

CREEK STEWARDSHIP

On May 17, Valley Water, in partnership with the Creek Connections Action Group, organized another successful National River Cleanup Day in Santa Clara County. More than 700 community members volunteered approximately 2,300 hours of their time to remove roughly 17,181 pounds of litter from 43 cleanup sites throughout the county.

Valley Water's Youth Commission hosted a cleanup site along Coyote Creek in Milpitas. There were 14 volunteers in attendance, including five Youth Commissioners. Vice Chair Santos attended the Youth Commission site and thanked volunteers and Youth Commissioners for their service. Vice Chair Santos also visited two additional cleanup sites along the Alviso Slough and Penitencia Creek in North San José. Director Ballard participated in a cleanup along Saratoga Creek in Santa Clara.

In addition to general trash and debris, volunteers removed unique items, including a working video game controller, an ironing board, a rice cooker, a microwave, a drone, a lint roller, a wi-fi router, a Rubik's cube, batteries, and countless other items that don't belong in our waterways.



70.5 miles cleaned
126 fiscal year-to-date



17,181 pounds of trash
and recyclables
49,895 fiscal year-to-date



778 volunteers
1,708 fiscal year-to-date



Trash collected during a site cleanup along Coyote Creek in the City of Milpitas, led with support from Valley Water Youth Commission volunteers.

EDUCATION OUTREACH

In May, staff reached youth and educators in Districts 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 through classroom lessons and assemblies. Staff led an assembly at Santa Teresa Elementary School, accompanied by H2Cool. Students learned about Valley Water, the ways in which we serve Santa Clara County, and the importance of water conservation.



1,448 youth
12,639 fiscal year-to-date



12 schools
108 fiscal year-to-date



34 classroom lessons
265 fiscal year-to-date



2 assemblies
31 fiscal year-to-date



Students at Northwood Elementary School in San José discuss the effects of flooding on the environment and flood safety tips.

WATER SUPPLY OUTREACH

In May, staff led two engaging tours at the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center (SVAWPC), where attendees listened attentively, and asked thoughtful questions, and some even expressed interest in pursuing careers in the water industry. Staff also distributed purified water bottles at Valley Water's Procurement Open House, the Raw Water Division Team Building event, and the Morgan Hill Mushroom Festival in collaboration with the Office of Government Relations. Additionally, staff presented Valley Water's public outreach efforts for 2025 at the Joint Recycled Water Policy Advisory Committee meeting.



35 total attendees
1,490 fiscal year-to-date



1,222 bottles distributed
5,994 fiscal year-to-date



35 public tour attendees
227 fiscal year-to-date

YOUTH COMMISSION

The final 2025 quarterly Youth Commission meeting was held on May 29 and included a graduation ceremony to honor nine outgoing high school seniors. Director Ballard presented each outgoing Commissioner with a certificate of recognition and appreciation.

Throughout May, Valley Water actively recruited high school students residing in Santa Clara County to fill the upcoming vacancies. Open positions were available in Districts 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7. The application period closed on Monday, May 26. For more information, please visit valleywater.org/youthcommission.

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

On May 14, Valley Water hosted the second Santa Clara County Community Rating System Users' Group/Program for Public Information (PPI) Committee Meeting. There were 26 participants, including staff from 11 local jurisdictions and Valley Water. Topics included program updates, results from Valley Water's FY 2025 Flood Awareness Campaign, planning for the FY 2026 Campaign, and updates to the Valley Water website. This marked the final meeting for FY 2025.

SAFE, CLEAN WATER GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Refill Station Grants

Valley Water awarded two Refill Station Grants in May. Central Christian Church in San José will install a refill station near its outdoor courtyard, providing easy access to the public. The Roman Catholic Bishop of San José will install a refill station at the St. John Vianney Community Center, near the basketball courts, which are heavily utilized by local residents and youth who play in the inter-scholastic basketball tournaments.

In May, Oak Grove School District (OGSD), in partnership with Girl Scout Troop 60174, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Santa Teresa Elementary School in San José to celebrate the installation of a refill station. The refill station was funded by a FY 2025 \$5,000 Valley Water Refill Station Grant. Special guests included Director Beall, who provided welcoming remarks, representatives from the City of San José and Girl Scouts of Northern California, City of San José Councilmember George Casey, OGSD Superintendent Dr. Ivan Chaidez, and OGSD Board Trustee Frances Herbert.



Director Beall gives welcoming remarks during Oak Grove School District's Valley Water Refill Station ribbon-cutting ceremony at Santa Teresa Elementary School.

Mini-Grants

In FY 2020, Valley Water awarded San José State University Research Foundation a \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water D3 Mini-Grant for their Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful BioBlitz and Connection to Nature Project. The completed project included a community BioBlitz event in collaboration with Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful, to measure 156 participants' connection to nature and compiled a final report for social science research purposes.

In FY 2024, Valley Water awarded Smart Yards Education a \$5,000 Safe, Clean Water F9 Mini-Grant for their Hands-On Do-It-Yourself Aquaponics Workshop Project. The completed hands-on workshop demonstrated how to build a small-scale aquaponics system using a 55-gallon rain barrel and basic plumbing supplies.

Standard Grants

In FY 2020, Valley Water awarded Guadalupe River Park Conservancy a \$90,049 Safe, Clean Water F9 Grant for their Reducing the Impacts of Litter along the Guadalupe River Trail Project. The completed project focused on improving environmental conditions and community engagement along a four-mile stretch of the Guadalupe River Trail in downtown San José. The grantee organized 45 community cleanup events, removing over 362,000 pounds of trash, and conducted outreach to 756 unhoused individuals.

LOOKING AHEAD

Education Outreach Programs:

- JUNE 9 Boys & Girls Club – Alviso Youth Center
- JUNE 10 Escuela Popular
- JUNE 18 Boys & Girls Club – Park Place
- JUNE 23 Boys & Girls Club – Rocketship Si Se Puede
- JUNE 30 Boys & Girls Club – Rocketship Mateo Sheed

Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center Tours:

- JUNE 5 Backflow Prevention Specialists, Inc.
- JUNE 6 Public Tour
- JUNE 14 Public Tour
- JUNE 20 Silicon Valley Tech Academy
- JUNE 23 Yu-Ai Kai Japanese American Community Senior Service