



Give Water a Hand Storm Drain Stenciling

Take Action and Build Awareness



Partners for Clean Streams (PCS) is committed to making our area streams healthy and safe. One of the ways PCS accomplishes this is through volunteers and community awareness. Storm Drain Stenciling is a program, under our Give Water a Hand, that encourages volunteer groups to educate citizens in how to protect and conserve our waterways by using storm drains correctly. PCS works directly with local jurisdictions to coordinate volunteers who stencil storm drains in neighborhoods and pass out educational flyers to residents.

Ever wonder what a storm drain is? Storm drains transport all runoff from rain, snowmelt or sprinklers directly to our local waterways. Unlike the wastewater from your home, storm water is not treated. When water washes into the drains, pollutants are carried along. Litter, pet waste, dirt, fertilizer, antifreeze and motor oil are just a few examples of contaminants that can enter our waterways through storm drains. Misused, clogged or polluted storm drains or ditches can increase flooding, damage your property and harm our waterway. Most of the misuse of storm drains is done by accident from not knowing that drains lead straight to waterways. Rule of thumb- If you wouldn't drink it, don't pour it down a storm drain!



To help prevent pollution from entering storm drains, groups of volunteers stencil the phrase "Drains are for Rain, Flows to Waterway" by the drain. This reminds residents to protect our drinking water and promote healthy habitats for wildlife by not using the storm drains as a trash receptacle.

We welcome groups to volunteer starting at the end of April through the entire summer to help jurisdictions stencil around neighborhoods. In addition to stenciling, we also pass out flyers to all the residents to inform them of our stenciling. Groups receive free training and equipment and usually stencil prescribed areas for a couple of hours at a time.

To learn more about this project and other volunteer opportunities, call PCS at 419-874- 0727 or visit the PCS website at www.PartnersForCleanStreams.org.



