

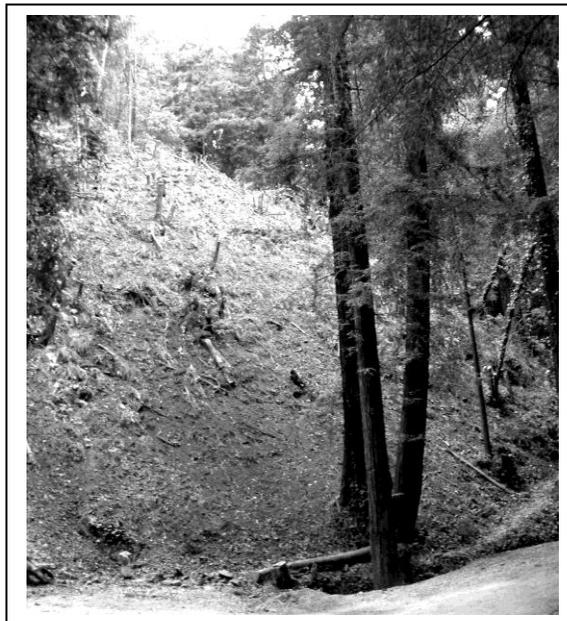


Mill Valley StreamKeepers
 P.O. Box 2531
 Mill Valley, CA 94942
 415 455-5818
www.millvalleystreamkeepers.org
 See also: KRISweb.com
 East Marin Sonoma/Arroyo Corte
 Madera del Presidio

Join us at our monthly meetings: 10
 am on 2nd Saturdays, 450 Sycamore
 Ave., Mill Valley
 Bring your concerns.

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Science/Engineering**
- **Mill Valley Planning: Design Guidelines**
- **Current Construction**
- **New Open Space**
- **Education**
- **Thanks**
- **Riparian Plants**



June 2004: 220 Rose Ave., Mill Valley. All bay trees removed on this property in the headwaters of Arroyo Corte Madera del Presidio, the main stream in Mill Valley's watershed.

Science and Engineering

According to "Creek Care, A Guide for Urban Marin Residents", "A watershed is the entire area that drains into a distinct creek or river system. It includes major and minor creeks, seasonal drainages, storm drains, the riparian corridor, flood plains, and land that water flows over or under on its way to a creek or bay." In other words, it is all the land from ridge to ridge; it is also all the processes and actions going on. The complexity of the systems at work interacting in the watershed is daunting: geology, soil science, botany, zoology, insect life-cycles, fish, foxes, climate, physics, human designs, social systems, aesthetic drives. Some studies MVSK (Mill Valley StreamKeepers) refer to are Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon, Report to the California Fish and Game Commission, Nov. 2003, and Marin County Watershed Management Plan Draft, April, 2004. MVSK is using a \$13,750 MMWD grant for an engineer to analyse barriers in our streams' salmonid watershed habitat.

Mill Valley Planning: New Design Guidelines ~ Current Construction

The picture above is a residentially zoned land with a seasonal stream at its base. The location is above the intersection of Monte Vista and Hazel Avenue in the Redwood canyon above Old Mill Creek. Along with 170 Rose Avenue, application for a permit to build a house triggered a city moratorium on building on steep lots in 2000. The city appointed two committees to work on code and open space priorities. This summer the city planning staff plans to publish a booklet to help landowners with the Design Guidelines.

Much to the dismay of homeowners and walkers in the area, all of the California Bay trees, almost a hundred, have been cut down to about two feet tall. "It looks like a clearcut", "I moved to the area because I liked the forest," and "How is erosion going to be prevented" are typical comments. When asked why he did it, the developer said that he felt the bays were leaning precariously, the view shed is opened up, fire safety, he needed to put in a sewer line, and the trees would resprout making a brushy, shrubby look.

Discussion about aesthetics, fire safety management, and responsibility to neighbors is open to debate. Our urban challenge is to educate one and all about the web of life, the chemistry and physics of slopes, drainage, plant roots and leaf cover. Tools of mitigation such as the bioswale and permeable paving proposed by Marin Horizon School, green roofs, replanting with natives, maintaining wildlife corridors can be employed in producing a masterpiece of restoration and protection of the watershed.

New Open Space Acquisitions

The best way to prevent destruction of habitat on a piece of land and to prevent imbalance of stormwater runoff is to own the land and not develop it. The Open Space Committee, chaired by John Leonard, is working to acquire for the city the 22 properties designated as high priority by one of the 2 committees working during Mill Valley's moratorium. The city and the fund raisers are accepting funds for the first purchase of a property at the base of the Tenderfoot Trail. Although a \$25 per year tax for open space acquisition was found to be politically favored in a poll, the committee has been reticent to add it to other ballot requests. If you want to donate at least \$25 a year for starters towards this purpose, mail your check to TCC, Mill Valley Open Space, PO Box 2272, Mill Valley, CA 94942. The committee is thrilled to have received two very generous donations. Both were pieces of land near the Tenderfoot Trail property. About 3 acres were designated to the city as a conservation easement by Russell Lemle. An entire lot, 4 acres, was donated to the city by Eva and Paul Griffin who live in Davis. These lands are in the headwaters of Old Mill Creek bearing Steelhead Trout and the site of nests of the endangered owl, the Northern Spotted Owl. The trees keep the water cool enough for reestablishment of Coho Salmon.

"Let's imagine a goal: that at some time in the future, the value of a property will be perceived in part according to its value to wildlife"

Education

Mill Valley StreamKeepers is part of a whole range of organizations: Friends of Corte Madera Creek, Friends of Novato Creek, SPAWN in western Marin, Marin Conservation League, Friends of Bayside Meadow, Sustainable Mill Valley...

One of the most enjoyable is STRAW: Students and Teachers Restoring All Watersheds. As part of the Bay Institute, STRAW works with local classes to go out and really do it! Pull out English ivy and broom, dig holes, plant ferns and shrubs, devise deer protection and take pleasure in returning the stream banks to native habitat which will look right and provide shade, food, and nesting for riparian birds, fish, and well, the whole web of life.

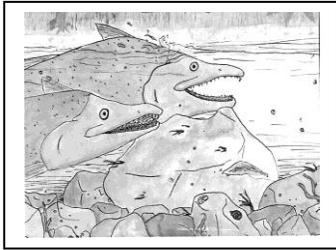
Take a moment to look at the plants inside the yellow cages in Old Mill and Boyle Park near the MVSK educational sign about "Life in Our Watershed". Now we need one more organization: Responsible Dogs in the Environment!



Students in the STRAW Program weed, dig and plant natives at local stream banks in Boyle and Old Mill Parks.

THANKS To the Lindsey Rehm Fund, Sue Markusfeld and Nancy Dempster for our new brochure, Lynne Klein and Tamalpais High School Students for the note cards, Marin County Fisheries & Wildlife Committee for funding our educational signs, Lyla's Chocolates and Starbucks for treats at our sign dedication, Alan Nayer for web page, the Outdoor Art Club for financial support, Donations from Joan Boessenecker, Carrie Sherrif, Stephanie & Eric Zeigler, Nan Breidenstein, Marvin Lundwall, Tom Frazier, Sue & Hersh Markusfeld, Russell Lemle, Gary Yost, Stephanie & Roger Peters, Mary & Peter Raub, Peggy & Cary Rosen especially for the banner over Blithedale, Bill Kier for many hours of work and overseeing stream surveys and financial contribution to scientific work for MVSK, Suzanne & Joe Geary for donation of hydrology evaluation by Greg Kamman, for donations from the following families:

Egerer, Fisco, Seitas, Finegan, Dicker, Reinberg, Palmer, Zegart, Mayeri, Ball & Zempfer, Ramsay, Wallace, Chuljian. To Marin Municipal Water District for grants funding work on Salmonid Habitat Improvement Action Plan, thermistors and newsletter supplies. To Marin Conservation League for guidance, Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin, City officials and staff of M.V. especially Elise Semonian, Planner, Chris Sansome of Mill Valley Parks and Recreation. To Liz Lewis of Marin Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program.



Watercolor by Tamalpais High School student Alisha Rosen

Redwoods

California Bay

Bigleaf maPle

Azalea

AldeR

(Sword fern) **Polystichum munitum**

H Azel

Oxalis orega N a *(Redwood sorrel)*

Please Support Mill Valley StreamKeepers

MVSK is a 100% volunteer non-profit organization working to protect and restore our watersheds. Your help is urgently needed as a volunteer and/or donor. Please return this form with your address below so that we might contact you.

Please contact me so that I may volunteer for:

- Stream Sampling/Testing***
- Habitat Restoration***
- Propagation of Native Plants***
- Legislative Watchdog***
- Committee/Board Member***
- Representative to Regional Organizations***
- Artist***
- Fundraiser/Grant Writer***
- Database Management/Input***
- Secretary***
- Outreach/Special Events***
- Other*** _____

I am enclosing a check made out to
Mill Valley StreamKeepers

in the amount of \$25___ \$50___ \$100___ *Other \$* _____
for designated stream work: \$1000___

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Mill Valley StreamKeepers

P.O. Box 2531, Mill Valley, CA 94942

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED