

MWMO Good Neighbor Community Cleanup

Talking Points

- Thank you for taking time to volunteer today! Your work here is helping to keep our urban watershed free of harmful pollutants that run off roads, roofs, and other hard surfaces into stormdrains where they flow untreated into the Mississippi River.
- The more care we put into picking up debris before it makes its way to waterbodies, the more we can enjoy **clean water and clean communities**. We will also help prevent localized flooding that occurs when stormdrains are clogged.
- Please take pictures and document your experience today on social media to show people how fun and easy it is to help protect the Mississippi River. Use the hashtag **#MWMOgoodneighbor** to help us spread the word!
- Watch for an email from the MWMO after the cleanup event with a link to a short survey. Please complete the survey to inform the MWMO about your experience.
- We will be picking up a lot of trash today, but there are other pollutants that are harmful to the river such as:
 - **Sediment:** Dirt and debris make water murky, harming fish, plants, and aquatic life.
 - **Phosphorus and Nitrogen:** Leaves, grass clippings and fertilizers create algae blooms that lower oxygen levels.
 - **Bacteria:** Pet waste carries harmful bacteria like E. coli that can make us very sick.
 - **Chloride:** Road salts and deicers used during winter can be toxic at high levels.
 - **Herbicides and Pesticides:** Weed and insect killers are toxic to aquatic life in the river.

