ISSUE 2

ROSEVILLE UTILITY EXPLORATION CENTER

PLANET PROTECTORS

TALE of CRUDDY CREEK

PROTECTING WATER RESOURCES

Environmental Utilities and the Utility Exploration Center present

The Planet Protectors

Join Brandon, Johnny, and Danica, as they encounter the TALE OF CRUDDY CREEK

ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITIES is dedicated to providing water, wastewater, solid waste, recycled water and stormwater management services to Roseville customers.

Water Efficiency Program:

- *Provides useful information and tips to help businesses and homeowners use water more efficiently*
- *Works to reduce the amount of water used in the City of Roseville by offering programs and incentives that encourage customers to save water*

Stormwater Management Program:

- *Protects Roseville's creeks by regulating stormwater runoff from construction sites, city operations, businesses and homes*
- *Promotes clean stormwater runoff to preserve the health of the ecosystems of local creeks*

For more information please visit: www.roseville.ca.us/eu

The **UTILITY EXPLORATION CENTER** is a unique regional learning center committed to teaching about sustainability in the home, school, and community. Water and energy efficiency, waste reduction, and watershed protection form the foundation of our programs designed to save money and resources in a fun and engaging way.

The Utility Exploration Center is jointly funded and operated by Roseville Electric and Environmental Utilities, departments of the City of Roseville. Supplying electricity, drinking water, storm drain management, and wastewater and solid waste services, these utilities provide Roseville's residents and businesses with reliable, affordable, safe, and clean utility services.

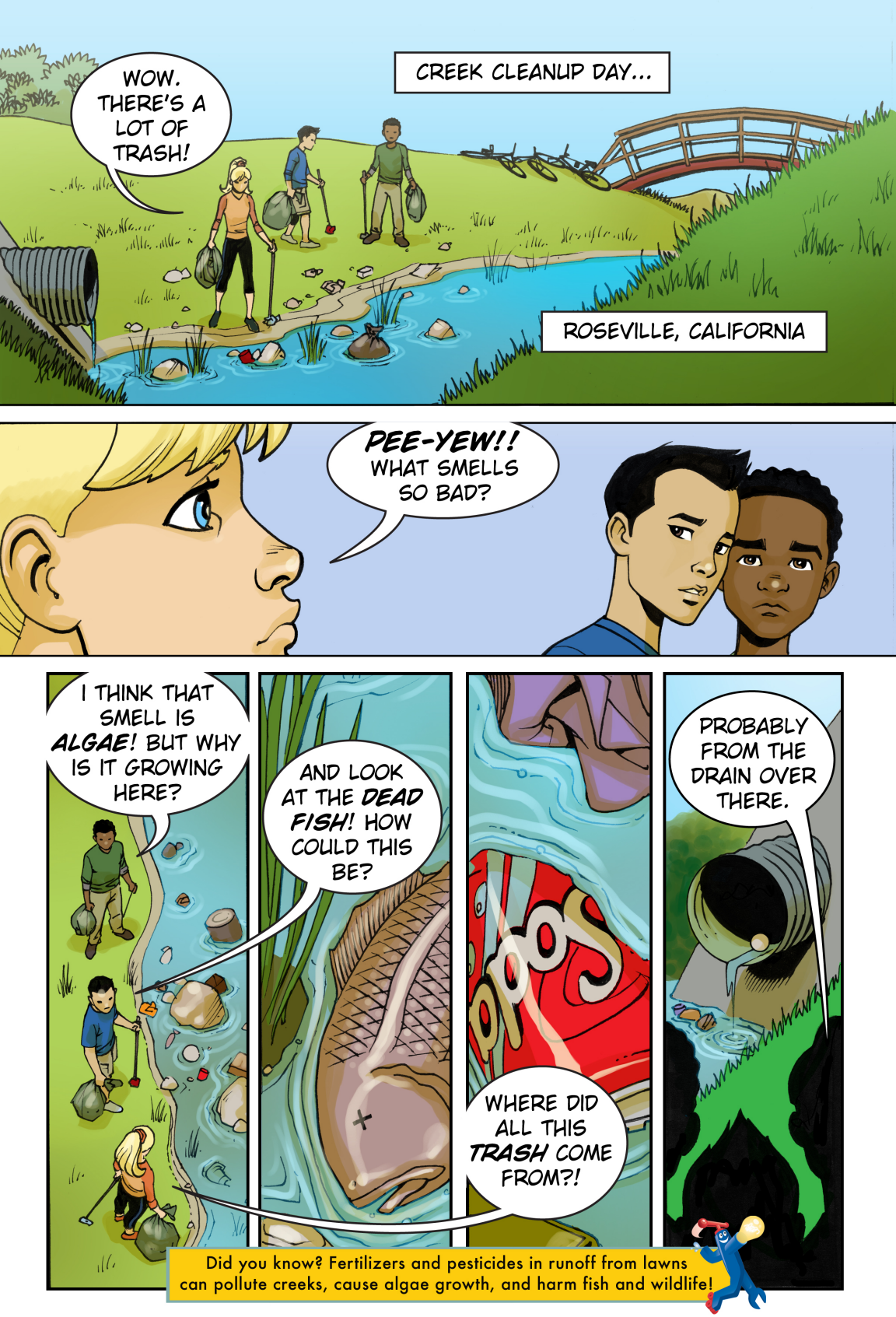
Please visit our website at www.roseville.ca.us/explore to learn about our low-cost and grant-funded school programs, homeowner workshops, and special events.

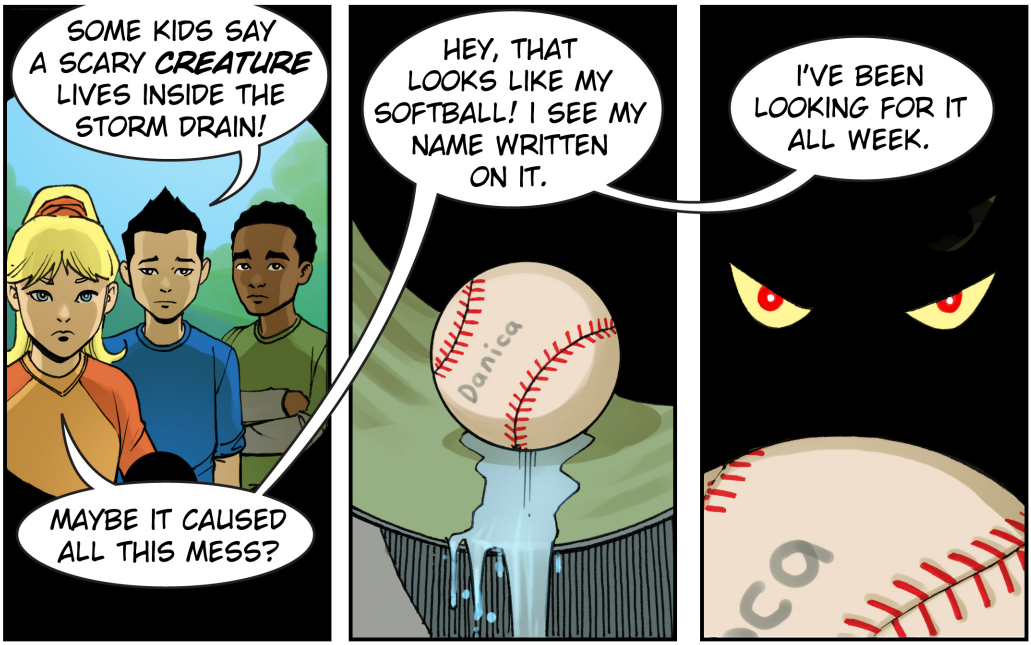
RESEARCH AND ACTIVITIES BY
HARVEST MOON STUDIO

CITY OF ROSEVILLE CALIFORNIA

All rights reserved. © 2012

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
BERNARD CHANG


CREEK CLEANUP DAY...
WOW. THERE'S A LOT OF TRASH!
ROSEVILLE, CALIFORNIA
PEE-YEW!! WHAT SMELLS SO BAD?
I THINK THAT SMELL IS ALGAE! BUT WHY IS IT GROWING HERE?
AND LOOK AT THE DEAD FISH! HOW COULD THIS BE?
WHERE DID ALL THIS TRASH COME FROM?!
PROBABLY FROM THE DRAIN OVER THERE.
Did you know? Fertilizers and pesticides in runoff from lawns can pollute creeks, cause algae growth, and harm fish and wildlife!

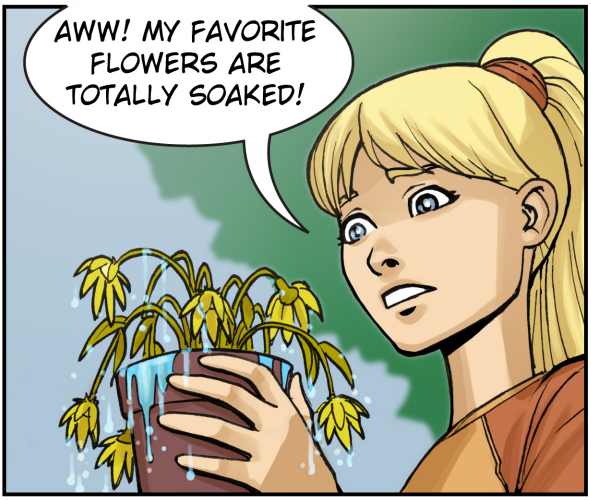

SOME KIDS SAY A SCARY CREATURE LIVES INSIDE THE STORM DRAIN!
MAYBE IT CAUSED ALL THIS MESS?
HEY, THAT LOOKS LIKE MY SOFTBALL! I SEE MY NAME WRITTEN ON IT.
Danica
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR IT ALL WEEK.

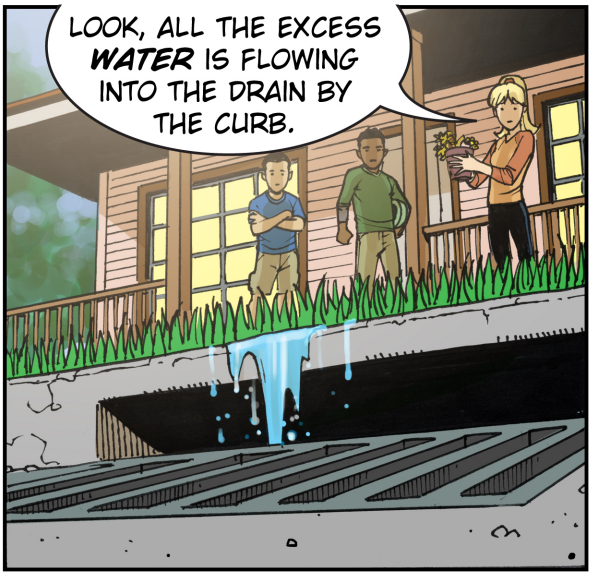
WHAAA?

IT'S THE CREEPY CREEK CREATURE!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE IT CATCHES US!
DONUTS
IT MUST'VE BEEN LIVING IN THERE FOR A LONG TIME.
BUT HOW DID IT GET MY BALL?
WELL, AT LEAST WE'RE SAFE NOW THAT WE'RE BACK AT YOUR HOUSE.

YEAH, BUT MY LAWN IS FLOODED!
WHAT HAPPENED?


AWW! MY FAVORITE FLOWERS ARE TOTALLY SOAKED!


LOOK, ALL THE EXCESS WATER IS FLOWING INTO THE DRAIN BY THE CURB.

SO ALL THAT TRASH AT THE CREEK MUST BE FROM ALL THE DRAINS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

I'D BETTER TURN OFF THE HOSE AND ASK MY PARENTS TO RESET THE SPRINKLER TIMERS.
AND TRASH.
AND YOUR BALL.
ALL THIS EXCESS WATER WASHED FERTILIZER...
DOWN THE DRAIN TO THE CREEK.
HEY, MY BALL!
DO YOU THINK THE CREEPY CREEK CREATURE FOLLOWED US BACK HERE?
HELLO, MR. CREEPY...?
HEY, IT'S JUST A FRIENDLY RACCOON!
Danico
THANKS FOR RETURNING MY BALL!

WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the words shown below — and assemble the highlighted letters in each word to reveal a secret message!

F Q I U A R E

an area underground where water gathers in between rocks and gravel and supplies water for wells and springs

P C S M O O T

a mixture of decaying organic material used to enrich soil

H R G T D O U

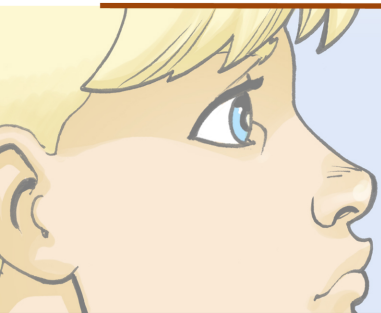
a long period without the normal amount of rainfall

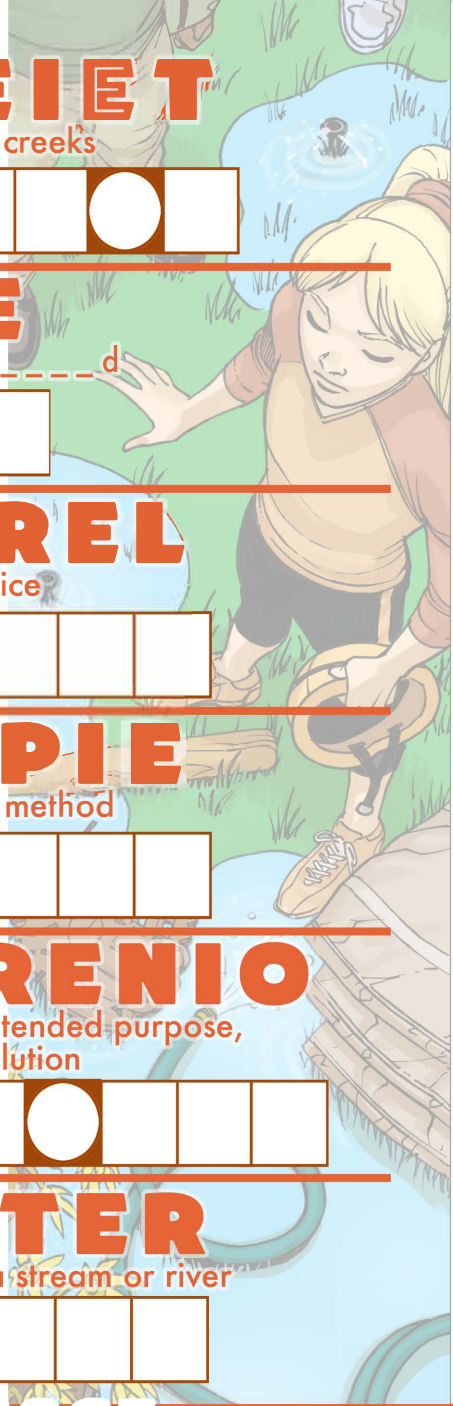
G R N R I A I T O I

supplemental supply of water

K E L A

fix it quickly, please!





RFILRZEIET

causes algae to grow in creeks

TSWAE

if not used wisely, water is _ _ _ _ _ d

RKSPNIREL

a yard-watering device

XRCSAEPIE

a water-wise landscaping method

VTANOCSRENIO

using only what you need for its intended purpose, stopping waste and pollution

HASEDWTER

the area of land that drains into a stream or river

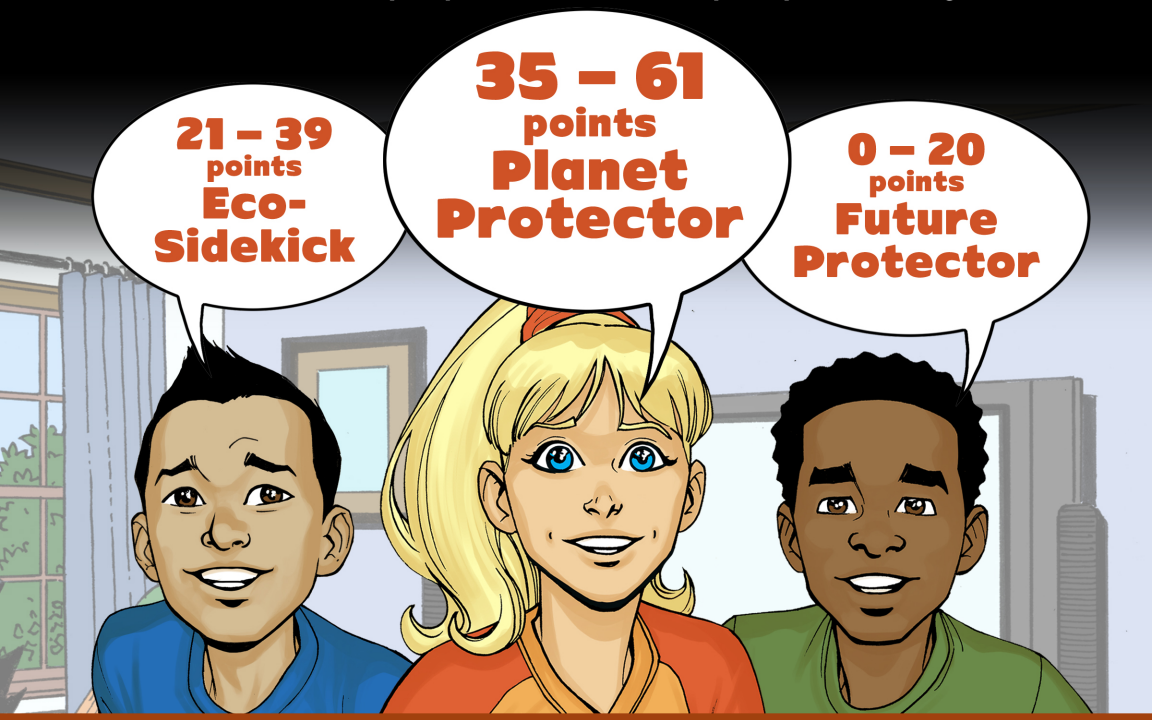
CODED MESSAGE:

CLUE: Water is a limited resource

For answer key, please see page 11

BE A PLANET PROTECTOR
WATER WISE AUDIT

Hey Kids,
search your own home for ways to protect our water resources! Answer the questions below—with an adult's help—to find out if you are already a Planet Protector, or well on your way. Bring in the completed form to the Utility Exploration Center to qualify for a free gift!



☐ **1. Check for leaks around the house (faucets, drips under sinks, outdoor spigots, irrigation valves, toilets). How many do you find?**

None (10 points)
1 to 4 (5 points)
5 or more (0 points)

2. When it last rained, my family _____ our irrigation timer:

Did nothing to (0 points)
Reduced the irrigation time on (3 points)
Turned it off (10 points)

3. The last time my family ran the dishwasher and washing machine the load was:

Almost empty (0 points)
1/2 full (5 points)
Full (10 points)

4. Does your landscape have areas where water can be absorbed instead of running off?

No, the rain water from our downspouts runs into the gutter (0 points)
Nost of the rain water from our downspouts runs into our lawn and garden (5 points)
All the rain water from our downspouts is directed to our lawn and garden (10 points)

5. My family checks our irrigation system:

Never (0 points)
Twice a year (3 points)
Each month (10 points)

6. The last time my family washed our car we:

Used an open hose (0 points)
Used a hose with nozzle (4 points)
Took it to an automated carwash (10 points)

7. When my family maintains our lawn and garden we use:

Synthetic fertilizers/pesticides (0 points)
Organic fertilizers/pesticides (5 points)
Mulch/compost instead of fertilizers (10 points)

TOTAL SCORE

Answer key for WORD SCRAMBLE on pages 8-9:

AQUIFER COM**P**OST **F**ERTILIZER DR**O**UGHT **W**ASTE IRRIGA**T**ION **S**PRINKLER LEAK XERISCAPE CONSERVATION **W**ATERSHED

CODED MESSAGE: **STOP WATER WASTE**

Hey kids and families! Bring in your completed activity books to the Utility Exploration Center to qualify for a free gift.

Scan the QR code to discover more ways to save energy
or visit
www.roseville.ca.us/planetprotectors

ROSEVILLE UTILITY EXPLORATION CENTER

PLANET PROTECTORS

1501 Pleasant Grove Boulevard, Roseville, CA 95747
916-746-1550