

## Dear Des Plaines River Cleanup Volunteer,

Thank you for volunteering your time to clean up our community! The River Forest Park District staff would like to show our appreciation by providing a FREE continental breakfast. Bring your re-usable water bottles to fill up at The Depot.

### **THIS EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE RAIN OR SHINE!**

For inclement weather updates and cancellations, call the Rain Hotline at 708-802-1314.

### **MEETING SITE & CHECK-IN/OUT**

- 1) Meet in the Metra commuter lot at 401 Thatcher Avenue in River Forest.
- 2) One representative from your group/family is expected to check-in and sign-up for a Clean-Up Zone. The rest of the group/family can collect supplies (garbage bags, first aid, information table, etc).
- 3) For safety purposes, all groups/individuals must check-in and sign-up for a Zone prior to heading into the Forest Preserve. It is very important so that event organizers can account for all volunteers in each clean-up zone. It's equally as important to sign-out after cleaning so we know you returned safely.

### **SAFETY**

Before heading out to clean, River Forest Park District staff will conduct a brief safety orientation.

- 1) Groups of 4 or more are highly recommended.
- 2) Always be aware of sharp objects and wear pants, bright-colored long-sleeved shirts, and boots.
- 3) We will have a limited amount of safety gloves, so feel free to bring your own work gloves from home.
- 4) A first aid kit will be on site.
- 5) Please be aware of poison ivy. There will be photographs of different poison ivy on site.
- 6) It is highly recommended to carry a cell phone with you in the event of an emergency.

### **EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency Police: 708-366-7125 (call this # if you find anything suspicious/unsafe)

Karen Stille, Superintendent of Recreation: 847-951-1058

Rain Hotline: 708-802-1314

### **GARBAGE**

The Park District will provide volunteers with plenty of garbage bags. Please leave any garbage you accumulate **along the curbs which border the route**. River Forest Park District staff will pick up the garbage. You may also drop garbage bags in the dumpster located in the Metra commuter lot at 401 Thatcher Avenue.

### **FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY**

Staff from the Forest Preserve District of Cook County will be on site directing volunteers to safe walking paths. The staff will also have other useful information about the Forest Preserve, including trails, poison ivy, animals, and other educational resources.

### **ROY STROM COMPANY**

Roy Strom has generously donated a dumpster for the event. At the completion of the event, Roy Strom will weigh the dumpster to determine how many tons of garbage was collected by the volunteers.

### **PICTURES & INTERESTING FINDS**

We encourage you to take pictures of your cleanup efforts and submit them to [mobrochta@rfparks.com](mailto:mobrochta@rfparks.com). More specifically, we are looking for group photos near the river to submit to the IEPA. The IEPA has photo contests, so you may win!

We like to know what trash you found near the river. When you return to check-out, there will be a large dry-erase board to document your findings.

### **SCHEDULE**

8:00am-8:30am:	Check-in/Orientation*
8:30am-10:00am:	Clean-up Thatcher Woods
8:00am-10:00am:	Continental Breakfast
9:30am-10:00am:	Check-Out*

\*To ensure everyone's safety, it is **very** important to check-in and check-out. Event organizers want to keep tabs on everyone's location.

### **SAFETY FIRST!**

Please come prepared.

Thank you.

*Karen Stille*

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