



Greensboro Stormwater Management Division Adopt-a-Stream Program

Streams in Greensboro serve many uses, ranging from carrying stormwater runoff to providing habitat for fish, turtles, birds and other wildlife. We appreciate your interest in the City of Greensboro's Adopt-a-Stream program. This program provides families, local business owners, civic groups, neighborhood organizations, youth groups, churches and academic institutions the opportunity to become involved in an environmental program that helps to protect our natural resources. The objectives of this program are to increase community involvement and awareness of the City's water resources, develop watershed-based environmental education, increase reporting of water quality problems, and to improve water quality and stream habitat. By committing to the program, your group or organization agrees to collect litter along your adopted stream twice a year for at least two years.

The enclosed package provides information on the program and explains the requirements for Adopt-a-Stream projects. Please return the following information to the address listed below prior to stream cleanup: Adopt-a-Stream Application and Agreement, Liability Release Form, Adopt-a-Stream Sign Request and the Event Notification Form. After the packet is received by the City, the group is authorized to clean the stream. Once processed, a copy of the Application and Agreement will be mailed to you.

**City of Greensboro Water Resources Department
Attention: Veronica Covert
2602 S. Elm-Eugene Street
Greensboro, NC 27406
Phone (336) 373-4762
Fax (336) 412-6305**



Adopt-a-Stream Application and Agreement

Name of Group/Organization: _____

Number in Group: _____

I. Contact Information

Primary Contact Information

Name: _____

Mailing address

City State Zip Code

Phone () _____ Email _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Secondary Contact Information

Name: _____

Mailing address

City State Zip Code

Phone () _____ Email _____

Signature _____ Date _____

II. Stream Information

Please select a stream or contact us to find a stream for you to adopt. If you have a stream in mind, describe the body of water to be adopted. Include its location with landmarks (bridges, roads, confluence with other bodies of water). Include a map (hand drawn is okay) to help identify the area. We will locate your adopted area on a City map and help suggest boundaries.

Length of Stream Segment: _____ *(To be completed by Adopt-a-Stream Coordinator)*

III. Required Items: The following items are necessary to fulfill membership obligations for the Adopt-a-Stream program

- Two stream cleanups each year for two years
- Completed Event Notification Form (Appendix B) preceding each cleanup
- Completed Reporting Form (Appendix C) following each cleanup

IV. Suggested Items: The following items are suggested but are not necessary to participate in the Adopt-a-Stream program (Check all that apply)

- Drain Markers-Labeling of stormwater inlets with "Don't Dump" plaques and distribution of corresponding educational material about stormwater runoff
- Stream Renovations: debris removal, streambank plantings, erosion control
- Invite speakers on environmental issues
- Stream walks, bird watching, wildlife observations
- Other _____

V. The City of Greensboro Stormwater Management Division agrees to provide the following: (Check all that apply)

- Event Notification and Reporting forms
- Official Adopt-a-Stream sign bearing the name of your group
- Bags for cleanups
- Coordination of bag disposal
- Drain Marker materials
- Speakers on environmental issues
- Evaluation and approval of designs for stream renovation/enhancement
- Technical assistance by request
- Other: _____

VI. Agreement

All Adopt-a-Stream contracts shall be reviewed every two years. The named entity agrees to pick up litter twice a year for two years along the adopted section of stream. The participant agrees to notify the Adopt-a-Stream coordinator prior to and upon completion of its collections. This agreement shall be valid beginning _____ (month) _____ (year) and ending no sooner than two years from the date. The entity may cancel this agreement with written notice to the City of Greensboro Stormwater Management Division.

The City of Greensboro Stormwater Management Division may cancel this agreement if the above-named participant fails to meet its collection obligations for its adopted section of a stream. Participants will be notified in writing prior to canceling of this agreement, if applicable, removing signs. The City of Greensboro Stormwater Management Division reserves the right to revise or discontinue the Adopt-a Stream Program at any time.

Signature of Group's Designated Representative

Date

**Signature of Adopt-a-Stream Coordinator
Stormwater Management Division**

Date

VIII. Adopt-a-Stream Sign Request Form

Each volunteer group is entitled to an Adopt-a-Stream sign along a street that crosses the stream or other designated location. Sign will not be installed until one cleanup has been completed and all necessary documents are returned.

The boxes below represent the maximum number of characters allowed on your Adopt-a-Stream sign. You have the option of two lines with the possibility of 16 characters per line. Please print one letter per box (punctuation marks count as one letter). If the name of your organization can fit on one line, the sign maker will use a larger character for better visibility.

Please include only the name of your group or organization. Phrases such as "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" will not be allowed on the Adopt-a-Stream signs. The Adopt-a-Stream Coordinator must approve all signs.

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Desired location of sign (Preferred location is along a major street that crosses the stream):

Appendix A

Adopt-a-Stream Program Safety Guidelines

- Must be 10 years of age to participate with proper supervision by an adult and parental/guardian signature .
- Stream cleanup should only be done during daylight hours.
- Conduct a safety meeting for all participants prior to each cleanup.
- Wear light-colored clothing that covers arms and legs. Also wear rubber boots or waders, gloves, hat and safety glasses.
- Wear clothing that will not impair vision or movement during cleanup activities.
- Work in small groups. **Do not work alone!**
- Stay clear of any construction.
- Do not work in inclement weather.
- During warm weather months, drink plenty of fluids, take breaks and avoid overexertion.
- During cold weather months, dress warmly with layered clothing.
- Be alert for snakes, stinging insects, and poisonous plants.
- Carpool to the site to reduce the number of vehicles.
- Use proper bending and lifting techniques.
- Be aware of wet rocks, hills, and slopes. Watch your step!
- Do not use or possess illegal drugs or alcohol during cleanup.
- Do not pick up trash or walk on bridges, on overpasses or in tunnels or culverts.
- Do not pick up what appears to be hazardous material (notify your Adopt-a-Stream coordinator if you encounter hazardous objects or holes, guy wires and other hidden obstacles in the ground).
- Do not attempt to squeeze bags to make room for more trash (injuries from broken or jagged objects can result from this practice).

In Case of Emergency:

- Have an adequate first-aid kit available.
- Select an emergency room/hospital and know the route from the work area to the designated treatment facility.
- If possible, have one member bring a cell phone for emergencies.

Bag Pickup Procedure:

- Notify the Adopt-a-Stream Coordinator at **(336) 373-4762** with location of bags.
- Group the orange bags together and where practical place them at least 8 feet from the side of the road to make the job of collecting bags easier and safer.

Appendix B

Event Notification Form

This form is to inform our staff of your stream cleanup date and to provide a date and location for garbage collection and disposal. Please complete and return prior to cleanup. You may also contact the Adopt-a-Stream coordinator at **(336) 373-4762** to convey event information.

(Name of group/organization)

We have scheduled a stream cleanup on (M/D/Y) _____, at
_____ (am/pm).

Number of participants _____

If you will be coming to our office to pick up bags, please give us the date you plan to arrive so material will be ready for pickup: _____

The address of our office is listed below.

Location of Collected Garbage

Properly secure and completely tie all bags. Group the bags together, and if safe and practical, place them at least 8 feet from the road. Indicate below the location that you've chosen to place your bags. _____

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Appendix C

Adopt-a-Stream Reporting Form

Date: _____ Group/Organization: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Stream location/Name _____

Debris Removed: (List type removed such as; tires, paper, plastic, etc.)

Number of bags collected: _____

Stream Assessment: (Please list the following characteristics)

Water Color: (please describe) _____

Odor: yes__ no__ (if yes, please describe) _____

Oily sheen: yes__ no__

Foamy: yes__ no__

Algae: yes__ no__ if yes, does it look excessive or unnatural? _____

Stream Appearance: Did anything look unnatural or out of the ordinary during your visual inspection of the stream? (If yes, please explain) _____

Please check one category from the following

Bank Erosion: Normal ___ (70 %- 100% of streambank soil covered by plants, rocks and logs)

Moderate ___ (30 % - 70 % of streambank covered by plants, rocks and logs)

Severe ___ (Less than 30% of bank soil covered by plants, rocks and logs)

Blockages: (Were there any debris or debris piles that could cause your stream to flood? For example: blocked culverts, pipes, or bridges). If yes, please indicate the location as well as the types of debris causing the blockage.

***Remember!** Always be aware of your surroundings. Please report any unknown substances or possible hazardous materials to 911. Give a brief description of the problem and include the following: nearest physical address to the problem (street name and block number). Do not attempt to clean substances from stream, as they may be hazardous to your health.

Please complete and return to:
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