



A worker uses a combination of manual and chemical methods to safely control invasive plants like the water primrose (*Ludwigia hexapetala*) in Los Gatos Creek.



Los Gatos Creek after the SMP work is complete. Now stormwater can safely move through the creek, reducing the risk of flooding to the area.



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Stream Maintenance Program



As part of our Stream Maintenance Program (SMP), Valley Water (Santa Clara Valley Water District) plans to perform work along creeks across Santa Clara County in 2023. Under the SMP, work occurs annually to reduce the risk of flooding and fire, keep our creeks healthy, and improve the environment. The county has 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 build-up, 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, work on these projects can only be conducted within a limited work window between June 15, 2023 and October 15, 2023. In some instances, Valley Water may request and receive work extensions beyond October 15 to complete projects. Other work,

including minor maintenance and vegetation management projects, can occur year-round.

WHAT TO EXPECT AND SAFETY

Work on the SMP projects typically occurs Monday through Friday, but Saturday work may be necessary to complete specific tasks. Work hours are set by local city ordinances, with work generally occurring between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Our crews strive to be courteous and follow safe practices with all neighbors. Any work before 8 a.m. will be limited to preparation activities with minimal noise impact.

Access to recreation is vital to many of us. Some trails will have temporary detours for public and workers' safety. Please comply with all construction signage and fencing to avoid entering active work areas. Trespassers place themselves and workers in danger as onsite crews operating large equipment are focused on work activities and may be unable to see or hear trespassers.

The SMP work is funded in part by the Safe, Clean Water Program. As part of this program, Priority D provides funding for Valley Water to conduct mitigation site maintenance on native plant revegetation projects in creeks where we have responsibility. Priority F provides funding for Valley Water to conduct vegetation management and sediment removal work to maintain creeks' design flows in areas where we have

We are working in your neighborhood creeks!



responsibility. The funding for this work is critical as it helps enhance and establish habitats for wildlife and reduce flood risks to our communities. Thank you for your investment.

Details on the renewed Safe, Clean Water Program can be found at bit.ly/SafeCleanWater-ProjectUpdates. For more information on the Stream Maintenance Program, please visit our website at <https://delivr.com/2gpuq> or call Valley Water at **408-265-2600**. Keep debris and trash out of our streams. If you see trash polluting a creek, pond, or reservoir, please call **1 888-510-5151**.

TYPES OF STREAM MAINTENANCE

Bank protection

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

Sediment removal

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 instream and upland vegetation annually. Selective removal of instream 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.

Mitigation

Valley Water implements mitigation projects to offset impacts associated with some of the bank protection, sediment removal, and vegetation management work. Mitigation projects can include:

- **Riparian planting:** Enhances and establishes habitat for birds, amphibians, fish, and other terrestrial and aquatic species living in creek corridors to compensate for the unavoidable riparian impacts created by sediment removal, bank protection, and vegetation management activities. Invasive and non-native annuals and grasses that compete with native plants are removed. Vegetation that meets the habitat needs of the project site with the highest likelihood of surviving and thriving is planted. Valley Water monitors and maintains riparian planting areas for five to seven years to ensure projects are successful.
- **Invasive plant management:** Plant species such as Algerian Ivy, Cape Ivy, Himalayan Blackberry, Tree of Heaven, and Giant Reed are removed because they present a significant threat to the



Before: Sediment build-up on San Tomas Aquino Creek downstream of U.S. Highway 101.



After: The completed sediment removal from San Tomas Aquino Creek now allows stormwater to flow.

YOUR INVESTMENT AT WORK

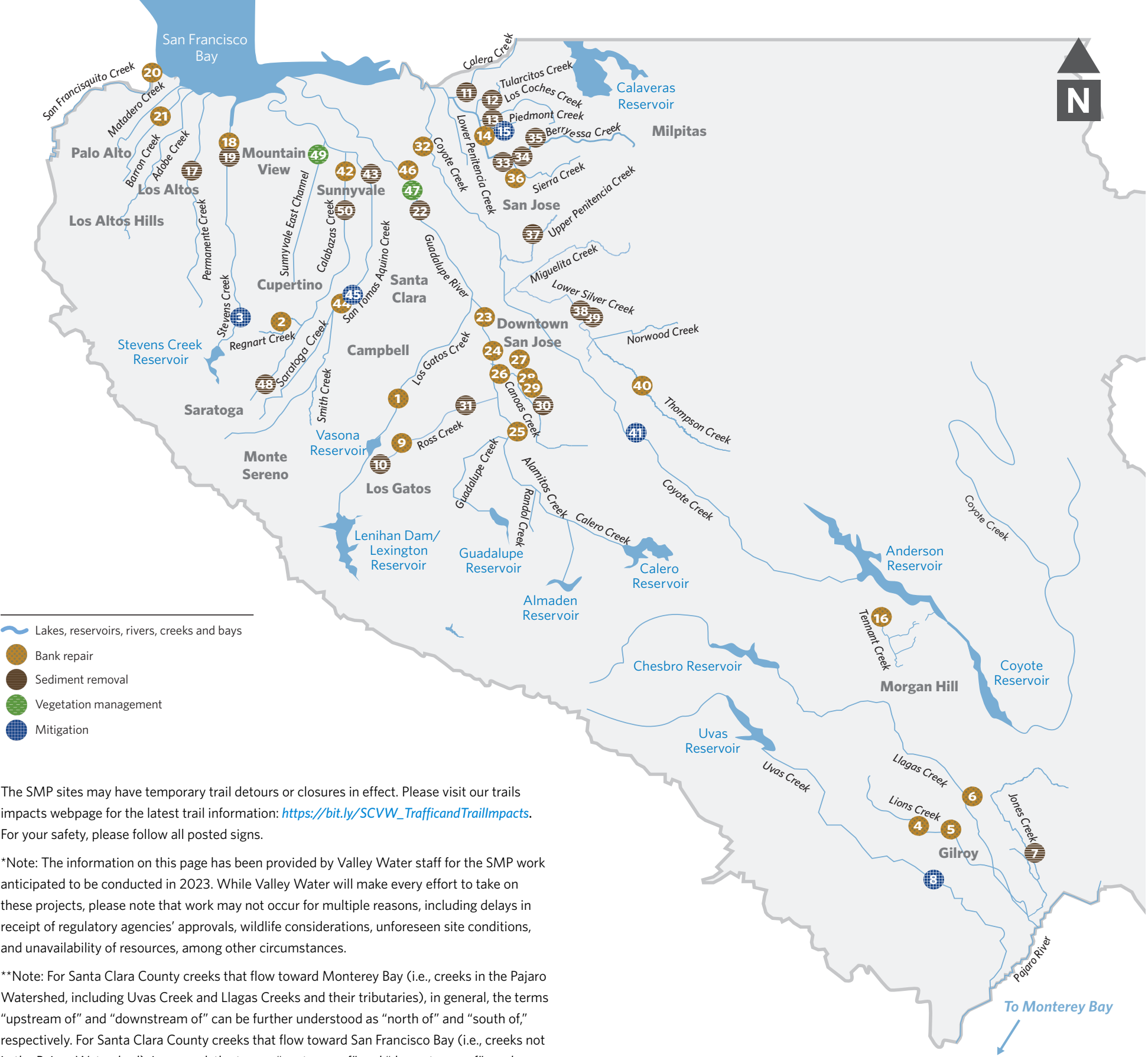
In November 2020, voters in Santa Clara County overwhelmingly approved Measure S, a renewal of Valley Water's Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program, first approved in 2012. The renewed program identifies the following six key community priorities, established with input from tens of thousands of residents and stakeholders:

- A** Ensure a Safe, Reliable Water Supply.
- B** Reduce Toxins, Hazards and Contaminants in our Waterways.
- C** Protect our Water Supply and Dams from Earthquakes and Other Natural Disasters.
- D** Restore Wildlife Habitat and Provide Open Space.
- E** Provide Flood Protection to Homes, Businesses, Schools, Streets and Highways
- F** Support Public Health and Public Safety for Our Community.

ecosystem. These plants spread aggressively and can negatively alter 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.

2023 Stream Maintenance Program (SMP) Map



The SMP sites may have temporary trail detours or closures in effect. Please visit our trails impacts webpage for the latest trail information: https://bit.ly/SCVW_TrafficandTrailImpacts. For your safety, please follow all posted signs.

*Note: The information on this page has been provided by Valley Water staff for the SMP work anticipated to be conducted in 2023. While Valley Water will make every effort to take on these projects, please note that work may not occur for multiple reasons, including delays in receipt of regulatory agencies' approvals, wildlife considerations, unforeseen site conditions, and unavailability of resources, among other circumstances.

**Note: 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.

This map is not to scale and offers a graphic representation for reference purposes only.

2023 SMP projects*

No.	City(s)	Name of Project**	No.	City(s)	Name of Project**
1	Campbell	Los Gatos Creek upstream of San Tomas Expwy.	26	San Jose	Canoas Creek downstream of Nightingale Dr.
2	Cupertino	Regnart Creek upstream of Antoinette Dr.	27	San Jose	Canoas Creek upstream of Hillsdale Ave. (Site 1)
3	Cupertino	Stevens Creek downstream of McClellan Rd.	28	San Jose	Canoas Creek upstream of Hillsdale Ave. (Site 2)
4	Gilroy	Lions Creek downstream of Santa Teresa Blvd.	29	San Jose	Canoas Creek downstream of Albion Dr.
5	Gilroy	West Branch Llagas Creek downstream of Murray Ave.	30	San Jose	Canoas Creek (multiple locations)
6	Gilroy	Llagas Creek downstream of Buena Vista Ave.	31	San Jose	Ross Creek at Cherry Ave., Jarvis Ave., Meridian Ave.
7	Gilroy	Jones Creek downstream of Hwy. 152	32	San Jose	Coyote Creek downstream of Tasman Dr.
8	Gilroy	Uvas-Carnadero Creek downstream of Luchessa Ave.	33	San Jose	Berryessa Creek, Cropley Ave. to Morrill Ave.
9	Los Gatos	Ross Creek downstream of Camino del Cerro	34	San Jose	Berryessa Creek downstream of Messina Dr.
10	Los Gatos	Ross Creek downstream of Topping Wy.	35	San Jose	Berryessa Creek downstream of Piedmont Rd.
11	Milpitas	Calera Creek upstream of Escuela Pkwy.	36	San Jose	Sierra Creek upstream of Knights Bridge Rd.
12	Milpitas	Tularcitos Creek downstream of I-680	37	San Jose	Upper Penitencia Creek downstream of Jackson Ave.
13	Milpitas	Los Coches Creek downstream of Dempsey Rd.	38	San Jose	Lower Silver Creek upstream of Tully Rd.
14	Milpitas	Piedmont Creek upstream of Vista Wy.	39	San Jose	Thompson Creek downstream of Quimby Rd.
15	Milpitas	Piedmont Creek upstream of Vista Wy.	40	San Jose	Thompson Creek downstream of Aborn Rd.
16	Morgan Hill	Tennant Creek upstream of Hill Rd.	41	San Jose	Coyote Creek downstream of Silicon Valley Blvd.
17	Mountain View	Permanente Creek upstream of U.S. Hwy. 101	42	Santa Clara	Calabazas Creek downstream of Hwy. 237
18	Mountain View	Stevens Creek downstream of La Avenida	43	Santa Clara	San Tomas Aquino Creek downstream of Agnew Rd.
19	Mountain View	Stevens Creek downstream of La Avenida	44	Santa Clara	Saratoga Creek upstream of Pruneridge Ave.
20	Palo Alto	San Francisquito Creek downstream of University Ave.	45	Santa Clara	Saratoga Creek upstream of Pruneridge Ave.
21	Palo Alto	Barron Creek upstream of Adobe Creek confluence	46	Santa Clara	Guadalupe River downstream of Montague Expwy.
22	San Jose	Guadalupe River at Trimble Rd.	47	Santa Clara	Guadalupe River downstream of Montague Expwy.
23	San Jose	Guadalupe River upstream of San Carlos St.	48	Saratoga	Calabazas Creek downstream of Comer Dr.
24	San Jose	Guadalupe River upstream of Malone Rd.	49	Sunnyvale	Sunnyvale East Channel, from Guadalupe Slough confluence to upstream of Hwy. 237
25	San Jose	Guadalupe River at Blossom Hill Rd.	50	Sunnyvale, Santa Clara	Calabazas Creek downstream of U.S. Hwy. 101