

## **Project Summary**

The Kottinger Creek Restoration Project includes plans to restore 1,820 linear feet of Kottinger Creek in Pleasanton, California. The plan addresses the re-establishment of an active channel and native riparian plant community within the limits of Kottinger Park. This multiple-objective plan, which attempts to balance habitat concerns with user needs, will protect existing, high-quality habitat and mature trees, and provide new creek access via bridges and stairs. Locations of well-used turf areas outside the riparian corridor will remain, while steeply sloped and difficult-to-maintain turf areas will be reduced.

Kottinger Creek is a first order perennial channel draining an area of approximately one square mile east of the Pleasanton Ridge in Alameda County. The upper watershed is comprised of agricultural areas and low-density housing. Downstream of Kottinger Park, the creek remains in an open earthen channel for one-quarter mile before entering a series of closed and open culverts before its confluence with Mission Creek. Waters from Kottinger Creek eventually reach San Francisco Bay via Alameda Creek. Within the park, the creek has been significantly impacted by urbanization and conventional waterway management practices. The channel contains limited native riparian canopy species and was “ditched” throughout the park. Limited shade along the creek has allowed the channel to be colonized by invasive species typical of urban parks.

By restoring the ecological structure and function of this perennial waterway, aquatic and terrestrial habitat will be enhanced and will provide a unique, easily accessible, restoration demonstration park for the Tri Valley. The close proximity of this creek to city schools provides opportunities for hands-on environmental education to be easily accessed.

## **Project Objectives**

- Replace failing culverts with pedestrian bridges to improve flood capacity, pedestrian circulation and visual access to the creek.
- Restore 1,820 feet of degraded creek channel
- Remove invasive plant species and restore with a diversity of native aquatic, riparian and upland species
- Provide interpretive elements for children and adults along the creek trail
- Provide formal access points to encourage visitor interaction with the creek in a manner that will not induce bank erosion.