

Understanding the environment around you....

Preserving our creeks for future generations....

What happens when it rains...

Runoff water from our community enters the American River every day. This water flows directly to our rivers without treatment, where pollutants in the runoff can harm fish and wildlife and make the waterways unhealthy. Runoff is generated in two ways:

First, when stormwater hits the ground during a rain event, it travels in streets and gutters to storm drain pipes or channels, picking up pollutants (such as oil and grease from cars) accumulated on our streets and other paved surfaces.



Second, we generate water in the course of our everyday activities at work and at home. This water, such as excess runoff from sprinkler systems, dirty



rinse water from washing down buildings and pavement, and wastewater from concrete work and painting, also makes its way into our storm drain pipes.

What is a watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that catches and drains water into a particular body of water such as a creek, river or lake. In Folsom, a handful of creeks—Willow, Humbug, Hinkle and Alder—take water from our properties and roads and deliver that water to the American River and Lake Natoma. All of this water eventually makes its way to the Sacramento River, the Delta and on to the Pacific Ocean. Whether you live close to a creek or a mile from it, we all live in the American River Watershed. What we do upstream affects our neighbors downstream, and vice versa. See the map on the inside of this brochure to find out which of the City's four creek watersheds you live in.

Folsom's Stormwater Management Program

The City of Folsom owns and operates the stormwater drainage system which carries runoff to local creeks and the American River. We are responsible for flood management and we conduct maintenance necessary to safely convey storm flows to the river during the wet season. At the same time, we are taking steps to combat urban runoff pollution to keep our waterways clean. We have adopted local regulations that make it illegal to cause or contribute to a discharge of pollutants to storm drains and waterways. Did you know that dirt, trash and yard debris are considered "pollutants" because they can destroy downstream habitat and water quality? Dirt particles (sediment) can cover fish spawning gravels and carry other contaminants such as heavy metals to the creek. As yard debris decays, it robs the creek and everything in it of vital oxygen needed to live.



Since 1990, the City has been a partner in the Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership along with Sacramento County and other local cities. Together, we are implementing a comprehensive program to protect the health of our creeks and rivers. But we also need your help. If you see pollution in a storm drain or waterway or see someone polluting, please call the City.



Did you know?

- One quart of oil can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water—the equivalent of 12 residential swimming pools.
- Rinsing latex paint from a single paintbrush into the gutter can endanger the stream habitat for a quarter of a mile down stream.

Remember... Cleaner Storm Drains, Cleaner Creeks

To keep the runoff leaving your home or work place clean, please follow these simple guidelines:



Household Hazardous Waste

- Properly dispose of waste through Folsom's convenient service (www.FolsomHazmat.com)
- Use the least toxic products for cleaning and auto, pest and garden maintenance
- Clean latex paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors



Automotive

- Maintain your vehicle to keep fluids from dripping onto the pavement
- Properly dispose of auto fluids and batteries (see www.FolsomHazmat.com)
- When washing your car, use as little water and soap as possible to reduce runoff and pollution, or better yet, use a commercial car wash that recycles the water



Landscaping, Gardening & Construction

- Inform your landscape, construction and pool contractor about proper methods to prevent pollution
- Sweep surfaces before hosing down to keep debris out of the storm drain
- Consider safer alternatives to chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Use sparingly and not before rain
- Compost or recycle yard waste
- To properly drain pools, spas and fountains, follow the tips on the City's website



Pets

- Pick up pet waste, bag it and put it in the trash. This will prevent harmful bacteria from getting into our waterways

For more information on the Public Works Stormwater Management Program call (916) 355-7272 or visit <http://creeks.folsom.ca.us>

Folsom's Creeks: Distinctive by Nature

If it flows down the street...



It ends up in your neighborhood creek.

Humbug Creek



CITY OF **FOLSOM**
DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE

Discover Folsom's Creeks.....



Folsom's Creeks and Watersheds

The City of Folsom is home to four creek watersheds: Willow, Humbug, Hinkle and Alder. These creeks deliver water directly to the American River without any treatment to remove pollutants. So it's up to us to make sure that runoff getting to our storm drains and creeks is as clean as it can be. To help preserve our natural environment, start by using this map to find out which watershed you live in. Visit your local creek and explore the trails on foot or bike to see firsthand the natural beauty we are trying to protect. Then read the tips on the inside of this brochure (or at <http://creeks.folsom.ca.us>) to learn more about what you can do at home and at work to curb pollution. There are many ways to get involved and make a difference in the Folsom community. Thanks for helping us to keep this a great place to live and work!

NO DUMPING! FLOWS TO CREEK

Anything that enters a storm drain flows untreated to the waterways we use for fishing, swimming and boating.

.... Respect, Protect and Enjoy.

<http://creeks.folsom.ca.us>