



Alameda Creek
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Want to learn more about Public Sediment & how they're Unlocking Alameda Creek?

Check out "Highlights" on pg. 2...

We welcome your feedback and submissions for the next edition of Watershed Lookout. [Contact us](#) to submit your ideas.

As members of the acwForum, and subscribers to the Watershed Lookout, we are part of a community of individuals and organizations who have long been dedicated to protecting and achieving a healthy and sustainable Alameda Creek watershed. Lately, it's exciting to see we're not the only ones interested in the well being of the watershed. New groups are adding their voices to long-time discussions about the restoration of Alameda Creek, fresh faces are working on projects to benefit creek health and reduce pollution, new money is coming in to fund projects vital to creek health, and there are more ways than ever for interested individuals to get involved in the watershed. It is an exciting time to be working and volunteering in the Alameda Creek watershed, and we are glad to have an influx of interest and excitement locally and state-wide.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 8

Sunol Wildflower Festival

The annual Sunol Wildflower Festival will be held in Sunol Regional Wilderness on Sunday, April 8, from 10 am to 4 pm, at the Old Green Barn Visitor Center. Learn more: http://www.ebparks.org/features/Spring_Wildflower_Festival_at_Sunol_Regional_Wilderness

April 18

Unlock Alameda Creek Public Forum

The Public Sediment Team invites you to a public forum and conversation around the design proposal Unlock Alameda Creek. We want to hear from you! Learn more, or register here: <https://unlockalamedacreek.entbrite.com/>

April 21

Celebrate Earth Day with Fremont

Join the City of Fremont and Washington Hospital Healthcare System to celebrate our beautiful planet! Stop by with friends and family (and don't forget to ride your bike). This FREE event will feature fun and educational activities for the entire family! <https://fremont.gov/2234/Earth-Day-2018>

April 21 (cont'd)

Union City Earth Day Celebration & Fun Run

The New Haven Schools Foundation Earth Day Celebration will take place at Cesar Chavez Middle School. The fun run will travel along the beautiful Alameda Creek Trail near William Cann Park. <https://runsignup.com/earthdayfunrun>

April 22

City of Pleasanton: Earth Day Clean Up

Help Pleasanton be cleaner and greener by pitching in to clean up local creeks. For more details: <http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/cs/adobe/programs.asp> (scroll down)

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HIGHLIGHTS

Unlock Alameda Creek

It is no secret that the Bay Area's ecological infrastructure—its marshes, mudflats, and coastal edges—are at risk. The subsidence of the Bay's tidal wetlands, combined with sea level rise, exposes bayside residents and the region's critical drinking water, energy, and transportation infrastructure to tremendous risk.

[The Resilient by Design Bay Area Challenge](#) ("Challenge") is one effort working to address these issues. The Challenge brings together local residents, public officials, and local, national and international experts to develop innovative solutions to the issues brought on by climate change in the Bay Area. [Unlock Alameda Creek](#) is the Challenge entry developed by [Public Sediment](#), one of ten teams participating in the competition. Public Sediment is a multidisciplinary design team led by SCAPE Landscape Architecture with Arcadis, the Dredge Research Collaborative, TS Studio, the UC Davis Department of Human Ecology and Design, the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences, and the Architectural Ecologies Lab.

The team proposes to unlock the sediment flows of Alameda Creek and feed the bay with this valuable material. Alameda Creek is the largest sediment-shed within the Bay Area and contributes more sediment to the South Bay than any other tributary. Even so, its potential is far from realized, as the flood channel was only designed for the flow of water. Sediment trapped in the channel reduces flood protection and requires expensive dredging. Additionally, fish face many hurdles to migrating upstream, and public use of the creek is limited.

Public Sediment wants to facilitate the redesign of Alameda Creek to bring sediment to the Bay, reconnect steelhead with their historic spawning grounds, and organize a tributary-based network of community stewards that physically connect to the Bay. Public Sediment believes Alameda Creek should be designed for social equity, public benefit, and fish as much as sediment. The creek connects communities that are diverse in race, ethnicity, age, and income level, linking them with each other and the Bay. A network of paths, mud rooms, sensing stations, and fish passage improvements proposed in their design would enable inter-species interactions along the creek, building empathy and capacity for a new sediment public. The team hopes to make sediment public, to link vulnerable communities to the bay and spur the long-term stewardship of public sediment resources.

The design process has been co-creative, with input from regional stakeholders and agencies dedicated to maintaining different aspects of Alameda Creek.



The Alameda Creek Crawl



Over 100 people joined the Public Sediment team on February 24th to visit Alameda Creek where it enters the flood control channel at the mouth of Niles Canyon.

Local experts from the Alameda County Water District, East Bay Regional Park District and Alameda Creek Alliance engaged in conversation with participants about the history of the creek, its uses today by both fish and people, and their understanding of the impacts of climate change in the area.



Participants added their own ideas for resilience in the area by uploading photos to Instagram of ways we could begin to rethink uses of the Creek. Stay up to date by following the hashtag #PublicSediment.

The Public Sediment team is hosting another public event on Wednesday, April 18th from 5pm-8pm in Hayward.

This will be a chance for members of Alameda Creek watershed communities to hear

more about the design proposal, and to share their vision for what a resilient Alameda Creek watershed looks like. To learn more, or to RSVP, visit [UnlockAlamedaCreek.eventbrite.com](https://www.unlockalamedacreek.com).

WATERSHED TOOLKIT

Get involved in the watershed!

You don't have to wait for Earth Day to get involved. There many groups tackling a wide variety of projects within the Alameda Creek Watershed year-round, and they want help from you! Find out more by visiting the links below:

- [Alameda Creek Alliance](#)
- [California Native Plant Society—East Bay Chapter](#)
- [Earth Team \(for teens\)](#)
- [East Bay Regional Parks](#)
- [Friends of Springtown Preserve](#)
- [Golden Gate Audubon Society](#)
- [Living Arroyos](#)
- [Math Science Nucleus](#)
- [Trout Unlimited John Muir Chapter](#)

Did we miss your organization? [Email us](#) and we'll feature an updated list in the next newsletter!

SPOTLIGHT

Alameda County Water District Civic Spark Interns

CivicSpark is a Governor's Initiative AmeriCorps program dedicated to building capacity for local governments in California to address community resilience issues such as climate change, water resource management, and access to opportunities.



Currently, there are two CivicSpark Fellows working on watershed health initiatives in the Alameda Creek watershed. Hannah Braun and Linda Vo work at the Alameda County Water District (ACWD), helping lay the groundwork to establish water use efficiency targets based on impending State legislation, and with implementation and outreach for the ACWD's water conservation program. These focus areas engage Hannah and Linda in activities ranging from interacting with the public about water conservation, to reviewing landscape and water use data for commercial, industrial, and institutional customers. The Watershed Lookout is excited to recognize these new faces making contributions to the health of the watershed. Read on to hear more about what led them to the great work they are doing for the ACWD.

Linda graduated with a B.S. degree in Managerial Economics and a minor in Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning from U.C., Davis. In Davis, Linda worked on a water conservation research and analysis project and volunteered with the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water. Linda has always been passionate about the environment and wants to make a difference in the world, now and in her future career. When Linda learned about the CivicSpark Fellowship while in school, she knew it would be a perfect fit for her.

Hannah graduated from the U.C., Santa Cruz (UCSC) where she received a degree in Environmental Studies. While in Santa Cruz, she

interned with the Coastal Watershed Council, a non-profit that aims to connect communities with the watershed that they live in. As a student at UCSC, she also participated in 'Natural History Field Quarter,' where a her class followed spring throughout California. These experiences sparked her interest in the various interconnections in nature, especially with regard to water. When Hannah heard about the CivicSpark Fellowship, she knew that it would be a great opportunity to do environmental work at a local level. Hannah enjoys engaging communities with nature and hopes to continue to do so throughout her career.

We know there are many dedicated people working within the Alameda Creek watershed who deserve acknowledgment! Send information about your recommended individual to rachelle.hedges@acrwd.org

UPCOMING EVENTS (continued from p. 1)

April 22

LEAF Earth Day 2018

Join the LEAF Earth Day Celebration of local gardening, healthy food and environmental sustainability at the LEAF Center in the California Nursery Historical Park. Enjoy a spring plant sale, booths and games, food and live music. Admission is free! 10-3, 36501 Niles Blvd. Fremont, CA.

April 30

National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council Grant Deadline

NUCFAC has announced that up to \$900,000 will be available for the Innovation Grant Category. This year's priority issue is Prepare for Pests, Threats, Natural Disasters and Associated Changes and Risks. Click [here](#) for more details.

May 10

2018 Open Space Conference

The Bay Area Open Space Council welcomes you to the 2018 Open Space Conference on Thursday, May 10. The conference will engage some of the Bay Area's most inspiring thinkers and visionary land conservation leaders to address Conservation in a Time of Change. Learn more: <https://openspacecouncil.org/community-events/conference/>

acwForum

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acwForum Signatory Members:

- Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (ACFC&WCD)
- Alameda County Water District
- Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCO)
- East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD)
- Friends of the Arroyos
- Livermore Area Recreation and Park District
- City of Livermore
- City of Fremont
- San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Zone 7 Water Agency

ABOUT US

The Alameda Creek Watershed Forum (a.k.a., acwForum) is a voluntary, non-regulatory stakeholder group that supports the community's interest in protecting and achieving a healthy and sustainable Alameda Creek watershed. Read more about us at <http://www.acwforum.org/about>.

[www.acwForum.org](http://www.acwforum.org)

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