

Mill Valley StreamKeepers

With our community, we are committed to Preserving, Conserving & Restoring the ecologic integrity of the watershed for Mill Valley's future generations.

ISSUE 18 NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2017

MVSK

Mill Valley StreamKeepers

P.O. Box 2531
Mill Valley, CA 94942
415.388.4187 (Joyce)

www.MillValleyStreamKeepers.org



GET INVOLVED!

Our organization likes to work with community members from the expert to the inexperienced and people of all ages.

Our meetings are typically at SASM, 450 Sycamore Ave., MV, on the second Saturday at 10:00 am.

Please call to confirm times and places c/o Joyce
415.388.4187



We are now on Twitter, Facebook, and Pinterest to expand our outreach, advertise education programs, share pictures and information.

STEELHEAD



ONLINE DONATIONS

Visit our website to make tax-deductible donations online
www.MillValleyStreamKeepers.org

Also donate by giving our number (7085) to the cashier at Mill Valley Market.

Or mail us a check!

We are a 501(c)(3) organization.

Along with this newsletter we would be happy to mail you the Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program "Fish Friendly Guide" for Marin County residents. It is also available online at www.MCSTOPPP.org. Other MCSTOPPP publications we can send you are "Creek Care: A Guide for Marin Residents;" "Go Native: Using Native Plants for your Yard, Patio, Creek;" and "Groundwork: a Handbook for Small-Scale Erosion Control in Coastal California." Also available is a Mill Valley Watershed map in our brochure and on our website.

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

LONG RANGE

Studied findings on sea level rise, followed information on expected climate severity, and watched the formation of the design teams in the Bay Area to address sea level issues.

Continued review of Mill Valley 2040 General Plan as well as City Council Goals.

HABITAT RESTORATION

Coordinated with the Marin Conservation League's subcommittee on non-native invasive plants.

Posted information on Facebook about the danger of invasion by Japanese Knotwood.

Spoke with and led work party of Brownies in coordination with librarian to plant native plants which we purchased for Mill Valley Library Rain Garden.

Led work party to remove invasive *Carex pendula* along Old Mill Creek in Old Mill Park.



SLPs were at issue this year.

RESPONSES

Responded to requests for education about rain gardens in Boyle Park.

Worked with citizens concerned about two lots to be developed on Cascade Avenue.

Made field trips to properties of interest in Tam Valley and Homestead Valley.

COLLABORATIONS

Wrote letter of support for MV Save Our Trails to reestablish public steps and paths.

Met with Watershed Alliance of Marin and other stream groups to build connections and a case for excellent countywide Streamside Conservation Area policies.

Worked with Clean Mill Valley and marched with them in the Memorial Day Parade.

Established coordination with the Outdoor Art Club's Civics and Conservation Group.

Welcomed Julie Hanft to the Board, transitioned Peri Woods, Ph.D. to Science Advisor, and bid adieu to Larry Shaw.



Work on Miller Avenue's rain garden.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Maintained Facebook page.

Worked on upgrading our website.

Created a library of relevant documents using Google Drive.

Learned about the benefits of iNaturalist and bioblitzes.

Studied Mill Valley's tree ordinance and relevant County ordinances.

Mounted a display at the Mill Valley Library during Earth Day week on how last winter's rain affected fish in our creeks.

Tabled at Mill Valley Volunteer Day.

Provided materials for Mill Valley Middle School Community Service Day.

Continued discussions with Mill Valley Lumber Yard toward creation of ecology signage.

Led tour about Mill Valley's streams with City Council member and Director of Public Works.



Boyle Park's rain garden will slow runoff.

DONORS

Dolby Match Program
Marin Fish & Wildlife Comm'n
Mill Valley Market
Outdoor Art Club
Scott Valley Homeowners Ass'n
Stetson Engineering

Anonymous
Helen Anawalt
Ted Bayer
Betsy & Dan Bikle
Patti & Len Bluml
Joyce Britt
Mary & Jim Brock
Sheila Brookes
Deborah Buehler
Marguerite & Russell Burbank
Pam & David Canepa
Susan Cluff
Jessica & Zack Cohn
Joyce Crews
Kathy Cuneo
Peggy & Larry Davis
Joan Dedo
Richard M. Dennes
Nona Dennis
Sarah & Bill Devlin
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Barbara Ford
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Olivia & James Jacobs
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Vicki & John Kryzanowski
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Barbara & Steve Lombardi
Kathy Lowrey
Linda & Marvin Lundwall
Ed Marshall
Jan & Matt Mathews
Beverly & Earl Mayerl
Paul Minault
Dottie & Jim Mitchell
Mia Monroe
Joan Murray & Jim Stephenson
Gerl & Jim Nardi
Soo Hi & Alan Nayer
John Palmer
Sarah Perry & Paul Matsuda
Pam Polite & Dennis Fisco
Shirley Pullan
Candace & Philip Rosenthal
Barbara & Jay Salzman
Michelle & Douglas Sanders
Matt Schallock
Carrie Sherriff
Sue Steele
Nancy Stoltz & Craig Corbitt
Meryl Sundove & Roger Harris
Debra Thai & Len Gensburg
Susanne Tilp & Ethan Grossman
Christina & Ken Waldeck
Periann Wood & Doug Wilson
Ingrid H. Woods & Steven R. Cummings

Conversations with MV Public Works

1. MVSK retained an environmental lawyer to assess the Miller avenue project to help us inform the community about the effects of the immediate and long term effects of the project, including the demolition, the grinding, repaving, and streetscape design. Although the project does not prevent flooding, it does mitigate flooding effects in well-known areas. The lawyer set forth the responsibility for clean air and clean water protections. These are provided by state law and administered through the permit procedure of the regional water board, known as the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, which you can find at the City's website.

The many reporting requirements imposed on the contractors are electronically accessible to citizens. The City seems satisfied that the requirements were met, but we would prefer that citizens attempt to determine this for themselves. Projects such as this are not only costly but also environmentally exacting. Clean air around our many schools is one issue that deserves special considerations. The public needs to know that the permit was obeyed.

What is a watershed? A watershed is an area of land where all water that is under it or drains off of it collects in the same place, e.g., Richardson Bay.

2. We also asked about the flood control measures the City Council discussed in a November 21, 2016, hearing. What are the public participation suggestions, are there committee assignments, and a planned schedule? The latest on all of this remains to be learned at a later date.

3. FEMA held several public meetings for the riparian and bay front residents of the City regarding new FEMA maps with changes in the floodplains and the regulatory floodway. The City sent affected residents notice of the new maps and how to get them online at www.marinmap.org.

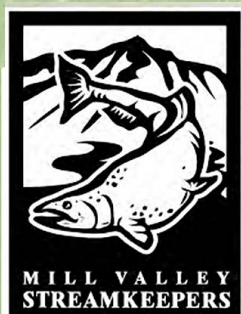
4. We noted that the most significant riparian ordinance is not the Creek Setback, Municipal Code 20.76, but rather the City's Clean Water Act in Title 17, 17.06 and following under the heading, "Sewers". The City's work plan includes dealing with a new riparian ordinance and an appropriate heading for it, incorporating Title 17 with the creek setback rules.

5. Finally we asked whether Mill Valley's DPW is coordinating with the MV Planning Department for a riparian corridor ordinance, which is what MVSK believes is the best way to deal with tree, riparian and native vegetation, creek and flooding issues. There are many models for this kind of approach, not only in environmental research and literature, but also well-known successful legislation in various counties in this state and across the country. We hope that the community will support a scientific and proven approach to these issues which affect all of us. Please contact us with your thoughts.

If you see work that is not permitted or other conditions you believe present a harm to the environment (e.g., pollution in a stream), call or write an email to City or County staff. Mill Valley Public Works 415.384.4800 or tyler@cityofmillvalley.org Marin County MCSTOPPP 415.473.3202 or aclapp@marincounty.org After hours, call MV Fire Dep't 415.389.4130 or Marin Sheriff 415.473.7233/415.472.0911.



Do you recognize these views of the watershed? L to R: Old Mill Creek, Sutton Manor Creek, Richardson Bay, and Arroyo Corte Madera del Presidio Creek.



Please Support Mill Valley StreamKeepers.

MVSK is a 100% volunteer, nonprofit organization working to protect & restore our watersheds. You are welcome as a volunteer and/or donor.

Name _____ Address _____

Make checks out to Mill Valley StreamKeepers in the amount of:
\$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other _____ and return this form to
Mill Valley StreamKeepers P.O. Box 2531 Mill Valley, CA 94942.
Donate on the web at www.MillValleyStreamKeepers.org