

Community Service Projects Get Involved for Clean Water!

Storm drains connect our streets with our local waterways. Water that enters the storm drain is not filtered or cleaned in any way—just delivered to the nearest river or lake. This water, called runoff, takes with it many pollutants from our lawns, driveways and streets such as pet waste, grass clippings, fertilizers, pesticides, oil and many more. Surveys reveal that nearly half of adults are not aware of the storm drain connection between streets and waterways. The result is that urban runoff is now the major cause of water pollution.

Waukesha County's Storm Drain Stenciling program provides an opportunity to learn, help the environment and have fun—all at once! Students, classrooms, clubs—even adults can all get involved in storm drain stenciling. Groups paint the message “Dump no Waste, Drains to River” with a fish outline by neighborhood storm drains to help educate residents about the storm drain connection.

Waukesha County Land Resources Division can provide your classroom or group with paint, safety vests, stencils, wire brushes and educational door hangers—all you supply is the manpower! Not only will you learn how pollution enters our local waterways, but you will be taking action to stop the pollution and educate neighbors. The door hangers are printed with simple steps that everyone can take to help reduce runoff pollution—things like washing the car on the grass instead of the driveway, picking up after your pet, and sweeping dirt and grass clippings off the pavement.

To reserve your equipment, simply call Jayne Jenks at 896-8305. So get involved in stenciling storm drains and help spread the clean water message—One Step at a Time!