2010 HIGHLIGHTS

176 youth and more than 20 program staff were employed at 68 project host sites across Sonoma County during the 2010 Summer Youth Ecology Corps (SYEC).

The 2010 SYEC was sustained by a broad partnership, which included the following Sonoma County Agencies: the Workforce Investment Board, Human Services Department, Water Agency, Office of Education, New Ways to Work, five youth-serving agencies, and project hosts. The partners continued to connect young people in Sonoma County to quality paid work experiences that offered opportunities to learn about the environment. The 2010 SYEC was supported with resources from the Workforce Investment Act, the Sonoma County Water Agency, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (ARRA), and local donations.

RESULTS FOR YOUTH

• 17 ecology crews and 51 individual internships
• 70% new youth recruited into the SYEC
• 11% foster youth
• 54% WIA youth and 46% CalWORKS

WORK-READINESS

• Post SYEC, over 75% of the youth were assessed at entry level or higher on at least 11 of the work-ready skills
• Over 25% were assessed at entry level or higher on all work-ready skills

ADDITIONAL YOUTH OUTCOMES

• 98% of youth felt that the program helped them build job skills
• 92% of members felt the crew was a valuable experience
• Over half of the youth expected to continue working after the summer
• Over half planned on going or returning to school

WHEN ASKED WHAT MADE THEM MOST PROUD

• 47% of the youth said the work they did
• 16% said their role in bettering the community/environment
• 13% were proud that they were able to get a job
**BENEFITS FOR THE COMMUNITY**

**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

The ecology-focused work conducted through the SYEC gave the youth and young adults the opportunity to hold a job, build their work-readiness skills, explore potential careers, and participate in environmental stewardship.

- 15 miles of creek channels maintained and improved
- 12 miles of trail, parks, and walkways maintained
- 2,000 native plants and 5,000 vegetable plants propagated
- 2,000 vegetable plants and 250 native plants planted
- 250 lbs. of produce harvested and 500 sq. ft. of garden mulched
- 3 beaches cleaned daily
- 6 raised garden beds constructed
- 22,288 cubic yards of debris and invasive species removed
- 80 sq. ft. of irrigation pad constructed

**INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS**

- $850,000 invested in youth training and employment, ecological stewardship, and the local economy
- $26,452 in cash and materials contributed by host organizations
- $13,870 estimated value of host volunteer hours
- $24,950 estimated value of project host staff salaries dedicated to the effort
- $400,000 leveraged through Sonoma County Water Agency
- 176 youth and 20 adult jobs added

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**PROJECT HOSTS**

**COUNTY AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS**

- Sonoma County Water Agency
- Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
- Sonoma County Regional Parks

**CITIES AND CITY DEPARTMENTS**

- City of Cloverdale
- City of Healdsburg
- Petaluma City Schools
- City of Petaluma Water Department
- City of Rohnert Park Public Works
- City of Santa Rosa Park Maintenance

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

- Patchwork Farms
- Petaluma Bounty
- Petaluma Wetlands Alliance
- Russian Riverkeeper
- Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods
- Surfrider Foundation

**INDIVIDUAL INTERNSHIPS**

- Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Sonoma County
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Santa Rosa
- Boys and Girls Club of Sonoma Valley
- City of Healdsburg City Hall
- Pet’s Lifeline Shelter
- Petaluma Health Center
- Petaluma People Services Center – Nutrition Site
- Petaluma Police Department
- Sonoma Ecology Center
- Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods
- West County Community Services
- YMCA – Finley Center

**YOUTH AGENCIES**

- The Center for Social and Environmental Stewardship
- Petaluma People Services Center
- Social Advocates for Youth
- Sonoma County Adult and Youth Development
- West County Community Services

*partial list*