

know where  
it goes

take simple  
steps to reduce  
STORMWATER POLLUTION

# Preparing for a Storm Drain Marking Event

## Planning

Partnering with another organization will help to reduce the cost, assist in the organization of the event and recruit volunteers. Towns, Save The Bay, the RI Surfrider Foundation, watershed organizations and neighborhood groups are all options to consider. You may also contact local restaurants/ pizza places to request donations for the volunteers on the day of the event.

Contact the town where the marking is taking place to obtain a permission letter and a map of the area. Make enough copies of the maps for all of the groups of volunteers. Separate the maps into different sections, marking off different streets for each group of three volunteers.



Check the forecast for the day of the event and make sure the low temperatures are above 40 degrees F and there is no rain within 24 hours, or the markers may not stick

## Publicizing your Event

The main goal of these events is to educate people about stormwater pollution. One of the best ways to publicize is to send out press releases about a week in advance to local newspapers and online blogs, calendars, etc. This will help to recruit volunteers and spread stormwater awareness. Take pictures during the event to include in follow-up publicity. See the “Example Press Release.” Volunteers can also be recruited by contacting schools, scout or other youth groups or placing an ad on the Volunteer Center of Rhode Island Website.

## Educating Volunteers

Most storm drain marking events last between 2-3 hours, marking as many drains as possible. Groups will mark about 10 drains an hour on average. Attempt to recruit at least 10 volunteers, and no more than 30 to have a manageable size.

It is helpful to brief the volunteers before the event. Make sure they wear weather-appropriate clothing and closed-toed shoes. Explain what stormwater is and why it’s a problem, how storm drains are directly connected to our water resources, and what they can do to reduce stormwater pollution. Let them know what to say to passersby and explain that one of the main goals is to educate people about stormwater pollution. For an example of an introductory talk, see the “Stormdrain Intro.” For more detailed instructions on preparing for a marking event see the “Save The Bay, How to Organize a Storm Drain Marking Project Manual.”

[www.ristormwatersolutions.org](http://www.ristormwatersolutions.org)

know where  
it goes

take simple  
steps to reduce  
STORMWATER POLLUTION



### **The Day of the Event**

Choose a meeting place near the marking event and pass out all materials and separate everyone into groups of two or three. Explain safety precautions such as staying out of the street, being mindful of traffic and wearing reflective vests and protective gloves at all times. Demonstrate applying a marker to the entire group. First the site is prepared by brushing off excess dirt with the broom. Markers are applied by tracing epoxy around the bottom edge of the marker and applying onto the curb or storm drain (facing pedestrians) with a twisting motion. A thin edge of epoxy will appear around the marker ensuring that it is applied correctly. Do not apply markers to curbs that are painted yellow, as the markers come off when the paint peels. Try to find a flat surface near the drain if there is no curb available.

In the groups, one person will prepare the site by cleaning it off with a brush, one person will mark down information on the “Storm Drain Data Cards” and one will apply the markers. The recorder will mark down the types of trash near the storm drain for publicity purposes, the number of storm drains marked and the streets that they were located for the town’s records. Volunteers should be encouraged to pick up litter along the way and in storm drains as it will eventually reach local water bodies if it enters the drains. Show the groups their designated location on their individual maps and point them in the right direction.

Make sure to designate an area to meet afterwards to collect materials and reflect on the experience.

### **Checklist of Materials for Organizers:**

- Storm drain markers and epoxy adhesive
- Plastic/surgical gloves
- Hand/whisk brooms
- Safety vests
- Street map divided into sections
- Storm Drain Data Cards
- Trash bags
- Anti-bacterial wipes and paper towels
- Attendance sheet
- Town/city authorization letter
- Stormwater factsheets for residents or onlookers
- Camera and Cell Phone

know where  
it goes

take simple  
steps to reduce  
STORMWATER POLLUTION



**Checklist of Materials for Volunteers:**

- Weather appropriate clothing
- Closed-toed shoes
- Sun protection (sunscreen, hats, etc.)
- Water

**Post Event Follow-up**

After the event make sure to follow up with local newspapers by sending photos and the results of the event (number of volunteers, types of trash found and number of drains marked) to ensure coverage of the event. Contact the town with the locations and number of storm drains marked for their records. Make sure to send out thank you notes to everyone who helped out!

