

## What can YOU do to help?

Do you have a favorite creek or lake that you like to visit? Here are some ways to help **keep it clean!**

**Clean up after your pets:** To keep surface runoff free of pet waste, clean up after your pets by picking up their wastes and disposing of them in a trashcan.



**Use less water:** Be mindful of the amount of water you are using when showering, brushing your teeth, or washing your bike.



**Do not litter:** Always recycle and use the proper can for the rest of your trash.



Thanks for taking the time to learn about what you can do to prevent stormwater pollution!



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## STORMWATER AND YOU!



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## What is a watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that drains to the same place—like a bathtub! Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes.

EVERYONE lives in a watershed!

## What is runoff?



Watch the rain (or melting snow) as it runs off the streets, parking lots and land. You can see the water pick up and carry soil, trash, and pollutants into storm drains and streams. This flow is called runoff.

## There are TWO types of water pollution:

### Point Source

This is pollution that flows from pipes or other areas you can see and identify.



### Nonpoint Source

This pollution does not come from a single point, but from a broad area such as surface runoff from construction sites, cow pastures, and fertilized lawns.



## Why is runoff harmful?

The invisible runoff may be the most damaging, such as:

- Nutrients
- Chemicals (toxins)
- Bacteria
- Soil (sediment)

Too much of these pollutants can kill fish, shellfish, wildlife or plants and degrade the quality of the water we depend on to live.

