

Did You Know...

Stormwater runoff is one of the leading causes of water pollution in the United States. Stormwater will pick up dirt, trash, oil, grease, chemicals and any other pollutants as it flows over roads or lawns. In Maricopa County, stormwater runoff does NOT go to a water treatment plant before entering our recreational or drinking waters. It is transported by drains, streets, curbs and open channels directly to retention/infiltration basins, parks, washes, canals, and community lakes.

Photo of a basin after a rain. Note the floating brown pollution in the left foreground, and children playing in the right background. Retention basins are not made for recreational water activities!



Common Stormwater Pollutants

Pet Waste	Sediment
Pesticides	Herbicides
Fertilizers	Yard Waste
Trash/Litter	Motor Oil
Fuel, Grease	

Protecting water quality requires that *everyone* does their part to prevent stormwater pollution

- ◆ Pick up after your pets
- ◆ Properly dispose of hazardous waste
- ◆ Compost yard waste
- ◆ Use a broom instead of a hose
- ◆ Maintain vehicles to prevent leaks
- ◆ Reused gray water may not run-off of your property



Sam the Sonoran Tiger Salamander

Stormwater Quality Program

Phone: 602-506-5557

Complaints: 602-506-6616

maricopa.gov/stormwater



Maricopa County Environmental Services Department

Stormwater Quality Program



Clean Water
You Can Help



Maricopa County

Vehicle Care

- ◆ Recycle oil and other automotive fluids; NEVER DUMP used oil in storm drains
- ◆ Use a drip pan to catch leaking fluids
- ◆ Use absorbent material, such as cat litter, to clean up spills
- ◆ Wash vehicles at a commercial car wash or over a lawn or gravel area

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

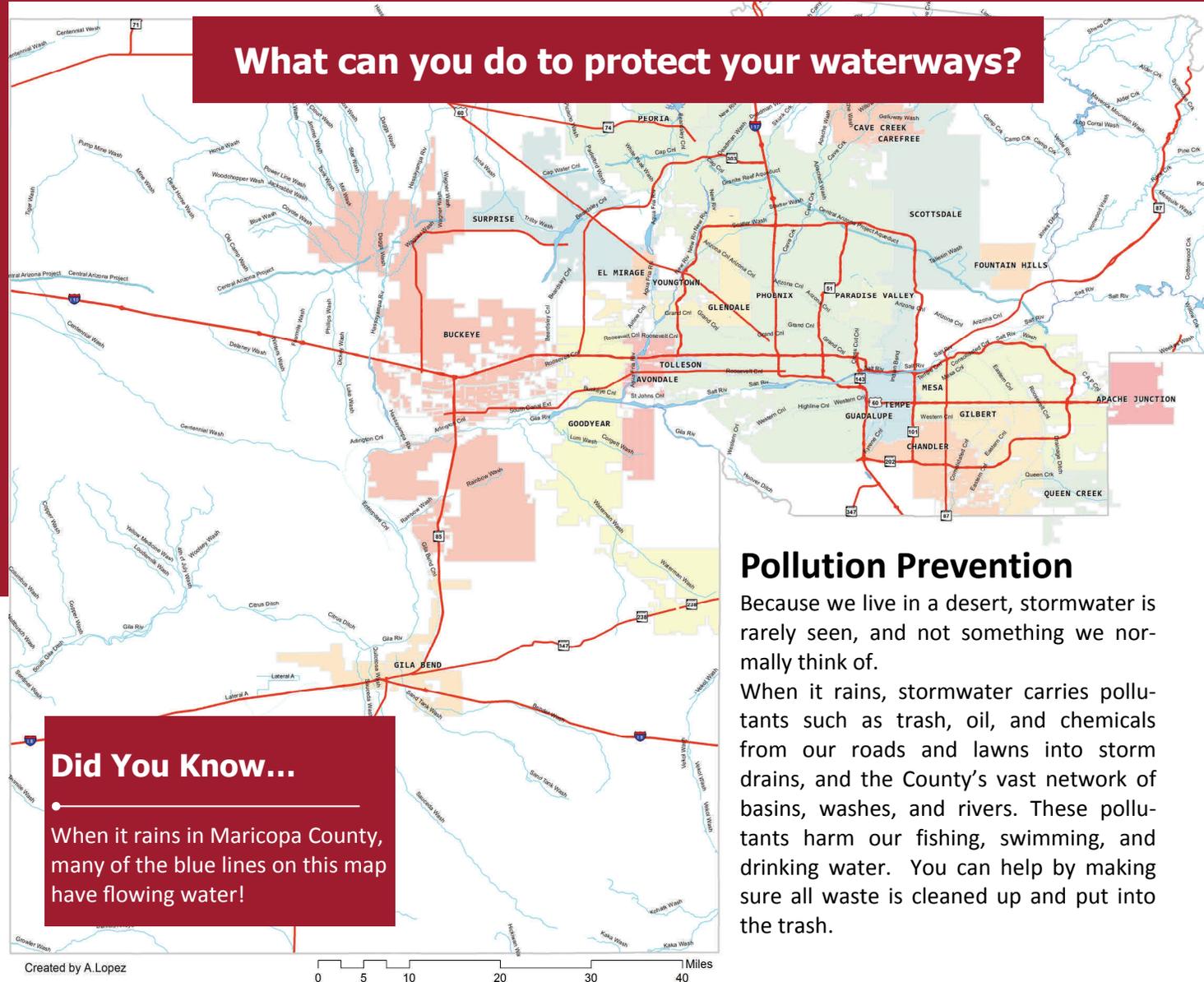
- ◆ Dispose of unwanted chemicals and used automotive fluids at a HHW collection center or event
- ◆ To locate a HHW facility, visit swm.maricopa.gov or call 602-506-4006

Common HHW Items	
Antifreeze	Electronics
Batteries	Fluorescent Light Bulbs
Cell Phones	Motor Oil
Dried Paint	Tires

Did You Know...

When it rains in Maricopa County, many of the blue lines on this map have flowing water!

What can you do to protect your waterways?



Pollution Prevention

Because we live in a desert, stormwater is rarely seen, and not something we normally think of.

When it rains, stormwater carries pollutants such as trash, oil, and chemicals from our roads and lawns into storm drains, and the County's vast network of basins, washes, and rivers. These pollutants harm our fishing, swimming, and drinking water. You can help by making sure all waste is cleaned up and put into the trash.

Erosion and Sedimentation

- ◆ Use native plants or rapid-growth vegetative covers on bare or sloped areas
- ◆ Route roof drainage to lawns or gardens or collect in rain barrels
- ◆ Use a broom; DO NOT HOSE soil into streets or storm drains

Sanitary Sewer Overflows

- ◆ DO NOT put greasy food items down the drain or garbage disposal
- ◆ Remove excess grease from pots, pans, and dishes before washing
- ◆ Place used grease in a container to solidify; dispose of in the trash

Lawn Care

- ◆ Sweep excess lawn clippings, compost or bag and dispose of in trash
- ◆ Use lawn care products according to instructions on the package
- ◆ Use natural alternatives to pesticides and fertilizers

Pets

- ◆ Always pick up after your pet and dispose of waste in a trash can
- ◆ Carry disposable bags when walking your pet