

# Restoring a Healthy Creekside Habitat

A new restoration project at Redwood Grove helps to provide a home for California native wildlife.



Volunteers plant *Juncus patens*, or common rush.

Volunteers dedicated to the quality of their open spaces kicked off the project last summer by removing invasive weeds like Algerian ivy and Himalayan blackberry in the oak and willow-dappled understory. This winter, Grassroots Ecology installed 500 plants along the trail, including trees such as big-leaf maples, shrubs including snowberries and pink flowering currants, and other native plants like common rush, California blackberry, and marsh baccharis that thrive in wet soil near creeks.

The Manresa Trail winds along a stretch of Adobe Creek alongside many families' homes. In addition to providing a habitat for animals, the variety of native plants installed in this area will help to reinforce the creek bank and combat erosion.

At the back of the preserve, past the Halsey House and garden beds, a path connects Redwood Grove Nature Preserve's back meadow to a neighborhood street, Manresa Way. In 2019, Grassroots Ecology received a grant from Valley Water to restore creekside habitat along this path, nicknamed the "Manresa Trail." This five-year grant is part of Valley Water's "Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program."



Above: Part of the Manresa Trail restoration area covered in invasive Algerian ivy, July 2019. Below: The same area with new native plants, February 2020.



White-painted bamboo sticks mark newly installed native plants grown at the Grassroots Ecology Native Plant Nursery. Staff and volunteers carefully select, place, and install plants that are best suited for site conditions.