Storm Drain Awareness Art Project
Art Project Directions

The idea of the storm drain painting project came from the Heal the Bay’s Gutter Patrol. The original stencil just stated the words “No Dumping, Drains to Ocean” with a fish skeleton on it. This stencil is still available by calling Heal the Bay.

Directions:
We want to see your ideas for drawing attention to storm drains. Draw your picture on the blank storm drain template and take a picture and post it on your socials using #healthebay or you can email us at achoy@healthebay.org.

Meaghan Moore, an LMU student, worked with students from Environmental Charter High School to create this storm drain service learning project.
Storm Drain Basics

The catch basin is the opening to the storm drain system. There are 250,000 in Los Angeles County.

Gutters or curbs direct rainwater and urban runoff into the catch basin.

Some catch basins have an insert that prevents debris from entering the storm drain system.

Most catch basins have a manhole cover to allow maintenance crews to vacuum out the trash.

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Stop by these designs painted by the students at Environmental Charter High School in Lawndale.
**Vocabulary**

**Bay:** body of water with land on three sides.

**Catch basin:** curbside opening that collects rainwater from streets and serves as an entry point to the storm drain system.

**Channelized:** cemented over (pathway of water that is concreted over with steep channel walls versus a pathway of water that is natural and free-flowing).

**Clean Water Act:** the federal water quality control law governing surface waters establishing water quality objectives, waste discharge standards, and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.

**Flood control channel:** open waterway that is designed to carry large amounts of rain water. These structures are often lined with concrete to help control flood waters. Examples: Ballona Creek and the Los Angeles River.

**Gutter:** the edge of a street (below the curb) designed to drain water runoff from streets, driveways, parking lots, etc. into catch basins. Area formed by the curb and the street to prevent flooding by channeling runoff to the storm drains.

**Headwaters:** the beginning of a stream or river.

**Infiltration:** when water soaks into the ground.

**Natural watershed:** watershed comprised of natural features.

**Runoff pollution:** water from rain (also called storm water, urban runoff, and storm drain pollution), irrigation, garden hoses or other activities that picks up pollutants (cigarette butts, trash, automotive fluids, used oil, paint, fertilizers and pesticides, lawn and garden clippings and pet waste) from streets, parking lots, driveways and yards and carries them through the
**Sewage treatment plant**: place where sewage and water from inside buildings gets cleaned.

**Storm drain outfall**: structure at the end of the storm drain system which dumps storm water and urban runoff onto the beach and into the ocean.

**Storm drain system**: a network of conveyance systems which includes catch basins, graters, gutters, underground pipes, creeks or open channels designed to transport rain from developed areas and discharged to a receiving body of water. Storm drains can carry a variety of pollutants such as sediments, fecal waste, metals, bacteria, oil, and antifreeze that enter the system through runoff, deliberate dumping, or spills. More info [here](#)

**Watershed**: geographic area of land from which all runoff drains into a single waterway or the total land area from which rain water drains into a particular stream, drain, or body of water; the drainage basin in the Los Angeles region are 4 primary watersheds: the Los Angeles River, the Santa Monica, and the Upper and Lower Ballona Creek Watersheds.

**Stormwater**: water runoff that moves through the storm drain system. Sources of water are typically rain, commercial discharge, runoff from irrigation, carwash, hosing instead of sweeping, hydrant tests.

**Sub-watershed**: smaller drainage system that empties into a particular body of water.

**Urban Runoff**: water and pollution from the urban environment which flow through the storm drain system.

**Urban watershed**: watershed comprised of unnatural impervious features.

**Watershed**: area of land that drains water into a particular river, river system, or body of water.
Map your storm drain:

https://pw.lacounty.gov/fcd/StormDrain/index.cfm

City of Los Angeles Stormwater prevention program.
http://www.lastormwater.org

Adopt-A-Beach/ Beach Cleanup program
http://www.healthebay.org/get-involved/volunteer/cleanups#AdoptABeach

Heal the Bay’s online Marine Debris Database
http://www.healthebay.org/about-bay/pollution-and-its-impacts/marine-debris-database,

Los Angeles County Storm water Pollution Prevention website
http://ladpw.org/prg/stormwater/

City Stormwater Education Coordinators
http://ladpw.org/PRG/StormWater/Page_03_cf1.cfm