



Illustration from San Mateo Recycle Works Program

## What is a Watershed?

*wa•ter•shed*

(wōtər-shəd') *n.*

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 Hwy 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).

## 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 \$30.00 contribution. See our website for details and upcoming events.

[www.gallinaswatershed.org](http://www.gallinaswatershed.org)

**Conservation • Education • Restoration**



Photo of creek cleanup courtesy of Creekwalker

## Our Activities

- Promoting restoration of a natural channel along Frietas Parkway, removing the concrete
- Civic Center Lagoon Restoration using green technology, including floating island biofilters
- Creek cleanups by foot or by kayak or canoe
- 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 City Council and Planning Commission and resource management agencies
- Working collaboratively with the County's Gallinas Watershed Program Planning Process
- Public meetings with guest speakers

## 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 anti-bacterial products—they end up in water and harm wildlife
- Breaking up pavement to let the rain soak into the ground and let soil bacteria break down pollutants
- Removing invasive weeds without using pesticides
- Planting native species in your garden
- Picking up after your dog or cat and disposing of waste properly
- Washing cars at a Car Wash saves water and stops detergents and toxins from draining to the bay
- Recycling used oil, paint and other hazardous materials properly—not down house or street drains
- Using rainwater and greywater for landscaping

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

Free Guide to Stormwater Management for homeowners and landowners:

<http://www.sonomarcd.org/htm/rainwater.htm>

Photo courtesy of Creekwalker



# Welcome to Your Watershed



Photo courtesy of Reneee Krupp

## Gallinas Watershed Council

GWC is a 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.*



[www.gallinaswatershed.org](http://www.gallinaswatershed.org)

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## 1 Headwaters

The headwaters of Gallinas Creek are in protected open space but trash, dog waste, erosion and invasive plant species are still problems.



## 3 Sedimentation

Gallinas Creek has two major forks: the north and south forks. Sediment is filling up the south fork near Santa Venetia.



## 4 Tidal Wetland Retoration

Gallinas Creek and Miller Creek (just to the north) both once flowed into the same complex of tidal wetlands. Marin County Parks is restoring 180 acres of diked wetlands at McInnis Park. Levees would be breached to allow both Miller Creek and Gallinas Creek to flow into restored tidal wetlands.



# Gallinas Creek Watershed



- Gallinas Creek Watershed Boundary
- San Pablo Bay
- Roads
- Wetland areas
- Headwaters
- 100-year Floodplain Boundary
- Open Space and Parks
- Stream Channels
- Permanent pump station
- Temporary pump station
- SMART train tracks

## 2 Channelization



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.

## 7 Flooding



Santa Venetia streets, 1983

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.

## 8 Civic Center Lagoon Restoration Program with Floating Islands

Floating Islands are a green biofilter technology that supports a living ecosystem of native plants, providing natural water filtration and absorbing potentially damaging nutrients. GWC, working with foundation, government and business partners installed two floating islands in the Civic Center Lagoon on a pilot basis, and is seeking to implement permanent floating islands.



## 5 San Pablo Bay

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.



## 6 Endangered Species

The Gallinas Creek and China Camp marshes are home to the largest population of the endangered Ridgway's Rail (formerly California Clapper Rail) in San Pablo Bay. Black rail, salt marsh harvest mouse and other rare species also depend on this marsh to survive.



0 0.25 0.5 1  
Miles

