



# Why does it matter?

“Why Adopt a Drain?”

“Why organize a neighborhood clean-up?”



## **Build community & make new friends!**

A neighborhood clean-up is a great way to get to know your neighbors.



## **Keep your neighborhood looking spiffy.**

Picking up litter and debris from streets and sidewalks is a simple way to keep your neighborhood looking nice. And, studies show that cleaner neighborhoods have less crime.



**Prevent flooding.** Keep your storm drains clear so that streets don't flood when it rains.



## **Protect your local lakes and rivers.**

Rain washes anything that's on sidewalks, streets and driveways into storm drains that connect to lakes and rivers. Help keep our waterways safe and clean for fishing and swimming by sweeping up litter, leaves and grass clippings throughout the year.



**Fresh air and exercise!** Bend, reach and take a breath of fresh air. Cleaning up your neighborhood gets you outside for your daily dose of Vitamin D and physical activity. It'll do you, your neighborhood, and your local lake good!

# Getting started

Thanks for doing this!

Your neighbors and  
your local lakes and  
rivers thank you.



cleanwatermn.org

## How to make your neighborhood cleanup happen!

1.

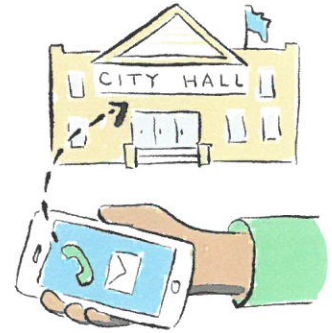
**Choose a date and time** at least month in advance.



2.

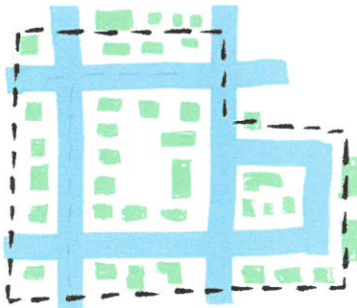
**Contact your community or city** maintenance

office. Your city public works department or city offices can help you with maps and compost site hours.



3.

**Identify the geographic area** you plan to tackle (so you know who to invite).



4.

**Invite community members** to participate (use the door hangers and/ social media tools provided here).



5.

**Prepare for clean-up day.** (see checklist)



6.

**Host the clean-up.** (see checklist)



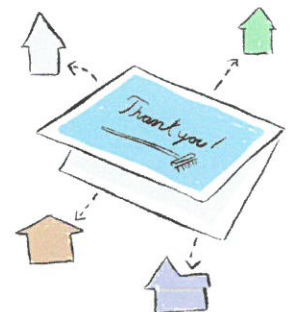
7.

**Report the estimated amount of debris** collected during the clean-up on Cleanwatermn.org.



8.

**Send thank you cards** to participants, including the estimated amount of trash collected during the event, and inviting them to sign up for the Adopt-a-Drain program. (Card template provided.)





## Clean up day Checklist

- ☐ 1. **Have fun!**
- ☐ 2. **Ensure you have support vehicles** to transport debris, and all the rakes, shovels, brooms, bags and gloves you'll need.
- ☐ 3. **Make sure you have the equipment you need:** yard waste bags (35 gallons or larger), brooms, rakes, shovels, and gloves.
- ☐ 4. **Empty Bags:** Most compost sites require you to empty the bags and take the empty bags for appropriate disposal, recycling or reuse.
- ☐ 5. **Welcome volunteers:** Have an area and a person designated to welcome, check in volunteers, and give them nametags (included in this kit.) You could provide coffee and snacks. A local bakery or coffee shop may be willing to donate coffee and/or pastries, or one of the volunteers may be willing to bring snacks and beverages.
- ☐ 6. **Recorder:** Enlist one volunteer to count and record the number of bags delivered by clean-up volunteers.
- ☐ 7. **Make a few opening remarks:** When volunteers have gathered, thank everyone and briefly talk about the connection between clean streets and clean lakes and rivers. Talking points provided.

## Post-event Checklist

- ☐ 1. **Bring collected debris to a compost facility.** Most compost sites require you to empty the bags and take them away for appropriate disposal: recycling or reuse.
- ☐ 2. **Report the estimated amount** of debris collected during the cleanup to Clean Water MN using the postcard in this kit. You can also email this information to: [cleanwatermn@hamline.edu](mailto:cleanwatermn@hamline.edu).
- ☐ 3. **Send a thank you** to participants, telling them how much trash was collected during the event, and inviting them to sign up for the Adopt-a-Drain program. (Cards included.)

