Storm Drain Marking

CITIZEN INFORMATION SERIES

CITY OF JEFFERSON
Department of Community Development
320 East McCarty Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

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www.jeffcitymo.org/CD
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Citizens of Jefferson City want to protect their water resources including lakes, rivers, creeks, and groundwater. They value clean water for drinking, recreation, and as a vital part of a healthy fish and wildlife habitat. However, the water that we value is threatened when people dump contaminants such as oil, antifreeze, paint, and household or garden chemicals into stormwater drains in their yard, or into the gutter or drain along the street. Many people are unaware that the water or contaminants that enter these drains run directly and untreated into our creeks, rivers, and groundwater. Storm drain marking programs address this lack of understanding, by labeling stormwater drains with small placards with the inscription “No Dumping – Drains to Creek”. The information contained on these placards is meant to inform and remind people of the direct connection of these drains to creeks and rivers.

In Jefferson City, we encourage volunteer organizations, youth groups, or civic clubs to take on the task of marking storm drains. Through this process, a greater number of citizens are made aware of the connection between the drains and our waterways. These people in turn will be able to further educate those with whom they come in contact.

If you or your organization would like to get involved in a storm drain marking project, please contact the City Stormwater Engineer. You will be provided with the authority, materials, literature, instructions, and a map of storm drains in an area that need to be marked. You will receive recommendations about how to remain safe around moving traffic and a reminder to always be cautious.

Typically a group will perform two separate but equally important tasks when marking storm drains. One portion of the group will be attaching the markers to the drains while the other is passing out pamphlets to the houses in the neighborhood. These pamphlets will tell the residents what is happening in their neighborhood as well as conveying information and raising awareness about stormwater and storm drains. The pamphlets are specific to the area in which you will be installing the markers, noting the body of water into which the drains are discharging. They also contain information about how stormwater can become polluted when it comes in contact with oils and chemicals that may be dumped in the drain, but also other things that may litter our yards and streets, such as over applied fertilizer, car washing detergent, cigarette butts, pet waste, etc.