

What is Adopt-a-Stream?

The goal of the **Rivers Unlimited** (RU) **Adopt-a-Stream** program is to empower citizens to become actively involved in protecting their waterways through river clean-ups, as well as through training and educational opportunities.

Adopt-a-Stream is a new program that will be piloted on the Great Miami River from the City of Hamilton, Ohio, to its confluence with the Ohio River. This 35 mile stretch of the river will be divided into 1-2 mile "adoptable" segments.

Stream Stewards are individuals or groups who adopt segments of the Great Miami River. Stream Stewards will commit to cleaning up their adopted segments three times per year. Clean-up dates are chosen by Stream Stewards and can be done on foot and/or by canoe.

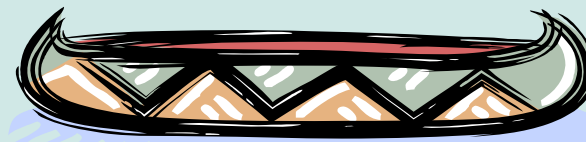
Rivers Unlimited will assist Stream Stewards with their clean-up efforts by providing materials and assistance with trash removal. Adopters will be identified on signs along the river, and will have the opportunity to attend Rivers Unlimited's Watershed Institute this fall.

How Does it Work?

- Interested Stream Stewards can contact Rivers Unlimited at info@riversunlimited.org, or at 513.761.4003 to identify a segment.
- Once a segment is identified, Stream Stewards should designate a **Site Coordinator**, a point person who can receive materials and correspondence from Rivers Unlimited.
- All volunteers and Site Coordinators must complete and submit the **Stream Steward Application** and the **Liability Release** to RU before any clean-up events are conducted.
- Site Coordinators will notify RU in advance of their intended clean-up day to ensure they receive necessary assistance and materials. A list of materials is provided in the next column.
- Adopt-a-Stream volunteers will conduct one clean-up each spring (Mar-Apr-May), summer (June-July-Aug), and fall (Sept-Oct-Nov).
- Within two weeks of each clean-up, volunteers will submit a **Clean-up Report**, along with photographs of their event.

What is Provided by Rivers Unlimited?

- Maps, directions, and access points to clean-up sites.
- A **Stream Steward Guide** that includes important information about your clean-up and a safety checklist.
- For river segments accessible only through private property, RU will secure permission from the landowner(s).
- Gloves and trash bags.
- Access to canoes if needed. Volunteers are encouraged to use their own canoes and kayaks, if possible.
- Trash disposal, if needed.
- Commemorative signs recognizing Stream Stewards at bridges and other access points along the Great Miami River.
- FREE registration at RU's **Watershed Institute**, which will provide hands-on training for volunteers to become more actively involved in preventing pollution and monitoring water quality in their watershed.



Stream Steward Application

Please complete this application including the Liability Waiver on the other side of this page. Detach and return to:

Rivers Unlimited
515 Wyoming Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45215

Applications and liability waivers must be received before any clean-up activity occurs.

Name of your Group/Organization
(if applicable):

Name of Site Coordinator:

Your Name: _____

Phone: (h) _____ (c) _____

Email: _____

Mailing address for shipments or drop-offs of materials (*to be completed by Site Coordinator*):

Liability Release

I, the undersigned, being the volunteer involved in any Adopt-a-Stream cleanup (hereinafter referred to as "cleanup") or being the parent or legal guardian of such a volunteer in a Cleanup, in consideration of my or another's participation in the Cleanup, I hereby, for myself and any volunteer for whom I am a parent or legal guardian release, discharge, hold harmless, and forever acquit Rivers Unlimited, their officers, agents, members, representatives, employees and participating entities including landowners from any and all actions, causes of action, claims or any liabilities whatsoever, known or unknown now existing or which may arise in the future, on account of or in any way related to or arising out of participation in an Adopt-a-Stream Cleanup. Further, I assume all **liability** of any non-participants who accompany me. I understand that my waiver has no expiration date.

This waiver is given in the interest of permitting Adopt-a-Stream and Rivers Unlimited to exist and to serve the community at large, and to enable myself and my fellow volunteers to feel free to donate our services to Adopt-a-Stream clean-ups and to help each other without fear of liability.

Participant's name and group (please print):

Participant's signature:

Participant's age: _____

Signature of participant's parent or legal guardian:

Date: _____

About Rivers Unlimited

Rivers Unlimited is a Cincinnati-based watershed advocacy group that empowers citizens and decision-makers to protect and restore our watersheds. Founded in 1972, Rivers Unlimited works collaboratively to improve the health and scenic beauty of Ohio's waterways.

We've been involved in the issues that matter most to the health of our waterways- working to prevent unnecessary dams, channelization and various forms of pollution. We've helped citizens to found organizations to protect individual watersheds, and have worked closely with many others. As an outlet for citizen-based river stewardship, it is our goal to bring people into personal and protective relationships with their watersheds. Healthy rivers and streams play a vital role in our economy and quality of life, and we work to restore them to their full potential.

For more information, please contact us.

Rivers Unlimited
515 Wyoming Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45215
www.riversunlimited.org



Get Involved!

Rivers Unlimited encourages Adopt-a-Stream participants to participate in additional cleanups throughout the year offered by a variety of southwest Ohio organizations.

Caesar's Creek Green-Up Day

April 19, 2008

www.dnr.state.oh.us/parks

21st Annual Winton Woods Clean-Up

April 19, 2008

www.hamiltoncountyparks.org

Friends of the Great Miami Clean Sweeps

Oxbow, April 26, 2008

Shawnee Lookout, May 10, 2008

www.fogm.org

Stonelick Clean-Up Day

April 26, 2008

www.dnr.state.oh.us/parks

Sycamore State Park Clean-Up Day

April 26, 2008

www.dnr.state.oh.us/parks

East Fork Lake Riversweep and Clean-Up Day

April 26, 2008

www.dnr.state.oh.us/

ORSANCO Riversweep

June 21, 2008

www.orsanco.org

ADOPT-A-STREAM

*Restoring our Waters,
Building our Communities*

