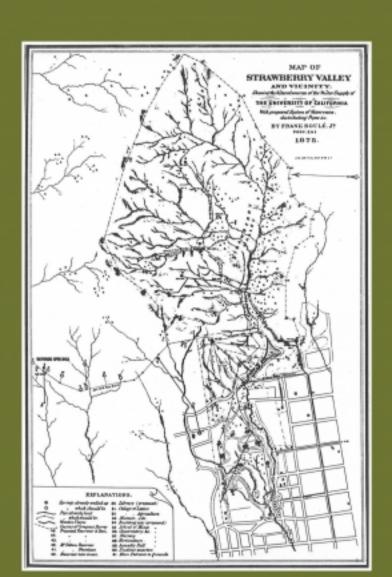
Water





Strawberry Creek doesn't have just one source; its main natural sources are known as "seasonal seeps and springs."

A seep or a spring is where ground water comes above ground because the rocky geology below conveys the water up or horizontally to the surface. There the water begins to flow over the ground instead of being trapped below. The amount of water flowing from the seeps and springs depends on the pressure underground, the amount of rain that fell during the preceding months and years, and the age and kind of vegetation growing in that location. Some springs flow only intermittently because of these factors.

One way to find a seep spring is to look for plants that need year round water to thrive. See if you can spot areas of willow, red stemmed dogwood, rushes, and thimble berry in the canyon. There, under the thickets of growth, is where much of the water for Strawberry Creek originates.

There are other sources of creek water too – human-caused sources, such as irrigation run-off, de-watering wells to protect building foundations, and leaks from old water pipes all contribute to the flow. When these sources contain contaminants, such as chloramine in drinking water or fertilizer and pesticides from gardens, the effect on the organisms that live in the creek can be devastating.

One way to help is to report any non-storm water flows (like a broken water main or fire hydrant) or pollutants (like very muddy water when there's no rain falling or lots of suds or strange colors). Except on stormy days, Strawberry Creek should be running clear and cool.

To report a spill, call (510) 642-3073

For more information, visit www.strawberrycreek.berkeley.edu







