

Storm Water Utility: Prioritizing Water Quality

Economies Benefit From Clean Water

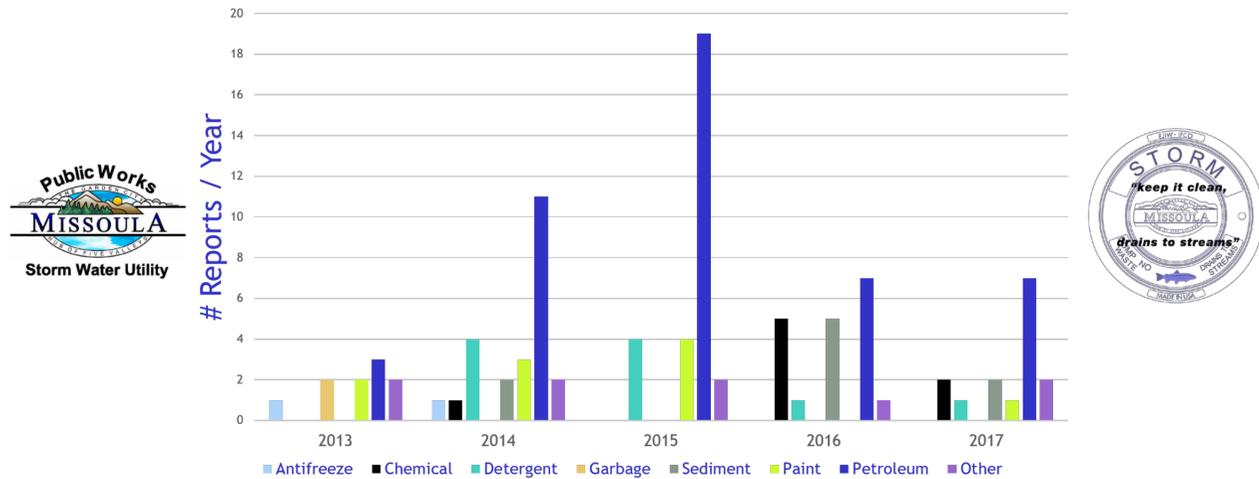
Cheapest To Clean At The Source

5 Impaired Rivers/Creeks ♦ 5,000+ Inlets Draining to Waterways ♦ 73,000+ Residents To Serve

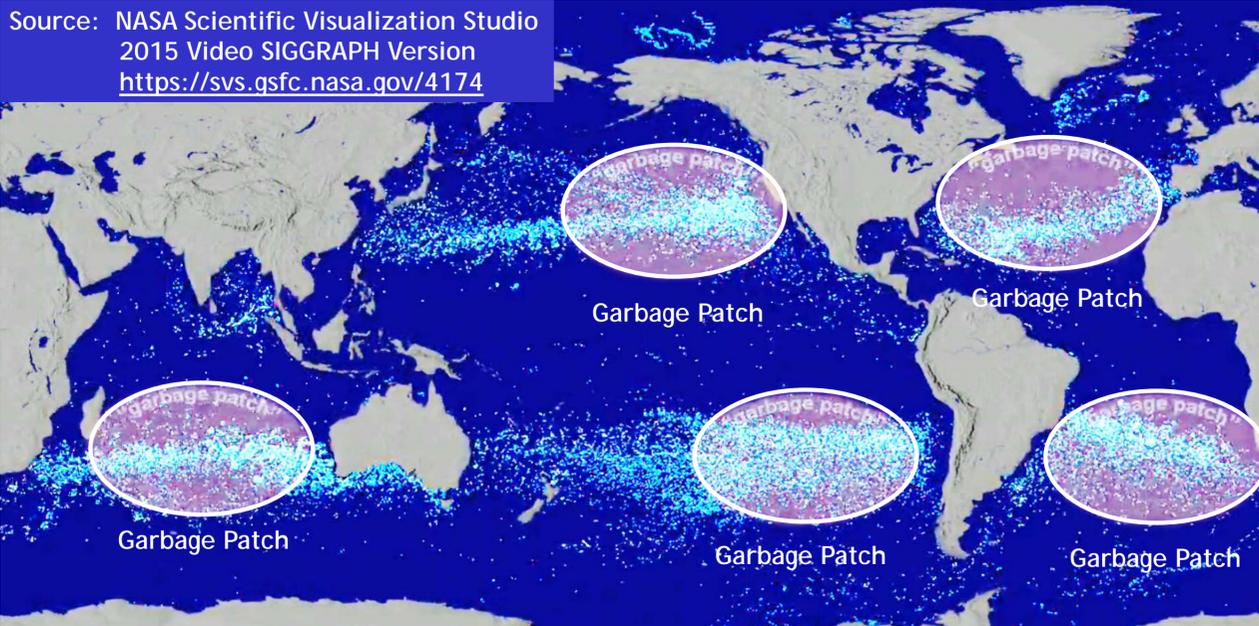
"Dump no waste, this inlet drains to a waterway" is a local message for a growing global water quality problem:

- ❖ Missoula's Clark Fork Coalition collected 30 tons of trash in the last 15 annual pickups.
- ❖ Missoula Valley Water Quality District collected 25 tons of trash in 2017 alone.
- ❖ City of Missoula's Parks and Recreation collect a truck load of trash from riverside transient camps every 1 or 2 weeks starting in March and ending in October.
- ❖ Missoula Valley Water Quality District runs the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) Program and shows our continuing problem with petroleum and other illicit discharges threatening local waterways.

Annual Public Report Types To Missoula IDDE Program



- ❖ But once trash and pollution get into a waterway it becomes part of an increasingly severe global problem, hurting wildlife and communities downstream. NASA made a simulation showing how trash from our waterways form the Ocean's Garbage Patches:



The Economic Burden Flows Downstream:

- According to the EPA and State Revenue Reports:
- ❖ An estimated 80% of ocean debris is sourced from land-based trash.
 - ❖ Pollution and trash impacts the Nation's river and coastal communities.
 - ❖ Aquatic trash reduces the aesthetic and recreational values of rivers, beaches and marine resources.
 - ❖ Polluted waterways reduce nearby property values and decrease attraction for potential companies.
 - ❖ Recreation and tourism industries struggle when trash and pollution cause beach closures for public safety. It was estimated that the loss of revenue from beach closures in 1988 to New Jersey alone was in the range of \$706 million to nearly \$3 billion. The beaches were closed due to medical waste washing ashore.
 - ❖ Medical waste such as needles result in transfer of infections and disease.
 - ❖ Sharp debris from the ocean accumulates on beaches causing lacerations and puncture wounds.
 - ❖ Increased taxes pay for trash clean-up.
 - ❖ West coast communities are spending more than \$520 million a year to combat litter and prevent trash from becoming marine debris.
 - ❖ West Coast communities spend an annual average of \$13 per resident to control litter and reduce marine debris.
 - ❖ The most effective way to prevent marine and aquatic debris is to prevent waste in the first place. This is known as source reduction, or pollution prevention.
 - ❖ Learn more from the EPA: <https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters>.
- Learn how to improve water quality on the Storm Water Utility's Website:
<http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/stormwater>.



More Trash In The Can Means

Less In Our Storm Water