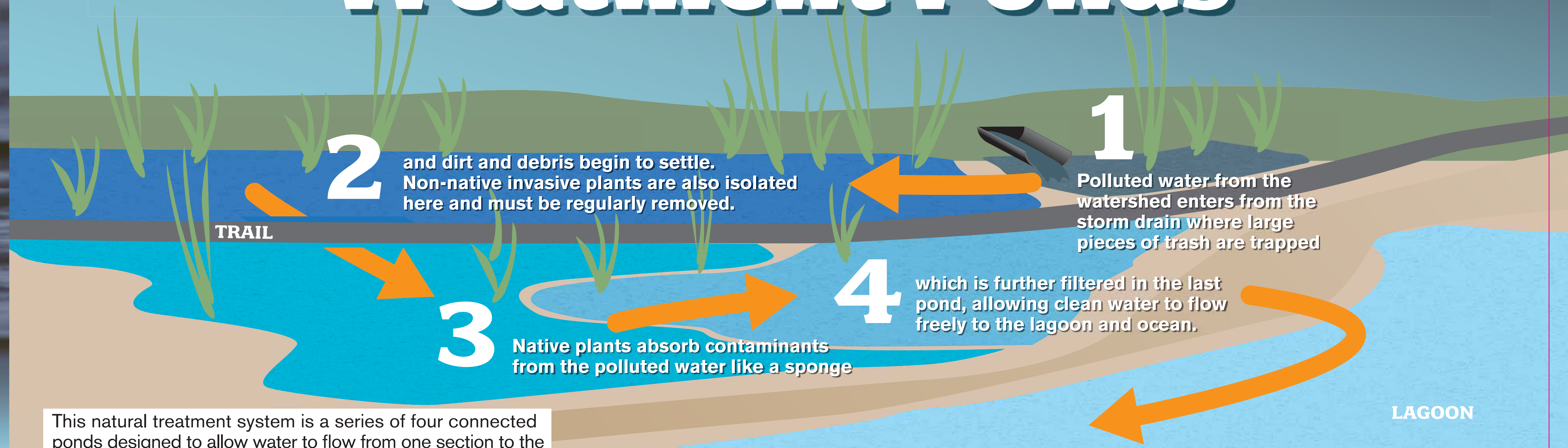


Photograph courtesy of Scott Street

# San Dieguito Urban Runoff Treatment Ponds



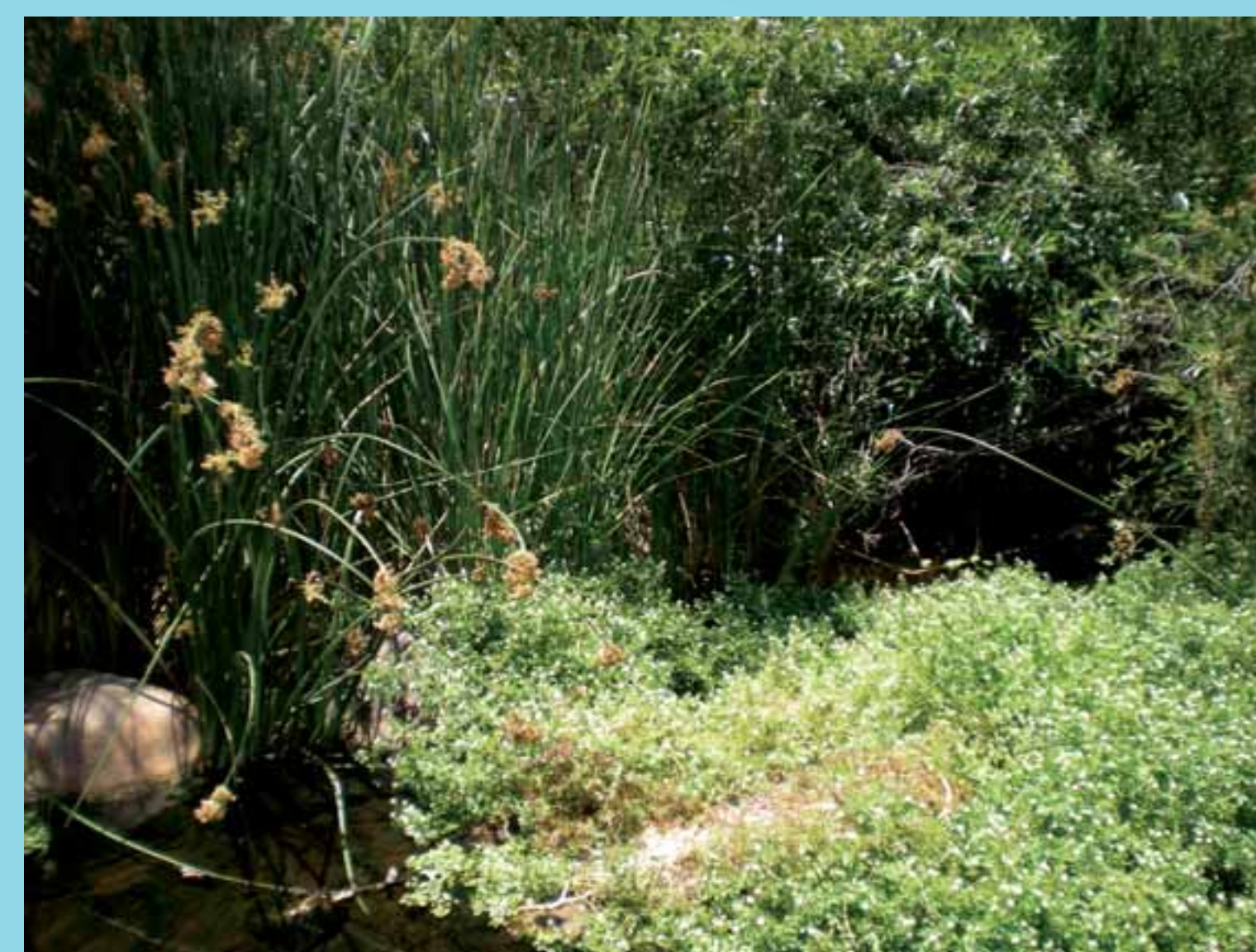
Lagoons create and protect habitat for fish, shore birds, and other wildlife, and provide us with open space where we can enjoy and learn about the benefits of wetlands!

This natural treatment system is a series of four connected ponds designed to allow water to flow from one section to the next, filtering and cleansing urban runoff before it enters the sensitive wetlands nearby. Through this process, pollutants, such as sediments, chemicals, invasive plants and bacteria that can harm wildlife, people, and ocean water quality, are trapped in the ponds before the water enters the lagoon.

Native plants, such as willows, cattails, and salt heliotrope contribute to a healthy lagoon environment.



Non-native plants, such as pampas grass, fan palm and myoporium crowd out natives and deprive them of growing space, water, and nutrients.



## How do pollutants get in to the lagoon?

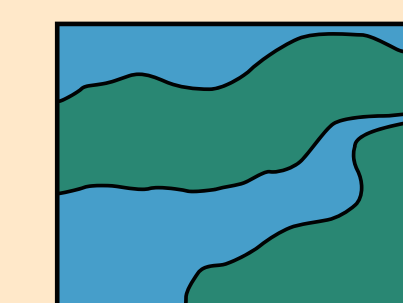
Storm drains are not connected to the sewer system which sends wastewater from toilets and sinks to a treatment facility to be cleaned.

Storm drains collect runoff and trash from streets and other hardscapes (like sidewalks, driveways, and roofs) through a series of underground pipes that eventually dump into our rivers, creeks, and ocean.

The water, and everything it touches – from motor oil, to dirt, litter, and pet waste – washes into the storm drain and eventually into our waterways, including this lagoon.

## What can you do?

- Use biodegradable, phosphate-free detergents
- Use natural pest control methods that are chemical-free such as ladybugs and insecticidal soap
- Pick up pet waste and don't litter
- Repair oil leaks on your vehicles and dispose of used oil properly



San Dieguito River Park



think BLUE  
SAN DIEGO