

## Office of Civic Engagement April 2020 Activities Update



### YOUTH COMMISSION

#### Working Groups Updates:

- No significant updates for the Creek Stewardship and Adopt-A-Bench working groups as activities under both areas were cancelled due to the Shelter in Place order.
- Job Shadow and Career Mentoring working group continues to meet via Zoom to stay engaged and support the youth commissioners with their ongoing professional development

#### Recruitment for new Youth Commissioners

- Applications deadline was extended until May 31. Staff has been promoting and outreaching via social media and word of mouth through current commissioners

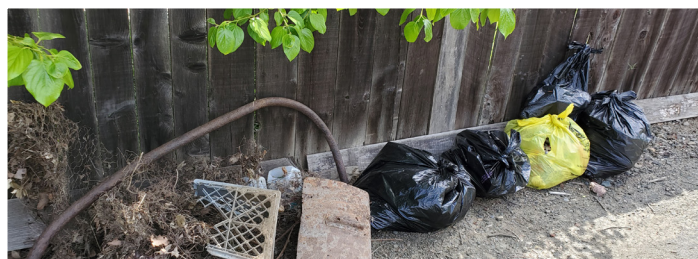


Application period extended through May 31.

### ADOPT-A-CREEK

In accordance with the public health guidance related to COVID-19, staff temporarily halted all volunteer creek cleanup activities, including the year-round Adopt-A-Creek cleanups and National River Cleanup Day which was scheduled for May 16.

DATE	PARTNER	# OF VOLUNTEERS	LBS. OF TRASH COLLECTED	MILES CLEANED	CREEK
Mar. 18	Hella Bluhm-Stieber	2	200	2	Calabazas Creek



2 dedicated creek stewards worked independently and safely to remove trash by their homes along Calabazas Creek.

### PUBLIC ARTS AND SIGNAGE

- Public Arts: The final artwork designs were approved by the Youth Commission on February 19 and by the Board on March 10. Staff and the Youth Commissioners will present the artwork for review at each respective city's arts commission meetings, as applicable. These meetings were scheduled in March and April but were postponed due to public health guidance related to COVID-19. Once further guidance is provided that ensures public health and safety, staff will reassess to continue the project.

- Signage Inventory: Staff continue to work with the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition (SVBC) to develop the full signage inventory scavenger hunt campaign. The campaign was scheduled to run from April 1 to June 30 but has been postponed due to public health guidance related to COVID-19. Once further guidance is provided to ensure public health and safety, staff will work with SVBC to relaunch the campaign.

### SAFE, CLEAN WATER GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Staff continues to evaluate and award D3: Restore Wildlife Habitat mini-grants on a rolling basis. Grantees awarded in FY20 include:

- Bay Area Older Adults: Watershed and Wildlife Education Program
- Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose: Project Transect Alamitos Creek
- Guadalupe River Park Conservancy: Guadalupe Watershed Ecosystem Education Project
- Living Classroom: Campbell Union Elementary School District
- Youth Outside: 2020 Outdoor Educators Institute

Grassroots Ecology completed the Greening Urban Watersheds Project, which was awarded a Safe, Clean Water grant in FY16 under the Pollution Prevention program priority in the amount of \$93,617. The project started on July 1, 2016 and was completed on January 31, 2020. The project included hosting 12 workshops for 165 participants to install 6 rain barrels, 2 cisterns and 4 rain gardens as well as conducting 22 creek cleanups which removed 23,770 pounds of trash along 29 miles of creek corridor with the help of more than 1,000 volunteers.



Left: Grassroots Ecology's Greening Urban Watersheds Project included installing rain barrels, cisterns, and rain gardens through hands-on workshops and volunteers. Right: Creek cleanups were held as part of Grassroots Ecology's volunteer workdays along the San Francisquito Creek.

### EDUCATION OUTREACH

During April, Education Outreach reached 247 students virtually from 12 classrooms throughout Santa Clara County. Education Outreach presented to 123 members of the public through 4 Watershed Maps Distance Learning and 8 Storytime engagements.

- Hosted a distance learning presentation with 34 4th grade students from Robert Sanders Elementary school. The online presentation of the Watershed Maps activity, via Google Hangouts, included hands-on engagement, and provided students with a clear visual that demonstrated and defined the concepts of watersheds, and point and non-point source pollution. Using just a piece of paper, markers, and a touch of water, students created their own 3-D model of a watershed.

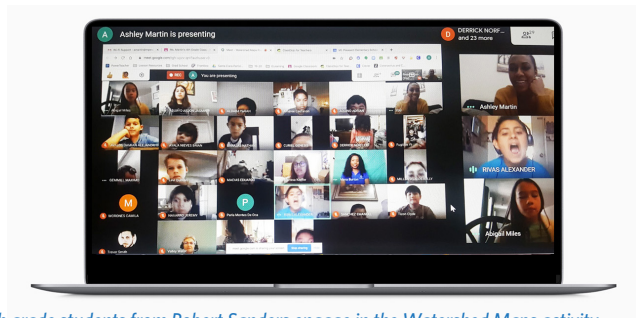
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- In celebration of Earth Day, Education Outreach presented the Watershed Maps activity during the Watershed Wednesdays event. A total of 15 members of the public joined the Zoom engagement activity. Participants learned about their local watershed and created their own 3-D maps.
- Hosted six virtual Storytime presentations where members of the community were invited to join Valley Water's Education Outreach Team for preschool story time to meet the Little Blue Hen, and learn how she saves water every day. Future virtual Storytime presentations are scheduled for Tuesday mornings from 10:30-11:00 a.m. and Thursday afternoons from 1:00-1:30 p.m. during the month of May.

## FY20 EDUCATION OUTREACH TOTALS (to date)

MONTH	SCHOOLS - STUDENTS & TEACHERS	PUBLIC EVENTS	MONTHLY TOTAL
Jul. — Feb.	8,508	1,903	10,411
April	263	123	386
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,956</b>	<b>2,026</b>	<b>10,797</b>

*FY20 Goal: Reach at least 13,000 students and 2,000 members of the public.*

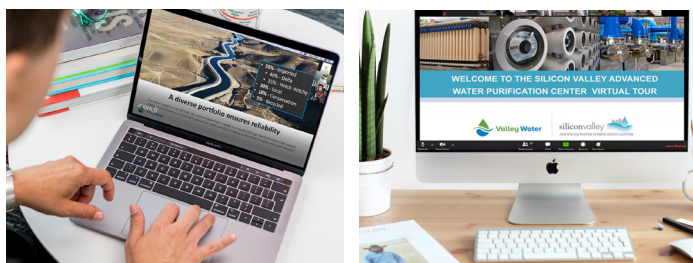


*4th grade students from Robert Sanders engage in the Watershed Maps activity.*

## WATER SUPPLY OUTREACH

Staff launched two virtual tours in April—the Water Infrastructure Virtual Tour and the Purification Center Virtual Tour. Both tours have been well received with more than 140 total attendees.

- The Water Infrastructure Virtual Tour covers all the facilities and projects on the in-person bus tour (launched in February), with additional highlights of all three water treatment plants. The virtual tour features subject matter experts for all locations and provides participants an extremely engaging virtual bus ride.
- Much like the in-person tour, the Purification Center Virtual Tour covers the advanced technologies in each of the purification processes as well as a brief overview of Valley Water's mission, water supply management and investments in a reliable water supply.
- Virtual tours are conducted via Zoom and include a post-tour feedback survey. Tour attendees are engaged and interactive, asking questions and providing comments in the chat feature.



*Left: Tour participants aboard the Valley Water Zoom bus learn about our diverse water supply sources. Right: Staff provide a private tour on April 22 of the purification center to a water treatment and wastewater class from University of San Francisco.*

DATE	PURIFICATION CENTER TOURS	COUNTS	BOTTLE TASTE TEST	FY20 TOTAL ATTENDEES
Apr. 9	Virtual Water Infrastructure Tour	35	0	1,163
Apr. 10	SVAWPC Virtual Public Tour	10	0	1,173
Apr. 14	SVAWPC Virtual Public Tour	35	0	1,208
Apr. 22	University of San Francisco - SVAWPC Virtual Private Tour	22	0	1,230
Apr. 23	Virtual Water Infrastructure Tour	23	0	1,253
Apr. 30	SVAWPC Virtual Public Tour	15	0	1,268
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>140</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>

*FY20 Goal: Conduct public/private tours of the SVAWPC for at least 1,000 attendees.*

## YEAR-ROUND VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

On Wednesday, April 1, Valley Water hosted the third session of this year's Water 101 Academy. Like previous sessions, session three was hosted virtually on the Zoom meeting platform. This session covered Watershed Operations, the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project, the Downtown Guadalupe River Flood Protection Project and efforts under the current Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection program, which included a discussion on Valley Water's grants program.

Chief Operating Officer of Watershed Melanie Richardson gave opening remarks alongside presentations by staff associated with each project and program. Session 4 of the Water 101 Academy is scheduled for Wednesday, May 6 and will cover Valley Water efforts on emergency planning and stakeholder engagement at different levels of government and with the community.



## COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

Staff continues to work on the 2020 Santa Clara County Multi-Jurisdictional Program for Public Information (PPI). We have requested all CRS communities (cities) complete the required self-assessment using the Self-Assessment Tool from CRSResources.org. Final assessments will be incorporated into the PPI.

## LOOKING AHEAD

- Storytime with Valley Water on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.  
**May 5, May 12, May 19, & May 26**
- Watershed Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.  
**May 6, May 13, May 20, & May 27**
- Storytime with Valley Water Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.  
**May 7, May 14, May 21, & May 28**
- Session Four Water 101 Academy - **May 6**
- Public SVAWPC Virtual Tour - **May 7**
- Water Educator Committee Meeting- **May 12**
- Public Water Infrastructure Tour - **May 14**
- Session Five Water 101 Academy - **mid-May (TBD)**
- Public SVAWPC Virtual Tour - **May 19**
- Water 101 Academy Graduation - **May 26**
- Public Water Infrastructure Virtual Tour - **May 28**