

Kentucky Waterways Alliance

# Cleanup Toolkit



2024

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# Introduction

*Welcome to the KWA Cleanup Toolkit! This information has been prepared to help those organizations, communities, and individuals interested in hosting a waterway cleanup. Note that the following information is presented as recommendations based on the successful implementation of community-based cleanup events organized and executed by Kentucky Waterways Alliance and other non-profit groups that work to protect our waterways.*

## **Who is KWA?**

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

## **Why are Waterway Cleanups Important?**

Cleaning a waterway not only enhances the natural aesthetic value of the area but also mitigates the effects of trash contaminating the water and impacts on local communities such as:

- Harm to habitats and wildlife: Trash can smother aquatic vegetation and be mistaken for food, which can lead to death by suffocation, infection, or starvation.
- Pollution of water quality and health risk to humans: Trash can carry pathogens and toxins (microplastics) that can threaten human health and development.
- Community degradation and economic loss: Trash can degrade quality of life in coastal and all communities and impact fishing and maritime industries.
- Greenhouse gas emissions: plastic production and disposal are major sources of greenhouse gas emissions and can contribute to environmental degradation over time.

Waterway cleanups emphasize the connection of one community or neighborhood to another via water, promote healthier environments, and allow for the development of strong relationships through community-based collaboration.



## Where to Start?

*Organizing a cleanup is a very exciting opportunity! There are many components to the successful implementation of a river cleanup, so where does one start? As important as completing a cleanup is, it is also important to understand what litter is and how litter is regulated in the United States.*

### **What is Litter and how does it get to our waterways?**

Trash and litter are products of human activity and can take the form of food waste, yard waste, packaging, cardboard, glass, tires, and large items such as couches. These are but a few of the many forms of litter that pollute our local environments and negatively impact water quality, community access to safe water-based recreation, and quality of life. For more information on litter's origins and its effect on local aquatic ecosystems explore the EPA's "[Trash Free Waters](#)" program and the associated image below.



*\*Image courtesy of The Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program\**

*Take some time to familiarize yourself with how litter is regulated in the United States by reviewing the following information prepared by River Network.*

## **Federal & International Laws Regulating Trash**

Trash is a regulated pollutant in the United States, and international organizations like the United Nations have set Sustainable Development Goals to manage waste worldwide. However, in most of the world there is currently very little enforcement that keeps waste out of aquatic and marine ecosystems. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) uses the Clean Water Act (CWA) as an enforcement tool under the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) and Municipal Separate Sanitary and Storm Sewer (MS4) programs, and also in establishing total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) to maintain the quality of the receiving waters. However, the CWA isn't the only law that regulates trash on US soil.

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulates handling and disposal of solid waste. For example, the operation of a landfill adjacent to a river would likely be regulated under RCRA, though anything that goes wrong at this site might include CWA violations as well. To complicate matters, almost all states have "delegated authority" from EPA to regulate these matters in their own states. The criteria for delegated authority includes the provision that regulations in the state must be as stringent as the federal rules.

There are a few regulations under state laws for derelict fishing gear, as well as federal programs such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Response and Restoration. The Federal Bureau

of Land Management (BLM) also regulates litter and dumping on federal lands like campsites and parks. The Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act, and US compliance under the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), relate to dumping and discharge as well.

## **State & Local Litter Laws**

All US states have some form of litter regulation in place, but the laws vary from state to state, and sometimes even between counties and municipalities. Breaking litter laws usually involves fines and occasionally jail time, mandatory cleanups, community service, or even the suspension of the litterer's driver's license, depending on the severity of the offense. In some states, littering is considered a petty misdemeanor, while in others it's a felony, although the stakes are generally higher with each subsequent conviction.

Penalties for littering also vary by location. For instance, in Massachusetts, an individual caught dropping trash on the ground can incur a fine of up to \$25, while someone engaging in the same offense in Oregon might get slapped with a fine of \$6,250. Similarly, in Idaho a prison sentence for littering might land you in jail for 10 days, but in Tennessee that prison term could be more like six years.

Some states are more concerned with the type of litter—furniture and large appliances are a focus in North Dakota—while others focus on the volume of trash or the reason for littering, like whether the trash was dumped for commercial or financial gain.

# Cleanup Organization Checklist

*There is no perfect order to event organization, but consistent record keeping goes a long way in the development of a successful waterway cleanup. Utilize the following checklist to track your event planning progress.*

## Cleanup Organization Checklist

- Determine a Location and Date
- Find Partner Organizations
- Recruit Community Volunteers
- Gather Cleanup Supplies and Materials
- Organize Disposal for Collected Trash
- Host your Cleanup
- Report Clean Up Data Collected



# Location, Date, Partners, and Volunteer Groups

*A cleanup is not possible without community partners and volunteers. When considering who to include in your cleanup, a simple rule of thumb is “the more the merrier”. Positively impacting a community starts with involving the community in your work. Identifying those groups that might be most interested in partnering or participating is crucial.*

## **Location and Date**

- Consider the weather in the area you wish to clean. Never work in inclement or unsafe weather conditions.
  - Consider your target area’s seasonal weather conditions. You may want to host in the winter when environmental concerns such as ticks, snakes, and poison ivy are less prevalent, or you may want to host in the summer when it is warmer.
  - Have an inclement weather plan and always check weather conditions in the days leading up to the event. It may be a rain or shine event, or there might be a makeup date if weather conditions are poor.
- Consider the area you wish to address.
  - Local parks, creeks, and roadways with ample sidewalks are excellent locations.
  - The chosen location should be related to a local waterway in some capacity. Cleanup routes could lie beside the waterway, run along it, or be the waterway itself.
  - If the cleanup is best served on the water, consider the additional safety and liability requirements.
  - Always consider volunteer parking and access to restrooms/ portable toilets.



## **Partner Organizations**

- Identify organizations that already do work to positively impact the community. These partners can serve as an important local point of contact.
  - City or town government, local non-profit groups, environmental consultant groups, social groups, church groups, etc.
- Identify groups that focus on community involvement and education.
  - Church groups, schools, sports teams, scout groups, clubs, etc.



## **Sponsorship**

- Volunteer cleanup events serve as an excellent opportunity for local businesses to become involved as sponsors and engage with their community.
  - Consider reaching out to local businesses for sponsorship. Coffee shops, diners, and other restaurants may agree to donate coffee, breakfast sandwiches, or lunch.
  - Sponsorship can strengthen local ties and grow your network across different communities.

## **Partnership vs. Sponsorship**

- Understanding the difference between partners and sponsors is important when organizing how an event will run and how partners or sponsors participate.
  - Partnership: a local or regional organization that agrees to participate in the event throughout its entirety by:
    - Aiding in promotion through sharing developed flyers through social media channels or posting physical copies in their community.
    - Working with the primary organizer throughout event preparation process and sending members/staff to attend the event both as volunteers and as event staff.
  - Sponsorship: a local organization or business that agrees to participate in the event through the donation of supplies, or through monetary donations.
    - Sponsors may not attend the event on the day of but have participated through promotion and supply donation.

## **Recruiting Volunteers**

- There are a variety of ways to spread the word about cleanups. Goals for spreading the word should include highlighting the event and its importance, gathering support from the community and local government entities, and recruiting volunteers who are excited about the work you are doing. Promotional methods include:
  - Flyer creation and distribution to school groups, community centers, local businesses, etc. Consider creating both a physical and digital copy of your flyer for distribution.
  - Creation of a press release for local newspapers and radio stations.
  - Creation of a Facebook Event for easy sharing to communities your organization is already connected to.
  - Posting of the flyer on social media such as Instagram, X, and Facebook.



## Example Flyer

JOIN US AT THE UPCOMING

# KENTUCKY WATERWAYS ALLIANCE

## RIVER SWEEP

**SATURDAY JULY 8TH, 2088**

**LOCATION: RIVER PARK, 123 RIVER STREET, LOUISVILLE KY 41234**

**CHECK IN: 8:30AM-9:00AM**

**EVENT: 9:00AM-12:00PM**

**REGISTRATION LINK: [WWW.REGISTRATION.COM](http://WWW.REGISTRATION.COM)**

**Want to help but can't join the cleanup? You can donate  
\$\$ for lunch for our hard-working volunteers!  
Contact John Smith at [john@kwaexample.org](mailto:john@kwaexample.org) for more  
information on ways you can help.**



*There are a plethora of ways to create promotional materials such as flyers. One can use offline applications such as Word or Publisher, as well as free websites such as Canva.*

## Other Methods for Promotion and Volunteer Fun

*There are several ways to increase volunteer excitement and commitment as you plan for your event. Consider including fun components to your event such as a “weirdest object competition”, a free t-shirt for the event, or a cookout or fish fry following the cleanup conclusion. People are excited to help a great cause if it will be BOTH beneficial to their community, and fun!*
















## Handling Sharps and Other Hazardous Materials

*During cleanups volunteers will encounter all kinds of litter and may encounter hazardous materials. Volunteers should carefully handle sharp objects at their discretion but should never handle drug paraphernalia or needles. If a volunteer finds any drug equipment or paraphernalia during a cleanup, they should mark the materials with bright flagging so that a staff member can safely find and dispose of it. Review the below information on common types of paraphernalia, prepared by Keep Kentucky Beautiful.*

### DRUG PARAPHERNALIA INFO

## ALWAYS AVOID DRUG EQUIPMENT & PARAPHERNALIA.

### COMMON DRUG PARAPHERNALIA LITTERED:

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|  Syringes and needles |  Folded-up aluminum foil     |  Tanks with blue valves |
|  Pipes and bowls      |  Burned silver spoons        |  Small filled baggies   |
|  Small tied balloons  |  Bi-level liquids            |  Razor blades           |
|  Capsules             |  Bottles with plastic tubing |  |

**\*It is not advised to pick up syringes or needles,** but for safe and easy disposal, wear gloves and do either of the following:

- Place in Sharps container, OR
- Place in Plastic #2 HDPE container (think laundry detergent bottle), duct tape closed, label as "SHARPS", dispose with trash



## Handling Tires and Other Unique Litter

*Tires are a common form of litter in waterways. Tires are often found in waterways as a result of littering directly into the waterway and have the potential to harm waterway health over time. Knowing what to do when you have tires as part of your litter collection is important. Because it is illegal for tires to enter landfills in many US states, there exists a variety of resources for individuals and organizations aiming to remove and recycle tires.*

### **Resources for Individuals and Organizations**

There are a variety of organizations that work with individuals and larger organizations to properly dispose of found or used tires.

- [Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet](#): Kentucky government has organized resources for individuals recycling tires, including scheduled tire collection events by county. Additionally, KEEC offers grants to those organizations working specifically towards tire removal and recycling.
- [Earth911](#): this group provides a variety of resources on methods for tire recycling for individuals.
- [Kentuckiana Tire Recycling](#): This family-owned company works to collect and recycle used tires from individuals and organizations across various scales.
- Local solid waste coordinators, Judge Executives, or Area Development Districts can give additional information on how to dispose of the tires properly.



### **Resources for General Solid Waste Disposal**

When organizing how solid waste is disposed of, consider involving local coordinators for more information on solid waste disposal services in your area.

- Utilize this contact information list prepared by the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet to identify coordinators in your area that can aid in the removal of solid waste litter collected during your cleanup.

[Kentucky Solid  
Waste Coordinator  
Contact List](#)

# Cleanup Materials

Cleanups take time, volunteers, and supplies. Before executing a cleanup, all materials must be ready for volunteers to grab and go. Utilize this checklist to ensure all supplies are ready to go.

## Cleanup Checklist

- 

**Waivers and Registration Paperwork**  
Be sure to have all waivers, registration pages, and checklists printed prior to the event and ready for volunteers to fill out. Consider including a survey to collect volunteer data.
- 

**Signage**  
Directional signage is important for volunteers to know where to meet and park. It is important to bring signage both for volunteer directions and for promotion of your organization.
- 

**Organization Tabling Materials**  
Cleanup events are an excellent opportunity to engage with community members about your organization, the work you are doing, and how they can be further involved or support. Consider tabling with information on your group, with some informational material or swag such as stickers.
- 

**Cleanup Supplies**  
KWA recommends you have all cleanup supplies ready for volunteers to grab and go. Creating a "supply station" can help to ensure that all volunteers have easy access to everything they will need when they set out to clean. Utilize the supplies checklist on the next page to track your cleanup materials.
- 

**Organization with City Officials**  
Cleanup efforts are best used when governing officials are involved. Make sure that your event is permitted to take place. Organize for collected trash to be removed or picked up. Organize for a photo-op. Organize for news or media to cover the event. Etc.

*With so much going into preparing for a cleanup, it is important that all cleanup supplies are ready for volunteers. Utilize the checklist below when gathering all the supplies you will need for your event.*

## Cleanup Supply Checklist



**Trash Bags, Gloves, and Grabbers**



**First-Aid Kit and Poison Ivy Kit**



**Sharps Container and Bright Flagging**



**Bug Spray, Sun Screen, Hand Sanitizer**



**High-Vis Vests and Life Jackets**



**Give-Aways (T-shirts, Food, Ect.)**



**Insulated Water Cooler and Cups**

*“Supply stations” can serve as excellent and efficient ways for volunteers to grab everything they need prior to setting out on pre-determined cleanup routes. KWA recommends that staff leaders carry extra supplies, so no one needs to double back for extra bags, gloves, or flagging.*

## On-The-Water Cleanups

*Not all cleanups are land based. In fact, sometimes the best way to address litter in a waterway is to get in the waterway itself! If you are considering an on-the-water cleanup, keep in mind that additional liability and volunteer resources are required to safely execute an on-the-water cleanup.*

### **Liability**

Because of the potential hazards associated with on-the-water cleanups it is important that liability and insurance become priorities throughout the planning process. As you prepare your waivers and insurance application package for cleanups that include volunteers on-the-water, consider:



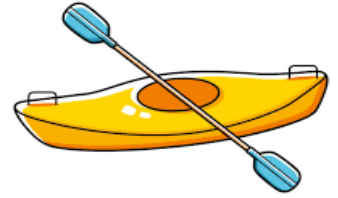
- Reporting information on water-based cleanups in your insurance application.
  - Insurers often require additional information when cleanups take place on the water.
  - Additional information may include location of waterway and length of area to be addressed; equipment to be used while on the water; duration of on-the-water activities; and both access and take out points.
  - Be sure to talk with your insurer for more specific information on additional required information.
- Including water-based hazards in your waiver
  - Identifying those hazards associated with on-the-water cleanups and including those hazards in your printed or electronic waivers is important.
  - Volunteers should know what they are signing up for, and how their participation will be safely managed.
- Arranging on-water EMTs to be present for the duration of the event.
  - On-water EMTs are not required but can help to make volunteers feel more comfortable during their time on the water.
  - Consider contacting local government for information on EMT groups that may attend your cleanup.
- Consider working alongside experienced paddlers or water professionals to provide safety talks and additional water safety guidance.



- Consider paddling and/or surveying the cleanup route location in advance to ensure that there are no river dangers such as log jams that might prevent the success of your cleanup

## **Equipment**

On-the-water cleanups are exciting and require more equipment than those on land. Consider adding the following equipment items to your supply checklist:



- Boating, canoeing, or kayaking materials.
  - The chosen waterway or water body may impact the equipment required for an on-the-water cleanup.
    - Pontoon boats are excellent for gathering litter collected during lake or large river cleanups but may not be applicable for shallow creeks or streams.
    - Kayaks and canoes are great for areas where dam crossings, shallow stretches, or difficult entry and exit points are likely.
  - Many volunteers will have their own boat while some may not. Consider finding a partner (Parks & Rec, rental companies, Universities, etc.) that can donate boats for cleanup volunteers.
  - If on-the-water cleanups are best for your area, you may consider applying for grant funding to purchase the appropriate boat(s) and additional equipment (trailer, PFDs, etc.) to support your area cleanups.

- Additional safety equipment.
  - During on-the-water cleanups it is important that all volunteers wear personal flotation devices (PFDs) for the duration of the event. Ensure that you have enough PFDs for all volunteers present, including sizes for all ages. You might loan out PFDs or require volunteers to bring their own.



- Additional (optional) Equipment
  - On-the-water cleanups are full of surprises, from types of litter, to changes in the river's landscape. Consider adding the following hand tools to aid in the safe removal of various litter types:
    - Shovel, pry bar, small handsaw, and knife
  - Hand tools should be used only by consenting adults or event staff.

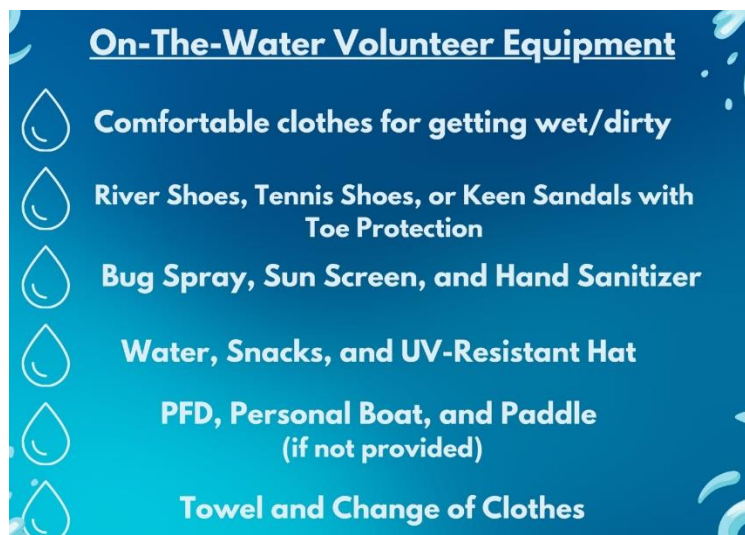
## **Logistics**

Every waterway has its own beauty and unique characteristics, because of this variety on-the-water cleanups require more logistical planning than land-based cleanups such as planning for entry and exit points. Consider the following when creating your event timeline:

- Registration area vs. end of cleanup location.
  - Consider how your event will flow. Will volunteers meet at the entry location for registration check-in, safety briefings, and general instruction? Will the event end at the exit location, or will volunteers be shuttled back to the initial registration location?
- Boating equipment retrieval.
  - Consider how the boating equipment will get transported to the cleanup area. Some volunteers may have their own canoes or kayaks, or you may arrange for kayak and canoe rental or a transport trailer.
- Collected trash retrieval.

How will trash be collected during and after the event? Will a singular shuttle boat carry all filled trash bags? Will paddlers pull “duckies” (inflatable boats) behind the boat they are paddling to haul tires? Will there be a dumpster at the takeout location? Will trash bags be tied and left on the banks for vehicular pickup?

*On-the-water cleanups provide an opportunity for volunteers to impact the health of a waterway while experiencing the beauty and fun associated with water-based recreation. Because on-the-water cleanups require different equipment than land-based events, consider including the following “volunteer checklist” in information given to attending volunteers, prior to your event.*



## Cleanup Day Execution

*Once all materials and paperwork are ready, consider creating a timeline to help facilitate your event. Within this timeline, be sure to include a time for an introduction to your organization, an introduction to your watershed or project area, a safety briefing, a description of your take-out location (if on-water) and time for any questions. See an example timeline, educational script, and safety briefing below.*

### **Kentucky Waterways Alliance River Sweep Saturday, July 8th, 2088**

**123 River Street, Louisville KY, 41234**

#### **Arrival & Setup**

8:00am-8:30am

- Each organization should arrive by 8:00am to help set up tables prior to volunteer arrival.

#### **Tables:**

- Each group brings their own table if they want to have one for their organization.

#### **Registration**

8:30 am- 9:00 am

- Registration procedure:
  - All **volunteers** need to check in at registration.
  - All **Volunteers** will complete the waiver.

#### **Welcome, About the KWA, About our Watershed, Cleanup Instructions, and Safety Briefing**

9:00am -9:30am

#### **Cleanup**

9:30 am-11:30 am

- Volunteers will head to cleanup areas. Groups will be led by KWA and Partner staff.
  - We will organize the number of groups and leaders when we see how many total volunteers we have.

#### **Wrap-up and Post Event tasks.**

11:30 am-12:00 pm

- Filled Trash bags can be tied and left on the walkway for City Partner Contact to come pick up.
- Garbage bag count
- Declare winner of “weirdest item contest”.
- Make sure the parking lot is left clean.
- Photographs: KWA will set up a google drop box that will be shared with the group. Please add your photos.

**Thanks to all!**

## Example Educational Script

*Your educational script should include important information about your organization and your goals/ recent accomplishments, details about the area your cleanup is addressing, and a brief explanation of how this cleanup impacts the health of your local watershed.*

"Good morning! Thanks for being here today, for giving up your valuable time to give back to your community and the environment by cleaning up. My name is John Doe and I work for Kentucky Waterways Alliance. KWA is a statewide nonprofit organization since 1993 that works to protect, restore, and celebrate waterways of Kentucky through cleanups, environmental education, septic assistance for low-income families, policy, and much more. The main office is in Louisville, and we have several staff there. This year KWA is working to get back into all of the 7 major river basins in KY through events and partnerships like this cleanup with our partners \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

I mentioned "7 major river basins". Does anyone know what a river basin or a watershed is? No matter where you are on earth, you are in a watershed. Meaning no matter where you are, rain will hit the ground (the roof, the street, etc.) and it flows somewhere, right? It flows downhill or into the ground or into a storm drain and eventually makes its way to a stream, river, lake, etc. (well, what doesn't evaporate). And one stream flows into another into another which eventually turns into a large-scale watershed or a basin.

Does anyone know what watershed we are in right now? Start by thinking about the closest stream to us... \_\_\_\_\_! Right, so the water that hits the land here will flow to \_\_\_\_\_ Creek so we are in the \_\_\_\_\_ Creek Watershed. Does anyone know where this creek flows...?. The \_\_\_\_\_ Creek eventually flows into... \_\_\_\_\_ River which flows into... OH River which flows into... Mississippi River which flows into... the Gulf of Mexico. Yes!

The reason I'm talking about this is because what we do on the land affects the water that we rely on for drinking, swimming, and fishing from our backyards all the way to the ocean. The KWA hosts and co-hosts lots of cleanups because, unfortunately, litter and illegal dumping is an issue, and cleaning it up keeps it from getting into our streams and is a very good reminder of our impact on land and water.

Next, let's talk about the logistics for today's cleanup.

*[As the organizer this is where you would explain the logistics of the cleanup followed by safety instructions/procedures.]*

Lastly, we will talk about safety.

Do y'all have any questions, comments, concerns?"

## Example Safety Briefing

*Your safety briefing should include all pertinent information about the cleanup area, potential hazards, and with whom to communicate in the case of an emergency or found hazardous materials. Your briefing should be BOTH discussed on the day of your event and sent to volunteers upon signing up. Examine the example briefing prepared in part by Eastern Kentucky PRIDE.*

### **Safety Brief**

#### **Review these guidelines with all volunteers before the cleanup starts**

- Always wear appropriate gloves.
- Wear safety vests when on or near roadways.
- Stay off the primary roadway. Stay off railroad tracks except at crossings.
- Always dress appropriately for the weather conditions. Always wear appropriate footwear.
- Wear sunscreen and a hat.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Watch out for sharp objects that can cause scrapes, abrasions, and punctures.
- DO NOT TOUCH NEEDLES. Flag area and inform staff for safe removal.
- DO NOT TOUCH PLASTIC BOTTLES WITH TUBING ATTACHED. Flag area and inform staff for safe removal.
- Mark any potential hazards with flagging and inform staff.
- Stay behind guardrails. Do not attempt to go down or over cliffs or steep banks to retrieve trash.
- Do not attempt to go around houses or private property to pick up trash.
- Watch for all types of wildlife: dogs, bees, ticks, snakes, and spiders.
- Watch for hazards that can cause slipping, tripping, or falling.
- All youths MUST be with a parent or guardian for the duration of the event.
- Meet back at the starting location at staff-designated time.
- Discuss any site-specific or unique safety concerns

*Note: this list captures many, but not all safety concerns associated with cleanup events. Consult with local government and/or community health officials for additional safety considerations.*

# Cleanup Data Collection and Reporting

*Your cleanup may be funded by your organization, by donations from the community, or through funds received from grants. Regardless of how your cleanup is funded, proper data tracking on your event is not only great for your records but can serve as an excellent point of impact when configuring end of the year reports, organizational promotion, or when applying for grant funding.*

## Data Collection

Data on your cleanup may be collected by staff members in attendance, or by using volunteer surveys. Consider collecting data on the following areas:

- Total numbers of volunteers and partner organization staff in attendance.
- Total land area addressed in square miles or stream miles paddled.
- Total number of filled trash bags collected.
- Total number and type of large items collected.
- Age range of Volunteers in attendance.
- Where Volunteers are from - i.e volunteer zip codes.
- How volunteers found out about the event.

## Data Reporting





Consider including data and photos collected from your cleanup in end-of-the-year impact reporting or in submissions to local news media outlets. This information can highlight your organization's efforts and engagement with local communities. Also consider reporting your data to organizations such as The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) to help in tracking cleanup efforts from organizations across the state.

## Example Volunteer Survey Form

### Kentucky Waterways Alliance Cleanup Volunteer Survey

**Volunteer Information**

Name of Event	_____
First and Last Name	_____
Age and Ethnicity	_____
Home Zip Code	_____
How Did You Hear of the Event?	_____
Interested in joining our email list? If so, please provide your email:	_____



This project was made possible by a grant award from Hydro Flask's Parks For All program.  
This form serves as an example and is not to be used outside of KWA events.

Approximating the weight of trash in your reporting is important but can be difficult. Utilize this volume to weight conversion chart prepared by Keep Kentucky Beautiful when calculating total weight of trash collected at your event. Note that some dumps/transfer stations take weight of rented dumpsters upon return and can share this information with you.

TRASH ACCUMULATION CALCULATOR	
MSW Litter	Pounds
13-gallon bag	15
30-gallon bag	35
1-yard container	235
8-yard container	1,880
30-yard roll-off	7,050
40-yard roll-off	9,400
White Goods	Pounds
Dishwasher	125
Fridge	250
Dryer	125
Washer	150
Brown Goods	Pounds
Desk chair	40
Recliner	125
3-drawer dresser	50
King mattress	100
Queen mattress	75
Twin mattress	50
Shopping cart	50
Loveseat	55
Couch	100
Automotive	Pounds
Lead-acid battery	36
Heavy duty tire	120
Passenger tire	22.5
Textiles	Pounds
30-gallon bag of clothing	22
Carpet	147

## Additional Information Sources

*There is no “perfect form” for event organization and execution. Every organization, community, and landscape are different! Because of these differences, we recommend exploring information from a variety of sources. Consider exploring the information and materials made available from the organizations below.*

### **The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO)**

ORSANCO operates programs to improve water quality in the Ohio River and its tributaries, including setting wastewater discharge standards; performing biological assessments; monitoring for the chemical and physical properties of the waterways; and conducting special surveys and studies. Additionally, organizations can register cleanup events with ORSANCO for nationwide cleanup records. For more information visit their website at: <https://www.orsanco.org/river-sweep/>

### **Keep America Beautiful (KAB)**

Keep America Beautiful inspires and educates people to take action every day to improve and beautify their community environment. KAB provides the expertise, programs and resources to help people end littering, improve recycling, beautify America’s public spaces, and restore & support resilient communities. For more information, visit their resource hub at: <https://kab.org/resources/>

### **American Rivers**

American Rivers has a half-century of experience addressing river threats from coast-to-coast: helping partners protect vital habitat, working with communities to reduce river pollution, securing policies to ensure we all have clean, abundant water, driving solutions that reduce the risk of floods, working to remove unnecessary dams, and strengthening a river movement that adds power to all this work. American Rivers hosts a suite of information designed to help organizations plan their own cleanups, including a registration portal that delivers information and cleanup supplies to those organizations who register their event. For more information visit their cleanups resource hub at: <https://www.americanrivers.org/make-an-impact/national-river-cleanup/organizers/>

## Kentucky Waterways Alliance Contact Information

*Thank you for utilizing KWA's Cleanup Toolkit. We understand that organizing cleanups takes time and can have its hang ups. If you find that you still have questions, please contact us!*

### **Susan Griffin-Ward**

**Community Engagement Director**

[Susan@kwalliance.org](mailto:Susan@kwalliance.org)

*If you or your organization would like to partner with KWA to protect, restore, and celebrate your favorite Kentucky waterway give Susan a call or send her an email. She will be happy to talk with you about how we can work together!*

### **Laura Gregory**

**Watershed Program Director**

[laura@kwalliance.org](mailto:laura@kwalliance.org)

*Laura uses her experience in the Red River to work statewide with watershed groups across Kentucky. As Director, Laura has worked toward developing the Kentucky Watershed Network, a collaborative effort to support our allies in the world of Kentucky water. Laura consistently organizes on-the-water cleanup events along with local partners, Friends of Red River in the Red River Gorge, and is always happy to answer additional questions!*



## KWA Cleanup Toolkit Appendix

*The following sections contain print-ready examples for use when organizing or hosting a waterway cleanup both on land and on water. For additional information or materials, please contact KWA staff.*

*\* KWA provides these forms as examples and KWA assumes no responsibility or liability for any errors or omission in the content of the materials provided. The information contained on the forms below is provided on an “as is” basis with no guarantees of completeness, accuracy, usefulness or timeliness and without any warranties of any kind whatsoever, expressed or implied. Organizations making use of these materials are encouraged to review it with independent legal representation. \**

### **Section 1. Checklists**

## **Cleanup Organization Checklist**

**Determine a Location and Date**

**Find Partner Organizations**

**Recruit Community Volunteers**

**Gather Cleanup Supplies and Materials**

**Organize Disposal for Collected Trash**

**Host your Cleanup**

**Report Clean Up Data Collected**

## Cleanup Supply Checklist



**Trash Bags, Gloves, and Grabbers**



**First-Aid Kit and Poison Ivy Kit**



**Sharps Container and Bright Flagging**



**Bug Spray, Sun Screen, Hand Sanitizer**



**High-Vis Vests and Life Jackets**




**Give-Aways (T-shirts, Food, Ect.)**



**Insulated Water Cooler and Cups**

## On-The-Water Volunteer Equipment

-  **Comfortable clothes for getting wet/dirty**
-  **River Shoes, Tennis Shoes, or Keen Sandals with  
Toe Protection**
-  **Bug Spray, Sun Screen, and Hand Sanitizer**
-  **Water, Snacks, and UV-Resistant Hat**
-  **PFD, Personal Boat, and Paddle  
(if not provided)**
-  **Towel and Change of Clothes**

**Section 2. Volunteer Information Survey, Registration and Waiver**

**Waterway Cleanup Volunteer Survey**

**Volunteer Information**

Name of Event \_\_\_\_\_

First and Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age and Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_

Home Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

How Did You Hear of the Event? \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in joining our email list?  
If so, please provide your email: \_\_\_\_\_

**WATERWAY CLEANUP REGISTRATION**

Name	Home Zip Code	Email	Age	Are you Interested in Signing up for the our email list?	Signed Waiver?

**WAIVER, RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, INDEMNIFICATION AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE AGREEMENT**

**NOTICE: THIS IS A LEGALLY BINDING AGREEMENT**

By signing this Waiver, Release Of Liability, Assumption Of Risk, Indemnification and Covenant Not to Sue Agreement (“Agreement”), you relinquish your right to bring any claims or actions to recover any damages, losses or compensation against \_\_\_\_\_ and its officers, employees, contractors, agents and representatives (collectively with \_\_\_\_\_, the “Released Parties”), as a result of any injury to person or property arising out of or related to transportation to/from or entry onto the property known as \_\_\_\_\_ (the “Project Site”).

1. **Acknowledgement of Risks.** I fully understand that the Project Site and pontoon boat transportation to/from may pose inherent risks, dangers, and hazards for me. I understand that these risks and dangers may be caused by the negligence of me, the Released Parties, the negligence of others working on the Project Site or pontoon boat transportation, the negligence of third parties, accidents, breaches of contract, the forces of nature or other causes, and I acknowledge that risks and dangers may arise from foreseeable and unforeseeable causes. I hereby assume all risk and danger and all responsibility for any losses and/or damages to person or property that may result from entry onto the Project Site.
2. **Waiver, Release, Assumption of Risk, Indemnification and Covenant Not to Sue.** In addition to the acknowledgments, waivers and releases discussed above, I hereby covenant not to sue and voluntarily agree to waive, release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties, from any and all liability and claims, actions or losses for bodily injury, property damage, wrongful death, loss of services or any other claims which may arise out of entry onto and activity within the Project Site. I specifically understand that I am releasing, discharging and waiving any claims or actions that I may have presently or in the future for any negligent acts or omissions by the Released Parties, in connection with entry onto the Project Site. I agree that if I or anyone on my behalf brings any claims or action which would be barred by this Agreement, the Released Parties will be entitled to recover from me the attorneys' fees and costs incurred in defending against that action, including the attorneys' fees incurred in presenting the defense of release.
3. **Safety.** I agree to take all reasonable precautions in connection with entry onto the Project Site and pontoon boat transportation and shall comply with all reasonable and generally accepted safety measures and with all applicable laws, ordinances, rules and regulations for the safety of any persons or property at the Project Site or on the pontoon boat transportation including, but not limited to other requirements which may become effective after the date of this Agreement.
4. **Severability.** I agree that in the event any provision of this Agreement is held or adjudicated to be contrary to any statute or law, or otherwise unenforceable, the remaining provisions of this document shall be enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law including actions in contribution.
5. **Miscellaneous.** I have read the above and by signing agree that it is my express intent to release the Released Parties from any liability for personal injury, property damage or wrongful death caused by negligence or any other cause, except for willful, wanton, reckless or grossly negligent conduct. I specifically understand that I am releasing, discharging and waiving any claims or actions that I may have presently or in the future for negligent acts or other conduct which may arise by any party in connection with entry onto the Project Site or pontoon boat transportation.
6. **Photo Release of Liability.** I hereby authorize \_\_\_\_\_ to publish photographs or videos taken of me and use my likeness, in print, online, social media, and video-based marketing and publicity materials, as well as other publications. I hereby release and hold harmless \_\_\_\_\_ from any reasonable expectation of privacy or confidentiality associated with the images or videos specified above. I further acknowledge that my participation is voluntary and that I will not receive financial compensation of any type associated with the taking or publication of these photographs or videos or participation in company marketing materials or other publications. I acknowledge and agree that publication of said photos or videos confers no rights of ownership or royalties whatsoever. I hereby release \_\_\_\_\_, its contractors, its employees, its board members, and any third parties involved in the creation or publication of marketing materials, from liability for any claims by me or any third party in connection with my participation.

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Print Name (if volunteer is under 18 years old): \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer Signature (over 18): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature (under 18): \_\_\_\_\_