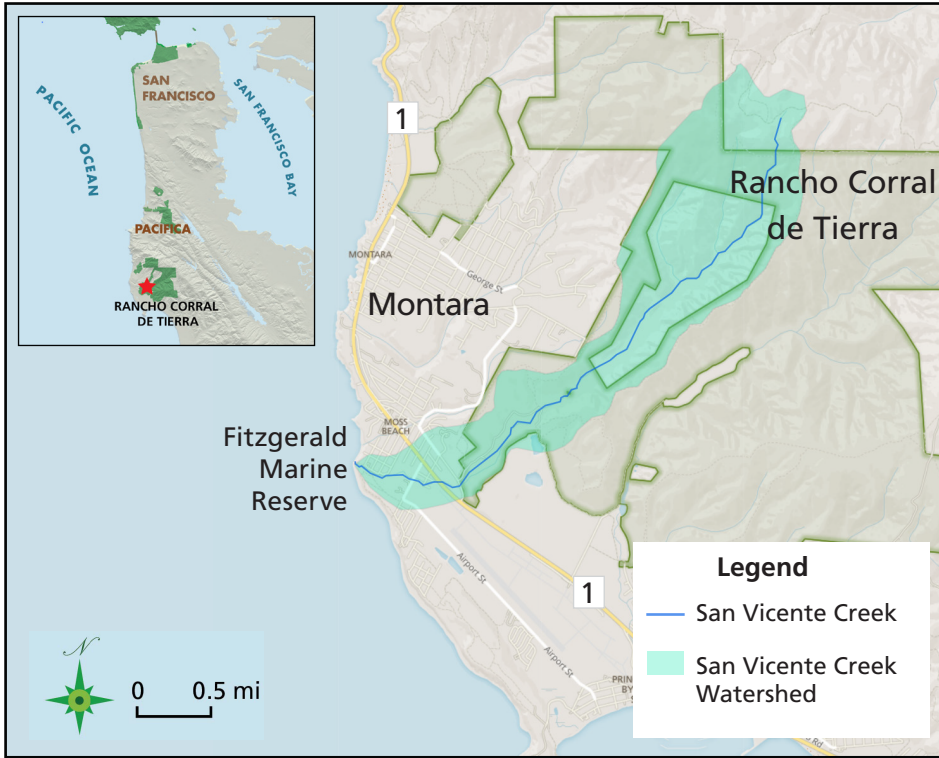


Keep San Vicente Watershed Clean and Safe

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Golden Gate
National Recreation Area
Rancho Corral de Tierra



San Vicente Creek watershed is located in the central coast of San Mateo County and drains to the Pacific Ocean at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The marine reserve is a biologically important area, being both a “federally-designated Marine Life Sanctuary” and an “Area of Special Biological Significance.”

Three creeks flow to the Reserve but San Vicente Creek flows into the ocean at the Reserve’s main entrance, where thousands of people visit and recreate each year.

We need your help to protect the public and the marine life in this sensitive area.

The Problem

San Vicente Creek is polluted by high concentrations of pathogenic bacteria such as E. Coli and fecal coliform and is listed as an impaired waterbody under the Clean Water Act Section 303(d).

The pathogenic bacteria in the creek are found in warm-blooded animals such as humans, horses, pets, and wildlife. Waters contaminated with fecal bacteria are thought to pose an increased risk of disease to humans.

Why Pick Up After Your Pet?

A single gram of pet waste contains an average of 23 million fecal coliform bacteria. By picking up after your pet, you reduce the source of pathogens in the environment.

Additionally, in some aquatic systems, the decay of pet waste leads to increased nutrient supply and decreased levels of dissolved oxygen that inhibit a healthy aquatic ecosystem.

What is being done

Golden Gate National Recreation Area, in partnership with the County of San Mateo, has developed a “San Vicente Creek Pet Waste Management Plan” as part of the larger San Vicente Creek Water Quality Improvement Plan. The park is committed to raising public

awareness about the importance of managing pet waste and increasing the number of pet waste stations at our trailheads (see map below). Our other partners include the San Mateo Resource Conservation District, local equestrian centers, and Coastside DOG.

What can you do?

Pick up your pet’s waste! Educate others! Volunteer at the local clean-up events!



NOTE: Per 36CFR2.15(a)(5), pet excrement must be disposed of in accordance with the following conditions: In all areas of the park pet excrement shall be removed immediately from the park or deposited in a refuse container by the person(s) controlling the pet(s).

(rev. 9/20)

