



In-stream plunge pools were built as habitat for California red-legged frogs.

Diablo Foothills Regional Park connects to Mt. Diablo State Park by two dramatic rock formations: the Castle Rocks of Mt. Diablo and the “camelback” ridges of Shell Ridge. In 2000, Diablo Foothills was expanded by the purchase of a 46-acre parcel along Arroyo del Cerro Creek. Lennar Communities provided one-third of the funds to purchase the property. To mitigate the loss of riparian habitat at a housing development, Lennar Communities helped the Park District protect and restore riparian habitat in the Arroyo del Cerro parcel of the Diablo Foothills.

Property Description

The property contains rolling annual grasslands and native herbs that are abundant around the flanks of Mt. Diablo. Arroyo del Cerro Creek, which feeds into Pine Creek, meanders across the property and provides habitat for the threatened California red-



Before the enhancement project, the creek bank was eroded with sparse riparian vegetation.

legged frog. Other common wildlife species are found on the land, such as meadow larks and deer.

Habitat Enhancements



California red-legged frog.

In addition to providing \$353,000 to complete the purchase of the property, Lennar Communities performed the equivalent of \$40,000 in capital improvements to restore and protect the riparian habitat of Arroyo del Cerro Creek.

Clusters of native trees and shrubs were planted along 3,500 feet of the creek and two in-stream pools were created to provide red-legged frog habitat. A fence was built along the creek corridor to exclude livestock while the plants establish. A starthistle control project was also conducted at the site. Construction was completed in 2000.



Five years after planting, native willows have reestablished in the channel and riparian vegetation on the creek banks.

Lennar Communities maintained the property for five years. This acquisition secured a gateway to Mount Diablo and protects a significant portion of Arroyo del Cerro.

Quick Facts

Action: Land acquisition
Acres: 46
Funding: \$518,000
Provided by: Lennar Homes
Target habitats: Riparian, wetland, grassland
Target species: California Red-legged frog
Improvements: Restoring riparian vegetation, constructing in-stream plunge pools & creek fencing