



ADOPT-A-STREAM

Do you care about the quality of Virginia's waterways?

You can take action to make it better:

And Virginia's Department of Conservation and Recreation can help you. With our *Adopt-A-Stream Program*, we are committed to increasing the number of clean river miles in Virginia, and to supporting volunteers **LIKE YOU**.

You are a steward when you manage something carefully and responsibly. Our actions on land impact Virginia's water. Virginia's Adopt-A-Stream Program is a way for citizens to practice stewardship of one of our state's most precious natural resources.

What you can do

Adopting a stream or part of another waterway is pretty simple and stream cleanup projects are valuable learning experiences. Spending a Saturday morning collecting litter from a local stream establishes a connection between you and your community's water resources. You will see, first hand, the impacts of your efforts on water quality, and experience satisfaction from it.

Only through your involvement can we reduce the amount of litter entering Virginia's creeks, streams, rivers, lakes, bays, and the ocean. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation works with businesses, civic organizations, local governments, schools and watershed organizations to reduce litter in Virginia's waterways.

Why not consider adopting a stream in your watershed! For your efforts, you'll receive an *Adopt-A-Stream* sign bearing your group name and the segment of water you've cleaned.

Adopt-A-Stream participation

- Groups agree to collect litter along stream banks, shorelines, and in waterways at least once per year.
- Adoption spans two years. After two years, the adopting organization may renew its designation and agreement, modify its designation, or terminate the agreements.
- Typically, a team of two people can cover one mile of a lightly littered stream channel in an hour or two. We suggest that groups adopt no less than a half-mile of stream or river.
- DCR gives participating groups heavy-duty trash bags, disposable gloves, orange safety vests, and an 18-inch *Adopt-A-Stream* sign with installation instructions.

How to get started

You can join a group that already has a scheduled event, or organize your own clean-up project. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation provides detailed instructions and helpful hints for a successful, rewarding project. We'll take you from start to finish, from establishing an organizing committee, to determining a suitable location, arranging for trash disposal, recruiting volunteers to the clean-up location, and reporting your results.

Yes! I would like more information on the Adopt-A-Stream Program.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please mail to: **Adopt-A-Stream Program Coordinator**
Department of Conservation and Recreation
203 Governor Street, Suite 206
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Additional questions: Contact DCR's Adopt-A-Stream Program Coordinator at (804) 786-5045 or 1-877-42-WATER to ask questions, or to receive an information and registration packet that includes a How-To-Manual and other valuable materials.