



# *DeKalb County*

## *Public Works Department*

### *Roads & Drainage Division*

### *Stormwater Management*

Our  
Vision  
Quality  
Service

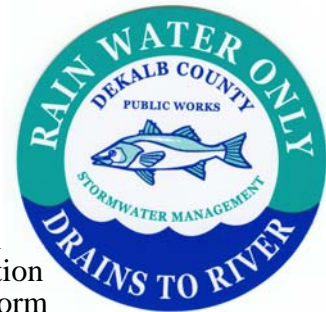
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**Who?** The DeKalb County Stormwater Management program would like to invite volunteers throughout DeKalb County to install curb markers on their storm drains. What are storm drain markers?

**What?** Storm Drain Curb Marking is a circular message that is glued onto the storm drain with special adhesive that says **“Rain Water Only, Drains to River”**.

Storm drains generally carry pollutants such as street debris, trash, leaves, grass clippings, pet wastes, toxic contaminants (from our vehicles) and lawn chemicals through a storm sewer system from the streets, sidewalks, and lawns when it rains. Storm Drain Marking is a small effort that brings large results.



**Why?** Storm Drain Marking is a visual reminder to homeowners and residents in the community not to dump waste in storm drains which are direct links for pollution to our streams and rivers. Contrary to many beliefs, water that is flushed down storm drains is not treated before it reaches a stream or river, and usually contains pollutants that ultimately degrade water quality threatening aquatic life and drinking water supplies. Therefore, placing curb marker reminders onto storm drains would greatly benefit your community and our overall water quality. Storm Drain Marking (and stenciling) programs have been implemented successfully nationwide and have been proven to be an effective, low-cost method of educating large segments of the population about water quality problems.

**How?** Volunteers in your community are needed to assist our staff with installing curb markers as the one pictured above onto your storm drains. This project is suitable for almost any age, including children as young as ten years old, which can be completed in about an hour. If you, or someone you, is interested in volunteering to help mark DeKalb County's Storm Drains and improve our water quality, please contact Andrew Sullivan at (404) 371-3256 or Glenda Marshall at (404) 294-2991. All materials (curb markers and adhesive) will be provided by DeKalb County's Stormwater Management Program.

**DeKalb County Public Works Stormwater Management Program supports the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's educational campaigns including the Clean Water Campaign and the Water Use It Wisely Campaign.**



**Clean Water Campaign: Be a Solution to Water Pollution** *The Clean Water Campaign*

(<https://northgeorgiawater.org/residents-schools-businesses/protect-our-water>) is a cooperative, multi-agency education and public initiative spearheaded by local governments in metro Atlanta, supported by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District and managed by the Atlanta Regional Commission. Its mission is to build awareness of water quality problems and solutions in the 16-county District.



**Water Use It Wisely: There are a number of ways to save water...and they all start with you.** *Water- Use It*

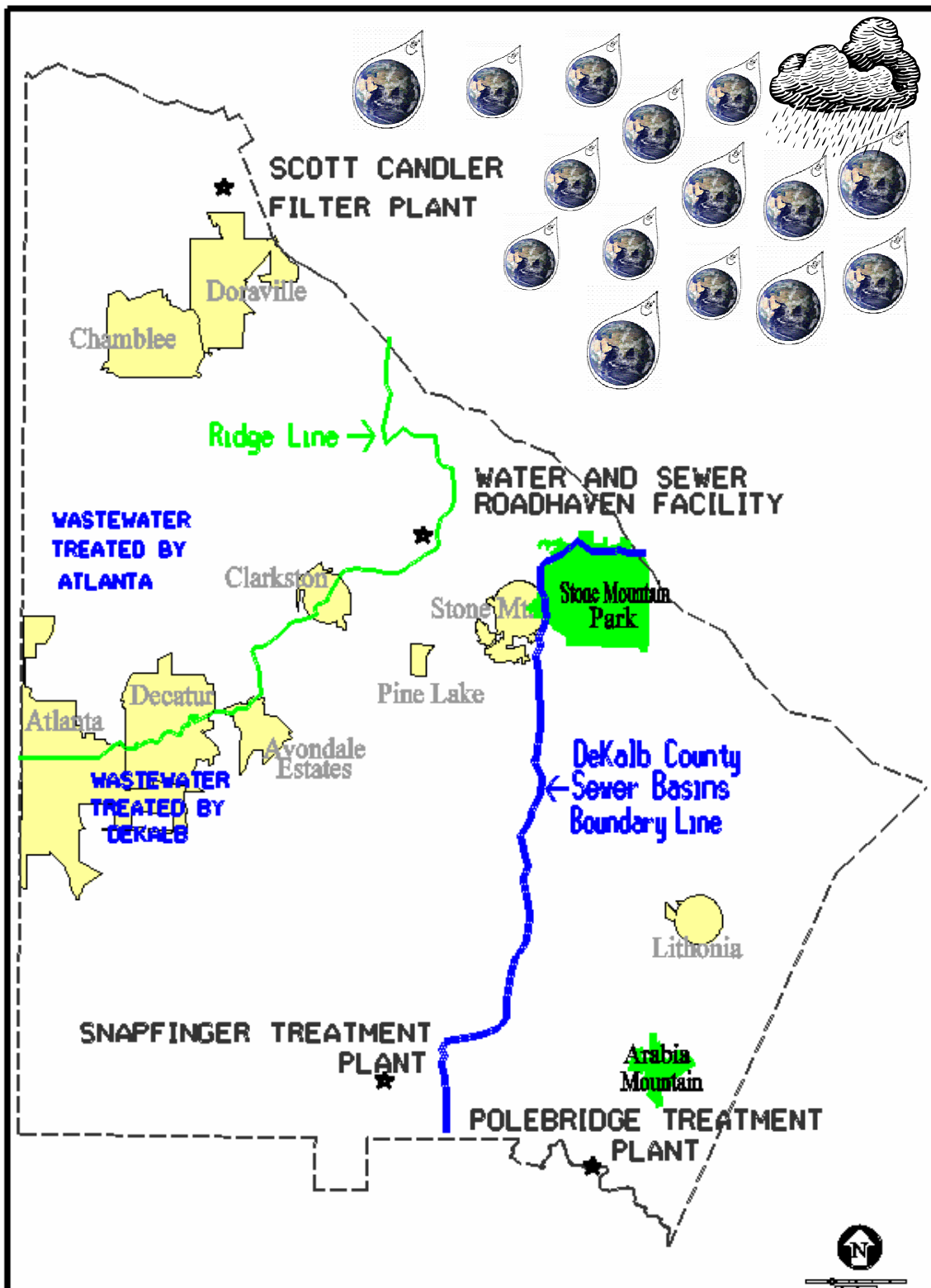
*Wisely* (<https://wateruseitwisely.com>) is a program that educates consumers about specific and simple water conservation measures they can use everyday to help. It is a multi-state program that is being sponsored in the metro Atlanta area by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District in partnership with the Georgia Pollution Prevention Assistance Division.

## Storm Drain Marking Program Helps Protect Water Quality

DeKalb County Public Works Stormwater Management Program and local volunteers are installing curb markers on storm inlets in your neighborhood to educate the public about water pollution

*Do you know where your stormwater goes?*

Depending on where you live in DeKalb County, specifically, what side of the ridge line that divides DeKalb County (green line on map below), the stormwater will either go to the Gulf of Mexico or the Atlantic Ocean. The Atlanta Metropolitan area is one of the only cities in the United States to be located on a subcontinental divide. DeKalb Avenue, Spring Street, and Peter Street are on the ridge line which divides Atlanta's major drainage basins, the Chattahoochee River of the Apalachicola River Basin which drains into the Gulf of Mexico and the South River of the Ocmulgee River Basin which drains into the Atlantic Ocean.



**Impervious surfaces such as roofs, driveways, parking lots, and streets prevent precipitation from entering the ground and the groundwater where it completes the hydrologic cycle. Instead stormwater is collected and either sent to a stormwater facility or discharged directly to the streams without control or treatment.**

**Polluted stormwater runoff is also called “nonpoint source pollution”** because the pollution problems come from many different sources as opposed to a “point source” such as a factory or a municipal sewage treatment plant.

**What is the fuss about? – Stormwater pollution** is one of the biggest problems facing water resources throughout metropolitan areas across the United States. Uncontrolled stormwater volume increases stream bank erosion and often results in downstream flooding. The stormwater pollution problem is especially critical in the Atlanta area because 98% of our drinking water comes from surface water sources.

Do you think you are on septic instead of DeKalb County sewer? Call the DeKalb County Board of Health, Division of Environmental Health at 404.508.7900 to find out! The DeKalb County Water and Sewer Department is responsible for operating and maintaining the water and sewerage system in DeKalb County. DeKalb County currently has approximately 5,000 miles of sewer pipes and about 65 sewer lift stations which help pump the sewage to one of the two wastewater treatment plants located in the County (the Pole Bridge Creek or Snapfinger Creek wastewater treatment facilities). See the sewer basins boundary line on the map on other side. Sewage from the northern half of DeKalb County is treated at the R.M. Clayton Wastewater Treatment Plant in the City of Atlanta.

Which wastewater treatment facility do you and your family depend on?

If you live in the eastern side of the County, please consider taking a tour of the Pole Bridge Creek wastewater treatment facility (Call the Pole Bridge plant at 770-593-9651 for tour information) OR if you live in the Southwestern part of DeKalb County, please consider taking a tour of the Snapfinger Creek wastewater treatment facility (Call the Snapfinger Plant at 770-808-2900 for tour information).

**Did You Know?**

- One of the most common pollutants found in storm drains and creeks is detergent from the washing of cars.
- It is illegal to dump wastewater or water containing soaps, cleaning, products, or grease and oil into streets or storm drains.
- Landscaping can help reduce storm water runoff. Vegetated areas cause little storm water runoff.
- Here's the Scoop...Pick Up After Your Pet...According to the American Veterinarian Medical Association, in 2002, there were over 60 million pet dogs in the United States, that's about 63 billion pounds of poop a year that could enter our surface waters!
- You can Learn About (Surf) Your Watershed at the Environmental Protection Agency website:

<https://www.epa.gov/hwp>

**What we all do matters!** *Typical stormwater pollutants that are improperly dumped down storm drains and enter our rivers include motor oil, antifreeze, paint, pesticides, fertilizers, trash, yard debris and dirt! Just one quart of motor oil can contaminate 250,000 gallons of drinking water.*

A large number of stormwater facilities or Best Management Practices (BMPs) in DeKalb County are located in Common Ownership Communities, such as homeowner associations and condominium associations. If you do not know if your neighborhood has a stormwater pond you should find out in order to schedule an inspection by DeKalb County and begin planning to cover maintenance costs. DeKalb County is not required to inspect commercial ponds. **Inspection and maintenance of our valuable infrastructure is imperative to keep it functioning.** Thank You for helping spread this message to Reduce Stormwater Pollution to Every Individual in DeKalb County!

***Keep It Clean, Because We're All Downstream!***



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## Storm Drain Curb Marker Installation Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

### Materials

- Storm Drain Curb Marker (manufactured by das)
- Curb Marker Adhesive (manufactured by das)
- Cloth or Whisk Broom
- Paper towels or disposable rags
- Gloves (cloth or disposable rubber gloves)
- Map from DeKalb County showing locations of Storm Drain inlets and catch basins in your neighborhood

### Procedure

1. Determine Location. Criteria for determining the location include:
  - On top or face of storm drain inlet;
  - Populated area or area where dumping is suspected;
  - Flat concrete surface;
  - Clearly visible and dry surface.
2. Clean curb surface,
3. Apply adhesive to the curb marker (do not apply adhesive to concrete surface). Start from the outside edge and work inward to the center. Ensure adhesive is applied across entire marker surface.
4. Place marker on clean curb surface.
5. Slowly step on top of the storm drain curb marker to secure it in place being careful not to slide it around.
6. Wipe away any excess adhesive.
7. Mark the location you installed the marker on the map provided by DeKalb County Stormwater Program.

### Time

Typically, it takes approximately 5 minutes to install a storm drain curb marker.

### Other ([Safety](#)) Considerations

- ⇒ Wear a high visibility safety vest and do not stand or work in the street while installing curb markers. Remember, Safety First!
- ⇒ We recommend an adult in the group be in charge of applying the adhesive to the curb markers and remember to only use the adhesive in well ventilated areas.
- ⇒ Use only on public right of way (street curb areas). Do not place curb markers on private property and respect a citizen's request to not put a marker in front of their home.
- ⇒ Overuse of curb markers in one area will not only look somewhat "tacky" but will cause people to grow accustomed to seeing the curb markers' and not pay as much attention to them.