



City of
OAKLAND
California

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Oakland's Earth Day a Huge Success!

Oakland, CA – Last Saturday, nearly 4,000 volunteers gathered to clean and green 90 locations throughout Oakland in celebration of **Earth Day!**

Transformations were visible all around the City. In West Oakland, neighborhood volunteers beautified DeFremery Park with 60 new drought-tolerant plants and fresh coats of paint for structures blighted with graffiti. At Lakeside Park and the Morcom Rose Garden, 200 volunteers from Starbucks helped to spread mulch and prune plants. In Chinatown and areas east of Lake Merritt, business owners and residents picked up litter and removed graffiti. At Dimond Park, hundreds of volunteer citizens worked to clear overgrowth along Sausal Creek.

In East Oakland, parishioners from Acts Full Gospel Church joined other volunteers at Rainbow Recreation Center to remove litter, while volunteers from the East Oakland Boxing Association (EOBA) spread out into the neighborhood to clean sidewalks and medians. EOBA Executive Director Sara Chavez says the volunteers she works with enjoy Earth Day because, “They get to meet people, not only from the neighborhood, but others who show up because they care and want to do something good.”

Keep Oakland Beautiful (KOB), an organization that partners with the City of Oakland to reduce blight, helped lead efforts at Verdesse Carter Park and along the Bancroft Avenue median, where volunteers picked up litter and spread mulch to reduce weeds. “It was particularly heartening that we had so many young kids show up,” notes KOB Board Member Dwayne Aikens, Jr. “They were so enthusiastic!”

Oakland's Earth Day efforts are coordinated by the Oakland Public Works Agency, which supplies gardening tools, helps to supervise major projects and removes hundreds of cubic yards of trash and green waste collected by volunteers.

“We are very proud to have had so many dedicated volunteers show up on Earth Day to beautify Oakland,” remarks Public Works Director Vitaly Troyan. “We hope they will continue their work year-round through our Adopt a Spot program.”

Oakland's Adopt a Spot program supports volunteer stewardship efforts throughout the year with tool loans and debris collection services. Over 300 locations in Oakland have now been adopted, including parks, creeks, medians, pathways and other public spaces. Residents and businesses interested in making a commitment are encouraged to visit www.OaklandAdoptaSpot.org for more information.

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