

Water Matters

Youth Stewardship Program

OAKLAND WATERSHEDS

A watershed is a land area that channels rainfall and snowmelt to creeks, streams, rivers, and the ocean.



There are several watersheds throughout Oakland, including:

- Sausal Creek Watershed
- East Creek Watershed
- Arroyo Viejo Watershed

These watersheds are made up of various creeks with different headwaters, but they all drain into the San Francisco Bay.

HEALTHY STREAMS

Some ways to measure stream health are:

- Oxygen dissolved in the water
- Acidity/ Alkalinity
- Nitrate and phosphate levels
- Temperature
- Clarity/ Turbidity

One great way to determine if a stream is healthy is to look at the insects living in it.

Presence of certain kinds of water bugs is a good indicator that a stream is healthy!



WATER QUALITY THREATS

Pollutants are a major cause of poor stream health.

Examples of pollutants are:

- Pet waste
- Herbicide and pesticide runoff
- Litter
- Automotive fluids
- Paint

Anything that enters a storm drain makes its way to the creek, so remember: only rain down the storm drain!

WHY IT MATTERS

Maintaining healthy streams is important because they play a critical role in the environment by providing things like:

- Habitat for wildlife
- Ecosystem services like filtering water and producing clean air
- Green space for recreation

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- No dumping: only rain down the storm drain
- Keep your dogs on leash near creeks
- Pick up after your dogs
- Spread the word and be a watershed steward!



THANK YOU PARTNERS!

