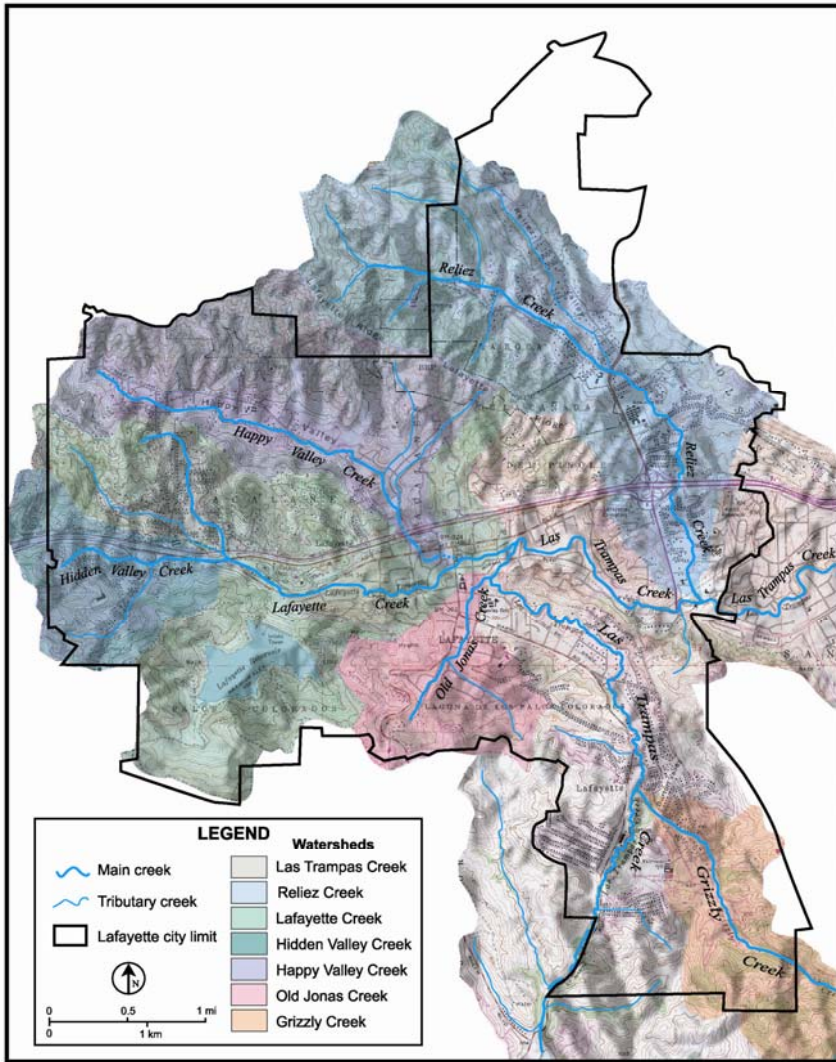


## LAS TRAMPAS CREEK WATERSHED



## Your Watershed Responsibilities As a Homeowner in Lafayette



Prepared by the City of Lafayette  
Creeks Committee  
2006

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**Our neighborhoods in Lafayette** are traversed and enhanced by creeks of many sizes. Some flow year-round, while others flow only after rains. They provide enjoyment for us and crucial habitat for wildlife that share our environment. They are also an integral part of the City's stormwater drainage system.

As in most cities, *you as a Lafayette homeowner* are responsible for maintaining the stormwater drainage system on your property to keep our creeks healthy and unpolluted and to prevent flooding and erosion. *Our Municipal Code states:*

***Residents are responsible for inspecting and maintaining their portion of the ditch / creek, to ensure it remains free of all debris such as grass clippings, tree limbs, leaves and waste vegetation, trash, and other objects that could obstruct the full flow of water.***

This responsibility includes inspecting and cleaning culverts under your driveway and v-ditches along your property, especially before the rainy season begins in October and before major storms. Such actions ensure that stormwater will flow unimpeded and will not carry pollutants into the creeks.

Those fortunate to have a creek flowing through their property are also its steward. Carefully managed and maintained creeks flow cleanly and freely between stable banks, protecting your and your neighbors' property from damage and loss of property values.

The City of Lafayette's stormwater and creek-related ordinances, as well as the entire Municipal Code, can be found on the City website at [www.ci.lafayette.ca.us](http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us)

Relevant codes include:

- Title 5, Chapter 5-4 discusses stormwater pollution prevention to protect the creeks.
- Title 6, Chapter 6-18 pertains to flood damage prevention and permitted construction in compliance with creek setback requirements.

Responsibilities of creek homeowners in Lafayette include the following:

- Ensure that nothing but stormwater enters the creek and that yard clippings and other waste, litter and debris are not placed in the creek or on its banks.
- Maintain stable vegetated creek banks to minimize the rate of soil erosion and to prevent bank failures that may add large volumes of sediment to the creeks and can cause property damage.
- Never alter the creek without determining whether a permit is required from the State Department of Fish and Game, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the Army Corps of Engineers, as well as the City of Lafayette.
- Ensure that all construction near the creek is approved by Lafayette's Planning Department and complies with the City's creek setback requirements.

In addition, good creek stewardship includes maintaining a sufficient riparian canopy of native bushes and trees to keep the creek water cool, thus avoiding growth of harmful algae and preserving animal habitats.

Feel free to contact Lafayette's Stormwater Program Manager at 934-3908 to obtain more information about our urban runoff, storm drainage system, and creeks.