

Pollution

A History of the Watershed

Late 1700s to early 1800s

Spanish explorers arrive and use the surrounding land for livestock grazing.

1877-1895

The Creek is used as open sewer system for the university.

1923

Memorial Stadium is built on top of the South Fork of Strawberry Creek.

1987

UC Berkeley graduate student, Robert Charbonneau, writes the Strawberry Creek Management Plan to restore the watershed; Strawberry Creek Restoration Program is established.

2011

Strawberry Creek Restoration DeCal begins, educating around 20 students each semester on restoration techniques and creek history.

pre1700s

Huchiun-Ohlone native people inhabit the Strawberry Creek watershed.

1868

University of California is established at Berkeley due to presence of perennial springs in the watershed.

1880s-1930s

Urbanization of the watershed accelerates, with extensive road-building, channelization, and culverting of the creek.

1970s

The creek is heavily polluted from failing sewage lines and urban runoff. The city of Berkeley advises citizens against direct contact with the water.

1990s

The Strawberry Creek Environmental Quality Committee reintroduces three native fish species: Three-spined stickleback, Sacramento sucker, and California roach minnow.

2008

Strawberry Creek Restoration Program students build and maintain a native plant nursery to provide plants for community creek restoration efforts.

Common Pollutants

- In addition to being an unsightly mess, **Litter** is harmful to animals that mistake it for food, it can leach toxic chemicals into the watershed, and it can have impacts far out to sea when carried by storm flows.
- **Pet waste** can contain diseases and parasites that are transported throughout the watershed.
- **Urban runoff** carries pollutants such as oil, nitrates from fertilizers, and other toxins. Sources include construction sites, roads, automobile exhaust, and lawns.

How can you help?

- **Pick up** litter as you hike.
- **Clean up** after your pets.
- **Bike** to the trailhead.
- **Report** any questionable pollution you see in the watershed to UC Berkeley's Environment, Health and Safety Department (510) 642-3073 or ehs@berkeley.edu