



Respect the property line.



Avoid polluting, dumping or draining to your creek.



Respect the natural habitat.



Good Neighbor Fence Program.

You are the solution to water pollution.

Adopt-A-Creek

The Santa Clara Valley Water District established the Adopt-A-Creek program in 1992 to encourage residents of Santa Clara County to take an active role in helping to preserve the health and beauty of our local creeks. While more than 100 groups around the county are involved in the program, many areas have yet to be adopted within the water district's 275 miles of creeks.

You can get involved in local creek adoption! If you are interested in learning how you can participate in the Adopt-A-Creek program, please contact staff at volunteer@valleywater.org or (408) 630-2239.

Santa Clara Valley
Water District

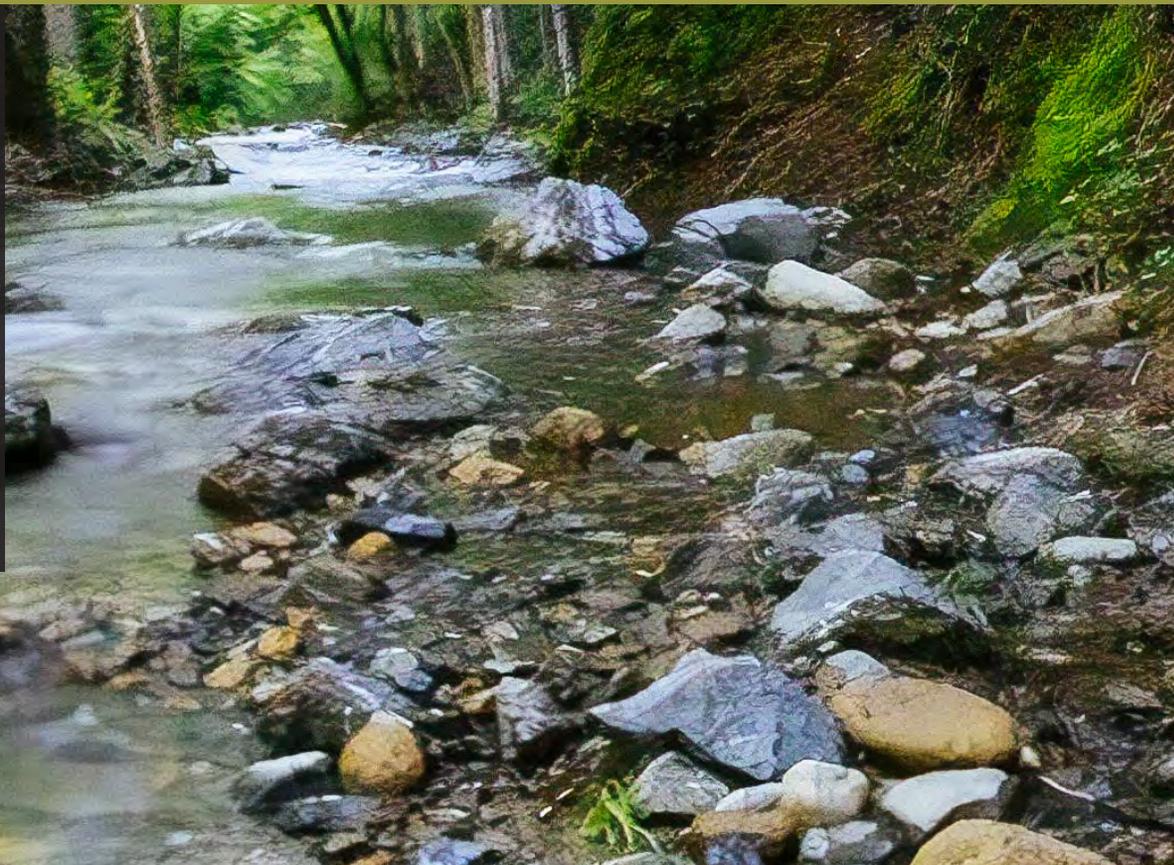


Living along a creek can enrich your life in several ways

The tranquil sound of flowing water, the smell of fresh air, the beautiful scenery of tree-lined banks as well as the proximity to wildlife and nature are just some of the perks associated with living near a creek.

With the support of our creek neighbors, the Santa Clara Valley Water District stands ready to protect and maintain healthy creeks. Proximity to these natural elements comes with key responsibilities. Good creek neighbors protect the waterway and natural habitat, help keep the water clean and respect the property line. If you share a property line with a creek, you play a special role in keeping our creeks healthy, clean and flowing.

Enclosed are some tips and reminders to help you be a good creek neighbor.



Avoid polluting, dumping or draining to your creek

While most people know trash and chemicals don't belong in a creek, you'd be surprised to learn the types of objects and materials that end up in our local waterways. Dumping anything into a creek or along the bank of a creek where it can migrate into the water is illegal and can cause blockages that increase the risk of flooding and negatively affect the water quality and health of creek habitat.

To help prevent pollution:

- Minimize the use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers, which can run off into the creek. Nitrates and phosphates from excess fertilizers and other sources which enter the stream have the potential to disrupt the natural food chain, causing accelerated growth of some plants (algae blooms) and harming others. They can be life-threatening to fish and other aquatic life.
- Never dispose of lawn clippings in a creek or on a creek bank. Soil and lawn clippings disposed in creeks can block the creek flow and create a flood hazard, destroy aquatic habitats, and cause diseases in trees.
- Remove your pet waste immediately and dispose it properly. Bacteria and pathogens from many animal wastes are washed into the streams, potentially making these waters unsafe.
- Avoid excess watering – the runoff into the creek will cause pollution and potentially erode the bank over time. Pool or spa water should be drained to a sanitary sewer, not a creek or a storm drain.



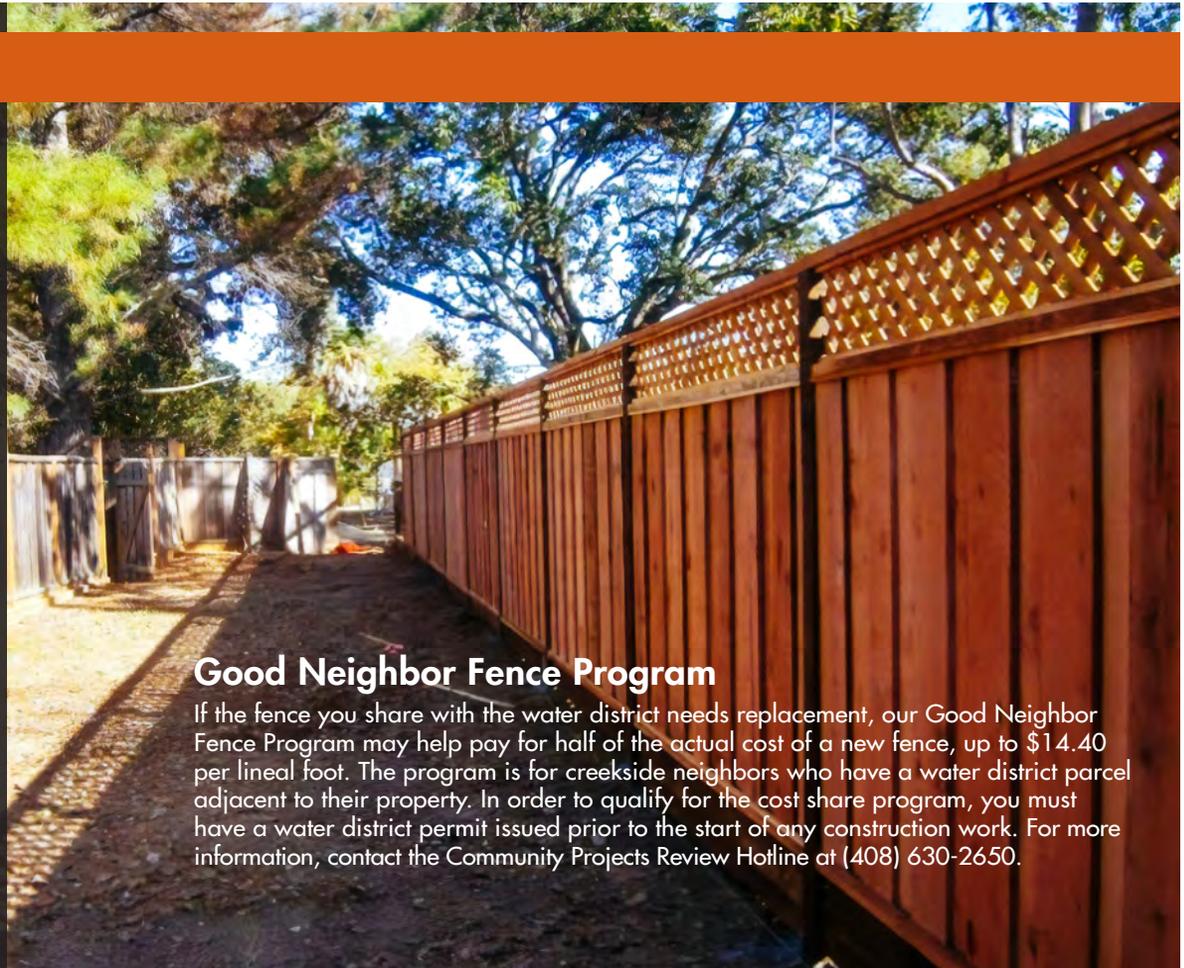
Respect the property line

A healthy stream is a beautiful natural resource and a wonderful community amenity. Before beginning any improvements on your property, verify your property lines. The water district requires permits for any work on its property or easement area to prevent potential damages or actions that could increase the risk of flooding or prevent us from fulfilling our stream stewardship and creek maintenance responsibilities. Check to make sure you're completely on your property before constructing any outdoor landscape or amenities (patio, pool, fence, etc.) or adding or removing vegetation.

You may reference the water district's Water Resources Protection Ordinance for information on how to obtain the proper project or activity permits. The ordinance outlines the water district's role as the County of Santa Clara's wholesale water supplier, flood protection agency, steward of streams, watersheds and natural resources. This ordinance keeps us accountable for serving you and protecting our natural resources, but also enables the district to protect its property and projects. For more information, go to: <https://delivr.com/2rs6w>.

Projects constructed on district property or easements without permits violate the Water Resources Protection Ordinance and impede the water district's ability to carry out necessary services and projects such as flood protection and creek maintenance. Violations can result in fines, penalties and payment for the cost of removal and restoration of original property conditions.

To inquire about permits, call the water district's Community Projects Review Hotline at (408) 630-2650.



Good Neighbor Fence Program

If the fence you share with the water district needs replacement, our Good Neighbor Fence Program may help pay for half of the actual cost of a new fence, up to \$14.40 per lineal foot. The program is for creekside neighbors who have a water district parcel adjacent to their property. In order to qualify for the cost share program, you must have a water district permit issued prior to the start of any construction work. For more information, contact the Community Projects Review Hotline at (408) 630-2650.

Respect the natural habitat

After you've verified your property line and obtained proper permits, you may be looking forward to sprucing up the vegetation near the creek bank. Before you begin your project, remember that natural habitat around streams helps fish and wildlife, while protecting the quality of water. Native plants local to the watershed, like the ones pictured below, are essential to stream ecosystems, as they provide food to wildlife, require little to no fertilization and are drought tolerant. Learn more about which plants are good for your area with help from the California Native Plant Society at www.cnps.org.



Yankee Point California Lilac



Toyon

To keep creek environments as natural as possible, avoid cutting down trees or removing tree shade canopies. Although some fallen trees provide habitat to local wildlife and cannot be removed, reporting them is important. Fallen trees or woody debris along creeks can cause blockage or prevent the flow of water. To report such occurrences, call (408) 630-2378 or visit Access Valley Water at <https://delivr.com/2yukx>.



Butterfly on Indian Teasel



Alligator Lizard in a Coast live oak

CreekWise Contacts

For more information on applying for a permit when doing work near creek, the fence cost sharing program, protecting creeks from pollution, adopting your local creek, or creek maintenance, contact the following:

Permit Applications and Good Neighbor Fence Program:

(408) 630-2650

Pollution prevention:

1 (888) 510-5151

Adopt-A-Creek

(408) 630-2239

Watersheds Stream Maintenance

(408) 650-2378

For more good neighborhood tips, scan the Quick Response Code below or go to: <https://delivr.com/2uv3f>.

Si habla español y tiene preguntas sobre el contenido de este mensaje por favor de comunicarse con José Villarreal al JVillarreal@valleywater.org o (408) 630-2879.

Nếu bạn nói tiếng Việt và có thắc mắc về nội dung của thông báo này, xin vui lòng liên hệ với Triet Trinh tại TTrinh@valleywater.org hoặc (408) 630-3211.

如果你說中文並對上述訊息有疑問,請聯繫 Jane Zhou, 電郵 Jzhou@valleywater.org, 或者電話:(408) 630-2631.



Learn & get involved on the
Creekside Property Program

Follow us on:



/scvwd



/valleywater



/valleywater



/scvwd