



Adopt-A-Storm Drain Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is a storm event?

A storm event is any day or part of the day when there is precipitation, rain or snow.

What is a storm drain?

A storm drain is a drain with the function of collecting stormwater from streets and transporting it through local pipes and waterways. All stormwater in Highland Park eventually gets to the Raritan River.

Why is it important to keep storm drains clean?

It is important to maintain storm drains to minimize the amount of litter, tree and leaf material, recyclables and pollutants going into the storm drain system. Keeping storm drains clean also prevents storm drain blockage resulting in flooded streets.

How can you help?

By adopting a nearby storm drain, you can help reduce the amount of litter, debris and pollutants getting into our waterways. It will also beautify your neighborhood at the same time. By maintaining your storm drain you will help create healthier habitats for fish and marine life.

How long is the commitment?

The Borough is requesting a year-long commitment. If for some reason you can no longer be committed to taking care of your storm drain, please email highlandparksustainable@gmail.com to let us know.

Catch Basin Kit items provided if you request them on the application:

1. Reflective Safety Vest
2. Rake
3. Garbage & Recyclable Bags

How to Take Care of Your Storm Drain

- A reflective safety vest must be worn at all times during cleaning and maintaining your storm drain.
- Cleaning should be done from the sidewalk area.
- Be sure to clean your storm drain before and after storm events, if possible.
- Check your storm drain every 2 weeks or more to see if it needs to be cleaned.

- Use the tools in the storm drain kit to clear storm drains and properly dispose of litter, recyclables and tree and leaf debris.
- Use two separate bags for litter and recyclables and dispose of them in your household garbage or recyclable receptacles.
- If you live in an apartment and do not have a yard to dispose of tree and leaf debris, you can dispose of this debris at the DPW (Department of Public Works). There is an area to the left of the building at S. 5th Ave and Valentine Street, by the fence. It is identified with a sign.
- If your storm drain needs additional attention, contact DPW at 732-514-1277.