

Stream Clean-Up Safety Tips

Safety first!

- Children should be supervised at all times.
- Wear gloves and safety vests.
- Bring a hat, sunscreen, and water. Make sure to wear closed toe shoes.
- Watch your step! Vegetation could potentially hide holes or other hazards.
- Don't risk your safety, especially on steep banks or in other potentially dangerous environmental conditions.

Be aware of your environment

- Vegetation is sensitive.
- Wildlife is best kept wild.
- Do not enter water, only pick up trash that is accessible from streambanks.
- The water in Blacks Run is polluted with bacteria that can make you sick if ingested/swallowed; please avoid contact with the water.

What to remove

- Trash and litter (Tiny to large, anything created by humans.)
- Recyclables

What to leave

- Nature
- Hazardous items (Syringes, needles, hazardous materials).
- Unhoused encampments
- Dead animals
- Items too large or heavy.
- If there is trash that still needs to be removed from the stream (items too large or heavy, or any hazardous items) please make a note of the location, what is in the stream, and email Austin.Shenk@HarrisonburgVA.gov.

When you are done

- Wash hands/Use hand sanitizer prior to touching face and/or eating.
- Dispose of gloves in a trash receptacle.
- Leave all trash bags near road closest to clean up site or as designated on your maps.
- Taking a picture of the bags and their location can greatly assist City staff when they are picking up the bags. Also, feel free to share pictures of your clean-up event. Pictures may be sent to Austin.Shenk@HarrisonburgVA.gov or texted to (540) 820-0089.
- Sometime during the week after your clean-up event, please return the safety vests and any other additional supplies from the clean-up event to the Public Works building.

Thank you for volunteering and for staying safe during the clean-up event!