



Raindrop Mystery Tour

find the clue words to solve the mystery...



free family fun Cedar River Watershed Education Center

WATERFEST

Saturday
May 30
12pm - 4pm

- Waterfall Tours
- Games & Crafts
- Hands-on Activities
- Refreshments



The Cedar River Watershed Education Center is located just outside North Bend, WA on the shores of Rattlesnake Lake, about 3.5 miles from Exit #32 on I-90. Driving time from Seattle is approximately 30 minutes.

206-733-9421 or 425-831-6780 or crwprograms@seattle.gov





“Hello. This Raindrop Mystery Tour will take you on a journey around the Cedar River Watershed Education Center. As you follow the raindrops downstream, you will find the clues that will help you understand your connection to the waters around you. You will learn how you can make a positive difference in your watershed’s health! Any action, anywhere, affects the land, the water and ultimately us. We all live downstream!

When you unravel the mystery -- Come back to the Ecology Booth for your reward. Enjoy the fun!”

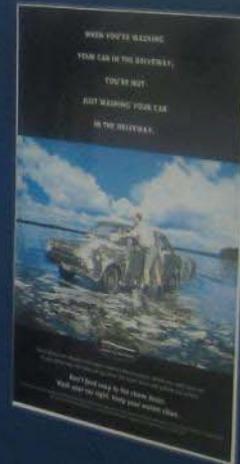
Here are a few things you can do to protect our waters:

- Carry plastic bags when taking your pet for a walk.
- Pick up your dog’s waste, bag it and trash it.
- Use fertilizer sparingly.
- Take your car to a commercial car wash, either self-serve or machine wash.
- Wash on lawns or other surfaces where water can seep into the ground.
- Check for oil leaks regularly and fix them promptly.



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Raindrop Mystery Tour





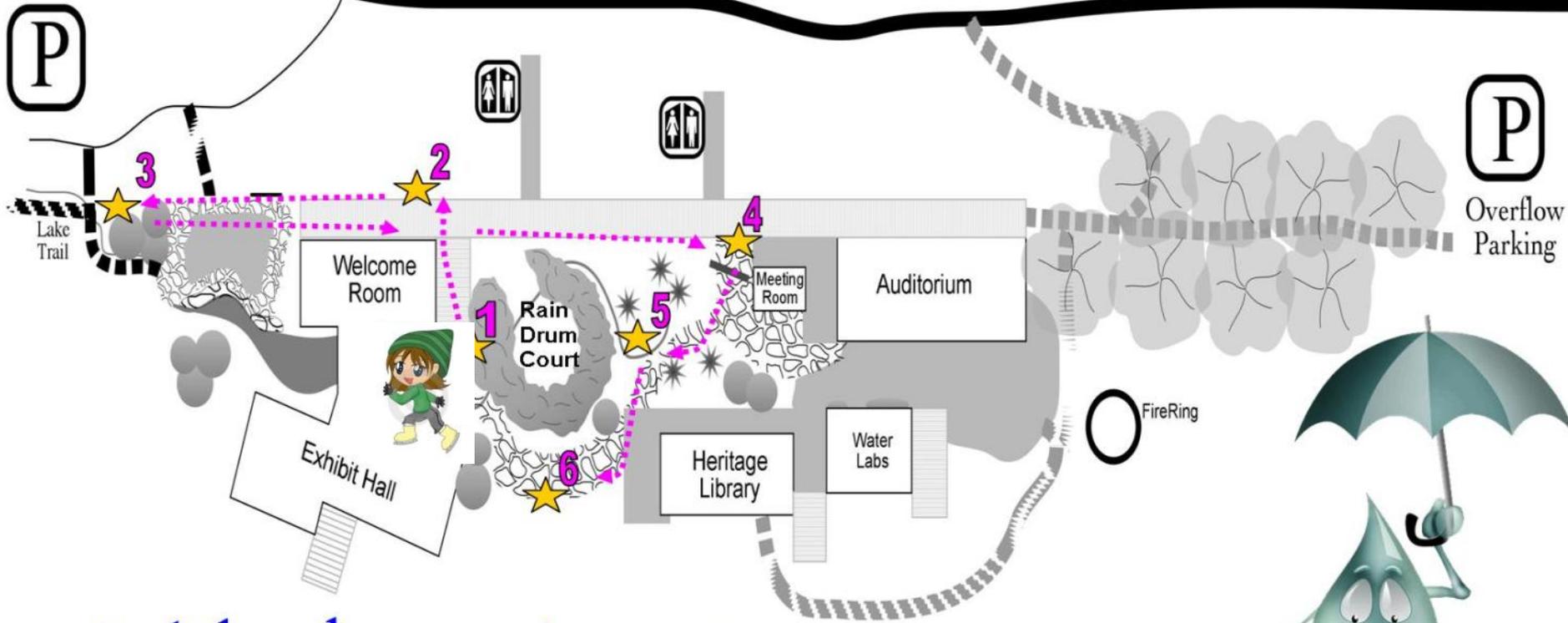
DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Washington Must

Dog Poetry



Raindrop Mystery Tour



find the clue words to solve the mystery...

Write down the **COLORED** words from the signs to complete the message. Match the sign number where you found a colored word to the numbered blanks below (ie. Put the word from sign 6 where you see the blank 6 below). Complete the message and return to WA Department of Ecology booth to claim your prize!

3

1

4

6

2

5



Listen to the **sound** of the raindrops beating on the drums. The water you drink today may have fallen from the sky as rain just last week. But the water itself has been around pretty much as long as the earth has! Wow!

And that water flows down a bowl-shape watershed to a lake or river. Smaller watersheds become part of larger ones. So wherever you are, you're in a watershed.

So where does that raindrop go when it hits the ground?

Go to RAIN DROP #2

2

When rain falls in the forest, trees and plants drink up the water or it slowly seeps back into the dirt. But in your neighborhood, rain quickly runs off roofs, along driveways, and into the streets. Along the way, it collects pollution like car oil, fertilizer, and more...

This is “stormwater runoff” and it’s the # 1 water pollution problem around here!

Most stormwater runoff goes **to** a storm drain. See one nearby?

Where does stormwater runoff end up at?

2

When rain falls in the forest, trees and plants drink up the water or it slowly seeps back into the dirt. But in your neighborhood, rain quickly runs off roofs, along driveways, and into the streets. Along the way, it collects pollution like car oil, fertilizer, and more... This is "stormwater runoff" and it's the #1 water pollution problem around here! Most stormwater runoff goes to a storm drain. See one nearby? Where does stormwater runoff end up at?

Go to RAINBOWS



3

What goes down the storm drain will end up in a nearby stream, lake, and eventually **Puget** Sound. What do you live by? This stream here was specially created to flow through wetland shrubs that slow and purify the stormwater runoff before reaching Rattlesnake Lake. But where you live, most runoff does not get this treatment.

So imagine all the pollution that goes down all those storm drains! It hurts salmon habitat and affects people's health.

What reduces stormwater runoff?



4

The green roof you see here is one way to reduce stormwater runoff. Soil and plants on the green roof keep the waters from running off so quickly while filtering them. This mimics what happens naturally when rainwater falls in a forest.

In contrast, the metal roofs on the other buildings create more stormwater runoff. This is an example of "impervious surface". Other examples are parking lots and roads. *So what type of surface is good for streams?*

GO TO RAINDROP #5

5

A healthy stream is surrounded by good native vegetation. This is called the “riparian habitat”. Here you see many native plants: red alder, salmonberry, and Oregon grape. Large riparian buffers filter out stormwater pollution and **protect** the stream. Mature trees shade and keep the stream cool for fish. Ahh...take a deep breath.

If you live right near a stream, wouldn't you want this as your backyard?

What does a healthy watershed look like?

What do you NOT see in the beautiful view in front of you that you find in your town?

The growth of urban areas meant changing that view by removing trees, reshaping the streams and rivers, and creating hard impervious surfaces. The stormwater pollution that we create are all **ours** to fix...together.

How can you help keep our watersheds healthy?

...mystery phrase and return to Ecology booth.





Raindrop Mystery Phrase:
Puget Sound Waters – Ours to Protect



Raindrop Text

Raindrop 1

Listen to the **sound** of the raindrops beating on the drums. The water you drink today may have fallen from the sky as rain just last week. But the water itself has been around pretty much as long as the earth has! Wow!

And that water flows down a bowl-shape watershed to a lake or river. Smaller watersheds become part of larger ones. So wherever you are, you're in a watershed.

So where does that raindrop go when it hits the ground?

Go to RAINDROP #2

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Raindrop 2

When rain falls in the forest, trees and plants drink up the water or it slowly seeps back into the dirt. But in your neighborhood, rain quickly runs off roofs, along driveways, and into the streets. Along the way, it collects pollution like car oil, fertilizer, and more...

This is “stormwater runoff” and it’s the # 1 water pollution problem around here! Most stormwater runoff goes **to** a storm drain. See one nearby?

Where does stormwater runoff end up at?

Go to RAINDROP #3

Raindrop 3

What goes down the storm drain will end up in a nearby stream, lake, and eventually **Puget** Sound. What do you live by? This stream here was specially created to flow through wetland shrubs that slow and purify the stormwater runoff before reaching Rattlesnake Lake. But where you live, most runoff does not get this treatment.

So imagine all the pollution that goes down all those storm drains! It hurts salmon habitat and affects people's health.

What reduces stormwater runoff?

Go to RAINDROP #4

Raindrop 4

The green roof you see here is one way to reduce stormwater runoff. Soil and plants on the green roof keep the **waters** from running off so quickly while filtering them. This mimics what happens naturally when rainwater falls in a forest.

In contrast, the metal roofs on the other buildings create more stormwater runoff. This is an example of “impervious surface”. Other examples are parking lots and roads.

So what type of surface is good for streams?

Go to RAINDROP #5

Raindrop 5

A healthy stream is surrounded by good native vegetation. This is called the “riparian habitat”. Here you see many native plants: red alder, salmonberry, and Oregon grape. Large riparian buffers filter out stormwater pollution and **protect** the stream.

Mature trees shade and keep the stream cool for fish. Ahh...take a deep breath.

If you live right near a stream, wouldn't you want this as your backyard?

What does a healthy watershed look like?

Go to RAINDROP #6

Raindrop 6

What do you NOT see in beautiful view in front of you that you find in your town? The growth of urban areas meant changing that view by removing trees, reshaping the streams and rivers, and creating hard impervious surfaces. The stormwater pollution that we create are all **ours** to fix...together.

How can you help keep our watersheds healthy?

Solve the mystery phrase and return to Ecology booth.



THE END