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1 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of a stream clean-up is to involve members of the community in an effort to remove waste and debris from a water source. This is a great way to spread public awareness, while also improving water quality and appearance of the clean-up site. Trash is considered one of the high-priority issues, along with sediment and animal waste, for Stroubles Creek. With giant trash gyres in the ocean, like the pacific garbage patch, it is evident we must work to keep our trash from entering the waterways.

2 DEFINITIONS

2.1 PPE, or Personal Protection Equipment, refers to any specialized clothing or equipment that is worn for protection against health and safety hazards. i.e. gloves, safety vests.

3 PREPARING FOR FIELD WORK

3.1 Once an individual or organization decides to host a clean-up on any piece of Virginia Tech property, they must contact VT Site and Infrastructure Development Department for permission and materials. VT SID is also responsible for planning stream clean-ups if there is a noticeably dirty site with no imminent groups or individuals volunteering.

3.2 VT SID will provide the necessary paperwork for documentation, as well as the following materials:

- Orange safety bag for carrying materials
- Large, heavy duty trash bags
- Gloves (20 pair)
- Orange safety vests (20)
- Sign in sheet for participants
- Documentation sheet for trash

3.3 SID can assist with advertising the event.

4 SAFETY PROTOCOL

4.1 Participants are to wear appropriate PPE during the entirety of the event.

4.1.1 Safety vests are required in areas containing roads with traffic flow. They are optional if there is no threat of vehicles moving through any part of the clean-up site.

4.1.2 Gloves must be worn at all times and no trash should be picked up without gloves.

4.2 Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times. These include: close toed shoes, sturdy water shoes, boots/galoshes, waders.

4.3 Participants are to sign up upon arrival and should be made aware of the scope and boundaries of the clean-up.

4.4 Every participant should be within sight of at least one other participant during the clean-up.

4.5 Trash is to be disposed of immediately following the clean-up.

5 CONDUCTING FIELD WORK

5.1 On the day of the clean-up, participants should arrive and immediately sign in. Once their information is written, they may be given the appropriate PPE based on that site.

5.1.1 If they do not have acceptable footwear, they may be told to go change shoes prior to returning to pick up trash.

5.2 While addressing the attendees, be sure to indicate the acceptable boundaries of the clean-up, and if there are any special conditions for the terrain.

5.3 Start with 1 or 2 trash bags and pick up any trash that can be safely reached and handled.

5.4 Once the area is scoured and the trash is collected, close the trash bags and dispose of them into a dumpster. (You may recycle if you have taken care to separate the recyclables from the trash).

5.5 Have all volunteers return gloves and safety vests to the orange bag to be washed once they are brought back to Sterrett.



**Site and Infrastructure
Development**

Sterrett Center
230 Sterrett Drive
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

Virginia Tech Stream Clean up Data Form

Please complete and return this form to the Virginia Tech Site and Infrastructure Development, either by hand to Katelyn Kast or by email to katelyn5@vt.edu

Adopting Group/Person (please print) _____

Stream Name and Location of Adopted Section _____

Clean-up date _____

Number of participants _____

Number of hours _____

Number of bags of trash collected _____

Comments _____

Name (printed) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

SID Procedures
Public Outreach & Education
Stream Clean-up
