

We save land.



We save rivers.

Litter Cleanup Safety and Tips

Before You Start

- Learn about The Conservation Foundation at: www.theconservationfoundation.org
- Pack plenty of water and a light snack. You may want to carry a backpack or fanny pack to hold personal items during the cleanup.
- Bring sturdy work gloves, preferably sturdier than cloth gardening gloves. In the winter, consider lined work gloves or ski gloves if you do not have warm work gloves.
- We will provide trash bags, trash grabbers, and have extra gloves if you need them.
- Leave valuables like electronics and jewelry at home.
- Turn your cell phone on "ring" so that if you lose it, you will be able to find it with a phone call.
- Always wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes that can get dirty (they *WILL* get dirty!) In the winter, consider waterproof, lined boots. Do not wear open-toe shoes like sandals or flip-flops.
- Dress in layers. In the winter, consider wool socks, a winter hat, and winter (work) gloves.
- Wear or bring sun protection like a hat or bandana, sunscreen, and sunglasses.
- In the spring, summer, and fall consider wearing or bringing bug spray.
- Make sure you have the cell phone contact for The Conservation Foundation's Volunteer Coordinator, Cassie Hatzfeld: cell 312-505-8099, or for the site leader.

During the Cleanup

- While "**little litter**" (a gum wrapper, cigarette, etc.) may seem small enough to leave, please pick it up. Small litter can negatively impact the soil and water quality for years. Every little piece makes a difference.
- **Stay aware** of the members of your group and your surroundings to help ensure your safety. Always use the buddy system and plan a meeting spot in case you are separated.
- **Be cautious** of roadways, parking lots, train tracks, and other places where there are vehicles. When on trails, look and listen for bikers and other trail users. Walk on the right-hand side.
- The areas around water can be steep and/or slick in some places. If you are picking up trash from the edge of the water, please **watch your footing**. Mud and water can be very deep; test muddy areas before walking into them and stay with a partner.
- **Never enter the water** to retrieve trash. Use a grabber or stick. If it isn't readily removable, leave it. Don't walk on a brush pile or try to climb on downed tree branches over the water to get to trash.

- It is unlikely we will find any extremely big or **heavy material** that needs to be removed. But if you do, team up on heavy objects. Roll tires, barrels, etc. to remove mud if you can and bring the item to the designated trash drop area.
- It is also unlikely to find **hazardous materials**, but if you feel you have found something you are not certain about, don't try to move it. Instead, note the location. These items may include barrels or drums with liquids inside. If you find any car batteries, jugs of oil, or pesticides, please bag them separately as they will need to be disposed of differently. Report any findings to the site leader.
- In the very unlikely event that you find a **weapon or illegal item**, please do not touch it. Note the location and report it immediately to the site leader.
- If someone is injured, follow **first aid** practices. Call 911 if the injury is severe, or the site leader for minor injuries. We will have a basic first aid kit on site. Report all injuries to the site leader as soon as possible.
- Remember to drink water and pay attention to how your body is feeling, especially in cold or hot weather. Take breaks when needed!

Finishing Up

- Please tightly tie your trash bags and drop them to the designated areas.
- Return your supplies and empty trash bags to the registration area.
- Report the location of any large objects or hazardous materials to the site leader so we can arrange a special pickup.

Thank you for caring for nature and making a difference in your community!



Tips adapted from Missouri River Relief: www.riverrelief.org/safety/