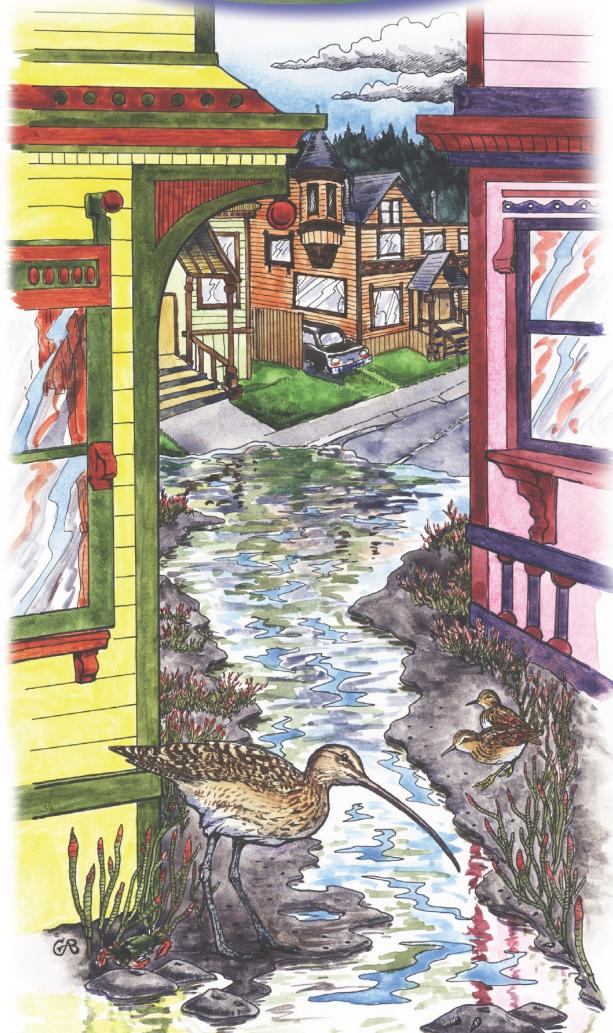


Humboldt Bay Starts on Your Street!



What we all can do to prevent pollution in our creeks and Humboldt Bay

Storm drains are separate from our household sewer systems. Storm drain water flows directly into our creeks and Humboldt Bay without treatment.



Did you know that dumping one quart of motor oil down a storm drain contaminates 250,000 gallons of water?

Used Motor Oil Collection Services

Franklins Service
822-1975

1903 Heindon Road, Arcata

The Oil Stop
445-5823

135 West Harris Street, Eureka

Humboldt Waste Management Authority
268-8680
www.hwma.net
1059 W. Hawthorne Street, Eureka

Please do not mix used motor oil with antifreeze, transmission fluid, gas, or other contaminants.

This brochure is a joint effort of the North Coast Stormwater Coalition which includes the Cities of Arcata, Eureka, Fort Bragg, Trinidad, Humboldt County and Mendocino County Water Agency.

These agencies are responsible for city and county storm drain systems. Some cities sponsor volunteer programs to help monitor and restore our local creeks. For more information on pollution prevention or to help clean up our creeks and waterways, contact:

North Coast Stormwater Coalition Region-Wide Hotline
1-877-NCS-001

City of Arcata Stormwater Information
(707)822-8184

City of Trinidad Stormwater Information
(707)677-0223

Mendocino County Water Agency Stormwater Hotline
(707)463-4589

Statewide recycling, composting, and household hazardous waste information and referral service:

CalRecycle
1-800-RECYCLE



Special thanks to the Santa Clara Valley Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program.
Prepared under a California Integrated Waste Management Board Used Oil Recycling Block Grant.

Even though you may live miles from Humboldt Bay, you may be polluting Bay waters without knowing it.



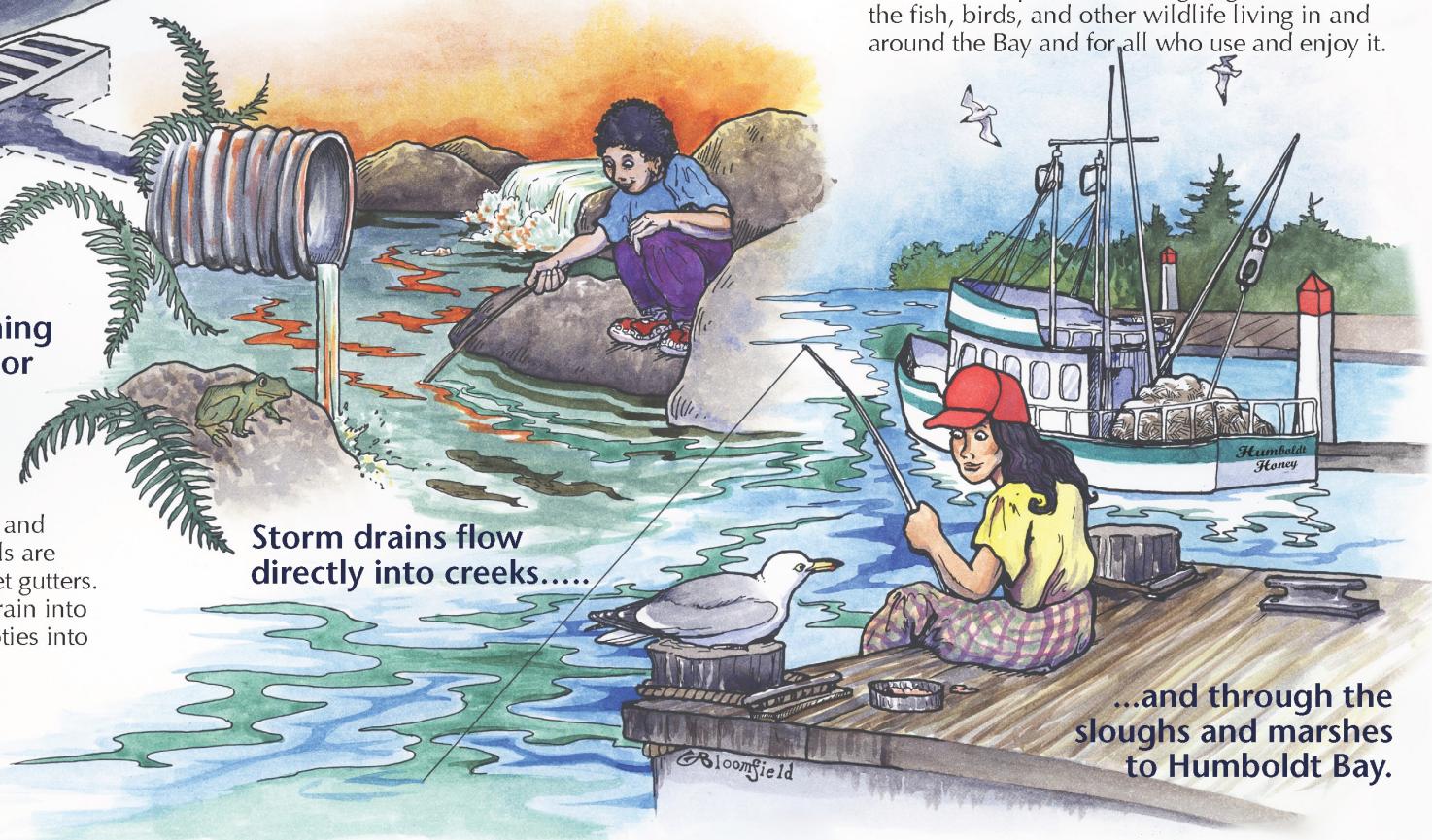
Before you pour anything into the street, gutter, or down a storm drain, stop and think!

Day after day, motor oil, paints, and household and garden chemicals are washed into neighborhood street gutters. These pollutants are carried by rain into the storm drain system that empties into local creeks and sloughs.

On a rainy day in Humboldt County, have you ever wondered what happens to...

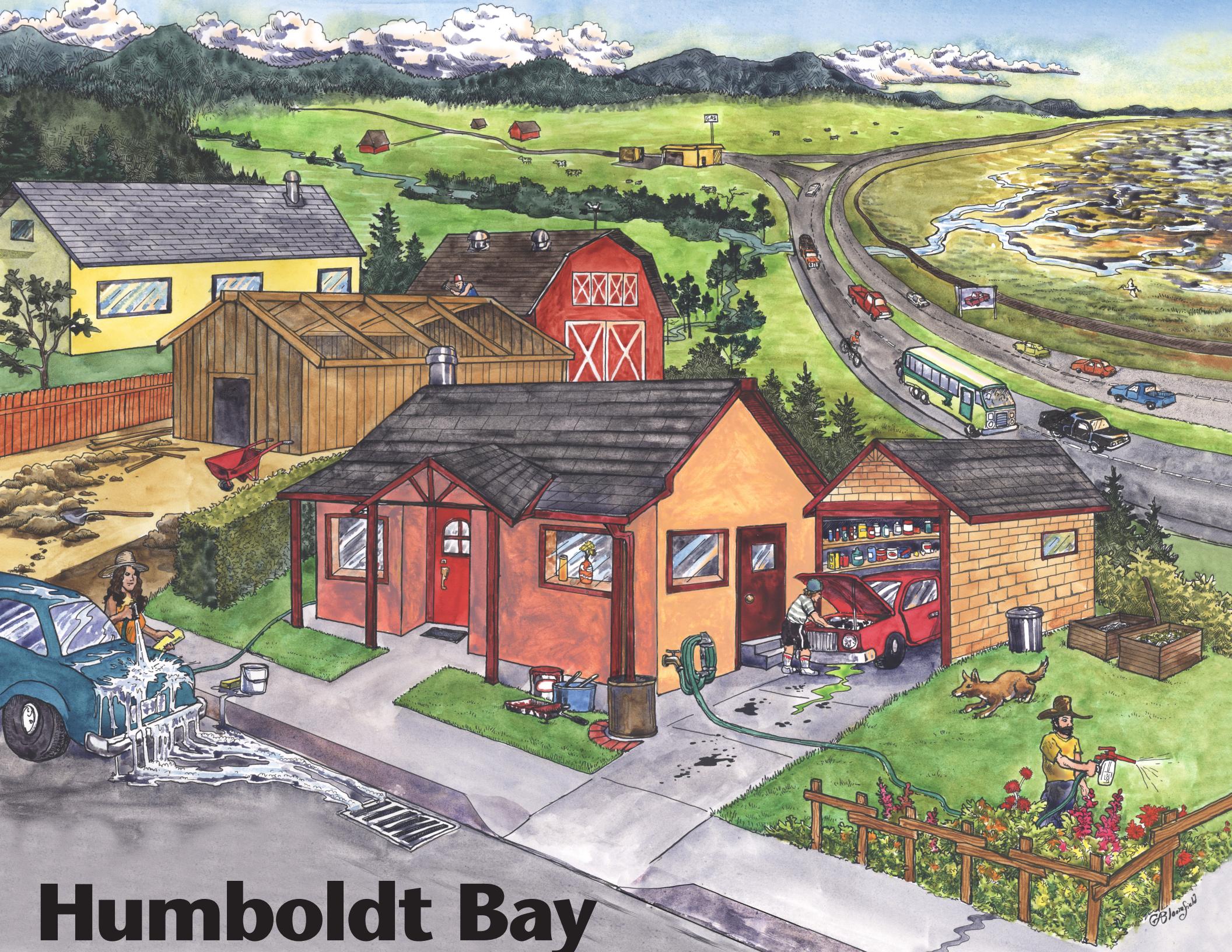
- motor oil and gas on your driveway, in parking lots, or on the roads?
- antifreeze drained into the street gutter?
- fertilizers and pesticides on your lawn and garden?
- bare soil on a hillside?

These are just some of the pollutants that mix with water and flow through the storm drain system that runs beneath our streets.



Humboldt Bay is the second largest estuary in California and the most ecologically diverse coastal embayment on the U.S. west coast. It provides habitat for hundreds of thousands of migratory water birds. It is home to more than 100 fish species and 350 invertebrate animal species – many of which are commercially-valuable and dependent on the Bay for spawning and rearing habitat.

Run-off from the storm drains can have a significant impact on the water quality of the Bay. During the rainy season, large amounts of pollutants flow into the bay, depositing toxins and sediments. Because the Bay is large and shallow but has such a small mouth, it does not flush well. Thus, pollutants build up, potentially degrading its water quality. Polluted storm water run-off presents an ongoing hazard for the fish, birds, and other wildlife living in and around the Bay and for all who use and enjoy it.



Humboldt Bay is closer than you think!

Can you find the activities that contribute to storm drain pollution? The picture above shows how our every day activities result in pollutants entering the storm drains.

We can help prevent pollutants from entering storm drains and therefore our creeks, sloughs and Humboldt Bay by following the suggestions below.

Automotive



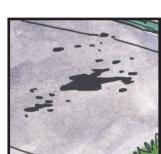
When you change your car's oil, prevent spills by placing cardboard under the oil pan. Clean up spills quickly with an absorbent material like cat litter. Fully drain the old filter. Recycle used motor oil. Never pour the used oil on the ground, on fence posts, on gravel driveways, or down the storm drain.



Recycle used antifreeze. Never drain your car's antifreeze directly onto the ground or street. It is very poisonous to pets and wildlife which are attracted to its sweet smell and taste.



Wash your car on the lawn or a gravel surface, not on your paved driveway or street. Pour the leftover soapy water down a household sink so that it's treated by the sewage treatment system.



Have your car inspected and maintained regularly to reduce leakage of oil, antifreeze, and other fluids. Use a drip tray to catch leaks while your car is parked.



Reduce automotive emissions through regular auto maintenance, bicycling, ride sharing, and by using public transportation.

Household and Home Maintenance



To help rain percolate into the ground, keep as much of your property unpaved as possible. Consider porous asphalt or paving bricks for your driveway.



Use non-toxic alternatives whenever possible. When using toxic products, buy only the quantity you need and use it up. Follow safety instructions on the product container and store in a waterproof place out of reach of children and pets. Take unwanted toxic household products to the local household hazardous waste collection service for disposal. Never dump chemicals in ditches, gutters, storm drains, or near water.



When using latex paint, rinse paint brushes in the sink. When using paint thinner, pour a small amount into a sealable glass jar. Clean the brushes, allow paint solids to settle and pour clean paint thinner back into its original container. Dispose of solids through the household hazardous waste collection program.



Control erosion at construction sites to prevent dirt and debris from entering storm drains by using silt fences or other measures. When pouring concrete, keep it away from gutters and creeks as it is very toxic to fish.

Lawn and Garden



Use pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers carefully and sparingly in accordance with label instruction. Use non-toxic alternatives, if possible. Do not apply if rain is forecast. Dispose of unwanted leftovers through the household hazardous waste collection service.



Use a broom rather than a hose to clean up lawn clippings and dirt. Deposit in a compost pile.



Divert rain spouts and garden hoses away from paved surfaces. Consider using a rain barrel.



Pick up animal waste regularly and dispose of in the garbage.