



Hennepin County Environmental Services

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Adopt a storm drain

Storm drains are directly connected to the nearest body of water. Water running into storm drains can carry with it anything dumped nearby including leaves, grass clippings, soil, oil, paint, chemicals and litter. You can help by adopting your nearby storm drain and keeping it free of leaves, seeds, grass clippings and litter. Keeping storm drains clear will protect the water quality of nearby lakes, streams and rivers. It can also help prevent localized flooding. Follow these easy tips:

- Check storm drain grates frequently to make sure they are free of leaves and debris.
- Do not remove the grate from the storm drain opening - this does not unclog the system and creates a hazard.
- Dispose of litter and other debris with your trash. Dispose of leaves with your yard waste according to your city or waste hauler's instructions.
- Let your neighbors and friends know that keeping storm drains clear will protect water quality and encourage them to adopt their nearby drain.

By taking just a few minutes to clear the drain, you can make a big difference in protecting lakes and streams. For more information on maintaining storm drains and other actions you can take to protect water quality, visit www.hennepin.us/water.

Editor's Note

This sample newsletter article was provided by Hennepin County as a part of coordinated education campaign with the county's watershed organizations. If you have any questions about the campaign, please contact Angie Timmons at 612-348-2477. Published July 2009.