

Trash Sources & Pathways Visualized

A Public Outreach and Education Tool

Objective





This graphic was created as an educational tool to illustrate the diverse and diffuse sources of trash and the various pathways by which trash is transported to local channels, creeks and rivers. The image was created for school-age children and the general public to learn that trash, like all other water pollutants, is a societal problem and their actions can impact the health of our surface waters.

About the Poster

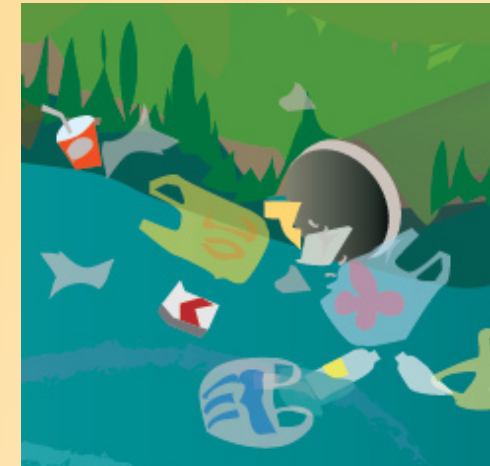
The *How Trash Gets into Creeks* poster was originally created in 2007 by the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVURPPP) as part of the CASQA award-winning *Trash Best Management Practice (BMP) Toolbox* in an attempt to illustrate the ways trash gets into urban creeks. The graphic was recently updated in 2014 and is now available in Spanish. Two versions, one with a single-family residence and the other with a school, now exist for outreaching to different audiences. Municipalities in the South San Francisco Bay Area use this colorful educational tool at various events, such as farmers' markets and Earth Day celebrations, to educate the public on trash prevention.




Trash Source Categories

-  **Pedestrian Litter** – Individuals who lack the willingness to properly dispose of trash or do not have access to waste containers while walking or running are likely a large source of trash in urban creeks.
-  **Litter from Cars & Trucks** – Drivers or passengers that litter from vehicles and uncovered trash that escapes from truck beds during transport on urban and rural roads and freeways.
-  **Litter from Garbage and Recycling Bins** – Under-sized or under-serviced containers that overflow or trash that escapes during curbside collection.
-  **Illegal Dumping** – Relatively large amounts of trash that are illegally discarded onto roads, abandoned properties, or dumped directly into surface waters by individuals or via encampments near or within creeks.

Trash Pathways


-  **Stormwater Conveyance Systems** – Trash on roads, sidewalks and private property can make its way into storm drain inlets during storms and dry weather and continue underground through the network of pipes where unless intercepted, it can reach local creeks and other surface waters.

Wind – Trash can be transported to a waterway or stormwater conveyance system by wind, especially on windy days, nights, or portions of cities where wind speeds are the greatest.

-  **In-creek Dumping** – Trash can enter waterways when directly disposed within the stream channel or on its banks. Illegal dumping and pedestrian litter are the two most prevalent trash source categories applicable to this pathway.

Downstream Transport – Trash that directly or indirectly reaches a creek from any of the other pathways can be transported and deposited to downstream locations within surface waters.

About SCVURPPP

 The Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVURPPP), is an association of 13 cities and towns in the Santa Clara Valley, the County of Santa Clara, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District that share a common permit to discharge stormwater to San Francisco Bay. Since the early 1990's SCVURPPP has been a leader in stormwater management in the State of California, serving as the countywide stormwater program for approximately 1.7 million people that live and work in the Lower South San Francisco Bay.

Coordination with ZLI

This poster was created in coordination with the Santa Clara Valley **Zero Litter Initiative (ZLI)**, a self-organized group of municipalities, non-governmental organizations, and other interested parties that are impacted by litter issues and have an interest in reducing litter in Santa Clara County.