



Adopt-A-River

A PROGRAM OF MILWAUKEE RIVERKEEPER

Announcements & Safety

Please read this side to volunteers

About Milwaukee Riverkeeper and Adopt-A-River

Milwaukee Riverkeeper is a science-based advocacy organization working towards swimmable, fishable rivers throughout the Milwaukee River Basin. This cleanup is part of Milwaukee Riverkeeper's Adopt-A-River Program sponsored by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District.

Safety

1. Do not enter the river if the flow is fast.
2. If it is raining or has recently rained, be aware that the water level may be higher than usual and the water flow may be faster than usual.
3. Work in groups. Use the buddy system if you choose to enter the river. This means that one person should SEE the other person enter and exit the river.
4. Avoid handling river sludge with bare hands and ingesting the dirt or river sediment.
5. If the weather turns dangerous, leave the cleanup area and go home or find shelter.
6. Do not touch the following items and please notify your cleanup leader if you find:
 - a. Something that looks sharp and/or dangerous
 - b. Syringes or needles
 - c. Dead animals
7. If you encounter a homeless individual or outdoor living area:
 - a. Do not call attention to this person or take pictures of them.
 - b. It is generally best to leave this person and their belongings alone. If there is any question that an item may be in use, leave it be.
 - c. Make note of the person's or item's location and tell your cleanup leader, who will inform Milwaukee Riverkeeper.

Trash

Share the designated **trash drop location** with your volunteers and explain that trash should be left bagged in a condensed pile in this place. Any trash bags left elsewhere will not be picked up!

Let's clean up the river!

Extra Safety Resources

Additional information for cleanup leader use:

If the weather turns dangerous:

Seek shelter, and if it is safe for you, attempt to monitor the site until the cleanup timeframe expires to ensure no one else shows up and works under dangerous conditions.

If you encounter a homeless individual or camp:	
Do	Don't
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Do: Generally, it is best to leave this person and their belongings alone.● Do: Be friendly if approached. Introduce yourself and explain the cleanup.● Do: Offer the individual a resource list if they are interested.● Do: If the individual appears to be in danger and you feel they need assistance, or if you feel threatened or see weapons, call 911.● Do: If the individual is seeking immediate emergency shelter, you may call Impact 211, social services, only if you feel comfortable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Don't: Approach the individual in an aggressive manner.● Don't: Touch the individual or their belongings. Possessions may be holding important items, such as a person's birth certificate.● Don't: Give the person anything besides a shelter resource list.● Don't: Call a lot of attention to the person.● Don't: Take pictures of the individual.
<p>Rule of thumb: If there is any question that an item may be in use, please leave it. Document the location and Milwaukee Riverkeeper will pass along the information to the appropriate groups. Items that are not in use will be cleaned up at a later date.</p>	

Please tell Milwaukee Riverkeeper and provide location notes if you encounter:

1. Homeless individuals or possessions
2. Dangerous objects such as syringes
3. Dead animals
4. Harmful or unusual situations

Phone Numbers

Police: (Emergency) 911; (Non-emergency) 414-933-4444

Impact 2-1-1: Dial 211 **or** 414-773-0211 **or** 1-866-211-3380 and ask for "street outreach"

Milwaukee Riverkeeper: 414-287-0207