Earth Day Service Projects

Celebrating Earth Day on April 20 & 21, 2018

Stanford University | Water Planning & Stewardship

Volunteer fixing a path in the Arizona Garden

At the third annual Earth Day service event, volunteers helped preserve the historic Arizona Cactus Garden and remove invasive weeds around California Tiger Salamander habitat in the Stanford Foothills. The Stanford Conservation Program, Arizona Garden Coordinator, and Water Planning & Stewardship (WP&S) team collaborated to put on the work days.

ARIZONA GARDEN

Designed by Rudolph Ulrich and planted over 130 years ago, the Arizona Cactus Garden is a hidden oasis of agave, yucca, aloe, and other cacti and succulents within the Stanford Arboretum. The secluded Victorian garden was once a popular meeting spot for couples, but fell into disrepair for decades. Starting in 1997, volunteers began replanting and rehabilitating the garden. Christy Smith, a library specialist and the Arizona Garden Coordinator, continues to organize volunteers – who range from research assistants and gardeners to librarians and students – to maintain the garden. About twelve volunteers, including the WP&S team, showed up to weed, prune, and rake paths for Earth Day.

Christy Smith, the Arizona Garden Coordinator, removing weeds

Volunteer removing weeds at the garden

Cacti and succulents in bloom

Service Day Volunteers at the Arizona Garden

Volunteers in the Foothills removing invasive weeds

Volunteers removing invasive weeds

FOOTHILL RESTORATION

Did you know Stanford is home to possibly the only remaining California Tiger Salamander population on the San Francisco Peninsula? These federally and state threatened amphibians live at Lake Lagunita and in the Foothills along the Dish trail. They typically stay underground in rodent burrows, but migrate to wetlands like Lake Lagunita during the rainy season to breed. Their population has declined due to past habitat destruction for agriculture and urban development. To create more breeding habitat, the Stanford Conservation Program constructed eight ephemeral ponds in the Foothills in 2004 . Roughly twenty volunteers arrived at the Dish trail on Saturday morning to learn about more this elusive species and to remove invasive weeds growing in its protected habitat.

Volunteers at Foothill Restoration

Results of a hard day's work

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

To learn more about volunteering at the Arizona Garden, the Foothills, or future WP&S events, visit our website (suwater.stanford.edu) or contact the people below:

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