



Lori Droste
Councilmember, District 8

Action Calendar

April 23, 2019

(Continued from April 2, 2019)

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Councilmember Lori Droste, Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani, and Councilmember Ben Bartlett

Subject: Adopt a Spot Initiative

Recommendation

Refer to the Public Works Commission and Parks and Waterfront Commission to develop an Adopt A Spot initiative; specifically outlining potential environmental benefits, program costs, staffing.

Rationale:

- *Adopt a Spot programs enable a network of volunteer residents to assist in city maintenance and clean up efforts which have great impact using minimal City staff/funding.*
- *Vision 2050 will include stormwater and watershed management goals, both of which this program would support.*

Background

The City of Berkeley currently maintains an Adopt A Drain program. An Adopt A Spot program would utilize volunteers to assist with activities including, but not limited to, storm drain maintenance, street beautification, trash cleanup, gardening initiatives, etc.

The City of Oakland Adopt a Spot Program

The City of Oakland coordinates hundreds of volunteers to clean, green, maintain, and beautify public spaces (such as parks, libraries, creeks) and infrastructure (such as signs, storm drains, litter containers, utility boxes and poles, street tree wells, and trees). Managed by the Environmental Stewardship Team within the Oakland Public Works Department, this volunteer program has been active throughout the city for over thirty years. The volunteer program supports community cleanups throughout the year, annual city-wide cleanups for Earth Day, Creek to Bay Day, MLK Day of Service, and “Adopt a Spot,” an ongoing volunteer stewardship program that includes a growing list of over 2,000 Oakland “spots.”

Volunteers contribute over 100,000 hours each year, contributing to a wide range of environmental sustainability impacts such as pollution cleanup and prevention; wildlife habitat protection, enhancement, and restoration; and stormwater management. Volunteerism also strengthens communities by connecting people to each other, to their neighborhoods, and to their environment. These benefits enhance Oakland’s economy, safety, and livability,

The City of Oakland Public Works’ *Adopt a Drain* program supports volunteer efforts to keep storm drain inlets clean and clear of trash and debris. Clear and clean inlets keep water flowing and ensure “only rain down the drain,” which is especially helpful during storm events when blocked storm drains can back up and cause flooding. Year-round storm drain maintenance helps intercept trash before it enters the storm drains and connecting creeks and water bodies.

The City of Oakland provides support for Adopt a Drain volunteers through instruction, tools and supplies, assistance with debris pickups, and notification of impending storm events.

Over 1,000 of Oakland’s approximately 12,000 storm drains have been adopted. The more than 800 Adopt a Drain volunteers greatly supplement the capacity of the twenty City staff servicing the storm drain system, with its more than 1,200 storm drains, 370 miles of drain pipe, seven pump stations and 40 miles of creeks. Volunteers can quickly and preemptively provide basic maintenance on drains and can have a far more extensive and immediate reach across the city than staff during storm and flooding emergencies.

Oakland uses a map interface at www.AdoptaDrainOakland.com for depicting the City’s storm drain inlets to the public for possible adoption. This easy to use interface has helped spur new volunteer registrations. Social media, word-of-mouth, and timely news

coverage prior to and during storm events has also contributed to volunteer registrations. More information is available at www.oaklandadoptaspot.org.

Environmental Sustainability

Helps Berkeley fulfill Watershed and Stormwater Management Plan goals.

Financial Implications

Staff time to coordinate volunteers and provide technical assistance.

Contact

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