

Up Your Creek!

The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

Join Us for A Clean-up Day on Alameda Creek – September 17



Help the Alameda Creek Alliance clean trash and clear invasive plants along Alameda Creek in Niles as part of Creeks-to-Bay/Coastal Clean-up day, on Saturday, September 17, from 10 am to noon. In addition to trash, we'll work on removing some invasive plants that have recently been found at our Niles Canyon restoration site. Come enjoy the morning among friends and neighbors along a beautiful stretch of Alameda Creek! This continues past work by ACA volunteers, and your efforts will enhance habitat for fish and wildlife along Alameda Creek for years to come.

Meet at 10 am at the Niles Staging Area Parking lot along Old Canyon Road, near Canyon Oaks Court in the Niles area of Fremont (roughly 720 Old Canyon Rd). We'll work until about 12:00 pm. [Visit us on Eventbrite](#) to RSVP and for more details.

Please wear long pants and sturdy, closed-toe shoes that can get dirty (no sandals or flip-flops). We provide gloves and tools. The work isn't on much of a slope, but the ground can be uneven. There is no poison oak in the immediate area where we'll be working. Expect cool weather and morning dew when we start.

All participants need signed waiver forms ([one for the ACA](#) and one [for Alameda County](#)), and anyone under 18 needs a parental signature.

For other Coastal Clean-up Events in and around the Alameda Creek Watershed, visit [Alameda County's Clean Water Program](#).

Science in the Park – October 1

Join the Alameda Creek Alliance on Saturday, October 1st from 9 am until 2 pm in Hayward for Alameda County's [Science in the Park](#). Science in the Park is an opportunity for the family to learn more about topics in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This free event includes interactive and hands-on activities, live animal demonstrations, health screenings, environmental education, water rocket launches, and live entertainment.

This year's [Science in the Park](#) runs from 9 am to 2 pm at the Alden E. Oliver Sports Park (2580 Eden Park Way, Hayward). Look for the Alameda Creek Alliance booth and check out our display with information on local watersheds and watershed health.

Can you volunteer at the ACA table to help manage the fish-painting activity? We need a few volunteers to work 2.5-hour shifts (9-11:30am or 11:30am-2pm) helping kids with supplies as they paint fish. The work is fun and interactive, and you're welcome to spend the time painting fish of your own! Contact ralph@alamedacreek.org if you can help. Please indicate which time slot you can help.

Save the Date for the Alameda Creek Trail Run - **October 8**

Three Tri-City environmental non-profits are supporting the Alameda Creek Trail Run, a one-day 5K/10K walk and run event on Saturday, October 8th from 8 am to 11 am. This event is dedicated to the goal of a healthy Alameda Creek and the beginning of a trail joining community and nature in the years ahead. The event will be hosted at California Nursery Historical Park – LEAF Community Garden. More information to come.

Sunol AgPark Open House - **October 16**



Join the Alameda Creek Alliance at the Sunol Agricultural Park Open House on October 16th from 10 am to 2 pm. This family event is an opportunity to enjoy an outing to the beautiful Sunol Valley, celebrate the harvest season with AgPark farmers and participate in activities with community partners.

Come by the Alameda Creek Alliance outreach table where we'll be hosting our popular fish painting activity! Other highlights of the event include: pick-your-own pumpkin patch; market stand with produce from AgPark farmers; children's activities such as farm crafts, seed packet making and face-painting; and hands-on learning in the habitat hedgerow. Attendees are invited to bring bikes and wagons for self-guided tours of the beautiful 18-acre organic farm.

Can you volunteer at the Alameda Creek Alliance table to help manage the fish-painting activity? We need a few volunteers to work 2-hour shifts (10am-12pm or 12-2pm) helping kids with supplies as they paint fish. The work is fun and interactive, and you're welcome to spend the time painting fish of your own! Contact ralph@alamedacreek.org if you can help. Please indicate which time slot you can help.

Help Us Survey Sinbad Creek in Sunol



The Alameda Creek Alliance invites you to participate in monitoring programs of Sinbad Creek in Sunol, which we will be initiating this fall. The goal of the project is to provide baseline information about Sinbad Creek, and to involve the community in monitoring of creek health.

The information gathered will help us to gauge water quality in Sinbad Creek, to and to better understand how stream flow and water quality might be changing over time. Our project consists of mapping of Sinbad Creek, rainy-season water quality sampling, and an event to characterize the insects that live in the creek. Visit our [Sinbad Creek Stewardship page](#) on the Alameda Creek Alliance website.

We will be hosting a training session in Sunol to discuss the stewardship project and how community members can participate. Stay tuned for more information.

Palomares Road Closure for Stonybrook Fish Passage Project

A portion of Palomares Road will be closed this summer through October 26, in order to complete a bridge replacement and fish passage project in Stonybrook Creek. The Alameda County Resource Conservation District will be replacing an antiquated road culvert under Palomares Road at mile marker 8.60, which is eroding and blocks steelhead trout migration, with a free-span bridge. The Alameda Creek Alliance supports this project. During construction, Palomares Road between mile post 8.70 and 8.50 will be closed to thru traffic.

More information about the road closure and FAQ [here](#). More information about the fish passage project [here](#).

Update on Oil Trains Though Niles Canyon

A new group has formed to fight the proposal to route more freight trains and deadly oil trains through Niles Canyon. You can learn more about Niles for Environmentally Safe Trains (NEST) and find them on FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/Nilesforsafetrains>

Read the July 28, 2016 article in the East Bay Times: [Group Warns More Oil Trains Could Cut Through Fremont](#)

Livermore Tarplant Listed As State Endangered Species



The Livermore tarplant (*Deinandra bacigalupii*), a member of the sunflower family that was described as a new species in 1999 and only occurs in four locations in the eastern portion of the Livermore Valley, was listed as a state endangered species in August by the California Fish and Game Commission. The Livermore tarplant only grows in poorly-drained, seasonally-dry, alkaline meadows in the vicinity of barren alkali scalds, alkali vernal pools and playa-like pools. All populations of Livermore tarplant are threatened by urban development, impacts from invasive species, recreation activities, herbicide use, and livestock grazing

Prop 67 Would Uphold California's Ban on Plastic Bags

Vote on Prop 67 this November, which would uphold California's ban on plastic bags. California passed a law to phase out wasteful, single-use plastic grocery bags in 2014, with broad support from local governments, business groups, retailers, and environmental organizations. More than 150 communities across California have already banned plastic bags. Disposable plastic bags kill fish and wildlife. Plastic pollution entangles, suffocates, and poisons hundreds of animal species worldwide, including sea turtles, birds, and marine mammals. Flimsy plastic bags break down into tiny pieces that are eaten by fish and contaminate the food chain. Since Alameda County's plastic

bad ban went into effect we have seen a dramatic reduction in plastic bags during creek clean-ups in the Alameda Creek watershed.

Plastic bag manufacturers are challenging the statewide ban on plastic bags, and the issue is in front of California voters this fall. [Click here for more information on Prop 67 and the California Plastic Bag Ban.](#)

Alligators in Alameda Creek?

In wild and weird news, a four foot alligator that was released into Alameda Creek in lower Niles Canyon was shot and killed last month by state wildlife officers. Read more in the [San Francisco Chronicle article.](#)

Regional Salmon Restoration News

[California's Native Salmon Struggling In 5th Year of Drought](#)

Associated Press – September 4, 2016

[Marin County Ignoring Coho-Harming Development](#)

Marin Independent-Journal – September 1, 2016

[Marin Supervisors Approve House Despite Concern Over Endangered Salmon](#)

Marin Independent-Journal – August 26, 2016

[Why California Water Fix Is a Path to Extinction for Native Fisheries](#)

News Deeply – August 23, 2016

[Will California's SWRCB Allow Delta Smelt To Go Extinct?](#)

NRDC blog – August 9, 2016

[California Pushes Ahead on Twin Water Tunnels Under Estuary](#)

Courthouse News Service – August 4, 2016

[Feds to Take New Look At Delta, Endangered Fish Species](#)

Sacramento Bee – August 3, 2016

[Spring-Run Chinook Salmon Highlighted In Chico Symposium](#)

Chico Enterprise-Record - July 29, 2016

[Feds Sued Over Klamath River Salmon Parasite Outbreaks](#)

Eureka Times-Standard – July 29, 2016

[Salmon River Spring-Run Chinook Survey Shows Half of Average Run Size](#)

Eureka Times-Standard – July 29, 2016

[California Moves Ahead On Delta Bay Tunnels Plan](#)

High Country News – July 29, 2016

[Delta Fish Health Vital To All](#)

East Bay Times opinion – July 28, 2016

[About That \\$17 Billion Water Project: Delta Tunnels 101](#)

KQED – July 25, 2016

[Will The Delta Tunnels Get Built? Plan Enters Critical Make-Or-Break Phase](#)

Sacramento Bee – July 24, 2016

[Dam-Managing Agencies Won't Do the Right Thing for Snake River Dams](#)

Seattle Times – July 2, 2016

The Alameda Creek Alliance is a non-profit community watershed protection group. Please support our efforts by [becoming a member](#)