



# DUPAGE COUNTY

## Adopt-a-Stream



This program is administered by DuPage County in partnership with The Conservation Foundation.



# DUPAGE COUNTY ADOPT-A-STREAM

## Overview

The County of DuPage is dedicated to working with diverse stakeholders, such as community groups, local governments and corporations to clean up local waterways. The DuPage County Adopt-A-Stream program supports the belief that everyone can make a positive difference in the health of our waterways. Local businesses, schools, churches, student groups, organizations, watershed associations and volunteer groups are encouraged to participate in the maintenance and restoration of our local streams.

The Adopt-A-Stream program was created to reduce debris polluting and clogging our waterways. Stream cleanup projects offer the opportunity for participants to connect with local rivers and streams and can be a powerful experience. DuPage County offers additional activities aimed at improving water quality throughout the County, including the Storm Drain Stenciling program, DuPage County River Sweep, water quality monitoring and the possibility to engage in restoration activities.

The success of the Adopt-A-Stream program depends on support and participation of groups throughout DuPage County. This packet provides information for groups to determine if they would like to participate in the program. Groups are encouraged to review all the information and designate a group coordinator before signing up for the program.

## Program Basics

Groups are asked to make a two-year commitment to their designated section of stream and engage in a minimum of two stream cleanups each year. Trash pokers, gloves, trash bags and trash removal are supplied. Participants in Adopt-a-Stream are encouraged to utilize the annual DuPage River Sweep, a mid-May stream cleanup, as one of their two clean-up dates. Groups may choose to go beyond the minimum requirements by regularly monitoring water quality, recording illicit discharge or enhancement projects near streams. Groups that are unable to meet minimum program requirements may choose to participate in a one-time volunteer activity, with the potential to expand their involvement in the future.

After a group decides they will commit to the minimum requirements, the next step is to determine a section of stream to adopt. To maximize efficiency and create a greater impact, the County requires that groups adopt at least half a mile of stream. The Conservation Foundation is available to help with site selection. If the stream segment falls on private property, it is the responsibility of the adopting group to obtain property owner(s) permission prior to accessing the site. After all paperwork is received by The Conservation Foundation and filed with DuPage County and a site is selected, groups can begin their activities. DuPage County recognizes groups for fulfilling requirements of the Adopt-A-Stream program and will furnish and post signs with the organization's name along the group's adopted stream, or section thereof.

## Support

The Conservation Foundation can provide information or attend meetings to help recruit volunteers. For more information, contact Jan Roehll at The Conservation Foundation by phone at 630.428.4500, ext. 121 or by email at [jroehll@theconservationfoundation.org](mailto:jroehll@theconservationfoundation.org).

# ADOPT-A-STREAM RULES & REGULATIONS

1. The definition of a stream shall include navigable and/or non-navigable waters with the County of DuPage , including but not limited to rivers, drainageways, creeks, lakes and wetland areas.
2. Any lawful organization, (including but not limited to homeowners' associations, not-for-profit fraternal or social organizations, public service or veterans' groups ), may adopt a stream," or section thereof, as identified by the County of DuPage and shall, thereafter, be primarily responsible for litter pickup and removal of debris jams within the adopted stream area. Adopting organizations are referred to as a "Volunteer Group" or an "adopting group." A Volunteer Group may adopt-a-stream for a one-time cleanup event or for a long-term commitment.
3. The members of the adopting organization who participate in stream cleaning activities shall be referred to as "Volunteers." Volunteers are not County employees or contractors. The County does not assume responsibility for the safety and supervision of Volunteers or their organizations during stream cleaning activities. Volunteers and Volunteer Groups shall use due care and caution while at the cleanup site.
4. Volunteers must be at least eighteen (18) years of age unless approved by a guardian.
5. Volunteers under (18) years of age must be accompanied by an adult chaperone at all times while on the cleanup site. Adult chaperones shall be solely responsible for ensuring the safety of Volunteers under (18) years of age. There shall be one adult chaperone per every 5 Volunteers under (18) years of age at a cleanup site.
6. Volunteers shall not perform stream cleaning activities while under the influence of any drugs or alcoholic substance. Alcohol and illicit drugs shall not be possessed or used by any Volunteers while engaged in stream cleaning activities. Volunteer Groups shall be responsible for ensuring that their Volunteers members only perform stream cleaning activities within each Volunteer's individual capabilities.
7. Participating Volunteers, or their Volunteer Group, shall have first-aid supplies and an adequate supply of drinking water present at stream cleaning sites.
8. Volunteers shall place collected debris and litter in trash bags provided by County of DuPage. Filled trash bags shall be left for pick-up only at locations designated by the County.
9. Vehicles shall be parked in permitted parking areas whenever such parking areas are available. Vehicles parked within a road right-of-way shall not park in or near roadway curves, on bridge decks, near or under overpasses, or in medium areas. Caution shall be used by all Volunteers on and near road right-of-ways.
10. Volunteers shall not enter onto private property without the express permission of the property owner(s).
11. Any large, heavy or bulky objects found along the stream should be marked pickup, or the location reported back to the County of DuPage. Volunteers shall immediately report the discovery of any suspected hazardous waste to the County.
12. The County does not approve or recommend the use of chainsaws for stream cleaning activities.
13. A Volunteer Group interested in a long-term commitment with the County shall adopt a stream pursuant to the County's stream adoption procedures. Long-term commitments shall be for an initial term of two (2) years with the right to renew their adoption agreement for successive two (2) tear terms. The County of DuPage shall have the right to terminate any adoption agreement, and remove any signs indicating a Volunteer Group's participation, in the event the Volunteer Group does not meet its obligations under the Adopt-A-Stream program or its adoption agreement, or the Volunteer Group or any of its Volunteer members violate any County rule.
14. The County will furnish and post signs with the Volunteer Group's name along that group's adopted stream, or section thereof. The signs shall conform to the requirements of the Illinois Department of Transportation. No slogans, nor advertisements, shall be on the sign face.
15. A Volunteer Group in a long-term commitment shall designate a group coordinator to work with the Director of the County of DuPage's Department of Stormwater Management, or his designee.
16. The County shall sponsor safety and educational meetings and distribute safety and stream corridor management guidelines to the adopting volunteer groups. The adopting group participating in the project must attend a safety meeting prior to stream maintenance activities. The adopting group shall conform to all safety requirements as presented at the safety meeting.
17. Volunteer Groups having long-term commitments shall conduct stream cleanup activities a minimum of two (2) times per calendar year with two (2) weeks notice to the Director of the schedule cleanup date(s).



# ADOPT-A-STREAM ORGANIZATION SIGN-UP



Please complete this form and return it to The Conservation Foundation prior to participating in any Adopt-A-Stream activities.

ORGANIZATION NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

COORDINATOR: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

WEBSITE: \_\_\_\_\_

We, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to Adopt  
(Please Print Organization Name)

\_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print Stream Name) (Beginning Point)

to \_\_\_\_\_ and have read the foregoing Rules and Regulations and we  
(Ending Point)

understand and agree to abide by the same.

COORDINATOR'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

(Do Not Write Below This Line)

## DUPAGE COUNTY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

APPROVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

(Email completed form to [jroehll@theconservationfoundation.org](mailto:jroehll@theconservationfoundation.org).)



# ADOPT-A-STREAM VOLUNTEER WAIVER



Please complete this form and return it to the group coordinator prior to any stream cleaning activities.

PARTICIPANT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

Recognizing the need for litter-free stream corridors and in an effort to contribute toward maintaining debris free streams in DuPage County, Illinois, I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to participate as an Adopt-A-Stream Volunteer. (Please Print Your Name)

By my signature below, I acknowledge that I understand the hazardous nature of the work performed by Adopt-A-Stream Volunteers. I acknowledge and understand that stream cleanup activities expose Volunteers to risks of harm from conditions such as, but not limited to, moving or deep water, submerged debris, wet or unstable surfaces, drop-offs and uneven terrain, insect or animal bites, and noxious plants. I acknowledge and understand that the County cannot and does not warrant, guaranty, assure, or assume responsibility for my health and safety during stream cleanup projects. I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the attached rules and regulations dated \_\_\_\_\_, at all times at the stream cleaning site. I further understand that the County, and any participating municipality, will not supervise, direct nor manage my work and that I am solely responsible for exercising due care and caution in the performance of my Adopt-A-Stream Volunteer activities. I agree to hold harmless and defend the County of DuPage, and any participating municipality, and to waive any actions or claims against them, or their agents, employees, officers, for any personal injuries or property damage arising out of my participation in any Adopt-A-Stream event.

VOLUNTEER SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



# ADOPT-A-STREAM VOLUNTEER WAIVER (UNDER 18)



Please complete this form and return it to the group coordinator prior to any stream cleaning activities.

PARTICIPANT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

Recognizing the need for litter-free stream corridors and in an effort to contribute toward maintaining debris free streams in DuPage County, Illinois, I, \_\_\_\_\_, allow \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(Guardian Name)</sup> to participate as an Adopt-A-Stream Volunteer.  
(Child Name)

By my signature below, I acknowledge that I understand the hazardous nature of the work performed by Adopt-A-Stream Volunteers. I acknowledge and understand that stream cleanup activities expose Volunteers to risks of harm from conditions such as, but not limited to, moving or deep water, submerged debris, wet or unstable surfaces, drop-offs and uneven terrain, insect or animal bites, and noxious plants. I acknowledge and understand that the County cannot and does not warrant, guaranty, assure, or assume responsibility for my child's health and safety during stream cleanup projects. I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the attached rules and regulations dated \_\_\_\_\_, at all times at the stream cleaning site. I further understand that the County, and any participating municipality, will not supervise, direct nor manage my child's work and that they are solely responsible for exercising due care and caution in the performance of the Adopt-A-Stream Volunteer activities. I agree to hold harmless and defend the County of DuPage, and any participating municipality, and to waive any actions or claims against them, or their agents, employees, officers, for any personal injuries or property damage arising out of my participation in any Adopt-A-Stream event.

GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



# ADOPT-A-STREAM FIELD DATA SHEET



Complete this form and return it to The Conservation Foundation with pictures following cleanup activities.

ORGANIZATION NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

COORDINATOR: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

CLEANUP DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ # OF VOLUNTEERS: \_\_\_\_\_

BEGINNING TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ ENDING TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

BEGINNING POINT: \_\_\_\_\_ ENDING POINT: \_\_\_\_\_

## STREAM OBSERVATIONS

Please check all that apply.

### WATER APPEARANCE

Clear  Muddy  Foamy  Oily  Scummy  Grey/Black  Green/Algae

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Rocky  Sandy  Silty  Other STREAM BOTTOM \_\_\_\_\_

Large Trees  Small Trees/Brush  Weeds/Plants  Rip-rap (Rock)  Exposed Soil

Other \_\_\_\_\_

### STREAMBANK

None  Musky/Organic  Chemical  Gas/Oil  Sewage/Rotten Egg

Other \_\_\_\_\_

## CLEANUP DATA

Please complete in detail and include any pictures from the cleanup.

# OF TRASH BAGS: \_\_\_\_\_ ESTIMATED # POUNDS: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION OF TRASH FOR PICK-UP: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF DEBRIS COLLECTED, INCLUDING ANY UNUSUAL ITEMS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Email completed form to [jroehll@theconservationfoundation.org](mailto:jroehll@theconservationfoundation.org).)