



Cumberland River Compact

Adopt-A-Stream



What is the Adopt-A-Stream Program?

Cumberland River Compact (CRC) encourages local businesses, civil organizations, watershed groups, academic institutions, and scout groups to adopt local streams, rivers, and lakes for the purpose of improving water quality in these waterways. The Metro Adopt-A-Stream program started in 2007 with the goal of engaging volunteers in stewardship work that improves the water quality of our streams and rivers. Since that time, the Compact has been able to grow the program to serve groups across the Cumberland River Basin.

The Basics

As a part of this program, groups can adopt a specified section of a stream within the Cumberland River Basin and commit to care for the area through stewardship activities.

The contract lasts for 2 years

We can provide you cleanup supplies! We have gloves, litter grabbers, trashbags, and first aid kits for your group to complete cleanups

Adopting groups agree to complete two stewardship activities over the contract period, typically one a year.

General Program Guidelines

Participants in our Adopt-A-Stream program must adopt a stream for a period of two years. After two years, the adopting organization may renew its designation and agreement, modify its designation (choose a different stream), or terminate the agreement. Adopting groups agree to complete two stewardship events over the two years.

Types of Stewardship activities include:

Litter Cleanups
Visual Stream Surveys
Exploration Kits
Riparian Plantings

Please complete the Cumberland River Compact "Stewardship Activity Notification Form" two weeks before an Adopt-A-Stream activity.

- Each group must include a participating adult of 18 years or older. Individuals under 18 years can participate in Adopt-A-Stream events if supervised by an adult. CRC recommends one adult per 6 youths.
- The Designated Representative is responsible for notifying CRC staff if any of the adopting groups' participants have a condition that might require special safety precautions or provisions covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Adopting groups' members shall not trespass on private property. Permission from the property owner must be secured before entering.
- Participants are encouraged to separate and recycle materials from cleanups to the maximum extent possible.
- The Designated Representative for the adopting group is responsible for collecting and returning all signed safety liability release forms and borrowed materials to:

Adopt-A-Stream@cumberlandrivercompact.org
1915 Sevier St
Nashville, TN

- CRC reserves the right to deny an adoption request or cancel the adoption agreement of any group.

Safety Guidelines

Safety is the number one concern during a cleanup event. We appreciate your leadership and know you will take steps to keep your volunteers safe. Below are some extra considerations to review and relay to volunteers to help prepare you for unanticipated scenarios. Before volunteers begin the cleanup, these guidelines should be reviewed with all volunteers.

If applicable, provide your mobile phone number to volunteers in case they have questions or non-emergency situations during your event. In the event of an emergency, dial 911. Report any injuries or accidents within two business days of the occurrence to:

adopt-a-stream@cumberlandrivercompact.org
Cumberland River Compact
615-837-1151

1. Do not place sharp objects in bags.
2. Do not climb cliffs or steep embankments.
3. Do not pick up firearms or other explosive devices. Call a non-emergency police number and report that you've found it.

Write local Police Department phone number here: _____

4. Do not pick up hypodermic needles, even if you are wearing gloves. Do not place them in bags.
5. Stay out of a stream after a period of heavy rain, especially if the stream is fast moving and the water level is high.
6. Do not empty out bottles with unknown contents. Bottles may have unsafe or unsanitary contents. Throw those away!
7. Do not pick up hazardous materials, unsafe items, or dead animals. Do not feel obligated to remove a piece of trash that you are not comfortable handling. For example, if something looks too heavy to move or has sharp edges and can't be handled safely, please leave the item.
8. Do not drink water from any stream. Refreshments should be provided by the project organizer or brought by volunteers. Participants are encouraged to take breaks, drink fluids, and avoid overexertion.
9. Always work in groups of two or greater.
10. Unhoused Encampments: If your group encounters an area you suspect might be inhabited by an unhoused population, you may continue your cleanup but please stay clear and avoid the area while conducting your cleanup. Please email adopt-a-stream@cumberlandrivercompact.org to let us know.