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## Creek to Bay Day 2008: Lake Merritt Trash No Match for Cleanup Volunteers

*By Kaletha Patterson and Mark Arniola*

Lake Merritt volunteers got into the trenches on September 20, 2008, to clean trash and debris from the Lake. The volunteers were at the Lake as participants in Oakland's 13<sup>th</sup> annual Creek to Bay Day event, Oakland's contribution to the California Coastal Commission's annual Coastal

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Creek to Bay Day 2008	1
Storm Drain Markers	2
Fun Facts	3
New Trash Bins	4

Cleanup Day. Creek to Bay Day activities included cleanup and beautification at Lake Merritt and 23 creek locations around Oakland.

*Continued on page 3*



*Families for Oakland volunteer their time*



*Volunteers cleaning the Lake*

## Storm Drain Markers

*By Kaletha Patterson and Mark Arniola*

Storm drain markers (see photos) discussed in the April 2008 issue of Tidings were installed in the Lake Merritt area and other locations throughout the Peralta and Sausal Creek watersheds on September 20, 2008, in an effort coordinated to coincide with Creek to Bay Day. In the Lake Merritt area, five teams installed the metal markers at 49 storm drains around the Lake. These markers were installed as a follow-up to the success of a pilot test installation of the markers on September 15, 2007.

Many people are not aware that the storm drain system and sewer system are not connected.

Water flowing through the storm drain system is not treated before it gets discharged. The warning (“No Dumping, Drains to Bay”) on the storm drain markers is a reminder to residents of the area and visitors that pollutants (e.g., litter, motor oil, car wash runoff) should be kept out of the drains to prevent them from being transported to creeks, Lake Merritt, and San Francisco Bay. Non-point source pollution from dumping and illegal discharges is the primary source of water pollution in California.



*View of storm drain marker adjacent to storm drain*



*Close-up view of storm drain marker*

*Creek to Bay Day, cont.*

At the Lake, 158 volunteers arrived to help in the cleanup effort including an estimated 70 volunteers from Civicorps Elementary School.

The volunteers helped remove litter along the Lake and clean aeration fountains fouled by barnacles, mussels, clams, etc. The work of the participants resulted in the cleaning of approximately 3.4 miles of path surrounding Lake Merritt. Over 205 pounds of litter were removed including thirty bags of trash and one bag of recyclable materials.

The Creek to Bay Day cleanup helped supplement the ongoing work of volunteers at the Lake. By removing the trash from the Lake, not only is the beauty of the Lake enhanced but there is the added benefit of preventing the trash from moving downstream to San Francisco Bay and the ocean. For more information on Creek to Bay Day, visit [www.oaklandpw.com/creeks](http://www.oaklandpw.com/creeks).



*A pelican photographed landing on Lake Merritt*

## Fun Facts about Our Lake

1. How long is the walking and jogging path along Lake Merritt? a) 1.2 miles, b) 3.5 miles, c) 0.5 miles, d) 4.3 miles
  2. In which year was Measure DD approved? a) 1998, b) 2000, c) 2002, d) 2004
  3. Measure DD passed with 60% voter approval. True or False?
  4. Measure DD is a \$100 million Oakland City park bond measure. True or False?
  5. Part of the Measure DD project involves making the current 12-lane 12th Street into a 6-lane tree-lined boulevard. True or False?
  6. There are only two seasons in the year when birds flock to the Lake. True or False?
  7. Which one of the birds below can be found during the rainy season? a) Eagles, b) Blue Jays, c) Black Hawks, d) Greater Scaup
  8. Which one of the birds shows an increase in population during the dry season? a) Swans, b) Canada Geese, c) Cuckoos, d) Owls
  9. Pelicans are known to appear on the Lake in the late summer and early fall. True or False?
  10. The Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) is a small North American diving duck. True or False?
- 1) B: 3.5 miles; 2) C: 2002; 3) False. The measure passed with 80% voter approval; 4) False. It's \$198 million; 5) True; 6) False. The Lake features a healthy year-round population of birds; 7) D: Greater Scaup; 8) B: Canada Geese; 9) True; 10) True

## Tidings

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## New Trash Bins around the Lake



Two of these very colorful barrels will be placed in each of our four "U-Clean-It" boxes around the Lake, and one more will be kept in the truck. The lock combination is 1-3-1-4. Instructions are located inside the box lid.

The Lake Merritt Institute  
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**Volunteer Name**  
**Street Address**  
**City, ST ZIP Code**