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DITCH AND CREEK MAINTENANCE

The City of Vallejo is required by the Federal Clean Water Act and the State Regional Water Resources Board Municipal Regional Permit (MRP) to protect our creeks and storm drains from discharges that could cause pollutants to enter the City's storm drains or other waterways.

Most ditch and creek maintenance is the responsibility of the private property owner. Property owners are encouraged to check creek beds and sides for overgrown weeds, trees, or brush which will impede the flow of water.

Additionally, a number of properties throughout the City have concrete V-ditches along hillsides that need to be cleared of dirt and debris to ensure proper flow to the stormdrains.



Leaves left in ditches and creeks will stay there until they wash into storm drains. Not only do leaves clog the gutters and storm drains, causing street flooding every year, but overloading creeks with decomposing leaves can deplete the water's oxygen supply. Residents should be environmentally aware, bagging leaves whenever possible and never raking leaves or any lawn debris onto a paved surface or toward a storm drain. Place leaves in your yard waste container which is collected weekly, or compost the leaves and use the rich nutrients to enhance your garden. Composting can be as simple as raking leaves into an isolated spot in your yard, far away from your curb or driveway, and allowing them to decompose into nutrient-rich mulch.

Homeowner Responsibilities

- Inspect and maintain your portion of the ditch creek, concrete V-ditches along hillsides, to ensure it remain free of all debris such as grass clippings, tree limbs, leaves and waste vegetation, trash, and other objects that could obstruct the full flow of water.
- Inspect and clean culverts under your driveway and V-ditches along your property, especially before the rainy season begins in October and before major storms. Such actions ensure that stormwater will flow unimpeded and will not carry pollutants into the creeks.
- Ensure that nothing but stormwater enters the creek and V-ditches and that yard clippings and other wastes, litter and debris are not placed in the creek or on its banks.

