



Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed

February/March 2005

Muddy Waters

I was walking along Pinole Creek a few weeks ago, just after a large winter storm and I noticed an egret perched on a log staring intensely into the water. I followed its gaze and instead of spying a fish under the surface, all I saw was brown, muddy water. Others in the watershed have noticed the creek turn brown after winter rains and have wondered, as I did, if the sediment is a problem for our beloved creek.

Sediment is the soil material, both mineral and organic, that is suspended, is being transported, or has been moved from its site of origin by erosion and has come to rest on the land surface or at the bottom of creeks, ditches, reservoirs, or bays. While some sediment is needed to bring nutrients and substrate materials (mineral and/or organic matter that forms the streambed) to aquatic ecosystems, too much sediment causes problems and is considered a pollutant.

Too much sediment can:

- Reduce the ability of creeks to carry floodwaters by filling in the creek bed
- Reduce water clarity so fish have a harder time finding food
- Kill fish eggs from suffocation due to sediment filling in air spaces around eggs
- Degrade aquatic habitat



Is excess sediment impacting Pinole Creek? A team of scientists from the San Francisco Estuary Institute have spent the last year studying Pinole Creek and its adjacent land to gain a better understanding of the processes occurring in the watershed relating to water and sediment in the creek. Their findings will be presented at the next Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed meeting on Wednesday, February 9 at 6:30pm at the Pinole Library. Please join us.

Portions of this article were excerpted from Horse Keeping: A Guide to Land Management for Clean Water. 2001. Council of Bay Area Resource Conservation Districts, Petaluma, California.

February Meeting Pinole Creek Watershed Sediment Source Assessment Results

Wednesday, February 9, 6:30 - 8:30p.m.

Pinole Library

2935 Pinole Valley Road

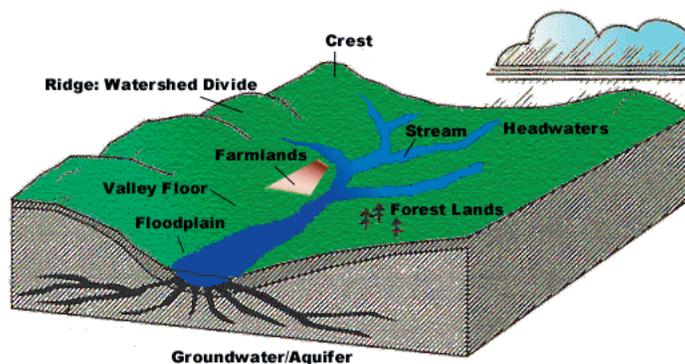
Open to the Public and Refreshments Served!

The Friends are pleased to welcome the San Francisco Estuary Institute as they present the findings of their year-long Pinole Creek Watershed Sediment Source Assessment. Please join us to learn about the current and potential sources of sediment in the creek and recommendations for management actions to reduce the effects of erosion.

Thank you to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Contra Costa County Resource Conservation District for supporting this study!

What is a Watershed?

Everyone lives in a watershed. A watershed is the area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains across it collects and flows toward a common destination such as a lake, creek, river, aquifer, bay, or ocean.



Visit our Web site at www.pinolecreek.org



the watershed project

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Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed

Dated Material - Please Deliver By February 7

Join us at the next **Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed Meeting**
Wednesday, February 9, from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. at the Pinole Library

Printed on recycled paper

Upcoming Workshops in Contra Costa County

Kids in Gardens

Saturday, February 5 & 12, 9-4 P.M., Lafayette/Moraga

Learn how to build and integrate a garden into your school. Learn to propagate plants, and much more!

Getting Started School Design

Saturday, February 26, 9-12:30 P.M., Lafayette

A hands-on introduction to designing and building a school garden that promotes "green gardening" from the ground up.

Watching for Wildlife

Wednesday, March 9, 4-6:30 P.M., San Ramon

Appreciate the habitat around our creeks as you learn to identify tracks and signs of animals in the creekside habitat.

Are these workshops for me?

If you teach children environmental education formally or informally, if you assist with a school's garden project, or are a home gardener with children of your own, this workshop is for you!

For more information, contact workshops@thewatershedproject.org, (510) 231-5655, or visit www.thewatershedproject.org.



The stripes on iris petals are nectar guides that may attract native bees.

Upcoming Events

For more information visit www.pinolecreek.org or contact Nicholle Fratus at (510) 231-5784 or nicholle@thewatershedproject.org

February

- Wednesday, February 9
Monthly Meeting
SFEI Sediment Study Results
6:30 - 8:30 P.M., Pinole Library
- Saturday, February 26
Creek & Garden Workparty
9:30 A.M. - Noon, Pinole Library

March

- Wednesday, March 9
Monthly Meeting
6:30 - 8:30 P.M., Pinole Library
- Saturday, March 26
Creek & Garden Workparty
9:30 A.M. - Noon, Pinole Library

Call to Report Dumping and Spills in the Creek

- For dumping in progress, call 911.
- For spills and dumping in Pinole creeks, storm drains, and waterways, call (510) 724-9010.
- For spills and dumping in Hercules creeks, storm drains, and waterways, call (510) 799-8252.
- For spills and dumping in Contra Costa County creeks, storm drains, and waterways, call (800) NO DUMPING.

Thank You



The Pinole Creek Watershed Awareness Program is sponsored by the Watershed Project. Support for the Pinole Creek Watershed Awareness Program is provided by the California Bay-Delta Authority, the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee, the Rose Foundation, and the San Francisco Estuary Project.