# Adopt Your Drain in Milwaukee County Classrooms

#### Stormwater Pollution

When rain falls in Milwaukee County, that stormwater carries dirt, debris, and trash to our storm drains. These drains can dump untreated polluted water directly into local rivers and streams that lead to Lake Michigan or the Mississippi River. It can also cause drains to get blocked, leading to serious flooding issues.

Not only does this have a very negative impact on wildlife in those bodies of water, it has a major financial impact to humans as we have to treat that water before it is useable again.

### What is Adopt Your Drain?

The easiest way to clean our lakes and rivers is to prevent them from becoming polluted in the first place!

The Adopt Your Drain program aims to educate community members about water quality issues while encouraging them to take action.

Adopting a drain is a great action to take to protect our rivers and lakes. Adopters pledge to keep storm drains free from litter, leaves, and anything else that ends up in the drain.

## **How To Adopt**

## Visit AdoptYourDrain.com

Use the search bar to look up your address and select a drain near you! Fill out the required information and you've adopted a drain!

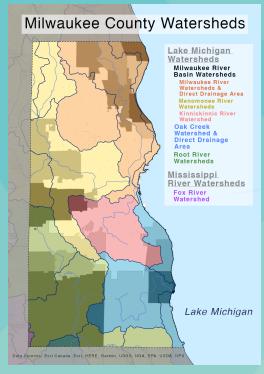
## **Keep You Drain Clean**

Clean out your drain while practicing proper safety measures. To find cleaning and safety tips, read the instructions our website.



### Track Your Progress

Keep track of the materials you've collected and how much the material weighs. We love it when our adopters report the progress they are making. There is a space on the website to provide this information.



## Adopt Your Drain Outside the Classroom: Student-Led Adoption Events

Teachers can use the Adopt Your Drain tool to turn stormwater education into a tangible activity that spreads a positive message. Using materials provided by Sweet Water, teachers can educate their students about the causes and effects of stormwater pollution and how to prevent it.

Sweet Water can also assist teachers and students by providing materials to host community adoption events. These adoption events are crucial to helping spread awareness of the Adopt Your Drain program. After events, we can track the outcomes of the event's efforts through our website. As a result of the events, we can then see a local jump in adoptions, allowing us to quantify and visualize our efforts.



By educating community members, students can inspire change in their local neighborhoods!





### **Before Adoption Event**

### **After Adoption Event**

