Laurel neighborhood listserves. All responses to this notification were positive and supportive to the project. (Notification included as an appendix in the attached plan). As we heard during this process, neighbors are excited to see increased biodiversity in the proposed area of Dimond Park. This project will also increase habitat for native species and will provide a significant educational opportunity to students from Oakland Public Schools and to neighborhood residents.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The new Demonstration Garden will be cleared of invasive exotics. The project will include construction of permeable pathways that will facilitate safe access between the creek and the Demonstration Garden. The project will also involve the development a transitional area from the park's tot lot into the Demonstration Garden and the adjoining riparian area (See attached plan, concept drawings, and work plan).

Interpretive signage will be created for this project, informing the public about urban and residential impacts on creek habitat, the importance of conservation of California native habitats, as well as outline the myriad restoration projects, including this project, FOSC has undertaken in the Dimond Park/Dimond Canyon corridor (See attached plan for pictures of proposed signage style).

Suggested opportunities to partner with the Dimond Park Recreation Center include environmental education work days, where FOSC technical experts could teach a part of Dimond Park Recreation Center regular Family Day programming, and providing an opportunity for kids at the Recreation Center to build bird/ bat boxes for the demonstration garden. Partnerships with Oakland High School will also be important, as high school students will be invited to create a brochure on the benefits of native plants for use at one of our signage points.

Maintenance for the project will be conducted on Earth Day and Creek to Bay Day each year, in addition to a few Saturday morning restoration workdays each year. In addition, FOSC plan to conduct outreach to find a gardening group who will adopt the spot and help with maintenance on a monthly basis.

## **SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

FOSC will be improving the sustainability of the area by reducing water and fertilizer use over the long term in the area converted from a monoculture lawn to a low-growing native meadow. By educating the public about the benefits of planting with natives, FOSC hope that such practices will be adopted all over Oakland.

Economic:

This is a beautification project that will benefit Dimond Park and home values in surrounding areas. The selected alternative saves the City of Oakland money over other alternatives, as existing irrigation would not need to be replaced and the one-time herbicide application will greatly reduce maintenance costs into the future.

Environmental:

This project will result in an overall reduction in water and fertilizer use in the area. The selected project alternative requires a one-time herbicide use under the Oakland Herbicide Ordinance new project exemption to remove the invasive Kikuyu grass lawn for replacement by a native plant meadow. Herbicide application would be conducted by a trained professional, such as Martin Matarrese, according to guidelines established by the City of Oakland.

David Skinner and Michael Thilgen both recommended this alternative, as it is the only way to really get rid of the invasive Kikuyu grass lawn. In addition David suggested the grass would need to be fertilized, aerated, and watered in spring/summer of 2009 to encourage aboveground biomass. The initial herbicide application would take place in September or October of 2009. This application should last one year, after which any remaining shoots would be spot treated or covered with cardboard sheet mulch. Fencing will be used to close off the area, and fence posts will be placed to avoid irrigation lines. All public notifications required by the City of Oakland Herbicide Ordinance will be strictly adhered to.

Social Equity:

Students from Oakland High School, Skyline High School, and other Oakland public schools will benefit from this project as it is accessible via public transportation and can be incorporated into FOOSC's environmental education program, which specifically targets students from diverse social and economic settings.

**DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS**

FOOSC is currently installing ADA accessible paths at its native plant nursery and supports providing access for visitors with disabilities. The demonstration garden is immediately adjacent to the Dimond Park Recreation Center Parking lot and is therefore easily accessed by people who like to enjoy the outdoors without walking too far.

**RECOMMENDATION(S) AND RATIONALE**

FOOSC recommends approval of this project based upon its support from the Coastal Conservancy, the City of Oakland, and the community-at-large.

**ACTION REQUESTED OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**

FOOSC requests that PRAC approve the proposed project as described in this letter and the attached plan.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathren Murrell Stevenson,  
Restoration Director, Friends of Sausal Creek



# **Friends of Sausal Creek**

*Promoting Watershed Protection*

## **Friends of Sausal Creek's Demonstration Garden Project: Dimond Park**

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11/19/2008

# Dimond Park Demonstration Garden Redesign

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## **Project Summary**

This project restores a section of Dimond Park near Sausal Creek with California native plants to improve public access, recreation, and education along the creek. Proposed restoration work involves converting invasive turf to restored native plant community and reworking an area to create a sustainable, educational Demonstration Garden for California native plants.

The new Demonstration Garden will be cleared of invasive exotics and revegetated with native to oak woodland, perennial grassland, coastal scrub and riparian habitats. The project will include construction of permeable pathways that will facilitate safe access between the creek and the Demonstration Garden. The project will also involve development of a transitional area from the park's tot lot into the Demonstration Garden and the adjoining riparian area. Interpretive signage will be created for this project, informing the public about urban and residential impacts on creek habitat, the importance of conservation of California native habitats as well as outline the myriad restoration projects, including this project, FOSC has undertaken in the Dimond Park/Dimond Canyon corridor. The entire project will take place during 2009, with a goal of planting in December of 2009.

Another goal of this project is to create a regional education center at Dimond Park, located in the demonstration area, where young adults and community members throughout the East Bay can come to better understand what native habitats look like and why they are important to the integrity of an ecosystem. Also, in the riparian area, special emphasis will be put on the use of natives to prevent erosion and siltation, providing a unique educational site for owners of creekside properties.

## **Project Background**

The demonstration garden was originally designed and installed in 1996 to demonstrate that California native plants can be used for landscaping. FOSC are now prepared to transform this area with three goals in mind: 1) Education, 2) Ecological Sustainability, and 3) Ecological Integrity. By planting a native plant meadow, FOSC will demonstrate what natives homeowners can plant as an alternative to the more water-intensive lawn. In the oak woodland area, FOSC will show what natives homeowners can plant as an alternative to Algerian ivy and other invasive ground covers in shadier habitats. On the sunny slopes, FOSC will demonstrate what natives work on dry hillsides. Overall, FOSC will emphasize the following benefits of planting with natives: 1) attracts birds and wildlife; 2) reduces water use; 3) requires lower “inputs” (herbicide and fertilizer use) over the long term; 4) provides connectivity to natural landscape; and 5) provides ecosystems with higher ecological integrity and sustainability.

This project restores a section of Dimond Park near Sausal Creek with California native plants

- to improve public access,
- to maintain recreational opportunities,
- to create sight lines to El Centro to increase public safety
- and to promote education along the creek.

Proposed restoration work involves converting invasive turf to restored native plant community, and reworking the area upslope to create a sustainable, educational demonstration garden for California native plants.

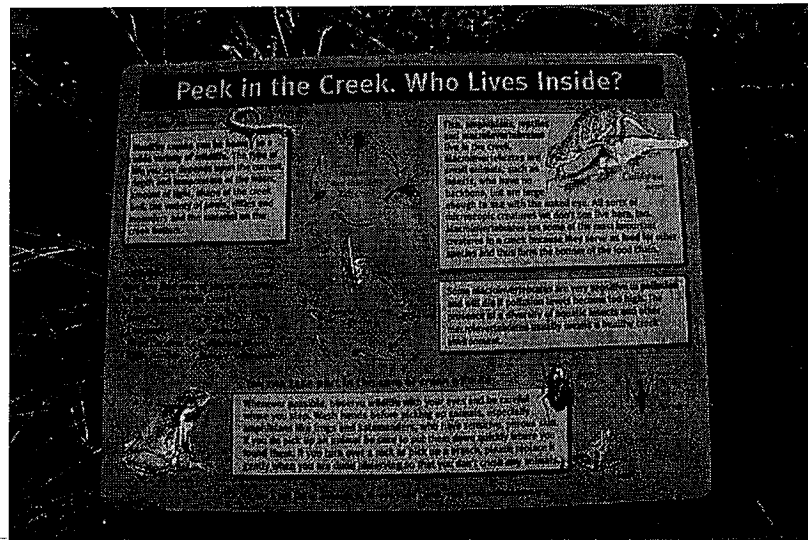
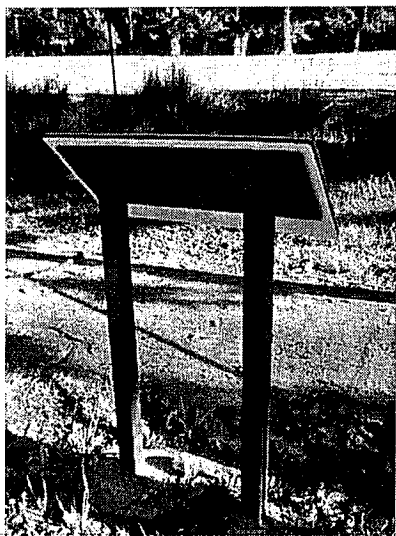
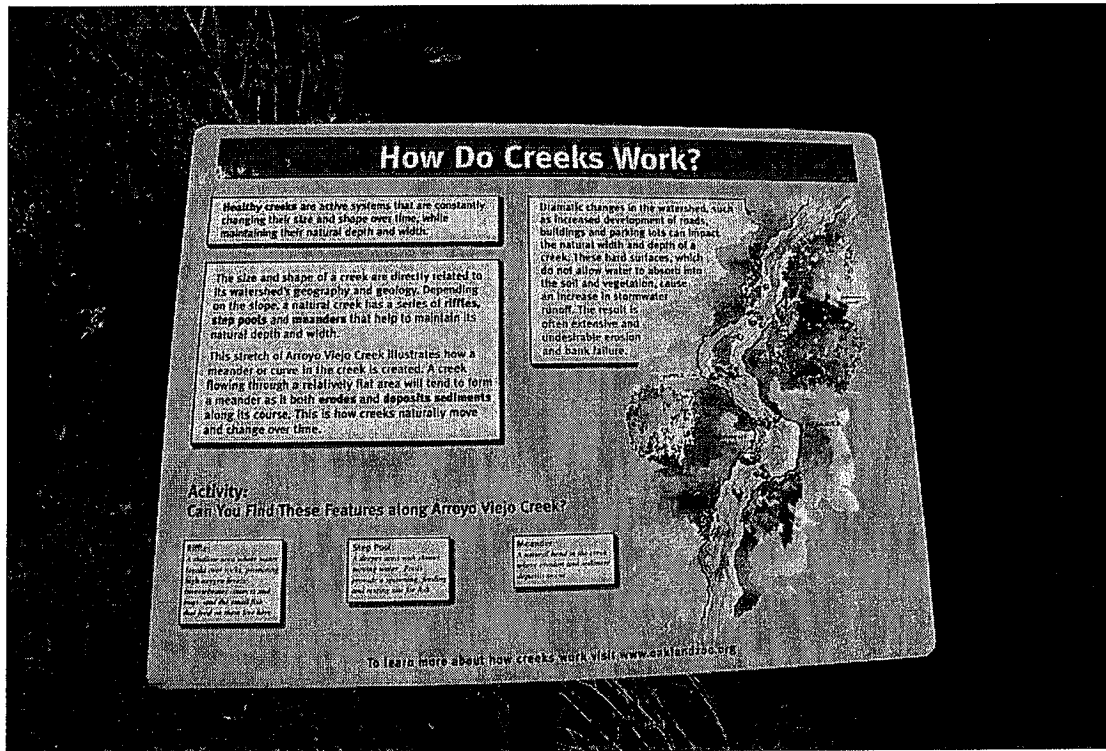


**Dimond Park Demonstration Garden (right) and Tot Lot (left)**

The new Demonstration Garden will be cleared of invasive exotics. The project will include construction of permeable pathways that will facilitate safe access between the creek and the

Demonstration Garden. The project will also involve the development a transitional area from the park's tot lot into the Demonstration Garden and the adjoining riparian area.

Interpretive signage will be created for this project, informing the public about urban and residential impacts on creek habitat, the importance of conservation of California native habitats, as well as outline the myriad restoration projects, including this project, FOSC has undertaken in the Dimond Park/Dimond Canyon corridor.



Example Signage from a Nearby Watershed



**Native Grasses with Border of Flowers**



**Native Meadow Shown Bordering  
Permeable Pathway**



**Native Meadow and Oak Woodland**



**Planting Natives on a Sunny Hillside**



Suggested opportunities to partner with the Dimond Park Recreation Center include environmental education work days, where FOSC technical experts could teach a part of Dimond Park Recreation Center regular Family Day programming, and providing an opportunity for kids at the Recreation Center to build bird/ bat boxes for the demonstration garden. Partnerships with Oakland High School will also be important, as high school students will be invited to create a brochure on the benefits of native plants for use at one of our signage points.

Maintenance for the project will be conducted on Earth Day and Creek to Bay Day each year, in addition to a few Saturday morning restoration workdays each year. In addition, FOSC will conduct outreach to find a gardening group who will adopt the spot and help with maintenance on a monthly basis.

### **Progress to Date**

The Friends of Sausal Creek has been awarded a grant from the Coastal Conservancy to complete this project. The City of Oakland has signed on as a partner. In the summer of 2008 FOSC embarked on a community process exploring a range of alternatives for the project, including project size and method for turf removal.

In preparation for a community meeting, FOSC met with Jim Ryugo, Parks and Building Manager, City of Oakland Public Works; Martin Matarrese, City of Oakland Parks and Recreation; David Skinner, Park Supervisor I, City of Oakland Public Works; Michelle Doppelt, Recreation Supervisor, Dimond Park Recreation Center; Sara Marcellino, Executive Director, Friends of Sausal Creek; Kathren M. Stevenson, Restoration Director, Friends of Sausal Creek; and members of the City of Oakland Grounds Maintenance staff to vet ideas. Kristin Hathaway, City of Oakland Environmental Services; and Michael Thilgen, Four Dimensions Landscaping; who could not attend the meeting, responded to our ideas by email:

Kristin Hathaway:

- Sounds like a great idea. Is there a type of native grass you could plant that kids could still play on? I don't see a lot of good examples of lawn alternative and people are so tied to their lawns, especially if they have kids or pets. This could be a great opportunity to showcase how to have a native "lawn" in addition to showing off the types of natives that people can plant in their yard. In this time of drought, I think you'll have a lot more people listening to suggestions of low-water alternatives. This would also eliminate the controversy over loss of play space.

Michael Thilgen:

- Nice plant list. The more species included in the meadow, the higher the maintenance requirements. You might want to reduce the level of variety for aesthetic reasons, as well. If homeowners are going there to view lawn substitutes, they might prefer a simple planting of low grasses over the more diverse plant community mix.
- Kikuyu is a very aggressive grass. Do you know of a successful attempt to control Kikuyu by sheet mulch, without herbicide? If not, I would not recommend this approach.

Ideas from all present, as well as those who weighed in via email, were synthesized into four project alternatives (see appendix with the same name for descriptions of each).

Project Size	Invasive Turf Removal Method
1. Redesign with expanded footprint and native meadow	A. Organic Removal
	B. Herbicide Use
2. Redesign to former footprint	A. Organic Removal
	B. Herbicide Use

FOSC provided flyers at the Dimond Park Recreation Center to advertise our July member meeting, where we gave a PowerPoint presentation on the project alternatives and asked the public to choose their favorite, along with any additional questions or comments, on provided comment cards.

The community voted 5:1 for option 1B: redesign with expanded footprint and native meadow, using small quantities of herbicide under the new project exemption in the City of Oakland Herbicide Ordinance\*.

In fall of 2008, FOSC decided to solicit a second round of comments from the larger community. The board of directors therefore sent an email to the Dimond Improvement Association, GlenFriends (Glenview neighborhood listserve), as well as the Dimond and Laurel neighborhood listserves. All responses were positive and supportive of our selected project alternative.

Based upon the support that FOSC received from the community at large and from the City of Oakland, FOSC called upon Michael Thilgen to complete a concept plan for the area. Attached as appendices are a concept drawing of the area, the concept plans, and considered project alternatives.

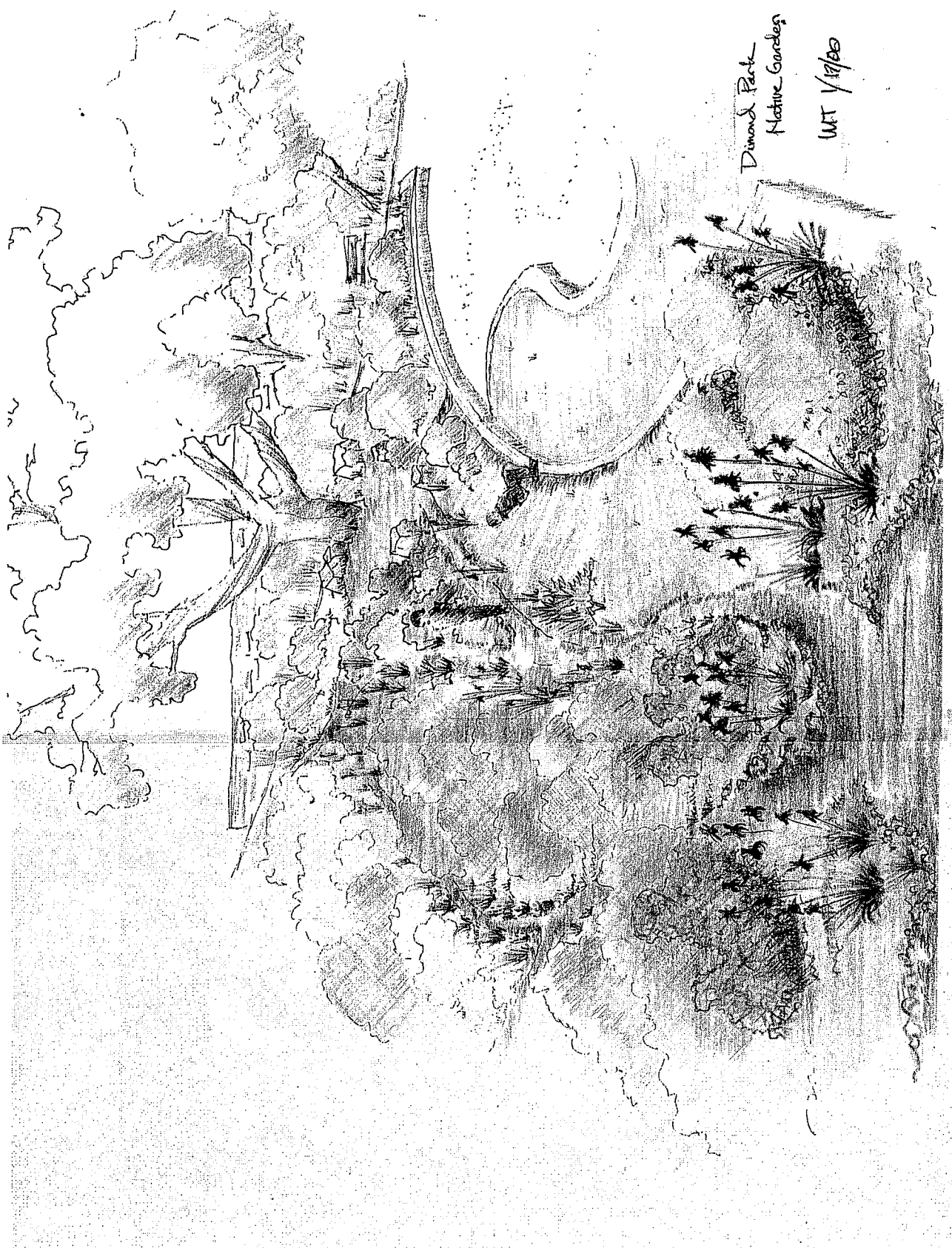
With approval from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Council, FOSC will continue to move forward with this project beginning in January of 2009.

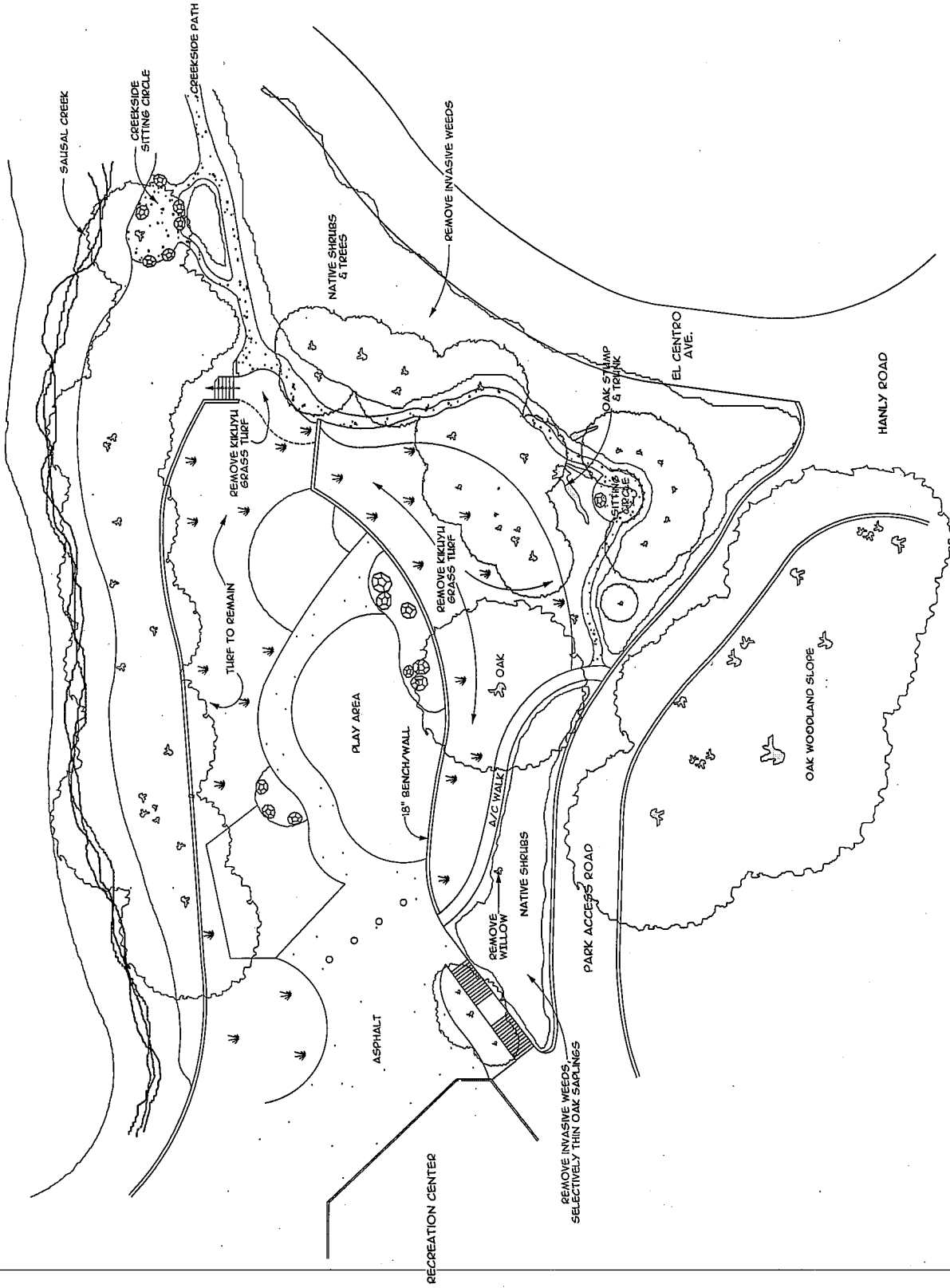
\* Herbicide application will be conducted by a trained professional, such as Martin Matarrese, according to guidelines established by the City of Oakland. The herbicide application will take place September or October of 2009 and should last one year, after which any remaining shoots should be spot treated or covered with cardboard sheet mulch. Fencing will be used to close off area, and fence posts will be placed in such a way as to avoid lateral irrigation lines. All signage requirements indicated in the Herbicide Ordinance will be strictly adhered to.

## **Appendices**

Diamond Park  
Native Gardens

WT 1/17/00



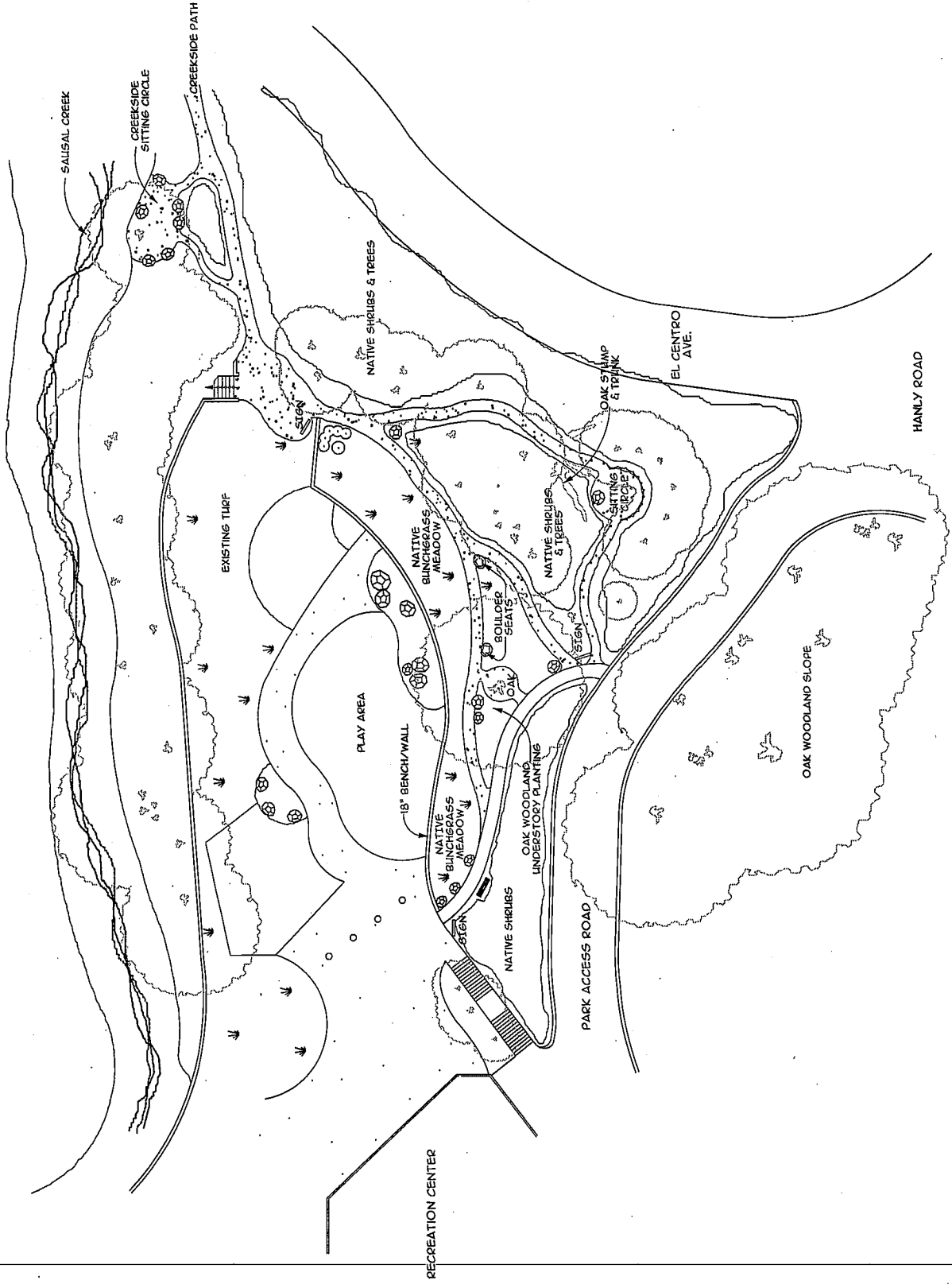


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 1928 POPPULAR STREET  
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NATIVE PLANT  
 DEMONSTRATION GARDEN  
 SAULSBURY GREEK-DIAMOND PARK  
 OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94602

LANDSCAPE CONCEPT  
 PLAN

North Arrow	Scale: 1" = 10'-0"	Date: 2008.10.12
Revised:	Drawn By: MJF	Sheet 2 of 2



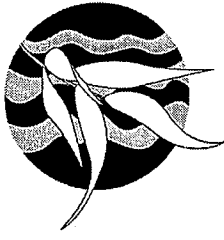
RECREATION CENTER

**Draft Plant List**  
**California Native Plant Demonstration Garden**

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	Ca native	Local native
<b>TREES</b>			
<i>Aesculus californica</i> multi-trunk	California Buckeye	x	x
		x	x
<b>SHRUBS</b>			
<i>Arctostaphylos</i> 'Dr. Hurd'	Manzanita	x	
<i>Arctostaphylos</i> 'Emerald Carpet'	Manzanita	x	
<i>Arctostaphylos</i> 'Howard McMinn'	Manzanita	x	
<i>Artemisia californica</i>	Coast Sagebrush	x	x
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i> 'Twin Peaks'	Dwarf Coyote Brush	x	x
<i>Ceanothus</i> 'Dark Star'	Ceanothus	x	
<i>Ceanothus hearstiorum</i>	Ceanothus	x	
<i>Ceanothus oliganthus</i> var. <i>sorediatus</i>	Ceanothus	x	x
<i>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus</i>	Ceanothus	x	x
<i>Corylus cornuta californica</i>	Western Hazelnut	x	x
<i>Eriogonum arborescens</i>	Wild Buckwheat	x	
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	Common Buckwheat	x	
<i>Eriogonum giganteum</i>	Wild Buckwheat	x	
<i>Eriogonum grande rubescens</i>	Buckwheat	x	
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon	x	x
<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	Ocean Spray	x	x
<i>Lupinus albifrons</i>	Bush Lupine	x	x
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Oregon Grape	x	
<i>Mahonia repens</i>	Dwarf Oregon Grape	x	
<i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>	Ninebark	x	x
<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>	Holly-leaf Cherry	x	
<i>Ribes malvaceum</i>	Chaparral Currant	x	
<i>Ribes sanguineum glutinosum</i>	Pink Currant	x	x
<i>Ribes speciosum</i>	Fuchsia-Flowered Gooseberry	x	
<i>Ribes viburnifolium</i>	Evergreen Currant	x	
<i>Rosa californica</i>	California Rose	x	x
<i>Salvia clevelandii</i>	Cleveland Sage	x	
<i>Salvia leucophylla</i>	Sage	x	
<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>	Blue Elderberry	x	x
<b>HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS</b>			
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	White Yarrow	x	x
<i>Achillea millefolium rosaea</i>	Pink Yarrow	x	
<i>Agrostis hallii</i>	Bentgrass	x	x
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Sea Pink	x	x
<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>	Mugwort	x	x
<i>Carex divulsa</i>	Berkeley Sedge	x	x
<i>Carex pansa</i>	California Meadow Sedge	x	x
<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>	Hair Grass	x	x

<i>Elymus glaucus</i>	Western Rye Grass	x	x
<i>Epilobium canum</i>	California Fuchsia	x	x
<i>Erigeron glaucus</i>	Beach Aster	x	x
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California Poppy	x	x
<i>Festuca californica</i>	California Fescue	x	x
<i>Festuca idahoensis</i>	Fescue Bunchgrass	x	x
<i>Festuca rubra</i> 'Molate'	Red Fescue	x	x
<i>Fragaria californica</i>	California Strawberry	x	x
<i>Galvezia speciosa</i>	Bush Island Snapdragon	x	
<i>Heracleum lanatum</i>	Cow Parsnip	x	x
<i>Heuchera maxima</i>	Alum Root	x	
<i>Iris douglasiana</i>	Douglas Iris	x	x
<i>Juncus effusus</i> bruneus	Green Rush	x	x
<i>Juncus patens</i>	Common Rush	x	x
<i>Melica californica</i>	California Melic Grass	x	x
<i>Monardella villosa</i>	Coyote Mint	x	x
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	Deergrass	x	
<i>Nassella pulchrum</i>	Purple Needlegrass	x	x
<i>Penstemon</i> 'Blue Springs'	Penstemon	x	
<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	Thimbleberry	x	x
<i>Salvia sonomensis</i>	Sonoma Sage	x	x
<i>Salvia spathacea</i>	Sage	x	
<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	Blue-eyed Grass	x	x
<i>Whipplea modesta</i>	Western Modesty	x	





# Friends of Sausal Creek

*Promoting Watershed Protection*

## Project Alternatives

Following is a summary of options to execute this project, broken down by project size and then by method of turf removal and additional descriptions of all four project alternatives.

Irrespective of the project alternative chosen, areas within the current footprint of the demonstration garden would be revamped according to a soon to be landscape plan. This plan will incorporate drought-tolerant native species in attractive arrangements with the intention of creating a more sustainable garden. The landscape plan will be drawn onto the existing concept plan for the site.

Table 1: Summary of options for project execution:

Project Size	Invasive Turf Removal Method
1. Redesign with expanded footprint and native meadow	A. Organic Removal
	B. Herbicide Use
2. Redesign to former footprint	A. Organic Removal
	B. Herbicide Use

### 1. Redesign with expanded footprint and native meadow

Under this alternative, the Kikuyu grass between the demonstration garden and the tot lot would be removed and replaced with a native meadow comprising local native grasses and forbs. Large boulders would be placed on either side, from the tot lot up to the shrubbier areas of the garden, and the Dimond Park grounds crew would no longer be responsible for mowing this area. The lawn area on the gentler slope on the opposite side of the tot lot would remain as is for picnickers etc. Irrigation would be necessary only during the initial plant establishment phase. Maintenance would be conducted by FOSC volunteers on Earth Day and Creek to Bay Day. In addition, we would be looking for a gardening club to adopt the site. Some regrading of the slope might take place under this alternative.

This alternative showcases how to have a native "lawn" in addition to showing off the types of natives that people can plant in their yard and the benefit of low-water alternatives to the more traditional monoculture lawn. Species that would be included in this native plant meadow include Yarrow, blue-eyed grass, California fescue, Purple needlegrass, Foothill needlegrass, California poppy, California buttercup, Woolly paintbrush, Soap plant, Farewell-to-spring, Chinese houses, Hairgrass, Blue dicks, hooting stars, Blue wildrye, Junegrass, California melic grass, Coyote mint, Yampah, Imbricate phacelia, Purple sanicle, Yerba buena (shadier areas), Checker mallow, California Indian pink, Ithuriel's spear, and Checker lily.

PROS	CONS
Higher educational benefit than Alternative 2	Tot lot users may object to the reduced lawn area.

Lower water use required over the long term	More area for FOSC volunteers to maintain.
More sustainable/ defensible from Kikuyu invasion, translating to lower maintenance costs	
No irrigation upgrades necessary	

## 2. Redesign to former footprint

Under this alternative, the demonstration garden would be expanded to its original size as created by FOSC in 1996, before the Kikuyu invasion blurred the boundaries between lawn and garden. This would mean that a belt of Kikuyu grass approximately 6-10 ft wide would be removed immediately below the shrubbier portions of the existing garden. Under this alternative, a decomposed granite path would separate the demonstration garden from the lawn, and new irrigation would be installed with more heads with smaller range so that Kikuyu grass would have less opportunity to spread across the decomposed granite path.

Under this alternative, a redesign of the demonstration garden would still take place, there would just be a much smaller area to showcase the native plant meadow. The City would continue to mow the lawn area just below the demonstration garden. Maintenance of the demonstration garden area would be conducted by FOSC volunteers on Earth Day and Creek to Bay Day. In addition, we would be looking for a gardening club to adopt the site.

PROS	CONS
Smaller footprint possibly more manageable for FOSC volunteers in terms maintenance.	Lower educational benefit than Alternative 1
Tot lot users keep lawn	More water use required over the long term
	Kikuyu grass is likely to cross the granite path and re-invade the demonstration garden, translating to higher maintenance costs and lower sustainability
	Higher costs due to upgrading irrigation

### A. "Organic" Removal of Kikuyu Grass

Turning off the irrigation in the dry season and mulching may be a successful method for killing the Kikuyu grass slated for removal as part of Alternative 1 or 2. Educational materials would need to be installed as soon as the irrigation was turned off to educate the public about why the lawn was brown. Under Alternative 2, the range of irrigation heads would be limited instead of turning off the irrigation altogether. This irrigation upgrade would be necessary to protect the lawn that would be conserved under that alternative.

One gardening book recommends the following process for removal without herbicides: 1) cut plants close to the ground; 2) put down nitrogen like ammonium sulfate (it is cheap and pure) to stimulate

plant and soil bacterial growth; 3) put at least 10 sheets of newspaper (no glossy sections) to smother the plants.; 4) Sawdust or woodchips can be placed on top of the newspaper to keep it from blowing away; 5) The added nitrogen will stimulate the soil to compost the carbon in the smothered plants and also the newspaper, creating mulch in situ; 6) Months later, native plants are installed into holes made into the mulch. Careful considerations should be given to the use of fertilizers near creeks.

PROS	CONS
No herbicides required= ecological benefit.	Takes longer to kill the grass. Possible public perception issue.
Public will likely be more accepting of the plan because no herbicides are being used.	Might not be successful with killing all of the grass.

### **B. Removal of Kikuyu Grass with Herbicides**

Using the City's new project herbicide exemption, this alternative would use herbicide to kill the Kikuyu grass in the area specified by either Alternative 1 or 2. Herbicide application would be conducted by a trained professional, such as Martin Matarrese, according to guidelines established by the City of Oakland. This treatment would be used in combination with either 1) turning off the irrigation under Alternative 1 or 2) limiting the range of irrigation heads under Alternative 2.

PROS	CONS
Grass may be killed more quickly.	Herbicide use necessary.
Treatment may be more successful in killing all of the grass.	Public perception issue associated with use of herbicide.

**FOSC Letter to Glenfriends, DIA, Dimond and Laurel Listserves  
Sent Monday, October 6, 2008**

Hello Neighbors,

The Friends of Sausal Creek recently received funding from the California Coastal Conservancy to redesign the Demonstration Garden in Dimond Park, just north of (above) the Totlot. The garden will showcase drought-resistant California native plants and a low water-use lawn. Our purpose is to create a better demonstration of what's possible in your yard.

To create a sustainable garden, we have to contain and keep out the invasive Kikuyu grass growing nearby that has made maintenance of the garden very challenging in the past. Our current plan is to apply a small amount of herbicide on the grass above the Totlot. This will eliminate the Kikuyu grass and allow us to replace it with Yarrow and other native grasses. The herbicide application would be one-time, very small (less than one teaspoonful), leave the ecosystem within 24 hours, and be applied by a trained Oakland Public Works employee. Access to the area near the playground would need to be restricted for 24 hours.

The alternative would be to build a path that would act as a buffer between the Kikuyu next to the playground and the Demonstration Garden. But since Kikuyu is very invasive, we are quite sure the grass would grow under the path and eventually infiltrate the garden, creating a chronic maintenance problem.

At our June member meeting, we reviewed the options, and community members who attended preferred the herbicide option. Now we'd like to get your feedback and answer any questions you might have before we proceed. Specifically we'd like to know what time would be best to close this area so that users are inconvenienced the least—weekend or weekday? We'd also like to get your general thoughts and feedback on making this part of Dimond Park an example of sustainable landscaping in the region.

Thank you,

FOSC Board of Directors