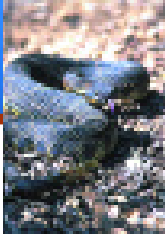


Malibu Creek Watershed

part of the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed

A watershed is a geographic area in which all of the rainfall into that area eventually flows to a single discharge point.



At 109 square miles, **the Malibu Creek Watershed is one of the largest discrete watersheds draining into Santa Monica Bay**, second only to the Ballona Creek Watershed. Malibu Creek and its tributaries reach east into Ventura County, winding through the Santa Monica Mountains and neighborhoods like yours until eventually reaching Santa Monica Bay.

Almost 100,000 human residents in five cities and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County call these watersheds home, as do countless plant and animal species. **Some animal species, such as the steelhead trout, tide-water goby and brown pelican are endangered.** Many others, such as the snowy plover and peregrine falcon, are threatened. These watersheds also host the popular Malibu Creek and Topanga State Parks, many hiking/biking trails, and spectacular scenery spanning from the ocean to the mountains.

Protecting these watersheds is important not only for residential quality of life, but also to ensure the long-term health of the ecosystem. However, increased urbanization has resulted in water quality and quantity issues, as well as loss of critical habitat. **Collectively, our actions can either harm or help this amazing place we call home.** By taking responsibility for ensuring the overall health of these watersheds and minimizing actions that adversely impact their natural resources, we can assure their viability for future generations.

This Guide provides local residents with pages of useful information to help make watershed protection and preservation easier than ever. Not only will you find information on the watershed's many natural resources, you will also find great tips and information on how to improve your immediate environment – and even save money in the process. **From public transportation to landscaping tips, you will find plenty of information on how to Live Lightly in your Watershed. Enjoy!**

Inset photos: Left, Southern Pacific Rattlesnake; Center, Humboldt Lily; Right, Water quality testing, Malibu Creek Watershed
Top: Decker Lake



