

Watershed Lookout



State Coastal Conservancy

Restoration Plantings along
the Arroyo Mocho

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

As 2020 is beginning, take a moment to scan the Alameda Creek watershed for signs of past projects shaping current improvements. In this issue you will find details about the March 26th **State of the Alameda Creek Watershed** event happening in Dublin, CA. Something is coming...it's a BioBlitz and you can lend your expertise to this unique watershed event! Read about the Governor's CivicSpark Fellows, working for the City of Livermore, making local impacts on the Alameda Creek watershed. Finally, remember to share with us what you and your groups are doing this summer in the watershed, to be a part of the collaborative information sharing effort. It's fast and easy to share!

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 14-16

Alameda County Spring Home & Garden Show

Head to the Alameda County Fairgrounds and visit the ACFC&WCD Clean Water Program booth to learn more about how you can create a watershed-friendly home and yard at the Fall Home and Garden Show.
<http://www.capitalshowcase.com/alameda.html>

February 15

The Love Your Creeks Clean-Up

Living Arroyos is partnering with the Adopt a Creek Spot to host this clean up event. They will be working at three different locations in the Springtown area. <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/living-arroyos-4824523909>

March 26

State of the Alameda Creek Watershed

Join us for presentations, updates and networking opportunities with colleagues and partner agencies all working within the Alameda Creek watershed. Event details:

<http://www.acwforum.org/calendar>

April 4 - May 3

Sunol Wildflower Season

The Sunol Wilderness Regional Preserve will expand the very popular Wildflower Weekend into a whole season this year! EBRPD will be hosting events every weekend between April 4 and May 3. Visit the Alameda County Clean Water booth from 10am to 4pm on April 4th and 26th.

April 16

Managing Habitat Ponds On Central Coast Rangelands

Save the Date for this workshop that will provide ranchers, agency managers, and others with updates about the management of stockponds, including issues of resilience to drought, assessing priorities and feasibility for ranchers, regulations, and permits.

April 17-18

Grasslands Butterfly Symposium

The two-day workshop will consist of one day of presentations with butterfly experts, land managers and regulators, plus a half-day field trip. Event details and to register visit: <https://www.sfbaywildlife.org/events/grassland-butterfly-symposium>

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HIGHLIGHTS

City of Livermore CivicSpark Program

By Megan Verner-Crist & Laura Emmons

CivicSpark is a Governor's Initiative AmeriCorps program dedicated to building capacity for local public agencies to address community resilience issues such as climate change, water resource management, housing, and mobility. Each year, CivicSpark recruits 90 Fellows to build local public agency capacity throughout the state for 11 months. During their service year, CivicSpark Fellows implement a needed sustainability and resilience project, while also building long-term capacity to ensure the work is sustained after their service year is completed. Interested public agencies and nonprofits can learn more at <https://civicspark.lgc.org/>.



Bay Area Civicspark Fellows

As current fellows placed with the City of Livermore, we have had the opportunity to learn about many aspects of local watershed management. Our core project involves helping the City to better implement the City's Stream Maintenance Program through improved documentation and coordination across the City, navigating a complicated array of stakeholders. With the flexibility and focus of a fellowship, we are able to devote significant time to this project, giving local stream stewardship the intense focus that longtime City staff, with myriad projects and responsibilities, often do not have the capacity to devote to one topic. For instance, we have produced an updated version of a stream ownership map within Livermore,

integrating stream ownership data with the City GIS so that the City can better use this tool to track their own projects and creek-related data. We have highlighted innovative and proactive stream maintenance practices for the City, visited other agencies to learn how their practices foster integrated creek management and provided recommendations to the City on incorporating these practices into the local setting. We are also researching Livermore creeks' vulnerabilities in response to climate change, in a coordinated effort with the City's Climate Action Plan update.

Coming from a background focused on local environmental advocacy, we are also working to engage local community members with the unique natural resources in their own backyard. Working with a diverse group of stakeholders, we are planning a Bioblitz!

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WHAT: Bioblitz—join us as we collect data and share information on the unique alkali sink habitat in North Livermore!

WHERE: Springtown Wetlands Preserve

WHEN: 9am-3pm Sunday, April 19th, 2020

WHO: Anyone who wants to contribute their local ecological knowledge, or wants to learn more about the area.

WHY: To document the species present in this amazing place and share information with the community about this area!

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Contact CivicSpark Fellow Megan Verner-Crist at mverner-crist@cityoflivermore.net if you have a specific area of expertise, want to be on the email list for the event, or have any questions!

HIGHLIGHTS *(continued from p. 2)*

City of Livermore CivicSpark Program

According to the National Geographic [website](#) a BioBlitz is an event that focuses on finding and identifying as many species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time. At a BioBlitz, scientists, families, students, teachers, and other community members get a snapshot of an area's biodiversity. These events can happen in most any geography—urban, rural, or suburban—in areas as small as a backyard or as large as a country.

We are planning the BioBlitz for the City of Livermore to take place in the Springtown Wetlands Preserve in North Livermore, to document the unusual and endangered species present in this rare alkali sink habitat. See page 2 for more information.

WATERSHED TOOLKIT

Is your organization interested in planning a BioBlitz?

There are planning guides, videos and no surprise...there is an app for that!

Visit the National Geographic website here to get started!

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/projects/bioblitz/>

UPCOMING EVENTS *(continued from p. 1)*

April 18

San Lorenzo Homeowners Association Earth Day Event

Visit us from 8am–5pm at the Unincorporated Area County Clean Water Program booth.

<https://slvha.com/>

April 19

BioBlitz!

Help survey species and learn about the unique alkali sink habitat in North Livermore on Sunday, April 19, from 9am–3pm. Please see page 2 for more information about this event.

April 25

Castro Valley Creek—CV Sanitary District Earth Day

The ACFC&WCD Clean Water Volunteers will co-lead this cleanup site. <http://www.cvsan.org/content/earth-day>.

April 25

Cull Canyon—CV Sanitary District Earth Day

The ACFC&WCD Clean Water Volunteers will co-lead this cleanup site. <http://www.cvsan.org/content/earth-day>.

May 20

Introduction to Carbon Farming on Rangelands

Save the Date for this workshop that will teach you about the practices ranchers can implement to enhance carbon sequestration on grasslands, how to develop a carbon farm plan, and eligibility for cost-share funding opportunities from state and federal programs. Sign up [here](#) to receive updates.



Spotlight

The State of the Alameda Creek Watershed event is planned for Thursday, March 26th from 9am–3pm at the Shannon Center in Dublin, CA. The event strives to be environmentally conscious, so attendees are encouraged to bring reusable coffee/tea mugs, water bottles, carpool and ride BART. Thanks to the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, there will be a shuttle provided to transport attendees to and from the Dublin BART station.

This event brings together all of the individuals, agencies and interested parties to find out what is happening in the Alameda Creek watershed now and what is planned in the near future. It gives all attending the opportunity to find ways to collaborate and continue to improve the habitat.

Speakers and topics are still being confirmed and will be posted on the acwForum.org website as they are rolled out. Thus far, there are three speakers on two topics confirmed. First is Dave Halsing, Executive Project Manager for the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. He will be giving an update on that project. The second and third speakers will co-present on the Dumbarton Quarry Campground project. They are Jim O'Connor, Assistant General Manager/Operations Administration for East Bay Regional Parks District and Robert "Bob" McCarrick, President of Dumbarton Quarry Associates.

acwForum

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- 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

~WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU~

Send us a **PHOTO** of you in the Alameda Creek watershed along with a **short write up** about **how** you interact with the watershed and **why** the health of the watershed is **important to you**.

We'll feature these stories and photos in the "Highlights" section of the next issue of the Watershed Lookout.

Send information and photos to:

allison.rodacker@acrcd.org

The event will also host "Minute News." This time is set aside for any individual or group to share an Alameda Creek specific 1-3 minute update on a project, upcoming event or opportunity with the group. Please sign up to share during registration.

Registration for this event is open! Please visit <http://www.acwforum.org/calendar> for up to date information and to register or become a Booth Exhibitor. Booth space is limited.

SEE YOU IN THE WATERSHED!

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.

acwForum stakeholders include signatory members—agencies and organizations with stewardship interests and purview in the Alameda Creek watershed that have signed the Letter of Understanding—and other interested local agencies, watershed organizations, landowners, land managers, and residents.

The purpose of the acwForum is to facilitate communication among watershed stakeholders and demonstrate their commitment to understanding, protecting, and restoring the Alameda Creek watershed.

www.acwForum.org

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