



## Neighborhood Creek Cleanup Safety Guidelines

Along a creek's riparian corridor there are hazards one should be mindful of, including but not limited to: overhanging branches, slippery surfaces, poison ivy, ticks, sharp plants, etc.

1. Wear clothing that protects you from the elements, bugs and vegetation. This includes closed-toe shoes, long sleeves and pants, and hats on sunny days.
2. Wear gloves and always use trash grabbers to pick up litter.
3. Do not reach into places where you cannot see your hand (like holes)
4. If you locate a dead or injured animal and do not attempt to move or touch wildlife as personal injury could ensue. Call Austin Wildlife Rescue, Inc. at 512-472-9453.
5. Do not pick up sharp objects with your hands. Place sharps into designated sharps containers (provided by SCC staff) and ensure top is tightly secured before throwing into appropriate receptacle.
6. Work in pairs or small groups at all times.
7. Be cautious around the creek banks, not only is the terrain slippery and uneven, but also ecologically sensitive. Please be mindful to not increase erosion/habitat loss or to lose your footing when traversing this sensitive area.
8. Avoid over exertion, sunburn, heat exhaustion, and dehydration. Take breaks often and listen to your body!
9. All children must be accompanied by an adult and are not permitted to touch/handle the disposal of sharps.
10. If you find a heavy or large item in the creek, do not attempt to lift it by yourself. Report via 311 app or call 311 directly.
11. Report hazardous materials/spills in the creek via the pollution hotline (512-974-2550). Examples such as oil, propane, chemical spills, sewage, fuel, paint, etc.
12. Be mindful of your surroundings, the trail is actively used and you'll want to be careful not to injure yourself or one of the many cyclists, runners, or walkers who use the trail daily.
13. Practice judgement – creek is prone to flash flooding. If it is raining upstream, conditions can quickly become dangerous. Look at the weather forecast before entering the creek bed.
14. Poison ivy is common along the creek banks. Please be careful not to come into contact with it and learn what it looks like.
15. If you come across a homeless encampment, please do not approach and let SCC staff know immediately.
16. If you become minorly injured, utilize your first aid kit, which is included in your cleanup supplies, and fill out an accident report form. If the injury is more serious, please call 911.