

SUMMARY REPORT



The Splash Off was April 21 at Sutter's Landing Park. Keynote speaker was State Assemblymember Kevin McCarty. He spoke of the value urban waterways offer to communities and wildlife. He talked about the formation of the Lower American River Conservancy and how it will lead to improvements and expansion of the Parkway. He presented the Creek Steward Award to Friends of the River Banks, who share the appreciation of their neighborhood stretch of the American River Parkway--Sutter's Landing Park--with others, especially young children and their families through regular events. Another Splash Off highlight was the delicious food prepared by Maryrose Barnhurst and served by the Embarcadero Lions.

Creek Week events were well-publicized this year in a variety of media. KVIE Public Television again ran 15-second spots which were fun and effective. The Sacramento Bee ad was again in full color. Creek Week articles appeared in the Sacramento Bee and neighborhood publications. A thirty minute interview aired on CBS local radio. The on-line [Delta Confluence](#) ran a good article. As in years past, Creek Week brochures, posters and bookmarks were mailed and made available in public spaces such as libraries, community centers, park facilities and schools. E-newsletters and Facebook were used to remind past participants about Creek Week activities.

Sacramento Area Creeks Council and the San Juan Unified School District partnered in creating the Creek Week artwork and logo. Fifth and sixth grade students at Legette Elementary School in Fair Oaks created the art pieces from which Creek Week promotional art was selected. The students' Creek Week art was thus informed by their participation in the Splash program where they learned about the flora and fauna of vernal pools in the classroom and through a visit to the Mather vernal pools and Splash Center.

Creek Week workshops and field trips were attended by about 150 adults and children. Activities included outdoor investigations led by scientists, and outings led by knowledgeable volunteer docents. Participation in these activities can make volunteer clean-up efforts more meaningful.

The 27th annual creek clean-up fell on a lovely spring day. Some creek banks were a little soggy from the late rains. High winter and spring flows had washed a large quantity of trash into the creeks, and debris was snagged on creek vegetation and upper banks. Weeds had a chance to grow higher than usual due to the extra rain and sun and later-than-usual date of the clean-up. Tall, thick weeds made some areas inaccessible and hid the trash. Even so, volunteers managed to pull out many tons of trash from Sacramento County waterways.

Nearly 1,700 volunteers (about half adults and half children) worked along a total of ~35 miles of waterways and helped clean a creek on April 29. They gathered at 90+ different locations. Statistics and highlights below:

- Over 19 tons of garbage were removed from creeks in Sacramento, Citrus Heights, Folsom, Rancho Cordova, Rio Linda, the Delta, & unincorporated Sacramento County. (47 tires, 50 shopping carts)
- Interesting items found included a snow ski, mannequin hand, toilets, chicken coop, tractor seat, wheel chairs, and folded flags.
- For the eighth year, water quality testing was conducted at selected sites.
- For the first time, some volunteers categorized the trash that was removed from a designated area of their creek site and [entered the collected data](#) using Kobo Toolbox with the help of [hammerdirt](#). [Arcade Creek report](#) is one of four that will be generated for Creek Week 2017.
- Volunteers used state-of-the-art materials & methods to [fill a creek trail gully & stabilize the soil](#)

The afternoon [Celebration](#) at Carmichael Park featured family entertainment from Red Shoe Productions, fun activities, barbecue, the Junk & Gunk contest and earth-friendly exhibits. The Carmichael Chamber of Commerce prepared the food and served lunch for all volunteers. Twenty exhibitors provided interactive activities and handouts to creek cleaners attending the Celebration.

Sacramento Area Creeks Council is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization.
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