

Adopt A Waterway Safety Guidelines

1. The Adopting Organization's Designated Representative should always survey the conditions of the group's waterway prior to the scheduled event and determine if the conditions are safe and appropriate for the ages and abilities of the group's members. If, at any time, the Designated Representative feels the adopted section of the waterway has become unsafe, the planned activity should be cancelled and rescheduled for another time by contacting the Adopt A Waterway Coordinator.
2. The Designated Representative for the Adopting Organization must conduct a safety meeting prior to all Adopt A Waterway activities to review the Safety Guidelines Form. No one may participate in the Adopt A Waterway Program unless they have attended the safety meeting. The safety meeting may be conducted directly before the start of any clean-up.
3. All member volunteers shall sign a Volunteer Risk and Release Agreement form prior to participating in any clean-up, restoration, or improvement activities, and given to the Adopt A Waterway Coordinator.
4. Do not pick up any materials that appear hazardous or unsafe, especially unmarked containers. If hypodermic needles, drug paraphernalia, or other suspicious materials are found, please note the location and notify the city after the cleanup. If an emergency arises, call 911 immediately.
5. You may encounter homeless camps. Please avoid these camps as much as possible and avoid taking trash or debris from the area directly around the camp. Please report homeless camps on your Adopt A Waterway Clean-up Data Form.
6. If children are participating, an adult must always be in their presence.
7. It is recommended each volunteer be up to date with his/her tetanus shot.
8. Volunteers with open cuts and sores should avoid contact with the water unless they are properly protected.
9. Volunteers shall not work in, on or around spillways, dams or other man-made diversions.
10. The city recommends each volunteer of the adopting organization wear high visibility vests, gloves, boots or sturdy shoes, pants, long sleeves, etc. **The city does not provide these items.** Volunteers should always work in groups of two (2) or greater.
11. Program participants should not drink water from any waterway.
12. Clean-ups and other activities shall be scheduled during daylight hours and during fair weather.
13. Program participants are encouraged to take breaks, drink fluids, and avoid overexertion.
14. Designated Representatives shall provide each of the volunteers with a list of emergency phone numbers in case of an emergency.

15. Volunteers should always get help carrying heavy objects. If the object is too heavy to move, mark the location and report on the Clean-up Data Form.
16. Streambanks and/or shorelines may be slippery and/or unstable. Always proceed with caution when walking along the waterway.
17. Only adults are allowed in high risk areas such as steep slopes, areas close to fast moving water, areas close to deep water, or areas with limited ingress/egress. These areas should be avoided when possible.
18. Take small steps and move slowly to avoid losing your balance and getting hurt.
19. There is a hazard for encountering possibly dangerous animals such as snakes and disease carrying insects such as mosquitos or ticks. It is recommended to wear long sleeves and pants where possible, provide bug spray to volunteers and remain constantly aware of habitats and surroundings. The following hazards may be present:
 - Broken glass, nails, metal or other sharp objects.
 - Critters such as snapping turtles, snakes and spiders.
 - Objects such as rocks, trash, or other hidden objects could cause you to trip and lose your balance.