

# Up Your Creek!

The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

## Habitat Stewardship Workday in Niles - **December 8**



Join us for an Alameda Creek Alliance habitat stewardship workday in Niles this **Sunday, December 8, at 10 am.**

Did you know that invasive plants are one of the biggest threats to healthy ecosystems and habitat for fish and wildlife? Imagine if all of your food choices were limited to one food item in grocery stores - that's what invasive plants are doing to some of our highest-quality habitat along Alameda Creek.

Come help us remove these invasive plants and support the native species that feed the food web, as we steward our adopted area along Alameda Creek. Learn about your local watershed and meet fellow watershed stewards! This continues past work by ACA volunteers, and your efforts are enhancing habitat for fish and wildlife along Alameda Creek now and for years to come.

We'll meet at 10 am in the [Niles Staging Area](#) picnic grounds, and will work until 12:30 pm. Parking is very limited at Niles Staging Area, so please park along Old Canyon Road where parking is ample. Participants should wear appropriate clothing for working outside (pants and closed-toe shoes, no sandals) and bring water in a re-useable bottle. We provide gloves and any necessary tools.

You can find more information and register for events via ["Alameda Creek Alliance" on Eventbrite.](#)

Workdays are held on the 2nd Sunday of the month, unless otherwise noted:

- Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>
- Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday- service day in honor of MLK Jr.)
- Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>
- Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>

## Eastern Alameda Christmas Bird Count - **December 20**



Join us for the 11th annual Eastern Alameda County Christmas Bird Count, which will be held on Friday, December 20, 2019.

This Christmas Bird Count in the upper Alameda Creek watershed is sponsored by the Alameda Creek Alliance and Ohlone Audubon Society. The count circle is in the vicinity of the towns of Sunol, Pleasanton and Livermore, and includes five East Bay Regional Parks, significant SFPUC watershed lands, and exciting East Bay birding hotspots such as lower Mines Road, Sunol Wilderness, Sycamore Grove Park and Springtown Preserve. Birders and volunteers with any level of experience can participate in the Christmas Bird Count.

You will have a chance to sample the bird life in several interesting habitats that fit a variety of interests and abilities. You'll be contributing to the Audubon database and knowledge of the status and distribution of resident and visiting winter birds and have fun doing it.

If you have questions about the count please contact Jeff Miller at [Jeff@alamedacreek.org](mailto:Jeff@alamedacreek.org); (510) 499-9185. More information [here](#).

## Tesla Park Setback

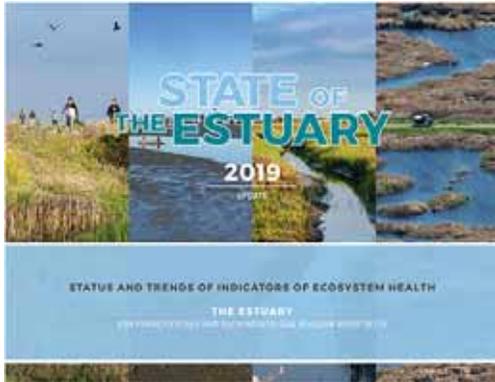


We are sorry to report that in October California Governor Newsom vetoed AB 1086 – legislation that would have protected 3,400 acres of important public land and wildlife habitat in the southeast corner of Alameda County along the Tesla-Corral Hollow Road. Tesla Park was originally purchased to expand the existing adjacent Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area off-highway vehicle park into the Tesla Park land. The legislation would have changed the park to a historic and natural resource preserve, with low-impact recreation without off-road vehicles.

Here is the Livermore Independent article from October 17, 2019: [Governor Vetoes Tesla Bill AB 1086, Upsetting Open Space Conservationists](#). Here is the [link](#) to the Governor's press release and veto message.

Learn more about the ongoing fight to preserve Tesla at Save Tesla Park, [www.teslapark.org](http://www.teslapark.org).

## State of the Estuary Report



The 2019 State of the SF Bay Estuary report is now available. How is the health of the San Francisco Estuary? What direction is it headed? How is it being impacted by climate change?

Every few years the San Francisco Estuary Partnership reports on the state of the San Francisco Estuary, and they have just released their 2019 report. The State of the Estuary Report is the most comprehensive health report for the San Francisco Bay-Delta. It uses the best available science and most recent data contributed by scientists to assess the status of various parts of the ecosystem. The purpose is to identify problems with estuarine health so that conservation and restoration efforts can focus on solutions.

The complexity and scale of this system means it can take years to detect and assess changes. The Report checks in on indicators of health and explores where the assessment should head over time. It updates indicators of ecological health that span the entire extent of the San Francisco Estuary (Bay and Delta): Freshwater Flows, Tidal Marsh, Fish, Beneficial Floods, and Urban Water Use. The Report also presents three new indicators about how to respond to rising sea levels and increased flooding. These new indicators help to assess our resilience to these new challenges and new extremes.

This year's report shows that parts of the Bay and Delta are in good health. Where we have been able to restore marshes the estuary is becoming healthier. Urban areas have made great strides in water conservation. However, we still see impacts from water that is removed from rivers and that no longer flows across floodplains. Declines in fish populations that have been observed in the Delta for many years now are beginning to appear up in the Bay as well.

[Read the full 2019 State of the Estuary Report or the Executive Summary here.](#)

## Regional Salmon Restoration News

[Salmon Return to Lagunitas Creek with Holiday Storms](#)

Marin Independent Journal - November 28, 2019

[California to Sue Over Trump Water Plan](#)

CounterPunch - November 25, 2019

**[California Gov. Gavin Newsom Downsizes Delta Water Project: One Tunnel, Not Two](#)**

Stock Daily Dish - November 25, 2019

**[Newsom Administration Sends Mixed Signals on Delta Endangered Species Protections](#)**

Los Angeles Times - November 22, 2019

**[Newsom Says California Will Sue Trump over Delta Water, Endangered Fish](#)**

Sacramento Bee - November 21, 2019

**[Trump's Bay-Delta Biops Are a Plan for Extinction](#)**

NRDC blog - November 11, 2019

**[Long-Awaited Butano Creek Restoration Project Finished](#)**

San Mateo Daily Journal - November 7, 2019

**[Saving Salmon: Will Overhauling Scott Dam Save Native Fish?](#)**

The Bohemian - November 6, 2019

**[Restoring A San Mateo County Creek to Help Fish Thrive](#)**

San Francisco Chronicle - November 5, 2019

**[Trump Administration Plan Allows Delta Water Managers to Kill Off Winter-Run Chinook Salmon](#)**

East Bay Express - November 5, 2019

**[Trump Team Weakens Endangered Species Protections for California Salmon and Delta Smelt](#)**

Los Angeles Times - October 22, 2019

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