

# Helping you care for our **land, water,** **soil, and wildlife.**



Hello Conservation Community,

This summer is jam-packed with different ways to show up and show out as a community to build a more sustainable future for the Napa Region. There are a few planning efforts underway that require different forms of public input, so let's work hand in hand to create the community of our dreams! From river clean-ups, to wildfire protection plans, to a visible mending workshop, this summer's got something for everyone. Take a look below to see how you can plug into some of the events taking place through Napa RCD and community partners, and we'll see you there!

Until next time,  
**Napa RCD**



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## Giving Thanks

### Bidding Farewell to 2024 Spring Teen Conservation Interns



This spring, Napa RCD welcomed two Teen Conservation Interns that spent four months learning about conservation in Napa, while coordinating and planning events with staff. They finished up their term at the end of May. Before they launched into summer, we asked them to share how they were impacted by the internship with all of you:

#### Jarven, Vintage High School

"Over the course of this internship, I was able to help Napa RCD staff with a variety of tasks, like doing public speeches before or after weed/trash cleanups, sorting items around the office, and creating social media graphics to promote events. During my time at Napa RCD, I gained general skills with doing tasks in a workplace environment, and also learned a lot about what the staff do in their environment-related jobs, like analyzing fish at the river, or conducting controlled burns in a forest. I also gained better social skills by interacting with staff and volunteers.



I thought that the visit to the fish trap was definitely a highlight. It was terrifying to board it since it was floating in the middle of the water, but it was really neat seeing how the staff tallied up the different wildlife species that they caught."



#### Sofia, Vintage High School

"Throughout this internship I was able to get first-hand experience with the working world and learn more about professional spaces outside of my school. The internship allowed me to expand on my skills in a variety of ways; by allowing me to publicly speak, work with others, and work within the community.



My favorite part of the internship was the Earth Day event in April. I loved seeing the behind the scenes of setting up the festival, participating in the cleanup event, and being able to share our accomplishments with the entire community. I found a lot of pride in participating in the cleanup event because I was actually making an impact within my community, and I got to spend time with a



group of new people and make more connections. It was a fun day. "

***We are so lucky to have had both Sofia and Jarven working with us this Spring!***

Stay tuned for an announcement about the Fall Teen Conservation Internship, which will run from October through January. For more information, visit [NapaRCD.org/Scholarship](http://NapaRCD.org/Scholarship) or reach out to [Ashley@NapaRCD.org](mailto:Ashley@NapaRCD.org)

## Your Input is Needed!

### Napa's Regional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (RCAAP)



The RCAAP is a collaborative effort led by the County of Napa, the Cities of American Canyon, Calistoga, Napa, St. Helena, and the Town of Yountville that will act as the Napa Region's roadmap to prepare for the impacts of climate change and reduce current emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG). Public input will be critical throughout the plan in order to prioritize measures and projects that serve different facets of the community. Visit [climateactionnapa.konveio.com](http://climateactionnapa.konveio.com) to learn more.

**The first community meeting will be held on 7/24 at 6 PM at the Yountville Community Center.**

Learn More about RCAAP Engagement Opportunities

To stay updated on the plan, and to begin providing input, click the link below!

Take the Survey

### City of Napa Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)



The City of Napa, in partnership with Napa RCD and Napa Valley Community Organizations Active in Disaster (Napa Valley COAD), is developing a CWPP for the city of Napa. This is a tool to address wildfire risk by promoting collaboration and local action through comprehensive planning and prioritization. Public input will be critical throughout the plan in order to identify draft measures and projects that serve different facets of the community.

**Community Meeting #1**

**Where:** CrossWalk Community Church

**When:**

- 7/9 English Session from 5:30-6:30 PM
- 7/17 Spanish Session from 5:30-6:30 PM

Hybrid meeting options are available via Zoom

For more information on how to join the meetings virtually, to stay updated on the plan, and to begin providing input, click the link below!

Learn  
More

## Announcements

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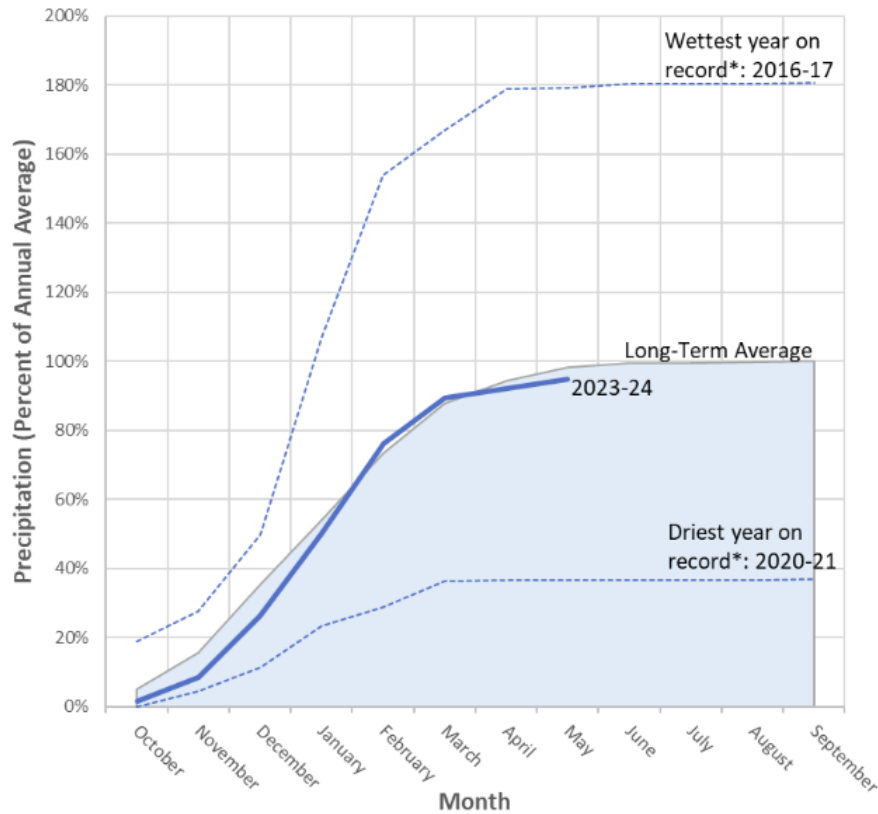
### May Rainfall Summary

You've made it to the long awaited last rainfall summary of the season!

May brought a single day of measurable rainfall to the Napa Valley. Rain totals at the County ALERT monitoring stations ([napa.onerain.com](http://napa.onerain.com)) were below average for the month, ranging between 0.6 inches in the City of Napa and 1.5 inches at the peak of Mt. St. Helena. These totals represent approximately 2.7% of mean annual precipitation. On average, we get 4% of our rainfall during the month of May.

Seasonal totals (beginning October 1) range between 24.8 and 46.5 inches, representing about 95% of mean annual rainfall. The long-term average for this time of year is 98%. Significant rainfall after this point is rare and we will likely end the water year close to where we are now. Although slightly below, this water year has been remarkably average, nearly mirroring the long-term average curve.

## Water Year 2023-24 Cumulative Monthly Rainfall Napa Valley, CA



\* 22-year ALERT System Record. Other sources of local rainfall data extend back more than 100 years.



### \$6.7M NOAA Grant Will Expedite Removal of Local Fish Barriers

Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, NOAA is supporting efforts to help restore access to healthy habitat for migratory fish across the country. Napa RCD was recently awarded \$6.7 million by NOAA to work towards improving fish passage at 7 sites in Napa County, collectively reopening 15 miles of habitat for threatened Central California Coast steelhead. Napa RCD will also assess the remaining dozens of barriers in the count, and develop designs and permitting for the three highest ranking barriers from that assessment.

Learn  
More

### Free Vineyard Irrigation Management Evaluation Services - Sign Up Now

Napa RCD is offering a free service to evaluate the distribution uniformity (DU) of your vineyard irrigation system. This test determines how evenly water is being applied across an irrigation block and throughout the vineyard. You will receive a custom report with the results from the evaluation and specific recommendations on how to improve the performance of your irrigation system.





For more information or to schedule an evaluation please contact Miguel Garcia, Sustainable Ag Program Manager, at [miguel@naparcd.org](mailto:miguel@naparcd.org)



## Save Water, Save Trees! Watch the Winning Water Conservation Video

The votes are in! Thank you to all who submitted videos for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Napa County Water Conservation Video Contest sponsored by the City of Napa and NapaSan. This year, high school students submitted videos highlighting ways to care for neighborhood trees with water conservation in mind.

This year's 1<sup>st</sup> place video, "Save Water, Save Trees" was created by Ryan Cooper from American Canyon High School.

Check out this Year's Winning Videos!

Keep an eye out for information on next year's video contest by visiting the Napa County Watershed Information and Conservation Council webpage or reach out to [Danielle@NapaRCD.org](mailto:Danielle@NapaRCD.org)

## Upcoming Events with Napa RCD

Kayak River Cleanup  
with Napa RCD and Enjoy Napa Valley  
July 13 • 9-11:30am



### 7/13 - Kayak River Cleanup

Love being out on the water? Love doing good work that helps keep the Napa River clean and healthy? Join us for an on-the-water cleanup using kayaks provided by Enjoy Napa Valley on 7/13! We will meet at the Riverside Drive boat launch (by the Yacht Club) and get an orientation and safety talk before heading out on the water. Registration is required.

Learn more and Register Here

### Greener Living Workshop Series

Napa RCD is partnering with the City of Napa, ParksRx, CalFresh, Innovative Health Solutions, and the Napa County Library on a workshop series that will help folks think more broadly about



greener living and sustainable home solutions!

Four workshops will be held:

- 7/11 - Food Waste Reduction + Cooking w/ Food Scraps
- 7/18 - Food Waste Reduction + Cooking w/ Food Scraps (Spanish)
- 8/1 - Container Gardening in Small Spaces
- 8/8 - Visible Mending + Upcycling Used Fabric

[Register Here](#)

## Natural Resources Conservation Science Spotlight

### Installing and Maintaining Barn Owl Nest Boxes

Why make room for barn owls? Barn owls are a cavity-nesting bird, and they rely on natural or human-made cavities for nesting. Cal Poly Humboldt State University researchers found that a single breeding pair can remove up to 1000 rodents in a breeding season in the Napa Valley.

Below are some recommendations for building new boxes and renovating existing boxes to increase the likelihood of success.

#### Construction:

- Tall boxes (24" tall) provide enough room for large broods. Entrance holes should be 5" in diameter.
- A new addition to many barn owl boxes is installing heat shields on the back and roof of the boxes. These heat shields help to regulate the temperature inside of the boxes.
- Additional construction features are shown on the diagram below.

#### Maintenance:

- Replace rotting or decaying side panels. Not replacing these panels can lead to higher rates of mortality of barn owls and reduce the chances of nest occupancy.
- Clean boxes annually. After cleaning out the boxes, check if the hinges are lubricated, the mounting structures are solid, and add 2 inches of fresh wood shavings.
- Complete all maintenance prior to early January which is just before the beginning of the nesting season. If maintenance is conducted during the early nesting season (January to March), check the boxes in the late afternoon. This reduces the possibility of the adult barn owls abandoning their nests. Barn owls abandon their nest more readily than most cavity nesting birds.

#### Location:

- Place barn owl boxes in open areas, such as vineyards and grasslands, away from the border of a forested area. Boxes close to the edge of a forest may have increased predation from great horned owls and other raptor species.
- Install owl boxes at least 200 feet from existing raptor perches to reduce predation.
- Mount boxes on steel poles at least 10' tall. If already mounted on a wood post, install predator guards to prevent predation from mammals and reptiles.
- Install barn owl boxes at least 200 feet from paved roads and ¼ mile from multi-lane highways to avoid collisions with vehicles.
- Owl boxes and rodenticides should not mix. Do not place barn owl boxes in areas where rodenticides are used or you may end up poisoning your resident barn owl.



#### Features to Improve Function and Ease of Maintenance:

- Access Door: Makes cleaning out the nest box and checking on it much easier.
- Groves: Ease of access for barn owls to get into the nest box.
- Heat Shields: Helps prevent the nest box from getting too hot if the nest box is not in a location that gets shade.
- Ventilation Holes: Ventilates hot air out of the nest box to regulate the nest box's internal temperature.
- Metal Pole (not pictured): Helps prevent potential predation from mammals.

If you are interested in installing barn owl boxes, please contact [Frank Bradley](#), Napa NRCS Biologist, at [frank.bradley@usda.gov](mailto:frank.bradley@usda.gov) for more information.

Contact Frank

## Tap into the Watershed



Now – July 31: 100 Hours Outside Challenge

Learn  
More

7/20: American Canyon Family Biking Workshop

Learn  
More





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## 7/21: Día de la Familia\*



Learn  
More



## 7/26: COWS/VACAS at Harvest Middle School

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
Agriculture and Natural Resources Forest Stewardship

Save the Date!  
August 27- October 22, 2024



Register now for  
a California  
Forest  
Stewardship  
Workshop

## Registration Now Open: California Forest Stewardship Workshop

Online, August 27- October 22, 2024

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The Napa County Fire Department (NCFD)  
provides a **FREE** chipping service to all  
residents who live in the unincorporated areas  
of Napa County.

Learn  
More

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*\*Stop by and say hello to us at this event!*

Join the E-  
List!

Did you know we have a separate email list for our **volunteers**?

Help support Napa RCD  
[Donate](#) Today!



Stay Connected!



Napa County Resource Conservation District | 707-252-4189 | [NapaRCD.org](http://NapaRCD.org)

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