



Adopt-a-Stream Program

City of Bettendorf – Stormwater Section

Streams in Bettendorf serve many uses, ranging from carrying storm water runoff to providing habitat for fish, turtles, birds and other wildlife. We appreciate your interest in the City of Bettendorf's Adopt-a-Stream program. This program provides families, local business owners, civic groups, neighborhood organizations, youth groups, churches, and academic institutions the opportunity to become involved in an environmental program that helps to protect our natural resources. The objectives of this program are to increase community involvement and awareness of the City's water resources, develop watershed-based environmental education, increase reporting of water quality problems, and to improve water quality and stream habitat. By committing to the program, your group or organization agrees to collect litter along your adopted stream twice a year for at least two years.

The enclosed package provides information on the program and explains the requirements for Adopt-a-Stream projects. Please return the following information to the address listed below prior to stream cleanup: Adopt-a-Stream Application and Agreement, Liability Release Form, Adopt-a-Stream Sign Request and the Event Notification Form. After the City has processed the application a copy of the Application and Agreement will be mailed to you and the group is authorized to clean the stream.

**City of Bettendorf
Stormwater Section
4403 Devils Glen Road
Bettendorf, Iowa 52722
Phone (563) 344-4084
Fax (563) 344-4075**

Adopt-a-Stream Application and Agreement

Name of Group/Organization: _____

Number in Group: _____

Have you or any member in your group completed an IOWATER training workshop?
If yes, please list name(s) and type(s) of workshop(s) attended.

I. **Contact Information**

Primary Contact Information

Name: _____

Mailing address

City State Zip Code

Phone () _____ Email _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Secondary Contact Information

Name: _____

Mailing address

City State Zip Code

Phone () _____ Email _____

Signature _____ Date _____

II. Stream Information

Please select a stream or contact us to find a stream for you to adopt. If you have a stream in mind, describe the body of water to be adopted. Include its location with landmarks (bridges, roads, confluence with other bodies of water). Include a map (hand drawn is okay) to help identify the area. We will locate your adopted area on a City map and help suggest boundaries.

Length of Stream Segment: _____ (To be completed by Adopt-a-Stream Coordinator)

III. Required Items: The following items are necessary to fulfill membership obligations for the Adopt-a-Stream program.

- Two stream cleanups each year for two years.
- Completed Event Notification Form (Appendix B) preceding each cleanup.
- Completed Reporting Form (Appendix C) following each cleanup.

IV. Suggested Items: The following items are suggested but are not necessary to participate in the Adopt-a-Stream program. (Check all that apply)

- Drain Markers – labeling of storm water inlets with “Don’t Dump” stickers and distribution of corresponding educational material about storm water runoff.
- Stream Renovations: debris removal, stream bank plantings, erosion control
- Invite speakers on environmental issues
- Stream walks, bird watching, wildlife observations
- Other: _____

V. The City of Bettendorf Stormwater Management Section agrees to provide the following: (Check all that apply)

- Event Notification and Reporting Forms
- Official Adopt-a-Stream sign bearing the name of your group
- Bags for cleanups
- Coordination of bag disposal
- Drain Marker materials
- Speakers on environmental issues
- Evaluation and approval of designs for stream renovation/enhancement
- Technical assistance by request
- Other: _____

VIII. Adopt-a-Stream Sign Request Form

Each volunteer is entitled to an Adopt-a-Stream sign along a street that crosses the stream or other designated location. Sign will not be installed until after one cleanup has been completed and all necessary documents are returned.

The boxes below represent the maximum number of characters allowed on your Adopt-a-Stream sign. You have the option of two lines with the possibility of 16 characters per line. Please print one letter per box (punctuation marks count as one letter). If the name of your organization can fit on one line, the sign maker will use a larger character for better visibility.

Please include only the name of your group or organization. Phrases such as "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" will not be allowed on the Adopt-a-Stream signs. The Adopt-a-Stream Coordinator must approve all signs.

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Desired location of sign (Preferred location is along a major street that crosses the stream):

Appendix A

Adopt-a-Stream Program Safety Guidelines

- 1) Before an adopting group applies to adopt a stream, or before any program activities are initiated, the group's designated representative should survey the stream on the days and during the hours the group intends to perform cleanups to determine if stream conditions are safe and appropriate for the ages and abilities of the group's members. If, at any time, the adopting group feels the adopted section of stream has become unsafe for litter pickups, the groups designated representative should call the Adopt-a-Stream Coordinator; he or she will work with the group to identify a safer stream section or a different stream.
- 2) Must be 10 years of age to participate with proper supervision by an adult and parental/guardian signature.
- 3) Stream cleanup should only be done during daylight hours and during fair weather.
- 4) Remember to schedule a "rain-date" ahead of time.
 - a. Conduct a safety meeting for all participants prior to each cleanup.
 - b. Wear light-colored clothing that covers arms and legs. Also wear rubber boots or waders, gloves, hat and safety glasses.
- 5) Wear clothing that will not impair vision or movement during cleanup activities.
- 6) Work in small groups. **Do not work alone!**
- 7) Stay clear of any construction.
- 8) Do not work in inclement weather.
- 9) During warm weather months, drink plenty of fluids, take breaks and avoid overexertion.
- 10) During cold weather months, dress warmly with layered clothing.
- 11) Be alert for snakes, stinging insects, and poisonous plants.
- 12) Carpool to the site to reduce the number of vehicles.
- 13) Use proper bending and lifting techniques.
- 14) Be aware of wet rocks, hills, and slopes. Watch your step!
- 15) Do not use or possess illegal drugs or alcohol during cleanup.

Adopt-a-Stream

Safety Guidelines (cont'd)

- 16) Do not pick up trash or walk on bridges, on overpasses or in tunnels or culverts.
- 17) Do not pick up what appears to be hazardous material (notify your Adopt-a-Stream Coordinator if your encounter hazardous objects or holes, guide wires and other hidden obstacles in the ground).
- 18) Do not attempt to squeeze bags to make room for more trash (injuries from broken or jagged objects can result from this practice).

In Case of Emergency:

- Have an adequate first-aid kit available.
- Select an emergency room/hospital and know the route from the work area to the designated treatment facility.
- If possible, have one member bring a cell phone for emergencies.

Bag Pickup Procedure:

- Notify the Adopt-a-Stream Coordinator at (563) 344-4084 with location of bags.
- Group the bags together and where practical place them at least 2 feet from the side of the road to make the job of collecting bags easier and safer.

Appendix B

Event Notification Form

This form is to inform our staff of your stream cleanup date and to provide a date and location for garbage collection and disposal. Please complete and return prior to cleanup. You may also contact the Adopt-a-Stream Coordinator at (563) 344-4084 to convey event information.

Name of group/organization

We have scheduled a stream cleanup on (MM/DD/YY) _____, at
_____ (am/pm).

Number of participants _____

If you will be coming to our office to pick up bags, please give us the date you plan to arrive so material will be ready for pickup: _____

The address of our office is listed below.

Location of Collected Garbage

Properly secure and completely tie all bags. Group the bags together, and if safe and practical, place them at least 2 feet from the road. Indicate below the location that you've chosen to place your bags.

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Bettendorf, Iowa 52722
Phone (563) 344-4084
Fax (563) 344-4075**

Appendix C

Adopt-a-Stream Reporting Form

Date: _____ Group/Organization _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Stream Location/Name: _____

Debris Removed: (List type and amount removed such as: tires, paper, plastic, etc.)

Stream Assessment: (Please list the following characteristics)

Water Color: (please describe) _____

Odor: yes _____ no _____ (If yes, please describe) _____

Oily sheen: yes _____ no _____

Foamy: yes _____ no _____

Algae: yes _____ no _____ If yes, does it look excessive or unnatural: _____

Stream Appearance: Did anything look unnatural or out of the ordinary during your visual inspection of the stream? (If yes, please explain) _____

Please check one category for the following:

Bank Erosion: Normal _____ (70%-100% of streambank soil covered by plants, rocks and logs)

Moderate _____ (30%-70% of streambank covered by plants, rocks and logs)

Severe _____ (Less than 30% of bank soil covered by plants, rocks and logs)

Blockages: (Were there any debris or debris piles that could cause your stream to flood? For example: blocked culverts, pipes, or bridges). If yes, please indicate the location as well as the types of debris causing the blockage.

***Remember! Always be aware of your surroundings. Please report any unknown substances or possible hazardous materials to 911. Give a brief description of the problem and include the following: nearest physical address to the problem (street name and block number). Do not attempt to clean substances from stream, as they may be hazardous to your health.**

Please complete and return to:
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