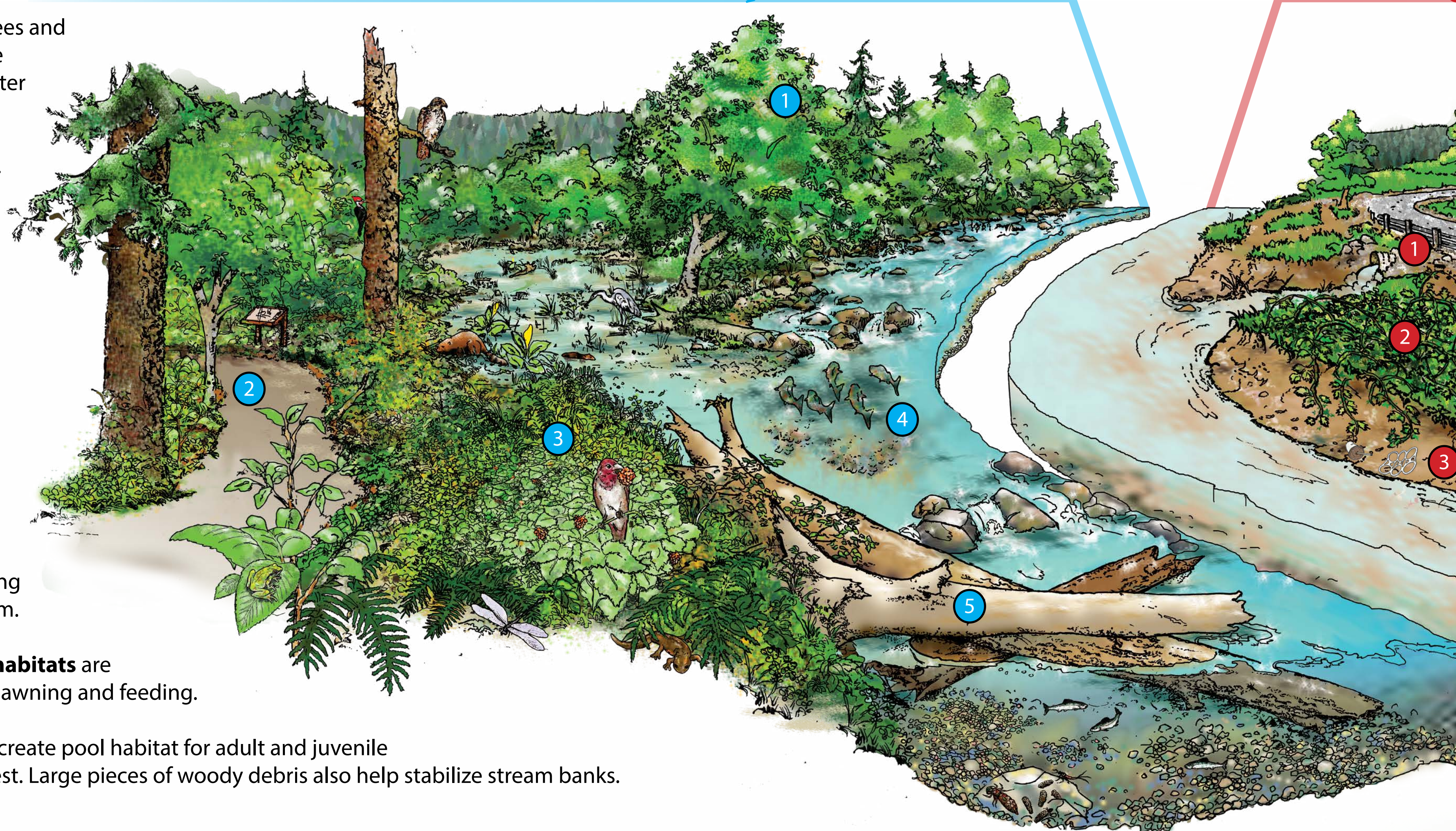


# A Healthier PADDEN CREEK

The daylighted section of Padden Creek now contains habitat features such as native plants, rocks, and woody debris. These components of a healthy stream improve the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of Padden Creek.

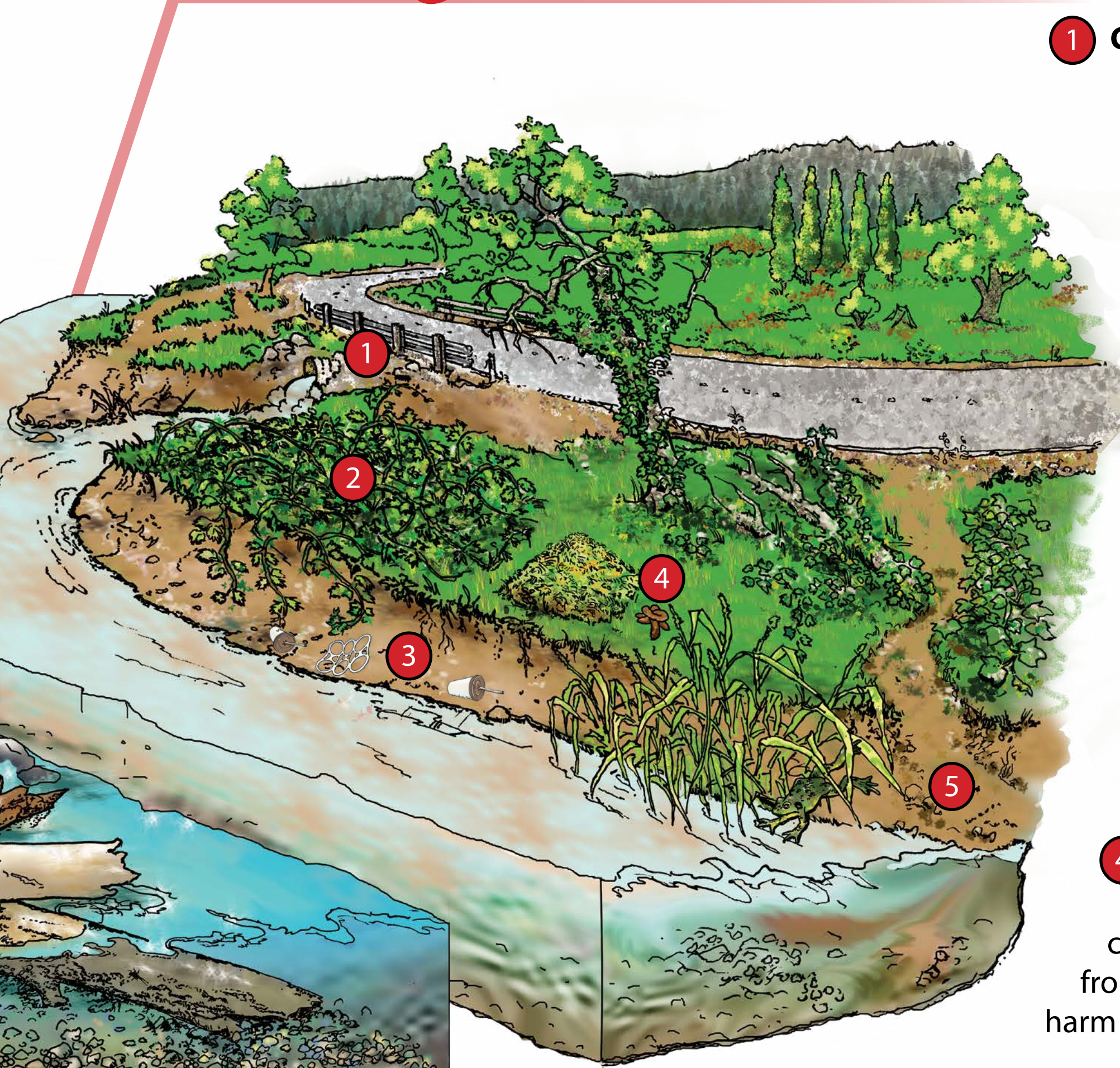
## Healthy Stream

- 1 **Shade** from native trees and shrubs helps keep the water cool. Colder water holds more dissolved oxygen for salmon and other aquatic life.
- 2 **Designated trails** provide people and pets with opportunities to view salmon and other wildlife with minimal disturbance to the sensitive stream ecosystem.
- 3 **Native plants** hold soil in place, providing bank stability and decreasing sediment in the stream.
- 4 **A variety of stream habitats** are available to fish for spawning and feeding.
- 5 **Logs and root wads** create pool habitat for adult and juvenile salmon to hide and rest. Large pieces of woody debris also help stabilize stream banks.



## Degraded Stream

- 1 **Culverts** that are elevated above the stream often create barriers to migrating fish, limiting access to upstream spawning habitat.
- 2 **Invasive plants** harm native plants by using limited space, water, nutrients, and other resources.
- 3 **Trash** can be hazardous to fish and wildlife in the creek and downstream marine environment. Garbage may release toxic chemicals and/or be mistaken for food, resulting in severe harm to wildlife.
- 4 **Stormwater** often carries pollutants such as lawn clippings, dog poop, soap, and oil from leaky cars into the creek, which harm salmon and other aquatic life.
- 5 **Off-trail foot traffic** by people and pets causes bank erosion and sediment-clouded water. Too much sediment in the water damages fish gills, inhibits feeding, and harms salmon nests (also called redds).



## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- 1 Remove invasive plants and cultivate native plants in your yard.
- 2 On walks and at home, pick up dog poop and dispose of it in the trash.
- 3 Fix car leaks and wash cars at a carwash so that oil, metals, and soaps do not run off into creeks.
- 4 Stay on designated trails and keep pets on leash.
- 5 Keep trash out of the creek and riparian area.

Visit [cob.org](http://cob.org) and search "Padden Creek" to learn more.

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