How Can I get Involved?

Follow these steps to plan a stenciling outing:

1. Choose a date and location for your outing.

2. Call The Conservation Foundation at 630-428-4500 x 11 to 1) get a name to contact in the municipality where you plan to stencil, 2) schedule a date and time to stencil and 3) pick up stencils, paint, log sheet, door hangers, and brochures from The Conservation Foundation office.

3. Contact your municipality and make them aware of your planned stenciling outing. They will provide safety vests and/or cones for your outing to ensure the safety of your group. Some municipalities may also be able to provide you with storm drain maps.

4. Assemble the supplies you are responsible for:
   - Old clothes and shoes to wear.
   - Whisk broom and/or wire brush to clean the surface to be stenciled.
   - Sheet of cardboard (broken down box) to guard against drifting paint.
   - Old rags and bags for cleaning up materials.

5. As you are stenciling, talk with neighbors about the program and the need to reduce "nonpoint source pollution." Place the door hangers supplied by The Conservation Foundation.

6. Return unused stencil paint, door hangers and completed log sheet to The Conservation Foundation.

November 2004

Other Conservation Foundation Programs

Storm Drin Stenciling is just one of many activities sponsored by The Conservation Foundation. Other activities include:

DuPage River Sweep:
River Sweep is held every year on the first Saturday in June in coordination with Illinois Rivers Month Since 1991 this clean up of DuPage rivers and streams has involved an average of 600 volunteers removing 10 tons of trash per year.

DuPage River C.A.R.E.:
DuPage River C.A.R.E. is a volunteer river monitoring program to collect concentrated data on the water quality in the DuPage River watershed. Volunteers are trained in macroinvertebrate identification and monitoring techniques and monitor water quality at sites on the DuPage County rivers and tributaries. Informational seminars and occasional meetings during the year are designed to increase the knowledge base of volunteers.

Conservation @ Home Program:
The DuPage River Coalition is working to promote responsible stewardship of the land along our streams. Conservation @ Home is offered through The Conservation Foundation and helps property owners protect and create yards that are environmentally friendly. Conservation @ Home also recognizes homeowners who meet the criteria with a certificate of achievement in the form of a sign to proudly post in their yard.

For more information on these programs visit The Conservation Foundation website at www.theconservationfoundation.org.

THE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Storm Drain Stenciling

DUMP NO WASTE

DRAINS TO RIVER

Helping to clean up rivers one storm drain at a time!

10S404 Knoch Knolls Road
Naperville, IL 60565
630-428-4500
www.theconservationfoundation.org

Why is Storm Drain Stenciling Important?

Many people think that water pollution is mostly caused by big business or large government facilities-places with pipes leading into the river. These are known as "point source" polluters. However, in recent years these sources have greatly reduced their negative impact on water quality. As a result, **storm water run-off is now one of the leading causes of surface water pollution in DuPage County** (according to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency).

In comparison to big facilities with identifiable pipes ("point source" polluters), **run-off is a "nonpoint" source of pollution**. That is, the ultimate source of the pollution cannot be identified. These pollutants are used on lawns, left on driveways and roads, and allowed to go down gutters into storm drains. **Pollutants that come from "nonpoint" sources include**:

- Street litter, pet wastes and other debris
- Fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, yard waste and other lawn care residues
- Motor oil, gasoline, transmission fluid, anti-freeze and other substances that leak from cars onto driveways and parking lots

Allowing these materials to go into a storm drain is the same as going up to a stream bank and dumping them in. This is because there is no treatment facility between storm drains and the river. Storm Drain Stenciling helps inform people about this. If people were more aware of the water drainage system, they would most likely be more careful about what they allow to go down the storm drains.

Supporting Municipalities in DuPage County

Storm Drain Stenciling has been in DuPage County since 1992. However, stencils wear off and have to be re-stenciled regularly. Therefore, this is an ongoing program.

Approvals from the following municipalities have been confirmed by The Conservation Foundation. If your municipality is not listed, we will be happy to work with you to get approval in your area.

- Addison
- Bartlett *
- Bloomingdale *
- Bolingbrook *
- Carol Stream
- Downers Grove *
- Elmhurst *
- Glen Ellyn *
- Glendale Heights
- Hanover Park
- Itasca *
- Lombard *
- Naperville *
- Roselle *
- Villa Park
- Warrenville
- West Chicago *
- Westmont
- Wheaton
- Winfield *

* Door hanger approved

Funding provided in part by the DuPage County Department of Development and Environmental Concerns and DuPage Community Foundation.

Who Can Participate?

- **Families:** Storm Drain Stenciling is a great family outing that teaches community involvement and helps the natural environment.
- **Homeowner Associations:** Stenciling the storm drains in your subdivision can help protect the nearby rivers and ponds that you and your neighbors enjoy.
- **School Groups:** Classes can stencil the storm drains near their school as part of a water cycle unit.
- **Scouting Groups:** Boy and Girl Scouts can do Storm Drain stenciling with their troop as a service project.
- **Service Organizations:** Storm Drain Stenciling is great for Kiwanis, Rotary, Garden, Women's, Men's and other adult clubs looking for community service projects.

Available Stencil Messages

"DUMP NO WASTE - DRAINS TO RIVER"
Many storm drains take stormwater run-off directly to nearby rivers and tributaries without passing through a treatment facility. The water picks up various pollutants which can negatively impact the plants, wildlife, and water quality of the river. Also available in Spanish.

"DUMP NO WASTE - DRAINS TO LAKE"
Some storm drains first take stormwater run-off to retention ponds near schools and subdivisions before going directly into the river. These ponds are often human-made for recreation and stormwater management. However, they still serve as habitat for plants and wildlife which are susceptible to pollution.