

## Auburn School Park Preserve

The Department of Fish and Game funded the City of Auburn to complete installation of a drip irrigation system at a new oak woodland/riparian habitat preserve. The project promoted the establishment and survival of plantings installed along the riparian corridor at the Auburn School Park Preserve in the City of Auburn.



Placer Land Trust preserved the 4.3-acre Auburn School Park Preserve through a conservation easement recorded on December 17, 2004. This conservation easement was donated by the landowner, the City of Auburn. This is one of the first examples in California of a private nonprofit holding a conservation easement on public land, and demonstrates the effectiveness of public-private partnerships.

The Auburn School Park Preserve property is being transformed into a public park in the heart of Auburn between downtown and Old Town. The property contains three acres of oak woodland, including four species of oaks (blue oak, interior live oak, black oak, and valley oak). Several of the oak trees on the property are "heritage oaks" over 150 years old.

The property provides a unique urban setting for the public to learn about the value of oak woodlands and the usefulness of conservation easements in protecting them. The Auburn School Park Preserve is the culmination of over 10 years of planning and is the result of the collaboration of many community groups and local, State, and federal agencies. Park plans call for interpretive trails, the restoration of a perennial stream, and the renovation of the historic Cooper Amphitheater.

Groundbreaking on the park construction began in late 2005, and several phases of construction are now complete, including the "daylighting" of the historic North Rich Ravine and the placement of a wooden pedestrian bridge over the creek. A pool-and-riffle complex characterizes the stream. Native riparian plants were installed along the stream corridor. Native trees and shrubs were planted to enhance the surrounding oak woodland habitat. The Placer Land Trust will monitor the terms of the conservation easement in perpetuity.