

Friends of Oakland Parks (FOPR) is one of 17 organizations statewide selected to receive funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which is being administered by California ReLeaf. FOPR’s mission is to improve the quality of life for all Oakland citizens by generating funding and support for projects and programs that enhance and supplement the recreational, environmental, educational, and leisure activities offered through the Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation.



This \$130,000 grant will allow Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation to collaborate with the West Oakland Reforestation Project to enhance the West Oakland community – a mix of heavy commercial and residential use – by planting about 500 trees on city-right-of-way property.

The project also includes public education events as part of Arbor Day and Earth Day celebrations. These will highlight the goals of the project, future planting dates and how community and business members can get involved.

In addition, young people ages 18 through 24 from Civicorps and formerly incarcerated older adults from Volunteers of America have been trained and hired to assist Friends of Oakland Parks in West Oakland tree plantings.



Fast Facts for the Friends of Oakland Parks ARRA Grant

Jobs created/retained: 10

Trees Planted: 500

Job Hours Contributed to 2010 Work Force: 130

Lasting legacy: Once completed, this project will have provided employment in the green jobs sector for Bay Area young adults while also creating a healthier, cleaner, and more livable environment for Oakland residents and visitors.

“We are working to support a sustainable, thriving and attractive urban forest, composed of a wide spectrum of trees, shrubs, ground cover and other vegetation. By striving to use local talent, resources and labor, we are promoting commerce and industry along with the well-being of the community.” – Thomas McCoy, Co-chair, West Oakland Reforestation Project.

