

Valley Water

Valley Water manages water resources and is a steward for Santa Clara County's five watersheds, 10 reservoirs, hundreds of miles of streams and groundwater basins. Valley Water also provides flood protection throughout the county.

Visit the website at valleywater.org.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The USACE is a federal public engineering, design and construction management agency for civil works projects. Although generally associated with dams, canals and flood protection in the United States, the USACE is involved in a wide range of public works around the world.

Visit the website at spn.usace.army.mil.



A full list of projects in the **Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program** can be found at valleywater.org/safecleanwater. For more information, contact Tony Mercado at (408) 630-2342 or by email at TMercado@valleywater.org.

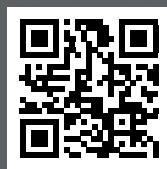
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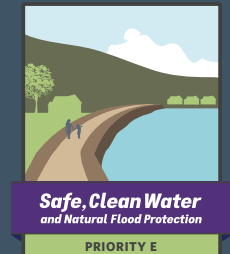


valleywater



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Upper Guadalupe River Flood Protection Project

PRIORITY E Provide flood protection to homes, businesses, schools, streets, and highways
PROJECT E8



US Army Corps of Engineers.

YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK



Safe, Clean Water
and Natural Flood Protection

Project information

The Upper Guadalupe River Flood Protection Project is a federally authorized project being undertaken by Valley Water and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The project is focused on reducing flood risks to the area in addition to completing a gravel augmentation project spanning approximately 800 linear feet. The project will increase flood protection, create recreational opportunities and enhance the environment along 5.5 miles of the river in San José, from Interstate 280 to Blossom Hill Road.

A history of flooding

The downtown area of San José was originally laid out in 1847 along what is now known as the Guadalupe River. Early residents relied on the river for irrigation water, fishing and as a transportation corridor. The Guadalupe River was also the source of damaging floods. Modern urban landscape are at higher risk to damage by floods, especially during intense winter storms, when the river swells beyond its banks and spills into streets and private properties.

Thousands of San José households, schools and businesses can potentially experience flooding from the Upper Guadalupe River, as recorded in 1982, 1983, 1986, 1995 and 1998.

Funding

The Upper Guadalupe River Flood Protection Project will receive \$42.6 million from the renewed Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program that voters approved in 2020. Additionally, over \$112 million have been expended under the preceding voter-approved measures since 2000. These dollars funded the planning, design and construction of some reaches; and includes \$39 million to acquire properties for the project.

Topics Inside:

- Protecting people and property
- Re-evaluating the Upper Guadalupe River Project
- Completed Reaches

For more project information, please visit delivr.com/2zhgu or scan the following:



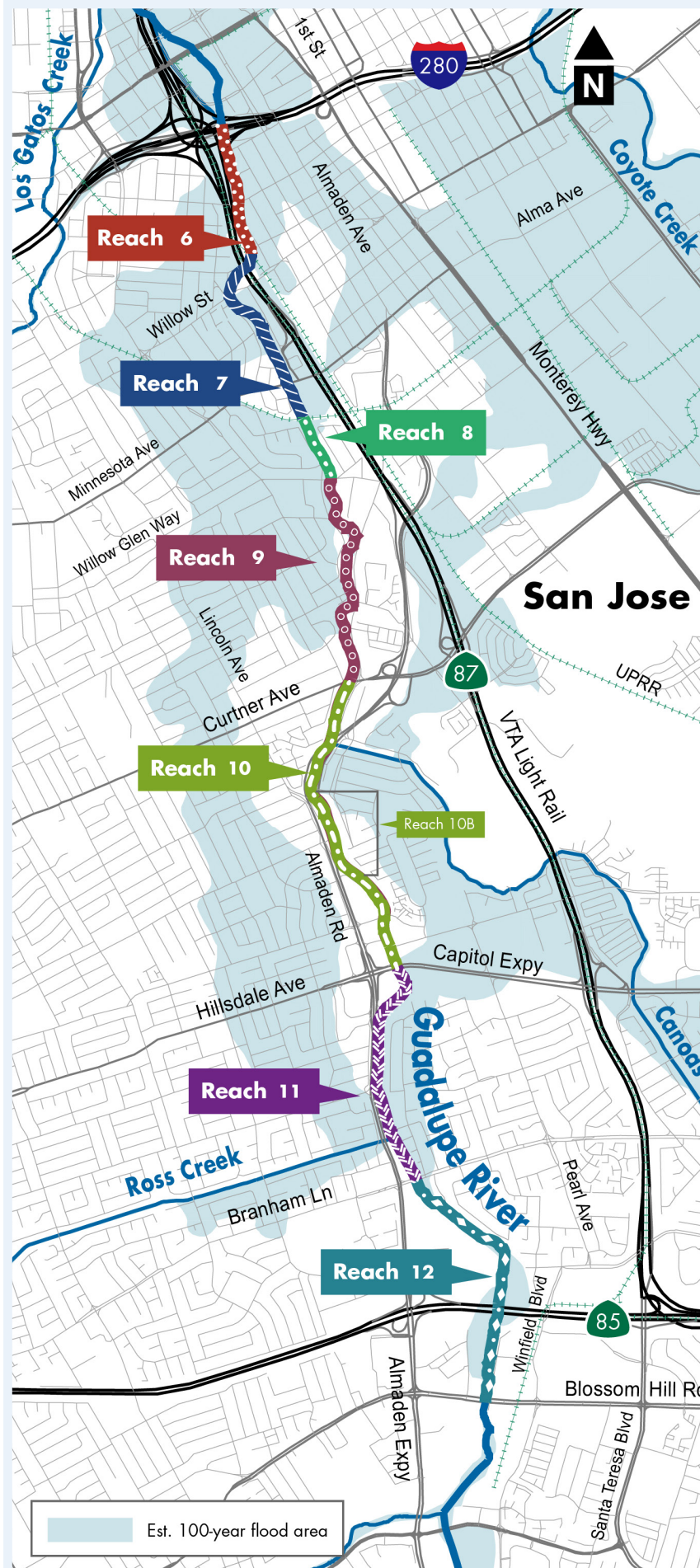
Valley Water's Partner:



US Army Corps of Engineers®



The Upper Guadalupe River Flood Protection Project will increase flood protection, create opportunities for recreation and enhance the environment.



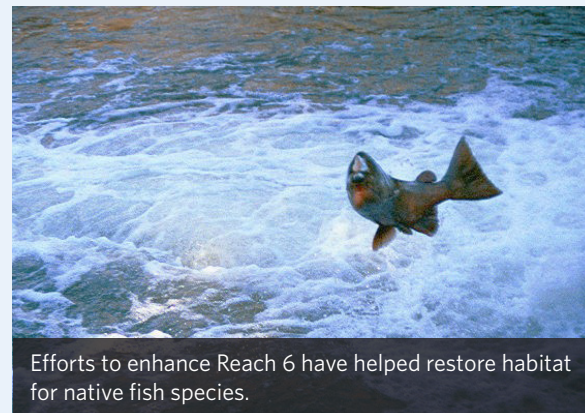
Protecting people and property

The Upper Guadalupe River Flood Protection Project is divided into seven sections known as reaches. Improvements include channel widening, floodwall and levee construction, road crossings replacement, gravel augmentation, and streamside vegetation planting.

Completed Reaches

As of January 2022, USACE and Valley Water completed three reaches—Reach 6, Reach 10B, Reach 12 and a significant element of Reach 9. Construction of these reaches improved riparian habitat and fish passage, restored the stream to a more natural environment and moved forward flood protection elements of the project.

Reach 6



Efforts to enhance Reach 6 have helped restore habitat for native fish species.

In 2012, Valley Water completed the project's first reach between Interstate 280 and the Union Pacific Railroad. The work resulted in a widened floodplain channel, an extended West Virginia Street bridge and an improved habitat ecosystem where riparian vegetation replaced non-native plants. Planting areas on Edwards and Harliss avenues and Palm Street provided passive recreational public spaces that enhanced the neighborhood. In 2021, Valley Water further improved local Chinook salmon and steelhead habitat by

Reduced flood frequency and bank erosion will improve water quality, while planned mitigation measures will give the fish access to an additional 12 miles of habitat within and upstream of the project.

Re-evaluating the Upper Guadalupe River Project

Since 2015, lack of federal funding has stalled the design and construction of some of the

adding more than 300 cubic yards of gravel to the Upper Guadalupe River. The work re-established spawning areas for these fish. Valley Water will return to the area in 2026 and place gravel at five pools downstream of the West Virginia Street bridge.

Willow Glen Way Bridge of Reach 9



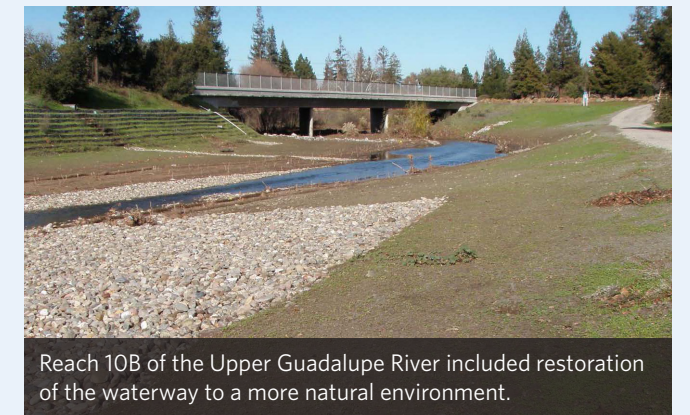
The replacement of Willow Glen Way Bridge along Reach 9 provided flood protection, in addition to enhancing traffic and pedestrian safety.

In 2007, Valley Water, in collaboration with the City of San José, replaced the Willow Glen Way Bridge along Reach 9 with a longer-span bridge. The new bridge, east of Bird Avenue, was built to accommodate future channel widening to convey greater flows and provide flood protection while improving traffic and pedestrian safety.

Reach 10B

Valley Water and USACE completed Reach 10B, which runs between Wren Drive and McBride Loop, in 2012. The project restored the waterway to a more natural environment by providing a meandering channel, pools, in-stream features such as stream logs, to allow gravel and sediment deposition and improve stream habitat.

project sections, which are largely flood protection elements of the project. USACE is in the middle of re-evaluating the Upper Guadalupe River Flood Protection Project to make it more cost-efficient while enhancing the design to incorporate more natural elements. This study began in 2021. USACE expects to complete its report by the end of 2023 and develop a new project schedule.



Reach 10B of the Upper Guadalupe River included restoration of the waterway to a more natural environment.

Reach 12

In 2016, Valley Water and USACE completed work on more than a mile stretch of the river channel critical to the larger project. Set between Branham Lane and Blossom Hill Road, the area had available land to improve habitat along the river to offset the loss of habitat areas further downstream, where river widening for the overall flood protection project had to occur. The project improved habitat for native fish like steelhead trout and Chinook salmon by planting native vegetation and trees along the river and stabilizing the low flow channel. With the addition of access roads and ramps, maintenance crews now have easier access to the river channel.



Reach 12 improvements restored habitat for native fish species such as the local Chinook salmon.