

# Storm Drain Education: Step by Step

## Guidelines for Storm Drain Projects in Fairfax County

1. **Contact** the **Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District** at 703-324-1423, TTY 711 or [conservationdistrict@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:conservationdistrict@fairfaxcounty.gov) to set up a volunteer orientation meeting and get your project started.

2. We will help you **locate** the storm drains in your neighborhood, and find out whether they are privately (by an HOA) or publicly (by VDOT) maintained.

3. Get approval for your project from your local HOA and a **permit** for your project from VDOT (if required).

4. Develop a storm drain education flier or use our standard educational materials to hand out to the homes in your project area. Think about other ways you might **spread the word** about the connection between the storm drain and our streams such as writing an article for your school, church or neighborhood publication or contacting the local newspaper.

5. **Get organized!** Set a date for labeling or stenciling the storm drains. Recruit others in your group or your friends and family to help you with your project, and make sure you have the supplies you need. Think about keeping yourself and your fellow volunteers happy and safe! Safety gloves and vests are always a good idea, as are snacks and drinks at the end of the day.



*Photograph courtesy of  
Northern Virginia Regional Commission*

6. **Label the drains!** Make sure to take pictures to send to NVSWCD to help publicize this program. Send in marked maps to NVSWCD and VDOT. Report the number of homes educated and drains labeled.

7. **Be proud** of the efforts you and your group have made to keep Fairfax County's streams and the Chesapeake Bay clean for us and for wildlife!

