Falling leaves and pine needles during winter winds and rains can lead to clogged storm drains in Brisbane. If unattended, this debris can cause storm drains to back up when heavy rains arrive. A clean storm drain prevents flooding, improves traffic flow, and maintains pedestrian access, especially for children, those with disabilities, and the elderly. Clean water from a clean drain improves the water quality of our Bay.

There are over 400 storm drains in Brisbane maintained by the City's Public Works Department. During heavy rains, City crews may not be able to prevent flooding at all intersections. However, with the help of Brisbane residents, we can reduce the potential for flood situations.

In an effort to improve Brisbane's services, the City has an “Adopt-a-Drain” program, modeled after similar efforts in surrounding cities. The City is always seeking more volunteers to adopt a drain in their neighborhood. After signing a simple agreement and liability release, volunteers will receive a rake stamped with a Brisbane Star. Volunteers are asked to clean fallen leaves and other debris from the adopted storm drains and gutters and either dispose in yard waste bins or trash cans, or request Public Works staff remove the raked debris. The City requests volunteers commit to maintaining their drain for at least one rainy season.

Citizens interested in participating in the Adopt-a-Drain program can contact Public Works to determine which drain they want to adopt and complete the necessary paperwork. For questions regarding this program, contact Jerry Flanagan at (415) 508-2130 or by email at jflanagan@ci.brisbane.ca.us.