

Fighting Current and Future Droughts with Marin Water

As California endures yet another drought of historic proportions, municipalities are finding innovative ways to incentivize reducing water use among residents. After the Marin County Board of Supervisors declared a local emergency in May, [Marin Water](#), the water agency serving southern and central Marin, started a free sheet mulching program called “[Mulch Madness](#).” This program invites residents to convert their irrigated (and very water-demanding) lawn to save thousands of gallons of water. Mulch Madness includes the delivery and installation of sheet mulching materials, and permanently disabling existing lawn sprinklers.

The hard workers removing lawns, laying mulch, and disabling sprinklers are our very own crews! CCNB Natural Resources crew supervisors and corpsmembers received an extensive training from [Daily Acts](#) to learn about sheet mulching and the benefits of this technique, both for soil health and water conservation purposes. After working for two days on a training site, the crew started completing projects on their own at the rate of one household per day. After only seven days on projects, the crew had converted about 4,100 square feet of lawn to mulch, giving homeowners the blank canvas to create more water-conscious landscaping.

There has been no shortage of homeowners looking to take advantage of this opportunity, with work promising to be scheduled into October. Our crews have converted lawns of all sizes across Marin County, mitigating water use during this drought and into the future. One square foot of lawn uses approximately 20 gallons of water every year, so every single inch we can convert counts.

GREEN NOTE

Looking for other ways to save water?
Our partner [Russian Riverkeeper](#) suggests:

- Water outdoor plants only before 8AM or after 8PM.
- Keep buckets in the shower and kitchen sink to catch all water as it heats up—you can water plants or flush toilets with it.
- Try to keep your water usage to 37-58 gallons per person per day (your water bill should show your monthly usage.)
- Check your toilets for leaks by using dye in the tank—if the dye gets into the bowl, you may need to replace the tank flapper!



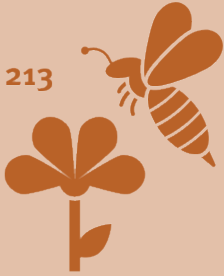
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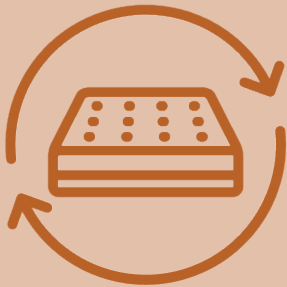
CORPSRESPONDENCE

Last year our corpsmembers:

restored 213
acres of
natural
habitat



Collected 6,900
mattresses for recycling



Maintained 54
miles of creeks



collected
12,600
waste
tires for
recycling



reduced fire fuel on 480 acres
of public and private land

Corpsmember Appreciation

After over a year of working under pandemic-related circumstances, our corpsmembers could have easily been burnt-out, disengaged, and doing the bare minimum. Instead, we see them continuing to work their hardest, give each other a hand up, and face each obstacle head-on. In response, and with the hot days of summer adding an extra strain to every work day, CCNB program staff wanted to host two barbeques for corpsmember appreciation. Staff from every department got together to create a space for corpsmembers to relax, eat, and celebrate all of their successes on July 1st for Sonoma County corpsmembers and July 9th for Marin County corpsmembers. Staff were happy to show off their barbeque skills and corpsmembers were thrilled to have time to socialize and relax after a long week of hard work!



Creating Safe Egresses in Sonoma County

Earlier this year, CCNB secured state funding to perform fire fuel reduction work within the public right of way along roads in and around the town of Occidental and along Grove Street near the town of Sonoma. Our corpsmembers will put their skills to work to create a shaded fuel break in the right of way areas in both locations by using both hand and power tools to selectively cut and remove vegetation. This work will be an excellent opportunity for corpsmembers to earn new certifications or improve their existing skills. The team will be supported by Sonoma County Department of Transportation & Public Works (TPW) staff who will provide daily traffic control to ensure that project activities can be conducted safely.

The roads our crews are working on serve as key emergency egress paths in their respective parts of Sonoma County, creating routes to safety for thousands of residents in the event of a wildfire. The work will also ensure that the roadways are more resistant to fire starts and safer access for emergency vehicles. This important work is made possible through CCNB's partnership with the Sonoma County TPW and support from Fire Safe Sonoma, Fire Safe Occidental, Safer West County, and Grove Street Fire Safe Council. Fire fuel reduction work is always a top priority for our team, and our corpsmembers know firsthand how critical wildfire prevention and mitigation work is after years of smoke, fire, and power shut-offs.

Kicking Off the Clean California Campaign with Elected Officials

In alignment with the newly announced Clean California Initiative, which was recently announced by Governor Gavin Newsom, CCNB sent a small crew out to a site in northern Santa Rosa to participate in a local kick-off coordinated by the office of State Senator Mike McGuire.

On the morning of July 26th, a CCNB team attended a briefing led by Senator McGuire's office and California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) to learn about the campaign. The goal of this project was to provide litter abatement efforts to a pre-selected section of freeway and surrounding embankments as a kickstart to the campaign and a chance to see the new initiative in action. Corpsmembers and staff worked alongside Santa Rosa Mayor Chris Rogers and Santa Rosa City Councilmember Victoria Fleming to pick up litter alongside Highway 101 to start the campaign off right.

This statewide project is aimed at massively expanding state and local litter abatement efforts and will generate an estimated 10,000 to 11,000 jobs over three years. Senator McGuire was excited to meet our corpsmembers and work alongside them while on the project, and they were mutually excited to meet him and participate in the effort!



Building an Ecological Workforce



This summer, a crew of seven corpsmembers participated in a very special program in partnership with [Hanford](#) and [the Workforce Alliance of the North Bay](#). Hanford, a local engineering and landscape contractor specializing in ecological restoration, recognized the need for a skilled ecological workforce here in the North Bay, and some of our corpsmembers were a perfect fit! These corpsmembers worked alongside Marin County Parks, Marin Water, Napa County Flood Control, and Golden Gate National Parks Service and Conservancy, giving them ample opportunity to learn from a wide variety of leaders.



Having this eight-week experience under their belts will help propel our young people into successful careers in conservation, ecological restoration, natural resources, park services, habitat restoration, and more. With the last partner, the crew worked on various scenic coastlines including the Presidio, Fort Funston, Mori Point, Rodeo Beach, and Tennessee Valley. The corpsmembers did invasive species management and preserved the sensitive sand dune habitat unique to the Bay Area. They learned about protected endangered species such as the Red Legged Frog, San Francisco Garter Snake, and the San Francisco lessingia (all species that almost exclusively live here) who all benefit from the preservation efforts. To celebrate the completion of this program, Hanford, Workforce Alliance of the North Bay, and CCNB hosted a small graduation ceremony for the corpsmembers in the gorgeous Marin Headlands at the end of July. They also had the opportunity to interview with three local companies and we cannot wait to see where they end up!

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About CCNB

Conservation Corps North Bay (CCNB) is the oldest local nonprofit youth conservation corps in the country. Serving Marin and Sonoma Counties since 1982, CCNB has helped thousands of young people achieve their goals through education and job skills, while serving the environment and community. Our mission is to develop youth and conserve natural resources for a resilient, sustainable, and equitable community.

Follow us on your favorite social media channels to stay up-to-date on all our projects, corpsmember spotlights, and program accomplishments!



CCNorthBay.org

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