



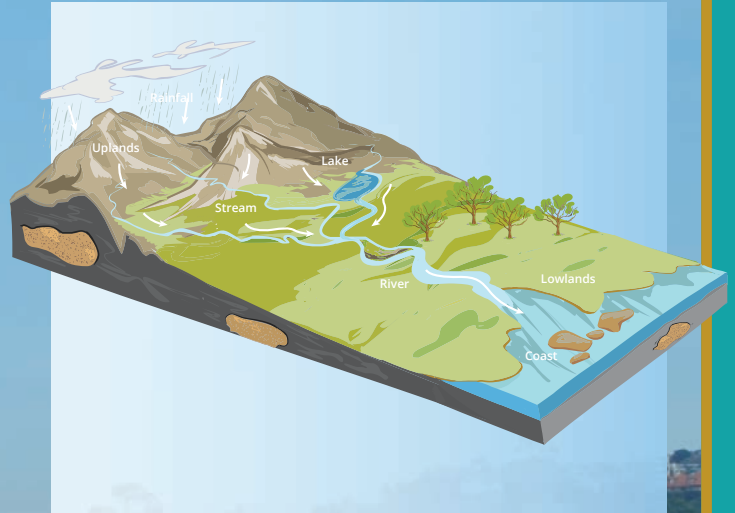
THINK BLUE[®]
SAN DIEGO

Mission Bay & La Jolla

WATERSHEDS

what is a watershed?

Watersheds are land areas that funnel water to a common low point – usually a stream, lake, river or out to the ocean. When it rains, water flows down from areas of higher elevation following the natural shape of the land. Along the way, rainwater and urban runoff collect and deposit trash, sediment, heavy metals, fertilizers, pesticides and other pollutants into our local waterways. These pollutants degrade water quality, damage property and harm the health of nearby residents and wildlife. Everyone lives within a watershed, and preventing pollution and contamination from entering our local waterways is everyone's responsibility.



what is a storm drain?



Storm drains collect rain water to help prevent flooding in our communities. The storm drain system includes a vast network of underground pipes and open channels that take water away from streets and other developed areas. Water enters

the storm drain system through an opening in the curb called a curb inlet, which serve as the entry point for stormwater's journey to the ocean.

Water in the storm drain system receives no treatment or filtering and is separate from the sewer system. All water in the storm drain system eventually flows to our rivers, creeks, bays and the ocean – along with the pollutants it carries.

Keeping pollutants out of storm drains helps preserve our environment and improve water quality in the Mission Bay & La Jolla Watersheds. It can also help you avoid costly fines related to the illegal disposal of trash and other pollutants into the storm drain system.

about

the Mission Bay & La Jolla Watersheds

The Mission Bay & La Jolla watersheds drain an area of approximately 67 square miles all within the City of San Diego. These two watersheds contain some of the more intensely urbanized areas of San Diego County with a population of approximately 247,000. The northern portions of the watersheds are home to the Marine Corps Air Station – Miramar and the University of California, San Diego. Residential areas dominate the central portion of these watersheds and include the communities of Clairemont, Bay Park, University City, La Jolla and Pacific Beach. Mission Bay lies in the southwest corner of these watersheds.

Mission Bay Park is the largest man-made aquatic park in the country and is also the receiving water for a number of urban waterways. San Clemente Creek, Rose Creek and Tecolote Creek are the main tributaries draining into Mission Bay. The bay itself is a system of islands, peninsulas, beaches, remnant salt marshes and a navigable inlet to the Pacific Ocean.



The Kendall-Frost Reserve in northern Mission Bay protects two endangered species: the light-footed clapper rail and the Belding's savannah sparrow. Mariner's Point in western Mission Bay helps preserve nesting sites for the endangered California least tern.

The La Jolla watershed drains into the Pacific Ocean along the coastlines of Pacific Beach and La Jolla. Steep bluffs and both sandy and rocky beaches line the La Jolla coast. These areas are included in Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) designated by the California State Water Resources Control Board. The ASBS designation protects some of the most pristine and biologically diverse sections of California's coast. Together these areas are part of the larger San Diego-La Jolla Underwater Park established by the City of San Diego in 1971. The park stretches for 10 miles from La Jolla Cove to the northerly end of Torrey Pines State Reserve. The undersea flora and fauna found in the park draw scuba divers and snorkelers, many of them hoping for a glimpse of the state fish, the brilliant orange garibaldi.





Mission Bay & La Jolla Watersheds

quick facts

Total Square Miles: 64

Total Population: 246,675

Cities in the Watershed: San Diego

Areas of Special Biological

Significance(ASBS): San Diego-Scripps and La Jolla State Marine Conservation areas

Important Water Bodies:

Rose Creek, San Clemente Creek & Tecolote Creek

Major Receiving Water Body:

Mission Bay and the Pacific Ocean

Land Use Statistics:

Undeveloped = 7%

Open space/ Recreational = 31%

Residential = 28%

Transportation = 16%

Other (Industrial, Office, Commercial, Agricultural & Water) = 18%

protect your watershed

Some water pollution problems can be traced to a specific location, such as a pipe or waste disposal site. However, most water quality problems are more difficult to isolate and control since they cannot be traced back to one specific source. Pollution problems like these are everyone's responsibility. The list below includes the most significant types and most likely sources of pollution in the Mission Bay & La Jolla Watersheds.

Pollutants of Concern

- Bacteria
- Nutrients
- Heavy metals

Likely Pollutant Sources

- Garbage, litter & debris
- Animal & yard waste
- Landscaping
- Home and garden activities
- Car/Boat repair & maintenance
- Industrial facilities
- Streets (car fluids & brake dust)





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To report stormwater pollution in San Diego, call the Think Blue Hotline:

619-527-7500

You can also use the Get It Done app at sandiego.gov/get-it-done.

thinkblue.org

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Think Blue Tips

You can help protect the Mission Bay & La Jolla Watersheds by taking simple steps to prevent pollution:

- Properly dispose of trash and take large items to a landfill or recycling center
- Take household chemicals (paint, motor oil or household cleaners) to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center
- Pick up after your pet and properly dispose of waste in the trash
- Eliminate irrigation runoff – fix broken sprinklers and control over-spray
- Sweep up debris and dirt instead of using a hose to wash it away
- Use fertilizer sparingly – most plants need far less than typically given
- Wash vehicles on your lawn so the ground underneath can absorb the water
- Use pesticide alternatives like beneficial insects or non-toxic/biodegradable products
- Direct wash water onto landscaped areas or collect it using a wet/dry vacuum or mop for disposal into the sewer system
- Never dispose of ANY wastewater in a storm drain

