

Rivers Alive – Data Collection Sheet

Please pick up all debris found in your waterway. **Record information for only the items listed below.**

Keep a count of your items using tick marks and enter the total in the box to the left. For example: 7 Bags: (|||||)

Please turn this form into the Event Coordinator upon your completion of cleaning. Thanks!

Debris from Recreational Activities: picnics, sports/games, festivals, litter from streets/storm drains, etc.

___ Bags (plastic grocery): _____

___ Balloons: _____

___ Plastic Beverage Bottles: _____

___ Glass Beverage Bottles: _____

___ Aluminum Beverage Cans: _____

___ Bottle Caps & Lids: _____

___ Cups/Plates/Silverware: _____

___ Food wrappers/containers: _____

___ Pull Tabs: _____

___ 6-pack Holders: _____

___ Shotgun shells and weapons: _____

___ Straws/Stirrers: _____

___ Toys: _____

Debris from Waterway Activities: Recreational fishing and boating and automobile operations

___ Bait Containers/Packaging: _____

___ Bleach/Cleaner Bottles: _____

___ Buoys/Floats: _____

___ Crab or Fish traps: _____

___ Crates: _____

___ Fishing Line: _____

___ Fishing nets: _____

___ Light bulb/tube: _____

___ Oil/Lube Bottles: _____

___ Pallets: _____

___ Plastic Sheets/Tarps: _____

___ Ropes: _____

Smoking Related Items:

___ Cigarettes/Cigarette filters: _____

___ Cigarette Lighter: _____

___ Cigar tips: _____

___ Tobacco Packaging/Wrappers: _____

General Debris:

___ Appliances: _____

___ Batteries: _____

___ Building materials: _____

___ Car/Car parts: _____

___ 55 Gallon Drums: _____

___ Tires: _____

Medical/Personal Items:

___ Condoms: _____

___ Diapers: _____

___ Drug Packets/Syringes: _____

___ Tampons: _____

Debris of Georgia Concern:

___ Shopping carts: _____

___ Styrofoam: _____

___ Furniture: _____

Data Sheet Instructions

Have participants work in small teams of 4 or 5 people. Have one person serve as the “data captain” or recorder while others pick up trash. This is a great job for someone who can bend over to pick up trash or supervising kids. As an item is collected, a person should call out what they found for the recorder. The recorder should place a tic mark next to the item on the data sheet. At the end of the day, tally the number of tics and place the number in the blank in front of the item name. Once completed, turn this data card into the event organizer to be tallied with other cards for the final cleanup report.

Why Collect Detailed Data?

Rivers Alive encourages you to use this data sheet to collect detailed information on what types of trash are being collected. At the local level, this information may help identify sources of trash on the waterway that can be eliminated. On a statewide level, this data can help identify where education efforts need to be concentrated in order to reduce pollution of our waterways. Globally, the data is submitted to The Ocean Conservancy and incorporated into their annual report, which has been used by EPA, the U.S. Coast Guard, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and others to identify threats facing the waters of the nation. To learn more about this worldwide effort and to download their annual report, visit www.oceanconservancy.org According to the United Nations Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution, in the early 1990s, land-based activities accounted for 60-80% of the world’s marine pollution. This debris is carried to the ocean in part by creeks and rivers. When you consider Georgia has 70,150 miles of streams that flow to the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean, that is a lot of potential debris that could end up in your oceans if we don’t keep your streams and rivers clean.

If your group is collecting recyclables, below are some tips on preparing your items:

Glass: Bottles, jars, and jugs. Remove tops and rinse out. Separate by color (green, brown, and clear). Labels do not need to be removed.

Bi-metals: “Tin and steel” food cans in all sizes should be rinsed out for return. Labels do not have to be removed. Most are not going to have useable paper to recycle.

Plastics: There are two common types of recyclable plastic. Containers need to be cleaned and flattened. Tops have to be removed, but labels do not.

1. PETE (polyethylene terephthalate)—soda and other “soft plastic” bottles.

2. HDPE (high-density polyethylene)—plastic milk, water, juice, and some other “hard plastic” bottles.

Metals: Aluminum cans, radiators, appliances, and scrap metals (iron, aluminum, brass, copper, zinc, lead, stainless steel). Higher prices are normally paid for these materials when returned clean.

Auto Batteries: Batteries are a hazardous waste and are illegal to landfill in most areas. Take old batteries to a buy-back center, service center, or auto parts retailer. Do not ever throw batteries away!

Used oil: Used motor oil should be taken to a local service station or oil collection center. Do not contaminate the oil with any other substances.

Tires: Landfills will not always accept tires or may charge a fee. Try to partner with your local government to accept the tires free of charge. If there is not a tire processor in your area, visit EPD’s website at www.state.ga.us/dnr/environ or call 404-363-7027.