



Ohio River Sweep Resources

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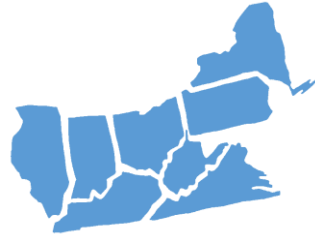


www.orsanco.org/river-sweep

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Ohio River Sweep Regional Coordinators



Region	Contact Person	Title/Organization	Coordinator Type / State	Email	Phone Number
Overall	Rachel Toney	<i>Ohio River Sweep Coordinator</i> , ORSANCO Foundation for Ohio River Education	Program All States	rtoney@orsanco.org	513-231-7719 ext. 104
1	Megan Clere	Solid Waste Coordinator, Campbell County Fiscal Court	Regional Event, Media, Education & Outreach, Regional Recycling Campbell County, KENTUCKY	mclere@campbellcountky.gov	859-547-1866
2	Travis Elble	Land Survey Technician / Volunteer Coordinator	Regional Event Coordinator Southern INDIANA	junkmetalmnia@yahoo.com	502-641-8582
3	Becky Ploucha	Clermont County Public Library / Volunteer Coordinator	Regional Event Coordinator Clermont County OHIO	rebeccaploucha@gmail.com	513-218-4094
4	Chris Cartwright	State Coordinator WV Make It Shine / Adopt A Stream	State Coordinator WEST VIRGINIA	Christopher.j.cartwright@wv.gov	304-389-8389
5	Kelly Hess	Executive Director Paddle Perry	State Coordinator Perry County INDIANA	info@paddleperry.com	812-608-0626
6	Walt Oshie	*Title*	Regional Event Coordinator Southern PENNSYLVANIA	Woshie6@gmail.com	724-217-0327

How to Plan Your Ohio River Sweep Cleanup Event

1. **Select a Date** – Ohio River Sweep Season runs from March 1st – October 31st each year
2. **Select a Location**
 - Local parks and boat landings are often great spots to clean
 - Anywhere that is safe and accessible along the shoreline of the Ohio River or its tributaries is a suitable location
 - Determine if the property is public or private
 - If private property is involved, you will need permission from the landowner, preferably in writing
 - Always consider your volunteers’ parking situation
3. **Arrange Trash Disposal** – Call for pickup if you have more trash than you can safely carry out yourself
 - If your site is at a park, contact your local park department to ask if they can dispose of bags
 - If your site is public property, such as a boat landing or roadside, contact your City or County
 - Departments to reach out to include, but are not limited to: Solid Waste, Public Works, Public Services, Parks & Recreation, Environmental Services, and Soil & Water. **See Contact info for counties by state at end of document under “Trash Disposal Resources”**
 - You may also contact your local waste disposal company and ask for a bag pickup or to provide a dumpster (for a discounted rate or for free)
 - Explain that this is a volunteer community service event
4. **Recruit Volunteers**

- As your register your event, you can request a flyer to help promote for volunteers
 - Additionally, you can use Word, Publisher, or sites like Canva to make your own flyer
- Use our “Ohio River Sweep Event Information for Volunteers Information” template (located on Page #) to customize communications for your event
- When requesting supplies, if you select that your event is Public, it will automatically be uploaded to our online map
 - Volunteers can find your event to participate this way



5. **Request Supplies**
 - ORSANCO provides gloves, trash bags, and volunteer t-shirts for your cleanup
 - Once you have all the information for your event (date, time, location, and number of volunteers), fill out our online supply request form
 - Please have this request in at least two weeks prior to your event to allow time for shipment
 - If you are local to Cincinnati and would like to pick up your supplies, ORSANCO is located at 5735 Kellogg Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45230
 - For all non-local events, ORSANCO will ship supplies directly to you prior to your event date
6. **Sign the Waiver**
 - All volunteers must complete the Volunteer Waiver Form

- Filled our waivers should be submitted to Event Organizers, not ORSANCO

7. Participate in your Ohio River Sweep Cleanup!



DOs:

Group Leader / Event Coordinator	Individuals
Conduct a safety talk at the beginning of the event so volunteers understand how to safely pick up litter.	Wear gloves; thick soled & closed-toed shoes, long pants, and long sleeve shirts for protection.
Know emergency procedures, such as the location of the nearest emergency facility.	Wear bright colors if cleaning near a roadway.
Have a first aid kit and mobile phone on hand.	Wear sunscreen and bug spray.
Check the weather before the event.	Drink plenty of fluids and bring snacks.
Provide adequate adult supervision if you involve youth groups in event (at least 1 adult to 8 participants between ages of 10-17).	Be aware of your surroundings and potential hazards (ex: passing cars, poison ivy, overgrown vegetation, stinging insects)
Reconvene every hour or so to make sure all participants are accounted for, safe, and enjoying the cleanup if going into a heavily wooded area.	Use the “buddy system” and work in teams of at least 2-3 individuals to maximize safety.
Take BEFORE, DURING, & AFTER photos to show off your work.	Wash hands with antibacterial soap after cleanup.

DON'Ts:

Group Leader / Event Coordinator	Individuals
Don't schedule cleanups during extremely inclement weather (if possible). Light rain is ok, but thunder and lightning should result in a rescheduled event.	Don't pick up hazardous materials such as hypodermic needles, sharp objects, condoms, animal carcasses, or other unidentified, questionable objects- report to team leader.
Don't allow small children to participate in locations near roadways.	Don't overfill bags so that they are too heavy to carry or rip.
If at a public park, don't forget to let the park know your group will be there doing a cleanup.	Don't attempt to move large objects-call your local fire or police department to report illegal dumping and for instructions how to proceed.
Don't schedule cleanups for longer than 3 hours.	Don't overdo it physically!

8. [Send a Post-River Sweep Report](#)

- Please complete the Post-River Sweep Report within two weeks of completing your cleanup
- This data helps us continue our program and receive funding to provide free cleanup supplies
- You can attach photos from your cleanup to this form

- Use the Volume-to-Weight Conversion for Commonly Found Items (Page #) to estimate total pounds of litter collected

Volume-to-Weight Conversion for Commonly Found Items



Litter - MSW	Pounds
13-Gallon Bag	15
30-Gallon Bag	30
1-Yard Container	235
8 Cubic Yard Container	1,880
30-Yard Roll-Off	7,050
40-Yard Roll-Off	9,400

Automotive	Pounds
Lead Acid Battery	36
Tire – Commercial I	120
Tire – Auto/Light Truck	22.5

Brown Goods	Pounds
Chair – Desk	40
Chair – Recliner	125
Dresser – 3-Drawer	50
Mattress – King	100
Mattress – Queen	75
Mattress – Twin	50
Shopping Cart	50
Sofa (2 Cushion)	55
Sofa (3 Cushion)	100

White Goods	Pounds
13-Gallon Bag	125
30-Gallon Bag	125
1-Yard Container	250
8 Cubic Yard Container	150

Textiles	Pounds
Bags of Clothes (30 Gallon)	22
Carpet	147

Recyclable Containers (30 Gallon Bags)	Pounds
Aluminum Cans	7
Glass Containers	50
Food & Beverage Cartons	5
Mixed Recyclables w/o Glass	5
Mixed Recyclables w/ Glass	11
PET Bottles	5

Electronics	Pounds
Television/CRT <19"	41
Television/CRT >19"	73

NOTE:

Supplied drawstring liners are 23 gallons

1 Ton = 2,000 lbs

1 Gallon = 0.0049 Cubic Yards

30 Gallons = 0.1485 Cubic Yards

1 Cubic Yard of Litter = Approximately 7 30-Gallon Bags OR 235 lbs

Drug Paraphernalia Information

Always avoid drug equipment and paraphernalia. If you come across any illegal items, immediately contact your local non-emergency dispatch for proper disposal.

Common Drug Paraphernalia Littered:

- Syringes and needles
- Pipes and bowls
- Small tied balloons
- Capsules
- Folded-up aluminum foil
- Burned silver spoons
- Bi-level liquids
- Bottles with plastic tubing
- Tanks with blue valves
- Small filled baggies
- Razor blades

It's not advised to pick up syringes and needles, but for safe and easy disposal, you can wear gloves and:

- Place in Sharps container (some partnering departments will supply these)
- Place in Plastic #2 HDPE container (think laundry detergent bottle), duct tape closed, label as "SHARPS", and dispose with trash



Group Leader Checklist

Before the Cleanup

- Welcome volunteers
- Collect signed volunteer waivers
- Give volunteer instructions:
 - Who to contact in case of emergency
 - When the cleanup ends (give specific time to be back to meetup location)
 - Where to get water, snacks, etc.
 - Where to use the bathroom if needed (if applicable)
- Overall litter cleanup area; provide a map if able
- Show off drug paraphernalia to avoid
- Pass out supplies
 - T-shirts
 - Litter grabbers
 - Gloves
 - Bags
 - Safety vests

Things to Remember

- ✓ Bags should be tightly closed
- ✓ Bags should not be more than $\frac{3}{4}$ full or too heavy
- ✓ Volunteers should wear gloves at all times
- ✓ Utilize the buddy system – never work alone
- ✓ Avoid any trees with “furry” vines
- ✓ Wear sunscreen and bug spray

After the Cleanup

- Collect all supplies – litter grabbers, extra bags, etc.
- Dispose of trash bags and other items
- Fill out the Post-River Sweep Report within two weeks

Example Volunteer Communication

Ohio River Sweep Event Information for Volunteers

Hello Volunteers!

Thank you so much for signing up to participate in ORSANCO's Ohio River Sweep cleanup event! Please be sure to dress for the weather and prepare to get muddy. You will also need to wear closed-toed shoes, such as an old pair of athletic shoes or boots. We will have snacks available on-site, but please bring a reusable water bottle. We will also have sunscreen and hand sanitizer available if needed. Our event will be held rain or shine; however we will monitor the weather and river levels as the date approaches. In the case of high water/flooding or potential severe weather, we may cancel the event if the conditions are unsafe. We will also be ordering pizza after the event to be delivered to Schmidt Field, so please feel free to join us before you head home.

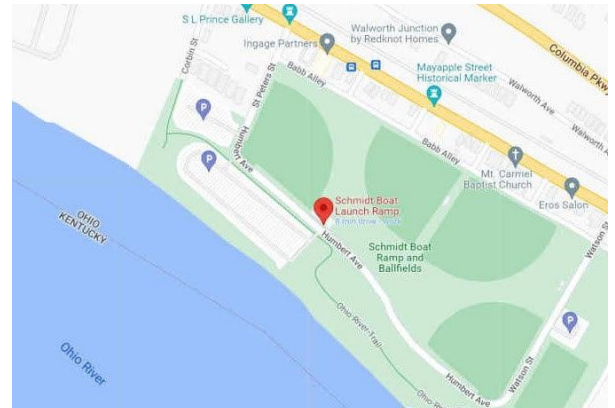
The Ohio River Sweep program is fueled by the generosity of its volunteers, sponsors, and partner agencies; they are the heartbeat of the program, and without them, the multitude of cleanup efforts throughout the entire Ohio River basin would not exist. Thanks again for traveling to Sweep with us and for being such an important part of why our program has been able to continue to be successful year after year.

Here are some details about the event:

<u>When:</u>	Friday, October 21st from 9am-12pm
<u>Where:</u>	Boat Ramp at Schmidt Recreation Complex, 2944 Humbert Ave Cincinnati, OH
<u>What to bring:</u>	Weather appropriate clothing/gear and a reusable water bottle
<u>Weather:</u>	The event is rain or shine (unless there is severe weather and/or high water)
<u>Lunch:</u>	Pizza and drinks will be provided
<u>Contact:</u>	Sarah Segars, cell phone #555-555-5555

Parking and Map:

Please park in any of the parking areas indicated on the map below. There is ample parking as you enter Schmidt Field right before you reach the boat ramp, but you can also park at the top of the boat ramp area as well. We will be meeting at the top of the boat ramp to hand out supplies prior to the start of the event.



We look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Press Release Template

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 4/28/2025

Contact: [Name/Email](#), Your Group Name, Title, 555-555-5555

(Your Organization) TO HOST LITTER CLEANUP ON/AT (enter location)

Volunteers Conduct Event as Part of ORSANCO'S Ohio River Sweep

(Your location) – Local volunteer groups are gathering at **(your event location)**, as part of the basinwide Ohio River Sweep program. The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) is partnering **(your organization and any affiliates)**, to facilitate this litter cleanup event with the help of approximately **(enter number of volunteers)** volunteers on Saturday, **(enter date of event)**.

“(Your organization) is dedicated to protecting the Ohio River and our local waterways because a healthy community starts with a healthy watershed. Clean and healthy waterways help provide clean drinking water, ample recreational opportunities, and a healthy aquatic habitat.” stated **(your organization contact)**.

The ORSANCO Ohio River Sweep program is composed of numerous litter cleanup events along the Ohio River and throughout the entire watershed. This popular seasonal program raises public awareness about the need for healthy rivers and streams within the Ohio River Basin and is a great opportunity for environmental stewardship. The Hancock event will be participating along with thousands of volunteers taking part in hundreds of cleanups across the basin to remove trash from local waterways. Learn more about the Ohio River Sweep program at orsanco.org/river-sweep.

The Ohio River is 981 miles (1582 km) long, starting at the confluence of the Allegheny and the Monongahela Rivers in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and ending in Cairo, Illinois, where it flows into the Mississippi River. More than 30 million people live in the Ohio River Basin and the Ohio River is a source of drinking water for more than five million people. ORSANCO Executive Director, Richard Harrison, explains, *“It’s important for everyone in the Ohio River Basin to remember we are all a part of this watershed and by working together these types of cleanup events have a major impact on water quality.”* Harrison is inspired by the camaraderie gained when collaborating with local communities to improve the quality of the Ohio River watershed. *“It creates a connection and sense of belonging to a local purpose with a global impact. Each volunteer contribution is valuable and truly makes a difference!”*

The public is welcome to attend and each volunteer will receive a free event t-shirt. The event is rain or shine. Each volunteer will receive trash bags, gloves, and an event t-shirt. Volunteers should come prepared to get dirty and wear closed toe shoes or boots.

- **Event Date: 4/29/2025**
- **Location: Schmidt Boat Launch Ramp 2944 Humbert Ave, Cincinnati OH 45226**

Contact Info: Contact: [Name/Email](#), Your Group Name, Title, 555-555-5555

The Ohio River Sweep program is fueled by the generosity of its volunteers, sponsors, and partner agencies; they are the heartbeat of the program, and without them, the seasonal cleanup efforts throughout the entire Ohio River watershed would cease to exist. Families, communities, and organizations are all welcome to participate and anyone is able to host a cleanup event. To find an Ohio River Sweep cleanup event happening near you, visit orsanco.org/river-sweep and click on any location on the interactive map.

The Ohio River Sweep season runs annually from March 1st through October 31st. Volunteers hosting an event simply choose the date and location of their cleanup and the Ohio River Sweep program provides support and supplies to facilitate the event. To request supplies for your event, fill out the online Supply Request Form at: orsanco.org/river-sweep-supply-request.

Organizational Information

(Enter 1-3 sentences about your organization)

ORSANCO is an interstate agency that collectively works together with 8 member states and a vast network of partner agencies to improve water quality in the Ohio River Basin. The Ohio River Sweep is the annual, volunteer cleanup where volunteers from the six states, which border the Ohio River, remove litter at multiple locations along the Ohio River and many of its tributaries. Since 1989, this award-winning cleanup program has been organized by Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO), Foundation for Ohio River Education (FORE), and the environmental protection agencies from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

Visit www.orsanco.org/river-sweep, www.facebook.com/OhioRiverLearning, www.twitter.com/ORSANCOchannel, www.instagram.com/orsancochannel

###



OHIO RIVER SWEEP

3/1/23 9:00-11:00 AM

The Ohio River Sweep is an annual volunteer cleanup that extends throughout the Ohio River Basin. We invite volunteers to participate and remove litter from the Ohio River or any of its many tributaries from March 1st-October 31st. Free supplies are provided for every cleanup including volunteer T-shirts, trash bags, and safety gloves. Plan your event and [Request supplies today!](#)

Our program relies solely on donations from industries and corporations throughout the Ohio River Valley. Consider [donating](#) today!



ADD KEY EVENT INFO
HERE!

DON'T BE SHY—TELL
THEM WHY THEY
CAN'T MISS IT!

ONE MORE POINT
HERE!

YOU HAVE ROOM FOR
ANOTHER ONE HERE!

ADD MORE GREAT
INFO HERE!

LOCATION

Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code
Telephone

Website

Dates and Times

Weather Information

The Ohio River is 981 miles long, beginning at the confluence of the Allegheny and the Monongahela Rivers in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and ending in Cairo, Illinois, where it flows into the Mississippi River. The Ohio River borders six states – including Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia – and is home to more than 30 million people.

The drainage basin for the Ohio River covers 203,940 square miles – approximately 5% of the United States mainland. There are 20 locks and dams on the Ohio River utilized for flood control and navigation.

Month	Flooding Levels	Average Temperature	Average Precipitation (in)		
			Northern Ohio River	Mid Ohio River	Southern Ohio River
March	Medium – High	45.23	2.1 – 3.0	0.51 – 1.0	4.1 – 6.0
April	High	51.13	3.1 – 4.0	3.1 – 4.0	4.1 – 6.0
May	High	61.05	3.1 – 4.0	4.1 – 6.0	4.1 – 6.0
June	Medium	71.22	3.1 – 4.0	6.1 – 8.0	4.1 – 6.0
July	Low	75.83	6.1 – 8.0	6.1 – 8.0	6.1 – 8.0
August	Low	74.43	6.1 – 8.0	2.1 – 3.0	3.1 – 4.0
September	Low	67.24	3.1 – 4.0	2.1 – 3.0	2.1 – 3.0
October	Low	55.50	3.1 – 4.0	4.1 – 6.0	3.1 – 4.0

Source: [United States Geological Survey](#), [Statista](#), and [National Centers for Environmental Information \(NOAA\)](#)

Please plan your River Sweep Cleanup Event accordingly. **Never work in inclement weather conditions!**

Engage With Us On Social Media!

#OhioRiverSweep



Tag Us: @orsancochannel , @ohioriverlearning

Follow Us:



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Foundation for Ohio
River Education



Tag Us: @ORSANCO
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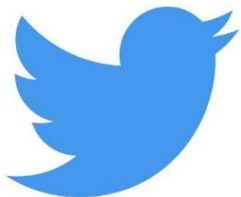
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Resources by State

Trash Disposal Resources

Illinois	Solid Waste Coordinators by County
Indiana	Solid Waste Management Districts
Kentucky	Solid Waste Coordinators by County
Ohio	Solid Waste Management Districts by County
Pennsylvania	Recycling Coordinators by County
West Virginia	Recycling and Solid Waste Coordinators

Scrap Tire Disposal Resources

The Division of Materials and Waste Management regulates the generation, transportation storage, collection, and recovery of scrap tires. Follow the link below to see if you qualify for a no-cost tire removal.

<https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/materials-and-waste-management/dmwm-programs/scrap-tires>

To report open dumping of scrap tires to Ohio EPA's toll-free scrap hotline, call **877-372-2621**

Additional Resources (More to come!)

Kentucky	Kentucky Division of Waste Management (DWM) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Solid Waste Coordinators List• Waste Tire Transporters, Processors, and Accumulators List• Companies that Purchase Recyclables List
Ohio	Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ohio River Sweep Ohio River Way Ohio River Foundation