

THE WORKS WRAP-UP

OAKLAND PUBLIC WORKS NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2020

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CITY OF OAKLAND
PUBLIC WORKS

KEEPING OAKLAND OAKTOWN PROUD

STUDENT AMBASSADORS

As a part of the Oaktown PROUD (Prevent and Report Our Unlawful Dumping) outreach campaign to reduce littering and dumping in our town, the City of Oakland partnered with OUSD students, teachers, and administrators to create a student ambassador outreach program. This program was sparked by ideas from Oakland students at a Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) meeting. The goal is to build the program together with student ambassadors.



Student Ambassadors from Oakland High and Skyline High are off to a great start! This school year, after completing five weeks of community engagement and job training at YEP, students have participated in many projects to educate residents on how to keep Oakland clean and beautiful. In August, Ambassadors co-designed Oaktown PROUD T-shirts with Oaklandish. These shirts were given out at the Akoma Market in District 6 where Ambassadors and the Environmental Enforcement Officers (EOs) informed residents of free resources on how to dispose of waste properly. In September, Ambassadors helped create a video to promote Creek to Bay Day and created social media posts for the Oaktown PROUD Campaign. In October and November, Ambassadors will be refining digital presentations aimed at elementary and middle schoolers. This second cohort of Ambassadors has continued to be adaptable to changes in the program, still showing up for community events, in-person and online, whilst spending the entirety of the program in shelter-in-place.

OPW attributes program success thus far to our many partners. We owe a special thanks to the staff at both Oakland High and Skyline High as well as to community groups who've volunteered their time to keep students engaged. This year, Ambassadors have received additional educational and gift support from Waste Management. As always, Ambassadors will receive a letter of recommendation from the Mayor of Oakland, Libby Schaaf, for their college or employment applications. Participants will further be eligible for a stipend of up to \$1,000 administered by YEP. The Oaktown PROUD campaign emphasizes the partnership of essential roles of community leadership with local government. As for the Student Ambassador program, the City's goal is to continue to build the program together with it's most important partner: the student.

***Photo taken at Autumn Lights Festival 2019 (Before COVID-19)**



ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS (EEO) UPDATE

Environmental Enforcement Officers (EEOs) are officers that monitor all of Oakland's diverse communities to prevent and deter illegal dumping. Through educational outreach and enforcement actions, EEOs educate Oaklanders on the consequences of illegal dumping and hold unlawful dumpers accountable with citations.

Here is the EEO citation report for the month of October:

- **218** Citations issued
- **43** Citations paid
- **6** Abuse of litter containers notices issued
- **62** Appeal request forms submitted
- **33** Requests for community service
- **10** cases referred to the City Attorney's Office

For more information about citations and the work of our Environmental Enforcement Officers, please visit:
<https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/environmental-enforcement-officers>



BULKY ITEM SERVICES UPDATE

How can you get rid of your unwanted bulky items?

Schedule a curbside bulky pickup appointment with Waste Management by calling (510)-613-8710 or visiting <https://www.oaklandrecycles.com/bulky-pickup-services/> for large items such as furniture, appliances, mattresses, tires, and other bulky material.

Remember, you get one bulky pickup per calendar year. It does not rollover. Make sure to use it before the holiday rush!

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Bulky Block Parties are not being held. However, they are being assessed each month to hopefully begin again soon!

OAK311 ILLEGAL DUMPING REPORT

To track progress, Public Works keeps a bi-monthly log of illegal dumping pickup requests submitted through OAK311.

Here is the log for the month of September:

- **83%** of illegal dumping pickup requests have been picked up within three days
- **2,912** requests have been tasked to City Crews
- **652** requests have been referred to Waste Management
- **3,564** total illegal dumping pickup requests
- **6,678** total cubic yards of illegal dumping have been picked up

To submit your own request, please visit

<https://www.oaklandca.gov/services/oak311>



PREPARING FOR THE WINTER WEATHER

STREET SWEEPING

The City of Oakland announced recently that street sweeping parking enforcement will resume on November 9th, in part to help Oakland Public Works street sweeping crews get better access to curbs. Seasonal weather can include rain and storms, so it is critical that we keep the streets clean to avoid clogging storm drains. It's important to start preparing now for rain and storm safety in every Oakland neighborhood.

STORM SAFETY WORK

Getting prepared for a storm is a team effort, and Oakland Public Works (OPW) Adopt a Drain volunteers play a key role in helping the City protect water quality and prevent flooding. OPW provides tools and supplies to support volunteer efforts, and sends email rain alert notifications to help volunteers prepare their neighborhoods and business districts for rainstorms. Hundreds of Oaklanders have adopted storm drains through the City's Adopt a Drain program to help maintain over 15,000 storm drains.

Sign up at www.adoptadrainoakland.com today! You can adopt one or more storm drains to help to prevent flooding in your neighborhood and keep trash out of our waterways.

Each year OPW and the City of Oakland Department of Transportation (OakDOT) prepare to lessen winter storm-related impacts. City crews' upcoming storm safety work will include:

- Cleaning storm drains, inlets, and drainage structures
- Inspecting City facilities for pre-storm maintenance
- Reviewing and revising disaster plans to prepare for 24/7 response
- Coordinating planning efforts with other agencies in the region, including Alameda County.

The City has compiled tips to help Oaklanders prepare, respond and recover from these storms:

<https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/winter-storms>. Please share these tips and information with your teams and your community! And remember to sign up for **AC Alert**.

CARING FOR OUR SEWERS, STORM DRAINS, & CREEKS

STORM DRAIN MASTER PLAN

The City of Oakland is preparing to launch work on a new Storm Drainage Master Plan to study and evaluate the City's 400 miles of storm drainpipes, 80 miles of natural creeks and waterways, 18,000 structures, 11 pump stations, and other drainage appurtenances.

Two main factors have created the need to evaluate the overall storm drainage system in Oakland. First, developments over the years have increased runoff, leading to many locations of erosion that hurt roadways, properties, and other infrastructure, and overwhelming the capacity of many existing pipes and culverts. Second, much of the drainage system has become broken due to a historical lack of maintenance resources. Many storm drainage assets are over 80 years old and are reaching the end of their lifespans.

Major aspects of the study include compiling an inventory of the existing public storm drainage system. The study is scheduled to begin at the end of 2020 and be completed at the end of 2023.



COURTLAND CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

The City of Oakland is in the early design phase of the Courtland Creek Restoration Project, which is located in Courtland Creek Park. The Project will restore approximately 950 feet of creek through grading, slope stabilization, and native plant restoration.

The design will incorporate input from neighbors, community members, and other stakeholders. The Project outcomes will include improved water quality, the stabilization of failing banks, reduced flood risk, private property protection, neighborhood beautification, reduced illegal dumping and trash accumulation in the creek channel and banks, and improved safety and access to the creek for recreation.

The Project cost is estimated at \$4.5 - \$5 million, and the City has secured \$3,030,000 in funding so far. The City will partner with the Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation to develop an equity-focused and collaborative community engagement plan this winter (2020), and plans to secure remaining funding and complete the Project by the end of 2024.



SEWER FEDERAL CONSENT DECREE

To date, the Wastewater Engineering Management Division of Oakland Public Works has replaced just over 93 miles of the City of Oakland's 933 miles of sewer pipe – 12.5% more than required by the decree.

This effort was heavily supported by inspection of the sewer system performed by the Sewer Maintenance Division. Over 649 miles of sewer pipe have been inspected over the past six years – 10% of that work was completed during the past fiscal year. An estimated 3.5M gallons per day of water entering the sewer system during rainy weather has been eliminated because of this work. In addition to repairing the publicly-owned portion of the sewer system, the City finalized 390 permits to repair or replace privately-owned sewer pipes.

Oakland Public Works issued 199 notifications to residents advising them to fix broken sewer pipes that were contaminating the public right-of-way or damaging the sewer system. These improvements go a long way to reducing wastewater in the system, and helping the City maintain compliance with the decree.



MEASURE Q (PARK MAINTENANCE FUNDING)

Oakland Public Works has been ramping up its preparations to expand parks maintenance activities with the funds generated from Measure Q. Oakland voters approved funding to increase maintenance and programming at City parks, recreational centers, and landscape areas.

OPW is in the process of filling 69 positions to implement the funding, including tree trimmers, gardeners, painters, custodians, and more. OPW will work with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission to ensure that service levels and amenities are improved in parks across Oakland, and work to rebuild the incredible parks system that is critical to the happiness and well-being of all Oaklanders.



TREES, TREES, & MORE TREES

As part of Oakland's CAL FIRE grant project, the Parks & Tree Services Division will be planting approximately **300** trees this fall and winter in parks. They will be planted within census tracts designated by the State as disadvantaged and low-income communities throughout Oakland.

Trees provide a variety of benefits including:

- Capturing and storing carbon
- Reducing high temperatures
- Reducing air pollution and stormwater runoff
- Making the community look more beautiful!

A 2015 *Canopy Cover Report* of Oakland's urban forest shows clear equity disparities: "Frontline communities throughout the City have lower tree canopy than affluent communities." In other words, some Oakland neighborhoods have more trees than others.

Using tree canopy as an equity indicator, the Parks & Tree Services Division is actively taking a small step towards reducing canopy coverage disparities in Oakland's historically underserved communities. More trees for neighborhoods that need them!

The trees planted as part of this project over 2018-2022 are the first trees the City has planted since the tree planting program was cut in 2008.



THE ECAP RECAP

EQUITABLE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

On July 28, 2020, City Council adopted the 2030 Equitable Climate Action Plan (ECAP). The ECAP includes 40 Actions across seven key program areas, designed to reduce carbon emissions and improve the city's resilience to the impacts of the climate crises, while reducing inequities across Oakland.

As of October 2020, several action items are in progress. OPW's Sustainability Team has been working across City departments, and with community members and regional partners, to launch programs related to clean transportation and buildings, urban greening, and resilience. One Action was a requirement that all retrofits of City facilities be all-electric.

Sustainability staff is also working closely with OakDOT to develop the Zero Emission Vehicle Action Plan (TLU 5), to be completed by 2021. OPW's Parks and Tree Services Division is conducting a Citywide tree inventory as the first step in creating the City's 50-year Urban Forestry Master Plan.

Finally, the Sustainability team is working with OUSD and the Greenlining Institute to seek funding for a formal Oakland Climate Action Network (OCAN – ECAP Action CL-5) to ensure that the principles of the ECAP are added to OUSD's science curriculum.

To stay up to date on ECAP progress and related Sustainability news, sign up for the Sustainability Team's newsletter [here](#).



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP)

NEXT STEPS

The Capital Improvement Program or CIP is a program that uses community input to improve Oakland's public buildings, spaces, and streets/sidewalks. The CIP asks Oaklanders to submit a capital project, then the City ranks each entry based on 9 Prioritization Factors. The capital projects that rank high get completed depending on the City's budget.

The City of Oakland's work to more effectively and equitably engage with the communities we serve took a new step forward recently, working with East Oakland residents to develop community-led capital project proposals for consideration in the 2021-2023 budget.

Citywide, the engagement effort saw Oakland residents submit more than 400 projects for consideration, including a few projects developed by East Oaklanders with technical assistance from the CIP program. In 2018 community members helped build a "scorecard" that the City uses to evaluate potential capital projects to invest in – a scorecard that reflects community values, including factors like equity and safety. Staff from across the City will now use that scorecard to evaluate all the capital project proposals received from community members and from City departments.

Staff will sort, review and analyze all the proposals received, assigning scores and looking for funding sources. Projects that score highly and have available funding sources will be recommended for funding; those that don't will remain on a list of outstanding requests. All that work will feed to the City of Oakland Budget Office. It develops the draft FY21-23 budget that is traditionally released in the Spring for public and City Council review. The Council then enters its own process of revising the budget and adopting a final budget by July 1, 2021. The City's CIP team will provide updates along the way.

We thank everyone who participated in this effort and helped equitably grow the community's direct role in guiding capital investments for the City of Oakland. For more information and to stay updated, go online to <https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/capital-improvement-program>.

