



# 2016 Oakland Creek to Bay Day Results



Oakland Public Works thanks all the volunteers who helped make Oakland's 21<sup>st</sup> annual Creek to Bay Day a success! On Saturday September 17, 2016, over 1,000 volunteers removed trash and invasive plants along Oakland's creeks, shoreline, parks, and streets. Volunteers removed over 16,000 pounds of trash (equivalent to 800 garbage bags), and cleared 27,470 pounds of invasive plants that will be composted. The most common types of trash removed included cigarette butts, food packaging, and single use plastics (wrappers, bottles, straws, etc).

As part of International Coastal Cleanup Day, Oakland Creek to Bay Day volunteers joined with thousands of others in trash removal and beautification of waterways and shorelines across California, the nation, and in about 100 participating countries. In California, over 900 sites in 54 of California's 58 counties hosted cleanup projects. With 70% of these projects reporting on behalf of 52,191 volunteers who removed 541,431 pounds of trash and 53,156 pounds of recyclables!

Data from the California Coastal Commission shows that approximately 80% of all trash found in oceans and beaches originate on land, transported by storm water and creeks out to sea. This trash blights our communities and environment and threatens our own health and the health and wellbeing of wildlife from creek, to bay to ocean. Keeping trash out of our streets and creeks keeps our waterways flowing and clean, preventing flooding, pollution, and trash from harming wildlife, blighting our beaches, and impairing our access to clean and safe water. Oakland volunteers were instrumental intercepting trash from creeks – helping their own sites as well as areas downstream.

Oakland Creek to Bay Day volunteers also removed invasive plants as part of habitat restoration projects. Removing invasive plants makes way for restoration of native plant communities that better support wildlife and stream ecology. In the heavily urbanized Oakland landscape, creeks are some of the last vestiges of remnant wild habitat and are therefore that much more critical to wildlife – serving as refuge, migratory stopovers, and corridors between open spaces and parks. Oakland volunteers from such groups as Friends of Sausal Creek and the East Bay Academy of Young Scientists are on the forefront of stewarding creeks, parks and natural areas in collaboration with Oakland Public Works.

Many deserve special recognition for the success of Creek to Bay Day 2016. This event would not be possible without the dedication of community site coordinators and supporting organizations who coordinated cleanups at 46 project sites. Oakland Public Works provided volunteers with tools, promotional materials, and debris pickup services. The support from the California Coastal Commission, Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, the East Bay Regional Park District, the Port of Oakland, and Waste Management year after year is also integral to the success of the event.

Oakland Creek to Bay Day occurs on the third Saturday of September. Join us for next **Oakland Creek to Bay Day September 16, 2017**. For more information visit: [www.oaklandcreektobay.org](http://www.oaklandcreektobay.org).

Oakland hosts opportunities throughout the year for volunteers and community groups to care for our creeks and waterways. **Visit our Adopt a Spot website at**

Mark your calendars for Oakland's next city-wide cleanup on **Earth Day, April 22, 2017**  
More information at: [www.oaklandearthday.org](http://www.oaklandearthday.org)



[www.oaklandadoptaspot.org](http://www.oaklandadoptaspot.org), email [adoptaspot@oaklandnet.com](mailto:adoptaspot@oaklandnet.com),  
or call (510) 238-7630 for more information on how you can help!