

STORMWATER: THE #1 THREAT TO CLEAN WATER

What is stormwater?

As rain falls onto driveways, lawns, streets, and sidewalks, it picks up everything in its path: oil, gas, toxic chemicals from vehicles, fertilizer, pesticides, animal waste, bacteria, cigarette butts, garbage, sediment, and more.

In downtown Coos Bay, this unfiltered* **stormwater** flows into storm drains that connect directly to our bay. When stormwater enters waterways, it increases algae growth, raises water temperatures, lowers oxygen levels, and creates poor conditions for fish, wildlife, and people.

**Note: stormwater follows a different path than the water that flows through sinks, toilets, etc., which enters the sanitary sewer system and is transported to wastewater treatment plants to be filtered, treated, and discharged. Stormwater has no filter.*

Why murals?

The Storm Drain Mural Project aims to draw attention to stormwater pollution and inspire change through public art and community beautification. The project began with three murals in 2010 and was expanded into a mural walk in 2019. Both times, it has been led by a group of community-minded organizations dedicated to working together in the interest of watershed health. Each mural was designed and painted by a local artist. Visit all ten murals on the Downtown Coos Bay Storm Drain Mural Walk!



STORMWATER POLLUTION SOLUTIONS

What can I do?

There are many ways to reduce the impact of stormwater pollution on our waterways, ranging from landscape-level to individual-level actions. Each of us can make a difference! Adopt these healthy watershed practices and share with your neighbors to have a big impact:

- Never dump anything into or near a storm drain ("Only rain down the drain!")
- Check your cars, boats, machinery, and equipment for leaks, and clean up spills immediately
- Wash your car on grass or gravel to minimize the amount of soapy water entering drains--or take car to a commercial car wash
- Dispose of cigarette butts, paint, trash, pet waste, auto fluids, and chemicals properly
- Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors
- Limit the amount of fertilizers and pesticides you apply in your yard
- Landscape with native plants to prevent erosion and create habitat for wildlife
- Consider a rain garden or bioswale to soak up runoff before it enters a drain
- Support city improvement projects that involve green infrastructure
- Support sustainability-minded businesses
- Consult with the **Coos Watershed Association** for tips on any of the above!

THANKS!

More ideas here:

- www.epa.gov/nps
- www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater



DOWNTOWN COOS BAY STORM DRAIN MURAL WALK



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT, BEAUTIFICATION, AND SOLUTIONS THROUGH ART!

This multi-year project, started in 2010 and expanded in 2019, is intended to shed light on the connections between land and water and inspire change through art. This project is a partnership between the Coos Watershed Association, Coos Art Museum, Josie's Art Lab, City of Coos Bay, Coos Bay Downtown Association, the Coquille Indian Tribe, ORCCA, CH2Mhill, and local businesses and artists.



COOS BAY STORM DRAIN MURAL WALK: VISIT THEM ALL!



Mural Route

- 1: 50 Central Ave
- 2: Central Ave @ 2nd St
- 3: Central Ave @ 3rd St
- 4, 5: 495 Central Ave
- 6: 500 Central Ave
- 7: Anderson Ave @ 5th St
- 8: Anderson Ave @ 3rd St
- 9, 10: Downtown Plaza

★ 2010 murals ★ 2019 murals

IT TAKES A VILLAGE!

The Coos Bay Storm Drain Mural Walk is a community collaboration:



DID YOU KNOW...

- There are **1,867** storm drains within Coos Bay City Limits
- There are **139** storm drains within the map area above
- We can all take steps to preventing stormwater runoff from entering our waterways!

CONNECT WITH US!

Support efforts to empower community solutions through science and art:

- Coos Watershed Association**
300 Central Ave, Coos Bay
(541) 888-5922; cooswa@cooswatershed.org
www.cooswatershed.org
- Coos Art Museum:** 235 Anderson Ave, Coos Bay
(541) 267-3901; www.coosart.org
- Josie's Art Lab:** 541-217-0830; www.josiesartlab.com