

Watershed Scavenger Hunt: Go outside and see what you discover!

1. Start Indoors at Your Computer:
Go to www.austintexas.gov/GIS/FindYourWatershed/ and click on "Find Your Watershed" at the bottom. Type in your address to learn the name of your watershed.

My watershed is: _____

Use this section to draw how water flows from your house to your creek.



A watershed is the area of land that drains to a creek.

2. Now Head Outside:
Draw and identify a wildflower.

How do plants affect water quality?

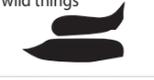
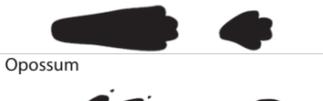
Many plants will eat (or filter) pollution, preventing it from entering the creek.

(plant name) _____



3. All these animals live in the Austin area. Circle the animal track or scat you find in your watershed. (not to scale)

How do animals depend on the watershed?

Tracks		Scat
Whitetail Deer		large pellets 
Red Fox		dog like with seeds and wild things 
Raccoon		reddish cords with pieces of shells 
Cottontail Rabbit		small pellets 
Opossum		small, thin cords 
Bobcat		embedded light fur 
Coyote/Dog		dog-like with bones and wild things 

4. Find a partner. One of you will pick up trash while the other tallies what you find. After the note taker has recorded the garbage, you can recycle it or throw it away.

Type of Trash	Number of items found
<input type="checkbox"/> Cloth	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Glass*	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Metal*	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Paper*	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Cigarettes	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Plastic*	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Styrofoam™	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Rubber	_____
Total items collected	_____

- Cloth
- Glass*
- Metal*
- Paper*
- Cigarettes
- Plastic*
- Styrofoam™
- Rubber

Total items collected _____

*may be recycled

How does the trash you found affect our creeks?



Did you know that litter can:

- Harm aquatic animals who get trapped in it or choke on it
- Leak harmful chemicals as it decays
- Destroy habitat

Did you know it takes 2-5 years for a cigarette and 200-500 years for an aluminum can to deteriorate!



5. Draw or make a rubbing of a fossil of a seashell.

What do fossils tell us about what formed the land in this watershed?

This area of Texas was an ocean millions of years ago. The bottom of the ocean and the shells from the sea life formed this watershed.

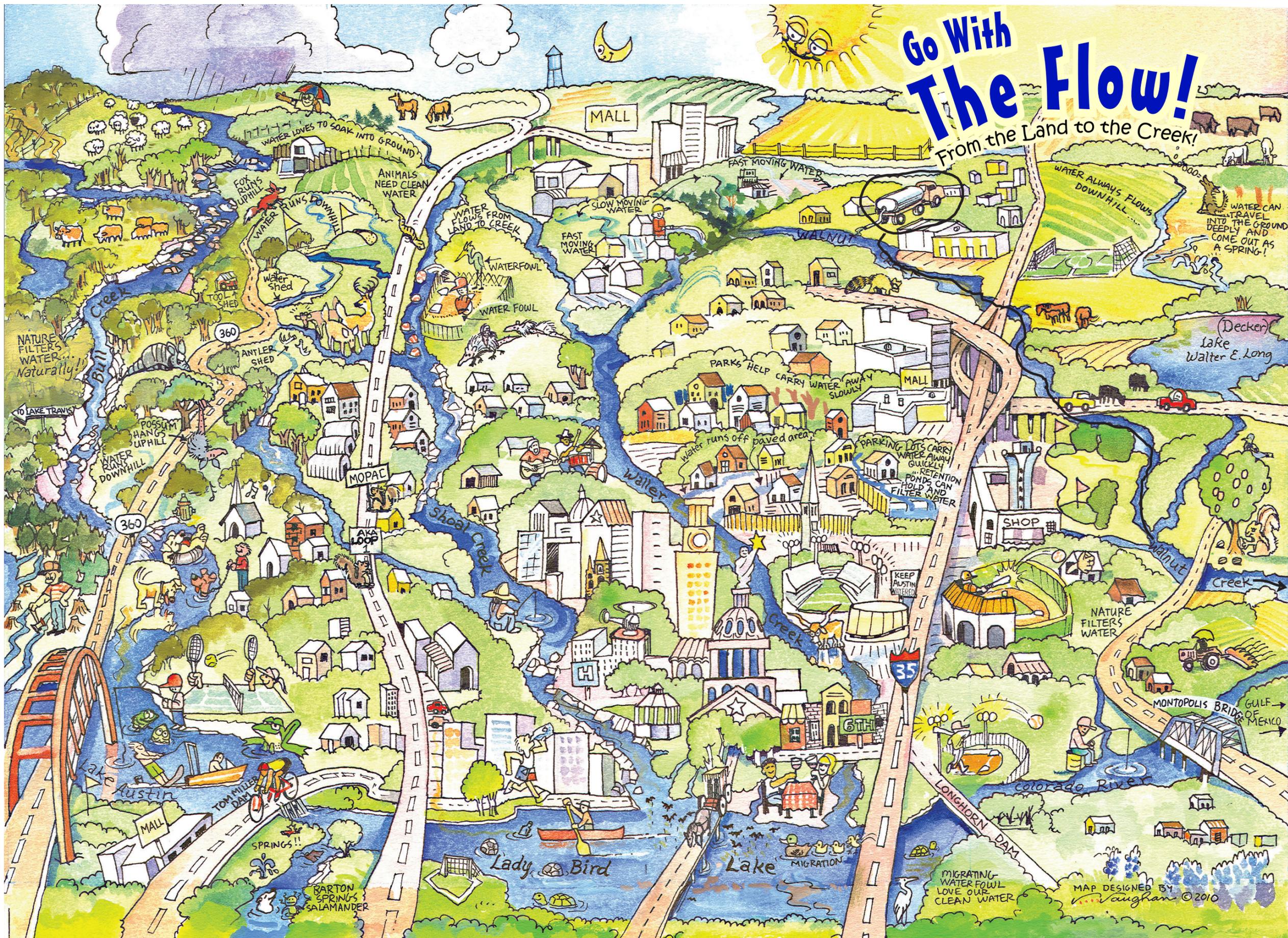



6. Circle if you see a dragonfly or damselfly.

What do dragonflies and damselflies have to do with the creek?

Dragonflies and damselflies are born in the water and later hatch into their adult fly form. Their presence means good water quality.

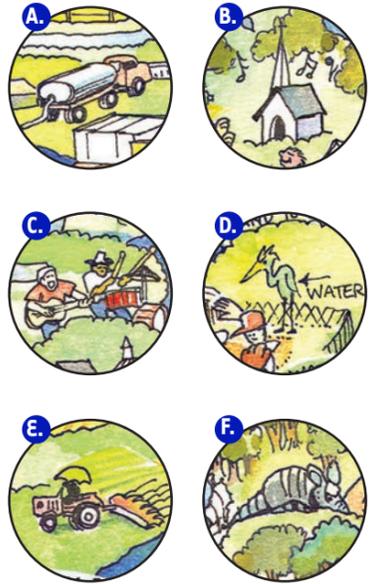


Creek Challenge

Help the raindrops find their way to the creeks! Imagine that a raindrop falls on the objects listed below. Circle the object. Then draw a line showing the pathway for a raindrop to travel from that object to the creek. The first one is done for you. (Hint: Raindrops travel downhill where they meet other raindrops.)

Start Here:



Where Does It End?

- A. Walnut Creek _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____
- E. _____
- F. _____

Lake Austin and Lady Bird Lake are both a part of the Colorado River. They are dammed up so they look more like lakes instead of a river. Most of us get our drinking water from the Colorado River which flows all the way to the Gulf of Mexico.



MAP DESIGNED BY Vaughan © 2010