

## Why is Trash a Problem?

Aquatic trash affects water quality, endangers plants and animals, and pollutes the outdoor spaces that we depend on for recreation and tourism. Garbage ending up in the Red River, and in rivers globally, remains a persistent and challenging issue. Mostly what our volunteers find are smaller items like food and beverage containers, and plastic bags.



How does trash find its way into the Red River? Garbage can easily become aquatic trash if it is not properly disposed of or securely contained. Some examples include:

- Wind: Trash can blow out of overfilled trash bins, or out of vehicles when doors open.
- Rain: Light weight trash on the ground might wash into a storm drain and travel through the stormwater system, which leads directly to the Red River.
- Litter: Sometimes it is intentional. People think one bottle cap is insignificant and do not bother to dispose of it properly, but this can become a much bigger problem when many people take this same action.
- Illegal dumping



## Why Host a Cleanup Through a Project Partner?

The Cleanup Program is most successful when the community works together with a project partner. A coordinated effort has the most impact as it:

- Avoids duplicating efforts by not sending volunteers to areas that have been recently cleaned.
- Allows partners to track the total amount of garbage picked up in a season to evaluate the program. In 2024, volunteers cleaned up nearly 2,700 lbs. of trash!
- It also allows the volunteer group to receive free supplies and important safety information.



## CONTACT US

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[riverkeepers.org/adopt](https://riverkeepers.org/adopt)  
[fargoparks.com/volunteer](https://fargoparks.com/volunteer)  
[moorheadparks.com/volunteering](https://moorheadparks.com/volunteering)

## Cleanups



Volunteer groups pick up trash, being good stewards of the Red River. It is a fun teambuilding experience that instills a sense of community pride, allows volunteers to get fresh air and exercise, spend time with friends and family, and enjoy the Red River.



**Southeast Cass Water Resource District**

## Ongoing Cleanups

Clean ups can be scheduled for various group sizes in the spring, summer and fall as long as riverbank and weather conditions allow. Sign up at [riverkeepers.org/volunteer](http://riverkeepers.org/volunteer).



### Red River Bank Cleanup

Reaches of the Red River can be cleaned on a one-time basis or adopted long-term. This is a great activity for all ages.

### Fargo Drain Cleanup

Adult volunteers can cleanup a reach of Drain 27 located in South Fargo. This will require getting close to the water in the ditch and using pickers to grab the trash.



## Specific Date Cleanups

### On-the-Water Cleanup

Cleanup the banks of the Red River in a canoe. Volunteers must have enough experience canoeing to be comfortable reaching over in a canoe to pick up trash and not mind getting wet/muddy.



August 4 (back up weather date is August 11) from 6-8 pm



### Monthly Volunteer Series

The first Thursday of the month in the evening we will be hosting one of our ongoing volunteer projects, including cleanups! River Keepers staff will train you in at the beginning.



Check out the latest schedule here:



## Quick Guide For a Successful Cleanup

- 1. Select the Type of Cleanup**  
Choose between doing a river bank (one time or adopt) or a drain cleanup.
- 2. Determine a Date**  
Cleanups can be scheduled any day of the week (Monday - Sunday).
- 3. Select a Time**  
Cleanups must be done during daylight hours. Each reach takes about 1– 2 hours. Want to volunteer longer? Sign up to cover multiple reaches.
- 4. Choose a Preferred Location**  
There are dozens of reaches along the Red River in Fargo and Moorhead and 9 stretches on Drain 27. View maps on River Keepers website.
- 5. Contact a Project Partner**  
Communicate the above information with a project partner.
- 6. Sign an Agreement**  
The group leader signs the agreement form on behalf of the whole group.
- 7. Promote the Cleanup**  
Tell friends, family, neighbors, coworkers. Share on social media.
- 8. Prepare Your Volunteers**  
Communicate with volunteers the event logistics, what to wear/bring, safety information, cleanup agreement and waiver form.
- 9. Host the Cleanup**  
Review safety information, distribute supplies and begin! Remember to take photos. Dispose of trash and then celebrate!
- 10. Follow-Up**  
Submit your evaluation form to the project partner and email your best photos.