

LOS ALAMITOS COSTAL CLEANUP



Saturday, 800 lbs of trash and 4000 lbs of recyclable material were removed from Los Alamitos Creek in New Almaden for the Annual National Coastal Cleanup. 70 community volunteers and neighbors joined the Friends of Los Alamitos Watershed group to cleanup and beautify a 4 mile section of creek bed. This popular program is supported by the Santa Clara County Parks Department, Midpeninsula Open Space District, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District.



Erica Burr, a high school junior from Cupertino, came to help because she wanted to take part in cleaning up the Los Alamitos Creek. She wanted to help Saturday because of her fond memories of



playing in the Los Alamitos Creek as a child.

Erica not only helped clean up the creek she volunteered to work with Sandy Derby, from San Jose's Children Discovery Center, BioSite program. The above picture is Girl Scout Troop 601007 members enjoying the BioSite discovery activities. The two gave water shed lessons to the young volunteers about

a healthy water environment. Erica said after the event that she “wanted to be part of something as well as do something that makes a difference to our community, environment and for our wildlife. “



Amanda Martinez, President of Leland High School’s Environmental Club and her club members mentored students from Alex Anderson’s, Mrs. Smallwood’s, 4th grade class in how to clear blocked water culverts. The young nine and ten year old students followed her example and took up the shovels and hoes to move the heavy dirt out of the ditch.



Mrs. Smallwood invited twenty of her students to join her in helping clean out the creek for a hands on lesson. She said she will be back next year with a bus load of students to help because of the rewarding experience the children had with the BioSite testing. The 4th

graders recorded picking up 300 cigarette butts.



Not only did Amanda get her Environmental Club involved, she encouraged her father and uncle to help join in the cleanup. Her Uncle, Spencer Scott, helped by providing a trailer to collect all the trash along the four mile cleanup. He and other neighbors, Ed Della Monica, Julie Zlatucich and Rick Dill transported ten dumpster sized truck loads of trash from the top of Wood Road, New Almaden Lake, Bullmore Park, to the central collection site. A proud group of volunteers from the Leland Environmental Club and local neighbors, who took on the most difficult section of the Los Alamitos Watershed , a difficult uphill task of hand carrying the debris out of the creek to fill two debris trailers of trash.

Frank Martinez, County Parks, was delighted with volunteer turn out. He expressed his thanks to the community volunteers who participated in the project. Frank has been hard at work trying to remove the invasive species at the Bullmore Park site along the creek bed during the year.



Frank and Syd Melbourne work to clear the debris around the Pat Tillman Monument and the creek so that hikers and other park users will have creekside picnic area to enjoy.



Kitty Monahan and Peggy Melbourne, President of the New Almaden Community Club, volunteered to help out register and provide a free hot dog lunch to the volunteers at the end of the day

Celsa O'Brian cooked the hot dogs while her husband, Johnny O'Brian, supervised several of the other volunteers climb down the steep New Almaden Lake banks to bring up an impressive 10 bags of fishing gear, bottles and bags of trash



Anna Coursey's, #6017 Girl Scout Troop, took on the challenge of helping remove invasive species and debris out of the creek. The girls made a work gang up the creek bank to hand haul up the large amount of debris out of the creek. This proved to be quite a challenge to the eleven and twelve year olds as they filled two truck loads of debris.



The Annual Coastal Cleanup Event has become an enjoyable civic building event for the small New Almaden community. It is a special time when neighbors up and down the creek take part in helping keep the Los Alamitos Creek environment debris clean

It's a place where one is rewarded to see residents volunteer their time, share their cars for transportation to distant cleanup sites, and provide trucks, tools and a friendly hospitality to help make the creek volunteers who join The Friends of Los Alamitos Watershed work easier in keeping our section of the watershed free of debris. . It's an event that keeps New Almaden a unique American village, a traditional township where delightful neighbors step outside their doors to help other neighbors better their community.

