

Adopt-a-Drain Program for K-12 Teachers



Center for
Global
Environmental
Education
HAMLINE UNIVERSITY

Presented by Kris Bennett and Adopt-a-Drain partners

Clean Water Begins at Your Curb

We protect our water

Sweep up! Rake up! Pick up!

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

This button is interactive!
Click to watch.

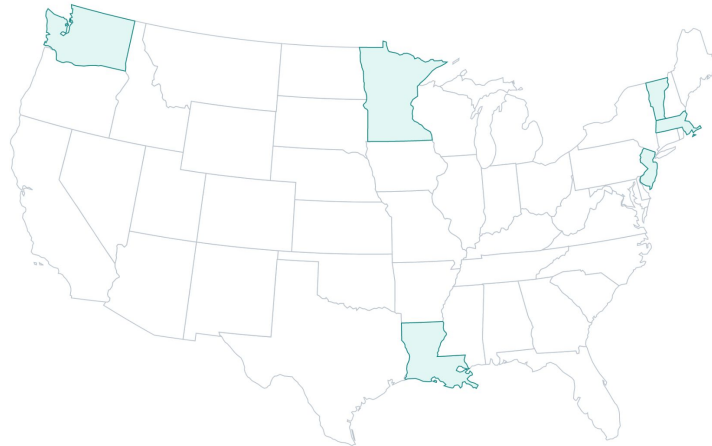


Minnesota Is the Premiere Adopt-a-Drain State

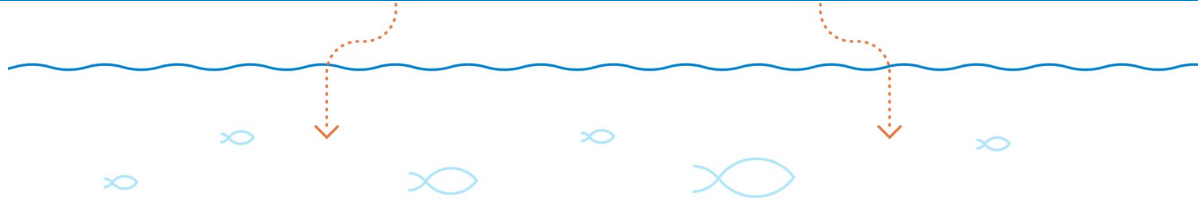


We protect our water

Sweep up! Rake up! Pick up!



Any Minnesota Resident Can Adopt a Storm Drain



We're making a difference! Join us!



*Report your work so we can better track our impact!

How to Adopt a Storm Drain

Volunteer fifteen minutes, twice a month, for cleaner waterways and healthier communities. Storm drains flow directly to local lakes, rivers, and wetlands, acting as a conduit for trash and organic pollutants. Adopt-a-Drain asks residents to adopt a storm drain in their neighborhood and keep it clear of leaves, trash, and other debris to reduce water pollution.



Sign up

Sign up online to adopt a drain in your neighborhood.



Keep your drain clear

Sweep leaves, trash and other debris off the drain surface year round.



Track your impact

Keep an estimated total of the debris you collect and enter it into your online account so we can gauge the cumulative results of our work.



Lead by example

Let friends and neighbors know about your commitment and, if they ask, tell them about small things they can do at home to prevent water pollution.

How to Prevent Runoff Pollution

Four tips for everyday pollution prevention

Rain and melting snow wash anything that's on streets and other paved surfaces down storm drains and into lakes, rivers, and wetlands.



Trash clogs drains and pipes causing flooding. Put it in the garbage.



Leaves, grass, and dirt contain phosphorus, which feeds the algae that turn lakes green. Keep them off streets and sidewalks.



Dog poop carries harmful bacteria and phosphorus. Pick up after your pet!

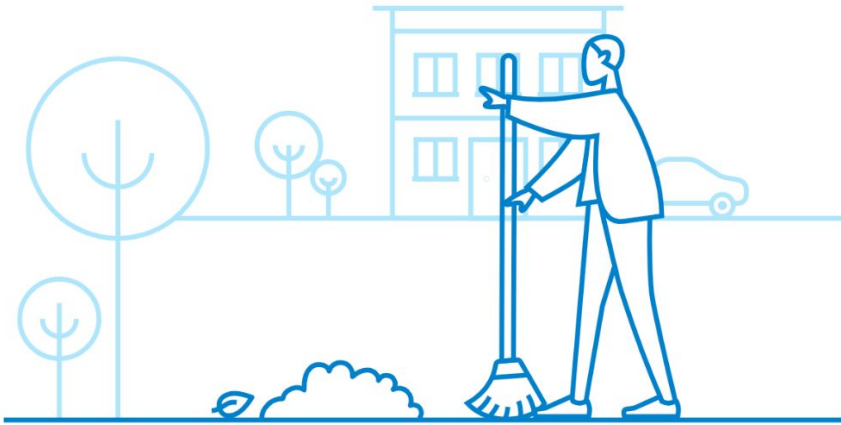


Salt is harmful to waterways and aquatic life. Just one teaspoon pollutes five gallons of water forever. Sweep up leftover salt and reuse it.

Drain Cleaning Tips

Not just the drains

While the program asks you to adopt a drain, clearing debris from streets and sidewalks is helpful, since anything on pavement can wash into storm drains when it rains.



Drain Cleaning Tips

Separate and dispose of debris

Separate debris into three categories and place in appropriate receptacles: trash, recyclables, and compostables.

Spring sediment is not compostable as it contains chemicals from deicers used over the winter. Put it in the trash.

If there is A LOT of sediment near your drain, notify city staff, as this may be an indicator of a bigger problem.



Storm Drain Cleaning Examples



Not just the drains

Clear debris from streets and sidewalks to keep it from washing into storm drains when it rains.



Helpful tools for cleaning

You'll need a broom or a rake, dustpan, gloves, and a pail to clean a storm drain.



Safety first

Make sure you're visible. Stay off busy streets and consider wearing a reflective vest.



Separate and dispose of waste

Dispose of waste properly by separating it into trash, recyclables, and compostables.

Adopt-a-Drain in Schools

ADOPT
A STORM
DRAIN



Adopt-a-Drain in Schools

Questions

What do you already know about School and Educator participation in Adopt-a-Drain?

What have you noticed regarding School and Educator possibilities?

What do you wonder?



Collective Impact



Minneapolis, Minnesota

In the Spring of 2021, the City of Minneapolis led the way with the K-12 Adopt-a-Drain Program and paid for teacher training and classroom materials to support any teacher and classroom in the city.

By Spring 2023, participants include more than:

- 4000 students
- 177 classrooms
- 28 schools

Collective Impact



St Paul, Minnesota

In the Spring of 2022, Capitol Region Watershed District began the K-12 Adopt-a-Drain Program in a focus area of St Paul.

By Spring 2023, participants include more than:

- 1300 students
- 55 classrooms
- 14 schools

Collective Impact



Still Growing!

In Spring 2023 we added Edina, Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and Hennepin County as our funding partners!

We can't wait to see what happens next.

Collective Impact



So far, reported with new online tracking:

- Over 150 drains at schools
- Over 40 drains at home

So far, reported by survey:

- Over 200 drains maintained at schools
- Over 150 drains at home

K-12 Program Flexibility

How many drains should we adopt?

As many as you want!

Does it matter exactly where the drain is located?

Nope! Focus on cleaning drains that are safe and on quiet streets. But adopt whichever drain is available to adopt.

Can I only clean around my own drains?

Nope! You can clean anywhere you find debris. Then report it back to the drain you adopted. We want data but the data is all thrown together. Clean anywhere you can.

How often should we clean the drains?

Do what works for you. Maybe this is once a year. Maybe this is once a week. We thank you for doing what you can.

How accurate does reporting online need to be?

Estimate, estimate, estimate. We would rather have a general sense of your amounts than have you worry about details and then not report anything.

Can students adopt drains at home? Yes! Please share with families!

K-12 Program Flexibility

We adopted a
storm drain!

Sweep up! Rake up! Pick up!



Reasons Educators Participate

Citizen Science that includes collecting and sharing data

Service-Learning that helps prevent the top four pollutants from entering our waterways

Walking Field Trips in the school neighborhood!

Scientific Inquiry and Engineering Practice

Online Science Content

Opportunity to connect students and families to their local waterways

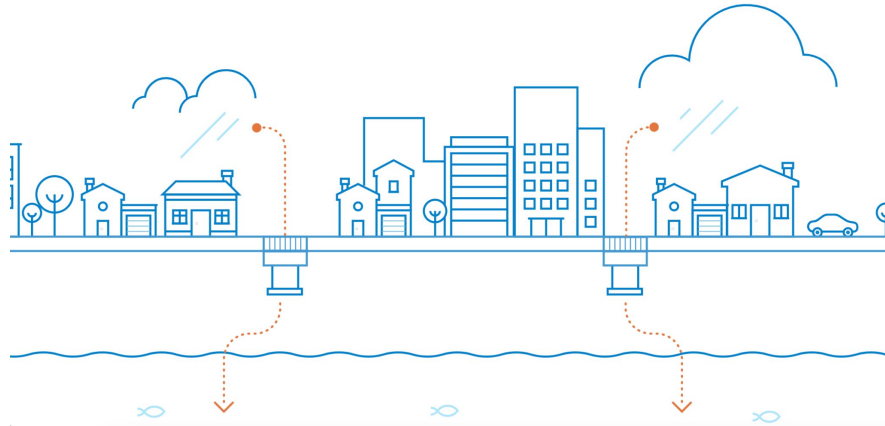
Steps to Get Started



We protect our water

Sweep up! Rake up! Pick up!

[Adopt a Drain](#)

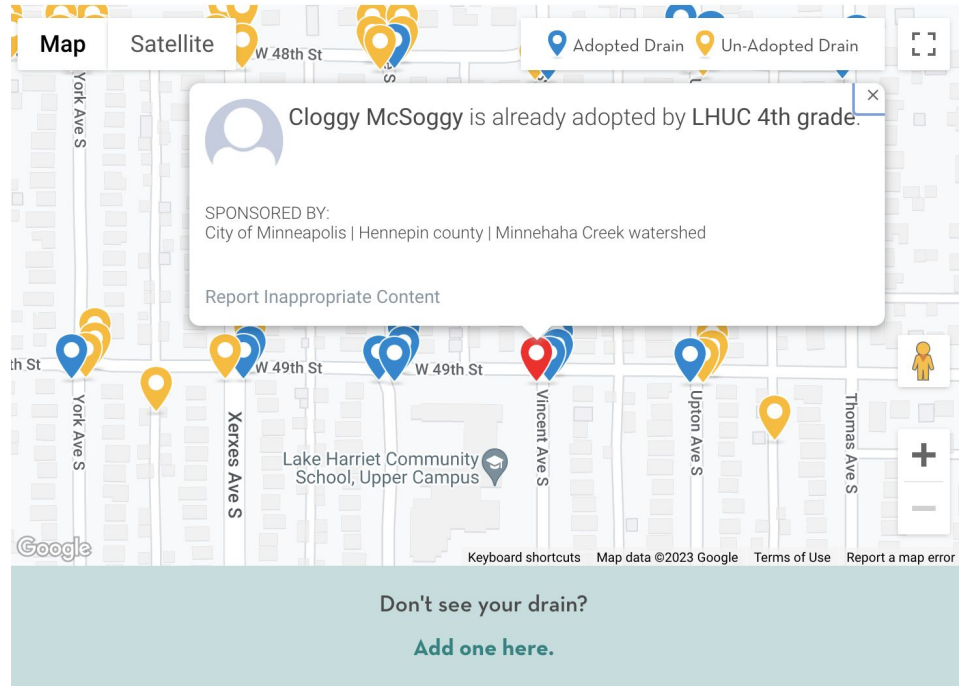


#1. Adopt Your Storm Drain Online

Visit adopt-a-drain.org to find a drain to adopt.

You'll be able to see which drains have already been adopted and what people have named them.

Then explore your neighborhood on a walking field trip and "visit" all the drains you can find!

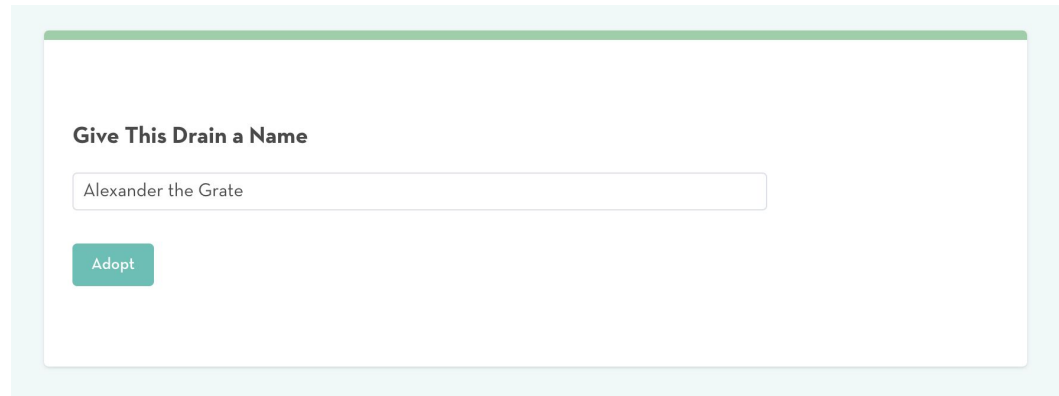


#2. Name Your Drain

Naming drains creates a sense of ownership and shared responsibility by your students for your local storm drains. Plus it's fun! Choose something snazzy and change it as often as you'd like to keep students engaged.

Drain name examples:

- Drainy McDrain Face
- Slurpee
- Cloggy McLakeMaker
- Jewel
- Bobsicle
- Drain the Block Johnson
- Purple Drain
- Ger-rain-ium Drain-ium
- Gulpy
- Drainakin Skywalker



The image shows a screenshot of a web interface for naming a drain. It features a title "Give This Drain a Name" above a text input field. The input field contains the text "Alexander the Grate". Below the input field is a teal button labeled "Adopt". The entire form is enclosed in a light green border.

#3. Select “School or Classroom” on Your Profile

This important step helps us see how many drains are adopted by schools.

Private Information

(Private) Name*

Your real name. This information won't be shared with other users.

Type*

- Individual
- ✓ School or Classroom
- Business
- Community Organization

Address 1*

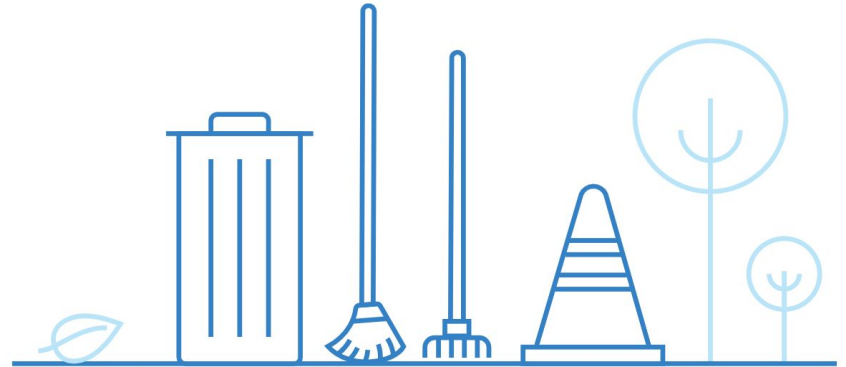
Address 2

#4. Clean Up and Collect Data

Ask students to collect data as they clear debris from neighborhoods and storm drains.

Ask:

- What did you collect? *type of debris*
- How much did you pick up? *lbs or gallons*
- How long did it take? *minutes*



#5. Record Data Online

Contribute to real citizen science and report your work so we can better track our impact!

594,607 lbs*
debris collected

20,318
drains adopted

11,230
adopters

Describe what you collected from your drain area:

Just pick the closest description, don't worry if it's not exact!

- It was mostly this:
- Brown leaves and/or sticks and twigs
 - Grass and/or green leaves
 - Sediment/dirt
 - Trash
 - Salt
 - Snow and/or ice
 - Pet waste
 - There was no debris
- With some of this (optional):
- Brown leaves and/or sticks and twigs
 - Grass and/or green leaves
 - Sediment/dirt
 - Trash
 - Salt
 - Snow and/or ice
 - Pet waste
 - There was no debris

How much did you pick up?

We're just looking for a rough estimate. Don't sweat it.

Amount gallons

How long did it take?

Time minutes

Add Cleaning

#6. Reward Students

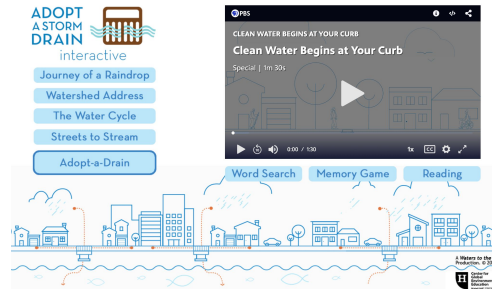
Reward students for:

- Protecting local waterways
- Collecting and recording citizen science data
- Participating in service-learning
- Taking place-based action in their school communities and neighborhoods
- Spreading the word to friends and families



#7. Use Online K-12 Resources

Discover engaging and interactive water videos and modules at cgee.hamline.edu



#8. Share Stories

Email your inspiring classroom stories and photos to us at k12@adopt-a-drain.org



#9. Get Families Involved

Encourage families to adopt drains at home! Families can tell us online that a teacher encouraged them to join. Students love sharing their adventures at home with teachers and students in class.

What led you to sign up for the Adopt-a-Drain program

Select one

Refer-a-Friend Program

Did a current adopter refer me

- Friend, family or neighbor
- Family's teacher or school**
- Door hanger or flyer
- Yard sign



Available Teacher Support Materials

Watersheds, cities, and other entities are funding teacher support materials in this effort. See our new website to learn more about program costs:

<https://ms4.adopt-a-drain.org/educators>



Available Teacher Support Materials

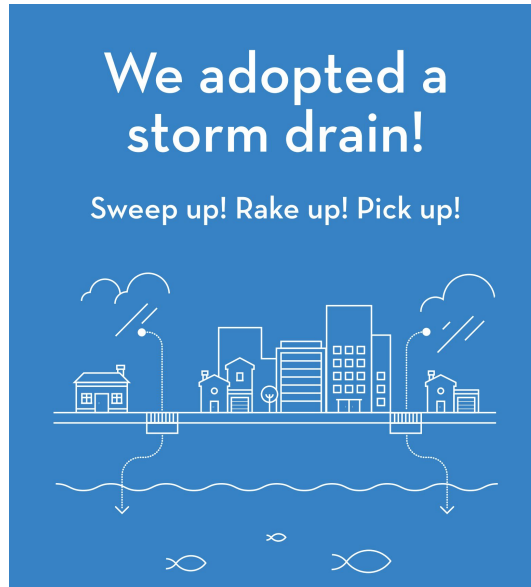
Hat and Water Bottle

Use while out clearing storm drains!



Poster

To hang in the classroom



Drawstring Bag

To carry materials



Available Teacher Support Materials

5 Gallon Bucket

To store materials or use while out clearing storm drains!



Available Teacher Support Materials

New Teacher Guide!

Citizen science and service learning program

Adopt-a-Drain K-12 helps educators teach students to adopt storm drains and keep them clear of leaves, trash, and debris to reduce water pollution. Students participate in community action and encourage families to protect waterways in their own neighborhoods.

Teacher Guide Everything you need to know

ADOPT
A STORM
DRAIN
K-12



Teach students to protect local waterways

adopt-a-drain.org

Follow these steps to get started:



#1. Adopt your storm drain online. Visit adopt-a-drain.org to find a drain to adopt. You'll be able to see which drains have already been adopted and what people have named them.



#2. Name your drain. Choose something fun and snazzy so that students feel ownership of their drain. It is REALLY fun for students to name their own drain!



#3. Select "School or Classroom" as the "Type of Organization." This important step helps us see how many drains are adopted by schools.



#4. Clean up and collect data. Distribute "Track Your Impact" cards for students to collect data as they clear debris from neighborhoods and storm drains.



#5. Record data online. Enter data from "Track Your Impact" cards in your account at adopt-a-drain.org.



#6. Reward students. Share Adopt-a-Drain stickers, pencils, and tattoos with students to celebrate a job well done!



#7. Use online k-12 classroom resources. Discover engaging and interactive water videos and modules at cgee.hamline.edu.



#8. Share your stories. Email your inspiring classroom stories and photos to us at k12@adopt-a-drain.org.



#9. Get families involved. Send the "Safety Tips" brochure home with students to encourage families to adopt drains at home. Families can tell us online that a teacher encouraged them to join.



Available Teacher Support Materials

Data Collection Cards

Collect Data

Date: _____

Drain Name: _____

What did you collect from your drain?
Just pick the closest description. Don't worry if it's not exact!

It was mostly this: Brown leaves
 Grass/green leaves
 Sediment/dirt
 Trash
 Salt

With some of this: Brown leaves
 Grass/green leaves
 Sediment/dirt
 Trash
 Salt

How much did you pick up?
We're just looking for a rough estimate. Don't sweat it.

Amount: _____ pounds/gallons (circle one)

How long did it take?

Time: _____ hours/minutes (circle one)

Sweep up! Rake up! Pick up!

Protect local waterways

Keep these pollutants out of streets and storm drains.



Leaves, grass, and dirt contain phosphorus, which feeds the algae that turn lakes green. Keep them off streets and sidewalks.



Salt is harmful to waterways and aquatic life. Just one teaspoon pollutes five gallons of water forever. Sweep up leftover salt and reuse it.



Trash clogs drains and pipes, causing flooding. Put it in the garbage.



Dog poop carries harmful bacteria and phosphorus. Pick up after your pet!

Be a hero in your community



Track Your Impact

Keep your neighborhood clean and protect local lakes and streams.

Your Name(s): _____



adopt-a-drain.org

Sign Up & Safety Tips

Sweep up! Rake up! Pick up!

Rain and melting snow wash anything that's on streets and other paved surfaces down storm drains and into lakes, rivers, and wetlands.

Sign up to Adopt a Storm Drain!




Sign up online. Individuals, community groups, and schools can sign up to adopt a storm drain at adopt-a-drain.org.

Keep your storm drain clear. Use a broom or rake to sweep leaves, trash, and other debris off the drain surface as often as you are able.



Collect data. Enter the amount of debris you collect into your online account so we can track results.



Lead by example. Keep an eye on your drain and tell others how they can help prevent water pollution too.





Help us track our impact. Report your work at adopt-a-drain.org.

Tips for Getting Started


Available Teacher Support Materials

Sign Up Cards for Families

Language translation Spanish, Somali, and Hmong


¡Inscríbese ahora para
**Adoptar un
Desagüe Pluvial!**

Sign up to Adopt a Storm Drain!







Mantenga limpio su vecindario y proteja las
vías fluviales locales. **¡Inscríbese hoy!**

Keep your neighborhood clean and protect local waterways. Sign up!

**ADOPT
A STORM
DRAIN**  adopt-a-drain.org


¡Únase a los vecinos
para proteger las vías
fluviales locales!

Join with neighbors to protect local waterways.

-  **Regístrese en línea.** Pueden participar personas, organizaciones comunitarias y empresas. Visite adopt-a-drain.org para incorporar un drenaje pluvial en su vecindario.
-  **Mantenga su desagüe pluvial despejado.** Utilice una escoba o un rastrillo para barrer las hojas, la basura y otros desechos de la superficie del drenaje durante todo el año.
-  **Realice un seguimiento de su impacto.** Ingrese el total estimado de los desechos que recolecta en su cuenta en línea para que podamos rastrear los resultados.
-  **Predique con el ejemplo.** Comparta y dialogue acerca de su compromiso con los demás. Dígalos cómo pueden ayudar a prevenir la contaminación del agua.

¡Borra! ¡Remueva! ¡Recoja!

Sweep up! Pick up! Pick up!

**ADOPT
A STORM
DRAIN** 

Un proyecto de la Universidad de Hamline.
A project of Hamline University.

Stickers, Tattoos, and Pencils



Available Teacher Support

Newsletter for Adopt-a-Drain K-12 Teachers full of stories, tips, and tricks! Check your inbox...



Available Teacher Support

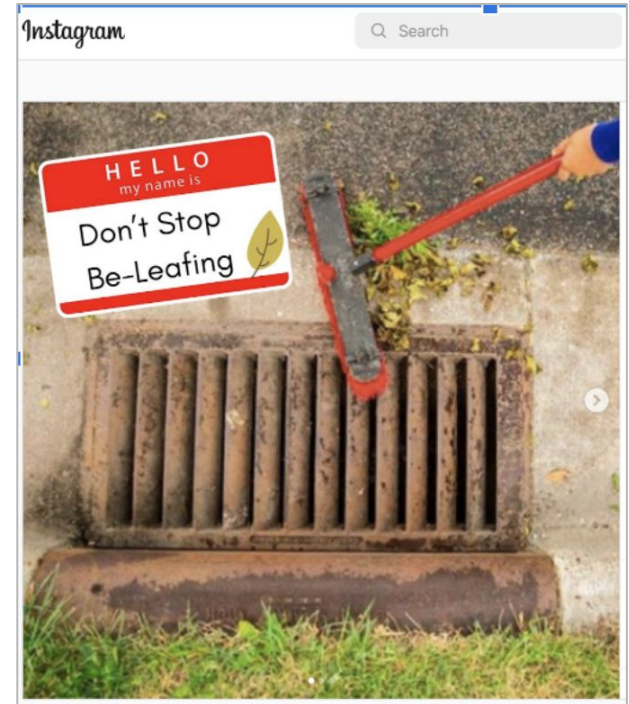
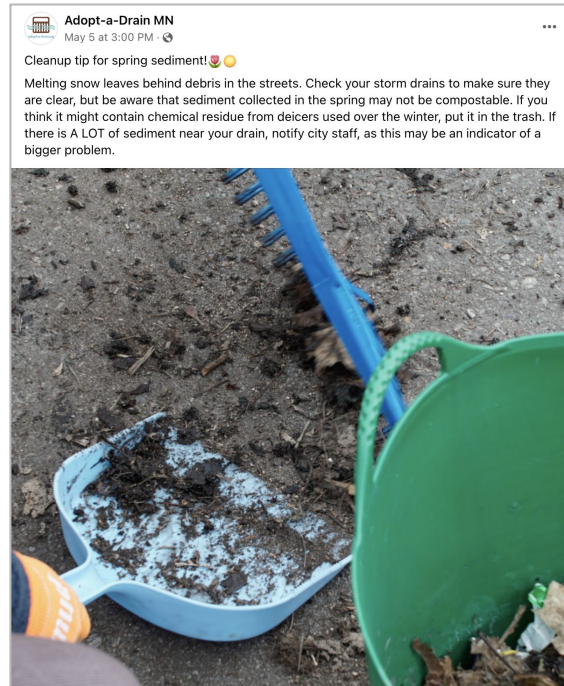
Priority invitations to [Professional Development Rivers Institutes](#)

Priority invitations to [Waters to the Sea](#) webinars

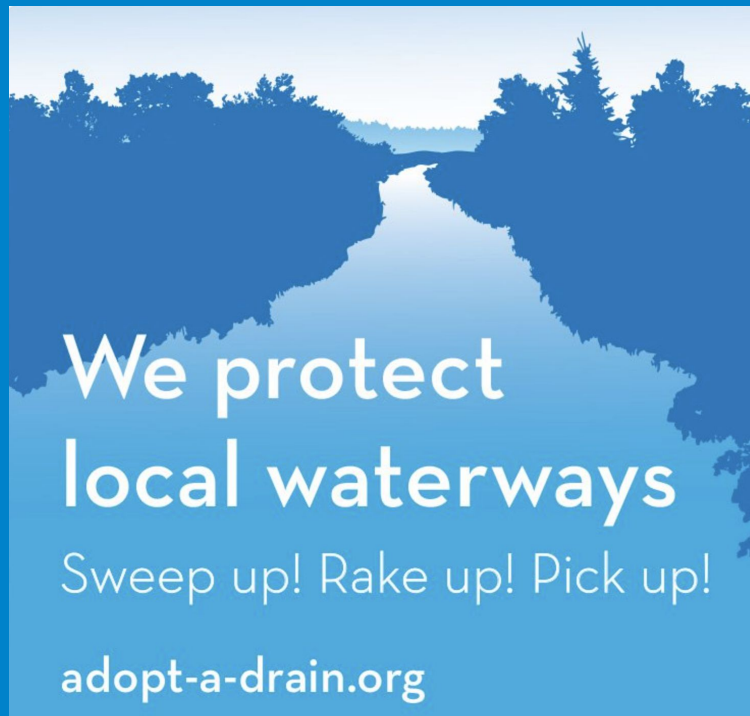


Available Teacher Support

Follow Adopt-a-Drain on Facebook and Instagram for weekly news to share with students.



Thank You!



**We protect
local waterways**

Sweep up! Rake up! Pick up!

adopt-a-drain.org