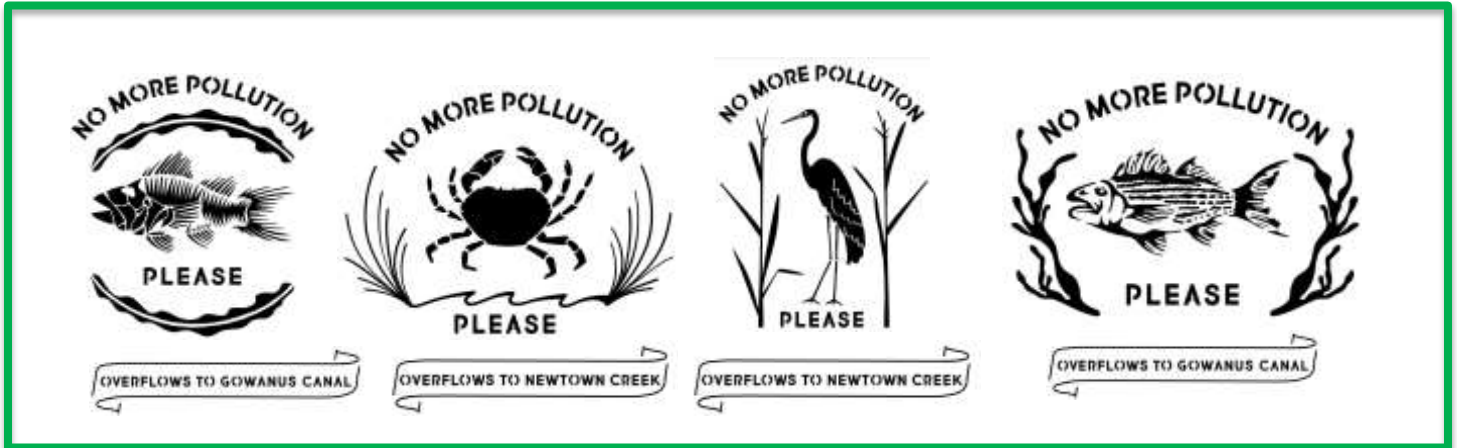


Storm Drain Stenciling Manual

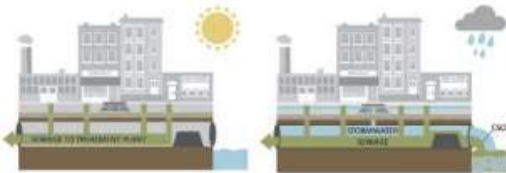
A guide to reducing trash in our waterways



Why stencil storm drains?

Stormwater runoff, or the rain water that accumulates on streets, rooftops and sidewalks, is a major contribution to water pollution in NYC waterways.

In some parts of the city, stormwater combines with sewage and overflows into the waterways, untreated:



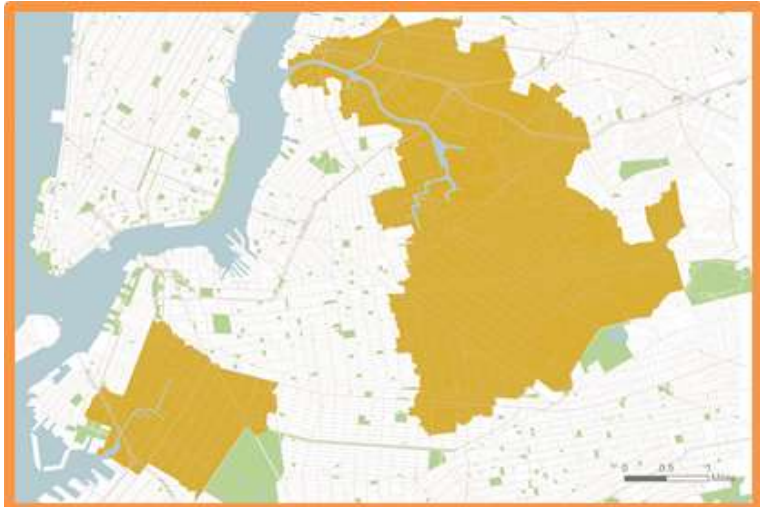
In other parts of the city, stormwater runoff enters a separate stormwater system that carries stormwater directly to the nearest waterbody untreated.



In either system, stormwater that runs off the street and enters the stormdrains carries oils, pet waste, litter and other pollutants that deteriorate the waterways.

Raising awareness about stormwater runoff can help improve water quality. One of the ways to do this is by painting the message on a storm drain!

Our watersheds: Newtown Creek & Gowanus Canal



We are kicking off our project in spring and summer 2017 in the neighborhoods within the Newtown Creek and Gowanus Canal watersheds.

Join Newtown Creek Alliance, Gowanus Canal Conservancy, Riverkeeper, and the Swim Coalition to help us combat trash in our waterways.

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Facilitating Safe & Successful Projects

Gather materials

- Safety: Cones and brightly colored vests
- Painting: broom, paint tray, can of paint, rollers, & spray paint

Prep the Site

- Remove any trash or debris from the storm drain.
- Brush off stencil site to remove dust and dirt.
 - a. This will help make the stencil last longer.



Stenciling Best Practices

- Don't add too much paint. Start with a light spray. More paint can always be added, but once its down you can't take it away.
- Hold the spray paint can 4-8 inches away from the surface and use a side-to-side sweeping motion when spraying.
- Protect the rest of the surface. Completely cover the pavement surrounding the stencil to prevent over-spraying.
- Limit text to 1 color to ensure it's readable.

Share your success!

- Let us know how your project went!
 - a. Complete this post-project survey:
 - b. E-mail pictures to outreach@riverkeeper.org

Maintain or adopt your stenciled drains

- Make a plan to help ensure your project remains present in the community
- Tips to maintain your drains:
 - a. Clean your drains out regularly
 - b. Repaint if necessary, most stencils will last 1-5 years
 - c. Report clogs or other issues to 311
- Contact local businesses about adopting the drain closest to them
 - a. Suggestions include: homeowners, business owners, classrooms

Priority #1: Safety

Safety is top priority when participating in storm drain stenciling. Tips for a safe and successful project:

1. Wear reflective safety vests when stenciling. These vests increase your visibility to passing cars and trucks.
2. Stay on the sidewalk. The entire painting surface is accessible from the sidewalk.
3. Place safety cones around the project area to draw visual attention to your project.
4. Designate a group member to watch street and pedestrian traffic