

## Redwood Grove Activity Summary

October 1 – December 30, 2015

### Volunteer Participation

- 8 volunteer days and 2 educational events
- 77 volunteers and 39 educational event participants attended<sup>1</sup>
- 203 hours of volunteer time
- Volunteers came from the following schools/organizations: Girls' Middle School, Los Altos Methodist Church, Boy Scout Troop 33, San Jose State University, Daisy Troop 61070



### Educational Events

We hosted two educational events at Redwood Grove this quarter:

- A restoration ecology class from San Jose State University came to Redwood Grove to learn about restoration of redwood ecosystems. Acterra Stewardship staff helped student leaders prepare a tour and talking points about the progress that has been made at Redwood Grove. Students also practiced vegetation surveying techniques in some of the restoration areas. The class instructor has already scheduled a second field trip this spring.
- Interns from the California Urban Streams Partnership helped survey the geometry of Adobe Creek along the stretch that was recently reconstructed. The surveying was a great learning opportunity for college students to get hands on experience with survey equipment plus the data collected may be useful in the future to track changes within the creek over time.



*Above: Los Altos Daisy Troops*

*Left: Students from San Jose State University learning about restoration in redwood ecosystems*

<sup>1</sup> A "volunteer" is counted as one person attending for one day; if the same person attends multiple workdays they are counted separately.

### **Entry Driveway and Caretaker House Garden**

- 106 plants were planted along the driveway in November. Species installed include yarrow, heuchera, pink flowering currant, California Fescue, and California aster. Daisy Troops were among the many volunteers that helped plant in this area.
- Some parts were replaced on the rain barrels in the caretaker house garden. We have been using the water from the rain barrels in between storms this winter.
- Timed irrigation along the driveway has been turned off for the season.
- Acterra Stewardship staff has been doing periodic weeding and deadheading within the caretaker house garden and along the entry driveway.

### **Behind Cottage (along creek)**

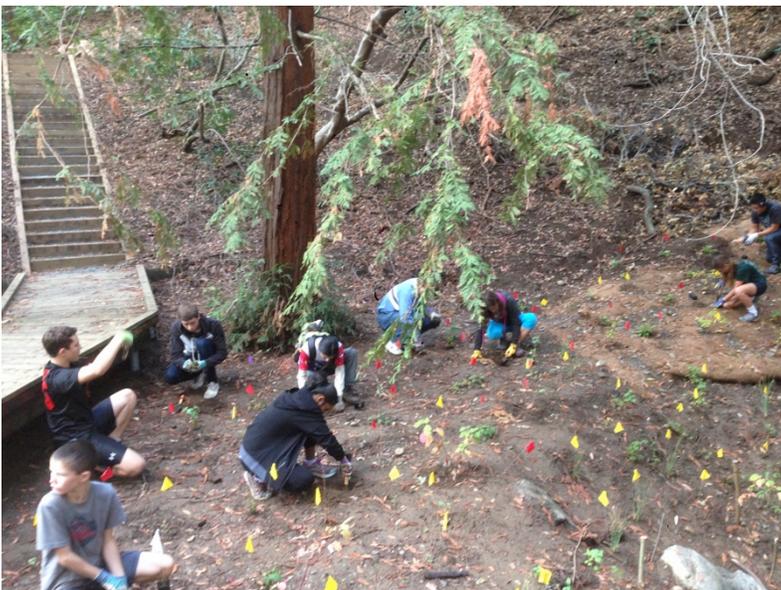
- 64 plants were installed in this area including snowberry, hairy honeysuckle, and elderberry.
- Volunteers helped with significant weeding of poison hemlock. We expect to see a lot of Italian thistle begin to grow thickly in this area based on the expansive population on private property on the other side of the creek.

### **Former Blackberry Patch**

- 32 plants were installed in this area including narrowleaf milkweed, oso berry, and ocean spray.
- Both staff and volunteers have helped weed Italian thistle.

### **Creek Bank Stabilization Project**

- Now that Graniterock has finished the heavy lifting portion of this project, Acterra has started installing the fine details – an extensive palette of native plants.
- Almost all of the 570 plants that were propagated for this area have already been installed by volunteers. The new creek bank is now home to a variety of native riparian species including ninebark, dogwood, common rush, and California blackberry.
- The project seems to be holding up well through early storms. Park visitors have been complimentary of the project and new boardwalk.



**Creek Bank Sites** – Includes approximately 400 linear feet of creek bank through the main redwood grove area, from the willow sculpture above the vehicle bridge to the pedestrian bridge downstream.

- Interns helped install willow cuttings and fascines along Adobe Creek. One particularly undercut portion of the creek was the focus of the installation.



### **Meadow at Manresa Gate**

- Hundreds of California poppy plants are popping up after Daisy Troops seeded this area last year.
- The meadow will be one of our largest planting areas this winter with over 300 plants scheduled for installation.

### **Under the Sycamores**

- Volunteers expanded the restoration area by removing Himalayan blackberry and Algerian ivy.
- Installed 90 plants including snowberry, big leaf maple, and pink flowering currant.
- Thinned bedstraw to create space for newly planted plants.



*Boy scouts removing Himalayan blackberry*

### **Under the Valley Oak**

- Sheet mulched a large area of poison hemlock to help suppress the weed as well as prepare the area for planting.
- Staff and volunteers removed Italian thistle and poison hemlock in areas that we were not able to sheet mulch.

### **Miscellaneous**

- We finished the final report for our creek bank work that was funded by the Santa Clara Valley Water District. This grant provided approximately \$45,000 over four years for additional revegetation work along Adobe Creek, including the artist commission for the willow sculpture project. The final report included a vegetation survey and photo documentation of the project along Adobe Creek. Acterra will be doing a presentation to the District Board of Directors in January to mark the completion of the project.
- Acterra staff did an extensive clean up and reorganization of the caretaker cottage after rats began to nest in the house. A big thank you goes to the maintenance crew who helped haul away garbage, including the couch, and provided cleaning supplies.