



## Innovation in Restoring the Endangered Pallid Manzanita

December 9, 2020

In the spring of 2020 Friends of Sausal Creek (FOSC) was again awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Alameda County Fish and Game Commission to focus on the endangered pallid manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pallida*) within the Sausal Creek watershed. This funding supported our organization's ongoing work to not only ensure survival but to restore the pallid manzanita.

The work performed in 2020 was drastically changed by the air quality from wildfires and the Covid-19 pandemic, with fewer and smaller workdays to ensure human safety. Despite these extraordinary challenges, this funding allowed FOSC to continue its work to support this endangered species and keep community members engaged in the following ways:



*A young pallid seedling*

- Coordinated staff and volunteers in a pallid seedling monitoring workday to maintain a high standard of monitoring techniques and to ensure quality collection of invaluable pallid manzanita data. The monitoring included a refresher for veteran volunteers and training for first time volunteers.
- For safety, FOSC ran only two small invasive plant removal workdays and two monitoring workdays at the Chabot Space and Science Center (CSSC) colony. Though small in numbers, volunteers as well as multiple staff members removed encroaching invasive plants around pallid manzanitas and collected monitoring data while following Covid-19 safety protocols.
- Installed temporary fencing near the Big Trees population to keep pedestrians and cars from inadvertently damaging pallid plants. Failing temporary fencing was replaced at the Chabot colony to continue protecting the population.
- Educated the community about the pallid manzanita, our ongoing work with the species, and expressed kudos to the dedicated Pallid Crew in the [October 2020 FOSC newsletter](#).

Through the steadfast 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 continues to have over 100 seedlings. Additionally there was a very exciting advance in 2020: 18% of the seedlings flowered and produced fruit, many for the first time.

With the data collected by volunteers and FOSC staff, FOSC is working on the Year 5 Monitoring Report to be submitted on behalf of CSSC to the California Fish and Wildlife (in process).



*Pallid seedlings being measured during annual monitoring*

FOSC's continued efforts 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 the survival of endangered pallid manzanita.



*During workdays, volunteers removed invasive shrubs and accomplished photo monitoring among other tasks*