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We are working in your neighborhood creeks!



## TYPES OF STREAM MAINTENANCE

### Bank Protection

High and sustained water flows can cause extensive damage to creek beds and banks, eroding existing flood protection improvements and natural elements. Repairing creek beds and banks also helps 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 can 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 ensures fire code compliance. These efforts are especially significant given the county's cyclical dry conditions and the ongoing challenges of climate change. Valley Water's vegetation management work is crucial to reducing 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 project sites' habitat needs and has the highest likelihood of surviving and thriving is planted. Valley Water monitors and maintains riparian planting areas for five to seven years to ensure successful projects.
- **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 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 maintenance roads, levees, and trails.
- **Instream habitat improvement:** Work is done to address the impacts of removing sediment and large woody debris from specific streams. This can include adding rocks and logs or root wads to the creek to create higher-quality habitat for fish and other species.



## WHAT TO EXPECT & SAFETY INFORMATION

Work on 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 are 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 on-site crews operating large equipment are focused on work activities and may be unable to see or hear trespassers.

Visit [bit.ly/SCVW\\_TrafficandTrailImpacts](https://bit.ly/SCVW_TrafficandTrailImpacts) for information on trail impacts and detours.

## 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.

The SMP is funded in part by Priority D for mitigation site maintenance on native plant revegetation projects and by Priority F for vegetation management and sediment removal in creeks to maintain design flows.

- **Compensatory mitigation:** This is the restoration, establishment, enhancement, or preservation of natural resources to replace resources impacted by maintenance or unsanctioned activities. In addition to the above work types, compensatory mitigation may include the restoration of existing floodplains and bank rehabilitation by remediating unauthorized streambank excavations and/or removing concrete to promote aquatic habitat.

### Multiple Types

Valley Water crews are conducting multiple project types in areas requiring maintenance attention.



As part of our Stream Maintenance Program (SMP), Valley Water plans to perform work along multiple creeks across Santa Clara County in 2026. Under the SMP, work occurs annually to reduce the risk of flooding and fire, keep our creeks healthy, and improve the environment.

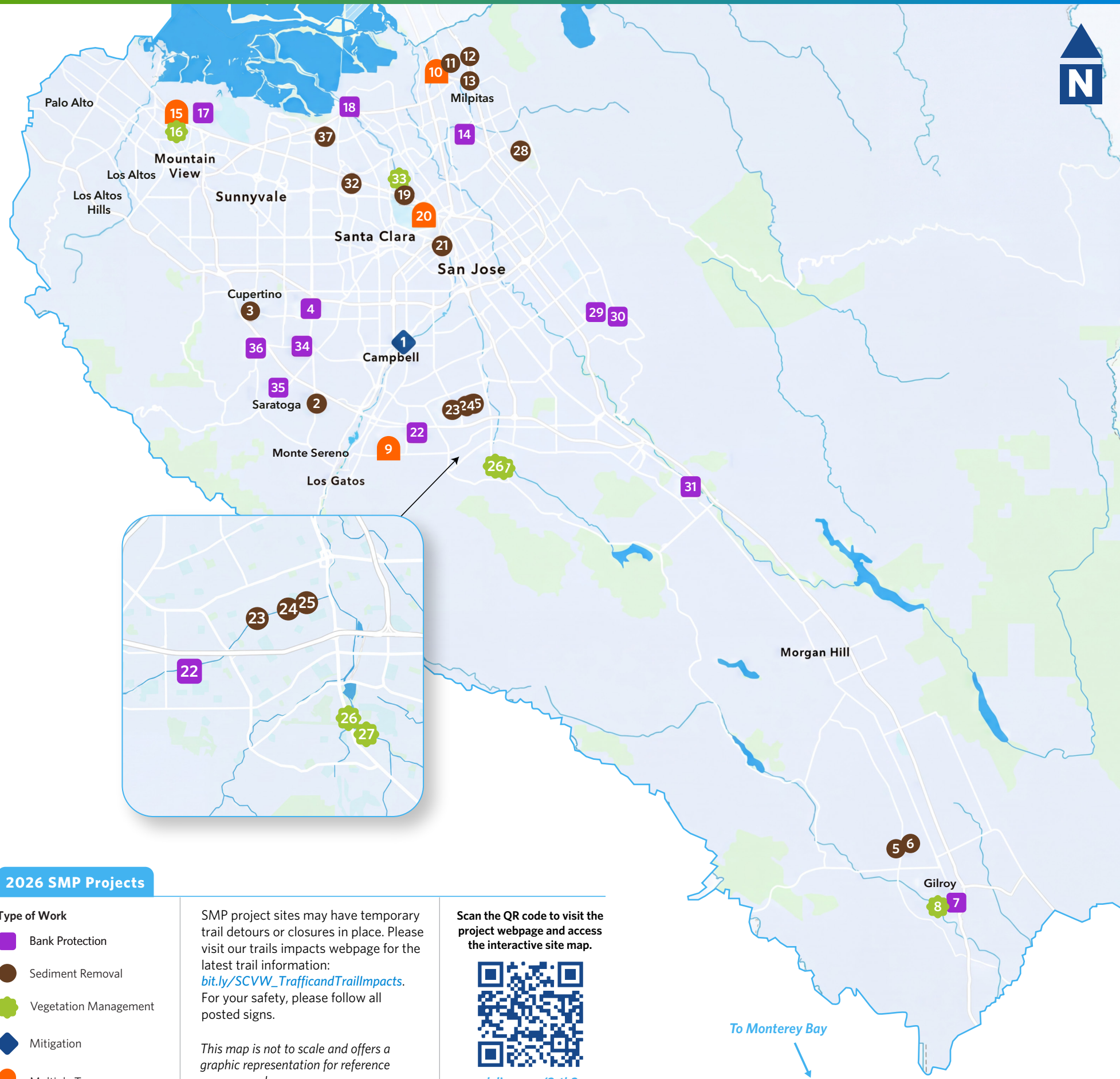
The county has over 800 miles of creeks, and Valley Water owns and manages about 350 of them. For decades, our crews have been trekking into streams to remove sediment build-up, manage vegetation, clear trash and debris, and stabilize banks eroded during high water flows. Portions of these streams are inspected and prioritized for maintenance projects each year through the SMP.

This work is especially critical given the wet winter our county experienced. Work to reduce fire danger remains necessary, particularly given the county's cyclical dry conditions, winter rains that promote vegetative growth, and the ongoing challenges of climate change. The SMP ensures that 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, 2026 and October 15, 2026. 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.



# 2026 Stream Maintenance Program (SMP) Map



## 2026 SMP Projects

- Type of Work**
- Bank Protection
  - Sediment Removal
  - Vegetation Management
  - Mitigation
  - Multiple Types

SMP project sites may have temporary trail detours or closures in place. Please visit our trails impacts webpage for the latest trail information: [bit.ly/SCVW\\_TrafficandTrailImpacts](http://bit.ly/SCVW_TrafficandTrailImpacts). For your safety, please follow all posted signs.

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

Scan the QR code to visit the project webpage and access the interactive site map.



[delivr.com/2rth2](http://delivr.com/2rth2)

## 2026 SMP Projects \*

No.	City(s)	Name of Project**	No.	City(s)	Name of Project**
1	Campbell	Los Gatos Creek downstream of Hamilton Ave.	20	San José	Guadalupe River downstream of Skyport Dr.
2	Campbell, Saratoga	San Tomas Aquino Creek downstream of Pollard Rd.	21	San José	Guadalupe River Secondary Channel, Hedding St. to upstream of Taylor St.
3	Cupertino	Regnart Creek downstream of Kim St.	22	San José	Ross Creek downstream of Sandy Ln.
4	Cupertino	Saratoga Creek downstream of Bollinger Rd.	23	San José	Ross Creek downstream of Meridian Ave.
5	Gilroy	North Morey Channel downstream of Santa Teresa Blvd.	24	San José	Ross Creek downstream of Jarvis Ave.
6	Gilroy	Lions Creek downstream of Santa Teresa Blvd.	25	San José	Ross Creek downstream of Cherry Ave.
7	Gilroy	Princevalle Storm Drain upstream & downstream of Automall Pkwy.	26	San José	Alamitos Creek upstream of Mazzone Dr.
8	Gilroy	Uvas-Carnadero Creek, Hwy. 101 to Santa Teresa Blvd.	27	San José	Alamitos Diversion Channel upstream of Mazzone Dr.
9	Los Gatos	Ross Creek downstream of Camino del Cerro	28	San José	Sierra Creek downstream of Mauna Kea Ln.
10	Milpitas	Lower Penitencia Creek upstream of North Abbott Ave.	29	San José	Thompson Creek downstream of Everdale Dr. pedestrian bridge
11	Milpitas	Berryessa Creek downstream of Abel St.	30	San José	Thompson Creek downstream of Aborn Rd.
12	Milpitas	Calera Creek upstream & downstream of Escuela Pkwy.	31	San José	Coyote Creek downstream of Coyote Ranch Rd.
13	Milpitas	Berryessa Creek, North Hillview Dr. to Piedmont Creek confluence	32	Santa Clara	San Tomas Aquino Creek downstream of Scott Blvd.
14	Milpitas	Penitencia East Channel downstream of Lundy Pl.	33	Santa Clara, San José	Guadalupe River, downstream of Hwy. 237 to Airport Pkwy.
15	Mountain View	Permanente Creek downstream of Highway 101	34	Saratoga, San José	Saratoga Creek downstream of Prospect Rd.
16	Mountain View	Permanente Creek, Rock St. to Middlefield Rd.	35	Saratoga	Saratoga Creek downstream of Crestbrook Dr.
17	Mountain View	Stevens Creek upstream of Crittenden Ln.	36	Saratoga	Calabazas Creek upstream of Saratoga-Sunnyvale Rd.
18	San José	Guadalupe River upstream of Gold St.	37	Sunnyvale	Calabazas Creek downstream of Tasman Dr.
19	San José	Guadalupe River at Highway 101			

\*Note: Valley Water has included the information herein to communicate some of the more significant SMP work anticipated to be conducted in 2026. While Valley Water will make every effort to complete these projects, work may not occur for multiple reasons, including delays in regulatory agencies' approvals, wildlife considerations, unforeseen site conditions, and/or 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.