

## Permits are Required to:

1. Modify the natural flow of the creek;
2. Locate structures closer than 20 feet (20') from the top of the creek bank of the creek channel;
3. Deposit material onto a creek bank;
4. Place any loose material adjacent to the creek that could result in a diversion of the water flow or the inclusion of the material into the water; and
5. Construct pipes or other structures that carry water or other runoff directly to the creek.

Refer to Section 30.11 of the Piedmont Municipal Code or contact the Piedmont Department of Public Works at (510) 420-3050 for information.

## State and Federal Permits:

Alteration of creek banks requires a permit from the California Department of Fish and Game.

You may also need permission from:

- Regional Water Quality Control Board
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- National Marine Fisheries Service

Before beginning any construction, landscaping, or bank stabilization, contact City staff at (510) 420-3050.

## If you suspect a problem:

If work or dumping in a streambed seems likely to cause erosion or harm wildlife, or if you suspect such work is being done without state or federal permits, you may call the California Department of Fish and Game Hotline: (800) 952-5400.

## For More Information:

### City of Piedmont

Public Works Dept. (510) 420-3050  
Spills/sewage leaks (510) 420-3050  
After hours/holidays (510) 420-3000

### Clean Water Program Alameda County

[www.cleanwaterprogram.org](http://www.cleanwaterprogram.org)

### Bay Wise

(888) BAY WISE, or  
[www.baywise.org](http://www.baywise.org)

### Native Here Nursery

101 Golf Course Road, Berkeley, CA 94708  
Phone: 510-549-0211

### California Invasive Plant Council

[www.cal-ipc.org](http://www.cal-ipc.org) or (510) 843-3902

### UC Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Program

(advice on pest identification and control, garden challenges) (510) 639-1371

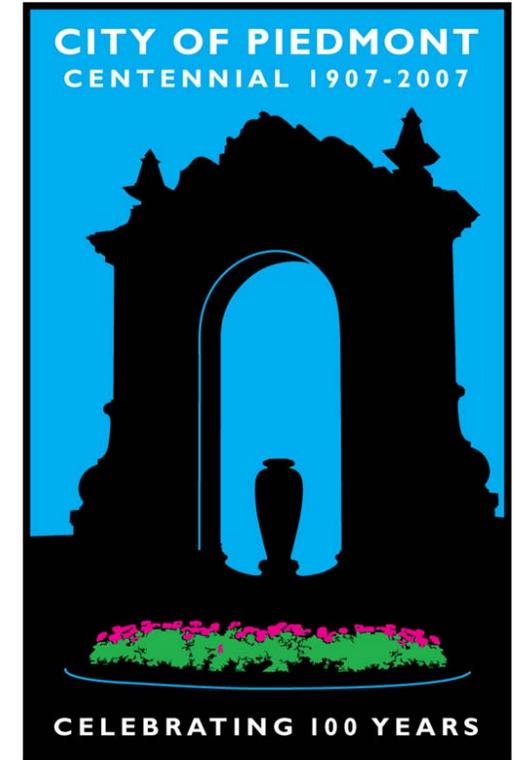
### Bio-Integral Resource Center

(less toxic pest management)  
[www.birc.org](http://www.birc.org) or (510) 524-2567

### Bay-Friendly Landscaping &

Gardening Coalition (510) 859-8026 or  
[www.bayfriendlycoalition.org](http://www.bayfriendlycoalition.org)

# PIEDMONT'S CREEKS



City of Piedmont  
120 Vista Avenue  
Piedmont, CA 94611  
(510) 420-3040

## Safeguarding Our Creeks

There are six creeks located within Piedmont: Pleasant Valley, Bushy Dell, Wildwood, Indian Gulch (Trestle Glen) and Glen Echo (Cemetery). These six creeks and the land areas that drain into them form watersheds that empty into Lake Merritt in Oakland, and from there into San Francisco Bay. As Piedmont became built-out with streets and houses, sections of the creeks were altered, channelized, or covered in underground pipes. Of the surviving sections of the creeks that remain “day-lighted,” some have fell victim to erosion, pollution or invasive plants. Fortunately, other “day-lighted” sections of creek have remained, or have been brought back to thriving healthy riparian habitats.



## Signs of a Healthy Creek

Here are some things to look for to determine if a creek is healthy:

- Cool, clear water with no smells, foam or excessive algae.
- Stable, gentle banks with deep-rooted plants to hold the soil.
- Shade provided by healthy trees and shrubs, preferably native, to keep the water cool and to protect against erosion.
- No litter, yard waste, or dumped material. Natural debris, such as logs, is okay.
- Healthy populations of insect larvae in the creek; birds, insects, and other wildlife around it.
- Natural meanders and a varied bottom of pools, riffles, clean gravel and cobbles rather than fine sediment.

## Maintenance Tips

As a creek-side resident, you share responsibility for maintaining the creek and its corridor. A healthy, well-maintained creek is a valuable amenity to your property.

- Do not clog your creek. City code prohibits the placement of yard trimmings or debris into the creek. (Section 30.11)
- Keep creek corridors free of trash, debris, pet waste, and excessive, impeding vegetation.
- However, do not “clean” the stream. Natural vegetation provides food and shelter for fish and aquatic organisms. Consider impacts on wildlife habitat, and possible erosion, before clearing or pruning along your creek.
- Plant or maintain native vegetation along the creek bank. Planting may be needed if the bank is bare or without shade. Bare banks invite invasive “weed” species, increase water temperature and decrease oxygen for aquatic life.
- Avoid using pesticides, herbicides or chemical fertilizers near a creek.



## Plants Help in Many Ways

Plants provide food and habitat for wildlife and shade to keep the water cool – an essential for creek life. They also prevent erosion during the rainy season.

**Native plants** are good choices for many reasons. They generally have deep roots that minimize erosion, and provide the varied habitat needed by local butterflies, birds, and other species. Once established, they require little watering or pollution-causing chemicals. Invasive plants, such as ivy, ice plant, pampas grass, non-native blackberries, vinca, or periwinkle plague creek-side areas and should be replaced with natives.



## Protect Water Quality:

- Minimize or eliminate the use of pesticides, herbicides and chemical fertilizer.
- Wash vehicles at a car wash. Repair and clean oil or other leaks promptly.
- Plan remodeling projects for summer, when there is little rain.
- Cover piles of material and do not let dirt, paint, concrete, or other construction materials wash to the creek.
- Report illegal dumping to the City.
- Have your sewer laterals inspected and repaired as age, roots, and Bay Area frequent earth movements lead to breaks.
- Landscape so that water soaks into soil.
- Minimize paving and concrete by using other materials.