HOW CAN YOU GET STARTED?

It’s simple. Follow these four steps to be on your way to adopting a stream and making a difference.

1. Create a team of committed individuals (there is no limit to members) and pick a team name to be posted on your Adopt-A-Stream sign.

2. Select one or more captains from your group. Your captain will attend an orientation to your stream section, where they will receive instructions on how to best assist the team in planning three annual cleanups.

3. Visit the Adopt-A-Stream website for important information, updates and a list of streams open for adoption. This program is continuously expanding to new stream segments. If all streams are currently adopted, please follow up later for new opportunities and consider organizing an individual stream cleanup.

4. Follow directions on our website to submit your volunteer application, including the following:
   - Name of Organization or Team
   - Name of Team Captain
   - Stream Section Interested
   - Name to Appear on Sign
   - Contact Number of Team Captain
   - Contact Email of Team Captain

THE CITY WANTS TO HELP YOU!

Help us and we’ll help you. The City is committed to providing safe and clean spaces for our community and, as a result, we will provide the following to help with your volunteer efforts:

- Pointers on how to conduct a safe and successful stream cleanup.
- Supplies, including trash bags and grabbers.
- Removal and disposal of all trash.
- Adoption recognition sign to be installed.
- Recognition on the City website’s Adopt-A-Stream page.

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING

You, yes, you! If you have volunteered or are considering volunteering, we want to tip our caps. It’s through your efforts that our streams and communities stay clean. With your help, we can protect water quality and encourage positive community connections. Thank you for your commitment to improving the quality of life in Springfield!

SEE POLLUTION, REPORT POLLUTION

To report trash, yardwaste or chemicals running off into the street, stormwater drainage systems or streams, please call (417) 864-1010. You may also submit an Online Service Request at springfieldmo.gov/citizenresource

Watch for the signs of pollution:

- Dumping of motor oil or other chemicals.
- Commercial dumping of wastewater (i.e., from the washing of vehicles, equipment, structures or services such as carpet cleaning).
- Leaking from outdoor storage of chemicals and other materials that can pollute ground or stormwater runoff.
- Sediment discharging from construction sites or other muddy problems.

QUICK LINKS

springfieldmo.gov/adoptastream
springfieldmo.gov/stormwater
springfieldmo.gov/environment

SOCIAL MEDIA

@SGFenvironmentalservices
@SGFenviro
@SGFenvironmentalservices

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD • DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
REVISED 5/2021 • PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER
IT’S SO EASY, ANYONE CAN ADOPT!

Make a positive impact. Individuals, families, businesses and community groups can adopt a pre-selected portion of a major stream or small creek in need of periodic cleanup. The City provides tools and resources needed for you to organize your stream cleanup.

WHAT IS ADOPT-A-STREAM?

Adopt-A-Stream connects citizens directly to area streams. Adopters remove the trash, enjoy the stream environment and celebrate the improvements in water quality, parks and trails over time. As our community becomes an even better water steward, we’ll see improvements in the health of our streams and the beauty of our surroundings.

The program is an opportunity for citizens to become involved with the City’s efforts to keep our streams free from trash while connecting with others. The City of Springfield recognizes that waterways are the most common places for garbage to end up when not disposed of properly. The City needs your help to maintain the beauty and cleanliness of our waterways.

ORGANIZE YOUR CLEANUP TODAY

Yes, today! As easy as it is to get started, it’s nearly as simple to schedule your first stream cleanup.

1. Choose a date and time. It’s entirely up to you. However, don’t conduct a cleanup immediately after a storm when water levels are high.
2. Pick up supplies. Trash bags and grabbers need to be picked up during work hours at our office in the Environmental Resource Center at 290 E. Central. When determining how many bags are needed, we recommend 2-3 per person as a good starting number.
3. Coordinate a check-in with the team & sign waivers. Let your team of volunteers know where to meet on the day of the cleanup. Everyone participating is required to sign our provided waiver form. It is best if collected at the start of the event, so don’t forget to bring pens!
4. Encourage safe cleanup practices. Remember, safety first. Remind your team to wear protective shoes and gloves, avoid picking up sharp objects, watch for poison ivy, and avoid steep slopes. Volunteers should be encouraged to bring sunscreen and drinking water to prevent dehydration. Be sure to have a first-aid kit on-hand and transportation readily available.
5. Count collected trash bags & place in a visible location. Don’t forget to count the bags collected, noting larger items, to be reported in your completed cleanup email. All collected trash should be placed in a visible area near a curbside and within the ease of access for our staff and trash removal trucks. Don’t place trash piles on trails. If potentially hazardous items are found, please call the Citizen’s Resource Center at (417) 864-1010.

6. Too big for a bag? No problem. It happens. Some things won’t fit into the provided trash bags. Just pile those items next to a pile of collected trash bags. If something is too large to be moved, include that information and its location in the reporting email and we will facilitate its removal.
7. Wash your hands after cleanup. You know why.
8. Send your completed cleanup email. Upon completion, submit signed waivers and email cleanup details, such as the number of bags collected, locations of piles, scans of signed waivers, photos of the event and all other relevant details from the cleanup to AdoptAStream@springfieldmo.gov You may also provide all details and signed waivers in person to our office in the Environmental Resource Center.
9. Trash piles removed! City staff will coordinate the final removal of collected and bagged waste per your details.

INDEPENDENT CLEANUPS

Individuals or groups wanting to schedule a one-time stream or drainage area cleanup event without committing long term may call (417) 864-2087. The City supports any effort to help keep our rivers clean and will provide supplies and final removal of all waste collected during the cleanup.