**Five easy ways to protect our water in 1-hour or less**

1. Rake and sweep the leaves, grass clippings, dirt and litter out of the street in front of your house. Storm drains carry rainwater from the road to nearby wetlands, lakes, streams and rivers. Sweeping litter, dirt and yard waste out of the street is a quick way to improve your home’s “curb appeal” and helps to keep those materials out of our water as well. [Insert relevant ordinance info here.]
2. Clean, drain and inspect your boat and trailer after getting out of the water. Aquatic invasive species (AIS) like zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, and spiny waterflea hitch rides on the bottoms of boats and trailers and inside ballast tanks, livewells, and other water-filled compartments. These non-native species can take over a lake or river, disrupting the natural ecosystem and causing significant expense to lake users and shoreline property owners. Minnesota law requires boaters to clean and drain watercraft, trailers and equipment before leaving a water-access and to keep drain plugs out while transporting watercraft to avoid accidentally spreading AIS.
3. Box up old medicine in your house and deliver it to an approved drop site. Dumping unused medications in the sink, toilet or landfill can pollute groundwater. Take a moment to gather up old and unused prescription, over-the-counter, and pet medication in your home and dispose of it properly. In [insert city or county name] residents can drop off medications at [insert location of collection site and/or upcoming take-back event].
4. Pull weeds from a raingarden in your neighborhood. Raingardens are bowl-shaped gardens designed to catch rain runoff from parking lots, streets, driveways and rooftops so that the water can soak into the ground instead of flowing through a storm sewer. Raingardens help to reduce water pollution and create habitat for birds and pollinators. Help to keep raingardens in your neighborhood looking spiffy by taking 1-hour to pick up litter and pull weeds. Learn more about raingardens at [www.bluethumb.org](http://www.bluethumb.org).
5. Pick up litter along a street or trail near your home. All too often, litter along streets and trails gets blown in waterways or washed into storm sewers. The next time you’re heading out for a walk, take a pair of gloves and a bag with you and pick up some litter as you go.