

QUARTERLY UPDATE  
OAKMONT ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP TASK FORCE (ESTF)  
OCTOBER 2024

The Oakmont ESTF continues our work to improve issues involving land, plants, waste, energy and water to educate and empower Oakmont to take actions to help address the climate emergency as declared by Sonoma County in 2019. Ongoing appreciation to all of our Task Force voting members, supporters, and partners including Christel and Todd.

Current Projects:

**Adopt-A-Creek** - led by Pat Parson; with help from Joel Butterworth

The ESTF's largest currently ongoing project involves 9 Creeks in Oakmont, each in various stages; many thanks to Pat for devoting many hours including 22 hours of manual labor helping to manage some of Oakmont's creeks. Purpose: Reduce invasive species and overgrown fuels for improved wildfire safety, rainwater flow, thereby reducing opportunities for erosion, flooding, and fire damage.

Working in active collaboration with Christel, the City of Santa Rosa's Creek Stewardship Coordinator, and homeowners, the project goals are to:

1. Educate Oakmonters on the complexity of waterways in Oakmont
- 2) Address Oakmont resident questions about our waterways.
- 3) Act as a liaison for residents living along Oakmont Creek who want to remove hazardous vegetation behind their homes that require approval by submitting projects on their behalf to the Creek Stewardship Coordinator to seek project approval.
- 4) Educate Oakmont residents on how to conduct a mitigation project in an Oakmont waterway.
- 5) Invite Oakmont residents to become an Oakmont Creek Steward Volunteer.

**Waste Management** – led by Lesli Lee, with help from Pat Parson, Carolyn Greene and Marie Kay Hansen.

1. OVA purchased additional bins for compost and recycling for the West Rec, East Rec and Central Activities Center patio picnic areas. All OVA common areas are now equipped or provided with appropriate bins when spaces are reserved through OVA.
2. OVA purchased 6 Recology staked signs to more clearly label waste containers at outdoor food events.
3. Ongoing resident education continues. At food events, waste ambassadors help fellow neighbors learn "what goes where" and sort waste into proper containers, reducing contamination and improving landfill diversion. The Waste Management

Team invites any Oakmont resident to help educate our fellow neighbors at any food-related event. For questions or more information, please contact Lesli Lee at oakmontenvirostewardship@gmail.com.

4. The Team is working on a Best Practices/Recommendations for Waste Management document for community-wide distribution to help continue educating and inspiring action to reduce pollution.

**Oak Tree Restoration** – led by Carolyn Greene with help from Marie Kay Hansen, Karen Cotter, Lesli Lee; additional help from Giselle Mottiez; help and original idea from Carol Pence.

1. Located below the former parcourse and across the street from the Community Garden - Ongoing care of 14 oak exclosures with approximately 1x/month deep watering using barrels and hoses.

**Native Grasses Demonstration Garden** – led by Pat Parson, with help from Lesli Lee.

1. Purpose: to demonstrate what mowed and unmowed native grasses look like, their benefits, their historical functions, to provide visual ideas for potential future use on residential and OVA property.
2. A 30'x30' area has been identified for native grass plantings and laminated educational ID placards.

**Land Regeneration through Art and Cultural Awareness** – led by Pat Parson, with help from Lesli Lee.

1. 13 plants have been planted in the native area and the pollinator area of the community garden. Pat has developed educational materials for all native plants.
2. The Puffin grant that Pat received in July covers the costs for landscape artist Kelsi Anderson and for Tektehk, consultant and artist of the Mishewal Tribe, and materials.

**Home Efficiency & Electrification** – led by Karen Cotter, Lesli Lee;

1. As done in May 2024, Lesli has asked Barbara Sater, Chair of the Welcome Task Force, if this "Recommendations and Resources" document can once again be included in the Welcome Task Force's educational binder at this month's New Resident Reception.

Submitted by Lesli Lee, Chair, 10/8/24