As part of our Stream Maintenance Program (SMP), Valley Water operates over 800 miles of creeks, and Valley Water owns and manages about 294 miles of those streams. Portions of these streams are inspected and prioritized for maintenance projects each year through the SMP.

For decades, our crews have been trekking into streams to remove sediment buildup, manage vegetation, clear trash and debris, and stabilize banks eroded during high water flows. This work is particularly critical given the wet winter our county experienced. Work to reduce fire danger continues to be necessary, especially given the county’s cyclical dry conditions, winter rains that promote vegetative growth, and the ongoing challenges of climate change. The SMP ensures streams with completed flood protection projects continue to function and protect homes, businesses, schools, and highways.

The projects listed in this brochure are part of this season’s proposed work. Pending state and federal regulatory approvals, the projects listed in this brochure are part of this season’s proposed work. Work to reduce fire danger continues to be necessary, especially given the county’s cyclical dry conditions, winter rains that promote vegetative growth, and the ongoing challenges of climate change. Valley Water is undertaking projects that are critical to reducing the risk of flooding and fire, protecting our creeks and neighboring homes, businesses, schools, and highways.

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High and sustained water flows can cause extensive damage to creek banks, eroding existing flood protection improvements and natural elements. Repairing creek banks also helps protect neighboring homes and property from damage.

Sediment and debris washed downstream can restrict water flow in some areas. During a heavy storm, these restricted flow areas could cause water to back up, increasing the risk of flooding. Crews remove sediment to allow stormwater to flow through the creeks as designed. To the extent possible, Valley Water reuses sediment for environmental purposes and to reduce disposal costs.

Vegetation management

Valley Water crews manage over 3,000 acres of in-stream and upland vegetation annually. Selective removal of in-stream vegetation maintains flow conveyance in streams and riparian corridors. Managing upland vegetation restores maintenance access and maintains fire code compliance, given the county’s cyclical dry conditions and the ongoing challenges of climate change. Valley Water’s vegetation management work is crucial in helping to reduce fire risk.

Invasive plant management: Plant species such as Algerian Ivy, Himalayan blackberry, Cape ivy, and giant reed are removed because they present a significant threat to the ecosystem. These plants spread aggressively and can negatively affect wildlife patterns, soil stability, and water quality. Invasive plants can increase the risk of flooding and fire danger, undermine structural assets, and obstruct access to roads, levees, and trails.

Instream habitat improvement: Work is done to address the impacts of removing sediment and large woody debris from certain streams. This can include adding rocks and logs or root wads to the creek to create higher quality habitat for fish and other species.

Compensatory mitigation: This is the restoration, establishment, enhancement, or preservation of natural resources to replace resources impacted by maintenance activities. In addition to the above work types, compensatory mitigation may include the restoration of existing floodplains and bank rehabilitation by remediating unauthorized excavations, concrete removal, and sediment removal to promote wetland habitat.
bank protection
sediment removal
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sediment removal
mitigation
bank protection
bank protection
bank protection
bank protection
bank protection
bank protection
bank protection
bank protection
bank protection
bank protection
Type of Work
2023 SMP
bank protection
bank protection
Type of Work
sediment removal
sediment removal
sediment removal
bank protection
sediment removal
*Note: The information on this page has been provided by Valley Water staff for the SMP work
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Lakes, reservoirs, rivers, creeks and bays
Bank repair
Sediment removal
Vegetation management
Mitigation

2023 Stream Maintenance Program (SMP) Map

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>City(s)</th>
<th>Name of Project**</th>
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<th>City(s)</th>
<th>Name of Project**</th>
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<td>Sunnyvale</td>
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<td>San Jose</td>
<td>Guadalupe River at Blossom Hill Rd.</td>
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<td>Sunnyvale, Santa Clara</td>
<td>Calaveras Creek downstream of U.S. Hwy 101</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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*For Santa Clara County creeks that flow toward Monterey Bay (i.e., creeks in the Pajaro Watershed, including Uvas Creek and Llagas Creeks and their tributaries), in general, the terms “upstream of” and “downstream of” can be further understood as “north of” and “south of”, respectively. For Santa Clara County creeks that flow toward San Francisco Bay (i.e., creeks not in the Pajaro Watershed), in general, the terms, “upstream of” and “downstream of” can be further understood as “south of” and “north of”, respectively.

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