

Lower Silver Creek watershed flooding history

Lake Cunningham Park is located in the Lower Silver Creek Watershed (LSC), which is itself a sub-basin of the Coyote Watershed. Nearly half of the LSC Watershed drains to the park site, which then flows into Lower Silver Creek north of the park. In its entirety, Lower Silver Creek flows generally northward from Silver Creek Road at Barberry Lane, through the park to Coyote Creek near the U.S. 101 freeway near McKee Road.

Recorded flooding problems within the Lower Silver Creek Watershed include storm events in December 1889, January and March 1911, January 1952, December 1955, April 1958, January 1963, February 1983, March 1983, and close-calls during the February 1998 El Niño. This project, along with the Lower Silver Creek flood improvement project, will reduce flood risk to over 3,200 parcels in the LSC Watershed.

Funding

This project is funded by the Watershed and Stream Stewardship Fund and by grants from the California Department of Water Resources and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.



You're in a watershed

No matter where you are, you're in a watershed. A watershed is the area of land that drains a common waterway. In Santa Clara County, our creeks catch rain and runoff from storm drains and carry the water north to San Francisco Bay or south to Monterey Bay. Along the way, some of the water is used to fill reservoirs for drinking water, replenish the underground aquifer and create better habitat for fish and wildlife.



This project is in the **Coyote Watershed**. Sixteen major creeks drain this 322-square-mile area. The county's largest watershed extends from the urbanized valley floor upward to the vast natural areas of the Diablo range. Coyote Creek, its main waterway, is the longest creek in the county.

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.

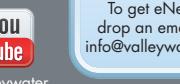
如果你說中文並對上述訊息有疑問, 請聯繫 Jane Zhou, 電郵 JZhou@valleywater.org, 或者電話:(408) 630-2631.



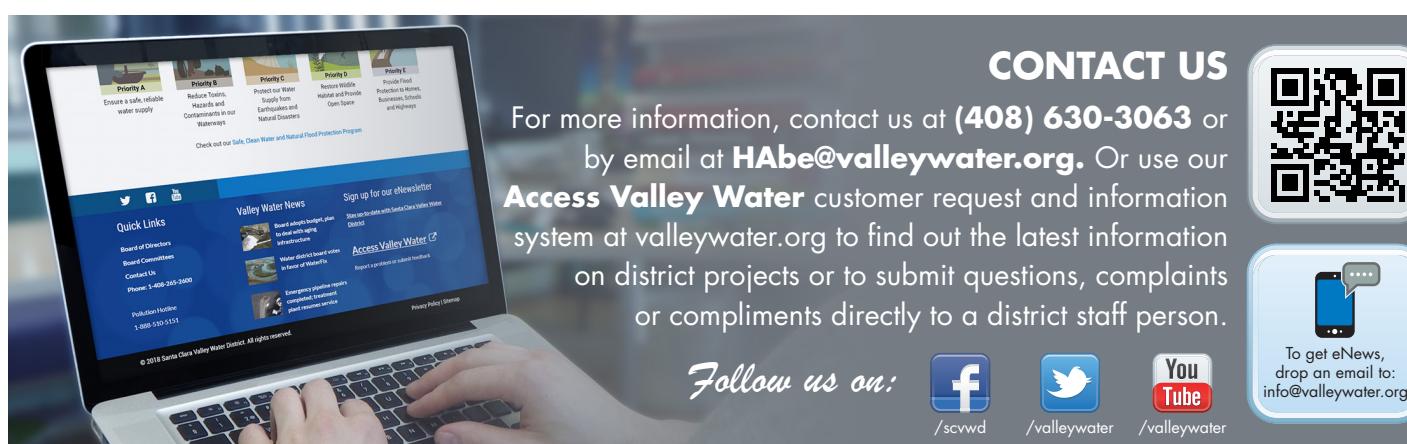
CONTACT US

For more information, contact us at **(408) 630-3063** or by email at **HAbc@valleywater.org**. Or use our **Access Valley Water** customer request and information system at valleywater.org to find out the latest information on district projects or to submit questions, complaints or compliments directly to a district staff person.

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Cunningham Flood Detention Facility Certification Project

Lake Cunningham Park was developed in cooperation with the City of San José in the late 1970s and early 1980s as a joint recreational-flood detention facility. Today, it encompasses the city's park and recreational facilities, Lake Cunningham, Raging Waters, Lower Silver, Flint and Ruby creeks.

The park is also intended to act as a detention basin and contain excess flows of water within its confines during significant storm events. A 100-year storm event would flood most of the site and would take approximately six days to drain out to Lower Silver Creek.

Topics Inside:

- Project background
- Looking ahead
- Lower Silver Creek watershed flooding history
- Project goals and benefits
- You're in a watershed

Santa Clara Valley Water District



Cunningham Flood Detention Facility Certification Project



Project area map with the locations of the planned improvements numbered and described below.

1 Regrading and leveling of existing trail

3 Existing trash compactor location

5 Floodwall construction

2 Raised levee work

4 New location of trash compactor

Project background

The Cunningham Flood Detention Facility Certification Project is located in Lake Cunningham Park in San José. Flood detention improvements at the park were initiated in the 1980s to regulate the maximum storm water that could safely flow into Lower Silver Creek north of the park. Further studies by the water district in 2015 indicated that flood protection improvements at Lake Cunningham Park were necessary to provide 100-year flood* protection.

Completion of improvements from the northern Lower Silver Creek Flood Protection Project from Coyote Creek to Cunningham Avenue and the flood detention facility improvements will provide 100-year* flood protection to about 3,200 parcels located in the floodplain around and downstream of the park. This project will also include the water district working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to revise the flood insurance rate maps associated with the 3,200 parcels.

As part of this project, the existing creek levees and berms along the periphery of the park adjacent to Lower Silver Creek will be modified to provide the necessary freeboard to meet FEMA certification requirements. A raised levee of up to four feet high will be constructed on top of the existing levee adjacent to Capitol Expressway and Cunningham Avenue. A floodwall ranging from one to four feet high will be installed on the top of existing berms from the Cunningham Avenue Bridge toward the east to White Road.

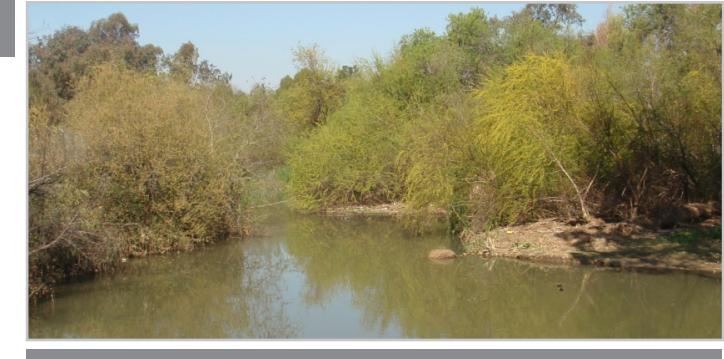
* The definition of a 100-year storm event is an event that has the likelihood of occurring once every 100 years according to FEMA.



Artist's rendering of planned floodwall

Project goals and benefits

- Ensure the flood detention facility at Lake Cunningham Regional Park functions as a joint recreational and flood detention facility.
- Ensure that the park's capacity to store floodwater is consistent with the 1978 planned floodwater surface elevation.
- Install and upgrade flood improvement measures that are compatible with park uses.
- Ensure that the flow released from the park into Lower Silver Creek downstream of Cunningham Avenue can be safely conveyed with adequate freeboard so that the Lower Silver Creek Project can be FEMA certified.
- Ensure the flood detention facility can be FEMA certified and not require neighboring communities to purchase flood insurance.



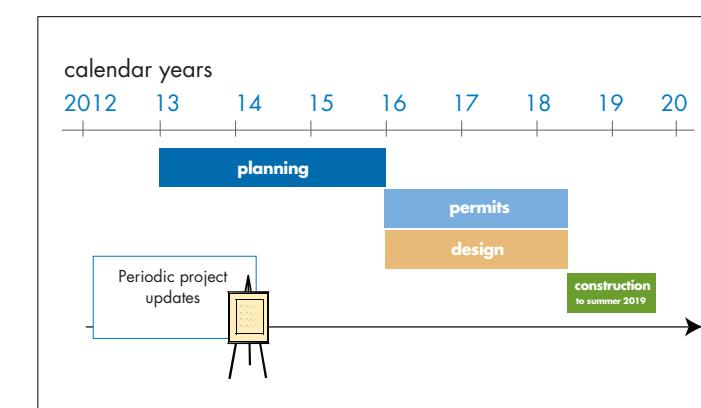
Lower Silver Creek entering Lake Cunningham Park

Looking ahead

This project will provide flood protection, keeping surrounding neighborhoods safe. The water district is working closely with the City of San José and will continue outreach to nearby communities throughout the project.

The water district project team has completed the final design, environmental documentation, and obtained all regulatory agency permits. Construction will begin summer 2018 and is expected to be complete in summer 2019.

Project schedule



Flint and Ruby creeks along the north side of Lake Cunningham Park