



Stewardship Habitat and Pond Restoration Program

**Board of Directors Meeting
October 15, 2024**

**Rose Samuelson, Ecologist
Dina Robertson, Wildland Vegetation
Program Manager**

Stewardship Department



Today's Presentation

- What is the Stewardship Habitat Restoration and Pond program
- The challenges we are trying to solve
- What we've done so far
- Where do we need to go
- What do we need to get there
- How all of you can support this initiative



Stewardship Habitat Restoration and Pond Program

Stewardship Habitat Restoration Program- 2022

- One time allocation from operating budget in 2023 (ad hoc), plus grants
- Workgroup of colleagues from stewardship
- Project managers Rose, Kristen, Dina, and IPM, Pam B, Barbara C

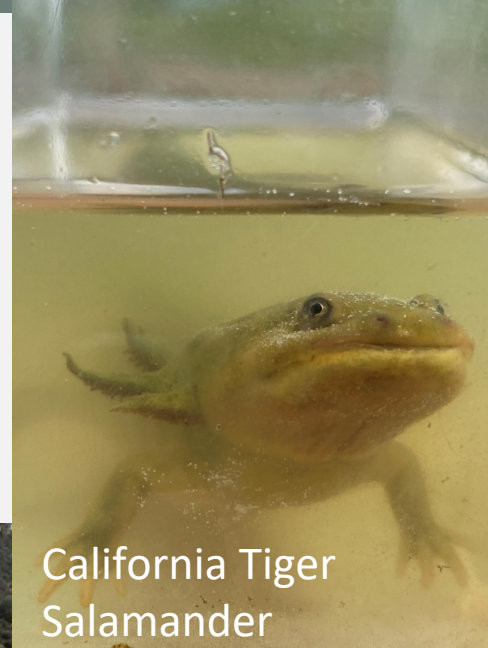
Pond Program- 2020

- Management of over 600 livestock ponds
- One time budget allocations over the past 5 years (ad hoc), plus grants
- Workgroup with wildland veg, wildlife, fisheries, permitting
- Project managers Allison R, Dave R



Stewardship Habitat Restoration and Pond Program

- **Others who support the work (workforce)**
 - Volunteer Services and volunteers from the community
 - Tenants and contractors
 - Park Operations
 - Urban Tilth, Point Blue STRAW



California Tiger Salamander



Dip netting in pond



Point Pinole Monarch Garden

Stewardship Habitat Restoration Program

- 30X30 Priority Project
- Out of 100 staff ideas, selected as one of 6 priority projects/ideas
- Vetted through the 30X30 leadership workgroup



Opportunities for Healing



Del Valle Trail and Pond Erosion



Finley Road Trail Erosion



Anthony Chabot Creek Erosion



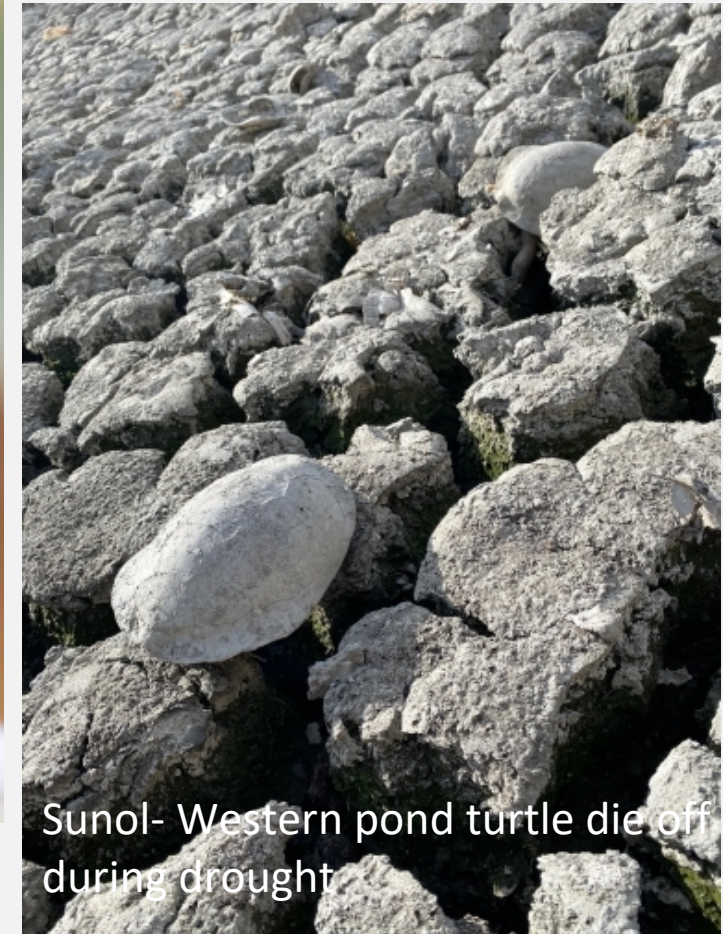
Miller Knox French Broom



Italian thistle

Opportunities for Healing- Decreasing Species and Habitat Function

- **Losses directly impact all of us**
 - Pollinators who pollinate our food crops
 - Loss of stormwater attenuation function
- **Shifting baseline**
- **Climate change driven losses**



Flourishing Landscapes



Flourishing Landscapes



Healthy, functioning creek



Wild seed collection



Pleasanton Ridge Creek Restoration



Healthy, functioning wetland

Shift in How We do the Work

Reactive

Impermanence

Ad Hoc

Acquisition focus

Inaction

Loss

Sporadic/Low funding



Proactive

Durability

Prioritize

Programmatic

Renewal

Steady, adequate
funding and
staffing



Stewardship Habitat and Pond Restoration Program

- **Shift from primarily extractive use (historical since colonization) to healing and valuing the resources**
 - Increase the Pace and Scale of Stewardship
 - Bring communities in
 - Recognize that park visitors recreate to enjoy biodiversity and open space
- **Stewardship to lead the Park District in healing the land**
 - We are much more than regulatory
 - Adaptive management
 - Work collaboratively across divisions- to get ahead of issues
- **Continue and expand investment in jobs and funding that support the lifting of our natural resources**



Habitat Restoration – Riparian



**Wildcat Creek – tributary above Lake Anza
And Nook Pool soil bioengineering**

Habitat Restoration – Riparian



Wildcat Creek Restoration



Habitat Restoration – Ponds



Pleasanton Ridge- Pond Restoration

Habitat Restoration - Grasslands



Grasslands offer a beautiful opportunity to enjoy the landscape, an educational opportunity for the community, and ecosystem benefits to flora and fauna.



Habitat Restoration – Oak Woodlands

2022



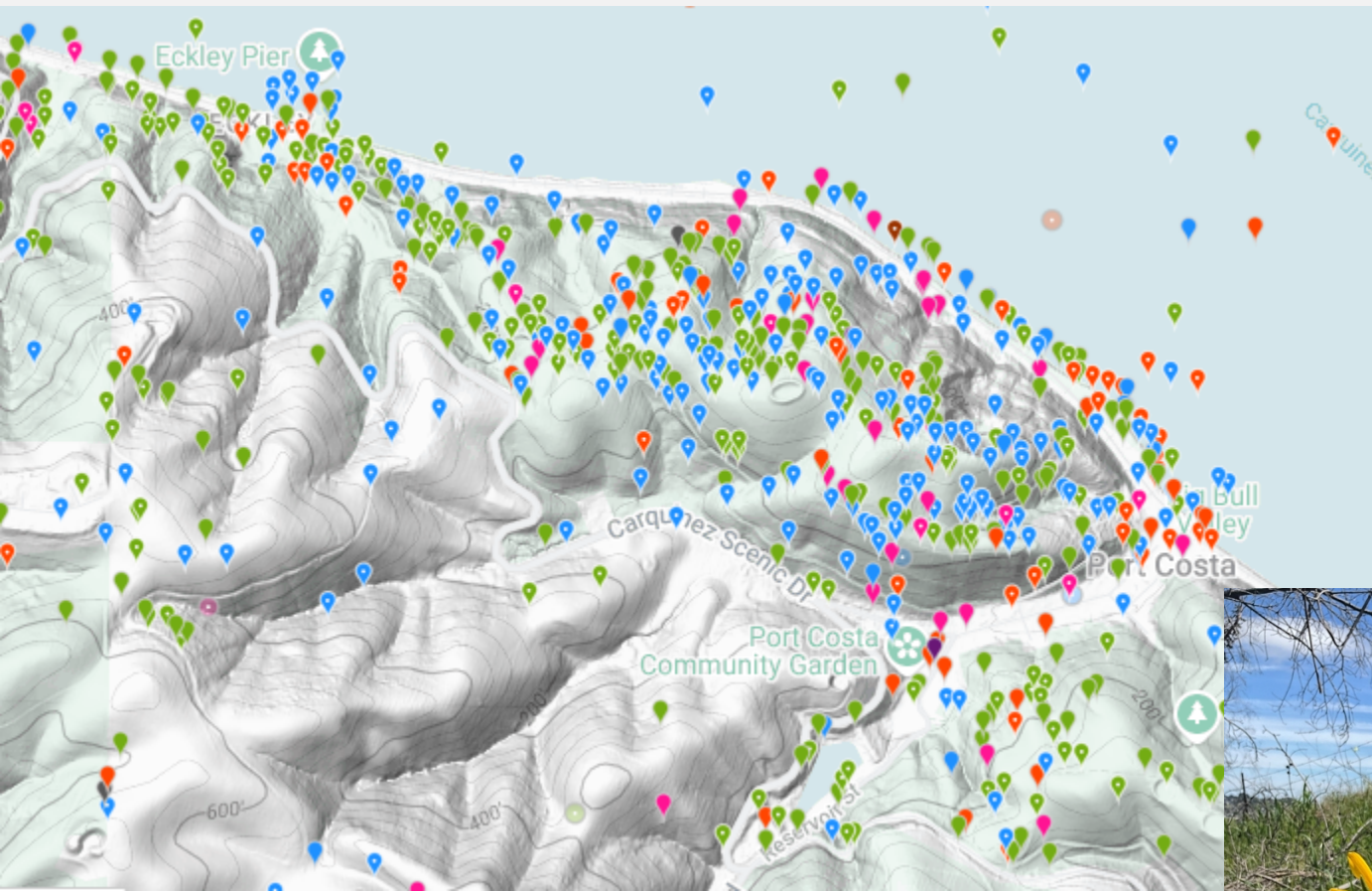
2024



“I am glad that EBRPD has decided to invest in our area, and so I try to let my more optimistic self imagine the possibilities the future holds for this portion of parkland.... we, out here in our little community at the edge of the county, **have a reason to be hopeful.**” – Lindsey Pannell, *Crockett Signal*



Habitat Restoration – Biodiversity as Recreation



East Bay Regional Parks are iNaturalist hot spots!
Biodiversity is a recreational resource.
100's of observations since the restoration began in 2023

Moving Forward

- Recognize value of natural resources for recreation
 - Fruits of land stewardship are enjoyed as a recreational amenity
- Increase community participation in land stewardship
- Drive operational changes to support proactive land stewardship
 - Initial purchase of lands: include adequate funds for land stewardship
 - For every Capital Project or new trail, include a lift to the resources
 - Implement policies and procedures that avoid causing harm
- Build our toolbox
 - Increase native seeds available for restoration
- Need
 - Additional base funding to leverage outside funds
 - Funds for maintaining and monitoring
 - Increase resources to expand work with volunteers

