# Stormwater – Public Participation

Clean Water is a Community Effort

A single regulatory agency or municipal office working alone cannot be as effective in reducing stormwater pollution as if it has the participation, partnership, and combined efforts of other groups in the community all working towards the same goal. The point of public involvement is to build on community capital – the wealth of interested citizens and groups – to help spread the message on preventing stormwater pollution to undertake group activities that highlight storm drain pollution and contribute volunteer community actions to restore and protect local water resources.

Getting Involved

Below are some different activities that should be encouraged and offered to provide opportunities to participate in the stormwater management program:

Stream Cleanup and Monitoring

Hosting a stream cleanup is an effective way to promote stormwater awareness. A stream cleanup allows concerned citizens to become directly involved in water pollution prevention. Participants volunteer to walk (or paddle) the length of the stream or river, collecting trash and recording information about the quantity and types of garbage that has been removed.

Volunteer Monitoring

Volunteer monitoring programs encourage citizens to learn about their water resources. Analyzing water samples for dissolved oxygen, nutrients, pH, temperature and many other water constituents, evaluating the health of the stream habitants and aquatic biological communities, making inventories of streamside conditions and land uses that may affect water quality, cataloging and collecting beach debris, and restoring degraded habitants.

Wetland Plantings

Wetlands, unique ecosystems home to a great diversity of terrestrial and aquatic plants and animals, are beneficial in many ways. They improve water quality by filtering and accumulating pollutants, thereby protecting adjacent rivers, lakes, and streams, Citizens can plant wetland species to preserve existing wetlands to enhance degraded wetland plant communities