

Help Keep our Water Clean: Do Your Spring Cleaning!

This spring, after you are done cheering about the giant snow piles melting, take a look at the street in front of where you live. Chances are you will see an accumulation of sand, leaves, twigs, and trash along the curb. These materials pollute our water when they wash down stormdrains and directly into local water bodies. Annual street sweeping removes sand and debris from streets and curbs; however, snowmelt and spring rains can wash these materials down the drain before street sweeping occurs. You can help keep our water clean this spring, and year round, by raking and sweeping up leaves, grass, sand, and trash from the street in front of your home and properly disposing of it. Leaves and grass can be composted. Sand and trash should be thrown away or recycled. This simple spring cleaning will help improve our water resources today and keep them clean for future generations.

Do you want to be part of a larger effort to keep our water clean? Organize a Community Clean-Up for Water Quality. Work together with a community organization or neighbors to organize an event in the spring or fall to clean up our streets. For more information, visit:

<http://freshwater.org/index.php/projects/community-cleanups-for-water-quality>.



Can you find the stormdrain in this picture? Leaves, grass, and dirt that wash down stormdrains pollute our rivers and lakes. You can help keep our water clean by “adopting” a stormdrain and keeping it clear of debris year-round. *(Photo: J. Winkelman, MWMO)*