



Ohio River Sweep Resources

Provided by



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How to Plan Your Ohio River Sweep Cleanup Event

1. **Select a Date** – Ohio River Sweep Season runs from March 1st – October 31st each year
2. **Select a Location**
 - Local parks and boat landings are often great spots to clean
 - Anywhere that is safe and accessible along the shoreline of the Ohio River or its tributaries is a suitable location
 - Determine if the property is public or private
 - If private property is involved, you will need permission from the landowner, preferably in writing
 - Always consider your volunteers’ parking situation
3. **Arrange Trash Disposal** – Call for pickup if you have more trash than you can safely carry out yourself
 - If your site is at a park, contact your local park department to ask if they can dispose of bags
 - If your site is public property, such as a boat landing or roadside, contact your City or County
 - Departments to reach out to include, but are not limited to: Solid Waste, Public Works, Public Services, Parks & Recreation, Environmental Services, and Soil & Water.
 - **See Contact info for counties by state at end of document under “Trash Disposal Resources”**
 - You may also contact your local waste disposal company and ask for a bag pickup or to provide a dumpster (for a discounted rate or for free)
 - Explain that this is a volunteer community service event
4. **Recruit Volunteers**
 - As you register your event, you can request a flyer to help promote for volunteers
 - Additionally, you can use Word, Publisher, or sites like Canva to make your own flyer
 - Use our “Example Volunteer Communication” template to customize communications for your event
 - When requesting supplies, if you select that your event is public, we will add it to our website
 - Volunteers can find your event to participate this way
5. **Request Supplies**
 - ORSANCO provides gloves, trash bags, and volunteer t-shirts for your cleanup
 - Once you have all the information for your event (date, time, location, and number of volunteers), fill out our online supply request form
 - Please have this request in **at least two weeks prior to your event** to allow time for shipment
 - If you are local to Cincinnati and would like to pick up your supplies, ORSANCO is located at 5735 Kellogg Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45230
 - For all non-local events, ORSANCO will ship supplies directly to you prior to your event date
6. **Sign the Waiver**
 - All volunteers must complete the Volunteer Waiver Form
 - Filled out waivers should be submitted to Event Organizers, NOT ORSANCO



7. Participate in your Ohio River Sweep Cleanup!



DOs:

Group Leader / Event Coordinator	Individuals
Conduct a safety talk at the beginning of the event so volunteers understand how to safely pick up litter.	Wear gloves; thick soled & closed-toed shoes, long pants, and long sleeve shirts for protection.
Know emergency procedures, such as the location of the nearest emergency facility.	Wear bright colors if cleaning near a roadway.
Have a first aid kit and mobile phone on hand.	Wear sunscreen and bug spray.
Check the weather before the event.	Drink plenty of fluids and bring snacks.
Provide adequate adult supervision if you involve youth groups in event (at least 1 adult to 8 participants between ages of 10-17).	Be aware of your surroundings and potential hazards (ex: passing cars, poison ivy, overgrown vegetation, stinging insects)
Reconvene every hour or so to make sure all participants are accounted for, safe, and enjoying the cleanup if going into a heavily wooded area.	Use the “buddy system” and work in teams of at least 2-3 individuals to maximize safety.
Take BEFORE, DURING, & AFTER photos to show off your work.	Wash hands with antibacterial soap after cleanup.

DON'Ts:

Group Leader / Event Coordinator	Individuals
Don't schedule cleanups during extremely inclement weather (if possible). Light rain is ok, but thunder and lightning should result in a rescheduled event.	Don't pick up hazardous materials such as hypodermic needles, sharp objects, condoms, animal carcasses, or other unidentified, questionable objects- report to team leader.
Don't allow small children to participate in locations near roadways.	Don't overfill bags so that they are too heavy to carry or rip.
If at a public park, don't forget to let the park know your group will be there doing a cleanup.	Don't attempt to move large objects-call your local fire or police department to report illegal dumping and for instructions on how to proceed.
Don't schedule cleanups for longer than 3 hours.	Don't overdo it physically!

8. [Send a Post-River Sweep Survey](#)

- **Please complete the Post-Sweep Survey within two weeks of completing your cleanup**
- This data helps us continue our program and receive funding to provide free cleanup supplies
- You can attach photos from your cleanup to this form
- Use the Volume-to-Weight Conversion for Commonly Found Items to estimate total pounds of litter collected

Volume-to-Weight Conversion for Commonly Found Items



Litter - MSW	Pounds
13-Gallon Bag	15
30-Gallon Bag	30
1-Yard Container	235
8 Cubic Yard Container	1,880
30-Yard Roll-Off	7,050
40-Yard Roll-Off	9,400

Automotive	Pounds
Lead Acid Battery	36
Tire – Commercial I	120
Tire – Auto/Light Truck	22.5

Brown Goods	Pounds
Chair – Desk	40
Chair – Recliner	125
Dresser – 3-Drawer	50
Mattress – King	100
Mattress – Queen	75
Mattress – Twin	50
Shopping Cart	50
Sofa (2 Cushion)	55
Sofa (3 Cushion)	100

White Goods	Pounds
13-Gallon Bag	125
30-Gallon Bag	125
1-Yard Container	250
8 Cubic Yard Container	150

Textiles	Pounds
Bags of Clothes (30 Gallon)	22
Carpet	147

Recyclable Containers (30 Gallon Bags)	Pounds
Aluminum Cans	7
Glass Containers	50
Food & Beverage Cartons	5
Mixed Recyclables w/o Glass	5
Mixed Recyclables w/ Glass	11
PET Bottles	5

Electronics	Pounds
Television/CRT <19"	41
Television/CRT >19"	73

NOTE:

Supplied drawstring liners are 23 gallons

1 Ton = 2,000 lbs

1 Gallon = 0.0049 Cubic Yards

30 Gallons = 0.1485 Cubic Yards

1 Cubic Yard of Litter = Approximately 7 30-Gallon Bags OR 235 lbs

Drug Paraphernalia Information

Always avoid drug equipment and paraphernalia. If you come across any illegal items, immediately contact your local non-emergency dispatch for proper disposal.

Common Drug Paraphernalia Littered:

- Syringes and needles
- Pipes and bowls
- Small tied balloons
- Capsules
- Folded-up aluminum foil
- Burned silver spoons
- Bi-level liquids
- Bottles with plastic tubing
- Tanks with blue valves
- Small filled baggies
- Razor blades

It's not advised to pick up syringes and needles, but for safe and easy disposal, you can wear gloves and:

- Place in Sharps container (some partnering departments will supply these)
- Place in Plastic #2 HDPE container (think laundry detergent bottle), duct tape closed, label as "SHARPS," and dispose with trash



Group Leader Checklist

Before the Cleanup

- Welcome volunteers
- Collect signed volunteer waivers
- Give volunteer instructions:
 - Who to contact in case of emergency
 - When the cleanup ends (give specific time to be back at meetup location)
 - Where to get water, snacks, etc.
 - Where to use the bathroom if needed (if applicable)
- Overall litter cleanup area; provide a map if able
- Show off drug paraphernalia to avoid
- Pass out supplies
 - T-shirts
 - Litter grabbers
 - Gloves
 - Bags
 - Safety vests

Things to Remember

- ✓ Bags should be tightly closed
- ✓ Bags should not be more than $\frac{3}{4}$ full or too heavy
- ✓ Volunteers should wear gloves at all times
- ✓ Utilize the buddy system – never work alone
- ✓ Avoid any trees with “furry” vines
- ✓ Wear sunscreen and bug spray

After the Cleanup

- Collect all supplies – litter grabbers, extra bags, etc.
- Dispose of trash bags and other items
- Fill out the Post-River Sweep Survey within two weeks

Example Volunteer Communication

Hello Volunteers!

Thank you so much for signing up to participate in ORSANCO's Ohio River Sweep cleanup event! Please be sure to dress for the weather and prepare to get muddy. You will also need to wear closed-toed shoes, such as an old pair of athletic shoes or boots. We will have snacks available on-site, but please bring a reusable water bottle. We will also have sunscreen and hand sanitizer available if needed. Our event will be held rain or shine; however we will monitor the weather and river levels as the date approaches. In the case of high water/flooding or potential severe weather, we may cancel the event if the conditions are unsafe. We will also be ordering pizza after the event to be delivered to [event location], so please feel free to join us before you head home.

The Ohio River Sweep program is fueled by the generosity of its volunteers, sponsors, and partner agencies; they are the heartbeat of the program, and without them, the multitude of cleanup efforts throughout the entire Ohio River basin would not exist. Thanks again for participating in this important program and for being such an integral part of why our program has been able to continue to be successful year after year.

Here are some details about the event:

- When:** [Date & Time of Event]
- Where:** [Event Address]
- What to bring:** Weather appropriate clothing/gear and a reusable water bottle
- Weather:** The event is rain or shine (unless there is severe weather and/or high water)
- Lunch:** Pizza and drinks will be provided
- Contact:** [Event Coordinator's Name, Cell Phone #]

Parking and Map:

Please park in any of the parking areas indicated on the map below. [Add parking details]. We will be meeting [insert exact meeting location] to hand out supplies prior to the start of the event.



We look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Promotional Resources

[Our promotional resources folder](#) contains a promotional toolkit with all the resources you will need to promote your event including:

- Ohio River Sweep logo
- ORSANCO and FORE logos
- Press release template
- Editable flyer
- Sample social media posts
- And more

Social Media Info

Hashtags: #OhioRiverSweep #KeepitClean #Trashtag #LitterFree #OhioRiver

ORSANCO Social Media Channels

When posting, please tag your community partners and ORSANCO channels.



Tag Us: @orsancochannel, @ohioriverlearning

Follow Us:



ORSANCO



Foundation for Ohio River Education



Tag Us: @ORSANCO

@FoundationforOhioRiverEducation

Follow Us:



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Foundation for Ohio River Education

Weather Information

The Ohio River is 981 miles long, beginning at the confluence of the Allegheny and the Monongahela Rivers in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and ending in Cairo, Illinois, where it flows into the Mississippi River. The Ohio River borders six states – including Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia – and is home to more than 30 million people.

The drainage basin for the Ohio River covers 203,940 square miles – approximately 5% of the United States mainland. There are 20 locks and dams on the Ohio River utilized for flood control and navigation.

Month	Flooding Levels	Average Temperature	Average Precipitation (in)		
			Northern Ohio River	Mid Ohio River	Southern Ohio River
March	Medium – High	45.23	2.1 – 3.0	0.51 – 1.0	4.1 – 6.0
April	High	51.13	3.1 – 4.0	3.1 – 4.0	4.1 – 6.0
May	High	61.05	3.1 – 4.0	4.1 – 6.0	4.1 – 6.0
June	Medium	71.22	3.1 – 4.0	6.1 – 8.0	4.1 – 6.0
July	Low	75.83	6.1 – 8.0	6.1 – 8.0	6.1 – 8.0
August	Low	74.43	6.1 – 8.0	2.1 – 3.0	3.1 – 4.0
September	Low	67.24	3.1 – 4.0	2.1 – 3.0	2.1 – 3.0
October	Low	55.50	3.1 – 4.0	4.1 – 6.0	3.1 – 4.0

Source: [United States Geological Survey](#), [Statista](#), and [National Centers for Environmental Information \(NOAA\)](#)

Please plan your River Sweep Cleanup Event accordingly. **Never work in inclement weather conditions!**

Resources by State

Trash Disposal Resources

Illinois	Solid Waste Coordinators by County
Indiana	Solid Waste Management Districts
Kentucky	Solid Waste Coordinators by County
Ohio	Solid Waste Management Districts by County
Pennsylvania	Recycling Coordinators by County
West Virginia	Recycling and Solid Waste Coordinators

Scrap Tire Disposal Resources

The Division of Materials and Waste Management regulates the generation, transportation storage, collection, and recovery of scrap tires. Follow the links below to view disposal resources in your state

Illinois	Scrap Tire Collection
Indiana	Scrap Tire Collection
Kentucky	Scrap Tire Collection
Ohio	Scrap Tire Collection To report open dumping of scrap tires to Ohio EPA's toll-free scrap hotline, call 877-372-2621
Pennsylvania	Scrap Tire Collection
West Virginia	Scrap Tire Collection

Additional Resources (More to come!)

Kentucky	Kentucky Division of Waste Management (DWM) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid Waste Coordinators List • Waste Tire Transporters, Processors, and Accumulators List • Companies that Purchase Recyclables List
Ohio	Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ohio River Sweep Ohio River Way Ohio River Foundation