



Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed

Creek Talk

January 2010

If you can't see pictures in this newsletter click [here](#) to view online.



The Mission of Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed is to protect, conserve, and restore Marsh Creek and its tributaries, and to inspire appreciation and conservation of the Marsh Creek Watershed.



Get your **FREE**
Contra Costa
County Watershed
Calendar at this
month's meeting!

Next Meeting: January 14th featuring Restoration Design Group

Discussing the design and construction of a restoration project at Creekside Park in Oakley.

Meeting will be held from
6 to 8 PM

At

Liberty Union High School District Offices
20 Oak Street, Brentwood

Click Here for directions
RSVPS APPRECIATED

UPDATE:

Within the first 24 hours all January and February Give A Day Get A Day Volunteer Opportunities were filled up. All events show up 60 days before the event. Currently there are planting dates waiting to come up for 3/13, 5/15, 6/12, 8/14 and 10/9. Earth Day events will be posted shortly for April 17th and April 24th.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Give A Day Volunteering and Get A Day at a Disney Park!!!!

FOMCW will be partnering with city and county agencies in organizing a community service day projects for Monday, January 18th in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Day of Service. We expect that there will be several projects throughout the watershed for individuals, families, and groups to participate in. Projects will be going on throughout the day.

This will also be our first Give A Day Get A Day event. "Give a Day. Get a Disney Day." is a program that celebrates and inspires volunteerism. Disney is working with the HandsOn Network to connect volunteers to community need. Disney is thanking those who volunteer for an eligible volunteer opportunity by giving them a free ticket good for one day admission to a Walt Disney World® or Disneyland® theme park.

Individuals that preregister for our events at www.DisneyParks.com can earn their free ticket! You must register at the Disney Parks site to be eligible!!!

Space is limited so sign up early. We expect to be able to have Give A Day Get A Day at our Earth Day Volunteering Projects to be scheduled in April.

FOMCW SPOTLIGHT:

DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE.

What is the FOMCW Development Subcommittee and What Exactly Do They Do?

By Joan Douglas-Fry, Chair of the Development Committee

The Development Subcommittee mainly seeks to establish collaborative working relationships with local governments to ensure that developments that border creeks and waterways integrate the creek environment into that development. We talk to city and county planning staffs and even the developers themselves about upcoming new development projects that are sited along creeks, we review and comment on environmental documents (via the California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA] public review periods), we become familiar with our City's respective general plans and policies toward natural resources and creeks/waterways, we organize informational workshops about creek restoration efforts to present to elected and appointed officials and city staffs, and also work with other local organizations and agencies (i.e., Save Mount Diablo, East Bay Regional Parks District, County Flood Control, etc.) regarding those planning issues.

So, you may be asking yourself, what would I be doing if I joined this subcommittee? This committee needs your help. We have found that the words and opinions of residents carry a lot of weight with boards, commissions, and city staffs. We need people from all areas within the watershed – Brentwood, Oakley, Antioch, unincorporated areas – but especially Antioch right now. And, you can choose to do only one of the tasks, just a few, or all of them. You can be involved in as much or little as you feel comfortable with. The areas that we need your help most on are:

- Signing up to receive notices of upcoming meetings and agendas for your city and monitoring those agendas for any projects/developments that are up for discussion and action.
- Notifying the Development Subcommittee members of any upcoming projects in your city that could affect a creek, waterway, or the watershed.
- Reviewing environmental impact reports (or sections of these reports) or other environmental review documents to identify how impacts to creeks are being treated or mitigated. (These documents can typically be accessed from the city's website and downloaded without fee or charge).
- Sending an email to your City Council and Planning Commissions, and city departments such as Community Development and Parks and Recreation to support projects that integrate in a positive manner creek elements into the development, or conversely, expressing why you wouldn't support a project that doesn't incorporate these efforts.
- Meeting with city planning staffs to discuss a proposed project's intent for creek integration and restoration.
- Attending a City Council or Planning Commission meeting to show support or opposition on behalf of FOMCW, speaking during the public comment period, or even submitting a comment in writing (no, you do not have to speak if you do not wish to). Having just one person show up for or comment on an item on a commission or council agenda is taken very seriously by the officials – and with more people attending, it definitely gets their attention.
- In election years, attending candidate nights to ask the candidates about their position on creek and habitat restoration.
- Get to know your elected and appointed officials, as well as city staffs.

Above all, we strive to work with the local agencies, officials, and staffs, not against them. Our mission is to work in a collaborative manner, with the goal of becoming an advisory group to local government for creek and watershed issues.

You can contact Joan at joan@fomcw.org.

Starting this month we will begin featuring articles about our volunteers and committees to highlight the various activities that Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed is involved with. This month we will feature an article from Joan Douglas-Fry, Committee Chair of the Development Committee

INTERESTED?? Get Involved!!

If you are interested in learning more about how to get involved in the Development Subcommittee, contact Joan by emailing her at joan@fomc.org or simply send an email stating your interest to info@fomcw.org.

Join Us for a Salmon Walk!!!

“A new year is unfolding – like a blossom with petals curled tightly concealing the beauty within.”
-unknown

Join FOMCW volunteer led walks that highlight the presence of salmon spawning up Marsh Creek. These annual walks are led during salmon spawning season at the future site of the Fish Ladder now scheduled to be constructed in early Summer 2010. This walk is wheelchair and stroller friendly and covers a little over a mile on the Marsh Creek Trail. If you or your group is interested in attending contact us by emailing info@fomcw.org or calling Diane at 925.325.2908.

Public Walk Dates: 1/16 and 1/30 -Want another date? Call or email us and ask!

Activities for January

Thursday, January 14th FOMCW MEETING 7PM to 9PM

Representatives from the Restoration Design Group will be working with FOMCW on design ideas for the restoration project at Creekside Park in Oakley.

Saturday, January 16th and 30th SALMON WALKS

Join us to for free Salmon Walks!

For more information [click here](#) RSVP to Diane at 325.2908

Monday January 18th Martin Luther King Day of Service

Join us to honor the memory of Dr. King by participating in a community service project.

Join us as we work with REI Volunteer Team on the **Sand Creek Planting Area** (click on link for directions). Work day is 10AM to Noon. RSVP by emailing info@fomcw.org or calling Diane at 925.325.2908. [Click here to check out our REI Page!](#)

January 23rd 10AM to 1PM

Delta Water Plans Presented by The Leagues of Women Voters

A panel from various agencies and organizations will discuss the Delta Water Plans. “As Voters, we need to be informed and direct our government agencies and legislators to work out solutions for ourselves and our future!”

Contact Us
Friends of
Marsh Creek
Watershed
2063 Main St., #311
Oakley, CA 94561
fomcw.org
info@fomcw.org
925.325.2908

Are You a Member?

Have you renewed your membership this year?

FOMCW now collects dues for membership. Regular membership dues are \$30, Family Memberships are \$45 and Students are \$15.

To renew your membership or to become a new member fill out a membership card at a meeting or mail your dues and card to

**2063 Main St, #311,
Oakley, CA 94561**

Membership cards can be found on the FOMCW website at
http://www.fomcw.org/files/fomcw_membership_signup.pdf



Funding for this newsletter and many of our other activities is generously provided by a grant from the California Department of Conservation.

The statements and conclusions of this newsletter are those of FOMCW and not necessarily those of the Department of Conservation, or its employees. The Department makes no warranties, express or implied, and assumes no liability for the information contained in the text of this newsletter.