

What Are Your Responsibilities?

- Don't dispose of debris in washes, ditches or other waterways. Even twigs can plug up these waterways eventually causing flooding. Keep the washes free of debris.
- Don't overfill trash receptacles - what falls out could eventually end up in a drainage ditch or waterway.
- Don't throw trash out of your vehicle, carry a litter bag in your car and use it. Don't toss your cigarette butts on the ground. Not only is this a fire hazard but a cigarette butt takes 5 years to decompose.

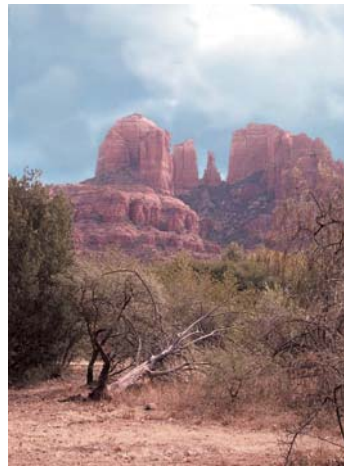
- Dispose of diapers, left over food wrappers, cups, paper, cigarette butts and other debris in trash receptacles. Take a trash bag with you when hiking or going for a drive. Put trash in it rather than throwing it on the ground or in the Creek. Don't pour drink on the ground or in the Creek. Pour drink down sinks or put it in the trash.
- Be sure to carry doggie poop baggies to clean up after your pets and dispose of it in a trash receptacle.
- Please don't disturb or play on hay bales in ditches. These are placed to catch sediment.

Leave No Trace

The **Leave No Trace** program establishes a nationwide code of outdoor ethics to shape a sustainable future for wild lands. It was developed to help minimize your impact while enjoying the outdoors. Please practice its principles.

Camp, hike and travel on designated durable surfaces. Pack it in and pack it out. Bury human waste or use designated toilets when available. Leave what you find. Protect and conserve water resources.

Stay on the trail - don't bust the crust! It's alive. The black patches of knobby crust are made up of



lichen, moss, and fungi that prevent erosion and retain water. It is easily broken. One footprint can kill a decade's worth of growth.

Keep natural areas clean - dispose of trash properly...stay on trails...don't disturb natural habitats...maintain beauty - the only things you should take out with you are pictures and beautiful memories! Take responsibility to protect the scenic beauty of the Sedona area.

This is a wilderness. Keep it wild and remember, YOU are the visitor and you do make a difference! Leave it clean for future visitors.

Development of this brochure
Funded by a grant from the United States
Environmental Protection Agency and the Arizona
Department of Environmental Quality

Sedona's Stormwater KEEP IT CLEAN



As a Visitor
You play an important part!

Pollution of stormwater runoff is often the result of the daily activities of residents and tourists.

What is stormwater runoff?

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground rather than soaking into it. Impervious surfaces like parking lots, driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

How does stormwater become polluted?

As the volume of stormwater increases it can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants. This flow is discharged **untreated** into waterbodies such as Oak Creek. Pollution is a concern because we use these waterbodies for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.

The Effects of Stormwater Pollution

Polluted Stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals, and people.



- Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediment also can destroy aquatic habitats.
- Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes the oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.

- Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards, often making beach closures necessary. Bacteria may be the result of trash or of your pet's droppings when not disposed of properly.

- Debris such as Diapers, plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles and cigarette butts washed into water bodies can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles, and birds.



- Household hazardous wastes like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick or die from eating diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water.



- Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn, can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.
- Frogs and toads need a clean aquatic environment and thermal protection, both of which are adversely impacted by pollution.



Your Actions Impact

The City of Sedona welcomes tourists. It is a beautiful place with the designated *Unique Waterway* of Oak Creek flowing through it. You can help us keep it as beautiful as it is by following some tourist etiquette and minimizing your impact in the most visited wilderness area in Arizona. Please, *don't destroy what you came to enjoy.*

Living Water

The geology, plants, and precipitation all shape the condition of the Oak Creek watershed. Likewise, humans also affect the watershed, with the things we do and don't do.

High water quality in Oak Creek supports a thriving chain of life. Key factors are turbidity (water clarity), temperature, and bacteria levels. When any of these are affected by human use, swimming closures may be made at popular recreation sites.

In this arid ecosystem, the availability of water determines the survival of plants and animals. Streams and drainages in this landscape take on incredible significance.

Good water quality supports everything that lives here – don't pollute the creek.