

Dear Creation Care Volunteers!

Fall brings many opportunities for your congregation and your members to practice good water stewardship

- Including **community clean ups for water quality, smart lawn care** and preparing for **reducing winter salt use!**

The biggest action we can take is to rake leaves from our curbs and storm drains before it rains or snows, to prevent nutrients from being washed down storm drains into our streams and lakes.

We have enclosed several resources for you to take action on this

1. Sample Newsletter Announcement –

Community Clean Ups for Water Quality - Let's work together this fall - to protect our lakes & streams by raking the leaves from curbs and storm drains before it rains or snows. Phosphorous run off from leaves in the storm drains causes larger summer algae blooms in lakes. Report the number of bags of leaves you rake up as part of our congregation's team to find out how much pollution you prevented at <http://freshwater.org/community-clean-ups-for-water-quality/>

2. Leaf Bag Give Away – with a **table top display, signup sheet**, instruction sheet and **free leaf bags**

- Invite your members to participate with a table display and volunteer during your coffee hour.** Offer members a free compostable leaf bag when they sign up to adopt their curb and storm drain this fall.
- Free Compostable Leaf Bags – you can staple **instruction sheet** on the leaf bags you give away - on how volunteers from your congregation to report the # of bags of leaves they rake up
- Contact us if you would like free leaf bags** to give away at your fall events to promote the community clean ups. THANKS Sean Gosiewski, Alliance for Sustainability, 612-250-0389 sean@afors.org

3. Youth / Adult Volunteer Activity

- Schedule a 1 hour volunteer time on a Weekend between Oct 15 to Nov 15** – for your youth/ volunteer team to rake leaves from curbs and storm drains near your congregation.
- Contact us if you would like free leaf bags** to use for your community clean up. Sean Gosiewski, Alliance for Sustainability, 612-250-0389 sean@afors.org
- Let us know how many volunteers participated from your congregation's team and how many bags of leaves you raked up** from the street at <http://freshwater.org/community-clean-ups-for-water-quality/>

THANKS!

Sean Gosiewski, Executive Director, Alliance for Sustainability 612-250-0389 sean@afors.org

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www.afors.org www.allianceforsustainability.com/congregations [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)

Linking citizens, congregations and cities for sustainable communities!

cc. Nancy Kent, Linden Hills UCC, n13kent@yahoo.com

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Alliance for Sustainability

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MINNEHAHA CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT

Smart use of Salt during Snow Removal

- **MCWD** www.minnehahacreek.org/tags/salt
- **Nine Mile** <http://ninemilecreek.org/EDUCATION/salt.asp>
- **Riley PBC** www.rpbcwd.org/rpbcwd-resources/
- **MWMO** www.mwmo.org/wintertrainings.html

Snow and ice are part of Minnesota winters. In addition to shovels and snow blowers, it is a common practice to use salt to help with snow and ice removal efforts. However, when the snow and ice begin to melt, any salt that has been used goes with it. This salt ends up in nearby creeks and lakes or in our groundwater. Once the salt gets into these water bodies, there is no cost effective way of removing it. It doesn't take much salt to cause problems in our lakes and creeks. As little as one teaspoon of salt per five gallons of water can cause harm to our aquatic systems.

It is possible to reduce salt use while maintaining safe surfaces. Before grabbing the salt this winter, consider the following:

- **Shovel that snow.** The more snow that you can shovel or snow blow, the less salt you will need. Get out early and keep up with the storm.
- **Don't over apply.** More salt does not mean more melting. Use less than four pounds of salt per 1,000 feet². One pound of salt is about a heaping 12-ounce coffee cup.
- **Temperature matters.** Most salts stop working below 15° Fahrenheit (pavement temperature), so should not be applied. Instead, use a small amount of sand for traction.
- **Sweep up extra. Salt and sand on dry pavement** is not doing any work and will be washed into the creek. Sweep up the extra and reuse it.

Do you hire a snow removal service?

You can hire a snow removal contractor that has agreed to protect our waters by using less salt. Certified contractors have:

1. Attended a Winter Parking Lot and Sidewalk workshop.
2. Completed and passed a test.
3. Agreed to apply best practices to reduce chloride impacts.

For a list of certified individuals, visit: www.pca.state.mn.us/sbiz41

Do you like your current snow removal service, but they aren't certified? Ask them to attend a free training! Tell them to search "MPCA Salt Education" on the internet for more information or have them contact Erica, Education & Outreach Coordinator, at 952-358-2276. <http://ninemilecreek.org/EDUCATION/salt.asp>

Winter Parking Lot and Sidewalk Maintenance Workshops

Tuesday October 20 , 9am to 2pm <http://octoberwinterworkshop.eventbrite.com>

Or Tuesday November 17 9am to 2pm <http://octoberwinterworkshop.eventbrite.com>

Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point 12800 Gerard Drive Eden Prairie, MN 55346

This training offers information on best practices for managing snow and ice on parking lots and sidewalks.

Register at: <http://ninemilecreek.org>

Fall Water Stewardship

Keep a healthy lawn –

Mow high

- 2 ½, to 3 inches, for deeper roots to soak in more rain,
- Try fescue grass seed (deeper roots, drought tolerant)

Sweep Clean –

Keep leaves, grass, and litter out of the street.

Adopt my curb and storm drain

and clean out leaves, grass, and litter.

Use my run off

Redirect downspouts from hard surfaces to the yard or garden, and/or use a rain barrel.

Reduce Salt Use on Sidewalks and chemicals on Lawn -

herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers in your yard. If using chemicals, use according to the label instructions. Reduce the use of salt on sidewalks in the winter.

Install a rain garden to capture rainwater on your property. Use native plants to direct rainwater into the soil.

- **YES** - I would like a visit with a **Master Water Steward** to walk around my yard
- **YES** - **Metro Blooms Rain Garden Workshop**



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GreenPartners

Tools and resources for Environmental Education Partners





<http://freshwater.org/community-clean-ups-for-water-quality/>

OCT 15 to NOV 15 Individuals or Teams

Let's Keep our Creeks, Rivers and Lakes Clean Rake & Bag Leaves off your Curb & Storm Drain before it rains

Tell us how many bags of leaves you collected and we will tell you how much phosphorous you have kept out of our lakes

TWO OPTIONS to SEE YOUR IMPACT

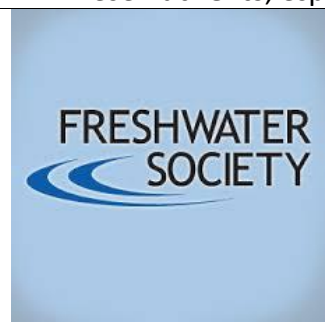
1 Report the # of bags you collect at <http://freshwater.org/WorkForWater/report.php>

When reporting on line say that you heard about W4W from the Alliance for Sustainability
Your Team, The Date, location, # of bags collected, # of storm drains cleared, # of volunteers

2 or call or email the # of bags you collect to Sean at 612-250-0389 sean@afors.org

Together we make a difference by raking leaves from our curb & storm drains

- Leaves & organic debris from streets & sidewalks can flow through storm sewers into lakes & streams
- The leaves & other material contain phosphorus, nitrogen & soil are significant pollutants.
- These **nutrients**, especially phosphorus, contribute to **excessive algae** growth that rob needed oxygen.



Freshwater.org



www.hennepin.us/greenpartners



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<http://allianceforsustainability.com/waterpledge/>



MINNEHAHA CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT



RILEY
PURGATORY
BLUFF CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT

Learn how to become a Master Water Steward at fall open house events

www.masterwaterstewards.org

Water Quality pledge - Yes I will do my part to protect our lakes and creeks!



Name	Address	Phone	Email	Team	Water actions I will take
					<input type="checkbox"/> Try out Fescue Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Mow High/ Sweep Clean <input type="checkbox"/> Rake Leaves from Curb <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt my Storm Drain <input type="checkbox"/> Home Visit by Water Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce Salt use on Side Walks <input type="checkbox"/> More info Water Stewards
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Team leader – **thanks** for entering your member water pledges (with your team name) on line at www.allianceforsustainability.com/waterpledge