

The Adopt-A-Creek program provides an opportunity for community participation in creek cleanup projects throughout Santa Clara County. This program is a great way for individuals, schools, community organizations and companies to demonstrate their commitment to a healthy environment.

Creeks are a highly valuable natural resource. They provide habitat for wildlife, flood protection to neighborhoods, and enhance our neighborhoods and quality of life.

Valley Water manages more than 275 miles of creeks and streams. While we work hard to maintain the health of these creeks, we cannot do it alone and we depend on the community to lend a hand. The Adopt-A-Creek program provides the community opportunity to preserve the health and beauty of our local creeks.



Adopt-A-Creek

Since 1992, more than 10,000 volunteers, representing businesses, schools and neighborhood associations, have removed thousands of pounds of trash each year from our waterways.

We recognize participating groups or individuals by placing a sign with the group's name at the adopted creek site or classroom.

The way the program works is simple: Valley Water staff works with interested groups or individuals to determine which section of creek they would like to adopt. After the Adopt-A-Creek application (see reverse) is filled out and processed, a permit is issued and creek cleanup begins. We provide supplies, such as garbage bags, gloves and litter ticks, at no cost and arrange for a maintenance crew to pick up the collected debris, if needed.

Join today!

Call Adopt-A-Creek at (408) 724-1675.

Visit us at www.valleywater.org or e-mail volunteer@valleywater.org





Adopt-A-Creek Permit Application

For entrance on Valley Water property for creek cleanup

Valley Water will review the application to confirm the creek reach requested is eligible for adoption. If eligible, Valley Water will issue a permit for entrance onto Valley Water property to participate in the AAC Program. No access onto Valley Water property is allowed prior to receipt of the Valley Water permit. Please allow approximately 3 weeks for processing the permit. Upon receipt of a Valley Water permit, you may proceed with clean-up events.

Applicant Name _____ **Date** _____
(must be 18 years old or older)

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Sponsoring Agency (if applicable) _____

Number of volunteers _____ (#of scouts, students, etc.)

Name of location/creek/river: _____

Creek/river/segment between: _____ and _____
(name of road) (name of road)

Signature _____

The Valley Water's participation in the program is contingent upon the Valley Water's entry rights to the adopted creek area, either through an access easement or ownership in fee title.

I have read and understand the requirements of the AAC program included on the AAC application and hereby apply for a permit to participate in the AAC Program.

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR WORK IN AND AROUND CREEKS

DO'S

- DO obtain and comply with all permit conditions when working in and around the creeks.
- DO use caution around creek banks—they can be muddy and slippery.
- DO stay clear of homeless encampments!
- DO wear gloves at all times.
- DO leave creek beds and banks intact and only use hands (with gloves) or proper tools to remove trash.
- DO be alert for wildlife.
- DO stay in your group or work with a buddy.
- DO be cautious of plants. Touching poison oak can cause a rash and itch.
- DO lift with your legs, not with your back.
- DO stop work before dusk.
- DO wear long pants and substantial leather shoes or boots with ankle support.

DON'TS

- DO NOT dig or disturb creek beds and banks with tools or equipment.
- DO NOT remove soil, gravel, woody debris or vegetation or items that are a part of the creek bed and bank.
- DO NOT go in the water!
- DO NOT pick up heavy and/or awkward objects such as tires or large pieces of scrap metal—let us pick those items up for you.
- DO NOT pick up any objects which you suspect may be toxic or hazardous such as hypodermic needles, syringes, chemical drums, bloody clothing, chemicals, suspicious packages, and weapons. Notify Valley Water at **1-888-510-5151** of the location of toxic substances immediately.
- DO NOT pick up dead animals.
- DO NOT run, throw objects or engage in horseplay.
- DO NOT overexert yourselves! Take breaks; drink plenty of water especially on warm, humid days.
- DO NOT stomp on bags. Injuries may occur from broken glass or sharp objects.
- DO NOT consume alcoholic beverages or drugs before or while doing creek cleanup or while on site.

PROGRAM / CLEAN REQUIREMENTS

- Permittee shall notify Valley Water's Creek Stewardship Program **5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118 (408) 724-1675, E-mail: volunteer@valleywater.org**, ten working days prior to start of any work or event.
- Permittee's work shall be subordinate to Valley Water operations and shall not interfere with Valley Water personnel or Valley Water's contractor.
- If weather or other adverse circumstances cause a public hazard, work shall be immediately discontinued.
- No access will be allowed when the maintenance road is muddy.
- Permittee shall be responsible to adjacent property owners for disturbances of any kind caused by operations hereunder.
- Work shall be conducted during daylight.
- An adult permittee should be present at the site during all activity.
- The permittee will hold a safety orientation prior to entering Valley Water's right-of-way. The orientation shall include a discussion and explanation of the safety requirements at left.
- The permit applies only to areas in which Valley Water has fee title. A map showing this will be provided with the permit.
- Work or access is prohibited on or through privately owned property.
- The permit will be valid for two (2) calendar years and may be renewed upon receipt of an appropriate application.
- The permit or a copy thereof shall be kept at the site of the work or event and must be shown to any representative of Valley Water or any law enforcement officer on demand. **Work shall be suspended if permit is not at job site.**
- Valley Water, or its officers, agents or employees, shall not be liable for any death, injury, or property damage claims which arise from any cause that might have been prevented by the permittee or those persons employed by or acting in behalf of the permittee. If any claim arises out of the foregoing, the permittee shall defend, indemnify and save harmless Valley Water or its officers, agents or employees from same.
- This permit may be cancelled by Valley Water for non-conformance with permit provisions or failure to adhere to direction given by Valley Water's representative.
- Any damage caused to any Valley Water facility by reason of exercise of the permit shall be repaired at the cost of the permittee to the satisfaction of Valley Water.
- Results will need to be submitted to Access Valley Water **Delivr.com/2YUKX** after the cleanup has taken place. Include the # of volunteers, # of lbs of trash picked up, and total creek distanced cleaned. Before and after pictures should also be uploaded.