

## Environmental Protection and Enhancement Strategies

Project	Lead Agency	Description
Environmental and Habitat Protection and Improvement		
Restoration Plan for the Upper Pajaro River Floodplain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Nature Conservancy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of restoration plan for the wildlife corridor between the Mountain Hamilton Range and the Santa Cruz Mountains</li> </ul>
Pajaro River Lagoon Monitoring Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCVWD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A comprehensive monitoring plan that will include bathymetry, fish, water quality, and snowy plover monitoring by the CDFG, the Santa Clara County, and independent entities.</li> </ul>
College Lake Wetland and Stream Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PVWMA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a series of potential projects that can achieve an array of environmental and social benefits to the area</li> <li>• Provide a preliminary planning tool to direct future long-term planning and development activities for the area</li> </ul>
Watsonville Slough Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County of Santa Cruz,</li> <li>• City of Watsonville</li> <li>• PVWMA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Santa Cruz County has developed a Resource Conservation and Enhancement Plan for Watsonville Slough</li> <li>• Provide a safe and scenic network of trails for recreational use and as an alternate means of transportation.</li> <li>• Promote the importance of natural settings with wildlife viewing lookouts and interpretive displays.</li> <li>• Incorporate and utilize existing infrastructure into the proposed trails.</li> </ul>
Stream and Watershed Protection Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCVWD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An environmental land preservation program in Santa Clara County that helps protect the county's streams and their associated watersheds.</li> <li>• This program provides for opportunities for willing sellers of stream-bearing lands to preserve their property, and promotes agency and land conservation organization partnerships with the SCVWD to acquire land (in this case, land acquisition refers to the purchase of either fee title or appropriate easements)</li> <li>• This project preserves regional multi-objective environmental and quality-of-life benefits with riparian habitat protection</li> </ul>

Adopt-a-Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCVWD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A volunteer program that encourages Santa Clara County residents to take an active role in helping to preserve the health and beauty of our local creeks</li> <li>• Volunteers assist in maintaining the creek by removing debris, litter, trash, and pollutants found along creeks.</li> <li>• Aids in minimizing the impact urbanization has on waterways and keeps them from becoming overwhelmed by pollution.</li> </ul>
Watershed Stewardship Grant Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCVWD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant program supporting community-based, non-profits organizations in watershed stewardship efforts to enhance ecosystem health, water supply and water quality in Santa Clara County</li> <li>• Promotes awareness, education and research related to ecosystem sustainability</li> <li>• Promotes cooperative efforts among SCVWD, community-based non-profits, private businesses and local government agencies</li> </ul>
Santa Clara Valley HCP/NCCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County of Santa Clara</li> <li>• SCVWD</li> <li>• City of Gilroy</li> <li>• City of Morgan Hill</li> <li>• Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority</li> <li>• City of San Jose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership including the County of Santa Clara, Cities of San Jose, Morgan Hill, and Gilroy, and Valley Transportation Agency to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP).</li> </ul>
Riparian Ordinance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County of Santa Cruz, Planning Department</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ordinance specifying required actions and prohibited activities related to river, creek and stream modifications</li> <li>• Provides legally binding requirements for actions needed to maintain riparian habitat</li> </ul>

Recreation and Public Access		
Open Space Authority Acquisitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open Space Authority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Works to preserve open spaces and create greenbelts between communities</li> <li>Encourages outdoor recreation and continued agricultural activities</li> <li>9,000 acres preserved to date</li> <li>20% Funding Program assists local agencies with open space projects</li> <li>Among the Open Space Authority acquisition goals is the preservation of wetlands and riparian corridors</li> </ul>
Trails, Parks & Open Space Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SCVWD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourages development of trails, parks and open spaces to increase public access to and enjoyment of public areas for increased recreational opportunities</li> <li>Assist in SCVWD goal of providing public access to 70 miles of trails or open space along creeks</li> </ul>
Coroto Pit Restoration Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Granite Rock</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Six acres of previously pit--mined land will be deeded to San Benito County</li> <li>Naturally occurring wetlands and mud flats restored and protected</li> <li>Create and protect habitats for birds, amphibians and reptiles</li> <li>Create passive recreational opportunities including hiking and bird-watching.</li> </ul>
Pajaro River Access at WRWTF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City of Watsonville</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public parking and river access incorporated in WRWTF project design</li> <li>Trails designed to integrate with existing recreation trails</li> <li>River access to be created for kayaks</li> <li>Incorporates public educational displays</li> </ul>
Pajaro River Parkway Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City of Watsonville</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying public access and recreational opportunities that may be incorporated with the Levee Reconstruction Project</li> <li>Evaluation of opportunities to expand current recreational opportunities</li> <li>Would include public engagement and outreach and negotiation with landowners</li> </ul>
Watershed Planning		
Groundwater Study & Biological Assessment of the Upper Pajaro River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Nature Conservancy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Groundwater study will evaluate the degree of connectivity between in-stream and groundwater supplies within the Upper Pajaro River Watershed</li> <li>Biological assessment will identify areas of the watershed capable of meeting the habitat requirements for sensitive species</li> <li>Data collected through the study will be related to the evaluation of feasibility of restoration options as well as water supply strategies</li> </ul>

Historic Ecological Study of the Upper Pajaro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCVWD</li> <li>• The Nature Conservancy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study researches the historic ecological and physical characteristics of the Upper Pajaro River Watershed</li> <li>• Synthesizes data to provide a scientific basis for future stream restoration and management</li> </ul>
Pajaro River Watershed Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Various</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides a public forum to discuss issues related to watershed management</li> <li>• Mission of the Pajaro River Watershed Council is to coordinate local interests, identify natural resource issues, develop solutions, and implement projects ensuring a sustainable and quality watershed</li> </ul>
Comprehensive River Management Plan for the San Benito River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder Interest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate assessment of activities and project occurring along the San Benito River to examine impacts and develop a comprehensive management plan</li> <li>• Activities addressed in the plan would include mining and agriculture</li> </ul>