



News from
Mayor Ron Dellums

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Oakland Youth Keep Oakland Beautiful

Spending Their Summer Cleaning & Greening Commercial Corridors & Creeks

Oakland, CA — Mayor Ron Dellums and the City of Oakland's Public Works Agency congratulate the outstanding efforts of Team Oakland youth this summer in cleaning and greening our community. The Team Oakland Youth will be recognized at a celebration to be held on Friday, September 11, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. at the YEP offices, located at 2300 International Blvd. in Oakland.

More than 100 Oakland youth spent their summer developing valuable work skills and beautifying our City's assets through the Team Oakland citywide employment and educational program. Team Oakland, in its 17th year, is sponsored by the City of Oakland, Public Works Agency.

Oakland Public Works Agency contracted with a non-profit organization, Youth Employment Partnership, Inc. (YEP), to recruit and hire 10 youth teams to work on a variety of environmental projects, including graffiti removal, recycling, weed and litter abatement and creek restoration. Twenty young adults were also hired to serve as assistant team leaders to supervise crews. Program participants learned teamwork essentials, elements of appropriate work behavior, leadership and life skills, as well as effective problem solving. As part of their training they attended workshops in urban environmental stewardship to learn about zero waste, how to compost and the beneficial effects of recycling and disposing of debris properly.

“This innovative approach tackled several issues intrinsic to moving our City forward with one creative, holistic approach,” said Mayor Dellums. “I am proud of our City's partnership with the non-profit community to simultaneously serve our youth, our businesses and those who call Oakland home at a time when we are striving to achieve our vision of Oakland as the Model City. I encourage Oakland residents and business owners to continue the momentum and roll up their sleeves and adopt a spot, creek or park.”

This summer, youth and team leaders collected over 3,500 bags of litter. Teams cut back nearly 100 cubic yards of non-native vegetation at three creek sites: Peralta Creek at Cesar Chavez Park, Courtland Creek and Arroyo Viejo Creek. The Alameda County Public Works Department partnered in the project by removing the green waste.

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