

## 2023 STORM DRAIN MARKING PROJECT



Residents in Foxberry Farms might have noticed Alex S. in their neighborhood over Memorial weekend directing and participating in a storm drain marking project. Alex is working to obtain a Distinguished Conservation Service Award through the Boy Scouts of America and led a team to promote water conservation efforts.



Alex researched the Foxberry Farms area and quickly determined “Lake Medina as a very important body of water, which affects people and wildlife. Raindrops that fall on our streets pick up chemicals, pollutants, and debris and carry them into storm drains that empty directly into our lakes, creeks, and rivers. Lake Medina is no exception!” Below is a list of different actions residents can take to help our waters stay clean!

## THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT MINNESOTA'S LAKES, RIVERS, AND STREAMS

- **Adopt a storm drain:** Water that enters a storm drain carries leaves, grass, soil, litter and anything else it picks up along the way. This clogs stormwater infrastructure, contributes to street flooding, harms wildlife, and pollutes our waters. Adopt a drain near you and keep it free of leaves, grass clippings, and litter at [adopt-a-drain.org](http://adopt-a-drain.org).
- **Salt Sparingly:** Shovel snow first, apply salt only to ice patches, use as little salt as possible, and sweep up leftover salt when ice is gone. More isn't better. Just one teaspoon of salt permanently contaminates five gallons of fresh water. Also, Sodium Chloride stops working below 15°.
- **Grass and Leaves- Don't Blow it off:** Blow or rake grass clippings and leaves out of the streets. Use them as mulch, use them for compost, or bag them up. Stormwater runoff carries leaves and grass clippings from streets into lakes and streams. Their nutrients cause destructive algae blooms.
- **Scoop the poop:** City Code 345 Subd. 6 mandates pet owners to pick up after pets. Water can wash pet waste into lakes and streams. Pet waste contains bacteria, such as E. Coli, that can cause illness in people, pets, and wildlife. It also contains nutrients that cause destructive algae blooms!
- **Plant a rain garden:** Planting a rain garden collects rainwater runoff, lets it soak into the ground, and filters out excess nutrients and other pollutants. Pollinators can benefit, too!
- **Mow high:** Mow your grass to a height of 3 inches. Keeping your grass a little longer helps roots grow deeper into the soil, suppresses weeds, and requires less watering.
- **Kick the chemicals:** Don't overuse pesticides or fertilizers. Many fertilizers and pesticides contain hazardous chemicals that can travel through the soil and contaminate groundwater. Use chemical products according to their label directions. If you feel you must use these chemicals, please remember to use them in moderation.
- **Un-pave the way:** Choose pervious paving for walks, patios, and driveways. Paving stones and porous pavement let water soak into the ground, recharging groundwater and keeping runoff out of the street.
- **Conserve water:** Reduce water use. Water your lawn only when it's needed during dry periods. Water about one inch a week (including rainfall). Water early in the morning to reduce evaporation. Conserve water by sweeping, rather than hosing off, driveways and sidewalks.
- **Don't dump hazardous waste on the ground:** A number of products used at home contain toxic substances that can contaminate ground or surface waters, such as motor oil, pesticides, leftover paints or paint cans, mothballs, flea collars, and household cleaners.
- **Dispose of Your Medications Properly:** Prescription and over-the-counter drugs flushed down the toilet or poured down the sink can pass through the treatment system and enter rivers and lakes. Take advantage of pharmaceutical take-back collection programs for safe and environmentally conscious medication disposal.







Reach out to Lisa DeMars, [lisa.demars@medinamn.gov](mailto:lisa.demars@medinamn.gov) with any questions or comments pertaining to this project or one you'd like to see addressed in YOUR neighborhood!