

**Clean Water Program
Community Stewardship Grants
2019 Awards**

A total of \$22,927 in small grant were awarded as follows:

- 1. Earth Team - \$5,000**
- 2. Regional Parks Foundation - \$4,000**
- 3. Friends of Sausal Creek - \$4,971**
- 4. Tri-Valley Conservancy - \$3,436**
- 5. Mary Spicer (I Heart Oakland & Alameda Estuary) - \$5,000**
- 6. Friends of San Leandro Creek - \$520**

Applicant: EarthTeam

Project Title: Preventing Pet Waste in Oakland Waterways

\$5,275 Requested; \$5,000 Proposed Grant Award

This organization was last funded in 2017

EarthTeam, a non-profit organization that works with high school students to enhance their leadership skills through developing stewardship projects in the East Bay, is proposing to continue the 2017 grant-funded project of the same name. Earth Team will be recruiting and hiring after-school interns from Skyline High School in Oakland. The interns will be educated by EarthTeam staff in watershed pollution concepts, how to use science to document a problem, formulate actions to mitigate it, and communicate the results to the community. The interns will focus on the problem of pet waste that accumulates in the dog walking areas in the Sausal Creek watershed, including Dimond Park. Teams of interns will conduct pre (and post project) surveys of dog walkers, collect and get professional analysis of pet waste samples, then produce a report with data analysis and impacts on water quality and determine the best methods to present this data to educate community members to achieve both attitude and behavior changes. Interns will develop an informative brochure and signage for the dog-walking public to be placed around the locations with the highest number of bacteria. In addition, interns will host a Litter Cleanup Day at Sausal Creek and invite pet owners and members of the community to participate.

Applicant: Regional Parks Foundation

Project Title: "Fish Friends" Program

\$5,000 Requested; \$4,000 Proposed Grant Award

This organization was last funded in 2017

The grant will support the East Bay Regional Park District's "Fish Friends" Program in Alameda County Schools. The aim of Fish Friends is to teach elementary school age students that the litter they see on the ground, if not picked up, can impact our waterways, marine life and ultimately our health. Specifically, the grant funds will provide bus vouchers for class trips to EBRPD shoreline parks to engage in litter cleanups and habitat enhancement planting for classes who participate in the year-long Fish Friends Program. Grant funds will also be used to provide a stipend to each of the Fish Friends classes to support a school stewardship project, which includes campus litter cleanups, and curriculum/materials for year-round use. Also included as part of the Fish Friends Program is a school-wide assembly day at which the EBRPD Mobile Fish Exhibit (freshwater aquarium) visits, which serves to reinforce the theme of healthy habitats for fish and humans. Fish Friends currently work with 16 elementary school in

Alameda County, however, any elementary school in the county can apply to the Fish Friends program; an average of 42% of the students in the county qualify for free and reduced-price lunches.

Note: The applicant had requested \$5,000 in grant funds, but the project will be awarded \$4,000 due to a more limited number of schools being reached since funding is restricted to Alameda County schools only.

Applicant: Friends of Sausal Creek

Project Title: Watershed-Wide Restoration in Sausal Creek

\$4,971 Requested; \$4,971 Proposed Grant Award

This organization was last funded in 2016.

This project will focus on five of 23 volunteer-led Adopt-A-Spot restoration sites in Oakland's Sausal Creek Watershed that are in need of additional staff-led workdays to prevent litter and pollution from entering the creek and flowing to the bay. The chosen sites are located throughout the watershed, beginning at the head waters and continuing to the mouth of Sausal Creek at the estuary. They include two trash hot spots per the Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit that have to contend with garbage dumping and excessive trash. Another site is plagued by dog feces and hypodermic needles. At all of the five targeted sites, trash, plastic bags, and graffiti spray cans are frequently found in and nearby the creek, estuary, or stormdrains which contaminate the water and can harm wildlife. The grant will help Friends of Sausal Creek establish 10 additional volunteer-led workdays (2 per site), cultivate new volunteer leaders, and support student field trips or service projects at these restoration sites. In addition to removing trash, volunteers and youth will remove invasive, nonnative plants and plant local native plants grown at Friends of Sausal Creek's native plant nursery to restore riparian habitat and increase biodiversity.

Applicant: Tri-Valley Conservancy

Project Title: Discovery - Youth in Nature Program

\$3,436 Requested; \$3,436 Proposed Grant Award

This organization is a first-time grantee.

The grant will support the Tri-Valley Conservancy's "Discovery - Youth in Nature Program," aimed at getting 4th grade students in the Livermore and Pleasanton school districts outdoors to explore and learn about the natural world. The program involves three sessions—two in the classroom, and one outdoor field trip to Holdener Park where students will be hiking through the watershed. The first session begins with the Outdoor Education Instructor visiting the classroom, introducing environmental and watershed science topics and giving students a pre-field trip survey about their current knowledge of nature, attitudes towards the environment and their behaviors. For the field trip (second session), the students are bused from their school to the park with teachers, parent chaperones, volunteers and TVC staff. There, students learn what a watershed is and about the types of wildlife that live here and their habitat. Throughout the field trip, students participate in fun learning activities and are prompted to ask questions and explore. During the final classroom session, students focus on watershed mapping to deepen the memory of their outdoor experience and understand the concept of balancing land use with the needs of the community and healthy ecosystems. The grant funds will support the in-classroom watershed mapping exercise and pay for 15% of each bus that takes the students out to their field trip.

Applicant: Mary Spicer

Project Title: I Heart Alameda and Oakland Estuary

\$5,000 Requested; \$5,000 Proposed Grant Award

This organization is a first-time grantee.

The grant will fund at least one large litter cleanup events in the Oakland/Alameda estuary, aiming to collect per event 600 to 1,000 pounds of garbage and debris from hard-to-reach shores and land that surrounds Jack London Aquatic Center and the beaches along the Estuary. Litter in these areas negatively impacts aquatic life, especially shorebirds that live, nest and breed on the shores. The cleanup involves both on-land and on-the-water crews that use watercraft (kayaks, stand-up paddles, motor boats, whale boats, etc.) to reach locations inaccessible on foot. Leveraging existing partnerships with organizations such as Baykeeper, California Canoe and Kayak at Jack London Square, Bay Area Whaleboat Rowing Association (BAWRA), East Bay Rowing Club (EBRC) and others, the organizers are looking to recruit up to 200 volunteers, including experienced on-the-water team leaders. Activities also include an educational element about sources and impact of trash and debris in the estuary. The project aims to foster a sense of community and stewardship and motivate participants to engage in cleanup activities in the future. A survey will evaluate success.

Note: Fiscal sponsor for Mary Spicer is the Watershed Project, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit.

Applicant: Friends of San Leandro Creek

Project Title: Creekside restoration at Chabot Park in San Leandro

\$520 Requested; \$520 Proposed Grant Award

This organization is a first-time grantee.

The grant will fund tools and materials for the restoration of a stretch of creekbank along San Leandro Creek in Lake Chabot Park. Over the course of two work days, volunteers will remove invasive plants like ivy, Himalayan blackberry and periwinkle and sheet-mulch the area with layers of cardboard and mulch to suppress re-sprouting of the invasive plant species. Plant removal is mostly manual using hand tools, as well as a gas-powered "weed whacker." The longer-term plan is to restore the creek bank with appropriate native plants to support a healthy ecosystem and make the creek more resilient. The restoration will also support awareness and education, as the project location is a destination for an estimated 450-500 children per year who learn about the watershed through summer day camp and classroom field trips.