

# Hamilton's Storm Drain Labeling Program



## What is the City of Hamilton Adopt-A-Stream Program?

The City of Hamilton Adopt-A-Stream Program is a litter education and cleanup campaign designed to encourage citizen-based stewardship of the Commonwealth's water resources. Citizens who "adopt-a-stream" may organize a litter cleanup, label storm drains, or monitor water quality. The Department of Public Works provides all the necessary tools for a successful cleanup or storm drain labeling project.

## Why Label storm drains?

There are still many citizens who do not understand the connection between community storm drains and local streams, rivers, and lakes. Citizens mistakenly believe that storm drains carry waste to a plant for treatment prior to being discharged into local waterways.

Labeling storm drains, as a reminder of the connection between streets and nearby waters, is a direct and cost-effective project that a community can do to significantly decrease the amount of waste materials routinely dumped into these drains.

Community-based volunteer storm drain labeling projects offer an educational pollution prevention activity with a lasting effect. Storm drain labeling is a practical, positive, easy first step toward public education, involvement, and support. Labeled storm drains will raise citizen awareness and educate the public about stormwater runoff and nonpoint source pollution. Labels tell people not to dump and why.

## Who should participate?

Community storm drain labeling projects can be a tool for:

- Educators – as a service learning project, students can label storm drains located on school property (labeling projects complement Project Wet and Project Wild)
- Girl and Boy Scouts – earn a conservation badge by labeling neighborhood storm drains!
- Business and industry – show your commitment to water quality in your community!
- Conservation organizations – protect Hamilton's natural resources and reduce non-point source pollution
- Neighborhood associations and churches – a cost-effective, community-based approach to protecting water quality

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## How do I organize a labeling project?

1. Determine the area and size of your project – how many volunteers will be helping and how many drains will you label? It takes approximately 5 minutes to label one storm drain.
2. Secure permission from the public works department contact us at (513) 785- 7280,
3. Involve your neighbors – win community approval and support by advertising your labeling project with door hangers, which explain why “there’s something fishy going on in your neighborhood”
4. Recruit volunteers
5. Collect project supplies – the City of Hamilton Department of Public Works will provide a storm drain labeling kit, which includes a Polyethylene label, adhesive disks, work gloves, safety vests, trash bags, and door hangers.
6. Prepare work site – the pavement should be dry and warm (do not apply if area is wet - avoid rainy days); use a broom to sweep dirt/debris away from label area; place label where message will be most visible (avoid areas where dirt and leaves will collect and cover the message)
7. Label – remove paper from one side of adhesive disks and place on clean dry catch basin cover, remove paper from side facing you and place label in center of disk – you should see a small black area around outside of disk. Step or press on disk to complete process.
8. Clean up – collect supplies and dispose/recycle any collected debris

## Do you have any other suggestions?

- Work in groups of two or more
- Be conscious of the weather forecast – schedule a rain date
- Consider labeling public places such shopping malls, libraries, and schools
- Keep all involved parties informed at all times; remember, “Knowledge is Power” and “Unity is strength”
- Storm drain openings may be large – beware of loss of materials or volunteers!
- Once placed do not attempt to remove adhesive disks or labels.

## Are storm drain labeling projects educational?

Volunteers will:

- Learn about the types of non-point source pollution and ways they can help prevent it
- Make the connection between land use, stormwater runoff, and water quality

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I am interested in labeling storm drains in my neighborhood!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

***Please send me:***

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to:**  
City of Hamilton  
Department of Public Works  
Storm Water Program Coordinator  
345 High Street  
Hamilton, OH 45011



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## DATA FORM

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Summary of Storm Drain Labeling Project:

Number of drains labeled \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Provide a list of all storm drains labeled and the location of each:

Location (Street Name)	Nearest Intersection (s)	Number of Drains Marked
Main Street	B Street and C Street	8
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		

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