

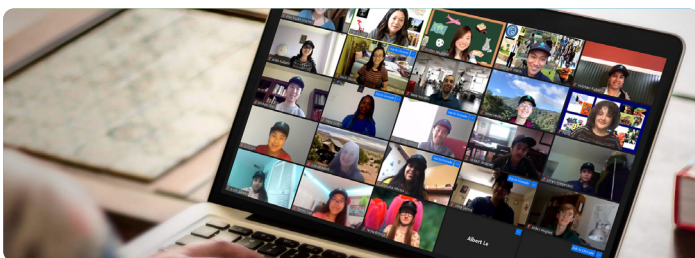
Office of Civic Engagement

October 2020 Activities Update



YOUTH COMMISSION

The annual Youth Commission retreat was held on Saturday, October 10. This year, the retreat was held virtually via Zoom due to the ongoing pandemic. Seventeen youth commissioners were in attendance, including three new commissioners who were sworn in at the retreat. Valley Water Board Chair Nai Hsueh gave opening remarks to welcome the youth. Staff planned out the half day retreat to allow the commissioners to get to know each other with team building activities and to develop their work plan for the new school year. The commissioners also learned more about the various working groups and were able to select their working groups for the year. CEO Rick Callender wrapped up the retreat with closing remarks of encouragement for the upcoming year.



Youth Commission Annual Retreat 2020 (virtual)

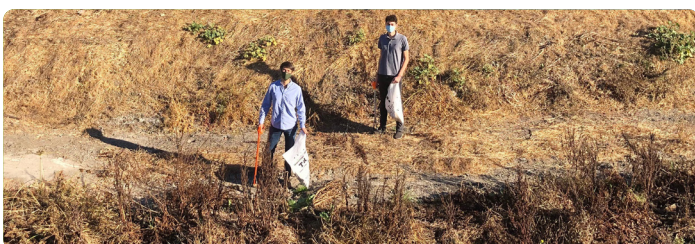
CREEK STEWARDSHIP

The final numbers are in for Coastal Cleanup: 1,240 volunteers participated and cleaned 336 miles throughout the County, removing 47,272 pounds of trash.

On October 23, staff hosted a virtual Meet and Greet Refresher for Adopt-A-Creek partners. New and returning partners attended and received an overview of the program, including expectations, permit provisions, and safety guidelines. The partners were able to connect and help each other with projects as well as ask questions to the staff. The partners shared what they love most about cleaning creeks is being outside and the many thanks they get from the public.

ADOPT-A-CREEK ACTIVITIES

DATE	PARTNERS	CREEK LOCATION	# VOLUNTEERS	# MILES	LBS. TRASH
October 6	David Lane	Los Gatos Creek	1	.5	16
October 17	David Lane	Los Gatos Creek	1	.5	3
October 17	Jeff Prickett	Little Llagas Creek	9	2	500
October 17	Koopman Family	Canoas Creek	10	2	180
October 24	Martin Kim	Barron Creek	5	1	125
October 28	David Lane	Los Gatos Creek	4	2	3,100
October 31	Ken Kelly Ken and Linda J. LeZotte	Ross Creek	5	1	150
TOTAL**			35	9	4,074



Our new partners the Koopman Family recruited their neighbors to join them at Canoas Creek for a day of sunshine and litter removal.

PUBLIC ARTS & SIGNAGE

Adopt-A-Bench Project with Youth Commission:

In October, two of the remaining bench artwork designs were approved by the respective arts commission and city administration in Districts 1 and 2. All seven bench artwork designs are now ready to move forward.

Paul J. Gonzalez, local artist, continues to finish painting and firing the tiles for all of the benches. Next, staff will work with a vendor to begin installation of the artwork, which may be dependent on weather conditions. However, staff anticipates all artwork to be installed by summer next year.

Signage Inventory with Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition (SVBC):

The Great Sign Hunt ended on October 29. Staff is still receiving final results from SVBC, however preliminary numbers show that more than 350 participants registered and more than 8,300 sign entries were submitted, of which approximately 4,200 are unique signs (not duplicated). In mid-November, SVBC and Valley Water will announce the four October monthly prize winners, three Grand Prize winners and the final sign count via social media, Nextdoor, eblasts, and more.



District 1's bench design features Uvas Creek and the Western Burrowing Owl. It is the final artwork of the seven in this pilot series to be approved.

SAFE, CLEAN WATER GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

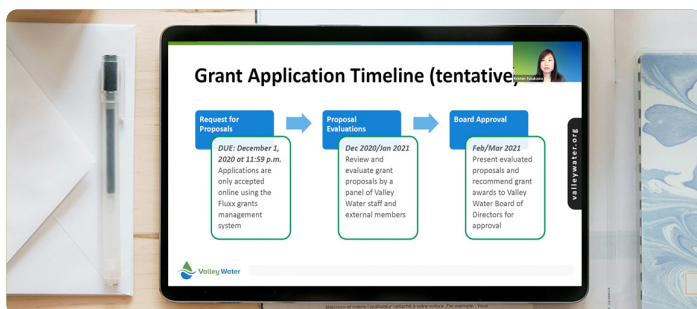
2021 Grant Cycle Remains Open for Applications Until Dec. 1:

Staff continue to promote 2021 grant funding for B7: Volunteer Cleanup Efforts & Education and D3: Access to Trails & Open Space, as well as ongoing mini-grant opportunities. In October, staff held two virtual grant pre-proposal workshops for 52 attendees and presented at the Environmental and Water Resources Committee and Water Commission Meeting. Grant opportunities continue to be announced via grant message boards, Nextdoor, social media, media advisory, stakeholder outreach, promo video, eblasts, and more.

Mini-Grants: In October, Valley Water awarded six D3: Restore Wildlife Habitat and A2: Water Conservation mini-grants:

- Baker Home & School Club: Outdoor Classroom and Garden
- Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden: Watershed Garden
- Grassroots Ecology: Embarcadero Road Habitat Corridor
- Latimer Home & School Club: Latimer Garden & Outdoor Classroom
- Marshmallow Minds: Environmental STE(A)M Education on Conservation of Birds
- Smart Yards Education Foundation: Rebuilding Together Landscape Conversion Event

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Staff held two Grant Pre-Proposal Workshops in October

EDUCATION OUTREACH

In the month of October, the Education Outreach team reached 612 students from 23 virtual classrooms and one virtual science camp for the City of San Jose Public Library. The team also supported 110 educators through classroom programs, an educator training workshop with Walden West staff and the Department of Water Resources Water Educator Committee Meeting. The team engaged 111 members of the public through four Wonders of Water Wednesdays after-school enrichment programs.

The team also successfully piloted two new virtual programs during October. "H2O On The Go!" for 6th - 12th grade students explores the interaction between the natural and human-constructed water cycles and a "Watershed Maps" program designed for 1st - 2nd grade students, that introduces the concept of watersheds while exploring the question, "Where does our water come from and where does it go?"

The program continues to support San Jose Public Library, providing hands-on educational activities for their "Science for Kids," an after-school and weekend program series for the 2020-21 school year. The students enjoyed creating 3-D maps as they learned about watersheds and how to reduce human impact on our environment. 20 students from the East Side Adult School learned about the importance of Valley Water infrastructure as they experienced the many pathways that water takes as it travels through our environment during "H2O On The Go," presented on October 21, "Imagine A Day Without Water."

MONTH	STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS	PUBLIC ATTENDEES	YEAR TO DATE
July to September	665	200	865
October	772	111	833
TOTAL	1,387	311	1,698

FY21 Goal: Reach at least 10,000 students and 1,500 members of the public

WATER SUPPLY OUTREACH

The Water Supply Outreach team hosted two full runs of the Water Infrastructure Virtual Tour series during October, reaching 347 members of the public. The team also hosted 7 private virtual tours of the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center, reaching an additional 109 attendees. The team also presented a condensed version of the purification center tour at the All Employee Town Hall meeting on October 29 reaching 473 Valley Water employees. This month the team published a series of supporter badge graphics to share with tour participants and encourage them to post on their social media profiles and share about their experience.

SPRING WATER 101 ACADEMY APPLICATION PERIOD OPEN

Staff published the 2nd quarterly edition of the Water Ambassador newsletter on October 8. The application period for the Spring 2021 Water 101 Academy launched on October 6. Applications are due December 4. Staff has been conducting extensive outreach via social media, newsletters, blogs, direct outreach to faith-based organizations, and encouraging past cohort members to spread the word. Once the application period closes, staff will screen and rank applicants and provide the screening analysis to board members for their final selections.

DATE	PURIFICATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE TOURS	FY 21 TOTAL ATTENDEES
July - September		327
October 6	Water Infrastructure Tour Stop #1	26
October 8	Water Infrastructure Tour Stop #2	20
October 9	Private SVAWPC Tour - SJSU AMES/Latinos in Science Engineering Student Group	8
October 13	Water Infrastructure Tour Stop #3	37
October 14	Private SVAWPC Tour - Treeview Elementary 5th grade class	27
October 15	Water Infrastructure Tour Stop #4	28
October 16	Private SVAWPC Tour - Santa Clara University Wastewater Engineering Course	7
October 20	Water Infrastructure Tour Stop #1	61
October 20	Private SVAWPC Tour - San Jose City College Environmental Studies Course	23
October 21	Public SVAWPC Tour with the San Jose City Library	28
October 22	Water Infrastructure Tour Stop #2	63
October 23	Private SVAWPC Tour - Ohlone Elementary 4th & 5th grade class	21
October 23	Private SVAWPC Tour - San Jose State University MESA Student Group	17
October 27	Water Infrastructure Tour Stop #3	56
October 29	Water Infrastructure Tour Stop #4	28
October 29	Private SVAWPC tour - American Chemists Society	6
October 29	Valley Water All Employees Town Hall	473
TOTALS		1,256

FY 21 Goal: Conduct public/private tours of the SVAWPC for at least 750 attendees

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

California Flood Preparedness Week took place from October 17-24th. Staff participated in a virtual week long celebration themed around the slogan, "Be Aware, Be Prepared, and Take Action". Activities included a lunch and learn with the National Weather Service, opportunities to purchase emergency bags for your family at a discounted rate and calls to action to create a family emergency plan and to check if you live in a flood zone. More information on flood preparedness can be found on the Valley Water website: <https://www.valleywater.org/floodready>.

Staff met with the CRS Users Group (city jurisdictions) on October 29th to discuss the revisions to the 2020 Santa Clara County 5-Year Multi-Jurisdictional Program for Public Information (PPI). Additional review of the document and follow up are requested of the CRS Users Group. Another CRS Users Group meeting will be scheduled before the end of the year, if additional review of the document is needed.

LOOKING AHEAD

Wonders of Water Wednesday Afterschool Science Enrichment Series

- Water Cycle Boogie Nov. 4
- Watershed Maps Nov. 11
- Plastic Voyages Nov. 18

Flood Season Educator Emergency Backpack Giveaway

- Contest runs Nov. 2- Mar.31

San Jose Public Library Virtual Science Camp

- Hidden Water Nov. 13

New Water Infrastructure Virtual Bus Tour series:

- Stop 1 - Water Supply Nov. 5
- Stop 2 - Water Treatment and Quality Nov. 12
- Stop 3 - Flood Protection and Healthy Environments Nov. 17
- Stop 4 - Purified Water and Water Reuse Nov. 19

Private tours of the SVAWPC:

- Alison Montessori Middle/HS 9th Grade AP Env class Nov. 4
- Andrew Hill HS Nov. 5
- Mission College Engr 10 class Nov. 10
- Two Retirement Communities Nov. 10
- Gunderson HS AP Env. Science Nov. 13
- Milpitas HS Nextflex Nov. 19
- Milpitas HS Nextflex Nov. 20

Youth Commission meeting Nov. 18

Office of Civic Engagement Annual Update to Board Nov. 24

2021 Grant applications being accepted closes Dec. 1