

## **PLANNING A STORM DRAIN STENCILING TRIP**

### **CHOOSE A DAY**

- < Consider the seasonal climate when choosing your day. Dry weather, dry pavement and temperature between 50 and 90 degrees Fahrenheit ensures the best results.

### **GAIN APPROVAL FROM YOUR MUNICIPALITY or TOWNSHIP**

- < A list of municipal contacts is available from The Conservation Foundation office by calling (630)428-4500. Be prepared to give the streets you plan to stencil. They can help you decide where to stencil and which stencil message to use (Drains to River, or Drains to Lake.) Consider traffic patterns and age of volunteers when choosing an area to stencil. Be sure to ask if safety vests are available!

### **ASSEMBLE SUPPLIES**

- < The Conservation Foundation will provide the stencils, spray paint, spray wands, and door hangers, where approved. Stencils should be “weeded” of remaining letters from the die cuts before they are used out on the street or else these pieces might accidentally be washed into the drains!
- < Other supplies to be provided by volunteers include; 1) whisk broom or wire brush, 2) sheet of cardboard to serve as wind block to avoid drifting paint if it’s a windy day, 3) old clothes and shoes, and 4) old rags and bags for cleaning up materials 4), long handled brooms or sticks to hold stencil down and keep hands away from spray.

### **SAFETY COMES FIRST!**

- < Remember to wear bright clothing and/or the safety vests provided by your municipality.
- < Stenciling should always be done in pairs or groups. This allows you to take turns watching traffic at all times to ensure the safety of those stenciling.

### **HOW TO AVOID PAINT MISHAPS**

- < Wear old clothes, shoes, gloves--protect anything you don’t want to have accidentally painted. Some stencilers wear plastic bags over their shoes.
- < Don’t spray too close to cars. Prevent excess spray paint from drifting by opening a cardboard box to set up as a shield around the stencil as it is sprayed.
- < Bring old rags to clean up paint on hands and arms.

### **HOW TO STENCIL A STORMDRAIN**

- < Remember to do stenciling in pairs or groups to keep an eye on the traffic around you.
- < Choose the area to stencil either in front of, or next to storm drains with an open grate--don’t stencil next to the solid lids which are generally marked storm, sewer, or water.
- < Brush away any gravel or dirt with a broom or wire brush. If the curb is curved, bend the stencil so that the “DUMP NO WASTE” line is on top of the curb to the right or left of the drain. Spray that portion first. Then bend and lay the remainder of the stencil as flat as possible on the gutter area (hold stencil in place using 2 broom handles) and spray the rest of the message.
- < After shaking the paint can for 60 seconds, hold can approximately 6 inches from the stencil and apply the paint with even strokes. Concentrate spray on the message, you do not need to spray the whole stencil surface. Be careful not to apply too much paint--it could run under the stencil and blur the letters together.

### **KEEP A RECORD**

- < Please return a completed logsheet to The Conservation Foundation right after your trip. Our address is 10S404 Knoch Knolls Road, Naperville, IL 60565. Or, our fax number is (630)428-4599. We will let the Center of Marine Conservation know how many drains were stenciled at the end of the year.
- < We would appreciate copies of any photographs you might have taken on your stenciling trip!

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL (630)428-4500 - THANKS!**