

# How to Participate in the Cleanup Event

It's easy to participate! Simply follow the steps below, and you're on your way to having a great time at Vacaville's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Creek Cleanup Day!

## 1. *Select a location.*

Contact Fern Wilson or Clay Carey by calling (707) 469-6400 or email [ccarey@cityofvacaville.com](mailto:ccarey@cityofvacaville.com) to register at one of the cleanup locations below:

- **Lagoon Valley at Butcher Road - Walking/Biking Path - Laguna Creek**
- **Butcher Road at Bridge - Alamo Creek**
- **Andrews Park - Walking/Biking Path - Ulatis Creek**
- **Dobbins & Monte Vista - Ulatis Creek**
- **Allison Drive at Bridge - Walking/Biking Path - Ulatis Creek**
- **Depot Street & Mason Street - Ulatis Creek**
- **Hume Way & Marshal Road - Walking/Biking Path**
- **Pleasants Valley Road & Foothill Drive - Alamo Creek**
- **Edgewater Drive - Alamo Creek**
- **Patwin Park - Walking/Biking Path - Alamo Creek**

## 2. *Print & sign the waiver form - this registers you to participate*

Everybody who joins us for Creek Cleanup Day is required to sign a waiver. Although we'll have waivers at each cleanup location, your check-in will go more quickly and smoothly if you arrive with your signed waiver. All volunteers under the age of 18 must have the appropriate liability waiver signed by a parent or legal guardian and must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian *before* participating in a creek cleanup. Please view & print a waiver, have it signed today, and bring it with you on Creek Cleanup Day!

## 3. *Come Prepared*

Please wear closed-toe shoes, sunscreen, and a hat. Please help us reduce the amount of trash generated at the event by bringing your own **reusable** water bottle, gloves, and a bucket or wagon. Water coolers and all cleanup supplies will be provided at each site.

## 4. *Go to the site and Check-In.*

When you arrive at the cleanup site, look for the site captains located at the check-in table with a Coastal Cleanup Day poster. If you haven't brought a signed waiver, please pick one up from one of the site captains, read and sign it, then turn it over to the site captain. The site captain will give your group a site orientation, review safety instructions, hand out cleanup equipment, trash bags, and a data card to tally the items you collect. Volunteers must work in teams of two or more.

## 5. *Collect Data & Pick up Trash.*

Data collection is important. Your data will go into The Ocean Conservancy's international database, which is used to identify the sources of debris and to help devise solutions to the marine debris problem. Be sure to return trash, recyclables, and your data card to the site captain after the cleanup. Check-in opens at 9:00 am. Please arrive early enough to complete your cleanup participation and report back to the site captain by 12:00 noon.

# Safety First!

**Safety** is our first priority for all of our cleanup locations. Even the cleanest-looking creeks and inland areas can have hidden dangers such as nails, broken glass and hypodermic needles. Please take a moment to read our safety directions so that you can be prepared for a fun and safe day at Vacaville Creek Cleanup Day.

## **Safety**

1. Make sure you have signed a liability waiver.
2. Avoid poison oak, bees, and snakes: always watch where you are stepping!
3. Do not go near any large drums, open or unmarked containers of fluid.
4. Wear gloves and closed toe shoes at all times, and have clothing and sun-block to protect you from the sun.
5. Do not go into the creek; stay along the edge and avoid steep banks. Report the location of any trash in the creek back to your site captain.
6. Be cautious near creeks as they are ecologically fragile and can't bear the tromping of feet as it causes erosion, damages native plants, and destroys animal habitat.
7. Do not pick up syringes, needles, any sharp objects, condoms, tampons, waste materials or anything of which you are not sure. Mark the area with a ring of stick or stones and notify the site captain of the location.
8. Don't lift anything too heavy; when in doubt, don't try!
9. Don't touch or pick up dead animals or attempt to move injured animals. Make your site captains aware of the animals and where they are.
10. Do not clean near any flowing storm drain outlets.

11. Avoid over-exertion, sunburn, heat exhaustion, and dehydration. When in doubt, come in early.
12. Work in teams of 2 or more people and make sure children are always supervised.

### **What to pick up**

We pick up only human-created matter (plastics, metal, glass, Styrofoam, etc.). Natural debris (nests & rocks, etc.) are part of the natural system we are working to restore and should be left alone. Avoid disturbing plants and animals.

### **Data Cards**

The information volunteers collect on data cards will be used to revise national maritime disposal policies, and is used to advance environment-protecting legislation.

- Although there is not a space to list every single piece or type of trash we expect to see during the cleanup, volunteers should still pick up every piece of debris they find.
- When filling out cards, count items in groups of five (as shown in the example on the card) and record the total in the box.
- Do not write the words "lots" or "many." Count every piece and be specific! Only actual numbers of items can be used.
- While the debris items are listed under what has proven to be their most typical sources, not all of the trash we pick up is directly related to the activity under which it is listed. The impact of storm drains on our oceans and waterways is enormous, and much of what we find on our beaches and in our water originates from inland areas.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in Vacaville's Creek Cleanup! Once you are at your selected location, you'll want to make the most of your time and effort. Follow the guidelines listed under Safety to enjoy a satisfying and rewarding cleanup. If you have any questions, please contact Clay at [ccarey@cityofvacaville.com](mailto:ccarey@cityofvacaville.com)