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ANNUAL STEELHEAD FESTIVAL SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY

From Mercury News Staff and Wire Reports

The second annual Fremont Steelhead Festival and Watershed Awareness Fair is set for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Niles Community Park.

Last year several hundred people gathered at the park for the inaugural event, which publicizes efforts to restore a steelhead trout and salmon run to Alameda Creek and celebrates the progress already made to achieve that goal.

The free festival and fair will feature educational and informational displays, walking tours of the proposed restoration sites, activities for children, food and entertainment. Local fly-fishing groups will teach fly-casting and fly-tying.

A 10-kilometer Alameda Creek Spawning Run along the creek is scheduled for 9 a.m., with a 5-kilometer fun run-walk slated to start at 9:30 a.m. Race registration is \$20 in advance and \$25 on race day. For information on the run, call (510) 657-6179.

The sponsors include the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Alameda County Water District, Alameda Creek Alliance, city of Fremont, East Bay Regional Park District, Sierra Club Southern Alameda County Group and the Tri-City Ecology Center.

Since 1997, the Alameda Creek Alliance has been working to restore the steelhead spawning run in the creek. The fish have been blocked by a series of man-made barriers from reaching their traditional spawning grounds 25 miles upstream in the Sunol Regional Wilderness.