

**“Keep It Clean, Drains to Lake Mendota”  
New Storm Drain Mural on Yellowstone Drive at Mineral Point Park Helps Educate  
Community About Stormwater Pollution**

Did you know that the rain that runs off our roofs, driveways, parking lots and streets washes down our storm drains and eventually ends up in nearby lakes, rivers and streams without being cleaned? Our storm drains and storm sewers work as an underground highway to transport stormwater runoff away from streets and prevent flooding. Unfortunately, this runoff also carries trash, chemicals, soil and other pollutants with it to our waterways. Jefferson Sixth Graders partnered with the Madison Area Municipal Stormwater Partnership and the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department to design and paint a local storm drain to educate residents about stormwater pollution through art. The goal of this colorful mural is to capture the attention of those who pass by, help them understand where the stormwater that enters their storm drain flows and get them thinking about what they can do to “Keep It Clean”.

Students in Ms. Vena Levesque’s class learned about water. We studied historical maps of storm drains, city development over time, and rainfall events. We learned about watersheds and stormwater, and observed how water moves through our site. With Christal Campbell, Stormwater Education Coordinator with the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department, students explored how humans can impact water quality via an in-class experiment. Students also spent time clearing garbage from the storm drains in Mineral Point Park to prevent the trash from entering our lakes.

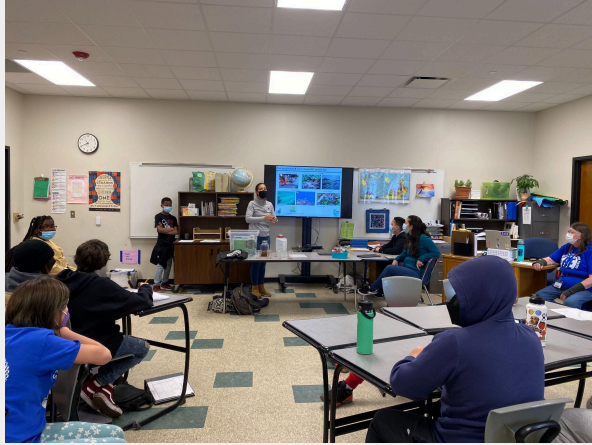
On Tuesday, May 17, Sonya Sankaran, a local artist, worked with Jefferson students to paint a unique mural design based on students’ ideas onto the storm drain. Next time you are in the neighborhood, take a moment to check out the storm drain mural on Yellowstone Dr. where it meets Mineral Point Park. This is one of six new storm drain murals to be painted on storm drains across Dane County this summer. For more information on the Storm Drain Mural Project or to learn about simple actions you can take to protect our waters visit [www.ripple-effects.com](http://www.ripple-effects.com).



Following the water as it leaves the Jefferson fields and goes through Mineral Point Park.



In class learning experiment with Ms. Campbell.



Trash superheroes!



The process and final product

