

# Up Your Creek!

The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

## Car-Free Niles Canyon at the Stroll and Roll



There was an incredible turnout at the first-ever Niles Canyon Stroll and Roll on October 11<sup>th</sup>, as 5,000 to 10,000 people came out for a day of car-free hiking and biking along Niles Canyon Road. The goal of the day was for people to more fully experience the beauty of the canyon, and to provide comments on a future multi-use trail through the canyon. [The proposed project](#) would create a paved, off-road, 10-ft wide path for pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians from Mission Blvd. in Fremont to Sunol, and would connect to other regional trails. Scores of comments were collected at the event.

The response to the Niles Canyon Stroll and Roll was overwhelmingly positive, with everyone having a wonderful time. The Alameda Creek Alliance had outreach tables at both ends of the canyon, and we'd like to thank Jim, Robert, Kimberly, Sue, Ted, and all of our great volunteers who came out to help distribute information about the [natural history of Niles Canyon](#) and to provide [updates on Catrans projects in the canyon](#). It was one of the best outreach events we've ever had, and we couldn't have done it without you!



Special thanks to Alameda County Supervisors Richard Valle and Scott Haggerty and their staff for championing and organizing this event on a short time scale, and to all of the partners that made the day possible. There is widespread interest among community members to have an event like happen again, even regularly. There are currently no plans for another Niles Canyon Stroll and Roll, but we hope to be part of any future community efforts to make it happen.

[\*\*Bikers, Walkers, Runners Take Over Niles Canyon Road\*\*](#)

Fremont Bulletin – October 15, 2015

[\*\*Niles Canyon Stroll and Roll\*\*](#)

Livermore Independent – October 14, 2015

[\*\*Niles Canyon Makes Way for Pedestrians and Bicyclists\*\*](#)

Tri-City Voice – October 6, 2015

## Stewardship Update - Alameda Creek at Niles



We had our first work party of the season at our adopted restoration site along Alameda Creek in Niles. Thanks to Josephine from Girl Scout Troop 68052 for organizing our volunteers and helping to make this day happen!

We've entered an exciting new chapter at our restoration site along Alameda Creek with the approaching El Nino and the possibility of a true rainy season. Our volunteers have been clearing invasive plants for the past three years (thanks to all that have helped!), and we finally have the opportunity to establish some native plants in some of the cleared areas. Replacing non-native plants with native riparian (riverside) plants provides benefits that include stabilizing soils and stream banks, providing cooling shade, filtering pollutants, and improving food and shelter for wildlife.

We were able to get 35 trees, shrubs, perennials, and grasses in the ground last Sunday, including five trees that we hope will be there for generations to come - two [coast live oaks](#), a [northern California black walnut](#), a [big-leaf maple](#), and a [box-elder](#). We also collected [California buckeye](#) seeds from the ground around a beautiful old tree at the site and planted them in clearings. We also planted [California sagebrush](#), [California bee plant](#), [yarrow](#), and [creeping wild rye](#) - all native plants that are known to grown nearby. Thanks to the [Watershed Nursery](#) for proving native plants grown from local seed sources, and for some generous donations!

We need and welcome your help. Contact Ralph at [ralph@alamedacreek.org](mailto:ralph@alamedacreek.org) if you'd like to help organize a group of people to come out for a morning to help steward our adopted site in Niles. There's still opportunity to get more plants in the ground before the winter rains, and in the spring

we'll need volunteers to help keep weeds from overrunning our plantings. Thanks for all your help!



## **Like the Alameda Creek Alliance on FaceBook!**

The Alameda Creek Alliance is finally on FaceBook! Please help us get the word out by 'liking' our page, and by inviting your friends to do the same. It's a great way to stay updated on events and items that might require more timely action than a monthly newsletter can provide. And it's a way to be part of an ongoing dialogue about Alameda Creek. Please stop by and say hi!

## **Christmas Bird Count December 18**

Join the Alameda Creek Alliance and Ohlone Audubon Society for the 7th annual Eastern Alameda Christmas Bird Count, to be held on Friday, December 18. The bird count is a volunteer-based bird survey effort to assess long-term trends in winter bird populations and promote bird conservation in the Alameda Creek watershed.

The Eastern Alameda County 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 East Bay birding hotspots such as lower Mines Road, Sunol Wilderness, Calaveras Reservoir and Sycamore Grove Park. Birders and volunteers with any level of experience can participate in the Christmas Bird Count. The post-count dinner will be held at [Callippe Preserve](#) in Pleasanton. A \$5-10 sliding scale donation gets you an amazing dinner. More information on the count [here](#).

To sign up or for more information, please contact Rich Cimino at [rscimino@gmail.com](mailto:rscimino@gmail.com) or (925) 353-0266.

## **Draft Steelhead Trout Recovery Plan**

The National Marine Fisheries Service has published a draft Recovery Plan for central and northern California coast salmon and steelhead trout populations listed under the Endangered Species Act, which includes coastal chinook salmon, Northern California steelhead and central California coast steelhead. The central coast steelhead population includes the Alameda Creek watershed. The recovery plan has the ambitious goal of restoring a spawning population of 2,800 steelhead to the Alameda Creek watershed. You can read the draft recovery plan [here](#). NMFS is taking comments on the draft plan until December 4.

## Alameda Creek in the News

A recent study by researchers at U.C. Berkeley and the EPA documents changes in native fish species in the Alameda Creek watershed due to urban development. The study, [Contemporary Land Change Alters Fish Communities in a San Francisco Bay Watershed](#), documented a decrease in native fish species in stream survey sites in the Livermore Valley, corresponding with rapid urban development from 1993-2009, compared to no changes in native fish richness in less-impacted sites in upper Alameda Creek, San Antonio Creek and Calaveras Creek.

## Regional Salmon Restoration News

### [Salmon Fishermen, Consumer Groups Criticize FDA Approval of Frankenfish](#)

Indy Media – November 20, 2015

### [Salmon Returning, But Drought Concerns Persist](#)

Stockton Record - November 20, 2015

### [Scott River Flow 'Crisis' Preventing Salmon Spawning](#)

Eureka Times-Standard - November 19, 2015

### [Carmel River Runs New Course after Dam Removal](#)

KSBW – November 18, 2015

### [A Vision to Bring Salmon over the Folsom Dam](#)

Auburn Journal – November 15, 2015

### [Salmon on a Record Run to Nowhere](#)

Calaveras Enterprise - November 12, 2015

### [Sacramento River Water Users Sued for Harm to Salmon](#)

Oroville MR News – November 11, 2015

### [Illegal Diversion of Water Threatens to End Chinook Salmon Survival in California](#)

Earth Justice press release – November 10, 2015

### [PG&E, Land Trust Agree To Preserve Yuba River Salmon Habitat](#)

Appeal-Democrat – November 6, 2015

### [Big Trouble Looms for California Salmon — and for Fishermen](#)

NPR - November 6, 2015

### [Drought Takes Toll on Butte Creek's Chinook Salmon](#)

Action News – November 5, 2015

### [Federal, State and Local Governments Work to Protect Salmon in the Sacramento River](#)

The California Aggie - November 4, 2015

### [Initiative That Threatens Delta Tunnels Qualifies for Nov. 2016 Ballot](#)

Indy Media – November 4, 2015

### [America's Nuttiest Billionaire Couple: Amid Drought, Stewart and Lynda Resnick Are Richer Than Ever](#)

Forbes - November 4, 2015

**[To Build or Not to Build, That's California's Dam Question](#)**

PBS - November 3, 2015

**[Report Reveals Dire Runs of Returning Salmon](#)**

North Coast Journal – October 31, 2015

**[The Guadalupe River Needs Rain](#)**

Bay Nature Magazine – October 30, 2015

**[Protected California Salmon Numbers Drop as Drought Warms Water](#)**

Reuters – October 29, 2015

**[Drought-Driven Salmon Deaths Could Have Far-Reaching Impact](#)**

San Francisco Chronicle – October 29, 2015

**[Fish Barrier Will Help Save Sacramento River Salmon](#)**

Capital Public Radio – October 22, 2015

**[Fish Screens Are Part of the Answer to Saving Sacramento River Salmon](#)**

Circle of Blue - October 20, 2015

**[South Yuba River Visit: Spawning Salmon Time](#)**

NBC Bay Area – October 20, 2015

**[VIDEO: 500 Salmon, 1 Hour](#)**

Lost Coast Outpost – October 20, 2015

**[Urban Runoff Killing Coho Salmon, But Simple Solution Within Reach](#)**

Science Daily – October 8, 2015

**[Rep. McNerney Blasts "WaterFix" Tunnels Plan That Would Devastate the Delta Region](#)**

Congressman McNerney press release – October 5, 2015

**[Delta Water Tunnels Spark Protests](#)**

Capital Public Radio – October 5, 2015

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