San Francisquito Watershed Council

Revegetation Monitoring:

A volunteer stewardship opportunity with the San Francisquito Watershed Council



Over the past six years the San Francisquito Watershed Council has established seven restoration sites along San Franisquito Creek and its tributaries, most of them in response to erosion, disturbance from construction, non-native plant invasion, and other kinds of disturbances to the creek bank. The creation of these sites has been at the core of our work in involving our local community in watershed stewardship. Between 1999 and 2006, more than 3,000 volunteers took part in workdays to remove invasive plants from the sites, prepare the soil, and plant native riparian plants grown from seeds and stock collected in the watershed. Our volunteers have consistently told us that they come away from our events with a sense of accomplishment and enjoy what they've learned about watershed ecology.

This year, we are adding a new component to our volunteer workday program: a scientifically rigorous, volunteer-based monitoring effort to help us assess the success of our restoration efforts. In partnership with Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, we'll be measuring several variables related to the success of our restoration effort to help us understand the trajectory of these sites toward becoming sustainable. This work will take place over the next several years and will help us to plan for future maintenance needs more precisely. It will also help us understand when we can consider our current sites established to the extent that we can consider taking on new ones.

In addition to answering these questions, the monitoring project is intended to help foster new connections among watershed residents. Our model is to recruit an initial group of 20 volunteers who will learn the monitoring protocol and then lead drop-in volunteers in using it at four half-day workdays on Saturday mornings throughout the year. Our goal is to have four members from each of the five watershed communities: East Palo Alto, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, and Portola Valley in the initial group. They will work closely with our Field Coordinator, a 2006 graduate of the master's program in biological Sciences at Stanford University who has developed the monitoring protocol.

San Francisquito Watershed Council

Revegetation Monitoring:

A volunteer stewardship opportunity with the San Francisquito Watershed Council

Some of the benefits of participating as a volunteer include opportunities to:

- -Learn about the natural history, ecology, and basic function of the watershed
- -Work with scientists from Stanford University
- -Meet others who share an interest in watershed science and stewardship
- -Share stewardship ideals with volunteers new to watershed work
- -Help the Watershed Council – and other watershed groups – understand how to manage restored sites for long-term sustainability



We're looking for people who are interested in watershed stewardship, have an aptitude for teaching, are comfortable working with people from different backgrounds and communities, and would be willing to make a two-year commitment to participate in the project. The amount of time involved would be approximately 40 hours a year. The bulk would be spent at four half-day volunteer workdays on Saturday mornings during the year, and at a short series of training workshops of approximately two hours each. The training will consist of classroom work followed by hands-on activities.

For further information, please contact Ryan Navratil (Ryan@SanFrancisquito.org: 650-961-1035 x310) or Pam Sturner (Pam@SanFrancisquito.org: 650-961-1035 x304)

The San Francisquito Watershed Council is a nonprofit stewardship organization dedicated to fostering the health and diversity of the San Francisquito watershed. Our Steering Committee is made up of watershed residents and representatives from neighborhood associations, Stanford University, environmental organizations, local cities, and federal, state, and local resource agencies who meet on a voluntary basis to discuss creek-related concerns and collaborate on creek and watershed steward-ship projects. Working together with volunteers from the community, we restore habitat, monitor water quality and observe creek trends, raise awareness about the watershed, and provide policy support for local governments to keep the creek healthy and safe.