

Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed

A Publication of Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed

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Did you know?

There are 14 tributaries to the Pinole Creek:
April Creek
Bax Creek
Costa Creek
Cottonwood Creek
Duncan Creek
Faria Creek
Goat Creek
Lagoons Creek
Mohring Creek
North Creek
Oak Moth Creek
Pavon Creeks
Pereira Creek
Simas Creek

To report spills in the creek: call (510) 724-9010 or (800) NO DUMPING.

Clean Water is Everyone's Business

Stormwater is the single largest source of water pollution in our urban environment, with “urban slobber” adding to the mix. With the help of the Contra Costa Clean Water Program, our rivers, streams, and bay are becoming cleaner and healthier, but there still is much to be done.

A brief history Following the Clean Water Act amendments of 1987, the United States Environmental Protection Agency promulgated regulations requiring Contra Costa public agencies to develop and implement a stormwater quality protection program. In 1991, Contra Costa County public agencies joined to together to form the Contra Costa Clean Water Program.

The Contra Costa Clean Water Program (or Clean Water Program) is a collaborative organization comprising all 19 incorporated municipalities, Contra Costa County, and the Contra Costa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District.

The Clean Water Program's mission is to protect and improve water quality in local waterways for the benefit of the community and the environment.

The source of the problem

Stormwater *is* the largest source of water pollution in our urban environment. So, when it rains, stormwater runoff collects and transports untreated pollutants that are deposited in the urban environment to our local creeks and eventually flow to the San Francisco Bay and Delta. This runoff includes “urban slobber” consisting of discharges that can occur even

during dry weather, such as over-irrigation runoff, outdoor washing activities, and leaked or spilled vehicle fluids. Other typical urban pollutants include, but are not limited to, sediment from erosion, nutrients from fertilizers, and common trash. Many of these pollutants accumulate to toxic levels in aquatic animals and fish.

Available programs The Clean Water Program implements a variety of programs to reduce and eliminate pollutant discharges to our local waterways, including:

- Public education and outreach
- Illicit discharge detection and elimination
- Construction site runoff control
- Commercial/industrial discharge control
- New and redevelopment stormwater management controls
- Water quality monitoring

Be a good steward Changing old habits is a good place to start. Just because your Dad washed the family car in the driveway every week—doesn't mean it's the best way to keep our waterways clean. There are better ways to keep your car clean and not pollute. Also, try alternative pest control management when gardening. Pick up trash that can blow into a storm drain or creek. Don't encourage dogs to wander or swim in the creek—this discourages wildlife from the area. These are just a few of the many ways you can be a good steward to our waterways.

For more information regarding the Contra Costa Clean Water Program and to find out ways in which you can help, visit www.cccleanwater.org