

METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS SEWER DISTRICT STORM DRAIN MARKER INSTALLATION PROJECT

The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District's Storm Sewer Drain Marking Project was developed to provide a visible reminder of the consequences of improper waste disposal in storm drains. The project focuses on storm drains because they are direct conduits that can carry pollution into area rivers and streams.

Generally, youth groups (scouts, high schoolers, special interest groups) contact MSD and express an interest in marking the storm drains in their community. MSD provides equipment that includes markers that read: "NO DUMPING, DRAINS TO STREAM" with the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District's logo. MSD provides this service to help reduce the improper disposal of waste such as, motor oil, pesticides, street litter, yard debris, pet waste, etc. into area streams. A Leader Guide was developed to provide detailed information on organizing a marker installation project, and it includes all forms, sample letters and agreements for your use in the project. More information on Leader Guides can be found here: [Leader Guide](#)



Aren't Sewers For Trash?

The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District maintains three types of sewers: sanitary sewers, separate storm sewers and combined sewers. Sanitary sewers are those that carry wastewater from houses, businesses and industrial processes to wastewater treatment plants for cleaning before discharging the treated water into a river. Separate storm sewers collect rainfall that lands on our houses, lawns and streets, and sends it directly to a nearby creek or river. Combined sewers collect both wastewater and storm water in the same pipe, and sends it to a treatment plant. However, the combined sewers will overflow directly to the river when rainfall exceeds the capacity of the sewer system and treatment plant. Generally, the street inlets in St. Louis County are connected to a separate storm sewer system. Contrary to popular belief, water pollution is not solely caused by large companies and industry. Through governmental laws, point source pollution (pollution that has a definite origin), such as discharge pipes from a factory or sewer district releasing wastewater into a stream, has been regulated. However, our water resources are still at risk from another source of pollution called "nonpoint source" pollution. Nonpoint source pollution comes from many diffuse sources as rainfall or snowmelt moves over the ground. When it rains, the runoff (the portion of rainwater that does not soak into the ground) flows across the ground and pavement into the storm sewers. As storm water runoff moves over



the ground, it picks up and carries with it natural and manmade pollutants. These pollutants include: excess fertilizers and herbicides used on lawns, oil dripping from cars, improperly disposed chemicals, improperly disposed yard waste, sediment from erosion, manure from livestock and pets, and trash. The polluted runoff flows through the storm sewer underground and is released untreated into a local waterway, like a nearby creek.



The Environmental Protection Agency has determined that nonpoint source pollution is a major cause of our nation's water quality problems. Storm drain marking projects are geared to address activities that contribute to nonpoint source pollution, such as uninformed or careless people dumping oil, antifreeze, excess herbicide, or yard waste into a storm drain, or throwing trash onto the street. Storm Sewer Drain Marking is one way to constantly remind the public that ***storm sewers are for water and not trash.***

You can help!

It is important that we all take care of our waterways. If you would like to become involved to with the Storm Drain Marker Installation project, or if you would like more information, please contact us at (314) 436-8715. We thank you for your efforts in conserving our environment.