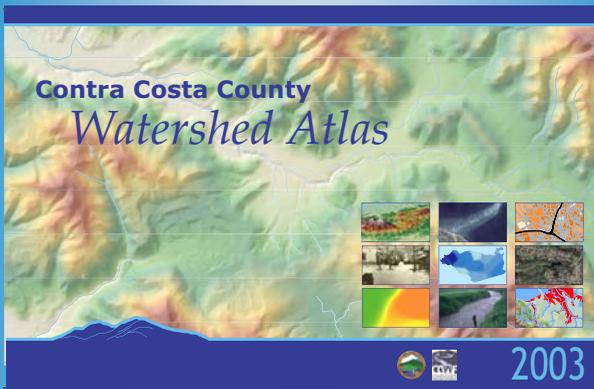


Watershed Atlas

Designed as a tool for people with all levels of expertise in watershed management and planning, the *Contra Costa County Watershed Atlas* is an important document for people concerned about watersheds in the county. The 150-page, full-color book includes maps, photographs, statistics, and text.



The Atlas has received awards from the California Chapter of the American Planning Association, Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), and the National Association of Environmental Professionals.

The Atlas is available in print and electronically on a CD. Visit the website or contact staff for ordering information.



Samples of data presented in the Atlas, from left to right: aerial photographs, impervious surface, and modeled hillshade

Programs and Projects

Programs and projects educate the community, monitor creeks, and care for watersheds.

CCWF Projects include:

- GPS data collection and creek mapping
- Macroinvertebrate monitoring
- Creek signage program
- Watershed Atlas
- Mitigation coordination
- Quadrennial Creek and Watershed Conference

CCWF members donate personal and professional time to contribute to and participate in activities.

Have you seen a Creek & Watershed Sign in your neighborhood?



Over 800 Creek and Watershed Signs like the one pictured to the left have been placed along roads and trails by creeks throughout Contra Costa County.

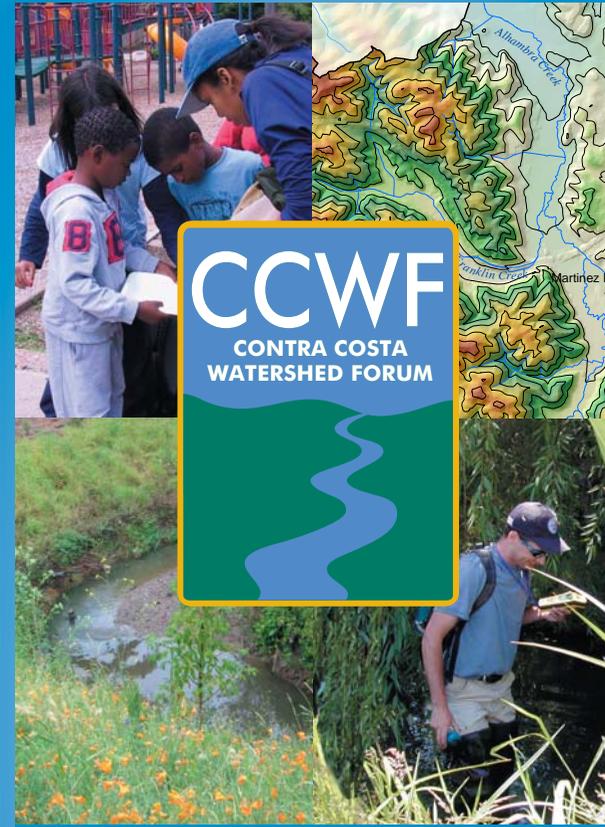
Contact Us!

Contra Costa Watershed Forum
c/o CCC Community Development Department
651 Pine Street, 4th Floor, North Wing
Martinez, CA 94553



www.cocowaterweb.org

Contact Staff:
staff@cocowaterweb.org
(925) 335-1230



Communities Protecting Watersheds



Introducing the Watershed Forum

The Contra Costa Watershed Forum (CCWF) is an outgrowth of the first countywide Creek and Watershed Symposium in 1999. Over 300 people attended that first meeting and discussed the need for a countywide body to share information, coordinate activities, and work together on watershed issues.

The Forum is an open committee of some fifty organizations, including:

- federal and state agencies
- local governments and agencies
- special districts
- watershed organizations
- local non-profit organizations
- environmental education groups
- community volunteer groups
- private citizens

Get Involved

Members of CCWF include many local creek and watershed volunteer groups. Most of these groups meet monthly, organize creek restoration activities, and host educational ventures. If you would like to find a group in your area, contact CCWF staff or visit us on the web! www.cocowaterweb.org

Mapping and Monitoring

Volunteers are active in collecting baseline data on creeks and watersheds. The GPS Habitat and Bioassessment Surveys produce scientifically defensible data that is useful to a variety of groups - from resource managers to community organizations.



A volunteer with Friends of Five Creeks collects a GPS data point along Cerrito Creek

GPS Creek Surveys collect habitat data on creeks utilizing Global Positioning System (GPS) technology. During the summer and fall volunteers are trained to monitor watersheds by mapping the exact locations of the riparian conditions, vegetation characteristics, and constructed features.



Volunteers collect macroinvertebrates in Alhambra Creek. Stonefly larvae collected from Alhambra Creek help track changes in water quality.

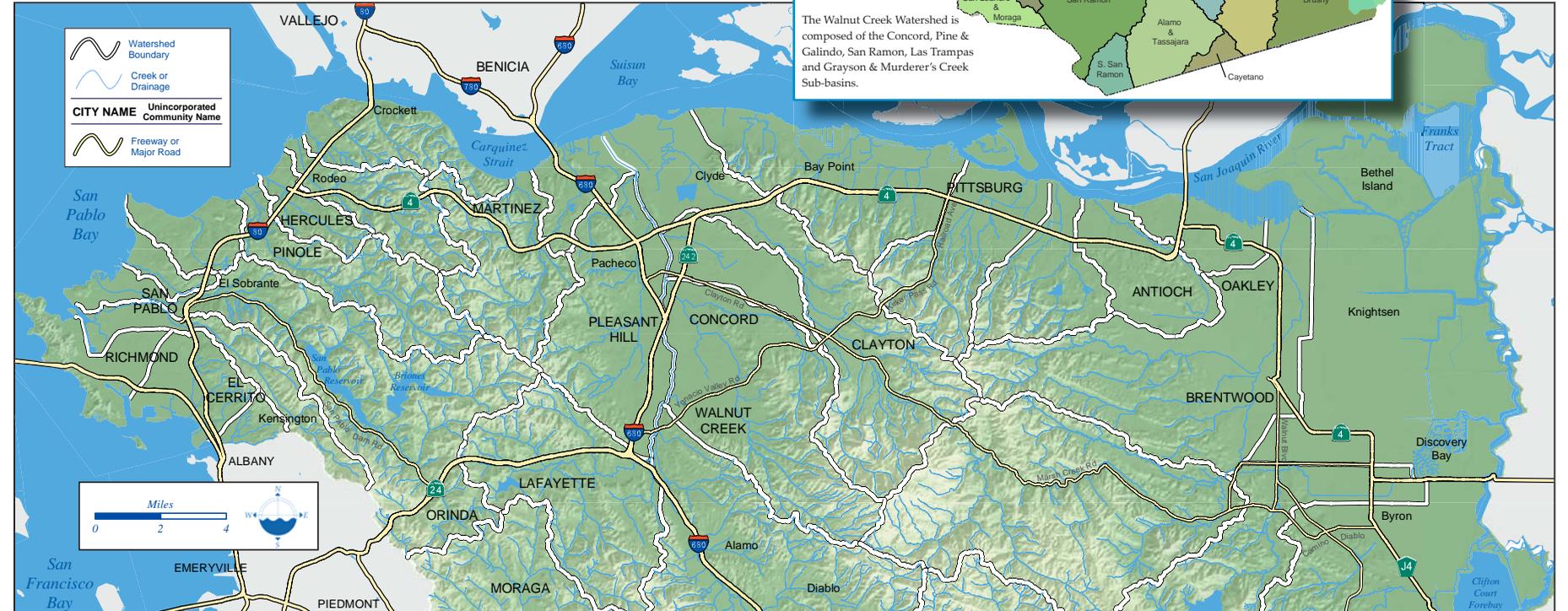


CA Dept of Fish & Game

Bioassessment Surveys using benthic macroinvertebrates (bugs) to screen for water quality problems are conducted in the spring. Community members, local college students, and volunteer groups can help collect specimens. The density and diversity of bugs in our creeks can be good indicators of overall watershed health.

Watersheds of Contra Costa County

Contra Costa County has 32 major watersheds and sub-watersheds. All but eight of these are entirely within the county. While Walnut Creek Watershed is very large (93,336 acres) and spans many cities, many of the other watersheds are conveniently "community-sized". For instance Alhambra and Pinole Creeks are closely identified with (and are important features of) the Cities of Martinez and Pinole respectively.



Which watershed do you live in?

The Walnut Creek Watershed is composed of the Concord, Pine & Galindo, San Ramon, Las Trampas and Grayson & Murderer's Creek Sub-basins.

What is a watershed?

A watershed is all the land in a region from which rain collects and drains into a common creek, river, lake or bay. Watersheds are bounded by the ridges of hills and mountains that direct the drainage.

Watershed Statistics

Total Land Area of County	465,473 acres
Length of Longest Creek in County	34.57 miles
Total Length of All Creeks & Drainages in Contra Costa County	1349.63 miles
Average Annual Rainfall	18 inches
Estimated Total Mean Daily Flow for All Creeks in Contra Costa County	334.2 cfs
Estimated 100-Year Flood Flow for Walnut Creek	25,600 cfs
Highest Elevation in County (Mt. Diablo)	3849 feet
Recognized Pollutants of Concern	Diazinon, Mercury & Metals