

# THE STORMWATER SCOOP

SPRING SEASON



## LET'S TALK GARDENING!

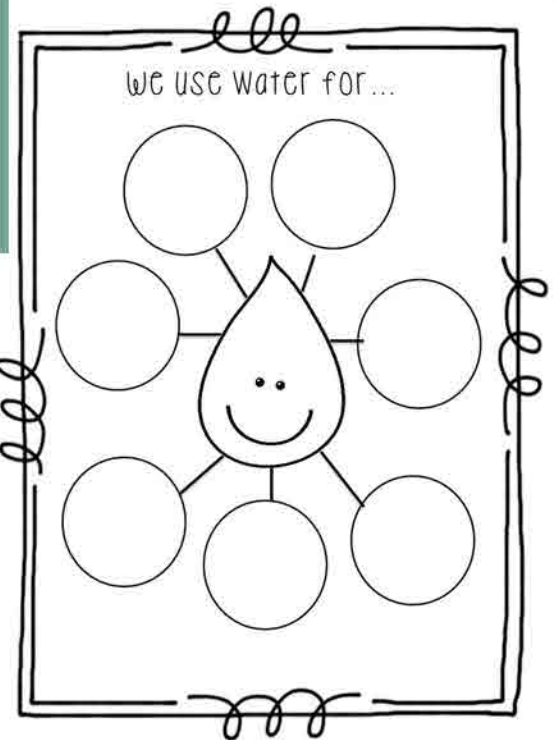
Planting flowers and vegetables can be fun! Smelling the fresh soil, the pretty flower blooms, and the herbs in the garden reminds us of great summer memories with the family. There are good bugs in the garden and on the lawn that play a very important part of nature too. They keep the bad bugs away and they pollinate our fruits and vegetables so that we can harvest many crops! Try not to use any chemicals in the yard or garden except when very necessary, so as not to hurt the good bugs, like honey bees, butterflies, lady bugs, and praying mantis. These chemicals can make humans sick too! yikes! These chemicals and fertilizers can run off into the street and into our creeks and lakes and get into our water that we need to drink, shower, wash laundry, and more.

## TRASH AND YARD LITTER

Do you ever see people throw trash out of their car window or onto the ground? Surely you wouldn't do that, would ya!? Litter in the street washes into storm drains along with rain water, and into ponds and lakes. It has to go SOMEwhere, right? yep!

That means that those cigarette butts (takes 25 years to break down), and a common plastic bottle (450 years to break down), can harm us and the earth for many, many years! Throw away trash and yard litter in trash can, recycle bin, or compost.

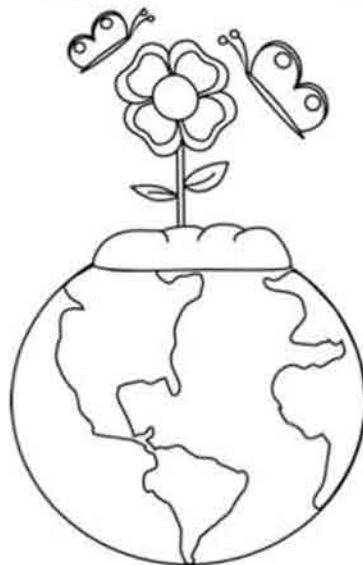
Fertilizer on lawns, grass clippings, and dog poop, can cause problems when they float into storm drains in the street. harmful bacteria combined with fertilizer can grow some pretty yucky amoebas (a-mee-bas) that takes oxygen out of the water, killing fish, water animals, and also making humans very sick!



## HOW TO BE A GOOD STORMWATER STEWARD?

- ✓ Never dump anything down storm drains.
- ✓ Sweep driveways, sidewalks, and roads instead of using a water hose.
- ✓ Avoid using yard chemicals.
- ✓ Educate friends, family, and neighbors.
- ✓ Wash car over grass instead of the driveway.
- ✓ Use fertilizers sparingly.
- ✓ Properly dispose of hazardous household chemicals.

Happy Earth Day!



TO REPORT A STORMWATER VIOLATION, PLEASE CALL 405-793-5052

