



# City of Charlottesville Adopt-a-Stream Program



## General Adopt-a-Stream Conditions

1. Selected City maintained streams will be eligible for adoption. Eligible sections will be selected by the Director of Utilities, or an appointed representative. Those sections determined unsafe will not be eligible for adoption.
2. The City of Charlottesville reserves the right to deny adoption requests by any group, individual or business based on any one of the following criteria.
  - A. Safety of the participants, passing motorists or City employees.
  - B. Expense above the normal Adopt-a-Stream program expense.
  - C. Effectiveness of the litter control by the participants.
  - D. Streams that have been deemed ineligible for adoption by the Director of Utilities for whatever reason.
3. Litter pickup will be done on the stream two times a year or more often if deemed necessary by the Director of Utilities.
4. Local community organizations, such as civic, social or school groups, and businesses will be allowed to adopt streams, as will individuals 18 years or older. Participants must have approved applications on file with the Department of Utilities.
5. Businesses that wish to sponsor groups may do so: the business name will go on the sign in block letters. No business slogans or logos will be allowed.
6. Participants are required to adopt for a minimum of two years.
7. Participants must hold meetings at least twice a year to review safety and other guidelines. No participant may be involved in a litter pickup unless he/she has attended at least one such meeting a year.
8. The City of Charlottesville will supply participants with safety information, plastic trash bags, safety vests and gloves.  
The materials will be picked up from the Department of Utilities during working hours (8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.), Monday through Friday the week before the pickup.
9. If participants cannot dispose of the filled trash bags, pickup can be scheduled with the Department of Utilities.

10. Participants are encouraged to separate and recycle appropriate materials for their benefit.
11. A sign noting the program and the participants will be installed as close to the beginning of the adopted section as feasible.
12. The City of Charlottesville will bear the cost of producing, installing, and maintaining the signs.
13. The City of Charlottesville will monitor the program. The Water Resources Specialist, or someone s/he assigns, will be the contact person for the adopting groups. An adoption can be terminated if the work of the participating group or individual interferes with traffic, is considered unsafe, is inadequate for effective litter control, is inconsistent with the Adopt-a-Stream program, or if the City decides to end the Adopt-a-Stream program.
14. After each pickup, participants will file reports detailing the number of people involved, number of bags of litter picked up, hours spent, etc. Pre-printed forms will be furnished by the Department of Utilities for making the reports, which will be filed with the Department of Utilities. Records on the program will be kept by the Water Resources Protection Program, which will also serve as the information-clearing house for interest groups/media inquiries.
15. Groups with members less than 15 years of age must be supervised by adults 18 years or older. There will be one adult per eight under-age group members. Large groups should be divided into teams of eight or fewer members.
16. The City of Charlottesville reserves the right to revise the conditions as needed.

## **City of Charlottesville**

### **Adopt-a-Stream Precautions and Safety Tips**

Urban streams, by the very nature of the lands that drain into them, often have some water quality impairment. This is the case with many of the streams in the City, some of which have been identified by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality as being impaired because of excessive levels of sediment and bacteria. That in and of itself does not mean that it is dangerous to be in or around these waterways. What it does mean, is that it is always advisable to follow some practical guidelines when interacting with urban streams:

- Do not conduct a stream cleanup, or go into the stream, during or immediately after a rain event. Levels of pollutants are higher at these times because they are carried into streams by rainwater via the stormwater drainage system.
- Do not go into the stream if you have any open cuts, wounds, or sores on your body.
- Wear shoes and gloves to protect your feet and hands.
- Always wash hands or use hand sanitizer after being in contact with the stream, and especially before eating.
- Do not ingest any of the stream water or sediment. Avoid getting water or sediment in your mouth, ears, or nose.

It is also advisable to abide by the following safety tips to avoid injury:

#### **DO**

- Do wear an orange safety vest so you can be seen and identified with the clean up team.
- Do wear protective clothing that is easy to see, as well as shoes that can get wet and work gloves. Sandals or open-toed shoes should not be worn.
- Do work only in the daylight hours and good weather.
- Do be aware of your surroundings and passing motorists.
- Do work in groups of at least two people.

#### **DON'T**

- Don't horse around or do anything dangerous or distracting to yourself or others.
- Don't participate in cleanup under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Don't overexert yourself.
- Don't pick up hazardous materials. Call the Fire Department to arrange for proper handling and disposal.