

Notes on 9/1 Walk of Arroyo Corte Madera del Presidio Creek

Just a quick note to let you know how the Creek Walk went this morning [9/1/2006]. It was really amazing... because of Bene'. He was the leader of the walk.

This morning's attendees:

- Bene' da Silva, Engineering Technician from the County Flood & Water Conservation District
- Tim Hampton, Engineer County Flood Control District 3
- Jill Barnes, Civil Engineer City of Mill Valley Dept of Public Works
- Maureen Parton, Aide to Charles McGlashan and Chair, Mill Valley Planning Commission (with us for the first 30 minutes)
- Bridgett Novak, Plymouth Avenue, STA
- Vera Barad, Sycamore Avenue, STA
- Catherine Ramberg, Plymouth Avenue, STA
- Mike McKay, Locust Avenue, STA

Bene' was incredibly knowledgeable and taking notes all the way... so he could pass on specific instructions to the Marin Conservation Corps. The MCC will be conducting the actual Creek Clean-Up (sometime between now and Oct 31).

The group walked the creek from the Valley Circle/Silver Screen Bridge... all the way past the Park Street Bridge (I believe the group continued to town from here... but this is where I turned back). Bene' and Tim also planned to go by and assess the convergence of the Warner-Arroyo Corte Madera Creeks before they left town.

Bene' noted lots of debris and vegetation for the MCC to remove... and explained the pluses and minuses of various types of trees and plants along the banks.

It was noted that the following bridges (Marin Theater Company, La Goma, Locust, and Willow) are not high enough to accommodate the 30-year flood height. The City rep said we'll have to wait to see what the hydrology study says about that. Significant amounts of debris were still visible in the supporting beams of the Willow Bridge.

Tim said that in Ross Valley the County is planning to notify homeowners (with creek property) that they will be cleaning the entire creek this one time... asking for their permission... and then sending out "before" and "after" photos... to show them the kinds of things that were done... so the homeowners can do it on their own property in the future. Jill said that approach could be a problem in Mill Valley (since everything involving the creek requires permits)... and we urged her to try to facilitate it this year... and to follow Ross Valley's lead... so the creek could be correctly and thoroughly cleaned before the rainy season. This may be an area where we have to advocate for the County (i.e., Flood Control Zone 3)... so that the creek cleaning is done correctly (otherwise the MCC may just have access to the city-owned parts... which wouldn't be nearly sufficient)! I'm sure Bene' will be an advocate for FULL clean-up, too.

A photographer from the "Mill Valley Herald" was taking pictures for the first 45 minutes... so it looks like this event will be in the paper.

I also asked Bene' to send us any kind of report that he prepares.

Respectfully submitted:
STA Member B. Novak