

STORM DRAIN STENCILING

Volunteers can also work to keep our streams clean and attractive by engaging in Storm Drain Stenciling. Stenciling outside of storm drains helps to raise the community's awareness of nonpoint source pollution and reduce the incidence of illicit discharge into the drains.

Nonpoint source pollution results from everyday activities and those pollutants oftentimes are swept directly into storm drains and waterways with stormwater runoff. Some examples include fertilizers, motor oil, litter and animal waste.

For more information, materials or to schedule a storm drain stenciling outing, contact The Conservation Foundation (TCF) at 630.428.4500. TCF is a Stormwater Management partner in preserving and improving DuPage County's streams and rivers.



DUPAGE COUNTY

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FALLING INTO WINTER



DUPAGE COUNTY

Stormwater Management



www.dupageco.org/swm

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

FALL BMPS

Fall is a time for football, cooler days and changing leaves. However, with the fall season also comes the inevitable need for yard cleanup.

In autumn, leaves are oftentimes blown or swept into storm drains and waterways and can become a source of water pollution. Once they reach waterways, leaves decompose and release phosphorous into the water, which can result in algae blooms and decreased oxygen for fish.

However, pollutants are not the only problem. Leaves can also build up along curbs, gutters and storm drains, which can lead to localized flooding.

To reduce flooding situations and phosphorous levels in DuPage streams and rivers, consider utilizing a bagged leaf collection or removal service. You might also consider using leaves in mulch or compost. While the organic debris is not ideal for aquatic life, composted leaves are an excellent resource for fertilizing your garden in the summer months. It provides necessary nutrients, while also reducing the need for chemical fertilizers.

WINTER BMPS

Before fall turns into winter, residents should be mindful of snow removal options. Traditional deicing methods—such as laying down road salts to melt snow and ice from sidewalks and driveways—are linked to increased chloride concentrations in waterways.

Road salts are carried into storm drains and streams via stormwater runoff. Once in waterways, these chlorides never fully dissipate and can be harmful for aquatic life.

Residents are encouraged to utilize best management practices for snow and ice removal during the winter months. Removing snow prior to applying a deicer, applying just enough to reduce hazard, and sweeping up and properly storing road salt after a storm for reuse are all ways to reduce the levels of chlorides in DuPage County waterways this winter.

Alternative treatments, such as a beet juice derivative, applied before storms are also effective in decreasing the need for road salts by minimizing the formation of ice.

REMEMBER

IN THE FALL

- Composted leaves mixed with other organic materials provide nutrients necessary for fertilizing lawns.
- Leaves can be chopped down into small pieces and used as mulch.
- Utilize a bagged leaf (securely sealed) collection or removal service.

IN THE WINTER

- Remove snow prior to applying a deicer.
- Use just enough deicer to reduce hazard.
- Sweep up and properly store road salt after a snow storm for reuse.
- Use less than four pounds of salt per 1,000 square feet. More salt does not equal more melting.
- Use alternative methods, such as a beet juice derivative, to minimize the formation of ice.

TO LEARN MORE

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www.dupageco.org/swm