



Maintaining Private Creeks for the Community

As we all learned from last winter's storms, the peaceful creeks that run through Danville can cause damage if not kept in a healthy state. While the Town manages an ongoing storm drain maintenance program (see sidebar), the creeks managed by the Town are actually a very small percentage of the total running through Town. The majority are the responsibility of private homeowners, homeowner's associations, and the Contra Costa County Flood Control District. For most creekside properties in Danville, the property line extends into the creek.

The creeks in Danville are an important part of our regional watershed, and properly maintaining creeks on your property helps protect our community. Creeks create a peaceful oasis for people and wildlife to enjoy, and help stem erosion. Keeping our creeks healthy is a shared responsibility, and the Contra Costa County Flood Control District offers an abundance of information on maintaining private creeks.

Their basic guidelines include:

- Remove debris and foreign objects
- Remove tall vegetation such as shrubs, pampas grass, and bamboo.
- Don't clear-cut slopes, as low ground cover prevents erosion.
- Remove tree limbs that hang within two feet of the top of the bank.
- Keep rip-rap and retaining walls in good condition.

Private creek maintenance is regulated by County ordinance, and homeowners have the responsibility to prevent damage that may occur through neglect of creek maintenance. To see a map of creek responsibility in Danville, along with links to the Contra Costa County Flood Control District resources, visit www.danville.ca.gov/stormprep. Danville residents can also contact the Town's Code Enforcement Officer, Claudia Ray, with any questions about creek responsibility: cray@danville.ca.gov. 🌳

PREPARING STORM DRAINS FOR WINTER: HOW YOU CAN HELP

As part of an ongoing storm drain system maintenance program, the Town cleans and clears miles of roadside ditches, culverts, creeks, and storm drain inlets each fall in preparation for winter storms. The work is done to help ensure that the waterways and drainage locations are clear once the winter rains begin.

There are approximately 4,700 storm drain inlets in Danville. The current five-year maintenance program is to inspect and maintain 500 of these drain inlets on an annual basis, however last year over 700 were cleaned.

You can help keep storm drains and culverts clean as you are cleaning up around your home by making sure yard waste is safely disposed of in green bins instead of left on the street or in ditches. Debris and yard waste in the roadway can cause damage to storm drains, potential traffic hazards, and even increased rodent activity.

For more information on storm preparation, contact Town of Danville Maintenance Services at 925-314-3450 or visit www.danville.ca.gov/stormprep. 🌧️

