

Landscape with native plants

Altering the natural contours of yards during landscaping and planting with non-native plants that need fertilizer and extra water can increase the potential for higher runoff volumes, increase erosion, and introduce chemicals into the path of runoff. In contrast, using native plants in landscaping provides households with a framework that can dramatically reduce the potential for NPS pollution.

Many environmental factors taken into landscape design--soil type, use of native plants, practical turf areas, proper irrigation, mulches, and appropriate maintenance schedules can reduce sources of NPS and put less pressure in the natural environment. By using native plants that are well-suited to a regions climate and pests, it drastically reduces the need for irrigation and chemical applications. Less irrigation results in less runoff, while less chemical application keeps runoff clean.



Any Questions or Concerns?

**Contact the Tribal
Environmental Office at
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Ext. 4129/4130**



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Nonpoint source pollution



**Things you can do
around your home
to improve water
quality**

**Soboba Tribal
Environmental Department
951.654.5544 ext. 4129/4130**

What is nonpoint source pollution?

Nonpoint source pollution (NPS) is polluted runoff that comes from many sources rather than one specific source like a sewage treatment plant. As runoff from rain or other sources moves across the ground, it picks up pollutants and carries them into storm drains, streams, lakes, and rivers. Nonpoint sources cause 60% of water pollution.

Types of nonpoint source pollution:

- *Toxic contaminants* like heavy metals, organics, and chemicals that can threaten the health of aquatic life and humans are often resistant to breakdown. Sources include fossil fuels, pesticides, industrial waste, petroleum spills, and cars.
- *Sediment* is eroded soil, which smothers aquatic habitat, carries pollutants, and reduces water clarity. Sources include agricultural fields, disturbed areas, and stream banks.
- *Nutrients* such as nitrogen and phosphorus are substances needed for plant growth, but elevated levels can stimulate excessive plant growth, which can lead to lower dissolved oxygen levels in the water. Sources include animal waste, fertilizers, and malfunctioning septic systems.
- *Debris* includes trash, which threatens aquatic life and detracts from recreational

and aesthetic values. Sources include illegal dumping and street litter.

What you can do

- Keep litter, pet wastes, leaves and debris out of street gutters and storm drains
- Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly and according to directions.
- To reduce the use of pesticides, use insects such as ladybugs and praying mantises to control unwanted pests in the garden. Try a technique known as "scouting." Go out and survey your yard or garden to see what pests are present and then use pesticides only if natural predators cannot keep the pests in check.
- Dispose of used oil, antifreeze, paints and other household chemicals properly—not in storm sewers or drains.
- Clean up spilled brake fluid, oil, grease and antifreeze. Do not hose them into the street
- Plant grass, trees and shrubs in bare areas. This is one of the most important things you can do to reduce nonpoint source runoff. The grass, trees and shrubs will reduce and absorb runoff, and their roots will hold the soil together, reducing erosion.
- Have your septic system inspected and

pumped, every three to five years, so that it operates properly.

- Purchase household detergents and cleaners that are low in phosphorous to reduce the amount of nutrients discharged into our lakes, streams and coastal waters.

