

Friends of Novato Creek



An Environmental Action Group
Protecting the Novato Creek Watershed

Some Proposed Organizational Goals

- Protection, restoration, and improvement of the Novato Creek Watershed
- Building community awareness through public outreach and hands on programs with local community groups, youth groups, schools, individuals and environmental organizations
- Development as part of the public outreach of the subgroup, Kids for Novato Creek to promote, organize and monitor specific sites and conduct directed clean up projects.



Friends.. Every Creek Needs Some..

- Introductions
- Proposed Objectives & Concerns
- Current Activities and Next Steps
- Call for Volunteers & Group Leaders



Novato Creek

- **Diverse with Rural, Urban, & Estuarine**
- **Water Quality & Creek Monitoring**

Stewardship:


The Novato Creek does not have "a steward" that regularly monitors water quality .

Funding:

We are seeking funding, grants and donations to begin a comprehensive assessment of the Water Quality in the Novato Creek and surrounding waterways.


Assessment Goal:


Our goal is to identify problem areas and solutions throughout the watershed.



Novato Creek...Facts

- Novato Creek has areas with high Bacterial levels
- Declining wildlife populations and biodiversity have been observed. More than 20 species of marine life/ invertebrates have vanished in the creek, ponds and lagoons
- Novato Creek & Flood Control District is one of the largest Watersheds in Marin County
- Siltation in the lower Novato Creek has resulted in inadequate flow to flush the creek. Concerns are water pollution (silt) and flooding
- Higher Mercury levels than the standard for San Pablo Bay have been identified in the Creek.

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- Novato Creek is silting in at a rate of 1-2 feet in places per year. This sediment has been identified as coming from the erosion in the upper watershed.
 - Pacheco Pond has had numerous incidents of wildlife & fish kills reported with no agency investigation.
 - Illegal discharges from Novato Sanitary were highest in Marin County
 - Investigation of potential sources of pollution in Novato Creek
 - Novato Sanitary District outfalls
 - Pollution in Pacheco Pond
 - Potential toxics entering waters flowing from HAAF
 - Stormwater Runoff
 - Bel Marin Key Industrial Park



Current Activities

- ▣ Seeking funding for Educational outreach and Novato Creek Wildlife website
- ▣ Conducting Aerial Photo survey of the creek
- ▣ Gathering historic Mercury, Bacterial, and sedimentation data on the creek
- ▣ Planning a wildlife assessment of the wetlands and Pacheco Pond area
- ▣ Alignment with local environmental organizations and identification of joint goals
- ▣ Identification of Grant opportunities
- ▣ Next meeting to address Board of Directors and final drafting and approving of the Articles of Incorporation.
- ▣ Develop a monthly monitoring program including bacterial, nitrates, phosphates dissolved O2 and other parameters TBD



Next Steps: Friends of Novato Creek

- ▣ Invitation to join and become a charter member. We are seeking \$25 donations to begin programs for the Creek
- ▣ Incorporation as a non-profit is in progress.
- ▣ Seeking nominations for Board Members and Advisory Steering Committee
- ▣ Begin drive for volunteers & leaders of programs
- ▣ Creek Cleanup scheduled in next several months
- ▣ Development of a Steering committee to develop a long term plan and objectives



Volunteer Opportunities

Membership
Database coordination
Phone / e-mail tree
Membership drive planning/
coordination

Volunteer Coordination
Fundraising

Restoration & Creek Clean Up Projects

Creek Watch and Water Quality
Monitoring

In Field
Data Analysis

Aquatic Insect Sampling
Bird & Fish Monitoring

Grant Investigation and Writing
Financial Services- Paperwork/Taxes

Legal Expertise & Advice

Development of the FNC Objectives and Programs -
Long Range Planning

Public Awareness
Docent lead tours of the Novato Creek
Publication Production, Newsletters & Guides
Support for Monthly Meetings, Administrative
Support

Outreach Program Development
Website Development

Research
Historical Information on Novato Creek
Maps of the Watershed/ Watershed Mapping

Every Creek Needs Friends..



Sign up to volunteer, time, or money
for Friends of Novato Creek and leave
a legacy for the future...