

Rock Creek Conservancy RCC Stream Team Guidelines

Purpose

Rock Creek Conservancy encourages the formation of Stream Teams to promote a healthy and sustainable Rock Creek Watershed through focus on specific tributaries or sections of watershed. Stream Teams are invited to adopt an area to carry out a variety of outreach, conservation, education, and restoration activities, such as:

- Monitoring stream conditions;
- Identifying and reporting problems affecting the creek or parkland;
- Conducting stream and watershed assessments;
- Cleaning up trash;
- Marking storm drains;
- Planting trees;
- Developing rain gardens;
- Removing non-native invasive species; and
- Holding events to educate neighbors or neighboring institutions, such as churches, schools, or businesses, about the threats to Rock Creek and how they can be part of the solution.

Stream Team Actions and Activities

Each Stream Team is expected to conduct the following actions and activities:

- Walking the adopted section of stream as frequently as possible, but no less than once a month, to keep an eye out for any issues that may negatively impact the health of the stream.
- Reporting problems to the proper authorities and Rock Creek Conservancy.
- Recruiting neighbors and community members to participate in activities.
- Completing one or more trash cleanups per year, including the annual Rock Creek Extreme Cleanup, which is part of the Potomac River Watershed Cleanup in April.
- Complete at least one additional restoration/advocacy/education project per year. This can be one of RCC's watershed-wide projects, one of the activities listed above, or another project. RCC welcomes new and creative ideas!

The focus and efforts of individual teams may vary.

Team Leader Roles and Responsibilities

Each team will be led and organized by a Stream Team Leader or Co-leaders. Just as Stream Teams are the eyes and ears of RCC throughout the watershed, Stream Team Leaders are the heart and soul of each Stream Team. Stream Team Leaders shall commit to the following:

- Serve as the main point of contact for team members and provide a single point of contact between RCC and each team.
- Lead, recruit, and organize a Stream Team for the area adopted. Stream Team Leaders are encouraged to work with others to recruit and involve neighbors.
- Organize or recruit others to organize team activities and events.
- Coordinate plans and activities, and obtain permission if required, from pertinent state, district, or local officials.
- Ensure that all volunteers sign appropriate agreement and/or waiver forms provided by RCC and/or park authorities.¹
- Report to RCC about team activities, volunteer hours, and issues in the adopted area.
- Encourage people to become RCC members.

Each team leader is responsible for compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

RCC Roles and Responsibilities

RCC will support Stream Teams in the following ways:

- Recruit and identify Stream Team Leader or Co-Leaders to act as a point of contact and coordinator for each team.
- Help connect Stream Teams with governmental and other available resources.
- Help promote team membership and advertise team activities via the RCC website, newsletter, and other communications.
- Hold training programs for Stream Team Leaders and members.
- Provide resources, such as technical materials, contacts for information and assistance, information about available training, networking opportunities, and equipment or supplies (as funding permits).
- Provide encouragement and advice as needed on team activities.

¹ All volunteers must sign the RCC VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT AND WAIVER before participating in Stream Team activities. No minor may participate in Stream Team activities without the express written consent and supervision of a parent/legal guardian who shall sign the same. The Stream Team Leader must submit the signed Agreements to RCC for record keeping purposes.