

Kirker Creek Watershed

You are standing with a view across the upper Kirker Creek Watershed. The watershed covers an area of 11,300 acres. Originating in the foothills of Mt. Diablo, Kirker Creek flows north 9 miles through parks, ranches, and developed areas in Pittsburg, and empties into the Delta.

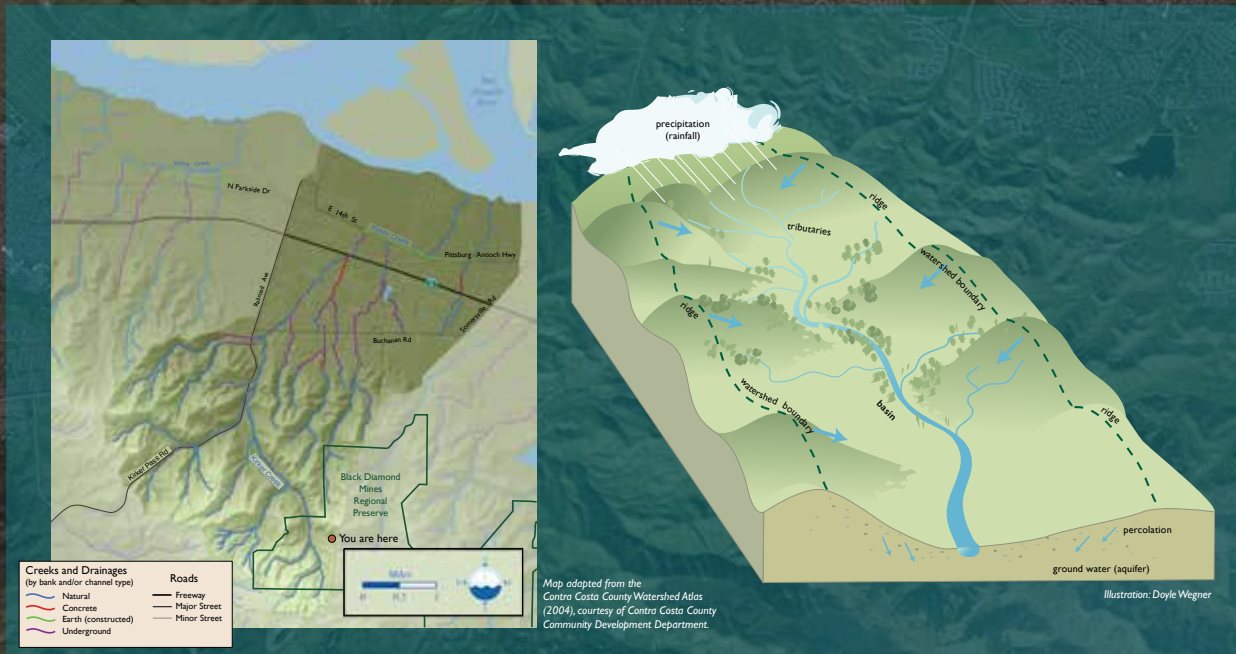
A watershed is the land that water flows across or through on its way to the lowest point in its basin, such as a stream or bay. Flowing water connects human communities, soil, plants, and wildlife within the watershed. What happens in any part of the watershed affects the health of the whole watershed.

A healthy watershed provides clean water, nourishing soil, abundant plants, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Impacts from mining, excessive cattle grazing, and invasive, exotic plants have damaged the natural systems. Modern resource management practices are addressing these issues.

You can help care for the watershed. While hiking, please stay on trails. Participate in local restoration activities and creek cleanups.

19th century coal-mining left behind piles of waste rock. Water running off the acidic waste can be harmful to plants, insects, and fish. Water quality in the creek has been improved by channeling rainwater away from the waste and by the natural buffering effect of surrounding contaminated soil.

Invasive plants pose a major threat to watershed health because they reduce the variety of native plants in an ecosystem. Yellow star thistle, an invasive plant from Eurasia, has damaged grasslands by displacing native plants that nourish livestock and wildlife.



This wayside panel was produced as a joint effort of the Partners for the Watershed, Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (RCD), and the East Bay Regional Park District.

