



The Restoration Design Group specializes in environmental design, restoration, and the creation of places for people and nature to interact. We work with municipalities, land trusts, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and private-sector clients to design open spaces that heal and revitalize degraded landscapes.

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Landscape Architecture ■ Restoration Engineering ■ Environmental Planning

Restoration Design Group, LLC

Firm description

The Restoration Design Group specializes in environmental design, restoration, and the creation of places for people and nature to interact. We work with municipalities, land trusts, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and private-sector clients to design open spaces that heal and revitalize degraded landscapes.

Our clients come to us with a broad spectrum of land, water resource and community-building challenges. We work collaboratively with clients and stakeholders to design enduring solutions.

RDG combines the principles of landscape architecture, science, environmental planning, and engineering to investigate, analyze, and determine the natural and social context of a site. Our approach is rooted in strong, collaborative relationships with local restoration professionals and government agency representatives. RDG has built relationships with regional scientists, agency regulators, and restoration specialists who infuse our work with local knowledge and expedite complex permitting processes.

As a small firm backed by a group of consultants, we remain agile and responsive to client needs. We select our team of scientists, engineers, and designers based on the needs of the client and the demands of the site. As a small firm, we can also ensure principal and senior staff involvement in our projects. Principal involvement is paramount to our approach to client relations.

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS



Our practice areas include:

Landscape Architecture – Planning, Design, and Implementation

Ecological Restoration – Creeks, Wetlands, and Uplands

Public Process / Meeting Facilitation / Workshops

Project Development / Grant Writing

Regulatory Permitting

Practice areas

Restoration Design Group's practice areas have developed in response to the evolving objectives of restoration design and landscape architecture. Our work encompasses traditional landscape architecture, open space planning, and technical restoration engineering.

Landscape Architecture – Planning, Design, and Implementation

At RDG, we recognize that good design increases the perceived value of natural landscapes and ecological systems. The strength of our design relies on listening to the client and the community while maintaining a clear understanding of each site's essential qualities. We then work to create aesthetically rich, ecologically sound landscapes.

Our work stresses the importance of accessibility. Visual, physical, and universal access are contemporary design imperatives that require skill and understanding to achieve, especially when designing for natural systems in urban settings. Our challenge and our interest is in finding the balance point between public access and protecting ecological integrity.

RDG's practice has covered a range of environments and project types including parks, trails and greenways, site planning, and urban design.

Ecological Restoration: Creeks, Wetlands, and Uplands

RDG's restoration practice seeks to design sustainable, accessible, and permittable projects. RDG relies on science, engineering, computer modeling, and restoration design principles to ascertain watershed processes, evaluate site conditions, and test our restoration designs before implementation.

We've designed projects that address varied challenges including flood control, stable channel design, severe incision, bank failure, intense infrastructure constraints, and educational needs.

Public Process / Meeting Facilitation / Workshops

RDG embraces the notion of public involvement and consensus-building among stakeholders. We draw upon local history and community perspectives and draft conceptual images that respond to community objectives. Our approach has resulted in projects with strong stakeholder ownership and stewardship. This sense of ownership not only serves as the foundation for appropriate site design, but provides a mechanism for project budgeting, scheduling, and post construction monitoring and management.

We have extensive experience facilitating meetings, hands-on design workshops,

and public presentations. RDG staff has facilitated public processes for landscape architectural projects, watershed planning groups, independent creek groups, land trusts, resource conservation districts, and other agencies.

Project Development / Grant Writing

We continually look for ways for clients and interest groups to fund their projects. Often, this service is essential in defining the project and carrying it forward through implementation and long-term management. Our staff routinely pursues funding opportunities for our parks and habitat restoration projects. Awards to RDG-drafted proposals in the past few years have amounted to over \$10 million in grant funding for various projects.

Regulatory Permitting

Because RDG permits its own projects, it can anticipate and incorporate permitting needs into its project design. Our working relationships with permitting professionals, built upon years of experience and cooperation, facilitate the dialogues and negotiations that lead to collaborative, sustainable, and permitable projects.

Permitting expertise continues to be a key element of RDG's consulting services. We have permitted projects with all the relevant local, state, and federal resource agencies. Our design process, restoration approach, and techniques are recommended by the agencies involved in permitting projects affecting water resources.

Project Funding is one Key to Success!

Working with Cities and interest groups, the Restoration Design Group has procured over 10 million dollars in project funding for design and construction in the last five years. In the current economic climate, both public and non-profit groups are partnering with communities to plan and build significant improvement projects that make our urban areas sustainable and livable. Funding for creek restoration has allowed the creation of public parks and critical habitat all over the Bay Area.

Key personnel

Multi-disciplinary Staff

Drew Goetting, Principal / Restoration Specialist
 Roger Leventhal, P.E., Civil / Restoration Engineer
 Robert Birkeland, Landscape Architect
 Erik Stromberg, Landscape Architect
 Jeanine Strickland, Landscape Architect
 Rich Walkling, Restoration Planner / Business Manager
 Jessica Hall, Landscape Architect
 Laurel Collins, Fluvial Geomorphologist

Restoration Design Group's in-house staff includes engineers, landscape architects, geomorphologists, planners, and project managers. We have assembled this core staff to provide our clients with all the primary design, engineering, management, and permitting functions on any

restoration project. Depending on the needs of any given project, we complement our core staff with specialists from within our professional network to provide additional services.

Mr. Drew Goetting

Principal / Project Manager

Drew Goetting has fifteen years of experience designing and managing stream restoration projects. He has worked extensively with complex teams of scientists, resource managers, regulatory agencies, and private property owners to achieve multi-objective restoration projects. His work focuses on the technical aspects of fluvial geomorphology,

flood control, and native riparian vegetation.

Mr. Goetting also brings significant expertise in public process facilitation and has conducted numerous community-based planning processes for local, state, and federal agencies. As a leader in the field of environmental restoration, he bridges the gap between public policy, technical stream dynamics, and local community interests. His background is in plant ecology, natural resource management, community and regional development, and landscape architecture. He is an appointed member of the City of Berkeley's Creeks Task Force, charged with reviewing and recommending revisions to policies and ordinances related to urban creeks, and is a frequent guest lecturer on restoration.

Mr. Roger Leventhal, P.E.

Civil and Restoration Engineer

Roger Leventhal has over twenty years of experience in the design, permitting, and installation of creek and wetlands restoration projects throughout the Bay Area. He uses geomorphology and applied hydraulic analysis to design restoration projects that combine habitat with flood protection and traditional engineering goals. As a licensed civil engineer in California, Mr. Leventhal has prepared numerous restoration plans and specifications and has expertise in constructability issues and working with the

client and contractors to prepare cost-effective restoration engineering solutions.

Mr. Leventhal is an appointed member of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission Design Review Board, providing guidance on engineering design and construction in ecologically sensitive areas around the San Francisco Bay shoreline. Recently, he was selected as a member of the San Francisco Estuary Project Wetlands Design Review Group to review the technical aspects of wetland restoration projects around the Bay.

Mr. Robert Birkeland, ASLA

Senior Landscape Architect

With nearly twenty-five years of public sector landscape architectural design, Bob Birkeland brings a significant portfolio of designed and built works to RDG. He has a broad range of civic design experience including the design and construction of public parks, waterfronts, urban streets, gateways, wayfinding systems, plazas, fountains, trails, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and public housing. Many of his civic designs have included artist teams, and as project designer his charge has been to integrate fine art expression into landscape architectural form.

Mr. Birkeland's project design experience has spanned the West, including Washington, California, and Utah, where he completed a series of Olympic Legacy designs for the

2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

Locally, Mr. Birkeland was the lead designer of the entry sequence and site design for the new Oakland International Airport, the Richmond Transit Center, and a series of public waterfront improvements on the Bay Trail along the Oakland Estuary. He was the designer and project manager for the Baxter Creek Gateway Restoration in El Cerrito, the Arroyo Viejo Creek Environmental Education and Restoration project in Oakland, and the Muir Heritage Land Trust's 702 acre Fernandez Ranch Restoration and Public Access Plan. Mr. Birkeland oversees RDG's design, project management, and construction administration.

Mr. Erik Stromberg, MLA / ASLA

Landscape Architect

Erik Stromberg is a designer with a master's degree in landscape architecture and bachelor's degree in biology. Prior to landscape architecture Mr. Stromberg worked as a field biologist conducting fire ecology research in California's coastal sage scrub plant community. At RDG, Mr. Stromberg brings together his interests and expertise in science and design, focusing on the interaction between natural and social processes within the built environment. With his science background, he bridges research and design, working with engineers, biologists and geomorphologists during the assessment phase of projects and translating the resulting

data into feasible restoration designs working alongside other RDG landscape architects.

Mr. Stromberg has taught graduate level courses in Geographic Information Systems and Computers in Landscape Architecture. His expertise in computer applications in design and restoration work is instrumental to the firm. Mr. Stromberg leads the production and graphics efforts at RDG including: report writing, illustrations, design, and construction documentation.

Ms. Jeanine Strickland, ASLA

Landscape Architect

Jeanine Strickland is a landscape architect specializing in environmental planning, site design, and restoration. Ms. Strickland has worked for over ten years with public and private clients and community interest groups to develop master plans and construction documents. Her portfolio encompasses public parks, children's play environments, creek and wetland restoration, urban forestry, historic landscape preservation, healing landscapes, and public and private housing.

Ms. Strickland has managed complex, multi-disciplinary teams of consultants in challenging community participation settings. She is adept at site design, project meeting facilitation, illustrative presentations, and preparation of construction documents. She has facilitated the education of clients and community groups about environmentally

responsible design practices, watershed planning, energy-efficiency (including LEED standards), bioengineering techniques, and urban forestry. Ms. Strickland's expertise is supported by several years of design-build experience.

Mr. Rich Walkling, MLA

Restoration Planner/Business Manager

Rich Walkling has been directing resource management and restoration planning projects for nearly a decade. He is trained as an environmental planner specializing in creek, river, and estuary restoration. He holds a master's degree in landscape architecture and a bachelor's degree in natural resources. Prior to joining the Restoration Design Group, Mr. Walkling managed watershed and estuarine assessment projects in California, the Great Lakes basin, and southern Africa. His environmental planning work has been featured in a documentary, studied for graduate theses, and on display at the Oakland Museum of California. In 2001, he received a Geraldine Knight-Scott fellowship to travel around the world and study human adaptations to floods.

Ms. Jessica Hall, MLA

Senior Associate

Jessica Hall brings her extensive experience in urban stream restoration research, design, and advocacy to RDG's restoration projects.

With a master's in landscape architecture, an undergraduate degree in architecture, and experience in design, construction administration, and project management in both fields, Ms. Hall understands the complex range of issues faced by urban sites. She also has experience as a watershed coordinator, lecturer, design instructor, and grant writer. Jessica Hall is currently guiding urban stream restoration and public access planning on both the Devil's Dip Restoration at the Chester Washington Golf Course, and the El Dorado Nature Center in the Los Angeles area.

Ms. Hall mapped the buried streams of Los Angeles, co-authored the team-Master's thesis Seeking Streams, and has been an advocate of urban stream restoration and watershed-based planning for the past five years. Through her outreach efforts, stream daylighting has become a restoration goal identified in many local watershed plans. Significant landscape design projects include the South Gate Riparian Habitat Restoration Concept Plan, Devil's Dip Creek Restoration Concept Plan, and the San Jose Creek Greenway. In the field of architecture, Ms. Hall was the project manager and designer of the Archer School for Girls retrofit into a historic landmark building and construction administrator of the Laurel Avenue Housing project. Ms. Hall was a Switzer Environmental Fellow in 2000-2001, and a subsequent Switzer Leadership Grant recipient for her stream mapping and restoration efforts.

Ms. Laurel Collins

Senior Fluvial Geomorphologist

Ms. Collins has been a geomorphologist since 1981 specializing in fluvial and tidal wetland geomorphology, sediment budgeting, landslide analysis, stream monitoring and mapping, and analysis of geomorphic change from natural and anthropogenic influences. Ms. Collins has conducted sediment budget and source analysis in the Sonoma Watershed for the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Point Reyes National Seashore and in Wildcat Creek for the Contra Costa County Clean Water Program.



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