THE FESTIVAL MARTINEZ NEVER WANTED

A decade ago Martinez found itself at the center of controversy over some furry neighbors nobody expected. A pair of beavers had moved into the creek downtown and started building a dam to raise their family. Fears that the dam would cause flooding spurred a plan to trap the critters, but residents objected - and how. Soon nearly every paper and news channel was talking about the controversy. The beaver bruhaha even made it to national news!

Defenders guessed the beavers would be harder to kill after residents through a party for them, and in 2008 the first beaver festival was born. Over the years it has grown to be one of the biggest wildlife events in Northern California, drawing conservation and nature groups from more than 5 bay area counties. Live music, children’s activities, a silent auction and beaver tours have made this a popular favorite for nature lovers.

This year, artist Amy G Hall from Napa will be once again be sharing her talents with a 2-day chalk mural showing beavers and the wildlife they sustain in the central plaza. Exhibitors at the event include Native Bird Connections, NorCal bats, the Marine Mammal Center and the many local wildlife organizations. This year children will be invited to participate in a treasure hunt to find the “Lost Key to the Waters”.

They say when life give you lemons you should make lemonade, but when life give you beavers you should definitely celebrate with a dam good festival like this. Come see for yourself!

**When:** June 29th, 2019 11:00-4:00.
**Where:** Historic Susana Park in downtown Martinez at the corner of Susana and Estudillo streets
**Cost:** Free
**More Information:** Check out the beaver festival information page at martinezbeavers.org

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