

Fall in Love with Clean Storm Drains

Jacquelyn Buck

Allen County Partnership for Water Quality (ACPWQ) is hoping that you fall in love with your storm drain this February. Did you know that storm drains are the concrete streams that connect us to our rivers? These lovely curb inlets ensure that our roads keep from flooding and that excess rainwater is removed from around our homes and businesses. They are constantly working to make our lives easier, and ACPWQ is challenging you to show them some love. Make sure to remove ice, snow, and debris to help ensure that they can adequately do their work! Some things to consider to help keep your storm drain debris-free:

1. When you are shoveling snow, be mindful and do not place snow over storm drains. This simple action helps to keep water moving and limits localized flooding!
2. If you notice that a storm drain is blocked with snow, ice, or debris such as leaves, be a good neighbor and remove it with a shovel. This also helps to make sure that melted water will not freeze, backing up the drain and making the surrounding area slippery! Small acts of kindness help to create positive impacts for our waterways.
3. Do not apply sand, salt, or other de-icers around the storm drain. Remember, these drains go straight to our rivers. This means that whatever you apply to the surrounding area will go with the snow or ice melt or rainwater, negatively impacting our water quality.
4. If you see sand or salt gathering around a storm drain, take a broom and sweep it up! Getting this material away from the drain helps to ensure that it will not clog the system or cause problems downstream.

Help to be the solution to stormwater pollution this month and show those storm drains some love.