

# Storm Drainage Marker Program

## BRIARCLIFF MANOR SCHOOL DISTRICT

The public sometimes misuse the storm drain system as a trash can. In urban areas, stormwater may be connected to a combined sewer system and ultimately treated at a wastewater treatment plant which can add to the misconception that using storm drains as a trash receptacle is acceptable. However, throughout Westchester County and especially at the Briarcliff Manor School District (the District) schools the storm drain system discharges to streams and wetlands contributory to the Pocantico River watershed basin which ultimately discharges to the Hudson River. NYSDEC listed uses along segments of the river include trout fishing and recreational uses. In an effort to raise student, teacher, and general public awareness of the connection of the storm drains and the receiving water bodies, the District, has implemented a storm drain marker program.



### Potential Pollutants

- Sand from deicing operations or erosion;
- Pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides;
- Chemicals such as oil or antifreeze;
- Chemicals from vehicle washing;
- Trash; and
- Fecal coliform or other pathogens associated with animal waste or failed sanitary system.

### No Dumping – Drains to Waterways

Throughout the District, students and teachers have installed many of these markers on storm drain inlets in high visible areas. The markers placed in the storm drains state “No Dumping – Drains to Waterways”



helping to inform the public that the storm drains connect to local streams and wetlands and that dumping would pollute those waters. In addition to the phrase, there is an image of fish on the marker to help people realize that fish and other aquatic habitat will be impacted by the potential pollutants.

Students that participated in the program also created posters that were displayed within the schools educating others about the program. Many communities throughout the area have participated in similar storm drain marker or stenciling programs. Westchester Department of Public Works has installed catch basins similar to the one shown above.

While it is difficult to precisely measure the impact that storm drain marking programs have had on the receiving water bodies, initial surveys of the storm drain system have shown minimal impact due to trash, sediment, or other visible pollutants. The storm drain marking program has been an effective method to educate the general public and the District will continue to install the markers throughout the District.

