

# Adopt-A-Stream

## Application for Local Program Designation and Agreement

As stewards of Nashville's water resources, we the members of _____ request permission to adopt a _____ mile segment of _____, located _____.
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Name of Adopting Organization (as you would like it on the sign): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of stream cleanups anticipated per year (one required): \_\_\_\_\_

Designated Representative (**Primary**): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number (*daytime*): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Designated Representative (**Secondary**): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number (*daytime*): \_\_\_\_\_

*The work will be performed under and in accordance with Metro Water Services and Metro Public Works Beautification's Adopt-A-Stream General Program Conditions and Safety Guidelines both attached to this application and incorporated herein by reference.*

*Applicants to whom an Adopt-A-Stream Program Designation and Agreement are issued shall at all times indemnify and save harmless Metro Water Services, Metro Public Works, Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davidson County and all employees, agents and officers thereof, from responsibility, damage, or liability arising from the exercise of the privileges granted under designated programs. The Program Designation and Agreement may be terminated by Metro Water Services at any time. The Department reserves the right to revise or discontinue the Adopt-A-Stream Program at any time.*

***As a designated representative of \_\_\_\_\_***

***I have read, understand, and shall comply with the Adopt-A-Stream general program conditions and safety guidelines regarding participation in the program.***

***Signature:*** \_\_\_\_\_ ***Date:*** \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: Sonia Harvat

Metro Water Services

1600 Second Ave. N., Nashville, TN 37208

## **Adopt-A-Stream Guidelines**

### *General Program Conditions*

1. Metro Water Services (MWS) and Metro Beautification encourages local businesses, civil organizations, watershed groups, academic institutions, and scout groups to adopt local streams, rivers, and lakes for the purpose of managing litter along stream banks, shorelines, and in waterways.
2. MWS suggests groups adopt no less than a half-mile of a stream or river. *Remember the number of volunteers needed for the cleanup will depend on the length of stream or river adopted.*
3. Adopting organizations will be awarded an Adopt-A-Stream sign, which will include the organization's name, to place at a location of their choice. (See #11)
4. Each group must include a participating adult of 18 years or older. Individuals under 18 years can participate in a stream cleanup if supervised by an adult. MWS recommends one adult per 6 youth.
5. Adopting groups agree to collect litter on both sides of the stream at least once a year. MWS recommends that groups conduct one cleanup in the late spring, early summer and one in the fall. Traditionally, the amount of litter is greatest during these times because of spring runoff and the beginning and end of the water recreation season.
6. Adopting groups also agree to stencil stormdrains draining to adopted stream segment.
7. The Designated Representative for the adopting group must schedule at least one educational meeting per year. This meeting can be scheduled by contacting Sonia Harvat at (615) 862-4494.

### **Please fill out and return "Event Notification Form" two weeks prior to cleanup or stenciling event.**

8. Participants must adopt a stream for a period of two years. After two years, the adopting organization may renew their designation and agreement, modify their designation (*choose a different stream*), or terminate the agreement.
9. The Designated Representative is responsible for notifying MWS staff if any of the adopting group's participants has a condition that might require special safety precautions or provisions covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act.
10. Adopting groups' members shall not trespass on private property. Permission from the property owner must be secured before entering private property.
11. MWS will provide Adopt-A-Stream signs for each adopting organization. The adopting organization will be responsible for maintaining the Adopt-A-Stream sign.
12. Participants are encouraged to separate and recycle materials to maximum extent possible.
13. Within two weeks of the project date, the Designated Representative for the adopting group must send copies of the sign-in sheets; all completed and signed safety liability release forms, and the stream cleanup data form to:

**Sonia Harvat**

**Metro Water Services**

**1600 Second Ave. N**

**Nashville, TN 37208**

14. MWS & Metro beautification reserves the right to deny an adoption request or cancel the adoption agreement of any group.

**No one may participate in a cleanup unless they have attended a safety meeting within the last 12 months.** The Designated Representative may conduct a safety meeting immediately before a cleanup; however, this meeting must be held in a safe, appropriate area.

### *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 group's Designated Representative should call Sonia Harvat at (615) 862-4494 and she will work with the group to identify a safer stream section or a different stream.
2. Individuals under 18 may participate in a stream cleanup only if supervised by an adult. Adopting groups must provide at least one adult supervisor for every six children under 18 years old.
3. Adopting groups should avoid working on steep steps or in confined river stretches with limited ingress/egress.
4. Adopting groups shall not work on class one rapids or greater.
5. Adopt-A-Stream groups must abide by the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation (TDEC) Regulations (if applicable). For a copy of the Regulations, visit [www.state.tn.us/environment/water](http://www.state.tn.us/environment/water)
6. Cleanup participants shall wear a bright colored shirt (*or, if appropriate a lifejacket*) at all times. Participants shall also wear gloves.
7. Always work in groups of two or greater.
8. Cleanup participants should not drink water from any stream. Refreshments should be provided by the Contact Person and/or project organizer or participants may bring their own.
9. Cleanups shall be scheduled during daylight hours and during fair weather. Remember to schedule a "rain-date" ahead of time.
10. Cleanup participants are encouraged to take breaks, drink fluids, and avoid overexertion.
11. Do not pick up materials that appear hazardous or unsafe. Contact Lawrence Jackson at 862-8418.
12. Applicants to whom an Adopt-A-Stream Program Designation and Agreement are issued shall at all times indemnify and save harmless Metro Water Services, Metro Beautification, Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davidson County and all employees, agents and officers, from responsibility, damage, or liability arising from the exercise of the privileges granted under designated programs. **All volunteers shall sign a liability release form prior to participating in any cleanup activities.**
13. Adopting groups shall provide volunteers with emergency phone numbers, as well as a means to contact the appropriate authority in case of an emergency (*a mobile phone or the location of the nearest pay phone*), and first aid kits.