



Making Community Connections: Morrison Creek is a natural pathway from Elder Creek Elementary to Will C Wood Middle School to the community center. In 2018, while teachers helped with the creek clean-up, students collected data for the citizen science portion of Creek Week.

Project Spotlight: *The Revitalization of Morrison Creek*

“It was huge. A lot of people describe it as like a David-versus-Goliath type of thing because we were one really small neighborhood taking on a gas company. ... So it just really felt right. It felt good. It felt like our hard work paid off.”

— Nailah Pope-Harden,
Lead of the Morrison Creek
Revitalization Project

What began as a movement to stop a proposal to inject and store 7.5 billion cubic feet of natural gas underneath a densely populated urban neighborhood has become a community-led mosaic of partnerships that is taking ownership of their vision, parks, and open spaces. And while Covid-19 put a year-plus halt to much of the progress, this is what’s in store:

- ✦ The establishment of a secure, walkable route that links the elementary school, park, and community center; and, potentially, a bike path, walking paths, more trees, an amphitheater, benches, play areas, public art, and gardens.
- ✦ The creation of a natural space for the community to tend and enjoy; and, potentially, the revitalization of an important tributary (and historical fish passage) to the Sacramento River.
- ✦ Future generations of activists, scientists, and community leaders, inspired by the tireless, can-do efforts of Pope-Harden and fellow activists.

“By revitalizing this urban creek to what the community feels is best for them,” said Esther Tracy, DWR environmental scientist, “we are instilling a sense of stewardship and community pride.” And no doubt, inspiration for many community-led projects to come.

Future issues of *Ecesis* will follow this project. Til then, for “the long read,” visit <https://www.comstocksmag.com/longreads/laying-groundwork>.



Staff from cbec eco-engineering, a company which has played an active role in the planning process, served as chaperones at the creek cleanup. family members regrouping after finishing the creek clean-up. All photos from 2018 Creek Week courtesy CA DWR Public Affairs Office.

What is your favorite project in an under-represented/under-served community? Let us know!