
Adopt-A-Drain Dispatch

Dec 2021 - Feb 2022



This quarterly newsletter is to keep you informed about program updates and to celebrate the successes of this program. Do you have a success or story to share? Please submit photos and stories to water@waukeshacounty.gov to help make this newsletter great. The program currently has 134 **participants that have adopted 293 drains**. Be sure to check the [website](#) to see the dashboard with up to the minute statistics. **You are making a difference!**



Volunteer Spotlight:

This newsletter we are taking a moment to say thank you to all of our volunteers! Well done! May you find time this winter to rest up and rejuvenate.....and be ready to clean those storm drain again when the snow is gone.

If you would like to share your enthusiasm for this project, send a photo and caption to be in the spotlight in a future edition to email.

Helpful Hints

1. Be on the lookout for leaves! The last leaves of the season will continue to blow around and find their way to your drain.
2. If you see piles of salt in the street, sweep it up. See the pollution article below for why.
3. Once the snow flies, you won't have much to do. If the drain gets frozen over and won't drain, please report it to water@waukeshacounty.gov
4. Don't forget to report your work with our simplified reporting process. When you click on [the map](#), all you have to do is choose report and put in your e-mail address. It will automatically zoom you in to your drains. Select your drain and report!



What's in a Name?

We love all of the clever names being bestowed upon our storm drains. Here we would like to introduce you to a few of our favorites.

Our next call out goes to Terrence for "Drain Wisconsinly". Can anyone else see this as a good t-shirt? Terrence's other fun names include "Brain Drain" and "Too Many Headbutts". Thank you Terrence!



Pollution Highlight: Salt

We all look forward to the plow truck coming through our neighborhood to clear the road and put down some salt. What we don't think about is what happens to the salt after it is placed on the roads.

As the salt melts the snow, it dissolves into melted snow and is carried off the road by the snowmelt. Some of this salty water will run off into our lakes and streams, and some of it will travel with the water through the soil and into our groundwater. Either way, the end result is the same. Our freshwater is becoming more and more salty.

While the roads crews are working diligently to reduce salt use, we see more and more salt being placed on parking lots and sidewalks. It only takes one teaspoon of salt to permanently pollute 5 gallons of water above the EPA threshold for chlorides. If you see excessive salt at a business, speak up and let them know you care about our water! At home, sweep up any salt left on the road after a storm. Your actions matter!

Cross Connections Corner



For a comprehensive list of Environmental Education programs offered by Waukesha County, visit www.waukeshacounty.gov/EnvironmentalEd. Our school guide and our public guides are both here...there's something for everyone!



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