



The Splash

Fall/Winter 2021-22

General Meeting:

Virtual? (TBD)

January 27, 2022 7:00 PM

“Birds of the Riparian Zone”

Upcoming Events

Creek Cleanups: Root Park 10:00AM –12:00 PM

Saturday, October 9 FSLC Co-sponsors with Council Member Lopez and Fire Fighters Local 55.

Saturday, December 11 FSLC Co-sponsors with Council Members Lopez and Azevedo!

Register here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/coastal-cleanup-at-the-san-leandro-creek-at-root-park-tickets-172350463877?utm_source=eventbrite&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=post_publish&utm_content=shortLinkNewEmail

Chabot Park Creekside Restoration Project:

Saturday, November 13 Covid-time growth reworked, with pizza for volunteers! Details to follow.

MLK Day of Service Creek Cleanup: January 15, 2022 Hegenberger Rd. in Oakland 10:00AM -12:00PM

General Meeting: January 27 7:00 PM “Birds of the riparian zone” Phil and Pat Gordon of the Ohlone Audubon Society.

This Issue:

There's More! (than FSLC) By Carol Bardoff

Let's face it, we're urban creatures, caught up in the frenzy of our hectic lives within a hopelessly technologized culture. With so little time to spare, those of us who recognize the need to care for local treasures of the natural world (like San Leandro Creek) may find it difficult to know where to direct our efforts. No need to despair! In addition to our own Friends of San Leandro Creek there are a number of other likeminded groups in the area that are organizing in a variety of ways to bring nature and human civilization back into harmony. Here are just a few:

San Leandro 2050



“Community climate solutions for an equitable San Leandro”— this is the catchphrase on the homepage of San Leandro 2050, a nonprofit established in 2019. Committed to merging social justice with climate justice, San Leandro 2050 partners with the San Leandro School District and the California Air Resources Board as well as businesses, congregations, neighborhood associations and other organizations. Their chief goal: to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions in our city by 2050. (San Leandro emits 573,300 metric tons of the stuff annually!)

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In case you are unaware of the three organizations we're highlighting in this newsletter, FSLC has asked our loyal Treasurer Carol Bardoff to write the following piece. We know the East Bay has a plethora of environmental groups to choose from. Carol has highlighted these three because they are an excellent addition to the normal work you do with FSLC. Carol outlines their causes that we hope will spark your interest. We think we can all agree our Earth (not to mention San Leandro Creek) needs as much help as it can get. So this is your reminder to think globally and to do as much locally as you possibly can! -Susan

Officers and Board of Directors:

President Michael Gregory; **Vice President** Lary Huls, **Secretary** Jan Woycheshin, **Treasurer** Carol Bardoff, **Membership Coordinator** Claudia Taurean, **Member at Large** Mike Vukman
Watershed Awareness Coordinator/Newsletter Editor Susan Levenson

Friends of San Leandro Creek is a 105(c)(3) non-profit organization made up of citizens, students, and businesses dedicated to improving community understanding and awareness of San Leandro Creek and its watershed.

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San Leandro 2050 has received grant monies and launched initiatives focusing on issues in disadvantaged neighborhoods such as poor air quality and the lack of heat-mitigating street trees. In a recent analysis of tree coverage by neighborhood, they found that while residents in the northeast corner of the city benefit from numerous street trees, with 0.6–1.2 trees per household, most other areas have only 0–0.3 per household. In an effort to “green” the city more equitably, San Leandro 2050 is now offering street trees for free, allowing property owners to avoid the City’s \$100.00 fee.

2050 invites people of all ages, backgrounds, and levels of experience to join the effort to make San Leandro a zero-carbon city. For more information, visit: <https://www.sanleandro2050.org> and let them know your own views on air quality and climate change priorities on their community input page at: <https://www.sanleandro2050.org/communityinput>.

100K Trees for Humanity



Trees are the primary focus of another group based right next door in the city of Alameda. The goal of 100K Trees for Humanity is to plant one new tree per capita resident by 2030 to restore habitat, increase carbon sequestration, and create a more resilient environment. As guest speaker for the June 15 General Meeting of Friends of San Leandro Creek, Founder and CEO Amos White shared the striking fact that every dollar spent on a street tree returns \$5.82 in benefits. He points out that, in addition to providing shade and cleaning the air, trees activate “biophilia,” which is the positive response of the human nervous system to plants and other elements of nature. Amos states, “trees are an essential part of urban infrastructure, and can change the world”.

The presence of trees on creekbanks increase rainwater absorption which in turn recharges and raises the level of the water table. Deep, well-established plant and/or tree roots can help to prevent soil erosion along banks. Trees also reduce flooding, provide plentiful watershed habitat for birds and animals, and improve riparian water quality.

100K Trees for Humanity seeks to work with residents in the cities of Alameda County, including San Leandro, to organize major tree-planting programs that will transform neighborhoods into lush, green communities doing their part to improve public health and the environment. To learn more, visit their website at: <https://www.100ktrees4humanity.com/>

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First Wednesdays San Leandro



This is a citizen's circle that began meeting monthly in early 2017 to explore ways of advancing democracy and justice both locally and beyond. After organizing voter registration drives and other election-related actions, "First Wednesdayers" turned their attention to climate change and environmental justice with discussions on electric vehicles, fossil fuels divestment, and pollution from idling trucks and gas-powered landscaping equipment. The group drafted and advocated for a local Declaration of a Climate Emergency, which was adopted by the San Leandro City Council in December 2019. First Wednesdays San Leandro endorses the city's newly updated Climate Action Plan (read it here: <https://www.sanleandro.org/depts/pw/sust/cap.asp>) and looks forward to opportunities to support its implementation. For more information, contact Molly at mollyinsf@gmail.com.

Maybe we all experience at least a twinge of "eco-anxiety" and sometimes question whether one person's actions could make a difference against the powerful forces that threaten our planet. There's no denying that we need to see sweeping changes from the upper levels of government and big corporate polluters. But climate change is affecting you and me right here at home, and even one small deed—like helping the above groups, or planting a sidewalk tree — can take root and spread its life-giving impetus farther than we know. After all, isn't it about more than just us? Maybe this is the message that Ohlone poet Stephen Meadows received one cold day as he gazed out at the sycamore trees growing on his street:

...gaunt wooden limbs
that are hands reaching up
out of the cold soil
imploring us to live¹



¹Stephen Meadows, *Releasing the Days* (Berkeley, CA: Heyday, 2011), p. 47.



We're on the web!
www.fslc.org



The **San Leandro Creek Watershed Awareness Program** is a comprehensive watershed education program funded by Alameda County Flood Control and Conservation District, with additional support from the City of San Leandro, implemented by Friends of San Leandro Creek. Thank you to the following for your continued support: Alameda County Public Works, The City of San Leandro, and FSLC Members and Volunteers like you.

The Friends have a NEW ADDRESS!

Friends of San Leandro Creek Membership Application

Yes, I would like to become a member/renew my membership in the following category: (Please circle one)

- Student \$ 1
- Individual \$5
- Family \$15
- Non-Profit \$25
- Business \$100

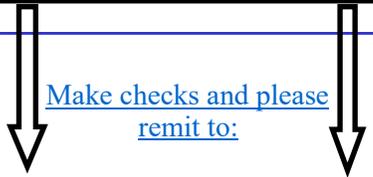
Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

I have a special skill or interest in: _____



Make checks and please remit to:

**Friends of San Leandro Creek
Public Works
14200 Chapman Rd
San Leandro, Ca 94578**

Friends of San Leandro Creek is a 501(c) (3) not for profit corporation. Your donations are tax deductible

Or, click here to pay on-line: <http://fslc.org/membership/> for a paper-free membership!

Special Thanks to our newest 2021 Members:



- Reichert Family
- Winkler Family
- Prola Family
- Vallianos Family
- Criswell Family
- Wiley Family
- Whit Magor
- Celina Reynes

Your name here!

