



Checklist for Organizing a River Cleanup

FoRR organizes two cleanups each year: one in the spring and one in the fall. We are happy to have you join in these cleanups- please check www.friendsofthereedyriver.org/events to see the date of the next public cleanup.

Here are some steps and information to help should you wish to organize your own river cleanup.

People

1. Determine the number and ages of your participants

River Location

1. Select an area that has a lot of trash!
2. Determine an access point to get into the river. Make certain that the riverbank is stable and has a low slope. Choose an area of the river where the water is clear and shallow enough to wade through.
3. Make sure your area is large enough to handle your volunteers. Sometimes multiple locations will be required.
4. Avoid locations with safety hazards, such as chemical containers or poison ivy.

Staging Logistics

1. Select a meeting location, with adequate parking, where volunteers will check in, obtain supplies and directions to river access point.
2. If you are planning to access or clean the river on private property, you will need to get permission from the property owner prior to cleanup.

Equipment

1. Participants should wear clothing and footwear that can get wet and dirty.
2. Waders or boots are helpful if your volunteers plan to get in the river.
3. Gloves should be worn to protect hands from brush and sharp items.

4. Wear sunscreen and a hat.
5. Trash bags, grabbers, shovels and rope for use in trash collection.
6. First aid kit and bug spray
7. Signage to indicate river access and trash collection area

Safety Speech

1. Keep your gloves and shoes on at all times throughout the cleanup.
2. Do not pick anything up that you are uncomfortable with. You are not required to remove every item.
3. Be careful with sharp items, as they can cut you and your trash bag. Have a bucket dedicated to be a “sharps” container for glass and other sharp items.
4. Do not empty containers that are sealed with liquid inside of them. It is better to have a heavier bag than allow these liquids to enter the water.
5. Keep in mind that items that are water and sediment-logged will be much heavier than they normally are. Use your common sense and ask for help when needed.
6. Have fun!!

Waivers

1. Your organization
2. Cooperating land owners and any participating organizations.
 - a. You can check the Greenville Parcel Map to see if your chosen section of the river is privately owned
3. City and County waivers. Please reach out to info@friendsofthereedyriver.org to obtain these.

Public Assistance (Trash Disposal and other assistance)

1. Contact the city or county (depending on your location) 2- 3 weeks prior to your cleanup and again the day before and after your event.
2. City of Greenville
 - a. Parks & Grounds Manager: Talena Stewart
tstewart@greenvillesc.gov
3. Greenville County
 - a. Download the Litter Prevention App
 - i. This allows you to consolidate your trash in one area, take a photo and have County staff come by to collect it
 - b. Litter Prevention Coordinator: Deanna Damato
ddamato@greenvillecounty.org