

Fact Sheet: Adobe Creek Restoration, Redwood Grove to Shoup Park (A3545R)

2011 Environmental Enhancement Implementation Grant Program

Lead Agency: Acterra

Partner Agency: City of Los Altos

Acterra and the City of Los Altos partnered to enhance streamside habitat on Adobe Creek through the City-owned Redwood Grove Nature Preserve and connecting to Shoup Park. Santa Clara Valley Water District funding supported the coordination of regular volunteer workdays to remove Algerian ivy, Himalayan blackberry, tree of heaven, poison hemlock, and other invasive plants along the creek and install a diverse population of locally native plants in their place. Several small-scale bank stabilization projects were also installed as part of the project, including a live willow sculpture, pictured below. The project involved many community members through volunteer opportunities and educational workshops.

- Award amount: \$46,365
- In-kind and direct match, including volunteer labor: \$73,907
- Number of volunteers: 1,080
- Number of volunteer hours: 2,800
- Linear feet of invasives removal: 1,500
- Square feet of invasives removal: 23,000
- Native plants installed: 3,200
- Native species planted: 45



Community Workshops: Acterra led a rain barrel installation workshop in partnership with GreenTown Los Altos, Creek Ecology workshop in partnership with GreenTown Los Altos and the Friends of Adobe Creek. Additionally, the site was a featured stop on the Committee for Green Foothills' bus tour of the Adobe Creek Watershed.

Willow Art Sculpture: Artists Daniel McCormick and Mary O'Brien were commissioned to work with Acterra volunteers to install a willow-weave bank stabilization project on a section of creek that had been cleared of invasive *Arundo donax*. The living sculpture, dubbed *Thicket*, was featured as a satellite exhibit of the Los Altos History Museum's *Shaped by Water* exhibition in 2011-12.

Project Longevity: Through continued funding from the City of Los Altos, Acterra will conduct maintenance activities over the next several years in partnership with community groups and the neighborhood, including removal of resprouting invasives, watering, and additional infill planting.

Contact: Junko Bryant, Assistant Program Director | junkob@acterra.org | 650-962-9876 x347

Fact Sheet: San Francisquito Creek Habitat Enhancement Project (A3687R)

2013 Comprehensive Stewardship Grant Program

Lead Agency: Acterra

Partner Agency: City of Palo Alto

Acterra joined forces with the “Creekshire” neighborhood and the City of Palo Alto to dramatically increase native plant populations along a 0.7-mile section of San Francisquito Creek. Santa Clara Valley Water District funding supported the coordination of regular volunteer workdays to remove Algerian ivy, cape ivy, Tree of Heaven sprouts, poison hemlock, and other invasive plants along the creek and install a diverse population of locally native plants in their place.

- Award amount: \$80,000
- In-kind and direct match, including volunteer labor: \$77,600
- Number of workdays: 63
- Number of volunteers: 936
- Number of volunteer hours: 2,300
- Linear feet of invasives removal: 2,550
- Square feet of invasives removal: 62,200
- Native plants installed: 3,000
- Native species planted: 59



Volunteers remove ivy climbing up trees

Volunteer groups involved: National Charity League, Mormon Missionaries, Menlo School, Menlo-Atherton High School (AP Environmental Science Class), Stanford Law School, St. Raymond School, Palo Alto High School, Gunn High School, Peninsula School, Sacred Heart School, Harker School, Midpeninsula High School, Patagonia store, and many neighborhood and other community volunteers.

Coping with the Drought: Low winter rains throughout the project period meant that staff spent more time watering newly installed plants. Acterra retrofitted one of its pickup trucks with a 250-gallon tank in order to deliver recycled water from the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant to the site. Acterra also utilized groundwater made available at residential basement construction sites under a new City of Palo Alto program to utilize this temporary, nonpotable water source.

Project Longevity: Through continued funding from the City of Palo Alto, Acterra will conduct maintenance activities over the next several years in partnership with community groups and the neighborhood, including removal of resprouting invasives, watering, and additional infill planting.

Contact: Junko Bryant, Assistant Program Director | junkob@acterra.org | 650-962-9876 x347