

Up Your Creek!

The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

Volunteers Needed for Sunol Wildflower Festival Next Saturday

The eleventh annual spring Sunol Wildflower Festival will be held on Saturday April 12, 2014 from 11 am to 4 pm in Sunol Regional Wilderness. There are nine scheduled [nature hikes](#), as well as crafts, music, slideshows and nature activities. The festival is put on by the East Bay Regional Park District, and co-sponsored this year by the Alameda Creek Alliance.

We're looking for volunteers to join us at our outreach table at the festival to help promote watershed awareness and appreciation. If you're planning to come to the Wildflower Festival, please consider donating a couple hours of your time to help.

Contact Ralph Boniello at ralph@alamedacreek.org if you'd like to volunteer, and please specify which of the three shifts you're available for (10 am to noon; noon to 2 pm; or 2 to 4 pm). The early shift will include some set-up and the late shift will include some taking down of materials.

Alameda Creek Cleanup April 19

Volunteers needed! Join us for an Earth Day work party as we partner with the Alameda County Resource Conservation District on a creek clean-up and ivy removal at our adopted stretch of Alameda Creek, at the bottom of Niles Canyon. We'll pick up trash from known hotspots along the creek and pull invasive cape ivy that's smothering mature riparian trees at the site.

Meet at the [Niles Staging Area parking lot](#), Old Canyon Road near Canyon Oaks Court in Fremont. We'll provide gloves, trash pickers, bags, buckets, and tools. Bring a refillable water bottle and please wear long pants, closed-toe shoes, and clothes that can get dirty.

E-mail ralph@alamedacreek.org to sign up.

Creek Alliance Helps Acquire Wildlife Habitat in North Livermore

[**Conservation Groups Help Acquire 79 Key Acres of Open Space, Wildlife Habitat in North Livermore**](#)

ACA/CBD press release – April 3, 2014

[**Park District Adds 79 Acres for Brushy Peak Regional Preserve**](#)

East Bay Regional Park District press release – April 2, 2014

Sunol BioBlitz a Success

Thanks to everyone who helped to make the 2014 Sunol Region BioBlitz a success! We had 17 volunteers who documented more than 100 species - with over 200 observations. So far, we've recorded 55 species of birds, 46 species of plants, 22 insect taxa (including 8 different butterflies), 6 types of arachnids, 4 amphibians, 1 lichen, and 1 mammal.

We enjoyed a beautiful day in Sunol, and thanks to the recent rain the region was vibrant with life. The best part was the sharing of knowledge that went on among the participants.

Some of our highlights of the day included:

3 Golden Eagles
Red-legged Frog egg masses
2 adult Foothill Yellow-legged Frogs
Western Pond Turtles
Flowers and butterflies everywhere!

To view more observations, check out the [Sunol Region BioBlitz project on iNaturalist](#). It's fun going through them and learning more about the variety of life around us and viewing the high-quality of pictures submitted by some of our BioBlitz participants.

Although this BioBlitz is over, there was a general agreement among the participants that we should do this again - so keep an eye out for future events. In the meantime, you can contribute observations to our ongoing iNaturalist project '[What lives in the Alameda Creek Watershed?](#)'.

Niles Canyon Trails Study Moving Forward

The East Bay Regional Park District is beginning a study looking at the feasibility of developing a bicycle/pedestrian trail through Niles Canyon, from Mission Blvd to Sunol. The Park District is also evaluating a ridgeline natural surface trail connecting Vargas Plateau to the proposed watershed center at the Sunol Water Temple site; and a trail from Garin Regional Park to Vallejo Mills Park, at the bottom of Niles Canyon.

The EBRPD Request for Proposals for the Niles Canyon Trails feasibility study can be found [here](#). Alameda County Supervisor Richard Valle initiated this current effort, and funding for the study is coming from EBRPD, Alameda County Water District and Alameda County.

Burrowing Owl Protection News Coverage

[**Burrowing Owl Flap Challenges Big Dublin Development Plan**](#)

San Jose Mercury News – March 21, 2014

[**Group Files Suit Against Development in Burrowing Owl Habitat**](#)

KCET - March 21, 2014

[**Targeting Rural and Suburban Development**](#)

East Bay Express – March 26, 2014

[**Dublin Sued Over the Crossings EIR**](#)

Livermore Independent – March 28, 2014

Arroyos Flow Releases Turned Off

Zone 7 Water Agency made changes to releases of water to Arroyo Mocho and Arroyo Valle at the end of March.

Zone 7 reduced artificial releases to Arroyo Mocho on Friday, March 21 from 9 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 6 cfs, and on Arroyo Del Valle from 5 cfs to 4 cfs. Flows were ramped down further and shut off by March 27. A residual flow will most likely last for three to five days, and some stretches will go dry before others.

The arroyos may be dry for weeks or months. For the public, this may be most noticeable at major recreational areas such as Robertson Park, Camp Arroyo, Sycamore Grove Park, and Shadow Cliffs. To stay informed on this and other local issues, you can sign up online to receive the Zone 7 agency e-newsletter: <http://www.zone7water.com>

Regional Salmon News

[Northern California Rivers and Fish Doomed Absent Immediate Agency Action](#)

Indy Media – April 4, 2014

[Jasper Ridge Sued for Allegedly Endangering Trout](#)

The Stanford Daily – April 1, 2014

[State and Federal Governments Increase Delta Exports by Over 400 Percent!](#)

Daily Kos – April 2, 2014

[Feinstein, Congressmen Request More Delta Water for Corporate Agribusiness](#)

Daily Kos – March 28, 2014

[Fishing and Conservation Groups Urge Officials to Reject Water Grab](#)

Indy Media – March 27, 2014

[Broken Pumps Lead to 175 Endangered Steelhead Deaths](#)

Santa Barbara Independent – March 27, 2014

[State Panel Urges Rejection of Water Tunnels](#)

East Bay Express – March 5, 2014

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