

Friends of Oakland Parks is one of 17 organizations statewide selected to receive funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act administered by California ReLeaf. FOPR’s mission is to improve the quality of life for all of Oakland’s 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 allowed Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation to collaborate with the West Oakland Greening Initiative to enhance the West Oakland community – a mix of heavy commercial and residential use – by planting more than 500 trees on city-right-of-way property and public parks.

The project also includes public education events as part of Martin Luther King Day and Earth Day celebrations. These highlighted the goals of the project, and explained how community and business members could get involved.

In addition, West Oakland-based young people ages 18 through 24 from CiviCorps were 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: 3.5

Trees Planted: 519

Job Hours Contributed to California Work Force: 1863

Lasting legacy: this project provided employment and training in the green jobs sector for West Oakland-based 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.

