



CITY OF BRENTWOOD PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT CREEK MAINTENANCE INFORMATION

Directions and Guidelines for Creek Maintenance by Property Owners

Creeks carry direct runoff from creekside properties, and through linkage with manmade storm drains, carry runoff from the rest of the City's land area. This interconnected system is the means by which storm water runoff is contained to prevent flooding. Maintenance of the creeks is the responsibility of the owner whose property includes/abuts a creek (typically property line is to the centerline of a creek). When the creek area is not properly maintained, the resulting obstructions can lead to increased flooding, changes in the course of the creek and increased erosion of the obstructed property or downstream of the property. When maintained properly, creeks are a natural resource that provide habitat for wildlife, and provide aesthetic benefits that can increase the value of creekside properties. The purpose of this guide is to provide you, the creekside propertyowner, with practical information for the proper care and preventative maintenance of the creek as a part of your property.

The Public Works Department recommends the following guidelines for maintaining the creek on your property:

- **Remove all debris and garbage.** This may include bottles and cans, broken concrete, tires, fallen fences, appliances or any other man-made object. This also includes wood and fallen trees or tree limbs. This is the property owner's responsibility even if the object has washed down from upstream. It is recommended that all stored material on your property be placed a minimum of 10 feet away from the top of the bank to avoid material washing away into the creek during heavy storms. Sheds and minor structures should be anchored to the ground if closer than 10 feet.
- **Remove vegetation except low ground cover from the bottom of the stream channel up to the top of the bank (flood line).** This includes shrubs, tulle, pampas grass, cattails and bamboo. Leave all root systems in place to help with erosion prevention. Remove hanging vines that may create an obstruction to the natural flow of the water in the creek. Berry vines should be trimmed back to the bank. Review by the Department of Fish and Game may be required.
- **Remove tree limbs within or hanging over the creek to within 2 feet of the top of the creek bank.** Any single tree of 2-inch diameter or greater which is living and not leaning toward the creek may remain. Trim any trees growing in clusters, trees with multiple trunks or trees within the stream channel that may cause an obstruction to the flow of water, but leaving the root system in place. Review by the Department of Fish and Game may be required.
- **Do not clear-cut the creek slopes.** Leave ground cover such as low grasses or vines. Trees should be cut at ground level with roots left in the ground.
- **Keep slope stabilization measures in good condition.** If you have existing slope stabilization measures such as rip-rap (rock, concrete, etc.), a retaining wall, or jute covering, keep these measures in good condition. If these measures require any repair or if you want to install a measure to stabilize a slope, you must first contact the jurisdictional agencies to determine if a permit will be necessary. A permit from the Department of Fish and Game and the Regional Water Quality Control Board may be required. If any work is done to alter the creek including widening, filling, dredging/altering the natural creek flow, an Army Corps of Engineers Permit may be required (see contact information below).

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Engineering Division
118 Oak Street
Phone (925) 516-5420
Fax (925) 516-5421

Mailing Address
708 Third Street, Brentwood, CA 94513
www.ci.brentwood.ca.us

Operations Division
2201 Elkins Way
Phone (925) 516-6000
Fax (925) 516-6001

Creek maintenance falls under California Civil Code Section 3479 and the City of Brentwood Municipal Code Title 8 regarding nuisances. Brentwood Municipal Code Section 8.00.010 states "It is a violation... for anyone to create, cause, commit, or maintain a public nuisance," and defines Nuisance as "Anything that is injurious to health,... or that unlawfully obstructs the free passage or use, ... of any navigable lake, or river, bay, stream, canal,", Section 8.00.020 further states an "enforcement officer... may give notice ordering the owner(s)... of such property to remedy or otherwise abate the nuisance."

The diagrams included with this information illustrate the above guidelines. Questions may be directed to the following:

Maintenance Questions

City of Brentwood Public Works Department
Maintenance & Operations Division, 2201 Elkins Way

(925) 516-6000

Permitting Questions

City of Brentwood Public Works Department
Engineering Division, 118 Oak Street

(925) 516-5420

Activities above and beyond routine maintenance may require permits from the following agencies; information is provided below so you may contact the agencies directly to discuss your property and scope of work.

California Department of Fish and Game

Central Coast Region
Lake and Streambed Alteration Notification
4001 N. Wilson Way
Stockton, CA 95205
www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/1600/

Information (209) 948-7200
Fax (707) 946-6355

Regional Water Quality Control Board

Central Valley Region
11020 Sun Center Drive #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/construction.shtml

(916) 464-3291

Army Corps of Engineers

Sacramento District
1325 J Street, Room 1481
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

Ph (916) 557-5250
Fax (916) 557-6877

www.spk.usace.army.mil/organizations/cespk-co/regulatory/permitting.html

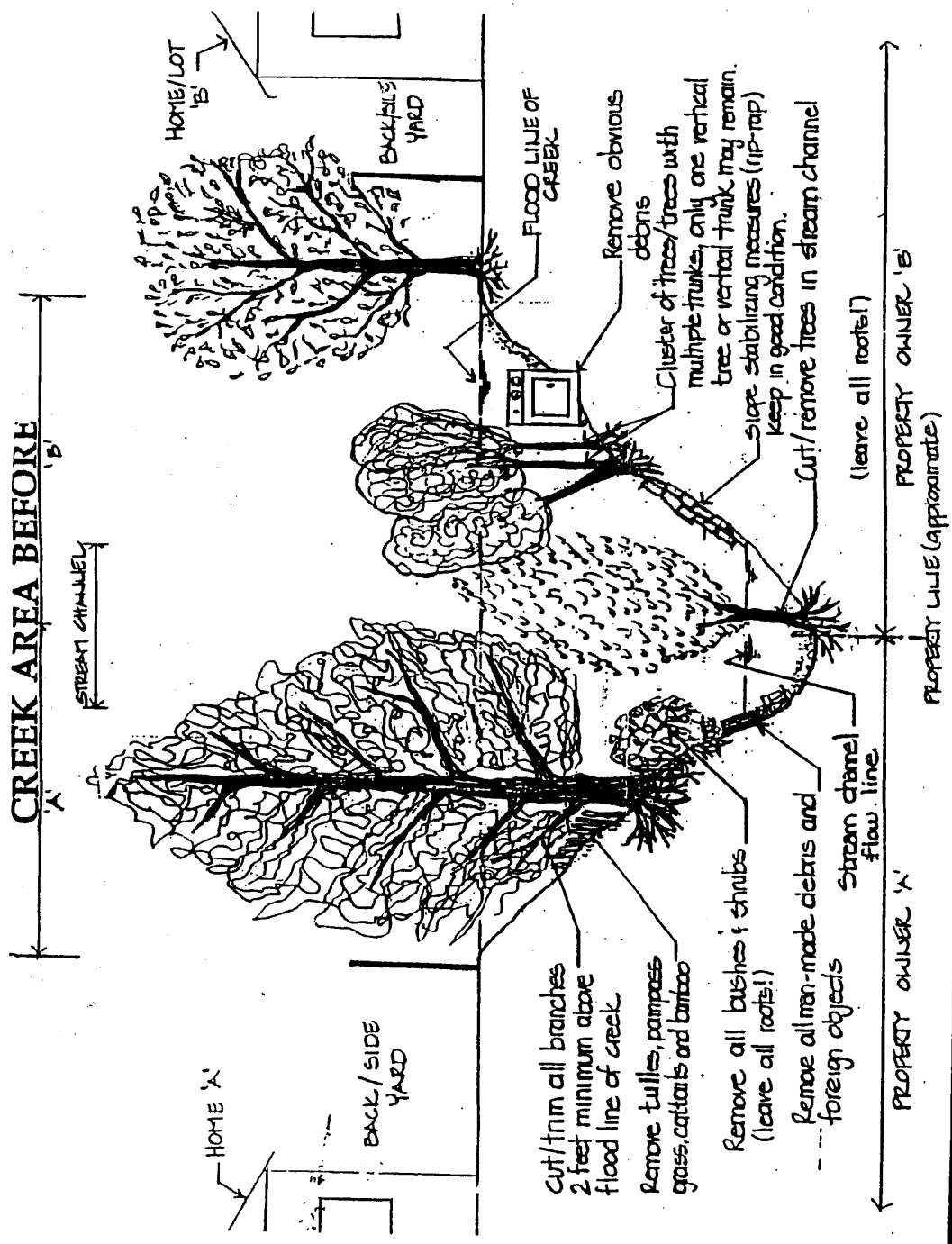
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CREEK AREA AFTER

