



## Adopt-A -Park Program Safety Guidelines

### **All Individuals/Organizations Must:**

1. The Adopting Organization must conduct a safety meeting prior to all Adopt-A-Park activities to review the supplied safety information. 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 cleanup.
2. Schedule clean-ups and other activities during daylight hours and during fair weather.
3. Survey the conditions of the group's cleanup areas 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 Individual/Organization feels the park conditions are unsafe, the planned activity should be cancelled and re-scheduled for another time.
4. Sign a Volunteer Acknowledgment of Risk and Release form prior to participating in any cleanup, restoration, or improvement activities.
5. Follow all Park rules and County Ordinances.
6. Always have an adult present if children are participating.
7. Provide each of the volunteers with a list of emergency phone numbers in case of an emergency.
8. All volunteers must wear safety vest.

### **Safety Don'ts:**

8. 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 County and/or contact 911 for emergencies.
9. Do not enter Homeless camps. Please always stay approximately 50 feet away from camps. Do not take trash or debris from camps.
10. DO not leave children unattended at any time.

**The Department Recommends the following:**

11. Volunteers should avoid working on steep slopes or in confined areas with limited ingress/egress.
12. Program participants are encouraged to take breaks, drink fluids, and avoid overexertion.
13. Volunteers should always get help carrying heavy objects. If the object is too heavy to move, mark the location and notify the County.
14. Take small steps and move slowly in order to avoid losing your balance and getting hurt. The following hazards may be present:
  - a. Broken glass, nails, metal or other sharp objects.
  - b. Critters such as snapping turtles, snakes and spiders.
  - c. Objects such as rocks, trash, or other hidden objects could cause you to trip and lose your balance.
15. It is recommended that each volunteer be up to date with his/her tetanus shot.
16. Volunteers with open cuts and sores should avoid cleanup activities unless they are properly protected.
17. The County recommends that each volunteer of the Adopting Organization wears gloves, boots or sturdy shoes, pants, etc. **(The County does not provide these items.**
18. Volunteers should always work in groups of two (2) or greater.

