

Adopt-A-Creek Application



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 Valley Water District manages more than 700 miles of streams. While we work hard to maintain the health of these creeks, we cannot do it alone and we depend on the community to lend a hand. The Adopt-A-Creek program provides individuals and organizations the opportunity to preserve the health and

Adopt-A-Creek



beauty of our local creeks. Since 1992, 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 or outdoor classroom.

The way the program works is simple: our water district coordinator works 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.

Join today!

Call Adopt-A-Creek at (408) 630-2239.

Visit us at www.valleywater.org or e-mail volunteer@valleywater.org



Adopt-A-Creek Permit Application

For entrance on Santa Clara Valley Water District property for creek cleanup or event

Contact Name

Date

Address

Phone

Fax

E-mail address

Sponsoring Agency

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

Name of location/creek/river:

Creek/river/segment between:

and

(name of road)

(name of road)

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

A district truck is required.

A 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 Santa Clara Valley 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 REQUIREMENTS FOR WORK IN AND AROUND CREEKS

DO'S

- DO obtain and comply with all permit conditions when working in and around the creeks.
- DO use caution around creek banks—they can be muddy and slippery.
- DO stay clear of homeless encampments!
- DO wear gloves at all times.
- DO leave creek beds and banks intact and use hands (with gloves) to remove trash only.
- DO be alert for stinging insects and snakes.
- DO stay in your group or work with a buddy.
- DO be cautious of poisonous plants like poison oak!
- DO lift with your legs, not with your back.
- DO handle sharp objects (glass) with care—children should NOT pick up broken glass.
- DO stop work before dusk.
- DO wear long pants and substantial leather shoes or boots with ankle support.

DON'TS

- DO NOT dig or disturb creek beds and banks with tools or equipment.
- DO NOT remove soil, gravel, woody debris or vegetation or items that are a part of the creek bed and bank.
- DO NOT go in the water!
- DO NOT pick up heavy and/or awkward objects such as tires or large pieces of scrap metal—let us pick those items up for you.
- DO NOT pick up any objects which you suspect may be toxic or hazardous such as hypodermic needles, syringes, chemical drums, bloody clothing, chemicals, suspicious packages, and weapons. Notify the water district at **1-888-510-5151** of the location of toxic substances immediately.
- DO NOT pick up dead animals.
- DO NOT run, throw objects or engage in horseplay.
- DO NOT overexert yourselves! Take breaks; drink plenty of water especially on warm, humid days.
- DO NOT stomp on bags. Injuries may occur from broken glass or sharp objects.

valleywater.org/programs/sitecleanupsafetytips.aspx

SAFETY FIRST!

Remember to protect yourself and others.

- Stop work before dusk.
- 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.
- Do not try to compact trash bags. Injuries from broken or jagged objects may occur.
- 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.
- Do not run, throw objects or engage in horseplay.
- Avoid overexertion. Drink plenty of water, especially on warm, humid days.
- Do not consume alcoholic beverages or drugs before or while doing creek cleanup or while on site.
- Be alert for places where snakes may be located. Also be alert for stinging insects and poisonous plants, like poison oak.

THESE PROVISIONS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE PERMIT

- Permittee shall notify the Santa Clara Valley Water District's Communications and Community Relations Unit, **5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118 (408) 630-2239, E-mail: volunteer@valleywater.org**, ten working days prior to start of any work or event.
- Permittee's work shall be subordinate to water district operations and shall not interfere with water district personnel or water district's contractor.
- If weather or other adverse circumstances cause a public hazard, work shall be immediately discontinued.
- No access will be allowed when the maintenance road is muddy.
- Permittee shall be responsible to adjacent property owners for disturbances of any kind caused by operations hereunder.
- Work shall be conducted during daylight.
- Permittee shall designate a spokesperson who shall represent the group. An adult supervisor should be present at the site during all activity.
- 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.
- The permit applies only to areas in which the district has fee title. A map showing this will be provided with the permit.
- Work or access is prohibited on or through privately owned property.
- The permit will be valid for two (2) calendar years and may be renewed upon receipt of an appropriate application.
- The Permit or a copy thereof shall be kept at the site of the work or event 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.**
- 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.
- This permit may be cancelled by the water district for non-conformance with permit provisions or failure to adhere to direction given by water District's representative.
- 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.