

FIU Earth Day Event - April 21st, 2026

Overview: In recognition of Earth Day, the Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) department will host a student volunteer event on April 21st focused on protecting water quality and promoting environmental stewardship across campus. The event will feature **two primary activities: stormwater drain labeling and a campus-wide trash clean-up.** Volunteers will assist EH&S in installing educational markers on storm drains to raise awareness that pollutants entering these systems flow directly into local waterways without treatment. This effort supports compliance with stormwater regulations and reinforces best management practices. Additionally, participants will also take part in a coordinated clean-up to remove litter and debris from campus grounds, helping to minimize environmental impacts and reduce the potential for stormwater contamination.

This initiative provides a hands-on opportunity for students to engage with EH&S programs, contribute to sustainability efforts, and better understand the importance of protecting our stormwater infrastructure and surrounding ecosystems. This initiative also raises awareness about stormwater pollution by installing labels on our FIU storm drains to remind our community that "Only Rain Belongs in the Drain."

When:

Tuesday, April 21st, 2026 at the Campus Support Complex (CSC) across from Baseball Fields, CSC 146.

The event will include the following:

- ❖ *Shift 1 10AM-2PM*
- ❖ *Lunch break: 12:00PM - 12:45PM*

There will be a quick overview on the importance of pollution prevention on our campus and ways that we can advocate for pollution prevention Measures.

Who will be participating?

Who?	What
FIU Department of Environmental Health & Safety	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expired labels will be removed if there are any signs of tears or visibility issues. Additionally, Students will be picking up small litter items on Campus. 2. A brief explanation discussing details of the areas where the work will be performed, addressing any safety concerns. 3. Escort participants to the designated area and provide proper apparel and provide any guidance for procedures.

	<p>4. FIU EH&S will be providing supervision and has the overall authority to provide directions, stop work, and change the work area as needed.</p>
<p>FIU Community (Including Participating Volunteers registered for this event and any addition to Faculty or Staff that would like to participate)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attend the event 2. Follow directions and provide any feedback to ask any questions or concerns about the event prior to commencement. 3. Work will be distributed in working teams of 3-4. 4. They will prepare labels and place the label on/near the storm drain and track completion throughout the event. The tracking will be conducted by an individual within the group. No other students shall be utilizing phones unless for emergencies. NEVER use the phone while working on the street or any other pedestrian hazardous zone. Additionally, one designated volunteer will also be responsible for the safety lookout of the members if the drains are in hazardous areas. 5. Communication between the Supervisor and Volunteer to communicate when bathroom breaks are needed. If there needs to be a bathroom break, all members must stop working and move into a safe designated area.

Equipment & Materials:

Labels and Adhesives – (Will be provided by EH&S)

Garbage Bags, Picker Sticks (For Debris/Litter Pick up)

A Map of the stormwater drain locations and Map of MMC Campus will be provided per group for reference.

PPE: Which will include the following (Provided by EH&S):

- Nitrile Disposable Gloves or similar (**** Please inform EH&S if you have any allergies to latex***), Garbage Picker Sticks.
- Safety Vests
- Sunblock

Safety Cones: 1 Cone will be provided per group to help redirect traffic if cleaning is taken place on roadways.

Water: *Please bring a reusable water bottle to reduce environmental impacts of Disposable water bottles*

Apparel: Comfortable clothing for appropriate weather events (**Please ensure that you check weather conditions prior to the event starting.**) Closed-toed shoes are highly recommended for this event, since this will take outdoors.

Procedures:

1. Volunteers will obtain necessary materials and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) provided by the Department of Environmental Health & Safety & office of Sustainability.
2. Volunteers are to identify the Storm drains in the provided maps and develop starting points and a potential ending point. Another set of volunteers will be in designated areas where students will be picking up garbage around.
3. Place safety cones (If volunteers placing a sticker or picking up litter on a hazardous area-street, roundabout, etc.) at least 5 feet from the stormwater drain and work area in all traffic directions.
4. Select where the label will be placed or pick up trash around the area and place them in designated waste Bags
5. Place the adhesive properly on the label and then proceed to place the label in designated area.
6. One designated input taker will input data to the following link for records: [Stormwater Drain Label Data Form](#) (If applicable to your group 😊)



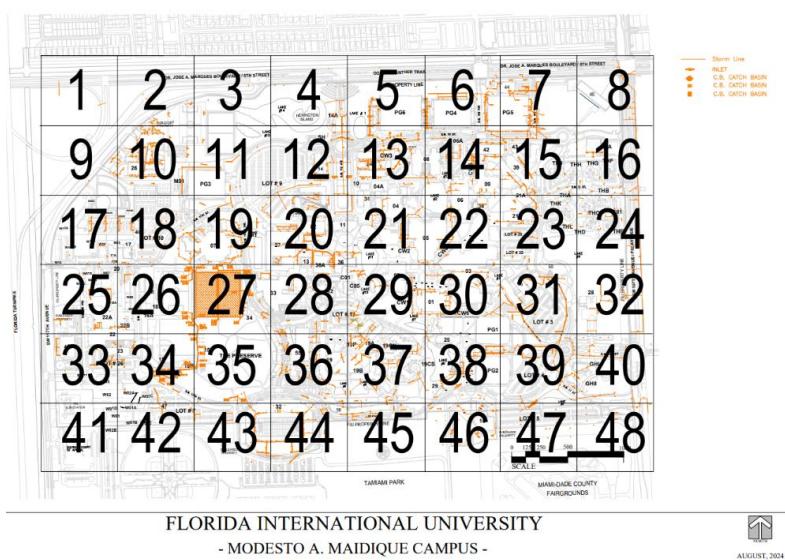
7. When the area is completed, the volunteers will place themselves in a safe location and repeat the process for the duration of the event.
8. Volunteers are to report back to the Field Support Building 15 minutes prior to the event ending. Volunteers who are picking up litter will be inputting data on the ***Volunteering events Debris Tracking Report.***

Appendix

I. QR Code for recording and tracking purposes



II. Stormwater Quadrant Map



III. MMC Map



IV. Volunteer Events Debris Tracking Report

Volunteering Events Debris Tracking Report

Mission & Goals: This form is intended to keep a Track of litter debris that could fall into our storm drains. FIU Environmental Health & Safety to provide tracking system of Debris collected in collaboration with FIU Office of Sustainability to meet accordance with Minimum Control Measures [40 CFR §122.34(b,1a)], under the Generic Permit for Discharge of Stormwater from Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems, Rule 62-621.300(7)(a), F.A.C. Littering contributes to soil, water, and air pollution, undermining the natural aesthetics of environments and introducing hazardous substances into the soil and waterways, which can adversely affect plant health and water quality. Furthermore, litter accumulation exacerbates serious environmental issues, such as obstructed drainage systems, which can lead to increased flooding risks. By monitoring and reporting litter, we can take proactive measures to protect our waterways and enhance our community's environmental health.

Volunteering Event Name: _____

Location of Volunteering: _____

Event Date (MM/DD/YY): ____/____/____

Number of Participants attended: _____

Type of Debris Present:

Beverage Cans: YES NO

Plastic Bags and/or Bottles: YES NO

Food Packaging: YES NO

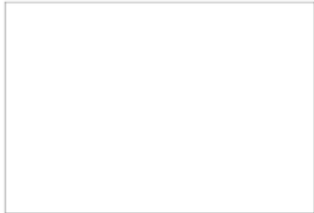
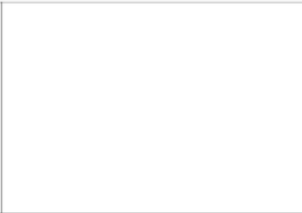
Litter Debris: YES NO

Vegetative Debris: YES NO

Other (Please specify): _____

Amount Collected (Quantity in Bags): _____

Images of Debris Collected (Please attach at least a minimum of 2 photos):

Picture 1:	Picture 2:
	

Please send this form after clean up event to the Department of Environmental Health & Safety to:

Angela Rivera, Environmental Compliance Officer
FIU Environmental Health & Safety Department, CSC164A
AngRivera@fiu.edu
If you have any further questions, please call 305-348-2622.