

FROM STREAMS TO SEAS: COMBATING LITTER FOR A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT

A Gold Award Project by Maya Shamiyeh - Troop #60193

75%

OF THE PLASTIC IN OUR OCEANS

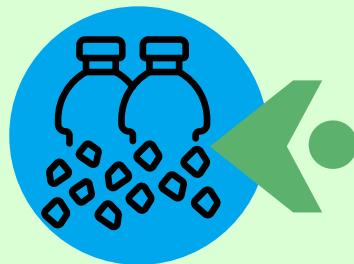
is transported from land to
sea via rivers and coastlines

EFFECTS OF STREAM POLLUTION



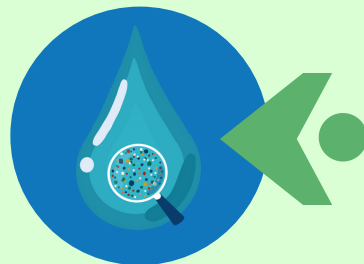
DAMAGES ECOSYSTEMS

Improperly discarded trash can suffocate or strangle animals, and nature gets ruined by the presence of trash, both aesthetically and environmentally.



MICROPLASTICS

Plastic in our local streams degrades into microplastics, which travel much farther than whole plastic, and end up in our bodies and marine animals.



HUMANS

Humans ingest on average about 5 grams of microplastics every week through the food we eat and the water we drink.

WHY STREAM CLEANUPS AND THE WATERSHED'S WORK IS IMPORTANT

Picking up one piece of trash can save an animal's life, so we can make our oceans cleaner by preventing the trash from getting there. The Watershed Institute helps to spread awareness.



THE PROBLEM

Most litter on streets, highways, and landfills get blown away or rained into streams and rivers, which flow into our oceans. One piece of plastic can damage a whole ecosystem.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Reduce your use of single-use plastics
- Recycle properly
- Discard pet waste properly
- DON'T LITTER!

46% FEWER
PLASTIC
BAGS
were collected
in a stream
cleanup after
the NJ plastic
bag ban

8 MILLION
pieces of plastic
end up in the
ocean
EVERY DAY