What is a Watershed?

1. The region draining into a river, creek or other body of water.
2. A critical point that marks a division or a change of course; a turning point.

**Gallinas Creek Watershed** includes all the land that drains into Gallinas Creek in the 94903 area of Marin County, CA. Gallinas Creek has two main branches: the south fork, which starts in the hills above Los Ranchitos and flows through Santa Venetia; and the north fork, which starts in the hills above Terra Linda and runs through the cement “ditch” along Del Ganado Road and Freitas Parkway and under 101. Another arm of the creek starts just south of Lucas Valley Road at Las Gallinas Avenue and flows under 101 before joining the north fork. The two main branches meet in the wetlands east of the freeway before emptying into San Pablo Bay. The small streams that drain San Pedro Mountain and China Camp State Park flow into the same part of the Bay and are considered to be part of our watershed (see map on other side).

**What YOU can do!**

Each of us can help create a healthier watershed by:

- Treating water with respect—all life depends on it
- Picking up trash—especially plastic
- Avoiding the use of pesticides, herbicides, and antibacterial products—they end up in the water and harm wildlife
- Breaking up pavement to let the rain soak into the ground and let soil bacteria break down pollutants
- Helping to remove invasive weeds
- Planting native species in your garden
- Picking up after your dog or cat and disposing of waste properly
- Washing cars at car wash stations to prevent detergents and other toxins from entering the storm drain system and flowing into the bay
- Refraining from dumping oil or any other waste materials onto pavement or into storm drains

**Slow It, Spread It, Sink It**

Free Guide to Stormwater Management for homeowners and landowners:

www.ssrcrd.org/rainwater.php

**Our Activities**

- Creek cleanups
- Watershed tours by bike, foot, kayak or canoe
- Public education at fairs & events
- Advocacy to protect our watershed in decisions of the Marin Board of Supervisors, San Rafael Planning Commission, the San Rafael City Council and resource management agencies
- Working collaboratively with the Gallinas Watershed Management Planning process
- Public meetings with guest speakers
- Art exhibits featuring creek and watershed photos

**Join Us!**

We meet monthly and welcome your participation. Volunteer—there are fun and educational projects throughout the year. Show your support with a yearly $10.00 contribution. See our website for details and upcoming events.

www.gallinaswatershed.org

Conservation • Education • Restoration

**Welcome to Your Watershed**

GWC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created by a diverse group of volunteers who live and work in the Las Gallinas Valley.

From the the hills of Terra Linda to the wetlands of Santa Venetia, we are committed to using the watershed approach to protect and enhance our environment.

**The Gallinas Watershed Council**

www.gallinaswatershed.org

68 Mitchell Blvd, Ste 240
San Rafael, CA 94903
415-578-2580

Photo courtesy of Renee Krupp
The Gallinas Creek and China Camp marshes are home to the largest population of the endangered California clapper rail in San Pablo Bay. Black rail, salt marsh harvest mouse and other rare species also depend on this marsh to survive.

San Pablo Bay is the outfall (end point) for Gallinas Creek. This area is feeding grounds for steelhead and Chinook salmon and once supported a huge shrimping industry. Replanting native eelgrass could bring back bay shrimp.

Gallinas Creek was encased in a cement ditch to “control” it when Terra Linda was built. Now we know better. Restoring the creek could bring back steelhead and create a more beautiful greenbelt parkway through our valley.

Concrete, asphalt, roofs and other impervious (hard) structures create more runoff during rainstorms, which leads to serious downstream flooding. Levees keep sea water out but also keep rainwater in.

Removing levees and allowing natural marshes to rebuild help protect low-lying communities from rising seas. Tidal wetlands that result from this kind of restoration store carbon and provide habitat for many important species.

Replanting native eelgrass could bring back bay shrimp.

Levees keep sea water out but also keep rainwater in.