

## 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, motor oil, and other chemicals 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 or Sheyenne River through outfall pipes. Runoff carries contaminants 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.
- Sign up your volunteer group to mark storm drains by contacting River Keepers



## CONTACT US

River Keepers  
kimberly@riverkeepers.org  
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riverkeepers.org  
1120 28th Ave. N., Ste. B  
Fargo, ND 58102

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

riverkeepers.org  
fargond.gov  
cityofmoorhead.com  
westfargond.gov



A volunteer program to protect the Red River by linking human actions to pollution problems.



## 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 and the weather must be above 50 degrees
3. Choose a time of day and length of time available to do the project. Two hours is the recommended length.
4. Select 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 an alternative date in case of rain.
8. Contact River Keepers to set up the project, which includes supplies and training.

## DAY OF PROJECT

Review the following instructions with participants or scan the QR Code to watch a training video (available on our YouTube channel).



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 top of the curb.



- The second option is on the face of the curb.
- If the curb is not possible, the street right next to the curb and storm drain is the last option.



- Below is an example of how **not** to place a marker. Curb markers should fit flat against its surface and not be hanging over the edge. The marker pictured is starting to slide off the curb.



2. Sweep the area where the marker will be placed so its is free of any loose debris.
3. Peel backing paper off one side of the adhesive disk.
4. Place storm drain marker evenly on top of the adhesive disk.
5. Remove backing paper on other side of the adhesive disk.
6. Apply to cleaned area. It is important that the entire edge of the marker is sealed to the curb or street.
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.

## 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!