

Adopt-the-Creek Program Overview

1. The NBMCA encourages local businesses, organizations, watershed groups, schools/classes, scout groups and other neighborhood groups to adopt a portion of Chippewa Creek for the purpose of managing litter along stream banks, shorelines and in the waterway. Stream cleanups directly benefit us by enhancing the aesthetics of our natural areas, removing potential pollutants in our drinking water supply and removing potential mosquito breeding habitat (litter containing stagnant water such as cups, plastic bags, etc.). Stream cleanups also benefit aquatic plants and animals through improved habitat and water quality.
2. Adopting Groups are also encouraged to monitor their stream section for signs of pollution or illegal dumping and report this to the NBMCA. Citizen reporting is often the only way many of these infrequent illegal discharges can ever be discovered and stopped.
3. Each Adopting Group must designate a Representative to act as the point of contact with the NBMCA. The Adopting Group must include a participating adult of 18 years or older. Individuals under 18 years of age can participate in a stream cleanup if supervised by an adult.
4. The Adopting Group should walk the section of Chippewa Creek and the EcoPath to ensure the site conditions are appropriate for the abilities of the group's members.
5. Adopting Groups agree to collect litter on both sides of the stream at least twice a year. The NBMCA recommends that groups conduct one cleanup in the spring to coincide with Pitch-In Canada and one in the fall to coincide with Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up. Traditionally, the amount of litter is greatest during these times. And don't forget about cleaning the trash out of the upland areas! It won't take long for any trash found anywhere within the watershed to wind up in the creek.
6. The amount of time required to clean each section of Chippewa Creek will vary given the length of the section and the number of volunteers, but each stream cleanup typically lasts for 1 – 2 hours.
7. The Adopting Group must commit to adopting their section for a period of at least two years. After that year, the Adopting Group may renew their agreement, choose a different stream section, or terminate the agreement.
8. The Adopting Group must contact the NBMCA at least two weeks before a scheduled cleanup. At that time, the Group will be provided with gloves, trash bags, garbage pickers and other support as needed.
9. Adopting Group participants shall not trespass on private property. Permission must be secured from the property owner before entering private property.
10. The Adopting Group will pile litter collected in a centralized location designated by the NBMCA and the NBMCA will pick it up. Participants are encouraged to separate and recycle materials to the best of their ability.
11. The Adopting Group agrees not to plant or remove any plants along the shoreline or banks or upland areas without permission from NBMCA.

Safety Guidelines – Chippewa Creek EcoPath Adopt-the-Creek Program

1. The designated Representative shall survey the creek section the group intends to adopt to determine if stream conditions are safe and appropriate for the ages and abilities of the group's participants before applying to the Adopt-A-Stream program. Once adopted, the designated Representative shall survey the stream section prior to any scheduled cleanups to ensure safe conditions for the group. If, at any time, the Adopting Group feels that the adopted section of stream or the surrounding upland areas have become unsafe for cleanups, the Designated Representative shall contact NBMCA and he/she will work with the group to identify a safer section.
2. Individuals under 18 may participate in a stream cleanup only if supervised by an adult.
3. Cleanup participants shall wear gloves or some form of hand protection.
4. Always work in groups of two or more.
5. Do not pick up materials that appear hazardous or unsafe. Contact the NBMCA for removal.