

Fascinating facts about **Cerrito Creek**

Did you know:

- **Cerrito Creek grows from a fan** of hillside feeders, visible from John Hinkel and Dorothy Bolte Parks in Berkeley to Huber Park in El Cerrito.
- **Cerrito Creek's canyon** (edging Berkeley and Kensington) is our area's deepest.
- **Native Americans lived by the creek** at Albany Hill, fishing in the Bay, hunting and gathering in the adjoining marshes, and grinding acorns and other seeds on the hillside rocks.
- **In Rancho days**, Cerrito Creek divided the huge Castro land grant, stretching north to San Pablo, and the Peralta grant, which extended south to San Leandro.
- **Dynamite was made** along the creek in the 1890s. Eucalyptus trees on Albany Hill were planted to muffle explosions.
- **Tides rise and fall** on Cerrito Creek upstream to the ford at Albany Hill.
- **Wildlife including Pacific chorus frogs**, Western toads, snakes, salamanders, three kinds of native fish, deer, hawks, and owls make their homes on the creek.

Friends of Five Creeks volunteers have worked to restore Cerrito Creek since 1996. Join us!
www.fivecreeks.org
f5creeks@gmail.com
510 848 9358



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Here's how you can help **Cerrito Creek**

*and clean, healthy water and
watersheds throughout California:*

- **Use less water**, so more flows to our rivers, Delta, and Bay.
- **Minimize chemicals.** Wash, caulk, trap insects. Mulch and hand weed instead of spraying. Use compost rather than commercial fertilizers. Use "Bay-friendly," less-toxic products and hire contractors certified in these techniques.
- **Let rain soak into soil.** Dig gardens deeply and keep them well planted and mulched. Direct runoff into vegetation – if practical, make slightly sunken "rain gardens." Use chips, gravel, sand, wood decking, or permeable paving instead of non-permeable concrete or asphalt.
- **Drive less.** Exhaust, gas and oil, and wear from tires and brakes are major sources of toxic runoff pollution. Check cars for leaks and recycle motor oil. Use car washes, which recycle and filter, rather than washing cars in driveways.
- **Don't buy cleansers or cosmetics containing triclosan, products containing silver ions, or synthetic-pyrethroid pesticides (names ending in "-thrin").**

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