



Guest Opinion

November 18, 2005

Restore Kottinger Creek

The Kottinger Creek Restoration Project is not about improving a park. It is about restoring Kottinger Creek -- a regional resource that has been damaged by conventional water management practices like ditching and removing bank-stabilizing vegetation.

According to FarWest Engineering, experts hired by the city, the creek channel's geometry needs repair. Studies have shown it is a system out of balance with excessive erosion and sedimentation. A lack of shade has produced an overgrowth of invasive species, siltation and increased water temperatures that limit aquatic life.

The plan for this multi-objective project is ready and will:

- * Restore 1,820 feet of degraded creek channel
- * Create 2.1 acres of native riparian habitat
- * Remove invasive plant species and failing culverts
- * Provide an easily accessible restoration demonstration park for the Tri-Valley
- * Provide interpretive elements for children and adults
- * Provide creek access points to encourage visitor interaction
- * Provide a Creek Maintenance and Monitoring Plan for this and other urban creek restoration sites

From advocacy through development, this project has taken nearly six years with partnering between the community and the city's Public Works and Parks and Community Services Departments. The concept plan has both City Council and Park and Recreation Commission approvals. Most needed funding has been reserved in the CIP budget and a California River Parkways Grant application for \$300,000 has been submitted.

Our community values are shown by where we invest. We must restore and preserve Kottinger Creek for future generations.

For more information, go to www.alamedacreek.org, click on Links, then select Kottinger Creek.

-:Tom Gallagher has lived on Kottinger Drive for 35 years.