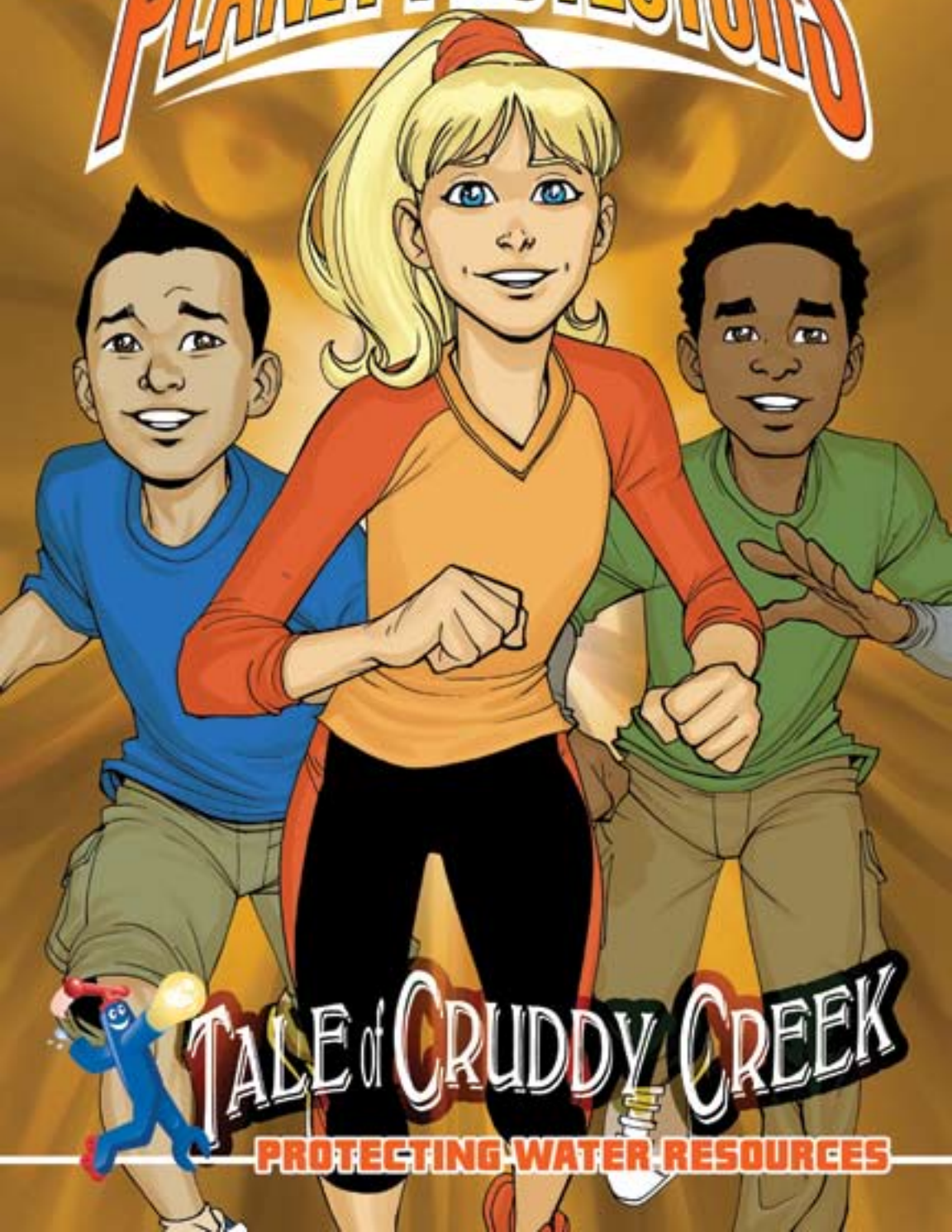


ISSUE  
**2**

ROSEVILLE UTILITY EXPLORATION CENTER

# PLANET PROTECTORS



## TALE of CRUDDY CREEK

PROTECTING WATER RESOURCES



# Environmental Utilities and the Utility Exploration Center present **The Planet Protectors**

Join **Brandon, Johnny, and Danica,**  
as they encounter the  
**TALE OF CRUDDY CREEK**

**ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITIES** is dedicated to providing water, wastewater, solid waste, recycled water and stormwater management services to Roseville customers.

Water Efficiency Program:

- Provides useful information and tips to help businesses and homeowners use water more efficiently
- Works to reduce the amount of water used in the City of Roseville by offering programs and incentives that encourage customers to save water

Stormwater Management Program:

- Protects Roseville's creeks by regulating stormwater runoff from construction sites, city operations, businesses and homes
- Promotes clean stormwater runoff to preserve the health of the ecosystems of local creeks

For more information please visit: [www.roseville.ca.us/eu](http://www.roseville.ca.us/eu)

The **UTILITY EXPLORATION CENTER** is a unique regional learning center committed to teaching about sustainability in the home, school, and community. Water and energy efficiency, waste reduction, and watershed protection form the foundation of our programs designed to save money and resources in a fun and engaging way.

The Utility Exploration Center is jointly funded and operated by Roseville Electric and Environmental Utilities, departments of the City of Roseville. Supplying electricity, drinking water, recycled water, storm drain management, and wastewater and solid waste services, these utilities provide Roseville's residents and businesses with reliable, affordable, safe, and clean utility services.

Please visit our website at [www.roseville.ca.us/explore](http://www.roseville.ca.us/explore) to learn about our low-cost and grant-funded school programs, homeowner workshops, and special events.



RESEARCH AND ACTIVITIES BY  
HARVEST MOON STUDIO

ILLUSTRATIONS BY  
BERNARD CHANG

CREEK CLEANUP DAY...

WOW.  
THERE'S A  
LOT OF  
TRASH!

ROSEVILLE, CALIFORNIA

PEE-YEW!!  
WHAT SMELLS  
SO BAD?

I THINK THAT  
SMELL IS  
ALGAE! BUT WHY  
IS IT GROWING  
HERE?

AND LOOK  
AT THE *DEAD*  
FISH! HOW  
COULD THIS  
BE?

WHERE DID  
ALL THIS  
TRASH  
COME  
FROM?!

PROBABLY  
FROM THE  
DRAIN  
OVER  
THERE.

Did you know? Fertilizers and pesticides in runoff from lawns can pollute creeks, cause algae growth, and harm fish and wildlife!










YEAH, BUT  
MY LAWN IS  
FLOODED!



AWW! MY FAVORITE  
FLOWERS ARE  
TOTALLY SOAKED!



LOOK, ALL THE EXCESS  
WATER IS FLOWING  
INTO THE DRAIN BY  
THE CURB.



WHAT  
HAPPENED?

SO ALL THAT TRASH  
AT THE CREEK MUST  
BE FROM ALL THE  
DRAINS IN OUR  
NEIGHBORHOOD.



I'D BETTER TURN OFF THE HOSE AND ASK MY PARENTS TO RESET THE SPRINKLER TIMERS.

AND TRASH.

AND YOUR BALL.

ALL THIS EXCESS WATER WASHED FERTILIZER...

DOWN THE DRAIN TO THE CREEK.



HEY, MY BALL!



DO YOU THINK THE CREEPY CREEK CREATURE FOLLOWED US BACK HERE?



HELLO, MR. CREEPY...?



HEY, IT'S JUST A FRIENDLY RACCOON!

THANKS FOR RETURNING MY BALL!



## WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the words shown below — and assemble the highlighted letters in each word to reveal a secret message!

**F O I U A R E**

an area underground where water gathers in between rocks and gravel and supplies water for wells and springs



**P C S M O O T**

a mixture of decaying organic material used to enrich soil



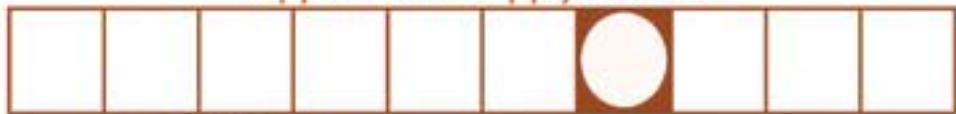
**H R G T D O U**

a long period without the normal amount of rainfall



**G R N R I A I T O I**

supplemental supply of water



**K E L A**

fix it quickly, please!







**R F I L R Z E I E T**

causes algae to grow in creeks

**T S W A E**

if not used wisely, water is \_\_\_\_\_d

**R K S P N I R E L**

a yard-watering device

**X R C S A E P I R**

a water-wise landscaping method

**V T A N O C S R E N I O**

using only what you need for its intended purpose,  
stopping waste and pollution

**H A S E D W T E R**

the area of land that drains into a stream or river

**CODED MESSAGE:**

CLUE: Water is a limited resource

For answer key, please see page 11

# BE A PLANET PROTECTOR

## WATER WISE AUDIT

Hey Kids,

search your own home for ways to protect our water resources!

Answer the questions below—with an adult's help—to find out if you are already a Planet Protector, or well on your way. Bring in the completed form to the Utility Exploration Center to qualify for a free gift!

**21 – 39**  
points  
**Eco-  
Sidekick**

**35 – 61**  
points  
**Planet  
Protector**

**0 – 20**  
points  
**Future  
Protector**



1. Check for leaks around the house (faucets, drips under sinks, outdoor spigots, irrigation valves, toilets). How many do you find?

*None (10 points)*

*1 to 4 (5 points)*

*5 or more (0 points)*

2. When it last rained, my family \_\_\_\_\_ our irrigation timer:  
*Did nothing to (0 points)*  
*Reduced the irrigation time on (3 points)*  
*Turned it off (10 points)*
3. The last time my family ran the dishwasher and washing machine the load was:  
*Almost empty (0 points)*  
*1/2 full (5 points)*  
*Full (10 points)*
4. Does your landscape have areas where water can be absorbed instead of running off?  
*No, the rain water from our downspouts runs into the gutter (0 points)*  
*Most of the rain water from our downspouts runs into our lawn and garden (5 points)*  
*All the rain water from our downspouts is directed to our lawn and garden (10 points)*
5. My family checks our irrigation system:  
*Never (0 points)*  
*Twice a year (3 points)*  
*Each month (10 points)*
6. The last time my family washed our car we:  
*Used an open hose (0 points)*  
*Used a hose with nozzle (4 points)*  
*Took it to an automated carwash (10 points)*
7. When my family maintains our lawn and garden we use:  
*Synthetic fertilizers/pesticides (0 points)*  
*Organic fertilizers/pesticides (5 points)*  
*Mulch/compost instead of fertilizers (10 points)*



**TOTAL SCORE**

Answer key for  
 AQUIFER LEAK XERISCAPE CODED MESSAGE  
 COMPOST FERTILIZER CONSERVATION STOP WATER WASTE  
 DROUGHT WASTE WATERSHED  
 IRRIGATION SPRINKLER

on pages 8-9:

*Hey kids and families! Bring in your completed activity books to the Utility Exploration Center to qualify for a free gift.*



Scan the QR code to discover more ways to protect water resources or visit [www.roseville.ca.us/planetprotectors](http://www.roseville.ca.us/planetprotectors)

ROSEVILLE UTILITY EXPLORATION CENTER

# PLANET PROTECTORS

Using interactive displays and educational programs, the Utility Exploration Center shows visitors of all ages how to be Planet Protectors. The Exploration Center is open Tuesday through Saturday 10am - 5pm in Mahany Park, adjacent to the Martha Riley Library. Admission is free.

**1501 Pleasant Grove Boulevard, Roseville, CA 95747**  
**916-746-1550**