

# Coming Soon! To a Storm Drain Near You!

## Accotink Creek Storm Drain Marking Program

### Why mark storm drains?

Storm drains prevent flooding of roads and neighborhoods by carrying rain and snowmelt away from streets and sidewalks. Unlike water from our taps and tub, water flowing into storm drains is not treated. **Storm drains connect directly to our streams.** Trash, pet waste, motor oil, paint and other materials dumped or washed into storm drains pollute Accotink Creek and ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay. Markers on each storm drain remind all of us to keep storm drains and our streams clean.

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### What can you do to protect your local stream and Bay?

✓ **Volunteer to lead a storm drain marking project in your neighborhood.** Contact the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District at **703-324-1423**, **TTY 711** or **conservationdistrict@fairfaxcounty.gov** to get started. Volunteers should be willing to work with their local homeowner association, if applicable, and educate their neighbors about water pollution.



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✓ **Make sure nothing goes down the storm drain except water.** Adopt your local storm drain and keep it clear of trash and debris, dispose of pet waste in your trash can or toilet, and recycle used motor oil at your local gas station.

✓ **Practice Bay-friendly lawn care.** Check the forecast before applying chemicals, including fertilizers, to your lawn, and compost yard debris. Try using Virginia native plants to reduce your garden's chemical needs.

✓ **Report storm drain dumping.** For hazardous substances like pesticides and paint, contact Fairfax County Fire and Rescue at 703-691-2131, TTY 711. Report dumping of non-hazardous materials such as pet waste to the Health Department at 703-246-2300, TTY 711.

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