

The Little Miami River Storm Drain Tagging Project

Because you live in the Little Miami River Watershed, volunteers are tagging your street's storm drains to remind everyone that nonpoint source pollution can harm humans and aquatic life. Their efforts are aimed at reducing surface water contamination during storm water runoff. Many products used in your home and on the lawn and garden, if not applied or disposed of correctly, end up in the curbside storm drain. This is called nonpoint source pollution. Household chemicals, pesticides, fertilizers, used motor oil, and yard or pet wastes should never be dumped down the storm drain. Storm drain systems are designed to reduce flooding caused by rain storms. Unlike the sanitary sewer system, storm drains are generally not routed to a treatment plant. This means that debris, litter, or chemicals washed down storm drains end up in local waterways like the Little Miami River.

How can you help? Protecting our beautiful waterways is very important to us all! If you would like to volunteer to tag your neighborhood please call Amy Pond at 513-695-2530. Other things you can do include:

- Recycle used motor oil or antifreeze.
- Compost or mulch yard wastes. Don't dump grass clippings or other yard wastes into the storm sewers.
- Properly dispose of paints, solvents, and other household hazardous products by participating in a household hazardous waste collection program.
- Bury pet wastes, dispose of in trash, or flush down the toilet.
- Place cigarette butts and other trash in proper containers. Don't litter.
- Wash cars and other equipment on lawns or fields rather than in driveways or on streets.

You can report illegal dumping to the fire department (459-0875), the sheriff's office (925-2525 or 697-2745), Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District (695-1337) or the Ohio EPA Hotline (800-282-9378). For more information on storm water quality and things you can do to help, you can go online to the South West Ohio Storm Water Collaborative website at <http://www.saveohiowater.org>. For information specific to Deerfield Township, go online to <http://www.deerfieldstormwater.com>, the website of the Deerfield Regional Storm Water District.