Protecting Our Stormwater

Stoppin’ the Droppin’ Campaign

Pima Dept. of Environmental Quality (PDEQ)

Marie Light and Skye Siegel
Overview

- Stormwater Management Program
- Stoppin’ the Droppin’ Campaign
- What we can do
PDEQ Mission

Identify & respond to environmental issues by providing public services:

- Air, water & soil (illegal dumping) monitoring
- Permitting and compliance inspections
- Enforcement
- Education and outreach
Stormwater Management Program

- Stormwater is rain water flowing on the ground (also called runoff or surface water)

- PDEQ Objective:
  Maintain the water quality of surface water in our washes
  - Flood control
  - Pollution prevention
Stormwater Pollution

occurs when runoff carries pollutants into our desert washes:

- Pet waste
- Oil & Grease
- Gasoline
- Trash
- Paints & Solvents
Hydrologic Cycle and Water Sources
Methods of Protecting Stormwater

- Public outreach
- Prevent pollution with good housekeeping practices
- Inspection of places likely to have pollutants
  - Construction Sites
  - Industrial Facilities
  - Storm drains and drainage channels
  - Reports of pollutants or suspicious looking water
- Monitor stormwater
PDEQ's *Stoppin’ the Droppin’*
2012 Campaign
Myth buster Fact

Pet poop does **not** make good fertilizer. 
**It is toxic.**

- EPA deemed pet waste a “non-point” source of pollution in 1991, which put poop in the same category as oil & toxic chemicals.

- A single gram of dog poop can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria.
Negative impact on water quality

- How many days of dog droppings from how many dogs does it take to close a bay & all watershed areas within 20 miles to swimming & shell fishing?
Desert region vs. other regions

- Monsoons
- Temporary water bodies
- Impact on desert watersheds
Public health nuisance
Stoppin’ the Droppin’
Art Gallery
E. coli
Potential Health Impacts of *Escherichia coli* Bacteria

- Cramps
- Diarrhea
- Intestinal illness
- Urinary tract infections
Stoppin’ the Droppin’

Art Gallery
Protect Our Children & Pets
We need clean water

1. Essential for **life support & vitality**
   - Hydration (~ 2 liters/day)
2. Essential for **hygiene** (~ 35 liters/day)
3. Essential for **food** (~ 2,825 liters/day)
   - Vegetables, fruit, grains
   - Fish, Poultry, Meat
4. Important for aesthetics & recreation

UNESCO, 2011
Protecting the Nation’s Waters

Constitution of United States

Clean Water Act (Pollution Prevention)

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
What We Can Doo!

PLEASE PICK UP MY POOP.
Install Pet Waste Station & Garbage Cans
Slow it down & Soak it in!

Creosote

Ironwood

Mexican Bird of Paradise

Four-wing Saltbush
Good Housekeeping

- Store chemicals
- Apply pesticide, herbicide & fertilizer to minimize runoff
Recycle Household Hazardous Waste
Harvest Rainwater
Choose another route during floods
Let us know about environmental concerns!

- **Contact us**
  - Phone: 520-243-7400
  - Website: [http://www.deq.pima.gov/complaints/compform.html](http://www.deq.pima.gov/complaints/compform.html)

- Describe what you observe (see, hear, smell), where you observed it, and when.

- We perform inspections and work with the source of the concern to do clean-up!
Ways to Protect our Stormwater Quality

- Scoop the poop
- Fix your leaky car
- Harvest rainwater
- Don’t be a litterbug!
- Reduce, reuse, recycle
- Slow it down and soak it in
- Dispose of hazardous waste properly
- Apply pesticide, herbicide, & fertilizer to minimize runoff
The Dung Beetle Story
Outstanding Planetary Citizens!
Taking Care of Business

Until they can take care of their own business, it’s your business.
Contact Information
Pima County Stormwater Management Program

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