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Oakland Environmental Stewards

History & Existing Conditions

Oakland is a historically significant city.

- * a transportation and commerce hub
- * social movements have flourished here
- * faces serious impacts from climate change, rise level rise

Quality of life enjoyed by residents depends on neighborhood.

A visit to the shoreline demonstrates the lack of access that many Oakland residents have to the shoreline.

An Environmental Stewards Program would provide access to youth of color, OUSD students, and residents of the flats have to the shoreline.



Oakland Environmental Stewards Program



Environmental Stewards Program would

- support environmental education
- ensure access to the public spaces along Oakland's shoreline
- highlight the natural assets of the region
- encourage the preservation of these crucial habitats.

Young people in Oakland schools would be able to

- learn about and deepen appreciation of bay's unique environment
- participate in interactive scavengerhunts, historical walks

A program like this will not help honor Oaklands rich past but also secure Oakland's future by nurturing our youth's passion for their backyard.

Survey of interest

A sample survey was conducted using a pool of both native and non native Oakland residents from ages 12-18

Identify a level of interested as well as establish a baseline knowledge of Oakland shoreline parks natural and cultural history.

The survey contained 6 questions with an additional sub-question asked verbally based on which answer was given.



IN THE WORDS OF THE PEOPLE

“No, I have not been to parks at the Oakland shore. What’s out there? How do I get there? What bus do I take?”

[14-year-old]



“I didn’t know Oakland had shoreline parks. I’ve only been to Oyster bay or McLaughlin” [52 year old]

“How do you get Oakland residents to the shoreline? They say ‘Why should I go to the shoreline - what’s out there other than trucks and water?’”

[39-year-old]





Judge John Sutter Regional Park

Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline



Lake Merritt

ASSETS

- Open Spaces :
Judge John Sutter Regional Park, MLK Jr. Regional Shoreline
- Community Organizations : WOEIP, EOC, Save the Bay
- School Programs : Environmental Studies, Internships

SHORT-TERM BUDGET

Community Involvement : Community Events

Oakland Watershed Exploration

Public School District : Environmental Studies Program

Class at an OUSD high school, implementation for two years

\$60,000 / year & \$10,000 for events and student stipends

Local Organizations : Trips to Public Spaces

\$10,000 ~ i.e. East Regional Parks District, National Park System



LONG-TERM BUDGET

City Planning : Shoreline Study Center

\$50-75 million [[OUSD Project Fact Sheet : The Center](#)]



Hayward Shoreline
Interpretive Center

WATERSHED EXPLORATION

A self-guided walking tour for residents to explore the local watershed.

Where do our creeks come from?

How do they link with Lake Merritt and the SF Bay?

Use the Watershed Finder to preview the creeks in our area.

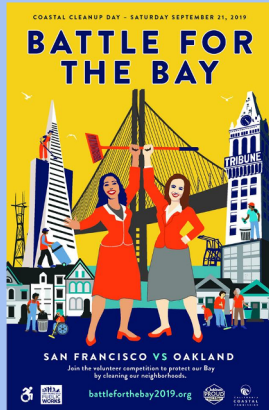
[OMCA : Oakland & Berkeley Watershed Finder](#)

To zoom in on a particular creek or watershed, click on the area of the map where you believe that creek or watershed to be. Alternately, you can follow the text links below the map to zoom in on the watershed in question.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

September is Creek to Bay Month. The program will work to promote the event, and increase citizen participation.



27th ANNUAL AKLAND EARTH DAY



Participants will visit schools to promote environmental conservation. They will organize and arrange Earth Day events.

VISITS TO NATURE CENTERS IN THE AREA



Rotary Nature Center at
Lake Merritt



Alcatraz Island



Marine Mammal Center

SAMPLE ACTIVITY :
WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO LINK LAKE MERRITT
TO THE OAKLAND PORTION OF THE BAY TRAIL?

Lake Merritt is actually an estuary of mixed salt and freshwater. The Oakland Estuary was opened in February 2013 it increased the water tidal flow by 50%.

How can the the movement of people be improved?



SAMPLE ACTIVITY : SEA LEVEL RISE RESEARCH

What will Oakland look like with sea-level rise?

What options do cities and residents have in response to sea-level rise?



[Oakland Geology : A walk around Lake Merritt in 2100, after sea-level rise](#)

PROPOSED DRAFT SCHEDULE



IN THE SCHOOLS

2022 - 23 OUSD 10th and 11th graders participate in annual events.

Interdisciplinary activities and lessons, non-native plant removal & article writing.

*** Fall Class - Creek to Bay Month, September * Spring Class - Earth Day, April**

IN THE COMMUNITY

2023 - 24 OUSD students host events and promote shoreline.

Inform the community about city planning, develop plan for Shoreline Study Center.

2024 - 26 ECAP Assessment & Shoreline Study Center Plan Presentation

FUNDING

FUNDING

Coastal Stories Grant Program

Youth Community Access Grant Program

EPA 2021 Environmental Education Grants

POLICIES OR MEASURES CONNECTED TO PROJECT

Measure AA

Living Shorelines Act of 2021

US EPA Endangered Species : California Clapper Rail



MEASURE / MONITOR PROJECT

Surveys

Pre-Survey - how many are accessing the shoreline?

Post-Survey - what changes in access have happened?

Visits to Open Spaces

Before the work, capture what it looks like at a specific day, time, and place.

During and after, follow-up documenting at the same day, time, and place.

City Agencies

Discussions and check-ins with related, involved agencies

Updates through blog, newsletter, other method



THANK YOU!

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