

Tips for a Safe and Successful Public Waters Cleanup
Adopt-a-River Program
Trails and Waterways Division, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Thank you for volunteering to clean our public waters. You are joining forces with thousands of other volunteers to help improve our communities – and to have a good time in the process. Working together, we can make a difference!

Your site leader will give you bags, gloves and instructions about where to work, and where to pile trash. Please report any problems to your site leader.

- Wear long pants, gloves and boots to avoid injuries from sharp objects. Anyone with an open wound should avoid contact with water and trash. No sandals or open shoes.
- Please be sure to think of your own safety and the safety of others. Do not over extend yourself.**
- Work with a buddy.
- Watch for safety hazards and stay back from steep banks.
- Materials not to be handled include: Sealed barrels, gas canisters, full beverage containers, aerosol cans. Mark and report the location to your site leader.
- Do not open any unopened container. (If you open a soda pop can that has been heated by the sun, it may explode with force and cause injury.)
- Hypodermic needles should not be touched. Don't handle anything you cannot identify or have questions about. Don't reach where you cannot see. Mark and report location to your site leader.
- Do not wade in the river.
- Please do not strain yourself trying to dig or pull tires or other large objects off the shoreline. Know your limits. Lift with your legs, not your back.
- Carefully supervise all minors under your care. They must immediately respond to direction from supervisors, including the boat captain.
- Wash your hands before touching your face or handling food.
- Your site leader has some first aid supplies, soap and clean water on hand, for washing.
- Seek shelter in low-lying areas away from water in case of a thunderstorm.
- HAVE FUN – and share the good feelings that come from having done something good for the river! Thanks, again!**