Storm Drain Medallion Mini-Grant Program

We greatly appreciate your help with the Storm Drain Medallion Program. This program is a joint effort between your locality and HR Green. When you are awarded your grant HR Green will connect you with your local Stormwater Division. These folks will help you choose the area that you will be marking, and they will provide maps to record your medallion placement on. Upon successful completion of this project, your group will receive a $25 pizza party!

It is important to keep pollutants out of our storm drains because water that flows into storm drains goes directly into our local streams, bay and ocean. When it rains or melted snow flows over parking lots, sidewalks and streets, the water picks up dirt, trash, oil, grease, fertilizers, and other pollutants and then carries everything into the storm drain. The polluted water is called stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff is harmful for our waterways and can affect drinking water supplies, recreation, fisheries and wildlife.

The round blue discs, or medallions, that you will attach to the tops of storm drains will help remind and educate other citizens about the importance of preventing pollution from entering our sensitive waterways, and above all, that storm drains are NOT to be used for dumping.

Storm drains with medallions

Safety Procedures and Guidelines

- ❑ Inform all volunteers of the safety procedures before the work begins.
- ❑ Dress appropriately. Wear thick-soled, closed-toe shoes; No sandals. Use gloves.
- ❑ Wear clothing that is bright or reflective.
- ❑ Work only during daylight hours.
- ❑ Medallions should not be placed if the outdoor temperature is below 45 degrees, it is raining, or the surface is damp.
- ❑ Work in small teams.
- ❑ Maintain a proper adult-child ratio.
- ❑ Designate students to place the medallions and students to map the marked storm drains.
- ❑ Use sidewalks when available. Walk towards oncoming traffic when walking in a street if there isn't a sidewalk.
- ❑ Avoid reaching in or stepping inside the storm drain.
- ❑ Make participants aware of possible contact with poisonous plants, bees, biting insects, etc. when outside. Stay alert and avoid them.
- ❑ Drink plenty of fluids and take breaks as needed.
- ❑ In case of emergency, group leader should have a first aid kit available and have access to a phone.

Medallion Installation Procedures

❑ Medallion placement is to be recorded on the map and sheet as provided by your locality's Stormwater Division.

❑ Medallions should be placed on every storm drain in your designated area.

❑ Identify storm drain to be used and proper location for placement of the medallion on the storm drain.

❑ Medallions should be placed in center of drain (pictured on first page)

❑ Clean the top of the drain of any loose dirt, leaves or debris.

❑ Using the wire brush, clean the specific location where the medallion is to be placed. Stand on the grass or curbside while cleaning the area where the medallion will be placed. (Do not stand in the street.)

❑ The medallion is to be placed with the **writing readable from the street**.

❑ Open adhesive with caulk gun and squeeze onto back of medallion. (Just enough to cover the whole medallion and not seep from the sides) and apply medallion to area prepped with wire brush.

❑ Press the medallion firmly down and hold for several seconds.

❑ Record location of the medallion on the map and tracking sheet.

Drains Appropriate for Medallions

City Standard Catch Basin

State Standard Catch Basin

Not appropriate for Medallions

Pre-Mini Grant Quiz

The following is a suggested quiz to gauge how much students already know about stormwater. The quiz can be modified to meet grade level needs. The same quiz can be used at the end of the project to gauge what the students have learned.

1. What is the term that describes rainwater or melted snow that has picked up pollutants as it travels over roads, sidewalks and other hard surfaces?

2. What is the term that describes hard surfaces that cannot absorb water?

3. Is the water that enters a storm drain cleaned before entering local waterways?

4. What happens to the water that goes down the drain *inside* your house?

5. What happens when pollutants get into our waterways?

6. How can you prevent polluted water from entering storm drains?

Quiz Answers

1. Stormwater runoff.
2. Impervious surface.
3. No. Storm drains lead directly to waterways.
4. Water that goes down the drain inside a house travels through sewer pipes that are located underneath roads and lead to a waste water treatment plant.
5. There are three types of pollutants that are the major causes of pollution in our local waterways: nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment.

   Nitrogen - Excess nitrogen fuels the growth of algae, creating dense algae blooms that block sunlight and reduce dissolved oxygen which is needed by fish, blue crabs and other organisms. Sources of nitrogen include fertilizers, household septic systems and municipal and industrial wastewater.

   Phosphorus – While phosphorus is needed for plant growth, human activities contribute more phosphorus than waterways can handle. Sources of phosphorus include fertilizers, herbicides and municipal and industrial wastewater.

   Sediment –Too much sediment clouds the water, harming fish, oysters, and aquatic grasses. Much of the excess sediment comes from eroding land and stream banks. Impervious surfaces, such as roadways and parking lots, help transport sediments into the Bay, and lead to higher stormwater flows, which in turn worsen erosion.

6. There are many easy ways to prevent stormwater runoff. (*See the brochure on the next page for more info.)*

• Only let rain go down the storm drain.

• Pick up pet waste to avoid having it wash into waterways.

• Repair car leaks right away.

• Plant native flowers, trees and shrubs to help with natural filtration and erosion.

• Mulch around flowers, trees and shrubs to help control erosion and retain soil moisture.

• Have soil tested every 3-4 years to verify what nutrients your soil needs.

• Sweep up anything that is lying on pavement.

• Mow your lawn at the proper time. Newly-seeded lawns should be mowed early and often, leaving 1.5 to 2.0 inches of grass height. Once your lawn is established, set the mower blade higher, leaving 2 to 3.5 inches of grass.

• Leave lawn clippings on the lawn after mowing. When clippings break down, nitrogen is returned to the lawn, generating up to 25% of the lawn's fertilizer needs.

• Have soil every 3-4 years to ensure you select fertilizer with the nutrient levels the lawn needs.

• Fertilize in the fall when there is typically less rain and less chance for it to be washed off the lawn.

• Cool season grasses, such as fescue or ryegrass, should be seeded in the late summer. Seed warm season grass, such as zoysiagrass or Bermuda grass, in early spring.