



Thank you for volunteering for a self-guided clean up. These efforts are a major part of our overall program to care for and protect the Rivanna River. Participating in a clean up is a rewarding experience, but does take some care and planning to make it safe and enjoyable for participants. This document will help you prepare for a successful cleanup event.

Preparing for a cleanup:

- Contact RCA at info@rivannariver.org to coordinate a location and arrange pick up of your cleanup kit(s). These kits include: trash bags, work gloves, trash pickers, hand sanitizer, sunscreen, bug spray, a first aid kit, and spare face coverings.
- Arrange a drop off or disposal location for the collected trash with RCA.
- Check the weather before heading out and prepare accordingly. Cancel or reschedule the cleanup event if there is any chance of high water or flooding or there is lightning or other dangerous weather conditions.

What to do the day of the cleanup:

- Wear long pants to protect yourself from poison ivy and brambles.
- Wear boots, old sneakers, or other protective shoes that can get wet.
- Bring plenty of water. Stay hydrated!
- Bring snacks if the cleanup will last more than a couple of hours.
- Use the buddy system. Never allow cleanup volunteers to work alone.
- Follow COVID-19 social distancing and hygiene recommendations. Bring face coverings and ensure that participants wear them any time they cannot stay at least 6 feet apart from each other or other community members.
- As you conduct the clean up, note any items that stand out or if there are trends in what you are collecting (ex. plastic bags from nearby businesses, lots of styrofoam, tires). Note any large items that cannot be removed during the cleanup.
- Avoid picking up potentially infectious waste such as needles. Take extra precautions picking up and transporting broken glass.
- Be extremely cautious around steep stream or river banks. Vegetation can sometimes obscure the edge.

What to do after the cleanup:

- Leave trash at designated pickup location or transport it to pre-arranged dropoff point.
- Wash your hands thoroughly and check yourself for ticks.
- Fill out the cleanup report and send it to RCA (info@rivannariver.org).
- Return the cleanup kits to RCA along with the completed volunteer waivers (if not completed online).
- Share photos with RCA of your event (info@rivannariver.org or on Facebook).
- Pat yourself on the back for doing your part to help clean up the Rivanna watershed!

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