



### Points of Interest

- Protecting Your Property from Overflows
- Plant of the Year
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Tip of the Season

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**Sewer blockage or overflow?  
Call us first at 644-8949**

VALLEJO SANITATION & FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

# Currents

## PROPERTY PROTECTION TIPS

Wastewater from sinks, toilets, washing machines and other sources flows from houses through a sewer line called a *lateral* that connects to the main sewer line.

Sewer laterals can be blocked by tree roots, grease buildup, or debris in the pipes. It doesn't happen often, but a major sewer overflow can occur, causing expensive damage.

To protect property from sewer overflows, many houses have an *overflow prevention device* that acts like a pressure cooker valve. If a blockage occurs in the pipes, the device is designed to overflow outside the house.

We recommend that you check to see what kind of sewer overflow device you have, if you have one at all. If you do not have

one, you may be eligible for our Upper Lateral program. Find out more about this program at [www.vsfcd.com](http://www.vsfcd.com).

An overflow device is usually found in the front yard within five feet of the foundation. It is often a cast iron or clay pipe, 4" in diameter. If your sewer overflow device looks like a plastic or aluminum mushroom, you are in good shape.

Newer homes may have concrete boxes that cover the device. If your device is in a concrete box, lift the lid of the box.

If your device looks like a pipe that has a cap screwed on tightly, we recommend unscrewing the cap and simply resting it on top of the pipe. This will allow a potential backup to flow outside the house. If the cap is secured, however, the sewer backup can be pushed back into the house,



overflowing toilets and sinks. If there is no device near your house, check inside the sewer box in your sidewalk. If that cap is screwed down, call the District so we can replace it with a proper device.

If you have questions, concerns, or can't find your sewer overflow device, give us a call at **644-8949**.

We'll have a customer service tech come by your house and give you a free evaluation.

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## PLANT OF THE YEAR



Vallejo Sanitation & Flood Control District is honored to be selected as the 2006 Plant of the Year by the Redwood Empire Section of the California Water Environment Association. This award recognizes outstanding achievements in the wastewater field. To be awarded Plant of the Year, a treatment plant needs to show superior plant

operations, excellence in management and staff development, innovative practices, cost effectiveness, energy conservation, and a strong commitment to public education and safety.

# TIME TO GET INVOLVED!



If your New Year's resolutions include exercising more, helping the environment, improving Vallejo or any combination of the above, read on!

At Vallejo Sanitation & Flood Control District, we look for ways to improve the quality of water in our community. There are a number of community groups who share that goal and provide ways for volunteers to help. Here are some of them:

### Vallejo Watershed Alliance

The Alliance is made up of interested residents, local groups and agencies. Their mission is to raise awareness, create local partnerships and promote sustainable management of Vallejo's watersheds. They have been working with volunteers in Hann's Park to remove non-native vegetation and replant with native species. Wear protective clothing, sturdy shoes, and bring gloves. Refreshments will be provided. Visit the website at [www.VallejoWatershedAlliance.org](http://www.VallejoWatershedAlliance.org) or call 644-8949 ext. 292 for more info.

January 13 9:00 a.m. Hann's Park Restoration Project (meet at Hann's Park)

February 17 9:00 a.m. Creek Cleanup (meet at corner of Coach Lane & Fairgrounds Drive)



### Solano Land Trust

The Land Trust protects open space and agricultural land throughout Solano County. In the Vallejo area, both Lynch Canyon and the Sky Valley-Cordelia Hills Open Space, which includes King Ranch and the Swett Ranches, are owned and managed by the Land Trust. Although these areas are not open to the public, they are accessible via monthly docent-led hikes and frequent planting and work days. For further information, visit [www.SolanoLandTrust.org](http://www.SolanoLandTrust.org) or call 432-0150.

January 20 9:00 a.m. King Ranch "Buckeyes for Butterflies" Project

February 10 9:00 a.m. Lynch Canyon Planting Day

### Solano Resource Conservation District

The Solano RCD is working to restore riparian, wetland and upland habitats along Rindler Creek in Vallejo. Help plant more than 400 native species. For more information, contact Andrea Mummert at 678-1655 ext. 101 or [Andrea.Mummert@ca.nacdn.net](mailto:Andrea.Mummert@ca.nacdn.net).

January 27 9:30 a.m. Planting Day at Rindler Creek (meet at Columbus Parkway and St. John's Mine Road)

### VALCORE Recycling

VALCORE Recycling promotes recycling, composting and reuse opportunities. The City of Vallejo is sponsoring free composting classes through VALCORE. You must pre-register at 645-8258 or email [Jackie@ValcoreRecycling.org](mailto:Jackie@ValcoreRecycling.org). At each class two bio-stack composters will be given away.

April 21 Backyard Composting (2 classes at the downtown farmers' market)

May 12 Backyard Composting (1 class at VALCORE from 10 a.m. to noon)



## Tip of the Season

*Most folks understand that it's not OK to put used motor oil down storm drains ... but they may not understand that "only rain in the drain" means exactly what it says. Oil is not the only harmful substance that finds its way into our local creeks, lakes and rivers through storm drains. Antifreeze or radiator coolant, trash, pesticides from over-watered lawns and other substances all cause significant problems downstream.*

*For proper disposal information for a whole host of substances, go to*

[www.recycle-guide.com](http://www.recycle-guide.com)

*You'll find all the information you need to keep our water safe and clean—for people, pets and wildlife.*



*Currents* is produced bimonthly by the Vallejo Sanitation & Flood Control District. For more information, visit [www.vsfcd.com](http://www.vsfcd.com) or call (707) 644-8949.