

**Adopt a Storm Drain to Protect our Waters (OR ADD NAME OF LOCAL RECEIVING WATERBODY/BODIES) or Help Make Sure that Only Rain Goes Down the Storm Drain- Adopt-A-Storm Drain**

On windy days, we've all seen trash escape from trash carts to litter neighborhoods (in **ADD MUNI NAME**). Did you know whatever makes it into our storm drains, enters an underground network of pipes that leads to our local waters (**OR NAME RECEIVING WATERBODIES IN MUNICIPALITY**)? This creates a direct connection between our neighborhoods and the lakes, rivers and streams we enjoy for boating, fishing, swimming, and scenic enjoyment. Trash, leaves, grass clippings, and other debris that wash down our storm drains all contribute to algae blooms, oil sheens, and other pollution in our waters.

Do you have a storm drain near your home that tends to collect trash and other debris? Consider adopting a local storm drain and commit to keeping it clean. It's easy! Inspect your drain at least once a month, preferably before it rains, and remove any litter, leaves, dirt, or debris that can clog or wash down the drain. This is a great opportunity to teach children about environmental stewardship and instill the value of community service. The Richards Family shared, ""For a family that loves the outdoors (especially our lakes!!), Adopt-a-Storm Drain is the perfect opportunity for our family to clean up the outdoors while we go on walks and talk about our day! And it gives the kids a little sense of accomplishment along the way."

When you adopt a storm drain, you'll receive a kit with cleaning tools and a decal to adhere on your storm drain letting neighbors know the storm drain has been adopted. After each cleaning, we ask that you report your efforts online so we can keep track of how much pollution we've prevented from reaching our waterways!

To get started, visit: <https://ripple-effects.com/Adopt-A-Storm-Drain>. Small actions can make a BIG difference when it comes to protecting our waters.