



TVWA's Adopt-A-Stream Program Guidelines

The following guidelines will apply to any organization/group or person participation in the Adopt-A-Stream Program.

1. Sectioning the Waterways and Adopting Out Sections

The section of a waterway to be adopted will generally be from one easily recognizable landmark such as a bridge to another along the waterway and include both sides of the waterway up to the high water mark. It is important for the sections to be placed so that there are sites available where a canoe or raft can safely be put-in at the beginning and pulled-out at the end of the designated section to be adopted. Sections will generally be in length of 1 to 3 miles long, but can be of any length subject to TVWA approval upon adopter's request.

The TVWA will provide detailed maps, Geographic Coordinates and place names that designate these sections for adopters'. Consideration will be given to the land ownership reality along the waterways, and to the geography of the waterway in selecting appropriate program sites for our adopters'.

2. Period of Adoption

The adoption period will be for two years, renewable at the request of the organization. The volunteer group needs to do annual litter pick-up at least once a year and/or partake in water quality monitoring, beaver management, stream bank preservation or donate funding. When a volunteer group participates in a community clean-up, that time may count as one of their required two years. Volunteers new to water quality monitoring should be accompanied by more experienced technicians initially.

3. Safety Guidelines and Equipment Requirements

All persons engaged in litter pick-up on the right of way along bridges will wear appropriate reflective/floatation vests.

All persons engaged in litter pick-up near or on the water will wear appropriate floatation vests.

All volunteers need to furnish themselves with safety reflective/floatation vests, and litter bags and mode of transport whether it is walking or by water. The

TVWA may work with other organizations to provide canoes or rafts, bags and vest but will not be responsible for providing them; we will let volunteers know in advance whether or not we could provide these items.

The TVWA will provide sampling equipment for water quality sampling for 10 volunteers this season on a first come first serve basis.

4. Adopt-A-Stream Sign Placement Guidelines on Bridges

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT & PF) will support TVWA's AAS program by providing placement of an appropriate sized sign along the adopted waterway sections where a bridge crosses to give recognition to the adopting organization for their participation in the program. Signs will be placed 50 feet away from the road/bridge on the outside parameter of the State road right of way. This placement is preferable because it is outside of the lawn mowing area, away from pedestrian safety concerns and still within vision. These signs will look exactly like the Adopt-A-Highway Signs.

5. Adopt-A-Stream Sign Placement Guidelines on River Banks

If signs are placed along the waterways away from bridge crossings these will be placed by TVWA however, the ADOT & PF may help with ordinances and other issues with safe sign placements. These signs may have special designs.

6. Media and Public Outreach Guidelines and Restrictions

New media coverage will be encouraged to promote the Adopt-A-Stream Program and to recognize participating organizations. Local community organizations, such as watershed associations, environmental groups or school groups, will be eligible to adopt a stream and thus gain media attention.

The TVWA may put on their website adopters business logo upon the adopters request and/or approval.

The TVWA will not enter into an agreement with the office of any elected official, candidate for public office or political action group advocating a particular issue or referendum (e.g., Alaskans for Legalized Gambling, Opponents or Fluoridated Water...) A political party may participate (e.g., Alaskan Republican Party, Democrats of Alaska... under the condition that no campaign related activities occur during the clean up activity periods.

7. Right of Ways and High Water Mark Restrictions on Waterways

All litter pickup activities will be restricted to the areas of the right of way, outside the pavement and shoulder areas along bridge crossings.

All litter pickup and other activities will be restricted to within the water body and on the shore up to high water mark along the designated water bodies within

urbanized areas. Special caution is needed for respecting the boundaries on private property along the waterways.

On remote wild lands and public land or private land with reserved easement TVWA may elect to have litter picked-up past high water mark.

8. Safety and Age Considerations

No person under the age of 11 years will be permitted to pick up litter within the highway right of way on bridges.

All persons under the ages of 18 must be accompanied by at least one adult per 5 persons under age 18.

9. Safety Meetings

Each organization shall designate a "Contact/Safety Representative" who will arrange to meet with a TVWA representative prior to the first scheduled litter pickup and at least annually thereafter. The representative will be responsible for safety meetings, and for obtaining vests for his group.

A safety meeting will be conducted prior to each scheduled litter pickup or sampling event. In this meeting, the workers should be apprised of the hazardous nature of the work which they will be performing and check to see that everyone is equipped to do the work.