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Bikers Clean Up San Pedro Creek

Gearhead Bicycles forms a team of kids to clean up a local fish haven.

By [ian butler \(Open Post\) \(/users/ian-butler\)](#)

Updated January 23, 2012 at 5:38 pm

(<http://contribute.patch.com/moderation/3290360>)



San Pedro Creek in drains Pacifica's most extensive watershed. Clean water runs off the pristine slopes of Montara Mountain, creating ideal Steelhead Trout spawning habitat in on the middle and south forks. Fingerling Rainbow Trout still swim in the Sanchez fork behind , but it's the neglected north fork that's the creeks' abused stepchild.

Paved over decades ago to build homes, streets and schools, a paradise for the Steelhead was reduced to a hidden network of concrete tunnels. The water now passes through miles of these tunnels before finally emerging amidst dirt and daylight in the dense thicket behind Park Mall, adjacent to the site of the proposed assisted living facility.

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STATE NEWS

Two Killed in Horrific Wrong-Way Crash on 101

([/california/novato/two-killed-horrific-wrong-way-crash-101-0](#))

([/california/novato/two-killed-horrific-wrong-way-crash-101-0](#)) Three vehicles were involved. One woman was sent to the hospital with injuries.

Hitting The Road for Thanksgiving? You'll Have Company

([/california/novato/hitting-road-thanksgiving-youll-have-company-0](#))

([/california/novato/hitting-road-thanksgiving-youll-have-company-0](#)) AAA predicts highest level of travel since Thanksgiving.

Black Friday 2014: Kohl's Ad

([/california/novato/black-friday-2014-kohls-ad-0](#)) Christmas pajamas, deals on televisions, computers, toys and more—it's all on sale

Recently, while Councilmember Mary Ann Nihart was given a tour of the area, a tremendous amount of litter and debris was found clogging the creek where it emerges from the tunnels. Matt McPhail, owner of nearby , offered to organize a cleanup with a group of kids from Team Gearhead.

So, on Saturday, Jan. 14, the kids arrived by car, bike, and unicycle, three even decking themselves out in full wetsuits, complete with abalone knives hanging from their belts. They quickly went to work, some scouring the creek for debris, others rigging up a rope system for pulling larger items up the steep bank. A few hours later, they had hauled up an impressive collection of junk, including a mattress, two shopping carts, an old car tire and ironically, a rusted bicycle. Any parent who knows what it's like to get their kid to clean their room would have to be impressed at the effort these kids put into cleaning up a neglected waterway.

The north fork's problems still remain, however, including unnaturally high water flows, erosion, and pollution from paint, oil, detergent and coliform bacteria, but on this day it was the beneficiary of an enthusiastic group of kids learning to care for the environment.

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Best Black Friday Deals: Stores Ranked on Discounts (/california/novato/best-black-friday-deals-stores-ranked-discounts-0)	Rankings are also broken down by store type, such as computers.
Over The River And Through The Woods ... To Yosemite For Thanksgiving Or Christmas? (/california/petaluma/over-river-and-through-woods-yosemite-thanksgiving-or-christmas-0)	Yosemite/Mariposa County has a slate of memorable and joyous holiday activities happening for all to enjoy!
Adam Lanza: Report Probes Dark Interior Life of The Sandy Hook Shooter (/connecticut/newtown/al-report-probes-dark-interior-life-sandy-hook-shooter-0)	The report sheds light on the shooter's infatuation with mass murder and how attempts to get him help were thwarted.
WATCH: Disney's 'Frozen' On Ice Show Reunites Afghanistan Vet, Middletown, N.J. Family (/new-jersey/middletown-nj/watch-disneys-frozen-ice-show-reunites-afghanistan-vet-middletown-family)	Jamie Curcio, who just returned from Afghanistan, surprised his two children Friday when he jumped out of the crowd at the Newark Ice Center.
Massive Illinois Stable Fire Claims Lives of 32 Horses (/illinois/burr ridge/massive-illinois-stable-fire-claims-lives-32-horses)	Losses at Valley View Acres estimated at more than \$1 million.
2014's 10 Worst Toys List Is Out (/new-jersey/oceancity/2014s-10-worst-toys-list-out)	World Against Toys Causing Harm reveals its nominees for toys that should not be in the hands of children this holiday season.

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Mary Ann Nihart • 3 years ago

Two weeks ago I walked that creek with neighbors from Toledo Court and the Beach Coalition, although they all looked a lot better in the hip waders. I have added pictures of the junk in the creek. Thank you, thank you, thank you for the excellent clean-up efforts of our youth. You are all stars in our hearts!

While we were walking, a white cloud also appeared in the creek. Folks on the excursion determined it was paint coming from the culvert and upstream. I hope everyone remembers that storm drains lead to the creek and the ocean. Paint and other toxins should not be released into our watershed. Just a reminder: The recycle yard will take those old paint cans off your hands so please don't dump them in the storm drains.

Thank you to all the bikers who helped "Keep Pacifica Beautiful!"

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