



Ensuring a Future for the Endangered Pallid Manzanita

December 15, 2019

In the spring of 2019 Friends of Sausal Creek (FOSC) was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Alameda County Fish and Game Commission. This funding supports our organization's ongoing work to ensure the survival of the endangered pallid manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pallida*) within the Sausal Creek watershed.

With this funding, FOSC educated community members and engaged people in helping to preserve this endangered species in the following ways:



A volunteer monitoring at CSSC

- Leading volunteers in a pallid training and monitoring workday to maintain a high standard of monitoring techniques and to ensure quality collection of invaluable pallid manzanita data. The training was led by Golden Hour Restoration Institute staff.
- Recruiting volunteers for seven workdays and two monitoring days at the Chabot Space and Science Center (CSSC) colony. Volunteers removed competing vegetation around the pallid manzanitas and collected monitoring data for the Year 4 Monitoring Report. To support volunteer development, an educational component about the species was built into each monthly workday.

- Leading one annual vegetation management workday and conducting annual monitoring at the Big Trees colony.
- Coordinating with CSSC and leading two pallid manzanita educational and invasive plant removal field trips with 25 students from their Champions of Science after-school program, a program which focuses on underserved middle school students from the Oakland School District.
- Leading an additional service project field trip of 30 students from a local school, Head Royce, which included learning about the pallids as well as an invasive plant removal workday.

With the data collected by the Pallids Crew volunteers and FOSC staff, and with assistance from the Golden Hour Restoration Institute expert, FOSC is working on the Year 4 Monitoring Report to be submitted on behalf of CSSC to the California Fish and Wildlife (in process).

Through the ongoing efforts of FOSC volunteers and staff who have worked to push back invasive vegetation and create buffer zones around the pallid manzanitas, the CSSC population has consistently numbered over 100 seedlings for the four years of this project.

The continued efforts of FOSC to help protect this fragile population have been made possible through this funding. Many thanks to Alameda County Fish and Game Commission for supporting this important restoration and public education work as we strive to ensure East Bay biodiversity and the survival of endangered pallid manzanita.



A Pallid in fruit, Big Trees population



The vegetation monitoring volunteers and FOSC intern