

Fish Kill in Sausal Creek

On February 7th, 11 native rainbow trout were found dead in Sausal Creek. Paints and solvents dumped into a storm drain immediately upstream were the most likely cause.

Photo by Kristina Cervantes-Yoshida

All of us can help protect fish in Sausal Creek

Urban creeks are an important part of a healthy ecosystem. They drain excess rain slowly, safely, and without erosion, they create habitat for birds and other small animals and insects, and they're beautiful places to visit.

But a creek's health is affected by everyone who lives near it. Paints and thinners poured into storm drains are not the only hazards. Runoff carries chemicals such as pesticides, fertilizers, car oils, and detergents into the creek. Even water from your hose is toxic fish, amphibians, and aquatic insects because it contains chloramine as a disinfectant.

How can I help?

- Wash **paintbrushes** in sinks so paint does not drain into creeks.
- **Minimize use of chemicals** in your home and garden.
- **Wash your car** at a car wash where wastewater is recycled.
- If your car **leaks oil, grease, or antifreeze**, get it fixed.
- **Don't litter.** Trash is toxic to aquatic life.
- **Protect your property from erosion** and prevent silt from entering the creek.
- Tuck this flyer in your phone book, so you can **call if you spot a problem in the creek.**
- **Support Friends of Sausal Creek** by donating and volunteering. Check our website for more information.

Resources for healthy creeks

- To dispose of **chemicals, paints, batteries**, call 800-606-6606 or visit www.household-hazwaste.org.
- For info on **non-toxic alternatives** in your home, call 877-STOPWASTE or visit www.tinyurl.com/2r32a3.
- To report **sewer leaks**, strange odors or color in creek, call 510-615-5566.
- To report water main or fire hydrant breaks, call 866-403-2683.
- To join the **Maintain-A-Drain program** and help keep trash out of creeks, visit www.oaklandpw.com/Page292.aspx.
- For guidelines on **creekside vegetation & erosion prevention**, visit www.oaklandpw.com/Page157.aspx.



Friends of Sausal Creek
Promoting Watershed Protection