



The Adopt-A-Creek program provides an opportunity for citizen participation in creek cleaning projects throughout the Santa Clara Valley. This program is a great way for schools, community organizations and companies to demonstrate their concern about the environment.

Creeks are a highly valuable natural resource. They provide flood protection and storm water drainage, are vital to wildlife habitat and enhance our neighborhoods and quality of life.

Santa Clara County has more than 700 miles of creeks. While the Santa Clara Valley Water District works hard to maintain the health of these creeks, it cannot do it alone and depends on the community to lend a hand. The Adopt-A-Creek program provides individuals and organizations the opportunity to preserve the health and beauty of our local creeks.

Adopt-A-Creek



Since 1996, more than 10,000 volunteers, representing businesses, schools and neighborhood associations, have removed thousands of pounds of trash each year from our waterways. We recognize participating groups by placing a sign with the group's name at the adopted creek site.

The way the program works is simple: water district staff coordinates with interested groups to determine which section of creek they would like to adopt. After the Adopt-A-Creek application (see reverse) is filled out and processed, a permit is issued and creek cleanup begins. We provide garbage bags and gloves at no cost and arrange for a maintenance crew to pick up the collected debris.

For information about the Adopt-A-Creek program, contact the Adopt-A-Creek Coordinator at **(408) 265-2607, ext. 2739.** or email **kslama@valleywater.org**.



Adopt-A-Creek Application

For entrance permit on water district property for creek cleanup

Date _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail address _____

Sponsoring agency _____

My group, composed of _____ (# of scouts, students, etc.)

proposes to clean up _____ Creek/River

between _____ and _____
(name of road) (name of road)

Will you need a water district truck for hauling away refuse?

- A water district truck is required.
- A water district truck is not required.

The permit will be for the purposes of litter and trash cleanup along the creek described above, by the named group acting under supervision of the undersigned.

Signed by _____

The water district's participation in the program is contingent upon the district's entry rights to the adopted creek area, either through an access easement or ownership in fee title.

SAFETY FIRST!

Remember to protect yourself and others:

1. Stop work before dusk.
2. Do not touch or attempt to remove materials that you suspect may be toxic or hazardous. Items to avoid include powder chemicals, smelly substances, suspicious packages, chemical drums or containers, weapons, syringes or hypodermic needles, dead animals and broken glass. Notify the district or the police of the location of weapons or suspected toxic substances immediately.
3. Do not try to compact trash bags. Injuries from broken or jagged objects may occur.
4. Wear long pants and substantial leather shoes or boots with ankle support. Watch your footing on steep slopes, drainage facilities or places from which you might fall. Light colored clothing, long sleeve shirts and sunscreen lotion are recommended.
5. Do not run, throw objects or engage in horseplay.
6. Avoid overexertion. Drink plenty of water, especially on warm, humid days.
7. Do not consume alcoholic beverages or drugs before or while doing creek cleanup.
8. Be alert for places where snakes may be located. Also be alert for stinging insects and poisonous plants, like poison oak.

LEGAL PROVISIONS FOR PERMIT

1. Permittee shall notify the Santa Clara Valley Water District's Customer Relations Unit, **5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118 (408) 265-2607, ext. 2739**, ten working days prior to start of any work authorized by this permit.
2. Work shall be conducted during daylight.
3. No access will be allowed when the maintenance road is muddy.
4. Permittee shall be responsible to adjacent property owners for disturbances of any kind caused by operations hereunder.
5. Permittee's work shall be subordinate to operations which the water district may conduct, and shall not interfere with water district forces or water district's contractor.
6. If weather or other adverse circumstances cause a public hazard, work shall be immediately discontinued.
7. Permittee shall designate a spokesperson who shall represent the group. An adult supervisor should be present at the site during the work.
8. The permit applies only to areas in which the district has fee title. A map showing this will be provided with the permit.
9. Work or access is prohibited on or through privately owned property.
10. The permit will be valid for two (2) calendar years from date of issue and may be renewed upon receipt of an appropriate application.
11. It is understood and agreed by the permittee that the doing of any work under the permit shall constitute an acceptance of the provisions of the permit and all attachments.
12. The Permit or a copy thereof shall be kept at the site of the work and must be shown to any representative of the water district or any law enforcement officer on demand. Work shall be suspended if permit is not at job site as provided.
13. The permittee will hold a safety orientation prior to entering the water district's right-of-way. The orientation shall include a discussion and explanation of the safety requirements at left.
14. Santa Clara Valley Water District, or its officers, agents or employees, shall not be liable for any death, injury, or property damage claims which arise from any cause that might have been prevented by the permittee or those persons employed by or acting in behalf of the permittee. If any claim arises out of the foregoing, the permittee shall defend, indemnify and save harmless the Santa Clara Valley Water District, or its officers, agents or employees from same.
15. This permit may be canceled by the water district for non-conformance with permit provisions or failure to adhere to direction given by water district's representative.
16. Any damage caused to any water district facility by reason of exercise of the permit shall be repaired at the cost of the permittee to the satisfaction of the water district.

