

## **Adopt-a-Stream Safety Guidelines**

### **All Volunteers Must:**

- Wear the provided safety vest
- Park all vehicles clear of the roadway and on the same side of the road where volunteers are working. No vehicle may block or cross a road.
- Children must be accompanied by an adult
- Complete clean-ups only during daylight hours
- Conduct a safety meeting for all participants prior to EACH clean-up and go over the Safety Procedures for Waterway Clean-ups
- Obey all safety rules and guidelines

### **For Your Safety:**

- Wear light colored clothing that covers the arms and legs
- Wear leather boots or hip waders that are comfortable and waterproof
- Wear plastic coated gloves provided by your organization's Adopt-a-Stream primary contact
- Wear clothing that will not impair vision or movement during the clean-up activities
- Always work in groups of two or more
- Stay clear of any construction activities
- Stop work in inclement weather
- Postpone clean-ups until 72 hours after any storm event
- Wear floatation devices in areas of deep water or fast moving current
- During warm weather months, drink plenty of fluids, take breaks and avoid overexertion
- Be alert for snakes, stinging insects and poisonous plants
- Do not remove hazardous substances or dead animals (Notify Town of Fort Mill Program Coordinator; GPS pin location)
- Avoid contact with noxious weeds and areas where herbicides have been applied
- Carpool to the site to reduce the number of vehicles
- Use proper lifting and bending techniques (lift with your legs, not your back)
- Do not enter fast moving waters
- Do not drink or ingest water from the stream (be mindful of inhalation of water, do not dunk heads into water)

### **Volunteers Must Not:**

- Use or possess illegal drugs or alcohol prior or during clean-up
- Pick up what appear to be hazardous materials
- Attempt to pick up objects which may be too heavy to move
- Attempt to squeeze bags to make room for more trash (injuries can result from broken or jagged objects)

**In Case of Emergency:**

- Have at least one adequately stocked first-aid kit available
- Have cell phones available, as well as a list of emergency numbers
- Select an emergency room/hospital near your work area and know the route to the designated treatment facility
- Have transportation immediately available
- Call 911 if needed
- In the event of a serious injury or incident, alert the Town of Fort Mill Program Coordinator when safe to do so