



Stevens Creek Watershed Summit

Thursday, March 26, 2026
Mountain View Community Center
201 S Rengstorff Ave, Mountain View

Run of Show

GOAL: Foster collaboration and develop multi-benefit solutions in the Stevens Creek Watershed.

REGISTRATION

8:15 - 9:00 Registration, Refreshments and Networking

SUMMIT WELCOME

9:00 - 9:05 Summit Welcome and Land Acknowledgement
Scott Walker, President, FoSCT Board of Directors

9:05 - 9:10 Collaboration and Partnerships
Emily Ann Ramos, Mayor, City of Mountain View
Larry Klein, Mayor, City of Sunnyvale

9:10 - 9:15 Importance of the Trail and Creek Corridor to the Community
Supervisor Margaret Abe-Koga

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

9:20 - 9:45 Keynote Speaker - Robin Grossinger

Historical Ecology and Collaborative Action - Working with nature to allow human and natural systems to thrive.

Robin is an urban and historical ecologist, as well as Founding Principal of Second Nature Ecology + Design. He collaborates with cities, corporations, and local communities to bring the benefits of nature into innovative projects that make our cities better, healthier, and more resilient places. He is a co-author of Re-Oaking Silicon Valley and the Western Santa Clara Valley Historical Ecology Study, and received a Local Hero award from Bay Nature magazine. Having studied the South Bay landscape for years, he has helped shape ecological strategies for the South Bay Baylands, Coyote Valley, local creeks, and sites such as the Google campus.

9:45 - 10:15 Lower Peninsula Watershed Master Plan, Valley Water (30 minutes)

Valley Water presents recently crafted metrics and management priorities for the Stevens Creek watershed and requests input from Summit attendees. Valley Water seeks engagement with agency and nonprofit partners to ensure the watershed master plan reflects community values, improves watershed health, integrates environmental stewardship and creates opportunities for interjurisdictional projects.

- Elizabeth “Lizzie” Mercado, Senior Civil Engineer, Valley Water

10:15 - 10:50 Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement Projects (35 minutes)

Panel discussion on steelhead population trends and key barriers to fish passage. The panel will present current projects and highlight opportunities for collaboration to remove fish passage barriers and enhance the habitat of Stevens Creek.

MODERATOR: Charles “Chuck” Hanson, Ph.D., Senior Fishery Biologist

- Jerry Smith, Ph.D., Professor emeritus, San Jose State University
- Clayton Leal, Senior Water Resources Specialist, Valley Water
- Kevin Sibley, Senior Civil Engineer, Valley Water

10:50 - 11:00 Refreshments, Networking and Posters

11:00 - 11:40 Trail Gaps and Public Access Projects (40 minutes)

A short video of the trail as it extends from a single track, natural tread in the upper watershed to a multi-use, paved recreation and transportation corridor on the valley floor opens the session. Panelists present trail projects currently under planning and design that are intended to close gaps in the Stevens Creek Trail between the San Francisco Bay Trail and the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Moderator facilitates discussion on challenges and opportunities delivering these trail segments.

MODERATOR: Gail Seeds, former Park Improvement Manager, City of Cupertino

- Linking Upper and Lower Stevens Creek County Parks
 - Rebecca Coates-Maloon, Countywide Trails Program Manager, Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation
 - Jared Hart, Senior Planner, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
- Providing Trail Connectivity between Mountain View and Sunnyvale
 - Angela Obeso, Transportation and Traffic Manager, City of Sunnyvale
 - Joseph Cervantes, Senior Civil Engineer, City of Mountain View

11:40 - 12:15 Partnerships for a Healthy Watershed (35 minutes)

Local ecological experts highlight opportunities for habitat enhancement following the Summit. Riparian zones are essential habitats for native species and projects along the Stevens Creek corridor have the potential to preserve and enhance the watershed for biodiversity by engaging

nonprofits, neighbors and cities. Learn how riparian habitat benefits species, habitat qualities that support biodiversity, and how to leverage partnerships to provide habitat for wildlife and retain a bit of native California in densely-populated Santa Clara County.

MODERATOR: Lynne Trulio, Ph.D., Professor emerita, Environmental Studies, San Jose State University

- Stephanie Saffouri, Project Manager, Grassroots Ecology
- Katie LaBarbera, Ph.D., Landbird Program Science Director, San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory
- Coty Sifuentes-Winter, Senior Resource Management Specialist, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

MORNING SESSION ENDS

12:15 - 1:10 Lunch

12:15 to 1:10 - Lunch, Networking and Posters

LUNCH TIME CONVERSATION

12:45-1:00 - Sanjeet Sen, Environmental Director, Heidelberg Materials

Restoring Permanente Creek through Heidelberg Materials' Permanente Quarry

Heidelberg Materials Environmental Director, Sanjeet Sen, will provide an update on the Permanente Creek Restoration Project (PCRP). The six-year project involves stream restoration on approximately 9,000 feet of Permanente Creek. The PCRP will substantially improve the creek and riparian habitat, including improvement to channel and stream bank stability and ecological/geomorphic function. After a successful first year in 2025, Heidelberg Materials is gearing up for continued restoration activities in 2026 and beyond.

LUNCH ENDS at 1:10 p.m.

AFTERNOON REMARKS

1:15 - 1:30 Dave Halsing, Executive Project Manager, South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project

Collaboration among jurisdictions, agencies and the community - How do we achieve the highest ecological and community benefits by working together and sharing resources?

AFTERNOON WORKING SESSION

1:30 - 2:30 Open Space Event - Dive Deeper into Your Questions (60 minutes)

These facilitated working sessions will be structured around topics and questions identified during the morning sessions. These breakout groups will encourage creative dialog allowing participants to explore conceptual strategies, identify resources and consider new partnerships for the benefit of the Stevens Creek corridor. Staff and elected officials from the cities, nonprofit organizations, County of Santa Clara, Midpen and resource and regulatory agencies are invited to join these breakout sessions. A facilitator will guide each breakout group exploring your topics and questions of interest.

2:30 - 3:30 Stevens Creek Watershed in the Years Ahead - Thinking Beyond the Planned, Programmed and Funded (60 minutes)

FACILITATOR: Scott Walker, President, Friends of Stevens Creek Trail

This facilitated visioning session will be structured around the future of the watershed. What projects do we envision for the watershed in the years ahead? How might these concepts be achieved? The groups would report out in the last 15 minutes.

3:45 - 4:00 Closing, Thank You and Signup for Future Activities

AFTERNOON SESSION ENDS

4:00 p.m.