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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REDUCING POLLUTION IN THE SOUTH PLATTE RIVER STUDENTS MARK MONTCLAIR NEIGHBORHOOD STORM DRAINS

Yard clippings, fertilizer, motor oil, pet droppings fall leaves– if it gets washed down a city storm drain it ends up in the river and streams. With the goal of keeping the river a magnet for recreational activities and a safe and beautiful asset to our community, students from the Justina Ford STEM Institute put permanent markers on storm drain markers in Denver’s Cole neighborhood. For the students, it’s part civics lesson, part environmental lesson. For the city it’s a way to protect the river and educate the public. The event was timed to occur during July, Lake Appreciation Month.

During the week of July 17th, 2017, the students walked the Cole neighborhood marking about 160 storm drains. The event was coordinated by Denver Public Works, the Justina Ford STEM Institute, and the Barr Lake and Milton Reservoir Watershed Association (BMW). The group used a mobile app called Drain Marker, which was developed by a recent graduate of Turing, a Denver-based non-profit software design school.



The students had fun and learned the importance of keeping stormwater clean. “Think about your children’s future. They will be drinking and swimming in this water”, said 8th grader Serene. “When you are riding your bike or driving, and you see a ‘No Dumping’ sticker, follow what that says!”, implored 9th grader, Onyx.

There are tens of thousands of storm drains in Denver alone. In the mid 90’s the city began storm drain marking with badges that say ‘*No Dumping, Drains to River*’. Today many of Denver’s storm drains are marked and many need to be re-marked. For more information about marking drains in your Denver neighborhood, contact Donny Roush, Environmental Educator for Denver Public Works at 303-870-4690. For more information about the storm drain marking App, contact Caroline Powell at caroline@drain-marker.com.

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