



*Creek Week
and the
Watershed*

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Many downstream neighbors... The ocean starts in Colorado



What is Stormwater?

Any precipitation that either soaks into the permeable ground or flows over impervious surfaces becoming stormwater runoff.

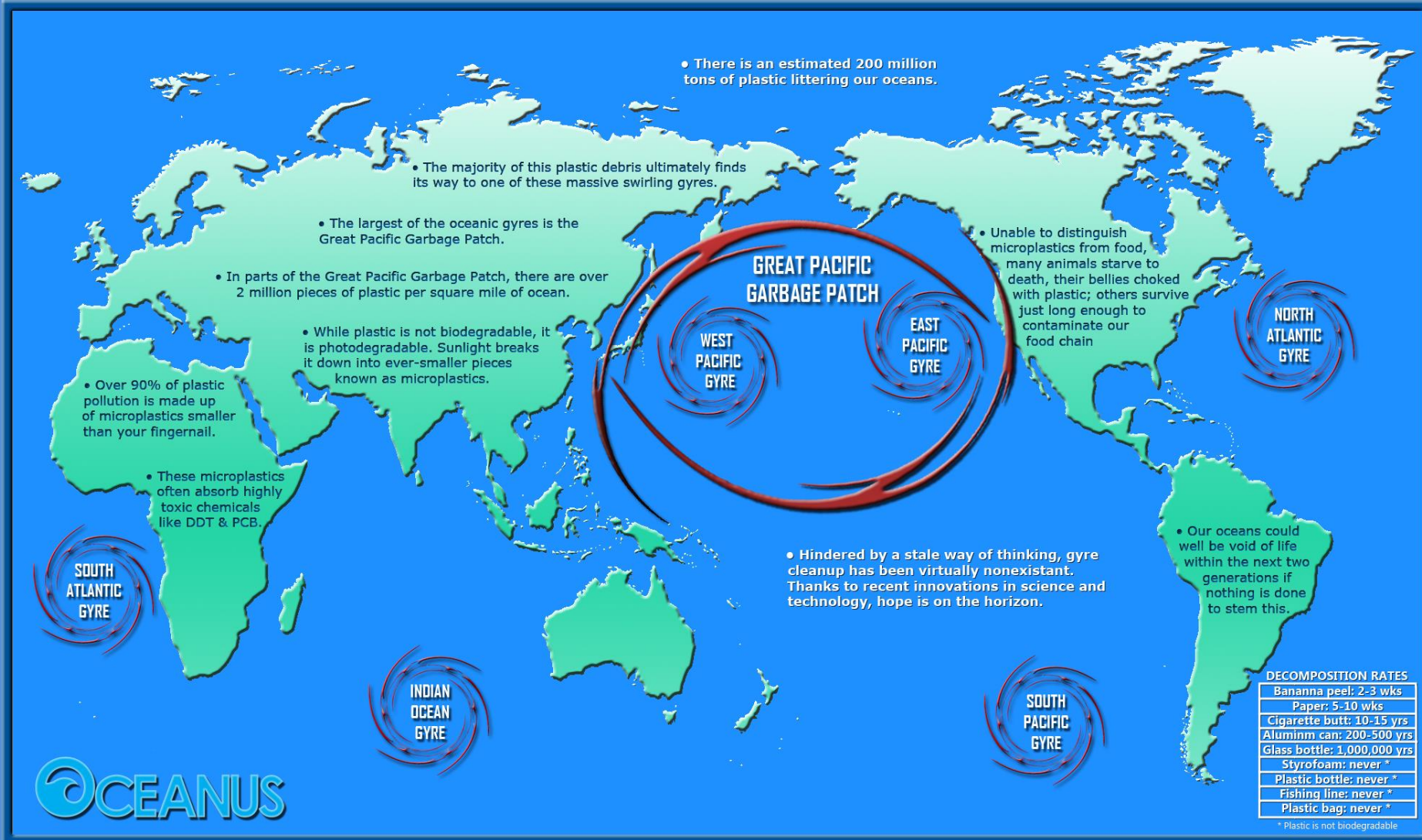


What's the Problem?

Non Point Source Pollution



What Ends Up in Our Water???



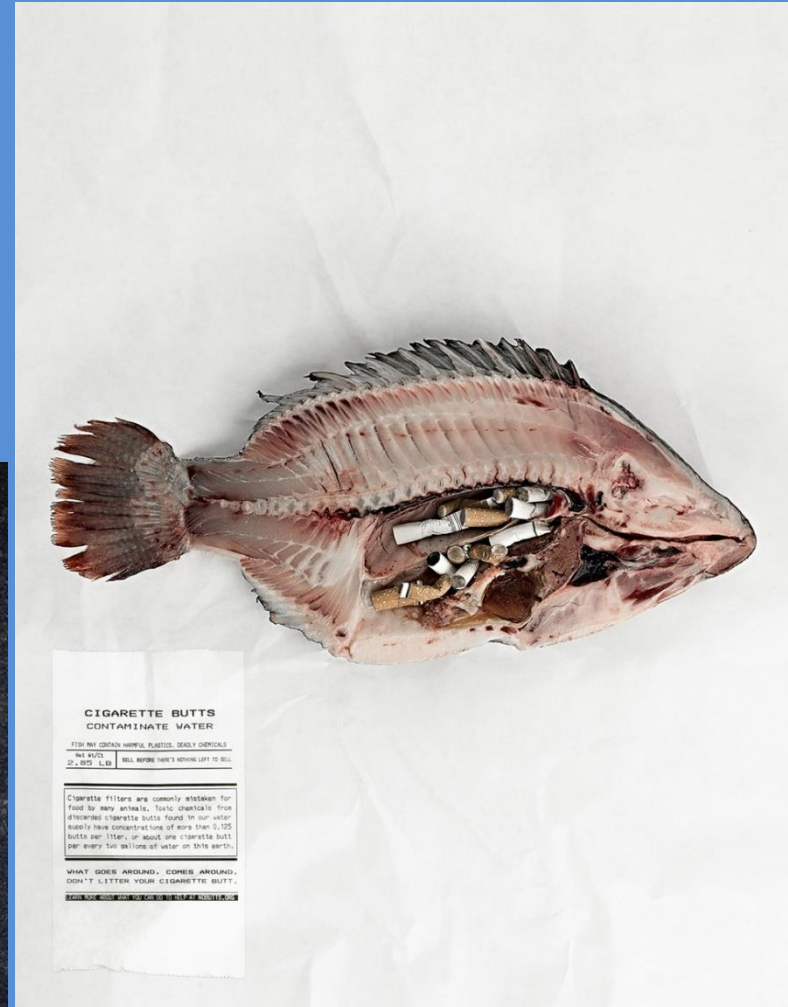
What Ends Up in Our Water???



Plastic debris can comprise up to 50% of the indigestible material



in an albatross' intestinal tract.



CIGARETTE BUTTS CONTAMINATE WATER

FROM NEW ORLEANS, LA. (AP) - PLASTIC, BURNED CIGARETTES
THEY WERE
2, 015 LBS. WILL APPEAR HERE'S HOW TO GET TO THE

Cigarette filters are commonly mistaken for food by many animals. Toxic chemicals from discarded cigarette butts found in our water supply have concentrations of more than 2,000 butts per liter, or about one cigarette butt per every two gallons of water on this earth.

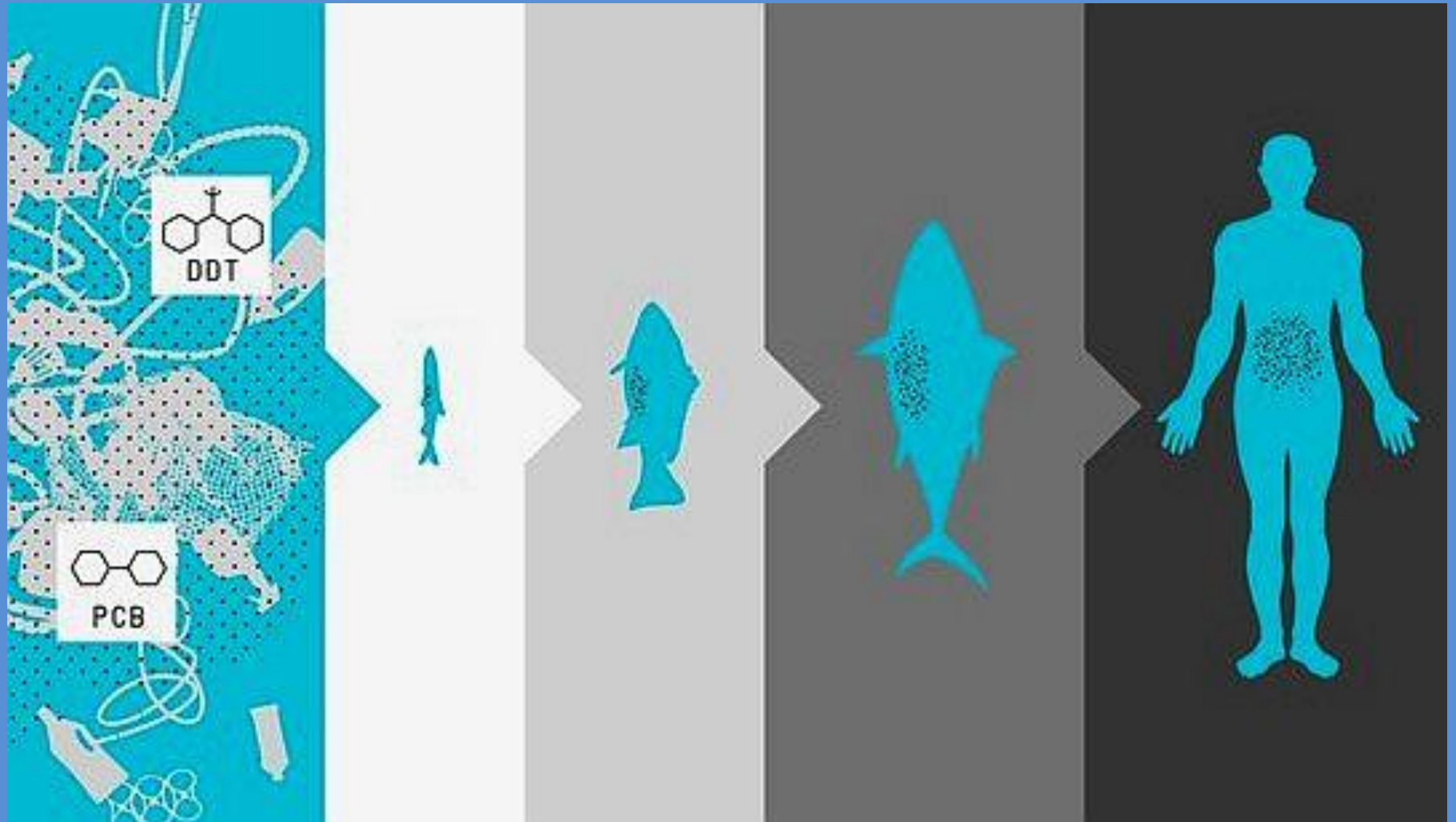
WHAT DOES AROUND, COMES AROUND. DON'T LITTER YOUR CIGARETTE BUTT.

What Ends Up in Our Water???



YOU SEE THE DIFFERENCE.
A TURTLE DOES NOT.

What Ends Up in Our Water???



What Ends Up in Our Water???

HOW LONG UNTIL IT'S GONE?

Estimated decomposition rates of common marine debris items



Estimated individual item timelines depend on product composition and environmental conditions.

Source: NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), US / Woods Hole Sea Grant, US
Graphics: Oliver Lude / Museum für Gestaltung Zürich, ZHOK

What Ends Up in Our Water???



How Can We Help?



We All Need to Do Our Part...

Keeping it Clean
SCOOP THE POOP!



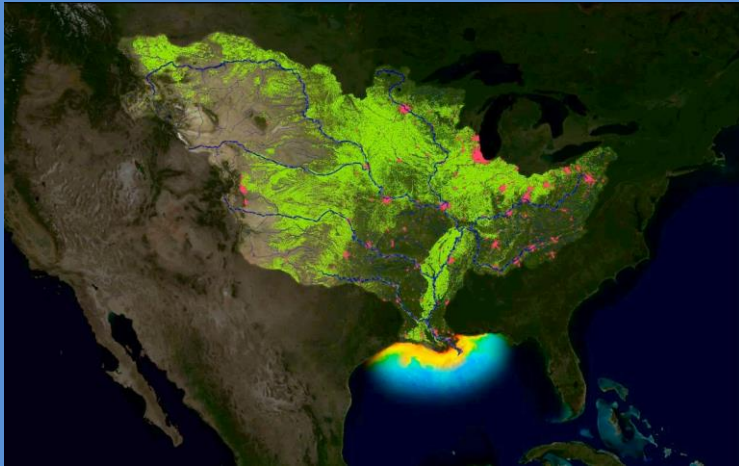
CONSERVATION: Use Only What You Need

- **Take Shorter Showers**
(switch to low flow!)
- **Don't water the sidewalk**
- **Eliminate excess bluegrass**
- **Get a rain barrel (now they are legal!)**
- **Fix leaks**
- **Test your toilet**
- **Only run dishwashers and washing machines when full**
- **Car Washes save water. Don't wash your car in the driveway.**





LITTER REMOVAL



One
garbage
truck bed
per
MINUTE
of plastic
enters the
oceans





Why Cleanups?

GET INVOLVED NOW. POLLUTION HURTS ALL OF US.

You can help by becoming a community volunteer. Write to **Keep America Beautiful, Inc.** 99 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10016. **Ad Council**

People start pollution. People can stop it.

SO GLAD I GREW UP

DOING THIS NOT THIS





What is Creek Week?



Raising awareness about our home watershed, the District, and the littering issue to make our communities cleaner and safer for all

- 9 days long, last Saturday in September to first Sunday in October (9.25 – 10.3, 2021)
- 8th Annual this year
- 8 municipalities within the watershed + Trinidad
- Provide bags, gloves, grabbers, buckets, buttons, stickers, pet waste bags, and educational materials
- Final week to set a date – material pick up is Wed/Th/Fri!

[2021 Creek Week Commercial](#)



CREEK WEEK SUMMARY

<u>Year</u>	<u>People</u>	<u>Groups</u>	<u>Tons</u>
2014	625	42	6.8
2015	1549	57	9.4
2016	2217	70	14
2017	2592	81	30
2018	2791	99	24
2019	3203	106	14
2020	1450	88	10

100+ TONS



Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments



Town of Monument



CREEK WEEK

Strangest items found...

- 1/2 case of unopened beer
- 2 garden gnomes
- Deer leg
- Barbie with no legs
- \$6 cash
- Scooter

Manitou Springs



CSU – Las Vegas





Creek Week “Ripple Effects”

Increase in Adopt-A volunteers

Scoop the Poop program

Pollinator Projects

Care for CO Member





Beyond Cleanups

Pikes Peak Litter Letter Project

- Collaboration with the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region and Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance
- Fill litter letters with trash during Creek Week
- On display all of October



Gardening for a Healthy Watershed

- Promoting Pollinators
 - Seed bomb giveaways at events
- Native gardening projects
- Redirect your gutters
- Provide a water source for insects and birds
- Visit Colorado Springs Utilities demonstration gardens for water-wise inspiration
- Remove invasive species
 - Volunteers needed for forest heath project in Sondermann Park during Creek Week!



WATER IS EVERYTHING

Powerful



Magical



Scarce





Questions, Comments?

THANK YOU!

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