

APRIL 2021 UPDATE
BASTANCHURY CREEK GREENBELT
NATIVE PLANT PARK

Bastanchury Creek Greenbelt Committee, Friends For A Livable Fullerton

Meeting with Fred Jung, council member for District 1 which includes the southern section of the BCGreenbelt – The Bastanchury Creek Greenbelt Committee of FFLF requested a meeting with Councilman Fred Jung who has been very supportive of building a park on both Old Bastanchury Tree Farm parcels. Fred called on Jose Trinidad Castaneda to coordinate a Zoom meeting and invited Alice Loya (Acting Director, Parks and Recreation), Arnel Dino (member, Infrastructure and Natural Resources Advisory Committee, INRAC) Kathy Lira (Parks and Rec Commissioner, District 1) to participate. They all listened to our vision for a Native Plant Park for both sections of the BCGreenbelt and had thoughtful questions and positive comments.

Meeting with Nick Dunlap – The Committee met with Councilman Nick Dunlap, District 2, which includes the northern parcel of the BCGreenbelt. Nick was very interested to hear all the possibilities that could be part of a native plant park. When we finished the discussion we were confident that Council member Dunlap has a good understanding of our vision for a native plant park on the Bastanchury Creek Greenbelt.

Communication with Other Council Members – We will continue to contact the other city council members to introduce our vision for the BCGreenbelt. We hope to meet with the remaining three Council members because we believe the park should be for all Fullerton residents. We have scheduled a meeting with Councilman Jesus Silva, of District 3, for early May.

LoveFullerton – On April 24, over fifty Fullerton residents met at the Sunny Hills Ag Dept. parking lot as part of the LoveFullerton Day sponsored by OCUnited. The energetic volunteers picked up litter, reduced the number of invasive saplings and eradicated some of the castor bean plants. Council member Fred Jung and Representative Young Kim gave some important words about the importance of the Bastanchury Creek Greenbelt and participated in the day's cleanup. Special thanks to the TitanAir air conditioning company for donating water and donuts for all the participants.

Application for Adopt-a-Park – FFLF applied to the new Fullerton City Adopt-a-Park program. This would mean spending one morning a month improving the appearance of the Greenbelt, doing litter control, graffiti eradication, and invasive plant extermination. We will be looking for volunteers if the city approves our application. Stay tuned!!

City maintenance of Palm Trees – This month a City Maintenance crew trimmed and picked up the dead palm fronds and watered the palms along Bastanchury. Dead palm fronds are one of the greatest threats for spreading fires. Thank you, Fullerton Public Works!

New Bird Activity – Spring is the season for new migrant birds and nest building. This year we noticed Common Yellow Throats. If you are not familiar with this striking bird, look it up. When this area is filled with native plants, there will be a natural food source and the number and variety of birds should show a marked increase.

Fullerton Trees - On May 2, at 2pm, a zoom meeting is scheduled for the Trees Committee of FFLF. Their aim is to identify and protect Fullerton's heritage trees (see article in the Fullerton Observer, Mid-April edition.) Interested or missed it? Go to the FFLF website at <http://www.savefullerton.com>

Rains bring water to the Creek – During April's rains the Bastanchury Creek was flowing at a pretty good clip. There are still a few pools in the low areas. Not to worry, Orange County Vector Control regularly takes care of any mosquitos.

Plant of the Month – *Arundo* - You may have noticed bamboo growing in clumps along the Bastanchury Creek bank. This plant is not native to Orange County and, in fact, is not a bamboo. This highly invasive and fast-growing plant is *Arundo* (the primary source for the reeds in musical instruments). Good for musicians but bad for streams. It squeezes out the native plants, blocks the flow of creek water and takes in a tremendous amount of water. Eradication of the *Arundo* will be one of the major goals of several of the Adopt-a-Park Cleanup Days.

Want to learn more about Friends for a Livable Fullerton projects? Go to the FFLF website at www.SaveFullerton.com or call or text 714-729-3019 for more information about how you can support a native plant park at the site of the old Bastanchury Tree Farm.