

## City of Monona Contact Information

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**MONONA**  
Sustainability Committee



## Lend Lake Monona Your Helping Hand

### *Adopt a Storm Drain Today!*

The City of Monona Public Works Department and Sustainability Committee are carrying out plans to build more awareness in the community about the effect that decomposing leaves have on local waterways. This document provides residents with information they need to successfully adopt a storm drain and sustainably manage their leaves.



## Storm Drains, Leaves, & Water Pollution

Storm water runoff is the primary source of water pollution, and it's not as well-known as people may think. Common pollutants carried in stormwater runoff includes dirt & dust, fertilizers & herbicides, leaves and lawn waste, salt from snow melt, hydrocarbons from vehicle exhaust and oil drips, and other non-organic litter.

Storm drains are the entry points for water into the entire storm sewer system. The storm sewer systems have the purpose of funneling stormwater runoff from streets and properties into lower areas of elevation or to nearby waterbodies. These storm sewer systems are designed to prevent flooding and erosion, but not necessarily treat the stormwater runoff.

Leaf debris and other lawn waste are the primary sources of pollution in local waterways. Leaves in the streets break down during rain events and release phosphorus into the stormwater runoff. This phosphorus collects in our lakes and promotes algal blooms. One pound of phosphorus from leaf debris can create 500 pounds of algae...that's a lot of algae! Because of all this Monona's Sustainability Committee is asking you to help clean up the street and storm drains in front of your property.



## Leaf-free Streets For Clean Waters



**Rain on the way?**



**Please remove leaves from  
your street today.**



Love Your Lakes and Rivers, Don't **Leaf** Them



## What is the City of Monona Doing About Leaves and Water Quality?

The City of Monona Public Works Department uses leaf vacuum trucks to do curbside leaf collection every fall. The three trucks are able to collect along the curb of each household in the City in the span of about 12 days. On average the City's Public Works crews pick up over 6,000 square yards of leaves every year.

Monona also has a drop off site for leaves at its Public Works Garage. Public Works crews perform annual storm drain cleaning and maintenance. Crews use a vac-truck to vacuum out all the debris that collects in the storm drain sumps or catch basins. Once the vac-trucks have done their job the street sweeper comes through to clean up oils and other left over debris.

## What are a Storm Drain Adopter's Responsibilities

- Clear storm drain grate of debris on periodically, especially before rain events.
- Clear leaves and debris from the street gutter along the front of your property.
- Wear high visibility clothing when working in the street.
- Do not remove storm drain grates or covers.
- Do not place debris back in the street; instead an adopter should bag it and dispose of it in their trash. Or, if it's all leaves then drop them off at the Public Works Garage drop-off site.
- Do not place leaves or other debris on a neighbor's lawn.
- Share information about adopting a storm drain with your neighbor and team up to keep your street clear of leaves this fall.
- Contact the City of Monona Public Works Department about any storm drain that is broken or completely clogged with debris.
- Compost leaf debris when possible, recycle any plastics or glass you may find, and place only leaves behind the curb for pick up.
- Stay updated on upcoming rain events. Clean the streets before it rains.

## What Can Residents Do To Help?

### GOOD HABITS

- **EAT HEALTHY AND EXERCISE!** Believe it or not one of the most responsible things you can do to prevent stormwater pollution and help clean up our local waterways is simply being healthy. The healthier you are the fewer chemicals you ingest and therefore less chemicals make it into our water sources.
- **NEVER** dispose of anything down the storm drain.
- **NEVER** throw trash on the street, and pick up street litter when you find it.
- Clean up after your pets and discard pet wastes in the trash can.
- **DON'T** use high concentration phosphorus and nitrogen based fertilizers especially before a rain storm. **On average Midwestern soils contain enough unused phosphorus and nitrogen to produce green lawns for years without any need for additional synthetic fertilizers.**
- **DON'T** use pesticides and herbicides, instead weed your landscaping by hand and create natural habitats that attract the birds and bees that eat other common lawn and garden pests.
- Use less toxic chemicals around the house and make sure to dispose of them correctly.
- Keep your car properly maintained, fix oil or lubricant leaks, and keep your exhaust working properly.

### PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION

- Make sure gutter downspouts drain to your lawn, not to an impervious surface.
- Keep your leaves off streets and driveways to prevent phosphorus from leaching into the storm drain.
- Install a rain garden or rain barrels to infiltrate or store rain water that runs off your home's roof.
- Install a rain gutter toward the end of your driveway that can funnel water into a swale or rain garden.
- Use less salt by upgrading your water softener and by skimping on the application to your driveway and walk ways in the winter.
- Keep the street gutter and storm drains around your property clear of trash and leaf debris.



Picture: Curb Cut Rain Garden