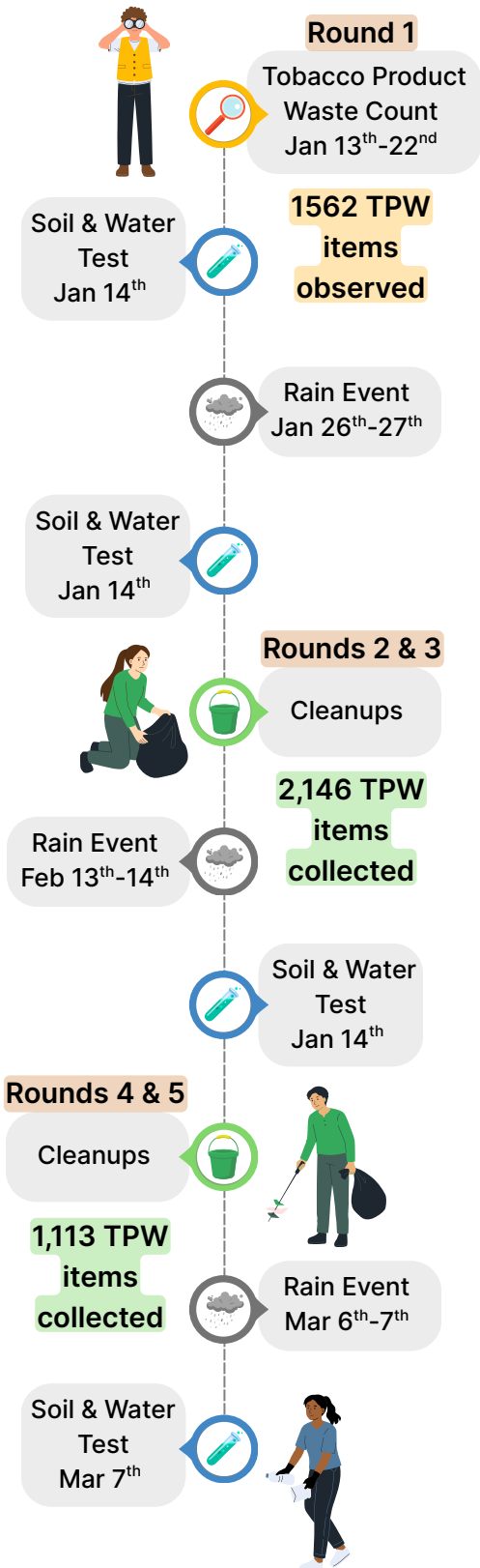




Project Overview

Timeline Overview:



Background

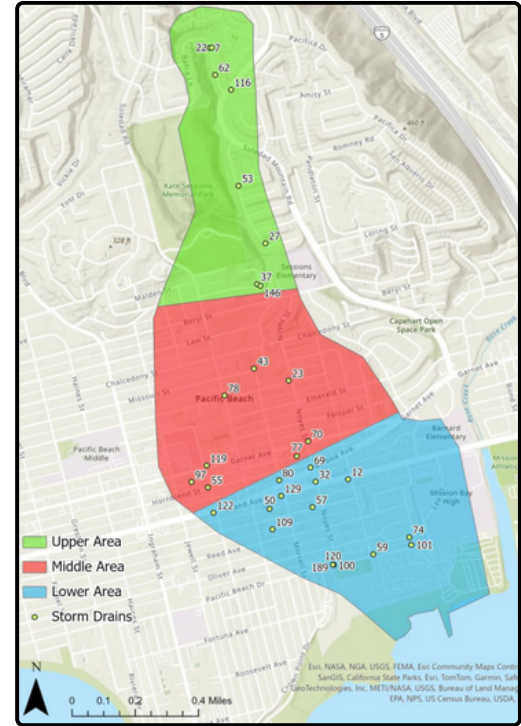
Previous soil and water testing conducted in the wetlands from 2019-2022 revealed nicotine and cotinine. This suggests tobacco pollution from storm drain runoff or from human activity in Mission Bay. Whole tobacco product waste (TPW) items may be swept into storm drains and end up in the wetlands, or leach pollutants into water that flows into storm drains.

Project Goals

The goal was to determine how much TPW is near the stormwater inlets of Pacific Beach that drain into the wetlands, how quickly it reaccumulates, and how rain events and cleanups impact the amount of TPW.

Methods

A random sample of 29 storm drains through which water flows into the Reserve was located on a street map. The surface area of interest was bounded by the middle of the street, the inside edge of the curb, and the two corners of the street where the storm drain was located. In these areas, TPW would be expected to be washed into the drains during rain.



Map of 29 Pacific Beach Storm Drains in the Study Area

TPW was geo-coded, counted, and categorized in the areas of interest to create a baseline count, and baseline water and soil samples were taken in the reserve near drainage outlets. After rain events with more than 1/4 inch of rain, water and soil samples were repeated, and methodical cleanups of TPW in the areas of interest were conducted by researchers and volunteers.

Tobacco Product Waste Collection



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