

So Many Ways to Love Our Neighborhoods on Earth Day 2011

Saturday, April 16, 9am-Noon

Dear Neighbor,

This year is the 41st Annual Earth Day; now more than ever our City Parks need our love. This Saturday, April 16, in every corner of our City, will neighbors celebrate Oakland with Earth Day events. Some projects are small -- a few neighbors cleaning their own block. Others bring hundreds together like [Friends of Sausal Creek](#) in Dimond Park, [the Rose Garden](#), or [Lake Merritt](#). There are 80 project locations you can choose from!

Earth Day is Oakland's largest community volunteer event, with as many as 4,000 corporate and neighborhood volunteers working together to clean and beautify our parks, public areas and schools.

I plan to start out Earth Day as I have for decades in my home district at Dimond Park honoring the oldest on-going projects of the [Friends of Sausal Creek](#). Then I'll move across the City visiting projects in or near each of the areas that I've adopted:

- Arroyo Viejo Park in District 6
- Carter Gilmore Park, 1390 66th Ave behind Havenscourt Middle School, District 7
- Raimondi Park, District 3

Many volunteers who have worked in our parks annually on Earth Day have stepped up to the plate to become [park stewards throughout the year through the Oakland](#)



Make Earth Day Every Day

Every week there are on-going work days around the city. The following list is a good



sampling.

Dr. Bailey and volunteers of the Lake Merritt Institute at their table during Wednesday's Earth Expo 2011 at City Hall's Frank Ogawa Plaza.

- Allendale Park NCPC: Clean up streets,

[Parks Coalition](#) and other programs on the right. **On going efforts like Earth Day can't make up for this loss but can focus on the most critical projects in our almost 2000 acres of parks and open space during these tough times.** We hope you and your family will join us to surpass last year's record of about 4000 volunteers.



Oakland students remind us about the meaning of going "Green" on their quilt hanging at City Hall.

Please bring your family, work gloves, brooms and tools and join us at any of the sites in the City. **Please forward this to your friends and neighbors.**

Mayor Jean Quan

80 (!) Ways to Love Oakland on Earth Day Saturday, April 16th, 9 am-Noon:

- tree wells and storm drains on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 38th street between Nevel & Suter Streets. Call Steve Reuss at 536-9551.
- **Claremont Canyon Conservancy:** Ongoing vegetation management efforts. Contact claremontcanyon@hotmail.com or call 843-2226.
- **Cleveland Cascade:** Help the [Friends of the Cleveland Cascade](#) restore and maintain this historic site near Lake Merritt. Call 902-9216/
- **Keep Dimond Clean:** Ongoing litter walks on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Call [Kathryn Russell](#) at 842-3200 for schedule.
- **Maxwell Park:** Daily clean ups by Friends of Maxwell Park. Contact Nancy Karigaca at 436-6680.
- **Maxwell Park NCPC Monthly Clean up,** 3rd Sunday of the month at 9 am, Redding & Courtland medians.
- **Montclair GreenNClean--** clean ups of Montclair Pocket Park, Montclair Park and elsewhere in Montclair. Contact [Jill Broadhurst](#) at 338-1001.
- **Montclair RR Trail--**3rd Saturday of the month, 9 am.
- **Morcom Rose Garden:** Check out their volunteer calendar at [Friends of Morcom Rose Garden Website](#).
- **Oakland Landscape Committee:** Volunteers always welcome to assist at one of the many projects at schools and public spaces, including North Oakland Sports Field, Gateway Gardens, Firestorm Memorial Garden and Broadway Off ramp. Contact [Gordon Piper](#) at 843-3828.
- **Peralta Creek Park** (corner of Rettig & Wisconsin): Meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 6:30-7:30 pm.
- **Friends of Sausal Creek:** Something happens in the Sausal Creek Watershed several days a week and most weekends. Beaconsfield & Dimond Canyons, Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery and many other sites. Check out monthly calendar at [FOSC website](#).
- **Shepherd Canyon Eco Pullers & Planters:** meets the 1st Saturday of the month at Escher Meadow. Contact [Adrienne Bryant](#).



To learn about more about



Staging Areas
(arrive by 9 am)

[Redondo Park](#), Hardy Circle near Miles Avenue

[Morcom Rose Garden](#), 700 Jean Street (west of Grand Avenue)

[Raimondi Park](#), 18th and Wood Street

[Lake Merritt Boathouse](#), 568 Bellevue Avenue

[Sausal Creek at Dimond Park](#), 3860 Hanley Road

[Peralta Hacienda Historical Park](#), 2465 34th Avenue

[Arroyo Viejo Park and Arroyo Viejo Creek](#), 7701 Krause Avenue

[Knowland Park Zoo](#), 9777 Golf Links Road

[Click here for the complete list](#)



Oakland's volunteer opportunities, environmental issues and other ideas to make Oakland green, subscribe to my weekly E-Newsletter at www.facebook.com/mayorjeanquan

On Going Local Commitments

- [Become a Park Steward](#)
- [Adopt-A-Creek](#)
- [Adopt A Spot or Block](#)
- [Maintain A Drain & Protect the Bay](#)
- [Donate to the Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation](#)



Family volunteering at Sausal Creek.

25 Ways to Keep Oakland Green

1. **Use rechargeable batteries:** Dispose of non-rechargeable batteries at your nearest library, recreation center, fire station or local city building.
2. **Reuse bags:** Bring your own cloth or other reusable bags; plastic bags consume 12 million barrels of oil, paper 14 million trees.
3. **Reduce junk mail and save paper:** 100 million trees are used for junk mail each year. Visit www.stopjunkmail.org



MORE GREEN EVENTS

- **Spring Plant Sale, UC Botanical Garden:** Members' preview and silent auction, Friday, April 29, 5-7:30 pm; Public sale, Saturday,

- for simple forms to stop the waste.
4. **Adopt-a-spot or block, become a park steward:** Go to www.keepoaklandbeautiful.org or www.oaklandparks.org/
 5. **Plant a tree:** During a 50-year life span, one tree will generate \$30,000 in oxygen, recycle \$35,000 worth of water, and clean up \$60,000 worth of air pollution, or \$125,000 total per tree, without including any other values!
 6. **Use your mini-green waste bin to recycle food scraps:** Empty it into your large green waste bin. Oaklanders now divert 62% of our garbage from land fill!
 7. **Let worms eat your kitchen garbage:** Discounted compost bins & workshops on worm composting and Bay Friendly Gardening at www.stopwaste.org.
 8. **Turn trimmings into mulch:** In the Wildfire Prevention Assessment District, residents are eligible for one free chipping request per year. Call 238-7388 to schedule or visit www.oaklandnet.com/wildfireprevention/services.htm
 9. **Protect local watersheds and the Bay:** Choose permeable hardscape to prevent runoff. Use the least toxic pesticides as the last resort. Volunteer with the [Friends of Sausal Creek](#) or [Adopt-A-Creek](#).
 10. **Bay Friendly Gardening Workshop & Home Tours:** Simplify garden care, reduce chores and use fewer resources from water to fertilizer. www.stopwaste.org or 982-6500.
 11. **Conserve water:** Fix those plumbing leaks. EBMUD provides free inspections and rebates up to \$150 for new efficient toilets and washing machines. The site also lists drought tolerant and native plants. www.ebmud.com
 12. **Take advantage of PG&Es Appliance Program and Low Income Weatherization:** Rebates on energy efficient appliances and free weatherization measures to reduce gas and electricity usage for qualified low-income customers. visit www.pge.com/energypartners.
 13. **Recycle used computers and E-waste:** OTX-West refurbishes used computers

April 30, 10 am-2 pm.

- **The Ups and Downs of Hillside Gardening,** a self-guided tour of eight fabulous Oakland gardens on Sunday, May 1, 2011 from 11 am - 4 pm. Sponsored by [Hillside Gardeners of Montclair](#)
- **8th Annual Bring Back the Natives Garden Tour,** Sunday, May 1, 10 am-4 pm: [Download a Garden Tour Flyer](#)
- **Bay Friendly Garden Tour,** Sunday, May 15, a self-guided tour throughout gardens in Alameda & Santa Clara Counties, sponsored by [Bay Friendly Gardens](#). \$10 per guidebook.
- **Art and Music in the [Gardens at Lake Merritt](#),** Saturday, June 4 and Sunday, June 5.
- **OBUGS 4th Annual [Art & Garden Tour](#),** Saturday, July 23, 2-5 pm, Marston Campbell Garden @ Lafayette Elementary School n West Oakland

Oakland Shines! for Downtown Businesses

Oakland Shines is an energy program for Oakland businesses that seeks to make downtown the most energy efficient in the nation. By combining high incentives, technical support and project management assistance, Oakland Shines makes advanced technologies available to everyone. The program provides a free energy audit as the first step to reducing your energy costs. Building owners and managers can receive up to 90% rebates for installation of energy efficient equipment.



Call 877-304-6133 or visit www.oaklandshines.com

for Oakland Schools and low income residents. Call 893-4822, or visit www.otxwest.org

14. **Use fluorescent lamps instead of incandescent bulbs:** A 28-watt fluorescent bulb uses 1,020 pounds less carbon dioxide and three pounds less nitrogen over its lifetime than an incandescent bulb. Fluorescent bulbs go to the Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste Program for a free drop off. www.household-hazwaste.org
15. **Buy products with the least packaging:** choose paper, glass over plastic. Not all plastic containers are recyclable. Go to www.oaklandpw.com/page303.aspx for details.
16. **Recycle packing "peanuts", cardboard, moving boxes and bubble wrap.** Many packing/shipping services will accept these items for reuse.
17. **Choose recycled and green products:** Buy recycled paper and office supplies. Choose less toxic cleaning products, low- or no-VOC (volatile organic compounds) paints, Energy Star® certified appliances and computers.
18. **Donate office supplies and other items to school art programs:** Contact [East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse](http://www.eastbaydepot.com) at 547-6470.
19. **Recycle unwanted usable items:** The Oakland Museum's annual White Elephant Sale, www.freecycle.org, www.craigslist.org or call the recycling hotline at 877-stopwaste. (www.stopwaste.org)
20. **Build and remodel Green:** The City in partnership with the Pacific Energy Center offers a [series of free Green Building classes](#). [Stopwaste.org](http://www.stopwaste.org) also has publications, workshops and resources.
21. **Buy close to home:** 75 cents of every food dollar goes to processing, packaging, marketing, transport and retailing. Support Oakland's many Farmers' Markets and local stores.
22. **Drive less & smarter:** Walk when you can, share rides, consider biking and public transportation. Visit [WalkOaklandBikeOakland](http://www.walkoakland.com)
23. **Report illegal dumping, graffiti,**



Reusable bags are a big part of reaching our Zero Waste goals!

overflowing litter cans: Call the 24-hour Public Works hotline at 615-5566 or email pwacallcenter@oaklandnet.com

24. **Help us reinforce the foodware polystyrene ban:** Let your local restaurant know you support the ban. Report violations to the Oakland Recycling Hotline at 238-SAVE (7283) or recycling@oaklandnet.com
25. **Take a kid and yourself to the [Bill Nye's Climate Lab](#) at Chabot Space & Science Center.**

