

MARCH 2024 VOLUME 54 NUMBER 3

# ECO-LOGIC

The Official Newsletter of the Tri-City Ecology Center



ECO-LOGIC

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NEWSLETTER OF THE TRI-CITY ECOLOGY CENTER

## SOME THINGS TO DO BEFORE EARTH DAY

### HAVE A HAPPY HABITAT GARDEN –

*BY DAN O'DONNELL*

This rerun article announces the opening of sunshine and Spring here in the Tri City Area – thanks Dan

“If you build it, they will come.” is a famous line from the movie *Field of Dream*. After hearing it a man builds a baseball diamond in his corn field and sure enough, famous baseball players show up from beyond the grave to play. The quote has since been used in more realistic circumstances as a way to inspire action. If you build a homeless shelter, people will move off the streets. If you build a grocery store in a poor neighborhood, people will come for fresh fruits and vegetable. Similarly, if you build a habitat garden, wildlife will come for their survival and your enjoyment.

One way to create a habitat garden is to look at the National Wildlife Federation’s web page for creating and certifying a residential habitat garden ([www.nwf.org/certify](http://www.nwf.org/certify)). The NWF has listed 5 actions to attract wildlife to an urban garden and greatly increase this wildlife’s survival rate. The California Native Plant Society ([www.cnps.org/gardening/native-design-basics/habitat-gardening](http://www.cnps.org/gardening/native-design-basics/habitat-gardening)) and Bay Nature ([baynature.org/article/starting-a-wildlife-habitat-garden](http://baynature.org/article/starting-a-wildlife-habitat-garden)) also have great tips.



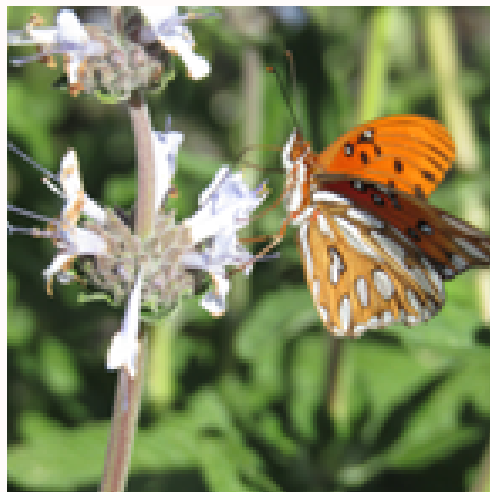
**Food:** Placing seeds or nuts in a regularly cleaned feeder is only one way to feed wildlife. Plant choices are also important. Planting a variety of plants that flower and fruit at different times will ensure natural sources of food for long periods of time. Allowing the seeds to mature by not cutting off the dying flowers will provide nutrition. Making sure to plant a diversity of native flowering plants will benefit local insect, bee, and butterfly populations. The foliage might provide the nourishment for hungry larvae in some cases so it is OK if the plant gets devoured.

**Water:** This is crucial for wildlife especially in drought years. Few urban gardens in the Bay Area have natural ponds or streams flowing through them. So, water must be provided to wildlife using birdbaths, fountains, or other water features. Placement is important. A water source placed at ground level is great for larger wildlife such as squirrels, opossums, frogs, and lizards. Water sources for bees and butterflies should be higher off the ground and clear of hiding places for predators. Stones should be placed in shallow baths so beneficial insects like bees can climb out if they fall in. Branches placed in larger features will allow larger animals to climb out if they fall in.

**Cover:** Wildlife needs options for shelter and also protection to raise their young. Mature trees can keep birds, squirrels, and other wildlife safe from ground and or aerial attacks. Different levels and density of foliage can also provide protection for different mammals, reptiles, and birds of varying sizes. Evergreen plants provide protection all year long. Insect hotels that contain an array of different size twigs, branches, and other beneficial materials will provide homes for native bees as well as many other beneficial native insects. So too will the occasional stump or log placed in the garden. Leaving a small percentage of non-covered space is important. Open space around food and water sources can protect wildlife from predators and ground nesting bees need mulch-free areas to build their nests.

Sustainable practices: Sustainable practices are important because they more closely mimic the balance of nature. Chemicals and pesticides can create an environment void of insects and can poison wildlife. There must be insects at the bottom of the food chain in a wildlife habitat garden for it to support animals higher up. An insect-free garden will not attract Bay Area bats which are amazing to watch at twilight. There would be no enjoyment from the singing of frogs and toads because they would have no food source. Many pesticides kill bees, ladybugs, dragonflies, and many other beneficial insects that protect vegetable and ornamental plants from predators.

Wildlife will begin to show up within days of creating a habitat garden. You will see the garden transform into a vibrant and fascinating urban ecosystem and you will be happy you built it and they came.



# **PARKING ISSUES IN FREMONT**

*WILLIAM YRAGUI*

*COFOUNDER - MISSION PEAK CONSERVANCY*

The city of Fremont Community Services Department has received approval from the city council to renovate Vallejo Mill Park with the addition of multiple pickleball courts, a 30,000' dog run and vault toilets. In addition, 23 parking spaces will be constructed for park visitors. The unhoused community using the parking lot inside this park was removed and the park is now fenced off. EBRPD will extend the Bay Ridge Trail from Garin Regional to Vallejo Mill Park by constructing 3.9 miles of new trail and use an additional 1.1 miles of existing ranch roads. They have purchased the required easements and hired a trail construction company. Unfortunately, EBRPD and the city were not in communication about the need for additional parking at Vallejo Mill Park which means parking will be congested. This follows recent history where the city blocks off parking needed for park access and EBRPD is complicit by working with the city to deny access.

Since 2018, Coyote Hills Regional Park has been undergoing expansion with the addition of 306 acres, new trails and more paid parking. Free parking outside the park on public streets is restricted by the city Public Works Department to one side of Commerce Drive. Free parking that existed outside the park on EBRPD lands was removed by EBRPD. They allege that more parking will be available when the park expansion is complete. However, these will be paid parking slots which many families cannot afford.

The development of the 1.5-mile Morrison Canyon Trail did not include additional parking when Morrison Canyon Road was closed to through traffic in 2017. This trail is a community treasure used to access Vargas Regional Park and upper Vargas Plateau.

Unfortunately, both EBRPD and the city have refused to construct parking for visitors near the trail head. This means park visitors are forced to park near local houses creating the potential for conflict.

The city constructed Saber Cat park with limited parking for visitors. Many park visitors use neighborhood streets creating conflict with the neighbors. Many neighborhoods have posted “no parking signs” warning park visitors not to park on the public streets.

In a 2021 a “scientific survey”, created by the city of Fremont Community Services department, found the main reason parks were not used by residents is the lack of parking. Yet parking remains restricted across the city and our politicians remain oblivious to the need for park access. Access to nature is a human right and outdoor exercise promotes the public's health. We pay for public streets and public parks. Let's find a balance where the needs of those that cannot walk into our parks are provided a safe parking space.



## **INTERVIEW WITH EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DIRECTOR DENNIS WAESPI**

**TCEC** – Hello Director Waespi, and thanks for answering questions about EBRPD. The first question is:

D Waespi – I'm happy to answer as best as possible. The park has grown over the last 75 years in leaps and bounds and now has 126,000 acres of regional parkland. Measure WW in 2008 provided the district with 500 million dollars and there is some \$20,000 left that in combination with other NGOs and organizations can leverage opportunities such as coast land such as Point Molate and the Richmond coastline come to mind. The historical Golden Gate Fields is another area of interest.

**TCEC** – What are some of your own favorite projects?

D. Waespi – I have worked with EBRPD in the area of Fire fighting for more than 30 years and this is a critical issue today. Our many thousands of acres include wild lands that have many dying trees. It may be drought, diseases, and soil-related, but we have fire risk with the Eucalyptus, Acacia, Bay Laurel, and Oaks to name a few. Maybe more rain will help the trees but we have worked on solutions including “carbonaters”, large boxes where timber can be burned by pyrolysis at high temperatures, and biochar results. The biochar helps restore soils, especially in agricultural areas like Ardenwood.

**TCEC** – Great, that's impressive. What other challenges do you have to work with?

D. Waespi – There is an ongoing challenge working with Cities, Counties, and NGOs to protect our regional parks.

We have spent funds approaching a billion dollars trying to make more parking available at Mission Peak and have encountered resistance. The most popular park for the populations we serve, well beyond Fremont, has only 47 parking spaces and we also need permission for more outdoor restroom access. We want to develop a synergistic and collaborative relationship with the City and the neighborhoods. It's not all that easy.

TCEC – OK, we know that has been a divisive arena in the past. So what will happen?

D.Waespi – The last agreement signed did not anticipate more parking at Mission Peak. It's an area for more work as more park users try to access the park. The Ohlone parking access helps, but it costs money and many park users are from low income sectors.

TCEC – And Vargas Plateau and Morrison Canyon Rd? There's no designated parking at all!

D.Wespi – Well, it's being studied. Neighbors have pushed back so areas like the old Brickyard by the Alameda Creek, the land by the old Fremont Reservoir, and the two open acres next to the Pickering gate are options.

TCEC – Goodluck! Where are your favorite parks to hike?

D. Waespi – I love Redwood park in the winter. I hike daily in the Lake Chabot park, and Mission Peak is a favorite.



## HOMELESSNESS IN FREMONT

Abode services had the yearly breakfast benefit on March 2nd. Louis Chicoine announced that he would be handing over the directorship to Vivian Wan who gave a dramatic presentation. Included in the information was that there are 38,000 homeless residents in the bay area! Below are more Abode statistics from Chris de Benedetti of Abode services

### About Abode

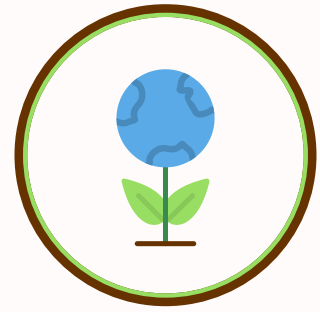
Abode's mission is to end homelessness. The organization was established in 1989, when it was known as the Tri-City Homeless Coalition and focused only on Southern Alameda County. Today, Abode's family of agencies now include Abode Services, Abode Property Management, and Abode Housing Development. Those entities work together in Alameda, Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Napa, and Solano counties, combining housing and services to assist thousands of homeless families and individuals in establishing stability and independence.

Abode believes that everyone deserves a home. To that end, Abode uses the Housing First approach, which finds that once one has the stability of a home, the services that follow are much more effective at helping that person find and keep their permanent housing. Housing First has proven far more successful than past, traditional strategies at rehousing formerly homeless people. This approach helps families and individuals in need, allowing them to thrive. It also strengthens the communities in which Abode serves, improving them in issues ranging from housing costs, the environment, and public safety – among others.

Abode has provided homes to 10,243 adults and children since 2020. Last year, Abode assisted 15,050 people and ensured that on any given night 6,807 people slept in a home rather than on the street. To learn more, visit [www.abode.org](http://www.abode.org)



## EARTH DAY



**1 NILES DISCOVERY CHURCH APRIL 6TH - HOSTED BY LWV  
EVERYONE INVITED TO LISTEN TOO BILL MCKIBBEN, AMOS WHITE AND  
JASMINE GRISANTI**

**2 DOWNTOWN EVENTS CENTER FREMONT APRIL 20TH TCEC WILL HAVE A  
BOOTH, AS WILL WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL ECOLOGY CLUB.**



## GO GREEN with us in 2024

Join us as we celebrate Earth Day  
and increase environmental awareness in our community.

**Saturday, April 20, 2024 - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**



Downtown Event Center & Plaza  
3500 Capitol Ave., Fremont



### FREE Residential Drop-off:

- Prescription Medication
- Over-the-counter Medication
- Antidepressants
- Antipsychotics
- Antidepressants
- Antipsychotics
- Antidepressants
- Antipsychotics
- Antidepressants
- Antipsychotics



### For Families & Children:

- Face Painting
- Balloons
- Games
- Crafts



### Learn About:

- Climate Change
- Sustainable Living
- Recycling
- Composting
- Water Conservation



### Event Partners:



### Special Thanks To:



Free bike tune-ups  
(limited # - first come first served)

[www.whhs.com/green](http://www.whhs.com/green) • [city.fremont.gov/earthday](http://city.fremont.gov/earthday)

# EARTH DAY EVENTS

A vibrant, cartoon-style illustration for Earth Day. At the center is a green and blue globe with a small brown patch of soil on top, from which a green sprout with two leaves grows. The number '5th' is written in white on the globe, with a white banner across it that says 'ANNIVERSARY' in green. The background is a light blue sky with white clouds, two small green birds on clouds, and green foliage with orange flowers on the sides. The entire graphic is framed by a light blue border with white clouds at the bottom.

 The Grey Water Project

**THE GREY WATER PROJECT'S 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
EARTH DAY ART COMPETITION**

**Theme: Activism: Art for Climate Action**

**Who can Participate:** Students K-12 from around the world

**Deadline:** April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 11:59 PM PST

**Prices/Recognition:** Cash prizes for Winning Entries

**Teachers participating with 15+ students will be featured on Earth Day**  
All Entries will be displayed in a virtual gallery throughout the year by The Grey Water Project. Additionally, they will be displayed at various libraries around the US

Find out More and Register Now !

 [www.thegreywaterproject.org/annual-earth](http://www.thegreywaterproject.org/annual-earth)

Support Us. Be a sponsor!

 [www.thegreywaterproject.org/supportus](http://www.thegreywaterproject.org/supportus)

# Special Price

## BIOCOMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS

7 inch plate (50 per pack)	\$ 3.70
10 inch plate (50 per pack)	\$ 7.20
11.5 oz bowl (50 per pack)	\$ 2.70
8 oz no tree hot cup	\$ 4.00
9 oz cold cup (50 per pack)	\$ 4.90
10 oz cold cup (50 per pack)	\$ 6.25
16 oz cold cup (50 per pack)	\$ 5.35
Teaspoon, fork or knife (50 per pack)	\$ 2.10
3 gal kitchen pail bag 17"X17 " (50 per roll)	\$ 4.00
13 gal tall kitchen pail bag 17"X17 " (50 per roll)	\$ 3.15
100 count straws	\$ 1.45

\*All prices reflect our nonprofit discount and tax. This benefit is for TCEC members only.

Orders may be picked up at 3375 Country Drive, Fremont, on Thursdays between 11 AM – 2 PM, or by special arrangement. When purchasing please fill out an order form and pay by cash or check. Sorry, we don't have change. Questions? Call Dee Miner at 510 9406272 or email her at muskox44@hotmail.com and please cc Caroline Harris at caroline.harris@earthlink.net.

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Do you have news or events you would like to share with Tri City Ecology's members?

Do you have any ideas on what would make Eco-Logic an even better publication?

Let us know!

We would love your feedback and are always looking for Fresh faces and ideas!

Email us @ [richgodfrey77@gmail.com](mailto:richgodfrey77@gmail.com)

Please check out our website – [www.tricityecology.org](http://www.tricityecology.org) and [Face Book](#)

You can always call and leave a message at 510 793 6222

And if you haven't joined TCEC yet, here's how



# BECOME A MEMBER

## WANT TO JOIN TCEC?

If you want to become a member please click [HERE](#) to fill out this form and mail a check to 3375 Country Drive, Fremont, CA 94536. To know more about TCEC please visit our website at <http://www.tricityecology.org>.

Board meets on the first Thursday of each month on Zoom due to Covid-1. Please call to verify. If you wish to speak on a subject, please call 510.793.6222 or 510.790.1685.

If you have any suggestions or want to contact us, please fill out [THIS](#) form.

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