

Arcade Creek—An Important Wildlife Habitat

- ① Swainson's hawk
- ② Red-tailed hawk
- ③ Wild turkey
- ④ Mallard
- ⑤ Great egret
- ⑥ Nuttall's woodpecker
- ⑦ Belted kingfisher
- ⑧ California ground squirrel
- ⑨ Western fence lizard
- ⑩ California quail
- ⑪ Raccoon
- ⑫ Northwestern pond turtle



Arcade Creek

Arcade Creek flows throughout the year, providing aquatic (water-based) and terrestrial (land-based) habitat for wildlife such as the northwestern pond turtle, raccoon, and belted kingfisher.

Riparian and Oak Woodland Habitats

Riparian habitat has vegetation adapted to moist soil conditions and forms a multi-layer canopy of large trees, small shrubs and brush, and various grasses that provides habitat for birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Oak woodland habitat has vegetation adapted to dry soil conditions and provides habitat for wildlife such as California quail, wild turkey, and western fence lizard.

Seasonal Wetland Habitat

The Del Paso Regional Park wetland provides seasonal habitat. Seasonal wetlands typically contain water during winter and spring and provide breeding and foraging habitat for wildlife such as mallards, great egrets, and Pacific chorus frogs. Seasonal wetlands also help to filter pollutants found in stormwater and urban runoff.

Del Paso Regional Park Wetland— Improving the Health of Arcade Creek

A Healthier Arcade Creek

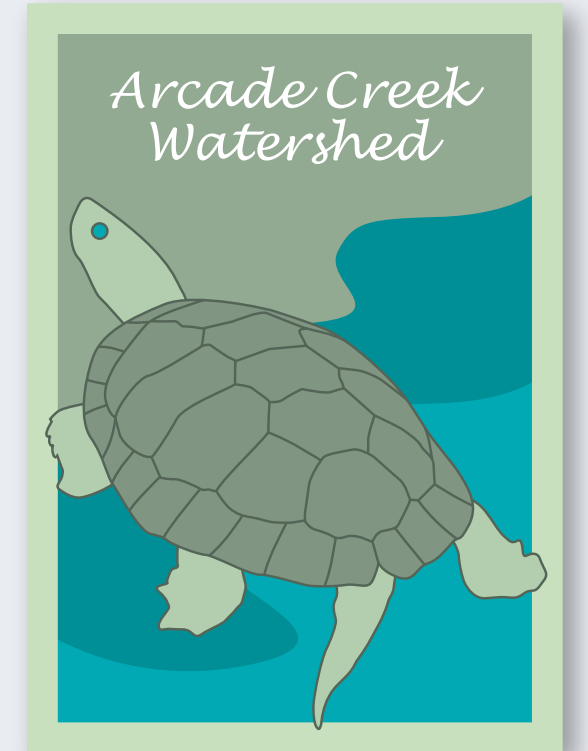
In 2007, the Del Paso Regional Park wetland was created to improve water quality in Arcade Creek. The wetland diverts untreated stormwater and urban runoff that flows into Norris Tributary, located to your left behind the wetland. As water moves through the wetland, plants and soil filter pollutants from the water before it returns to Norris Tributary and then flows into Arcade Creek.

Importance of a Healthy Arcade Creek Watershed

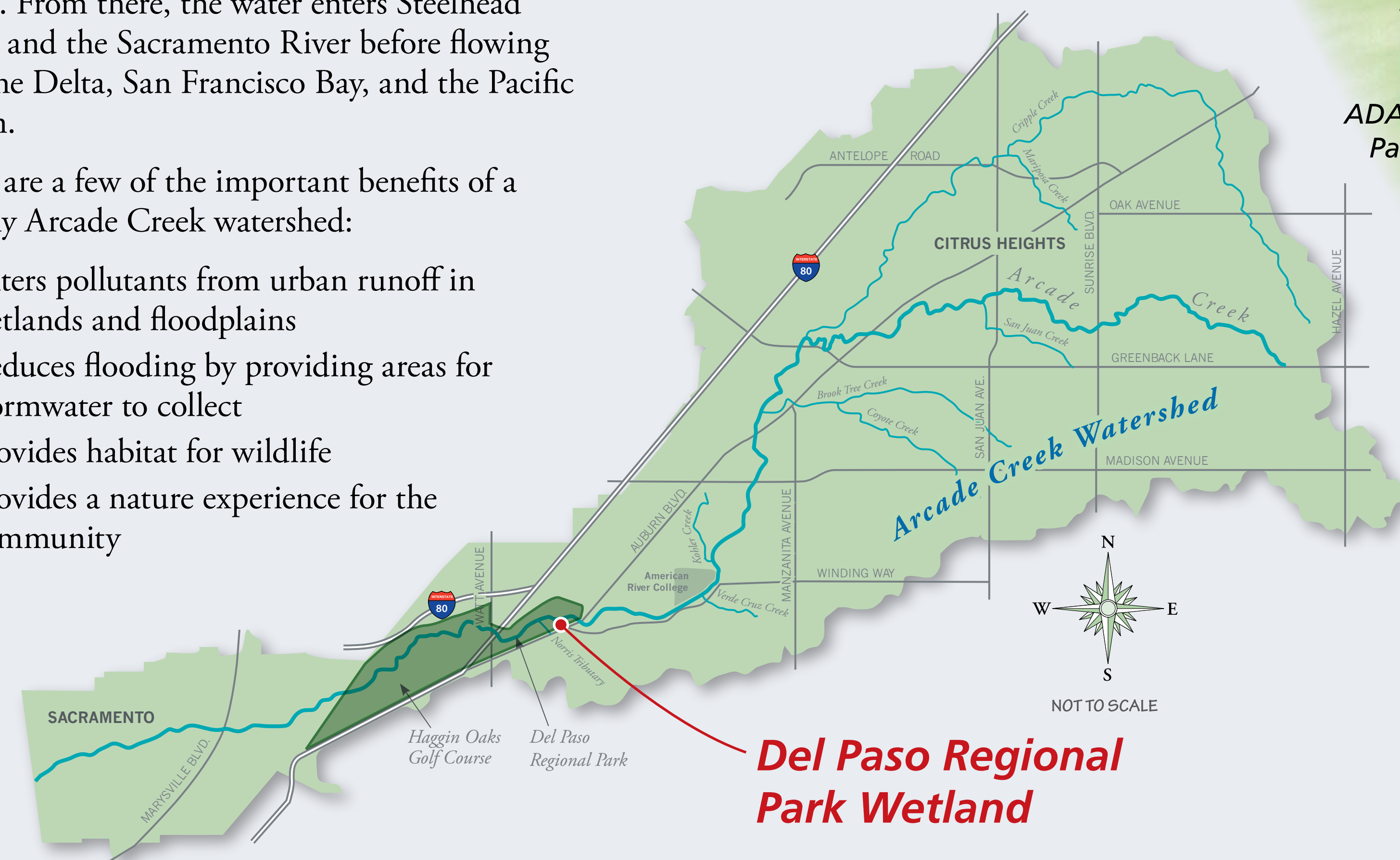
A watershed is the area of land that all drains into a common waterway (creek, stream, lake, river, or ocean). The Arcade Creek watershed covers 38 square miles. Rain and urban runoff enter storm drain systems and small creeks and streams, like Norris Tributary, and then flow into Arcade Creek. From there, the water enters Steelhead Creek and the Sacramento River before flowing into the Delta, San Francisco Bay, and the Pacific Ocean.

These are a few of the important benefits of a healthy Arcade Creek watershed:

- Filters pollutants from urban runoff in wetlands and floodplains
- Reduces flooding by providing areas for stormwater to collect
- Provides habitat for wildlife
- Provides a nature experience for the community



www.arcadecreek.org



Project Sponsors

Funding for the project was provided by the State Water Resources Control Board and came from Proposition 50, the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002.

Additional funding support was provided by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the City of Sacramento.



Wetlands Improve Water Quality

How Do Wetlands Improve Water Quality?

- ◆ Wetland plants and soil help to absorb and break down pollutants in water running off our lawns and streets into roadside ditches and storm drains. Pollutants such as oil, paint, pesticides, and pet waste otherwise would flow untreated directly into Arcade Creek.
- ◆ Wetlands slow the speed of flowing water, decreasing creek bank erosion and the amount of soil that settles on the creek bed as sediment. Excess sediment in creeks and rivers covers the gravel spawning beds of fish, preventing them from reproducing. Also, soil causes muddy water that absorbs heat from the sun, raising the water temperature too high for some fish species to survive.

What Can You Do to Help Prevent Pollution in Arcade Creek?

Wetlands help clean stormwater before it reaches our creeks and rivers, but wetlands cannot remove trash or all pollutants.

Here are some things you can do to reduce pollution:

- ◆ Minimize your use of fertilizers and pesticides and use less toxic or non-toxic alternatives.
- ◆ Maintain your vehicle to prevent leaking automotive fluids.
- ◆ Properly dispose of household chemicals, motor oil, paints, trash, and pet waste.
- ◆ Reduce non-porous surfaces such as concrete and pavement around your property.
- ◆ Visit www.BeRiverFriendly.net for more information.

