

Great Willamette Clean Up 2020- QuarantEAM Safety Points

There are five main safety priorities:

- 1) General River Safety
- 2) Hazardous Materials
- 3) Camps
- 4) Transportation Corridors
- 5) Covid

1) General & River Safety (for on-land and on-water)

- Always wear a PFD while participating in this event on water! If you are not wearing a PFD and working from land, please do not retrieve items directly from the river, especially on shore where there is a chance of losing your footing or falling in.
Even in low water, swift currents can be hazardous - please do not purposely get into the water to retrieve trash or stand up in currents above calf height.
- Use the swimmer's position (on back, feet pointing downstream) if you fall into the water in current.
- Use a hook or pickers to pull items out of the water - if you can't reach something, please document the location in a photograph and GPS coordinates in the follow up report for your river segment or park area and we will follow up for a later removal.
- Be knowledgeable and aware of navigational challenges, strainers, and other in-water hazards in the stretch of river you are choosing to participate in cleaning.
- Carry a First Aid Kit in your group and have someone in the group who can lead a water rescue if necessary, for on-water efforts.
- Please work in pairs and keep your group within eyeshot of each other in case someone needs help.
- Do not overfill bags – if you cannot pick up a bag with one hand, it is overfull! Use two people to bag heavier items and carry from your watercraft to the drop site at the takeout.
- Do not pile trash on the boat ramp.

2) Sharps & other Hazardous Materials

- Please step and reach only where you can see! Use pickers whenever possible.
- ALWAYS WEAR GLOVES when removing trash – it is preferable to use nitrile gloves as a layer under regular work gloves.
- There is a chance that you will find **hypodermic needles**. If you find one, please don't touch it unless you have been trained in sharps handling and disposal and have a qualified sharps container for storage. Please document the location in a

photograph and GPS coordinates in the follow up report for your river segment or park area and we will follow up for a later removal.

- If you come across **hazardous items** such as toilet paper, human waste, unidentified liquids, liquids that don't match their container, 5 gallon buckets used as latrines - please don't bag them up creating additional hazards for others! Please document the location in a photograph and GPS coordinates in the follow up report for your river segment or park area and we will follow up for a later removal.
- Please do not pick up electronic devices that have been burned. These materials are highly toxic in PCBs and can cause illness when breathed.

3) Camps and Campers

- Please do not enter occupied camps. If you are unsure if an area is occupied, please leave it alone, document with a photograph and GPS coordinates, and notify Willamette Riverkeeper with your report. We will take care of following up with land stakeholder in the area.
- Please do not try to initiate engagement with campers, and exercise caution if they are requesting assistance or need a trash bag. Never engage a camper alone.
- Please respect campers' privacy – do not photograph campers.

4) Greenway Transportation Corridors

- Regardless of the weather we can expect the Greenway paths to have bicyclists and pedestrians. Be cautious when approaching the bike path, and be looking for bicycles moving quickly around your work zone.
- Please make sure that no waste is left on the path or on the boat ramp.
- Please do not block the boat ramp for other users when getting prepared to launch or taking out.

5) Covid-19 Precautions

- Please use masks during preparation of equipment, safety talk, and/or at put-ins and take outs.
- Please exercise 6 ft. social distancing State guidelines.
- If you are shuttling with someone outside of your household, use State guidelines of 3 ft. spacing in transport vehicles with masks on and windows down. It is always most safe to designate your own shuttle if possible.
- Bring/use hand sanitizer before and after your event, bring and use your own or assigned PFDs, tools, and any other relevant gear to your activity.

And please remember to... SHARE your photos with us! This is how YOU can directly inspire others to take action as well.

We will share some of your images on our social media, and you may even WIN one of our “Best of Trash or Treasure” photo contest awards! We have handmade ukelele’s, posters, t-shirts and more to give away.

How to share you photos:

1. You can text your cleanup images to our Outreach Team at **503-833-2859**
2. Post your photos to your Facebook or Instagram accounts, tag Willamette Riverkeeper as use “**#GreatWillametteCleanup20**”
3. Or email your favorite photos to info@willametteriverkeeper.org