

ABOUT KWA

Since 1993, Kentucky Waterways Alliance has been the only statewide organization focused on waterways in Kentucky. We work with communities on local watershed issues and advocate for better policies and programs at the state and national levels. With a mission to protect, restore, and celebrate Kentucky's waterways, our work is making a difference in the quality of life for all Kentuckians.

Cleaning a waterway not only enhances the aesthetic value of the area but it also mitigates the impacts of trash contaminating the water. Eliminating the waste can lead to cleaner water and reduce threats to the people, wildlife, and communities that rely on these water sources. Conducting cleanups has allowed KWA the opportunity to connect and communicate our mission with a wide variety of community members.

Please provide us with details of your cleanup event [here](#).



Harrod's Creek Cleanup, 2019.

KENTUCKY WATERWAYS ALLIANCE

CLEANUP GUIDE

**120 WEBSTER ST, SUITE 217
LOUISVILLE, KY 40206
(502) 589-8008
INFO@KWALLIANCE.ORG
KWALLIANCE.ORG**

Cleanup led by the Friends of Red River, 2019.



**PROTECT.
RESTORE.
CELEBRATE.**

DATE & LOCATION

In order to successfully select a site & location for your cleanup, consider the following guidelines while selecting a date and location:

- Walk the area to gauge accessibility.
- Consider the age range & mobility of your group. Is the area family-friendly?
- Is the area accessible by foot or by boat? If boat, do you have the proper safety equipment and experienced boaters?
- Consider the size of the site and number of volunteers.
- Pursue a heavily littered area (not required but recommended).
- What will the water levels be like during the time of your cleanup?

In order to check river and stream flow levels in your area click [here](#).



Beam Suntory volunteers at Kulmer Beach on the Ohio River.

PROMOTING YOUR CLEANUP

You will want to promote your cleanup in order to gain volunteers and people interested in helping better the environment! The following are a few platforms or ways to promote your cleanup:

- ❖ School Groups
- ❖ Facebook Groups
- ❖ Religious Groups
- ❖ Other Social Media (Instagram, Twitter, etc.)
- ❖ Girl Scout & Boy Scout Troops

For more information about volunteering for cleanups or organizing your own cleanup please visit [American Rivers Cleanup Page](#).



Volunteers disposing of a car part on Elkhorn Creek.

WASTE DISPOSAL RESOURCES

Once you have your date set, it is your responsibility to establish a proper way to dispose of the trash accumulated during your cleanup. You will want to consider the following for trash pickup & disposal:

Designate volunteers with trailers and trucks to transport trash after the cleanup.

Contact your local [solid waste coordinators](#) and explain that you are doing a cleanup. It is likely that they will be able to provide free or discounted waste pickup after the cleanup.

Tire Pickup/Programs: [Bridgestone Tires4Ward Program](#)

[National River Cleanup Waste Disposal Tips](#)

WHAT TO WEAR

All volunteers and coordinators should dress in clothes that can get dirty and/or wet. Sturdy shoes are extremely important for any kind of terrain that you may encounter at the cleanup site. We also recommend long pants or high boots to avoid cuts and scrapes along the way.

Beam Suntory volunteers at Kulmer Beach on the Ohio River.



Harrod's Creek Cleanup, 2019.



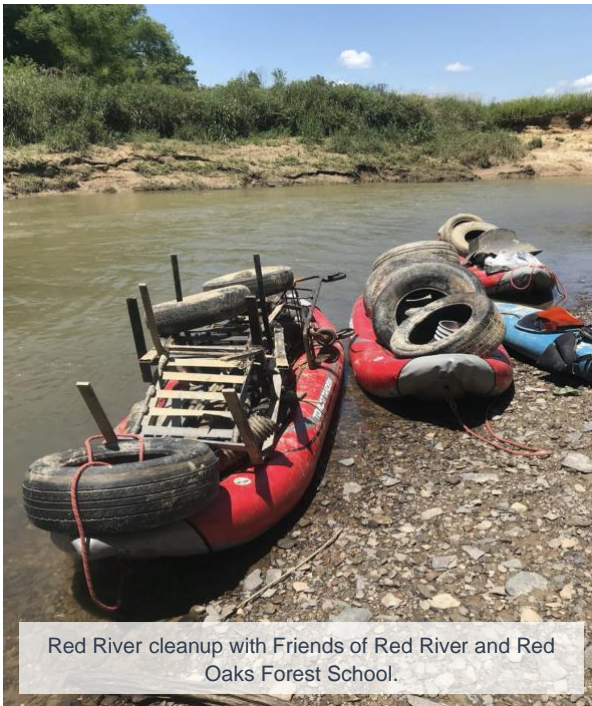
SUPPLIES CHECKLIST*

- **Sunscreen**
- **Sign-in Sheet**
- **Trash grabbers**
- **Water & Snacks**
- **Insect Repellent**
- **Reflectors or vests**
- **Trash Bags:** Kentucky Waterways Alliance can provide trash bags for the event with two weeks advance notice.
- **Gloves:** Local groups or businesses may be willing to donate gloves for the event, but also ask people to bring their own. Have a few extra pairs to provide on the day of the event.
- **First Aid Kit:** This is mandatory, and it may also be helpful to designate someone with training to be available during the cleanup to respond to any accidents.
- *There may be more materials necessary depending on the conditions/time of year. Plan accordingly for weather conditions and be prepared to make changes to your plan if needed.

For more information from the Kentucky River Authority and their approach to cleanups please visit the [Kentucky River Authority Webpage](#).

THE DAY BEFORE

The day before your cleanup you should send a reminder to all of your volunteers with an address of the meeting location, a list of items to bring, what they should wear, and a weather prediction to ensure that they are prepared.



Red River cleanup with Friends of Red River and Red Oaks Forest School.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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**KWA'S WORK IS NOT POSSIBLE
WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF
VOLUNTEERS AND MEMBERS LIKE
YOU. BECOME A KWA MEMBER
TODAY BY VISITING
[K WALLIANCE.ORG/GIVE.](https://kwalliance.org/give)**

THE DAY OF

On the day of your cleanup be sure to arrive at least an hour before your planned start time. This will allow you time to set up a sign-in table and an area to distribute any resources and materials for your participants.

Before beginning, remember to give a safety speech.

Be sure to designate volunteers to lead smaller groups around the cleanup site if your overall number of participants is large.

At the end, have a way to celebrate all of the hard work put into the day! Photos, prizes, and food are all great ways to celebrate and further connect with your volunteers.

Once completed, please log your cleanup information [here](#) in order to help KWA collect data about cleanups in Kentucky!