



Student Handcrews Work for Wildfire Safety

Project cost: \$50,000

Partners in Prevention: East Bay Regional Park District
Student Conservation Association
City of Richmond Youth Works
Youth Employment Partnership, Oakland



In July and August 2015, a Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) grant funded youth work crews to reduce approximately 12 acres of wildfire fuels along trails in Claremont Canyon, Redwood and Sibley Regional Parks in Oakland. The work was part of an on-going program to reduce wildfire risk in East Bay Regional Park District lands, while enabling young people to engage in hands-on opportunities to learn about and make a tangible impact on the environment.

Two crews of high school aged youth worked with adult Student Conservation Association (SCA) crew leaders under the direction of Park District staff. The crews helped reduce surface fuels by removing invasive French broom, ladder fuels and dead and downed fuel accumulations. SCA recruited, hired and trained all adult crew leaders and the youth crew members from City of Richmond Youth Works and Youth Employment Partnership in Oakland. Crew members ranged in age from 15 -19. The adult SCA leaders were experienced youth leaders with training in conservation work.



Before



After

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) grant funded youth work crews to reduce wildfire fuels along trails in three regional parks in Oakland including this trail in Redwood Regional Park.



Before



After

The crews helped reduce surface fuels by removing invasive French broom in Sibley Regional Preserve.

Funding provided by Pacific Gas and Electric Company and a National Fire Plan grant from the Cooperative Fire Program of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Pacific Southwest Region, through the California Fire Safe Council.