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**City of Duluth Communications Office**

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**DATE: 10/05/2011**

**SUBJECT: City Thanks Citizens for Keeping Storm Drains Clear to Maintain Water Quality**

**BY: Pakou Ly, Public Information Coordinator**

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## **City Thanks Citizens for Keeping Storm Drains Clear to Maintain Water Quality**

[Duluth, MN] - The City of Duluth wants to thank the employees, residents and businesses who are working to keep the storm drains and catch basins clear of leaves and debris this time of year.

The large, leafy trees that make our town so beautiful in autumn can create potential flooding issues when those big colorful leaves fall on our streets and parking lots and collect on and around catch basins.

Although leaves are natural and typically don't carry pollutants, the fact that they can plug up catch basin grates and reduce the amount of stormwater that can drain off the streets is a water quality issue. During a heavy rain, these partial blockages can lead to minor flooding and small washouts. The washouts can damage sensitive trout habitat by filling in trout spawning areas with sediment. If you see a plugged catch basin and are able to clear it safely please do so, or call Utility Operations at 218-730-4130. Never venture onto a street or roadway to clear a catch basin.

Citizen participation in this program is crucial to make sure we maintain the high quality of water we all enjoy – Thank you!

***Catch basins lead directly to our streams and Lake Superior, not to the treatment plant. Please do not dump anything into them. Contact the Regional Stormwater Protection Team's hotline at 218-529-3281 to report any illegal discharge or dumping.***

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