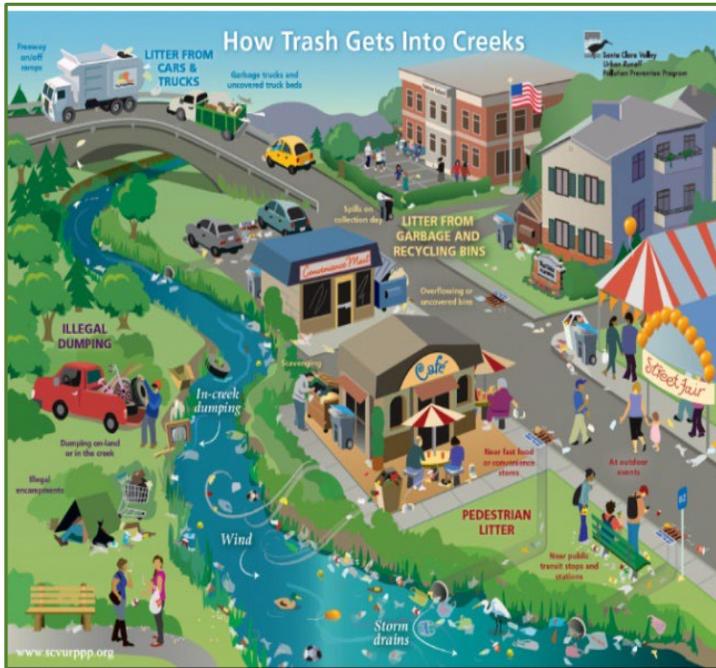


Why is stormwater management important?

(posted October 3, 2022)



(above picture www.scvurppp.org)

According to the EPA, "Garbage can easily become aquatic trash if it is not properly disposed of or securely contained. When garbage is littered on the ground rather than placed in a recycle, compost, or trash bin, rain and wind often carries it into storm drains, streams, canals, /lakes/ and rivers. For example, a cigarette butt tossed on the ground might wash into a storm drain and travel through the stormwater system, which in some cases, leads directly into waterways. Cigarette butts contain plastic that will remain in the environment for many years.

Trash also enters waterways as a result of illegal dumping in or near waterways. Illegal dumping of household waste may be more common if there is a lack of regular trash pickup services or publicly available dumpsters. Additionally, trash can blow out of overfilled trash bins or off of trash collection vehicles.

Mismanaged trash that escapes into waterways can create a wide range of problems. Aquatic trash affects water quality, endangers plants and animals, and pollutes the outdoor spaces that we depend on for tourism and recreation. Though all types of aquatic trash can have potentially harmful impacts, plastic waste is particularly concerning because of its tendency to persist in the environment and its widespread production, use, and disposal." (<https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters/learn-about-aquatic-trash>)

Run-off from impervious surfaces (e.g., roofs, driveways, parking lots, etc.) may contribute to oil, gas, antifreeze, etc. polluting waterways, which has negative and harmful effects on health and habitats. However, we cannot forget that unmanaged pollution/litter/garbage impacts the social and economic side of communities. No one wants to play in dirty waters or parks. Additionally, such poor environmental conditions lead to an inability to attract or retain thriving businesses, consumers, or residents.

Flooding is another major reason why cities manage stormwater through drainage programs, such as the one the City Council approved January 2022. Impervious surfaces do not allow rainwater to soak into the ground and, therefore, may cause flooding and erosion. Over the next five years, the City anticipates addressing drainage issues through necessary steps - fee assessments, Master Drainage Study, stormwater utility design and construction, and ongoing maintenance. As we move forward with these projects, you too can do your part by controlling litter/garbage/pollution and by supporting the City Council and Staff as they move forward with plans to address the drainage.