

SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER 2021 Office of Civic Engagement Activities



Youth Commission

On October 2, staff hosted the annual retreat for the Youth Commission over Zoom. The 15 commissioners in attendance participated in several team-building activities to get to know one another better. The commissioners also learned more about the working groups during breakout sessions and spent time developing their work plan for the upcoming year. CEO Callender provided opening remarks to welcome all the new and returning commissioners. The work plan will be finalized at the November meeting.



Youth Commission Retreat on October 2.

Creek Stewardship

ADOPT-A-CREEK JULY CLEANUP NUMBERS					
DATE	PARTNER	CREEK	# VOLUNTEERS	# MILES CLEANED	LBS TRASH
Oct 3	BSA Troop 286	Guadalupe River	20	.5	1,000



BSA Troop 286 clear large debris from the edge of the percolation ponds along Guadalupe River during their cleanup on October 3, 2021.

Public Art Program

On October 13, the Youth Commission's Public Art working group hosted its first meeting to discuss the pilot mural project. There were five Youth Commissioners present along with mural artist Paul J. Gonzalez. The working group reviewed and provided insightful feedback on two mural design concepts to help identify a design that is representative of Valley Water.

Safe, Clean Water Grants and Partnerships

Grant Site Visits Staff conducted three grant project site visits in October to continue building stronger relationships with grantees and learn more about the projects made possible with Safe, Clean Water Grant Program funding:

President and Board of Trustees of Santa Clara College - The Water Project: The Project explored all things water: its sacred essence and beauty, its productive and destructive power, and its essential life force. The innovative performances held in October included dance, choral music, animation, and projected imagery to investigate our personal and collective relationship to water. Local artists and scientists created the performance to renew a sense of awe and respect for water and activate a positive public water policy.

Los Altos Historical Museum's (LAHM) Groundbreaking event for their Conservation in the Commons Project: The Project, funded by a \$4,997 Valley Water mini-grant, will install a more cost-effective smart irrigation system and educational signage at the museum's Heritage Orchard. LAHM will also host free water-savings landscape training and workshops as part of the grant.

Evergreen Islamic Center's Ribbon-cutting event for their Drinking Water Stations Project: The Project, funded by a \$5,000 Valley Water mini-grant, included the installation of two bottle filling stations located inside and outside of the faith-based facility. The Evergreen Islamic Center (EIC) welcomes 50,000 visitors annually and hosts inter-faith sessions and various community and educational events throughout the year. EIC Board members hope that the drinking water stations will eliminate single-use plastics and paper cups at their facility and will track this reduction as part of their project outcomes.



Evergreen Islamic Center and community members celebrate the unveiling of the newly installed outdoor drinking water and bottle filling station.

Education Outreach

In October, the Education Outreach team reached 586 students through 24 virtual classroom presentations. The team also supported 24 educators this month. The team engaged 165 members of the public through four Wonders of Water Wednesdays after-school enrichment programs and one public library program.

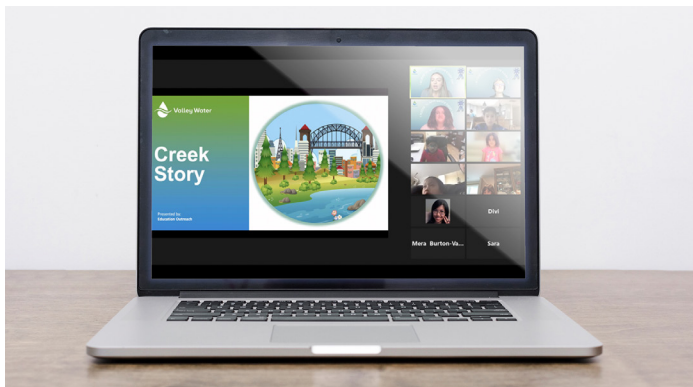
The team premiered the new virtual program "Creek Story" to Wonders of Water Wednesday attendees. In this immersive activity, students viewed an animated video about a creek-side town and discovered how the town consumed and saved water every day. Students discussed the

drought and shared the many ways their families are saving water in Santa Clara County.

This month, the team also premiered the new virtual program “Mapping Landforms” for first and second graders. In this presentation, students learned about landforms and bodies of water in Santa Clara County by creating a 3-D model of a watershed and learning yoga poses that represent the landforms and bodies of water they found on their model.

EDUCATION OUTREACH PRESENTATION NUMBERS			
MONTH	STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS	PUBLIC ATTENDEES	YEAR TO DATE
Jul - Sep	987	170	1,157
Oct	610	168	778
TOTAL	1,597	338	1,935

FY22 Goal: Reach at least 10,000 students and 1,000 members of the public.



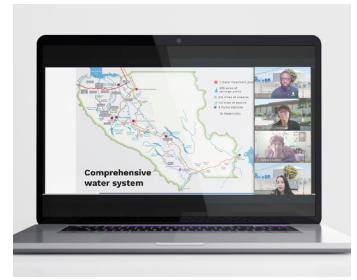
Students learn about water conservation during the Creek Story presentation.

Water Supply Outreach

WATER SUPPLY OUTREACH NUMBERS		
DATE	WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND PURIFICATION CENTER TOURS	FY 22 TOTAL ATTENDEES
Jul - Sep		373
Oct 8	Private onsite SVAWPC tour with Assembly member Alex Lee	2
Oct 12	Branham High School Engineering Class	51
Oct 13	Del Roble Elementary School Gate Program	26
Oct 13	Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association	32
Oct 19	SVAWPC Tour with Campbell Library	63
Oct 20	Christopher High School Chemistry (2 classes - 2 tours)	64
Oct 20	SVAWPC Tour with San José Public Library	8
Oct 21	Christopher High School Chemistry (3 classes - 3 tours)	96
Oct 25	San José City College	18
Oct 26	SJSU Sustainable Engineering Class	13
Oct 27	SVAWPC Tour with Santa Clara Library	20
Oct 29	SJSU Water & Wastewater Engineering Class	12
October TOTAL:		405
TOTAL (Current for FY 2022)		778

FY22 Goal: Conduct public/private tours of the SVAWPC in any of our tour formats (live, virtual or self-guided) for at least 1,000 attendees.

In October, the Water Supply Outreach team hosted 14 public and private tours of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center, reaching 405 individuals. On October 8, Director Santos joined an onsite tour of the purification center with State Assemblymember Alex Lee. Staff also presented the Purified Water Project to the Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association in San José and the Etz Chayim Congregation in Palo Alto.



On October 19, the Water Supply Outreach Team and Valley Water staff collaborated with the Campbell Library to present a virtual tour of the SVAWPC to 63 members of the public.

Volunteer Program

Applications are still open for the Water 101 Academy Program and are due on November 24. Staff coordinated with the Conservation team to have water ambassadors assist with packaging indoor Water-Wise Do-It-Yourself Kits. Water Ambassadors helped assembled 250 kits that will be distributed to the public.

Community Rating System



California Flood Preparedness Week October 23-30, 2021

California Flood Preparedness Week (CFPW) ran from October 23-30. One of the themes for CFPW is “The impacts of climate change leading to extreme drought and flooding.” A resolution declaring the week as Flood Awareness Week in Santa Clara County has been approved by the Valley Water’s Board of Directors. The resolution encourages all Santa Clara County residents and businesses to take action to know their flood threat and prepare appropriately for the flood season.

Staff prepared a flood preparedness display in the headquarters lobby that includes free giveaway items and flood preparedness information. In addition, staff have also partnered with Second Harvest Food Bank of Silicon Valley to distribute 2,000 emergency starter kits to their clients in Santa Clara County.

Looking Ahead

Valley Water and Santa Clara County Office of Education Environmental Literacy Forum Educator Workshop: **November 3**

Youth Commission Quarterly Meeting: **November 17**

Wonders of Water Wednesdays After-School Enrichment Series 4:00 p.m.

- November 3: Mapping Landforms - Water Stewardship Focus
- November 10: Hidden Water - Water Conservation Focus
- November 17: Watershed Maps - Water Stewardship Focus

Tours of the SVAWPC:

- November 2: Santa Clara Water and Wastewater Treatment class
- November 9: Public Tour
- November 10: SJSU Forensic Engineering & Failure Analysis class
- November 15: City of Palo Alto Public Works Department
- November 17: San José Public Library
- November 29: SJSU Water Fields Studies