

What is a storm drain?

Storm drains are the grated openings in the street that collect water from rain and melting snow to minimize street flooding. As stormwater flows along streets, it collects trash, leaves, grass clippings, pet waste, car fuels and other pollutants into storm drains. Pesticides, paints, antifreeze, and used motor oil can end up

in the storm drains when people dispose of them improperly. This is an illicit discharge and is against city ordinances.



What is the problem?

Have you ever wondered where water goes after it 'disappears' into a storm drain? Stormwater in Fargo-Moorhead is not treated at a wastewater plant, but is discharged directly into the Red River through outfall pipes. Runoff carries contaminant and debris picked up along the way, polluting our surface and groundwater which are often drinking water sources.



What can you do?

Volunteer to mark storm drains to teach others about stormwater!

Prevent pollution by keeping contaminants out of storm drains. Follow the NO DUMPING DRAINS TO RIVER message and do your part to help protect our water!



To sign up YOUR volunteer group to mark storm drains, contact:

R I V E R (701) 235-2895
christine@riverkeepers.org
325 7th St. S., Ste. 201
Fargo, ND 58103



For more information:

www.riverkeepers.org
www.cityoffargo.com
www.cityofmoorhead.com

**Thank you for helping
protect the
Red River Valley's
drinking water supply!**

Storm Drain Marking Program



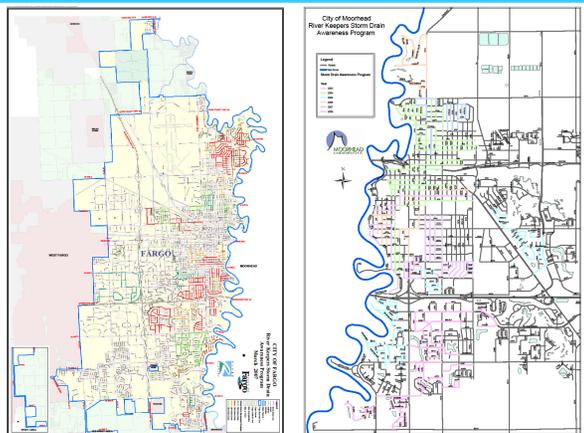
**Protecting the Red River by linking
human actions to pollution problems.**

Sponsors:



Preparation:

1. Discuss the storm drain marking program with your youth group, school class, civic organization, family, neighborhood group or friends. It is recommended that participants be at least 10 years old.
2. Select a date for marking. The pavement must be dry.
3. Decide on time of day and length of time available to do the project. Two hours is the recommended length.
4. Decide on a neighborhood to mark and a location to meet.
5. Figure out the number of participants.
6. Recruit supervisors. One supervisor is recommended for every 4 - 8 youth volunteers depending on the age.
7. Plan a back up date in case of rain.
8. Contact River Keepers to set up project which includes supplies and training.



The Cities of Fargo and Moorhead report the number of marked drains, volunteers and volunteer hours to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Day of Project:

Put on safety vests.

Break into groups - two people to mark the curb, two people to distribute door hangers.

Curb Marking Team

1. Decide where to put the marker.

* Surface must be flat, dry, and make contact with the whole marker.



* The preferred placement is on the face of the curb.



* The second option is on top of the curb.



* If the curb is not possible, the street right next to the curb and storm drain is the last option.

2. Sweep the area where the marker will be placed so it is free of any loose debris.
3. Peel backing paper off one side of the adhesive disk.

Curb Marking Team Continued:

4. Apply adhesive disk to cleaned area.
5. Remove backing paper once adhesive disk is in place.
6. Place storm drain marker on top of the adhesive disk. It is important that the entire edge of the marker is sealed to the curb.
7. Step or place pressure on the storm drain marker to make sure the adhesive sticks.

Door hanger Team

- Walk on sidewalks, stay off of the grass.
- Do NOT put door hangers in mailboxes.
- Place door hanger on the door that looks most used. Do NOT open the door.
- Do NOT leave a door hanger if it will blow away.

POTENTIAL PROBLEM	SOLUTION
<p>MOTOR OIL Motor oil is harmful. From Minnesota and North Dakota households, 1 quart of motor oil can contaminate 200,000 gallons of water more than 30 people drink in a lifetime. It can also damage the environment through wildlife and aquatic recreational harm.</p>	<p>Don't use oil in a sealed labeled container (do not mix with other products and use a seal that can't be broken). Used oil can also be brought to other Fargo or Moorhead locations. Recycled Hazardous Waste (RHM) Facility.</p>
<p>ANTIFREEZE Antifreeze is toxic. Because it comes, never, it is hazardous to small children, pets. Used antifreeze also can cause injury to wildlife from ingestion, such as lead and benzene that cause environmental harm.</p>	<p>If your household is connected to a municipal sewer system, you can flush used antifreeze down the toilet. Never flush if you have septic system or pour it down a storm drain.</p>
<p>YARD WASTE Yard wastes such as grass clippings and leaves are not suitable to be taken to the landfill. Yard waste also can harm trees, landscaping, and cause health problems.</p>	<p>Yardwaste cannot be disposed of in local landfills. Compost yard waste at home, have piles rotting in your lawn (mulching) or contact the City of Moorhead, Compost Site (218-209-4845) (www.riverkeepers.org) or take to one of Fargo's composting drop-off locations. (www.cityofmoo.com/yardwaste)</p>
<p>DISCART Don't use for discarding asbestos and asbestos in contact with spring melting water into them, causing problems for fish, wildlife and vegetation. Some oil-based paints can also cause damage to ecosystems.</p>	<p>Shovel waste and asbestos properly before reuse in contained bins. Use steel, gal, or rubber (resistant to acids) instead of plastic. Use it often. If you use ash, use it sparingly.</p>
<p>PAINT Many paint products can harm people, wildlife and the environment when burned, not disposed of properly. Some oil-based paints can harm trees, shrubs and hazardous vapors.</p>	<p>Don't use good used paint to neighbors or community groups, or households may bring back or oil based paints to the City of Fargo or City of Fargo's RHM facilities during their hours of operation. (April thru October)</p>
<p>LAWN CHEMICALS Insecticides and herbicides used by runoff from lawns and gardens to storm drains can kill or damage the health of reproduction of aquatic plants, insects or fish. Herbicides in fertilizer can cause algae blooms and plant growth that make the water unsuitable for recreation and reduce oxygen levels.</p>	<p>Get a soil test before applying herbicides or insecticides. Use the appropriate amount. Minimize runoff. Sweep up spills. Never spread chemicals across driveways or streets. Sweep up spills. Check water chemistry before a rain. Use Phosphorus free fertilizer.</p>

Follow-Up:

- Indicate streets marked on maps provided.
- Document how many volunteers participated and how many hours were volunteered.
- Return maps and extra storm drain marking supplies.
- Congratulate yourselves.....you deserve it!