



For Immediate Release
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PRESS RELEASE

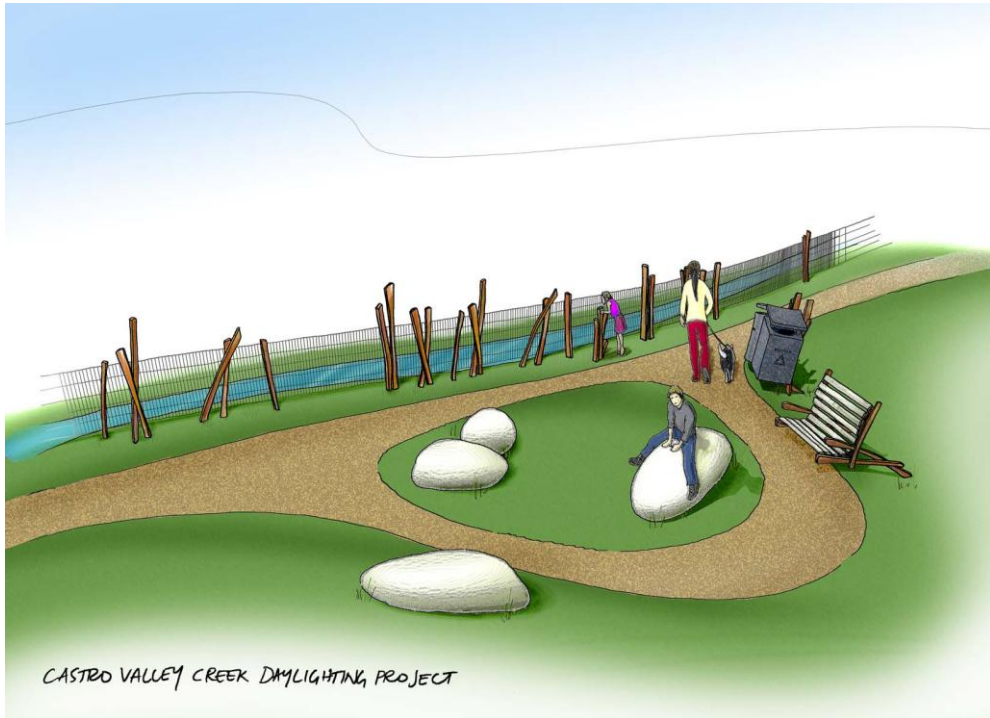
Castro Valley Creek Restoration Project Pedestrian Bridge Installation

Castro Valley, CA – The Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the Alameda County Arts Commission are collaborating on the installation of a pedestrian bridge over Castro Valley Creek. The bridge will connect pedestrians and bicyclists to the new Castro Valley Library. The bridge is made from a converted railroad flat car and is an important component of the County's interest in sustainability and use of recycled materials. Additionally, artists David Duskin and David Whippen were hired to design and handcraft a unique sculptural fence along the Castro Valley Creek from Norbridge Avenue, continuing across the bridge and up to Castro Valley Boulevard. The bridge is scheduled to be installed on Saturday, May 2nd although due to ongoing construction, it will not be open to public access until later this year. The artists' design for the fence and bridge railing is driven by a desire to create a sculptural element that allows for clear views into the creek environment and has an integrated relationship to the site. The artists state, "The design is inspired by the movement of the creek, growth clusters of vegetation, and the history of Castro Valley." The artists were selected by a committee of community members, local artists and County staff. In addition, Phase Two of the Creek Restoration Project will include creek habitat restoration, removal of existing non-native vegetation, the planting of native shrubs and trees, a new pedestrian trail, and educational signage. The Castro Valley Creek restoration project was made possible through the use of mitigation fees paid to the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to offset the loss of habitat created by a construction project elsewhere in the District. These fees are being used to create a new habitat at the Castro Valley Creek between Norbridge Avenue and East Castro Valley Boulevard. For more information about the artists and the sculptural fence, contact the Alameda County Arts Commission at (510) 208-9646. For more information about the creek restoration project, please contact the Alameda County Public Works Agency at (510) 670-5993.

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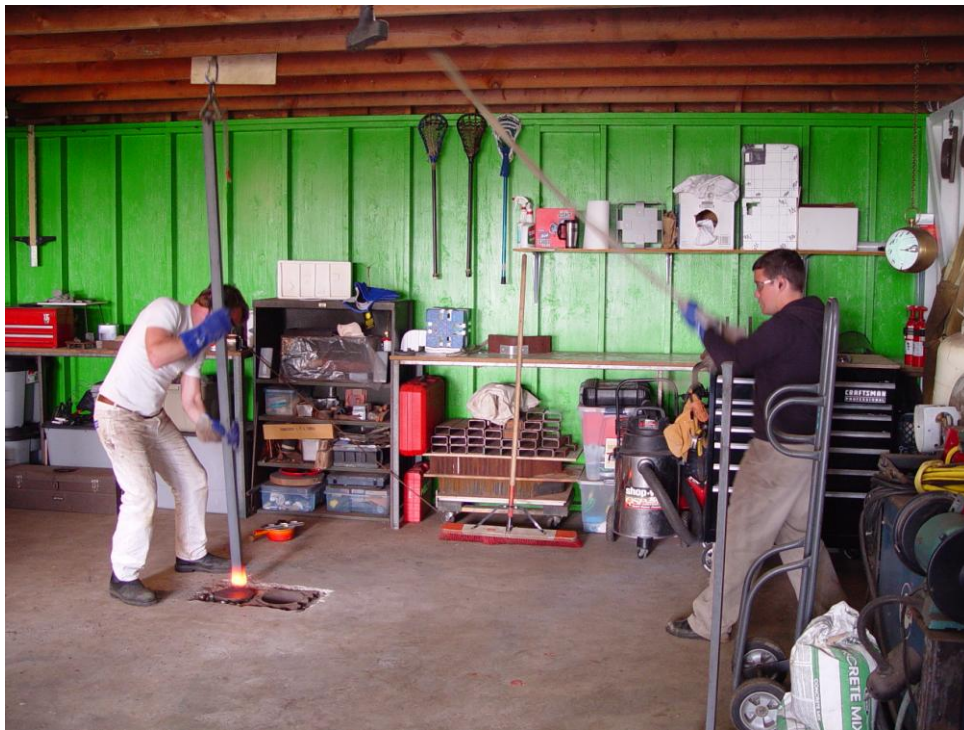
Castro Valley Creek Restoration Project Pedestrian Bridge Installation



Artist's illustration of sculptural fence along the Castro Valley Creek.



The thick bridge and fence posts are hand-forged Cor-ten steel. The artists use traditional blacksmithing techniques to individually shape each one of the posts. Artist David Duskin monitors the steel posts in the forge as they heat to a malleable temperature.



Once the ends of the posts are heated to a malleable temperature, David Duskin and David Whippen work together to attach the post to a pulley system to shape the end of the post.



Each post is filed by hand to create a smooth surface.

The design for Elevated Fence is driven by a desire to create a sculptural fence that allows for clear views into the creek environment and has an integrated relationship to the site. The design is inspired by the movement of the creek, growth clusters of vegetation, and the history of Castro Valley. Transparency, created by the use of natural colors and visually open spaces within the work, draws the viewer's eye through the design and toward the creek. The placement of the vertical forms echoes the construction method of rural fencing that was once characteristic of the Castro Valley area and allows for the work to be responsive to the landscape.

-- David Duskin & David Whippen