

City of Colorado Springs Adopt-A-Waterway Program Safety Guidelines

It's up to each of us to keep our waters clean...

1. The Adopting Organization's Designated Representative should always survey the conditions of the group's waterway 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 Designated Representative feels the adopted section of the waterway has become unsafe, the planned activity should be cancelled and re-scheduled for another time. One of the most common conditions to be aware of is high water resulting from large quantities of stormwater runoff derived from heavy rainfall and/or spring snowmelt.
2. The Designated Representative for the Adopting Organization must conduct a safety meeting prior to all Adopt-A-Waterway 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.
3. All member volunteers shall sign a **Volunteer Acknowledgment of Risk and Release** form prior to participating in any cleanup, restoration or improvement activities.
4. **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 City after the cleanup or utilize the city's [GoCOS!](https://coloradosprings.gov/gocos) smartphone App at: <https://coloradosprings.gov/gocos>
DO NOT PICK UP THESE MATERIALS!!! If, an emergency arises call: 911
5. **Homeless camps. Please stay approximately 50 feet away from camps at all times. Do not take trash or debris from camps.**
6. If children are participating, an adult must be in their presence at all times.
7. It is recommended that each volunteer be up to date with his/her tetanus shot.
8. Volunteers with open cuts and sores should avoid contact with the water unless they are properly protected.
9. Volunteers should avoid working on steep slopes or in confined river stretches with limited ingress/egress.
10. Volunteers shall not work in, on or around spillways, dams or other man-made diversions.
11. The City recommends that each volunteer of the Adopting Organization wears gloves, boots or sturdy shoes, pants, etc. **(The City does not provide these items.)** Volunteers should always work in groups of two (2) or greater.
12. Program participants should not drink water from any waterway.

13. Clean-ups and other activities shall be scheduled during daylight hours and during fair weather. Remember to schedule a “foul weather date” ahead of time.
14. Program participants are encouraged to take breaks, drink fluids, and avoid overexertion.
15. Designated Representatives shall provide each of the volunteers with a list of emergency phone numbers in case of an emergency.
16. Volunteers should always get help carrying heavy objects. If the object is too heavy to move, mark the location and notify the City of Colorado Springs Adopt-A-Waterway Program Coordinator.
17. Streambanks and/or shorelines may be slippery and/or unstable. Always proceed with caution when walking along the waterway.
18. Only adults are allowed in high risk areas such as steep slopes, areas close to fast moving water, or areas close to deep water. These areas should be avoided when possible.
19. 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.