

Friends of Alhambra Creek keeps watershed clean

*What is a watershed,
and who are the
Friends of Alhambra
Creek?*

BY KARMA DAVID
Special to the Gazette

I asked myself this very question as I took my 3-week-old son for his first walk downtown this past May. As a Bay Area native, I grew up with a deep appreciation for the outdoors. My love for the outdoors grew into curiosity and then a desire to pro-

tect the natural environment that surrounds us within this diverse region.

As I introduced my son to the natural world, my curiosity couldn't help but be piqued when I noticed the sign, "Alhambra Creek Watershed, Ours to Protect". Just as fiercely as I want to protect my son, I also want to protect the world that he will inherit.

A watershed simply is an area of land that catches rain and drains into a marsh, stream, river, lake or groundwater. Why is it important to protect the Alhambra Watershed? We all live in a

watershed. Watersheds are the places we call home, where we work and where we play. Everyone relies on water and other natural resources to exist. What you and others do on the land impacts the quality and quantity of water and our other natural resources.

The Friends of Alhambra Creek (FoAC) seeks to strengthen the watershed. This past winter season brought severe storms, dumping an abundant amount of water in the Alhambra Watershed, causing stream banks to

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erode, undercutting structures and trees and causing flooding in major areas. Most of Downtown Martinez, however, did not flood. This was due to the continued efforts of FoAC in partnership with the Alhambra Watershed Council and The Alhambra Valley Creek Coalition. When we preserve the Creek, we protect the community.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Take Action: It takes people getting involved to build (and keep) a healthy community. Attend a meeting. Meetings are

held every 4th Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. at Martinez City Hall, 525 Henrietta Street, Martinez.

Get involved: Friends of Alhambra Creek has numerous volunteer opportunities where you, your children and your neighbors can work together in enhancing and protecting the watershed-and build healthy community relationships at the same time!

Contact: Friends of Alhambra Creek at friendsofac@california.com, <http://www.ccrd.org/alhambra.html> PO BOX 2315; Martinez, CA 94553

Look for more articles to come about the Alhambra Watershed and what you can do to get involved.



Photo by Ben

Alhambra Creek is an important regional watershed that de