LIVING ARROYOS

2023-2024 Annual Report

Prepared by Alameda County RCD & Living Arroyos Staff

Executive Summary

Living Arroyos is a multi-agency partnership in the Livermore-Amador Valley that includes the Zone 7 Water Agency (Zone 7), City of Dublin, City of Livermore, the City of Pleasanton, and the Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD). Initiated in 2013 by the Livermore Area Recreation and Parks District (LARPD), the Living Arroyos Program (Program) is a unique community engagement opportunity that seeks to provide education on renewing and enhancing urban stream and riparian habitats as they relate to the watershed. The Program provides volunteer opportunities and an internship program designed to help develop local stewardship leaders. In addition to the Program's outreach and educational elements, Living Arroyos manages and monitors riparian mitigation sites for program partners.

Major Changes and Milestones in 2023-24

- In October of 2023, the RCD promoted Margaret Moody from Living Arroyos intern to full time RCD Project Assistant. This was the first time a Living Arroyos intern transitioned to a full-time position with the RCD.
- In December of 2023, the RCD hired a new Program Coordinator, Julia Gaudio, who took over from Colleen Hotchkiss, the interim Program Coordinator since May 2023.

Summary of Program Accomplishments

Statistics on Living Arroyos workload and activities in 2023-24 are presented below as a comparison with previous years (Table ES-1).

Table ES-1. Summary of Living Arroyos stats for the past 5 years.

Activities	Program Year				
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Number of Workdays	161	191	138	153	170
Project Hours	4,509	4,301	3,460	2,592	1,717
Volunteer Events	14	0	6	11	8
Total stakes installed	247	143	26	100	97
Total Plants installed (excluding stakes)	869	985	225	9	20
Acorn sites planted (3 acorns per site)	360	649	723	369	0

Mulch used (gallons)	N/A	500	100	100	50
Invasive species removed (gallons)	5,620	4,002	1,508	1,364	975
Trash removed (gallons)	4,315	253	997	3,025	2,296
Water used for irrigation (gallons)	209,825	266,931	256,442	82,173[1]	51,692[1]

Internship Program

Five interns were hired during the 2023-24 Program Year, with two of the interns continuing as Living Arroyos interns from the 2022-2023 program year into summer 2024. Interns were currently enrolled or recent college graduates from local colleges or had connections to the Tri-Valley area as past or present residents of the area.

Program Hours and Field Work

Hours used per project for each partner are shown below in Table ES-2. Staff utilized program administrator hours outside of supervising field work to administer the program including planning and scheduling field work, training interns and volunteers, scheduling and attending meetings, community outreach and education, and general coordination. The administration cost is shared by all partners based upon their share of cost.

Table ES-2. Program Hours.

Program Partner	Project Hours*	Share of Project Work
Zone 7	1,248.75	73%
City of Livermore	364.5	21%
City of Pleasanton	49	3%
City of Dublin	54.75	3%
Total Project Hours	**1,717**	
*Program Admin Hours***	**1,909.75**	
TOTAL PROGRAM HOURS	**3,626.75**	

**Project Hours are based on actual staff time dedicated to a specific Partner's program. See Section 6: 2023-24 Projects for hours spent per project.*
***Program administration hours are assumed to be proportional to the hours dedicated to each Partner's projects.*

[1] Gallons of water used in winter/spring 2023 and 2024 was less than previous years due to heavy rainfall during 2022-23 and 2023-24 water years and fewer sites requiring water.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Living Arroyos Program (Program) is a multi-agency partnership amongst the Zone 7 Water Agency (Zone 7) [2], City of Dublin[3], City of Livermore[4], City of Pleasanton[5], and the Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD)[6]. The Program is a unique community engagement opportunity that renews and enhances urban stream and riparian (streamside) habitats in the Livermore-Amador Valley (Valley) and re-establishes the connection between people and their local arroyos. In addition, the Program provides training opportunities through internships and helps to develop local stewardship leaders.

Urban streams provide many benefits to the people who live in the area. They are an integral part of the community's water management system by helping to protect neighborhoods from flooding, helping to counteract pollution, and recharging the groundwater basin. The vision behind Living Arroyos is that local volunteers and interns will learn about and care for urban streams by enhancing these natural spaces, which provide habitat for an abundance of native plants and wildlife. The Program seeks to connect people with their local arroyos, their natural settings, and introduce the public to all the beneficial water-related and ecological benefits provided by the arroyos for the watershed.

There are approximately 120 miles of major creeks, streams, and arroyos within the Livermore-Amador Valley. Program activities focus on approximately 45 miles of streams

[2] Zone 7 Water Agency, a Dependent Special District, is responsible for providing flood control and water resource management to the Livermore-Amador Valley. Zone 7 has a service area of approximately 425 square miles of land including the Cities of Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore, and a portion of San Ramon, and serves approximately 275,000 residents. Within the service area, Zone 7 owns or maintains approximately 37 miles of channels and streams. Zone 7 has been a Program Partner since the Program began in 2013.

[3] The City of Dublin is the local planning authority that encompasses over 15 square miles of land and is home to more than 61,000 residents. Dublin joined as a Program Partner in March 2021.

[4] The City of Livermore is the local planning authority that encompasses over 26 square miles of land, home to more than 89,000 residents. City of Livermore owns and maintains roughly 12 miles of channels and streams within city limits. Livermore has been a Program Partner since the Program began in 2013.

[5] The City of Pleasanton is the local planning authority that encompasses over 24 square miles of land and serves more than 80,000 residents. Pleasanton joined as a Program Partner in 2016.

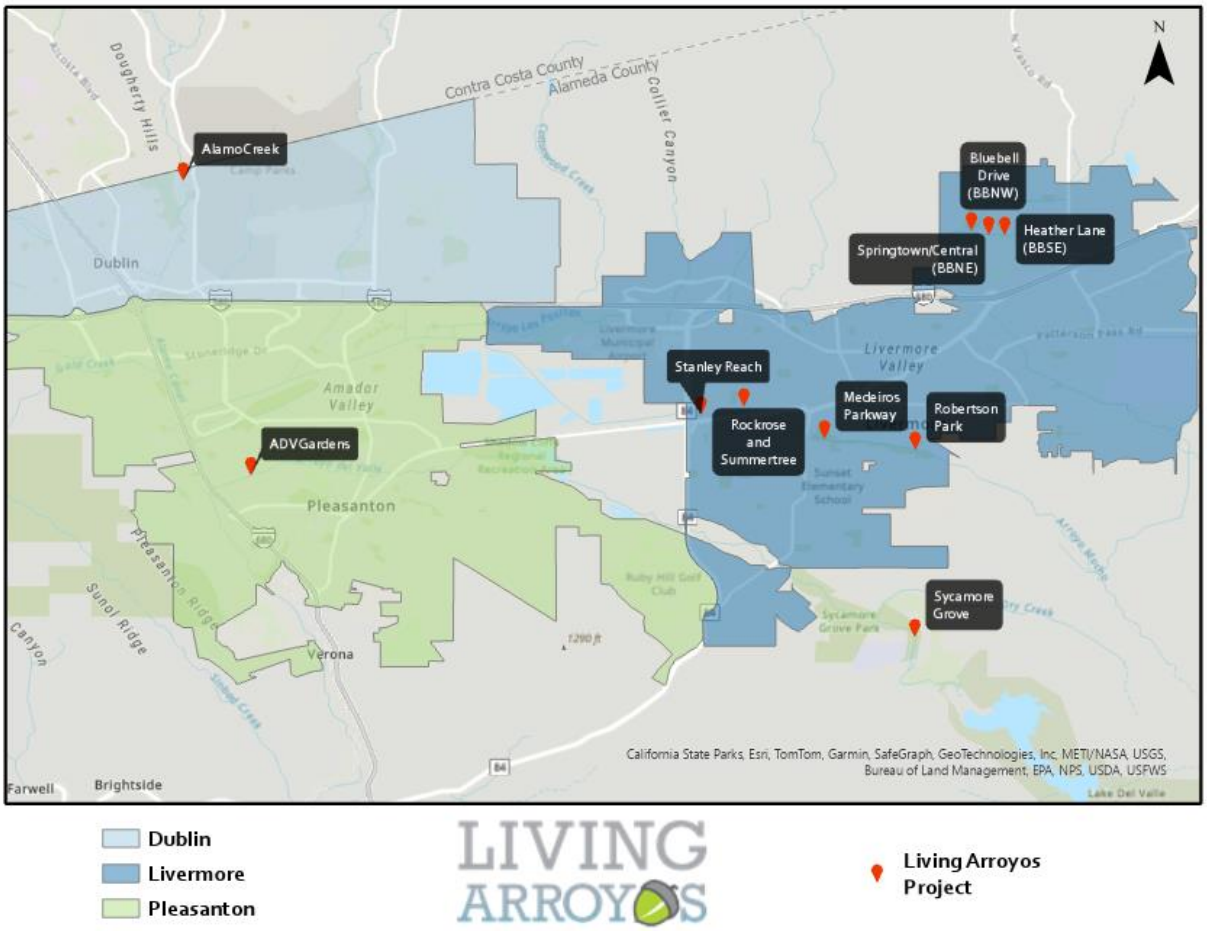
[6]The Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD) has assumed the responsibilities of the "Managing Partner" since June 2022.

managed by the Program Partners (see Figure 1 below). Natural stream corridors and their associated riparian ecosystems do not conform to political boundaries, which makes collaboration among various entities an essential component of effective watershed management. Living Arroyos partners benefit by sharing costs and leveraging unique resources, aligning community vision of the watershed, avoiding redundancy, and achieving long-term management goals. The key to making the Program a success is partnering with people in the communities that, in turn, benefit from the work. When it was initiated, the Living Arroyos Program started off with four goals:

(1) Engage residents in hands-on stewardship of natural resources while they experience nature close to home
(2) Increase public awareness of important watershed issues
(3) Improve habitat and water quality of local streams while maintaining and enhancing both public safety and regional flood protection
(4) Strengthen public/private partnerships within the community

As the Program grows and evolves, the goals will be revisited to reflect new members and responsibilities. This report outlines the Living Arroyos Program progress, accomplishments, and lessons learned during the 2023-24 Program Year.

Figure 1: Living Arroyos Program Area (Livermore-Amador Valley) and Project Map, 2023-24



2. INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Living Arroyos interns are recruited from colleges and universities within 25 miles of the Program Area or have connections to the Tri-Valley as a past or present resident of the area. Every year, a handful of current and former college students from the local community are selected as paid interns for the Living Arroyos Program. As Program interns, they learn stream management techniques that complement their in-class learning. Interns are given hands-on responsibility for implementing environmental improvement projects for Program Partners. Interns also interact with and guide volunteers, gaining leadership skills and reinforcing their own knowledge by teaching others. Interns work under the supervision of the Program Coordinator 1–5 days per week, depending upon projects needs and intern availability.

Five new interns joined the Program with one in the Fall of 2023 (Janelle Tanis) and four in the late Spring of 2024 (Sukhnoor Sahota, Rachel Tanis, Siliyah Greer, and Jordan Lederer). Existing interns Michelle Roller and Megan Rovira continued working with Living Arroyos through summer 2024. As mentioned above in the Executive Summary, Margaret Moody, who started as an intern in spring 2023, was promoted to RCD Project Assistant in Fall 2023, and she continues to support the Living Arroyos program as a field-lead and program outreach coordinator.

The 2023-24 interns have local connections to:

- Pleasanton
- Livermore
- Brentwood

Interns had degrees from, or were attending classes at the following schools:

- Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
- Gonzaga University
- Las Positas College
- Oregon State
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- University of California, Santa Cruz
- University of Nevada, Reno

Intern responsibilities this year included:

- harvesting vegetative stakes for planting at project sites
- installing vegetative stakes for planting at project sites
- installing native seeds
- installing container plantings
- monitoring plantings at project sites
- hand-watering plantings
- installing and repairing drip irrigation systems
- removing invasive plant species
- assisting with annual vegetation monitoring
- leading volunteer clean-up events
- creating informational pamphlets on project sites

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Living Arroyos encourages staff to participate in training activities that promote safety and health among employees, as well as opportunities for career development and personal growth based upon their interests.

The program incorporated regular training days with professionals in natural resource management, biological monitoring, GPS mapping, and natural history. These trainings provided interns with opportunities to learn about and participate in projects being implemented by the ACRCD and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Educational opportunities for interns during the 2023-24 Program Year are described below:

- ACRCD staff led field activities for the Healthy Soils Program where interns learned about soil sampling and took part in soils collection.
- ACRCD Resource Conservationist, Ian Howell, included interns on a planting day with STRAW (Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed) at Brushy Peak.
- ACRCD Biologist, Farley Connelly, involved interns in multi-day eDNA sampling for the Coastal Conservancy's Water for Wildlife Program as well as a western pond turtle trapping/tagging day with NRCS, EBRPD, SBI, and Sonoma State University.
- ACRCD Sustainable Agriculture Specialist, Colleen Hotchkiss, hosted interns at the Sunol Ag Park to learn about sustainable agriculture and participate in site stewardship and hedgerow maintenance.

Living Arroyos intern Michelle learning how to collect eDNA samples from a livestock pond with ACRCD Biologist Farley Connelly.

Living Arroyos interns learning about bird identification with ACRCD staff, as training for the Riparian Bird Indexing (RBI) study across various Living Arroyos sites

Living Arroyos interns assisting ACRCD Sustainable Agriculture Specialist Colleen Hotchkiss with mulching and maintenance at the Sunol AgPark

FEEDBACK FROM LIVING ARROYOS INTERNS

"What drew you to being an intern with Living Arroyos and what do you like about it?"

"I was drawn to Living Arroyos because of the opportunity to improve and learn more about restoration. Living Arroyos is a great program that allows interns to expand their network and gain experience in many different areas." – Sukhnoor Sahota

"I gravitated towards Living Arroyos because I grew up in Livermore and wanted to be able to work closely with the local ecosystems. I like working in the outdoors and being able to see so many plants and animals on a day-to-day basis. It keeps the internship exciting." – Siliyah Greer

"I was interested in being an intern with Living Arroyos because I wanted to learn more about the work that Resource Conservation Districts do, and I wanted to help with restoration efforts in the area that I grew up in. I like the internship because I enjoy working outdoors and having the opportunity to work on many different projects with different people." – Jordan Lederer

LIVING ARROYOS

"Interning for Living Arroyos has been a wonderful experience of collaborating with other interns in achieving a common goal of helping the environment, which was one of the many things that drew me into applying here! It is a great opportunity to get hands-on experience in habitat restoration and maintenance, as well as working with friendly and hardworking individuals who share similar passions about our community and its environment." – Rachel Tanis

3. VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Volunteers are the heart of the program. Living Arroyos invites the local community to engage and connect with creeks and arroyos by hosting workdays in which volunteers participate in hands-on activities that protect and enhance the waterways in their area. Events provide volunteers with a tangible sense of the value of watersheds, and a stronger understanding of their role in preserving the quality of watersheds. Volunteer days are generally held on the first and third Saturdays of the month between October and April.

VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS

Living Arroyos held eight volunteer days during the volunteer season (October 2023 – May 2024). A total of 310 unique volunteers (Table 1) participated in trash clean-ups at different sites throughout the Program Area: Touriga Creek at Vine Street (Pleasanton), Arroyo Mocho at Medeiros Parkway (Livermore), Arroyo Las Positas at Heather Lane (Livermore), Tassajara Creek at Dublin Boulevard (Dublin), Arroyo Mocho at Stanley Reach (Livermore), Alamo Creek at Amador Valley Boulevard (Dublin), and Arroyo Mocho at Robertson Park (Livermore).

Table 1: Volunteer data by Program Year

Volunteer Data	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total volunteer days (9–11:30 am)	19	16	14	0	6	11	8
Total unique volunteers engaged	389	524	350	0	104	288	310
Total volunteer hours	1,440	1,590	1,386	0	372	1,008	1,218
Average number of volunteers per event	25	40	33	0	23	33	41

Volunteers gathering trash along Arroyo Mocho at Medeiros Parkway (Livermore, CA) on January 20, 2024.

Volunteers after trash cleanup along Tassajara Creek near Dublin Blvd. (Dublin, CA) on March 16, 2024.

Volunteers after trash cleanup along Alamo Creek Trail (Dublin, CA) on April 20, 2024.

WHO ARE OUR VOLUNTEERS?

Families

We continue to hear how glad people are to be able to volunteer as a family. There is no minimum age requirement for volunteers, so community members can bring their children and teens to teach them the value of giving back.

Students

Many Living Arroyos volunteers are students, from high schools located throughout the Livermore-Amador Valley, looking to fulfill their community service requirements. This initiates interest in conservation and allows knowledge and information about the Program to be picked up by young community members.

There were several student groups that repeatedly sent volunteers to Living Arroyos Volunteer Days including but not limited to: Dublin Valley High School, Foothill High School, Granada High School, Amador Valley High School, San Ramon Valley High School and Livermore High School.

Local Businesses and Community-Based Organizations

Local community-based groups participated in our public volunteer events including the Global Leadership Initiative for Youth (GLIFY), the Tri Valley Fly Fishers (TVFF), and Sewa International. Local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops also joined for volunteer programs.

INDICATORS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INTEREST

- Volunteers return for multiple volunteer days throughout the volunteer season, often bringing friends and family members.
- Living Arroyos staff received several inquiries from local groups looking for volunteer opportunities during the 2023-24 program year.
- Staff received multiple emails asking for spots to adopt, scouting projects, or about intern openings.

Volunteers during the annual volunteer appreciation event at Stanley Reach (Livermore, CA) April 6, 2024.

4. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

OUTREACH EVENTS

During the 2023-24 fiscal year, Living Arroyos staff were invited to host informational tables on the program at multiple school and volunteer events, including:

- Las Positas College Earth Day Fair
- Dublin Pride Volunteer Fair
- City of Livermore Day of Service (cancelled in 2024 due to weather)

The Living Arroyos team also assisted RCD staff with outreach at the following events:

- California Rangeland Conservation Coalition Summit
- Alameda Creek Watershed Forum
- Alameda County Fair

ACRCD and Living Arroyos staff tabling at Las Positas College Earth Day Fair on April 17, 2024.

SOCIAL MEDIA OUTLETS

Living Arroyos continued to utilize the social media outlets developed throughout the past nine years since the Program started:

- Updated and maintained Living Arroyos website at www.livingarroyos.org. This website contains information about the program as well as upcoming workday information and blog posts about events and progress.
- Merged joint website with AACS (maintained by the City of Livermore) at trivalleycreeks.org to Living Arroyos website domain.
- Developed an AACS page on the website with a list of site adoptees and map of AACS sites open for adoption.
- Used Facebook and Instagram to educate and share photos with volunteers and community members.

5. ADOPT-A-CREEK SPOT

Living Arroyos continued to coordinate cleanups for the Adopt-A-Creek Spot (AACS)—a sibling program that promotes healthy creeks through active community participation and education. Dublin, Livermore, and Pleasanton rely on Living Arroyos to carry out AACS coordination tasks for major cleanups in the Fall and Spring, as well as smaller cleanups throughout the fiscal year. Many AACS sites are also project planting sites maintained by Living Arroyos year-round.

In 2023-24 Living Arroyos staff continued coordinating creek cleanups for Program Partners through the AACS (Table 2) by:

- Scheduling and coordinating monthly/bi-annual creek cleanup events,
- Resolving specific issues regarding Livermore spots #1-11 (e.g., graffiti, illegally dumped items, homeless camps, etc.), and
- Managing disposal of trash/debris/recyclables collected from cleanup events.

Volunteers after trash cleanup along Arroyo Las Positas at Heather Lane (AACS #9) (Livermore, CA) on February 3, 2024.

Two large cleanups are generally scheduled during the Program Year:

- Creeks to Bay Cleanup in September.
- Community Service Day in May.

Table 2. AACS Program Data, 2018-2023

	Program Year				
	2018-19	**2019-20**	**2020-21**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**
Volunteers	452	223	145	139	275
Gallons removed	4,915	6,259	160	216	1,354

6. 2022-23 PROJECTS

The Living Arroyos 2023-24 Workplan included 18 projects within the Livermore-Amador Valley and the Adopt-a-Creek-Spot sibling program. Additional project background is provided in the 2023-24 Workplan and Amendments documents. Over the course of 170 workdays, Living Arroyos field staff completed project tasks for 16 of the proposed projects as well as two additional projects not outlined in the 2022-23 Workplan. The projects are listed by partner below.

ZONE 7 WATER AGENCY (ZONE 7)

Living Arroyos was tasked with 8 projects specific to the Zone 7 Water Agency and completed work at 6 of them.

Table 3. Zone 7 Hours and Activities by Project

Zone 7 Project	Activities	Hours
Arroyo Mocho at Stanley Reach	Weeding, watering, annual vegetation monitoring, RBI	327
Arroyo Seco Oaks Replacement Project	Annual vegetation monitoring	28.75
SAW Pilot Study	Harvesting stakes, planting stakes and container plans, mulching, weeding, watering, RBI	459.75
Medeiros Parkway Floodplain Connection Project	Weeding, watering, annual vegetation monitoring, RBI	74.5
Arroyo Valle Bank Stabilization Project Plantings (ADV Gardens)	Removing cages, mulching, weeding, watering, annual vegetation monitoring, RBI	191
Alamo Creek Mitigation Planting Project	Weeding, watering, annual vegetation monitoring, RBI	155.25
Minor Biotechnical Bank Stabilization[1]	--	0
Vegetation and Trash Management	As-needed vegetation monitoring assistance	4
	TOTAL HOURS	**1248.75**

[1]*Projects that did not have work for Living Arroyos to complete this year*

Janelle weeding at Arroyo Valle Bank Stabilization Plantings (ADV Gardens) Site

Sukhnoor, Siliyah, and Megan installing a plant protection cage at Robertson SAW Site

Sukhnoor watering at Stanley Reach Site

CITY OF DUBLIN (DUBLIN)

The program was tasked with one project specific to the City of Dublin during the 2023-24 program year.

Table 4. City of Dublin Hours

Dublin Project	Activities	Hours
Pilot Streambank Compost Application Project[1]	--	0
AACS	Trash cleanup, volunteer event cleanup	54.75
	TOTAL HOURS	54.75
[1]*Projects that did not have work for Living Arroyos to complete this year*		

Siliyah and Jordan cleaning up trash along Alamo Canal in Dublin

CITY OF LIVERMORE (LIVERMORE)

Living Arroyos was tasked with 10 projects specific to the City of Livermore.

Table 5. City of Livermore Hours

Livermore Project	Activities	Hours

Arroyo Mocho Site 8 Restoration Area (Rockrose)	Weeding, watering, annual vegetation monitoring	10
Arroyo Mocho Site 9 Restoration Area (Summertree)	Weeding, watering, annual vegetation monitoring	12.25
Sycamore Grove Mitigation Plantings[1]	Weeding, watering, annual vegetation monitoring, RBI	65.75
Bluebell Northeast – Springtown/Central[1]	Weeding, watering, annual vegetation monitoring, RBI	25.5
Bluebell Northwest – Bluebell Drive[1]	Weeding, watering, annual vegetation monitoring, RBI	16.75
Bluebell Southeast – Heather Lane[1]	Weeding, watering, annual vegetation monitoring, RBI	72.5
Golf Drive Creek[1]	Annual vegetation monitoring	14.75
Arroyo Road Mitigation Trees[2]	Weeding, annual vegetation monitoring	10.5
SMP Bank Stabilization Projects	Annual vegetation monitoring	7.5
AACS	Trash cleanup, volunteer event cleanup	75.5
Non-site-specific Livermore project support	Miscellaneous support for other Livermore sites	53.5
	TOTAL HOURS	**364.5**

[1]Project was removed from Living Arroyos workload in winter 2024
[2]Project was added to Living Arroyos workload in spring 2024

Volunteers after trash cleanup at Arroyo Mocho at Robertson Park (AACS #4) (Livermore, CA) on May 18, 2024

Siliyah weeding Arroyo Road mitigation trees

CITY OF PLEASANTON (PLEASANTON)

Living Arroyos was tasked with one project specific to the City of Pleasanton.

Table 6. City of Pleasanton Hours

Pleasanton Project	Activities	Hours
Touriga Creek Vegetation Management	Staff weeding	23
AACS	Trash cleanup, volunteer event cleanup	26
	TOTAL HOURS	49

Volunteers cleaning up Arroyo del Valle at Vine St in Pleasanton on November 4, 2023

7. PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

BUDGET

The Living Arroyos Program budget (Table 7) is composed of both Program Costs to run the Program as mutually agreed upon by Program Partners. Project Costs are the responsibility of the Project Proponent and not presented here.

Table 7. Living Arroyos projected and actual Program Costs for the 2023-24 year rounded.

Item	Projected Budget	Actual Expenditures	Percentage Billed (%)	Budget Leftover
PERSONNEL COSTS	**$221,395**	**$175,305**	**79%**	**$46,090**
Field Equipment & Supplies	$2,000	$581	29%	$1,419
Equipment Rental	$2,500	$540	22%	$1,960
Volunteer Supplies	$500	$48	10%	$452
Travel	$1,500	$115	8%	$1385
Event Costs	$2,000	$245	12%	$1755
Marketing/Outreach	$1,500	$2,651	117%	-$1151
Training	$750	$0	0%	$750
Contingency	$1,855	$0	0%	$1,855
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	**$12,605**	**$4,180**	**33%**	**$8,425**
TOTAL	**$234,000**	**$179,485**	**77%**	**$54,515**

Actual expenditures for the Program were well within the budgeted amount for 2023-24.

Program Costs *include the following:*

- *Program staff and intern salary*
- *Purchase or rental of equipment that can be used for multiple projects; equipment storage; and consumable supplies related to the volunteer and/or intern programs*
- *Travel, trainings, and other miscellaneous expenses causally related to the Program; and*
- *Communication activities and elements to ensure consistent messaging among Partners and to the public.*

Project Costs *include the following:*

- *Any elements that remain with the project site (e.g., irrigation systems, signage, plants, planting supplies, etc.)*
- *Contractors engaged to carry out project specific tasks (e.g., hydro seeding, installation of irrigation systems, etc.)*
- *Any other project specific costs requested by the Program Partner*

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

The following equipment items were purchased for the Program as Program Costs:

- 2 breaker bars
- 2 pairs of boots
- Disposable ear plugs
- Tarp and bungee cords for water trailer
- 8 pounds of rice straw mulch
- Replacement nozzle for water trailer hose
- Living Arroyos t-shirts and stickers

PROGRAM PARTNER COST SHARE

Program partners share the cost of program administration hours and direct program costs. These percentages are agreed upon during development of the Annual Workplan and may be modified if other partners join the program in the future or upon mutual agreement of the partners.

Program Partner benefits should be roughly proportional to their contributions, e.g., a Partner contributing 25% of the budget of the program should, on average, receive 25% of the effort expended, measured in staff, intern, and volunteer person hours by the program.

Zone 7's Program Cost contribution for Program Year 2023-24 was approximately 49%, City of Livermore's contribution was approximately 42%, City of Dublin's contribution was approximately 6%, and City of Pleasanton's contribution as approximately 3% of the total cost of the program. These percentages were estimated at the beginning of the current task order (2022) and differ from the final 2023-24 program hour split (see Table ES-2) due to mid-year changes in expected work and project responsibilities.

8. FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

Increase Volunteer Outreach

Living Arroyos staff recommends that we continue our efforts in volunteer outreach with the aid of the Program Partners.

To increase volunteer outreach, staff recommends:

- Participating in fairs and other events hosted by the program partners and other local environmental organizations.
- Presenting the Program to students at local colleges and high schools.
- Working with Program Partners to integrate the Living Arroyos volunteer events into their social media presence.
- Expanding social media presence and posting regular updates to Living Arroyos website.

Improve Educational and Professional Development Opportunities for Interns

Staff recommends creating a more robust program of educational and professional opportunities for interns to expand technical skills in natural resource management and conservation.

To improve education and professional development opportunities for interns, staff recommends:

- Working with Program Partners to identify job shadowing opportunities.
- Integrate learning activities into projects, such as GIS mapping and a wider range of stewardship tool use.
- Working with Program Partners to do regular (monthly or quarterly) presentations on the variety of professional pathways in the water, public sector, or environmental field.

9. MEETING PROGRAM GOALS

This section highlights the Program's accomplishments relative to the goals outlined in the 2023-24 Workplan.

Goal #1: Engage residents in hands-on stewardship of natural resources while they experience nature close to home.

Living Arroyos hired a total of seven interns from the Livermore-Amador Valley to directly involve them in managing and conserving natural resources. They were provided hands-on opportunities that enhanced their learning and provided technical skills to further their career. The program also hosted 8 volunteer events during 2023-24 where 310 unique volunteers gained firsthand experience being stewards of the Livermore-Amador Valley watershed. The Living Arroyos Program continues to demonstrate that communities and local agencies can collaborate on stream projects that meet maintenance and permitting objectives.

Goal #2: Increase public awareness of important watershed issues.

To reach a much broader audience, Living Arroyos expanded outreach to the public through social media outlets, collaboration with school administrators and local community organizations.

Goal #3: Improve habitat and water quality of local streams while maintaining and enhancing both public safety and regional flood protection.

Living Arroyos field staff completed tasks for 16 specific projects, including planting, watering, trash cleanup, non-native invasive species removal, and survival monitoring. All project tasks were aimed at improving local stream conditions.

Goal #4: Strengthen public/private partnerships within the community.

Local agencies continue to support the program and are seeing a benefit in leveraging resources and working across boundaries to achieve common goals. Living Arroyos continued to cultivate community relationships with local school groups and businesses through events and outreach.