

Riverwalk Clean-Up 2015 Volunteer Guidelines

Thanks for volunteering to be part of the fourth annual Riverwalk Clean-Up! We want your time to be enjoyable and safe, so please follow the following guidelines:

1. We ask that all participants meet at UI Parking Lot #3 near the UI Water Treatment Plant (208 West Burlington St., on the northeast side of the Burlington Street bridge). Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. We want to check everyone in and assign teams to each clean-up area as appropriate. We will also ask for a cell phone number from someone on each team so we can stay in contact.
2. Volunteers can park for free at UI Lot #25, which is located off Riverside Drive and south of Stanley Hydraulics Lab. It is the lot with no meters. Alternative parking locations include the Old Capitol ramp and on-street parking in the area. Volunteers are responsible for any parking meters, etc., should these be in effect on Saturday.
3. Volunteers will be assigned to teams that will pick up trash along the banks of the Iowa River. Your team leader will have instructions and a cell phone — if you have any questions or problems, talk to your team leader.
4. Kids are welcome, but must have parental supervision at all times. Parents, please keep kids within sight at all times.
5. Please wear shoes and socks, not flip-flops, as the footing can be hazardous. We will provide gloves that all volunteers will be required to wear.
6. We recommend long pants and long sleeves, due to the presence of poison ivy in some of the riverbank areas. We will also provide gloves, and all participants are required to wear these for safety reasons.
7. This bears repeating: Beware of poison ivy! See photo at right.
8. Don't venture anywhere that does not feel safe to you. If you prefer, just stay on the sidewalk and grassy areas nearby. If you choose to venture down onto the rocks and riverbank, do so with great care and at your own risk. Don't go in the water under any circumstances. Stay with other members of your team.
9. Wear sunscreen and bug repellent.
10. When your bag is full, tie up the top and place it on the sidewalk for our team to pick up.
11. Please stay away from anything that looks as if it could be someone's personal belongings, i.e., tent, blankets, etc.
12. Do not venture under bridges or other areas marked as off limits.
13. We will plan to end our clean-up efforts at 11 a.m., even if more trash remains. Please return to the check-in area, where we may sort the trash for recyclables, enjoy some refreshments, check out, and exchange high-fives. We will also plan to take a group photo with our pile of trash.
14. Above all, stay safe. Don't do anything that feels risky or unsafe to you, no matter what others are doing. The rocks on the riverbank can be treacherous for anyone with balance issues or mobility problems, such as weak ankles. Don't get hurt!
15. In case of rain, contact Dave McClain at david-mcclain@uiowa.edu or call his cell (319-631-2331) to find out if the event will go on as planned.
16. This event is volunteer-based, and not associated with the University of Iowa or any department of the university.

