

Habitat Enhancement at the College of Marin Ecology Study Area

Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed received funding from Marin Municipal Water District's Willis Evans Watershed Habitat Improvement Grant Program to remove invasive non-natives and plant native plants at the College of Marin's Ecology Study Area. The following report was submitted to the District when Friends completed the work covered by the grant. All of the on-site work described here was done during early 2005. College of Marin staff and students have participated and Ross Valley Sanitary District is supplying the water for drip irrigation of the newly installed plants. (Irrigation of plants installed in this season will be continued for three years, to help them get established.)

Summary Report

Public Outreach: We sent a letter to neighbors in Kentfield Gardens and along McAllister Avenue and Stadium Way announcing the work to be done and a temporary sign was posted at the Ecology Study Area.

Tree Cutting: Happy Tree Service cut and chipped a number of eucalyptus and acacia trees February 1-4, 2005. The work had been scheduled for late December 2004, but the heavy rains left standing water in the work area and the equipment could not be brought to the site until early February.

Planting: In February and March 2005 we installed 390 native plants. Earlier, 15 willow stakes had been planted. Protective tubes or fencing was placed around plants vulnerable to damage from deer. Table 1 and Figure 1 list the plants and show the general locations of planting.

Fence Repair: We repaired the fence in two locations where it had been broken by fallen trees.

Signage: A permanent sign describing the project was installed on the fence that separates the Ecology Study Area from the adjacent Multi-use Path along Corte Madera Creek.

Drip Irrigation System: The drip irrigation system is in place.

Dumpster Rental: A dumpster was rented to carry away trash and other material collected during the planting and weed removal efforts.



A photocollage recording the activities is in Figure 2. The sign shown in the collage was removed when the new sign, shown above, was installed.

Table 1: Plants installed at the Ecology Study Area in late February and early March 2005 (see Map 1 for locations of planting areas)

		Number Planted in Each Area					
Plants		A: Memorial Oaks Meadow	B: Behind the Sign on the Fence	C: Corner to the Left of the Gate	D: Formerly a Grove of Acacias	E: On levee, between standing acacias	Total
<i>Acer negundo</i>	California box elder		3	3	5	2	13
<i>Achillea borealis</i>	yarrow	1					1
<i>Aesculus californica</i>	California buckeye	3	3	3	10	3	22
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	coyote brush	30	20	6	40		96
<i>Carex barbarae</i>	sedge		5	3	15		23
<i>Fraxinus latifolia</i>	Oregon ash	3	2	2	6	2	15
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	toyon	10	10	3			23
<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	cream bush (ocean-spray)		10	2			12
<i>Juncus patens</i>	rush	10	15	3	15		43
<i>Juglans californica</i>	black walnut		1		1	1	3
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	coast live oak	4	6	2	11	6	29
<i>Q. garryana</i>	Oregon oak		1		1	2	4
<i>Q. kelloggii</i>	California black oak	3	2	2	6		13
<i>Q. lobata</i>	valley oak	4	5	2	10	3	24
<i>Rhamnus californica</i>	coffee berry		10	2			12
<i>Rosa californica</i>	California rose	5	5	3	10		23
<i>Sambucus mexicanus</i>	elderberry	3			5	2	10
<i>Umbellularia californica</i>	California bay	3	3	3	3		12
<i>Yarrow millefolium</i>	yarrow	1					1
		80	101	39	138	21	379
<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	arroyo willow stakes	x				x	15
Grand Total							394

Figure 1: Planting areas

COLLEGE OF MARIN ECOLOGY STUDY AREA
KENTFIELD, CALIFORNIA
LOCATION MAP

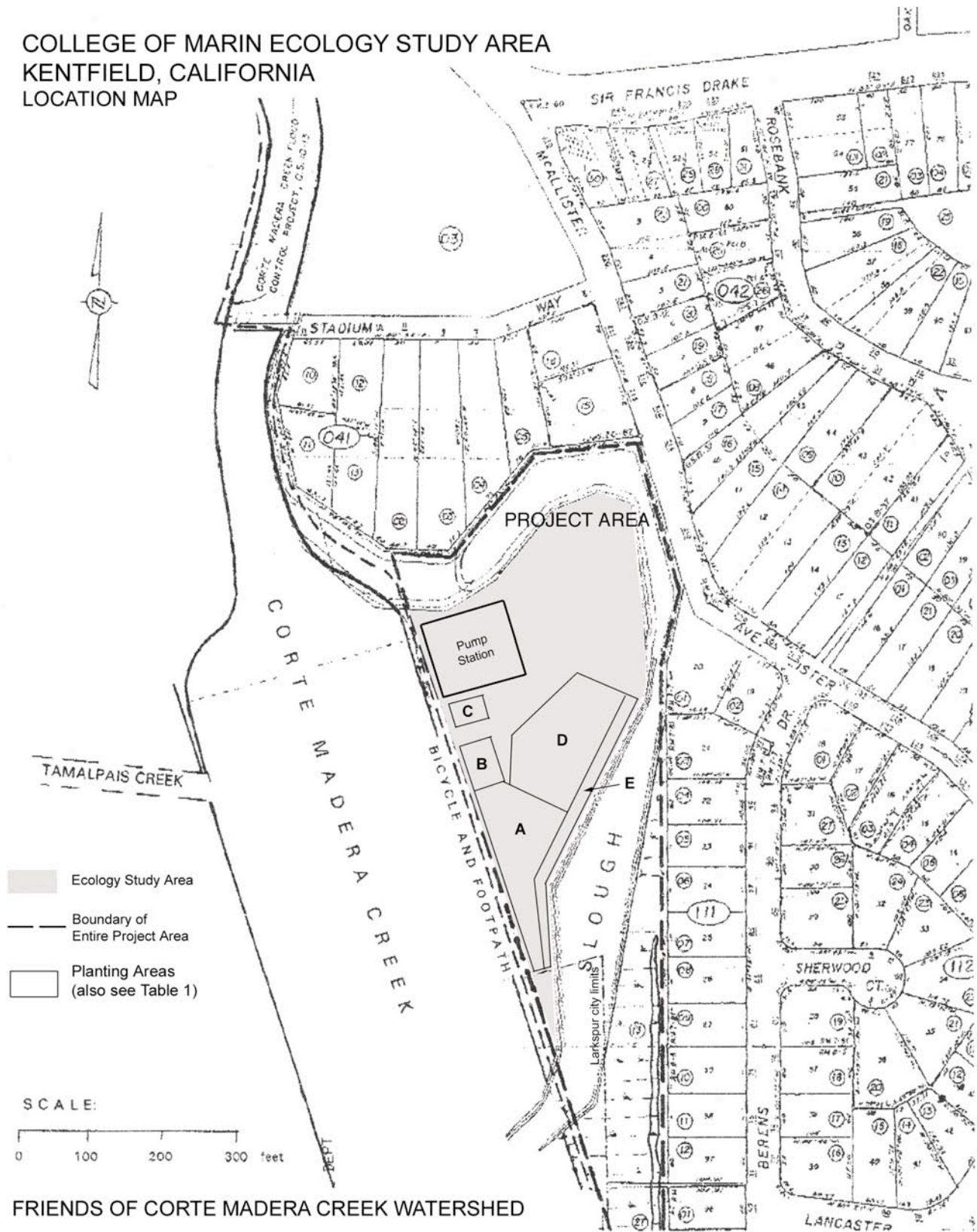


Figure 2: Photo collage



Photos by Charles Kennard