

WHERE DO YOU FIT IN?

YOUR ACTIONS IMPACT



The City of Sedona 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 guidelines in this

brochure to minimize your impact in the most visited wilderness area in Arizona. Please, *don't destroy the environment we all call home.*

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.

Urbanization increases the variety and amount of pollutants carried into the Oak Creek watershed. These pollutants include:

- Viruses, bacteria and excess nutrients from pet waste and failing septic systems.
- Sediment
- Oil, grease and toxic chemicals from motor vehicles
- Unabsorbed pesticides and nutrients from lawns and gardens

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102 Roadrunner Drive
Sedona, Arizona 86336



SEDONA'S STORMWATER



KEEP IT CLEAN

AS A RESIDENT YOU PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART!

Pollution of stormwater runoff is often caused by 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 roofs, driveways, sidewalks and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

HOW DOES STORMWATER BECOME POLLUTED?

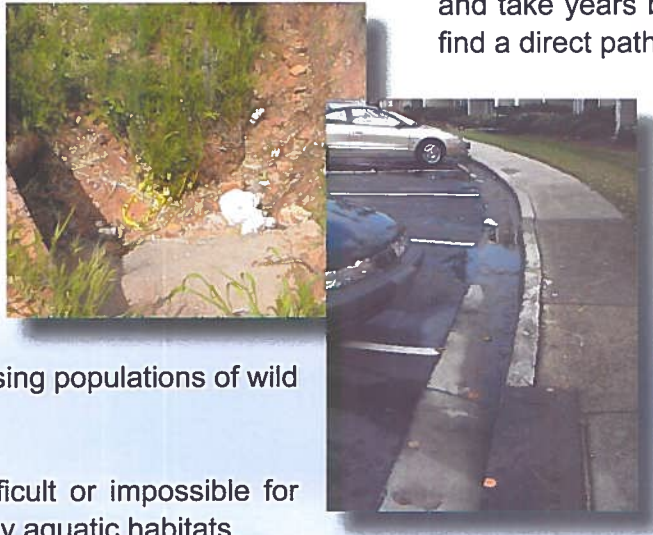
As the volume of stormwater increases, it can pick up bacteria, debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants. This flow is discharged, untreated, into water bodies such as Oak Creek. Pollution is a concern because we use these water bodies for swimming, fishing and providing drinking water.

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THE EFFECTS OF STORMWATER POLLUTION

- A little spilled oil or gas can go a long way in a thunderstorm - the pollutants can harm fish and wildlife, kill native vegetation, foul drinking water supplies and make recreational areas unsafe and unpleasant.
- Bacteria, such as E. coli, and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards, often making swimming area closures necessary. Bacteria may be the result of trash or of your pet's (including livestock) droppings when not disposed of properly.
- Litter, trash and garbage, when not properly disposed of, can end up clogging our stormwater drainage system (above), and encourage increasing populations of wild animals and associated droppings.
- 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.
- Vehicle fluids such as oil, gas and antifreeze can seep into the ground and take years before they reach the river... but they do, or they may find a direct path to the storm drain, as shown in the picture (below).
- Household hazardous wastes, like insecticides, pesticides, paint and solvents, 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 can also affect drinking water sources. This, in turn, can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.

MAKE YOUR HOME PART OF THE SOLUTION TO STORMWATER POLLUTION!

- Prevent polluted runoff by picking up after pets and using, storing and disposing of chemicals properly. This is a significant pollutant of Oak Creek.
- Never dispose of any ditch cuttings, trimmings, trash or other items into any drainage channel. They will impede, disrupt, be carried away by or block the flow of drainage.
- Grass, leaves and other organic materials should be removed with a broom and composted or put in the trash. Sweeping, instead of hosing off pavements, can prevent pollutants from going directly from storm drains into the local watershed.
- Don't overfill trash receptacles and create street litter that may end up in a drain - keep trash bins tightly covered.
- Avoid overuse of pesticides - learn about Integrated Pest Management (IPM).
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces. Clean roof gutter annually.
- Check your car for leaks and dispose of your vehicular fluids at a local car maintenance shop. Use pans and containers to collect leaking fluids before they reach the ground or waterways.
- Do not install any covering, fencing or other obstruction over a culvert pipe inlet or outlet.
- Unclog drainages that become blocked by floating debris, leaves, tree limbs, sand, silt and trash.
- Cover debris and dirt piles. Cover truckloads of dirt, yard waste and other debris. Cover bare spots in your yard with landscaping.
- Households served by septic systems should have them professionally inspected and pumped every 3 to 5 years.
- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on the lawn or other unpaved, porous surface.
- Do not landscape within drainage channels, drainage swales, side ditches adjacent to the shoulder of right-of-ways and other waterways without obtaining approval from the City of Sedona.