

Community Based Restoration: Lessons Learned in Planning and Project Implementation

SCWRP Wetlands Symposium - May 8, 2008



**PIONEER PARK WETLANDS
RESTORATION PROJECT**

Site Location

- Mission Viejo, CA
- San Juan Creek Watershed
- 2.8 Acre Parcel
- 1.5 Acre Riparian Woodland
- 475' Drainage Creek



Project Inception

- Define Area/Need
 - Natures Image
- Obtain Funding
 - SCWRP
 - Partners for Fish & Wildlife
- School Support
 - Administration
 - Parents and Staff



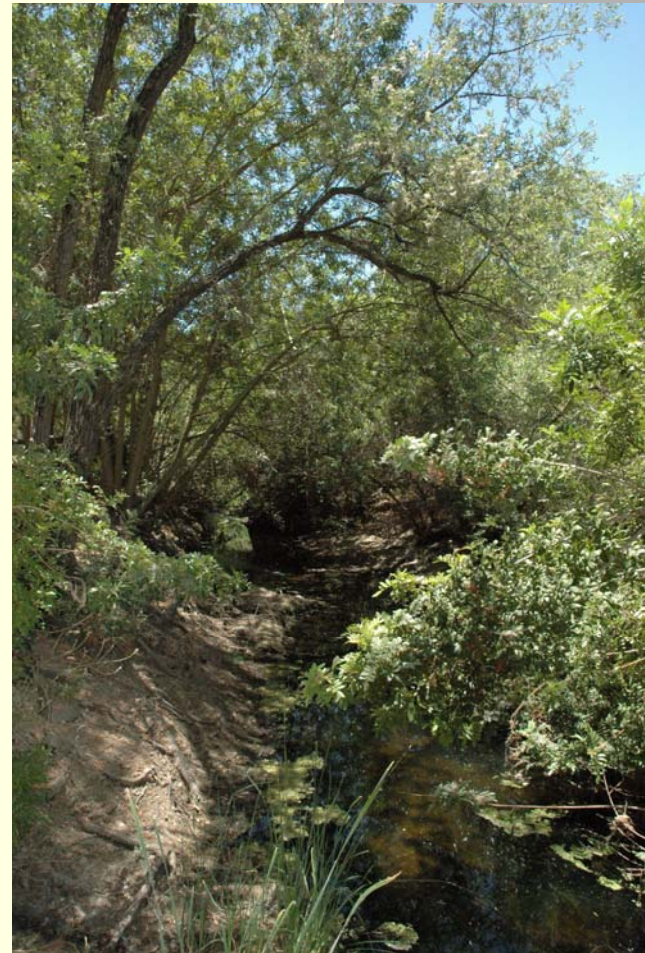
Site Conditions



- Non-Native Invasive Plants & Trees
 - Brazilian Pepper Trees
 - Mexican Fan Palms
 - Pampas Grass
- Trash and Debris

Project Goals

- Restore Native Habitat
- Improve Water Quality
- Utilize Volunteers
- Provide Education & Outreach



Project Steps

Planning/Ecology

- Permitting
- Removal of Invasives
- Planting of Natives
- Maintenance



Permitting



- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- California Department of Fish and Game
- County
- City

Invasive Plant Removal



Mexican Fan Palm



Brazilian Pepper

Parent Work Day

- October 22, 2007
- Shovels, Loppers & Chainsaws
- Removed:
 - Cape Ivy
 - Palm Stumps
 - Small Pepper Trees
 - Trash & Debris
- Filled 40cy Bin



Student Planting Days

- Jan. 30 – Feb. 1, 2008
- All Students Participated
 - K - 3rd - Willow Cuttings
 - 4th - 8th - Mule Fat, Rushes
Monkey Flower, Blue
Eyed Grass



Family Planting Day



- March 15, 2008
- 45 Volunteers
- Staff, Parents & Students Planted:
 - California Sycamores
 - Fremont Cottonwood
 - Coast Live Oaks
 - Yerba Mansa
 - Creeping Wild Rye

Challenges Faced

- Lengthy Permitting Process
- Scheduling
 - Volunteers (Rain)
 - Contractors/Students
- Erosion from Rains
- Unexpected “Finds”
 - Sand Bags, Plastic, Metal, etc.

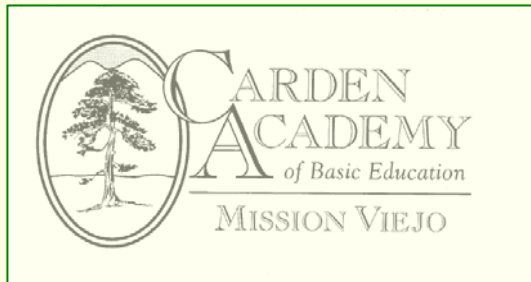


Lessons Learned

- Restoration is a Process
- Start Permitting Early
- Plan Regular Volunteer Days
- Expect the Unexpected
- Ongoing Maintenance
 - Weeds Like Rain, Too



Contact Information



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Thank you to our partners...



**EARTHWORKS
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**California Native Plant Society
ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER**

