

CITY OF MARTINEZ
PRIVATE CREEK MAINTENANCE INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

General:

Creek maintenance is the responsibility of the owner whose property abuts a creek (usually to the center line of a creek). When the creek area is not properly maintained, the resulting obstructions can lead to increased flooding, changes to the course of the creek and increased erosion on the obstructed property or downstream.

Permit(s) may be required for work in the creek:

Prior to performing enhancement work or maintenance activities in the creek, refer to San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board (SFRWQCB) website below for guidance on activities that may require permits from other regulatory agencies. Also refer to the "*City Creek and Drainage Area Permit Requirements*" for activities requiring a permit from the City.

Maintenance and Creek Enhancement Recommendations:

For proper creek maintenance and enhancement on your property, the City recommends the following:

1. Inspect your section of the creek. Look for obstructions, erosion problems, and vulnerability of structures. Talk with your neighbors to explore ways to work together on creek maintenance.
2. Remove all debris, obstructions, and foreign objects, other than proper slope stabilization measures (rip-rap or retaining wall). This may include anything from bottles and cans, broken fence, or concrete, to a shopping cart, bathtub, appliance, or any manmade object. It also includes loose dead wood and fallen trees or tree limbs. This is the property owner's responsibility even if the object washed down from upstream.
3. If you have existing slope stabilization such as rip-rap or retaining walls, keep them in good condition and repair those that have deteriorated.
4. Remove specific dead or fallen trees or non-native vegetation. If you are requested to cut a dead or fallen tree, cut it at or near ground level, but leave roots in the ground.
5. Do not undertake construction work or other stream alteration work without obtaining the required permit(s).

6. Do not clear cut the creek slopes. Leave ground cover (such as low grasses or vines) growing on the ground.
7. Do not plant invasive plants such as ivy, vinca, Arundo (giant cane). These plants do not stabilize the banks and will choke other plants that do.
8. Do not build anything that will obstruct flow in the creek or reduce the channel capacity.
9. Do not dump any material into the creek such as rocks, concrete, building materials, lumber, yard waste, pet waste, gray water or swimming pool and spa drainage.
10. Do not plant in the streambed.
11. Do not place exotic species into the creek, such as goldfish.
12. If you are concerned about erosion on your slope, consider consulting with design professionals to stabilize the slope, coordinate with the Urban Creek Council for guidance on measures to protect the slope (see website link below).
13. Report dumping in the creek to 1-800 NODUMPING.

Applicable sections of the City's Municipal Code and Council Resolutions:

- City Council Resolution 153 -87, Adopting Policy for the Maintenance of Alhambra Creek.
- Chapter 8.14 "Drainage" of the Martinez Municipal Code.
[CHAPTER 8.14 - DRAINAGE | Code of Ordinances | Martinez, CA | Municode Library](#)
- Erosion Control is regulated by Chapter 15.04, Section 15.04.06 of the City's Municipal Code.
- Chapter 15.06, Stormwater Management and Discharge of the City's
[CHAPTER 8.14 - DRAINAGE | Code of Ordinances | Martinez, CA | Municode Library](#)

Links to other websites for further information:

1. *San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board (SFRWQCB), Stream Maintenance and Enhancement Projects:*
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb2/press_room/documents/Stream_Maintenance_Enhancement_Fact_Sheet_Final.pdf
2. *Friends of Alhambra Creek:*
<https://www.ccrd.org/friends-of-alhambra-creek>

3. *Contra Costa Urban Streams Partnership:*
<https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/77572/SMPL-Brochure-PDF>
4. *Contra Cost County Private Creek Maintenance:*
[Private Creek Maintenance | Contra Costa County, CA Official Website](#)
5. *Urban Creek Council:*
<https://ecologycenter.org/directory/directory-entries/urban-creeks-council/>
6. Contra Costa Clean Water Program
<https://www.cccleanwater.org/>

Questions:

If you have any further questions or desire additional information, please contact the Public Works Department at (925) 372-3515.