

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR CREEKSIDE PROPERTIES

The City of Oakland Creek Protection Ordinance regulates activity in creekside areas to protect water quality and habitat. Generally, creekside property owners must obtain a creek protection permit prior to any work on their property; however, if the guidelines below are followed, no permit may be necessary. Following are some issues for creekside property owners to consider while they comply with the Vegetation Management Program requirements.

Top 5 Recommendations for Vegetation Management on Creekside Properties:

- 1 Leave a 20-foot buffer of vegetation from the top of the creek bank. If top of bank cannot be identified, leave a 50-foot buffer from the centerline of the creek.
- 2 Outside of the vegetation buffer, leave a minimum 6-inches of vegetation covering the rest of the site and don't cut larger shrubbery to less than 3-feet. Leave shrubbery "islands" on site in order to prevent erosion and landslides and protect nesting habitat.
- 3 Err on the side of caution. If you don't know if a plant, tree, or area is sensitive, ask for a second opinion before you cut. Go to (WIP website) to see a list of vegetation specialists.
- 4 Trim tree branches from the ground up (limbing up), leave tree canopy intact, and leave stumps and roots from cut down trees to prevent erosion.
- 5 Plant fire-appropriate, drought-tolerant, preferably native vegetation. For a list of recommended plant species, and a list of plants to avoid, go to (OFD website)

For a complete list of creekside DO's and DON'Ts see our website at (OFD website)

Other Questions? (*creekproperty questions only*) Call the Clean Creek Hotline at 238-6600 for more information