



### **Waterway Clean Sweep Tips**

The City of Oklahoma City's Waterway Clean Sweep volunteer program is an organized event that focuses on cleaning up the waterways in Oklahoma City. Employees and volunteers will spend a few hours at a location determined by Storm Water, removing trash and other debris from the banks and water. It is important all participants are being safe. The following safety tips and guidelines will help ensure participant safety.

- All participants shall sign a Release and Waiver of Liability form before performing any activity at an event.

#### **In the event of an accident:**

- There is a First Aid Kit on scene in the Crew Leader's vehicle.
- If you are hurt, remain calm, and alert the nearest crew member. If serious, call 911 immediately.
- If someone else is hurt, keep them calm and stable. Call 911 if serious. Alert the crew leader.

#### **Some hazards, and ways to prevent them include:**

- **Slips, Trips, Falls-** This is the most common hazard. Grass, leaves, rip rap and water hide uneven surfaces. Watch where your feet will land before taking a step. Never walk in an area you cannot see the ground.
- **Extreme temperature-** Wearing layers, drinking plenty of water, and taking breaks when needed will help with thermal hazards.
- **Stings and bites:** Be aware spiders, ticks, snakes, and flying insects may be found during a clean-up. Checking for ticks after an event is recommended.
- **Sunburns-** Wear sunscreen, hats and long sleeves
- **Needlesticks and sharps-** if a needle, syringe, or other potential contaminated object is found, leave it in place and report it to the crew leader.
- **Chemical Containers-** If a chemical or potential chemical is discovered, leave in place and alert the crew leader.
- **People-** People are often along the river participating in activities. If someone is making a volunteer uncomfortable, stay with the group and alert the crew leader.
- **Poison Ivy-** Poison ivy can be contracted even when it's cold outside and the leaves have fallen off. Know what poison ivy looks like and stay away from it.
- **Lifting-** Limit bag size to avoid strenuous lifting. If an object is heavy, ask for assistance

Aside from the known hazards here are a few guidelines that participants and staff will be expected to follow.

Do...	Don't...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Let someone in the group know if you are going to clean in a separate location.</li> <li>Help someone if they need help</li> <li>Keep trash bags within your specific lifting comfort.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play around. We want to have fun, however there are many hazards in these areas and we don't want an accident to occur.</li> <li>Load your bags all the way. They can get very heavy, very fast.</li> </ul>

Required Items	Recommended Items	Provided Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closed toe shoes</li> <li>Jeans/ pants</li> <li>Water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jacket</li> <li>Safety Glasses (<b><u>ANSI Z87 compliant</u></b>)</li> <li>Sunglasses</li> <li>Boots</li> <li>Hat</li> <li>Sunscreen</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trash grabbers</li> <li>Nets</li> <li>Safety vests</li> <li>Gloves</li> <li>Insect Repellent</li> </ul>



**Notice:** The poison ivy plant is three leaves with the leaves on the left and right being symmetrical. The left and right leaves will be smooth on one side and have ridges on the other. The middle leaf will have ridges on both sides. Small white berries may accompany the leaves.



**Notice:** The poison ivy plant in the cold seasons will drop all leaves and berries making it difficult to identify. The vines tend to be a semi-straight stick with little to no branching. Small white berries may accompany the barren vine.

***These events are fun, and it is amazing to see what a few hours of effort can do for cleaning up a waterway. We appreciate every participant.***