



Streams provide the majority of Kelowna's population with drinking water.

Help our streams by:

- ▶ Picking up litter and debris
- ▶ Removing invasive weeds
- ▶ Painting yellow fish on storm drains
- ▶ Stream monitoring

Streams are all around us. They flow through our parks and backyards, near our workplaces and along our roadways. Healthy streams, even small ones, are an asset to our neighbourhoods. Streams and stream corridors provide 85 per cent of our wildlife species with habitat and also provide valuable spawning and rearing areas for fish. Streams provide the majority of Kelowna's population with drinking water.

Streams are defined in Kelowna's Official Community Plan as "a natural watercourse or source of water supply, whether usually containing water or not, ground water, and a lake, river, creek, spring, ravine, wetland and gulch". Therefore, the Adopt-a-Stream program includes creeks, wetlands and lakes.

The City of Kelowna's Adopt-a-Stream program gives organizations, families, individuals, clubs and community groups the opportunity to assist the City in keeping Kelowna's streams healthy.

Groups can pledge to help our streams in numerous ways, including:

- ▶ Picking up litter and debris
- ▶ Removing invasive weeds (if you are knowledgeable about weeds & proper removal)
- ▶ Painting yellow fish on storm drains (see Yellow Fish Road program)
- ▶ Stream monitoring

By keeping our streams clean and healthy, we protect our drinking water and provide habitat for wildlife and aquatic life.

There are twenty-nine streams that run through the City of Kelowna. Portions of these streams are available for adoption. A volunteer group must commit to looking after a portion of creek for a minimum two-year period. The Program Coordinator will work with the participating organization

to discuss their needs to determine which stream and the portion of stream to be adopted. An organization is allowed to volunteer for more than one area.

Once the first clean up has been completed in the area, the City will install and maintain Adopt-a-Stream signs, which display the name of the organization or community group caring for the creek/stream or other body of water.

After reviewing the following material and you decide to adopt a stream, the first decision is which stream to adopt. If you have any questions or would like to proceed with adoption, please contact the Program Coordinator.

Responsibilities and Guidelines

Volunteer Responsibilities

An organization must adopt a portion of a stream for a minimum of two years. The requirements primarily include picking up litter along the stream a minimum of twice per year. Teams that are well educated about identifying and removing invasive weeds, may also choose to do so. This can sometimes be tricky, so the City does not encourage this for groups unfamiliar with the process. Additionally, within the two-year period the group will paint the storm drains in the area adjacent to their adopted stream portion.

Groups are required to do the initial clean up a minimum of six months after signing the Adopt-a-Stream contract. If the group does not fulfill this obligation, the Adopt-a-Stream site may be designated to another interest group or organization.

Prior to an Event:

- ▶ Provide group leader contact information.
- ▶ Provide a minimum of one week's

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TEL 250 469-8883
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kelowna.ca

Safety Tips

Use gloves & have first aid equipment on hand.

Drink lots of water.

Stay off private property.

Use caution around water.

Only remove garbage if it can be done safely & easily.

DO NOT pick up syringes, dead animals or potentially hazardous materials.

Use a one-to-three ratio (one adult for every three children) for groups with children under the age of 10.

Have participants dress appropriately for working outside and around water. For example, wear long pants, closed shoes or boots & sunscreen or a hat.

notice to the Program Coordinator prior to any Adopt-a-Stream event. Due to the limited number of kits available, the more notice given by the organization, the better chance that a kit will be available for your event.

- ▶ Designate a contact person who will assure that all participants are responsible individuals, and that participating minors under the age of 19 will be provided with adult supervision. The group leader will also discuss safety precautions with all participants.
- ▶ The contact person will ensure that all participants have signed the Release of Liability form prior to the event. If the participant is under the age of 19, the Release of Liability must be signed by their legal guardian. All original copies should be given to the Program Coordinator prior to the event.

During an Event:

- ▶ Ensure the safety of participants and the public.
- ▶ Place all litter in the plastic garbage bags provided. These bags are to be tied and left at a designated location along the stream. All natural debris (e.g. weeds, leaves, etc.) and large garbage items (e.g. car parts, tires, shopping carts, etc.) are to be placed in a pile or bags at the designated pick up location.
- ▶ DO NOT pick up syringes, dead animals or potentially hazardous materials (e.g. unmarked barrels, condoms, etc.). Mark the location of the object with a brightly coloured flag and report the finding immediately to the Program Coordinator. If you find a syringe during an evening or on a weekend, please contact the Main Firehall immediately at 250-469-8801 and then mark the location of the object for pick-up. They will send someone as soon as possible.

After an Event:

- ▶ Contact the Program Coordinator to arrange garbage pickup. Please specify location and number of bags
- ▶ Ensure that all borrowed equipment and unused supplies are returned to the Adopt-a-Stream Program

Coordinator following the completion of each project.

- ▶ Send a copy of the Adopt-a-Stream sign-in form to Program Coordinator within one week of event.

City of Kelowna's Responsibilities

- ▶ Administer the Adopt-a-Stream program.
- ▶ Provide garbage bags, pick-up sticks, vests and flags for volunteers. Note: Volunteer groups are asked to return these items in good condition.
- ▶ Pick up full garbage bags and organic debris on the next working day.
- ▶ Install and maintain an Adopt-a-Stream sign at the adopted location which displays the name of the organization volunteering in this area, upon completion of the first event.
- ▶ Notify Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection of any in-stream work.
- ▶ Notify contact person, in writing, of any changes to this program.

Environmental Tips

- ▶ Do not remove any natural materials from the streambed or streambank.
- ▶ Do not disturb the fish in the stream.
- ▶ Remove invasive weeds so that native plants and shrubs can grow. Only undertake this activity if the group is well educated about weeds and their proper removal.