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-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

The Adopt-a-Drain program is Nationally Recognized

St. Paul, Minn. (October 29, 2024)- The Adopt-a-Drain program has won the Water Environment Federation's (WEF) 2024 Public Communication & Outreach Program Award. A project of Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education, Adopt-a-Drain recruits volunteers to keep storm drains in their neighborhoods clear of leaves, trash, and debris to help keep waterways clean and reduce street flooding. Since its inception in 2014, Adopt-a-Drain has had over 17,000 drain adopters join the program, over 29,000 drains adopted, and over 820,000 pounds of debris collected nationwide.

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) is a nonprofit technical and educational organization that represents water quality professionals around the world. Since 1928, WEF and its members have protected public health and the environment towards their goal of a world where each person has access to clean water and sanitation, where communities prosper, and where nature thrives. The WEF Public Communication &

Outreach Program Award recognizes exceptional programs that promote public awareness and the understanding of water environment issues.

"We are honored to be recognized for this distinguished award, solidifying the Adopt-a-Drain program as a national leader in clean water programming." said Tracy Fredin, Director of Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education.

Keeping storm drains clean is important because it protects local lakes and rivers from polluted stormwater runoff that flows unfiltered from our streets into local waterways. In addition to trash, road salt, and chemicals, organic debris like leaves and grass clippings also threaten the health of our waters. Decaying leaves and grass that wash into storm drains release nutrients into lakes and rivers that can lead to harmful algae blooms.

After creating an account at www.Adopt-a-Drain.org, residents can claim and name one or more available storm drains. The program asks volunteers to take 15 minutes twice a month to clean around drains, and to report on what was removed from the drains. The storm drain cleaning information is tracked on the site to show the program's overall impact.

The Adopt-a-Drain program is a project of Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education, located in Saint Paul, MN. Adopt-a-Drain partners with cities, counties, and other local organizations to bring the Adopt-a-Drain program to their communities. For more information on adopting a storm drain or to become a supporting

partner, email the program at info@adopt-a-drain.org, visit www.Adopt-a-Drain.org, or contact Ann Zawistoski at 612-670-6216.

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